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OPERATIONS RESEARCH OFFICE

ORO The Johns Hopkins University

6935 ARLINGTON ROAD
BETHESDA 14, MARYLAND

Miscellany

The Test Talks

The meeting in Geneva of Western and Soviet bloc scientists to consider methods for detecting nuclear weapons tests got off to a shaky start on July 1. It even appeared uncertain during the last days of June whether the Soviet delegation would show up at all, and the conference had been under way for little more than a week before it seemed on the verge of being terminated following another Soviet demand that the US agree to a test ban in advance of the conference results. It has been the Soviet view that without an agreement to discontinue tests the technical talks would be a waste of time, whereas the Western position has been that the purpose of the technical discussions should be to determine first of all whether such an agreement could feasibly be enforced. While it is unlikely that conversations among scientists could be expected to have much part in resolving so political a dilemma, the fact that the talks were permitted to take place has encouraged speculation that a precedent has been set that may pave the way for further direct negotiations on technical aspects of East-West differences.

Many of those named by the various governments to participate in the talks are physicists. The list of Western delegates consisted of James B. Fisk (Bell Telephone Laboratories), Robert F. Bacher (California Institute of Technology), Ernest O. Lawrence (University of California), Sir John Cockcroft and Sir William Penney (British Atomic Energy Authority), Yves Rocard (French Atomic Energy Agency), and Omond M. Solandt (Canada). In addition, the following were among those named to go to Geneva as advisers to the Western delegation: Hans Bethe (Cornell University), Carson Mark (Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory), Harold Brown (University of California), and Anthony Turkevich (University of Chicago). The Soviet bloc delegation, consisting of scientists from the USSR, Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Rumania, was headed by Y. K. Fedorov and included N. N. Semenov, I. E. Tamm, and H. Hulubei.

Publications

A world center for revision of *Chemische Kristallographie*, a valuable but by now outmoded compilation of data on the chemistry and physics of crystals issued a half-century ago by the German crystallographer Paul Heinrich Ritter von Groth, has been established at the Pennsylvania State University. The new center, known as the Groth Institute, is located in the University's