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sources were reviewed in a 1957 UN report, and two years later it was agreed that the holding of an international conference for the purpose of pooling all relevant research findings could yield especially interesting results for areas which have a shortage of conventional energy resources. The program agenda and substantive guide lines for potential contributors of papers to be presented at the conference were drawn up last spring and summer at three preliminary meetings of experts held in Madrid, Grenoble, and Rome.

Persons participating in next summer's conference will attend as individuals, rather than as representatives of governments, private organizations, or professional societies. Invitations will be issued by the United Nations Secretariat to individuals nominated by UN member nations or by interested nongovernmental organizations or societies. Applications to take part in the meeting may also be submitted independently by qualified persons (for further details and the necessary application forms, contact the executive secretary of the conference, Alfred G. Katzin, United Nations, New York, N. Y.).

In connection with the UN conference, the Italian Government has placed an exhibition area at the disposal of a private business enterprise which will organize an exhibit of equipment and services pertinent to the subject of the meeting. Prospective exhibitors should write as soon as possible to *Rassegna Internazionale Eletttronica*, Via della Scrofa 14, Rome, Italy. Firm commitments will be required at the end of April.

### Ionization Phenomena in Gases

**S**UBJECTS emphasizing nuclear fusion have been eliminated from the program of the Fifth International Conference on Ionization Phenomena in Gases, which will be held at Munich August 28 to September 1. The organizers of the conference, the Verband Deutscher Physikalischer Gesellschaften, have taken this step in agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency, which is preparing a Conference on Plasma Physics and Controlled Nuclear Fusion Research to be held at Vienna, September 4-8. The Munich conference will consider the following problems: fundamental processes in gas discharges (collision processes, radiation, transport phenomena, surface effects); discharge types (glow discharge, arcs, pulse discharges, high-frequency discharges); diagnostic methods (spectroscopy, shock waves, microwaves); and applications.

Since the division of subject matter gives the Munich conference a wider time margin, the organizers are attempting to make it essentially a discussion meeting. Original contributions will be presented in the afternoons; morning sessions will be devoted to review papers. Preprints of original papers, made from submitted manuscripts, will be provided to all participants before the conference convenes; authors will then present only a short summary, adding results obtained subsequent to the submission of the manuscript. The discussion chairman will then try to initiate a discussion of the subject presented. Immediately after the con-





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ference, the review papers and the original papers with additional remarks by the authors and/or contributions from the discussion will be published by the North-Holland Publishing Company. Conference languages will be English, French, and German.

A social program, including receptions, theater performances, "Bierabend", and excursions into the country, is being prepared. In addition, at the end of the conference, there is a possibility of joint participation in the Nibelungen trip down the Danube to the Vienna conference.

Contributors should have their manuscripts in the hands of the secretary of the conference by April 1. Those interested in attending the conference should write to: V. Internationale Konferenz über Ionisationsphänomene in Gasen, Sekretariat, Oskar-von-Miller-Ring 18, P. O. Box 463, Munich 1, Germany.

### Cloud Physics

**A**N International Cloud Physics Conference will be held September 11-21 in Australia, following the Tenth Pacific Science Congress in Honolulu which concludes on September 6. The conference will be sponsored by the Australian Academy of Science and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization and will be organized by CSIRO's Division of Radiophysics.

Divided into two parts, it will open in the building of the Academy of Science in Canberra, where sessions will continue for four or five days on (1) cloud growth, (2) microphysics of clouds—condensation nuclei, (3) freezing nuclei—ice phase, (4) rain—coalescence process—radar, and (5) cloud seeding. Delegates will then transfer to Sydney for laboratory and flight demonstrations and for informal seminars on subjects of particular interest which may have arisen during the scientific sessions. Papers will be read by invitation, the invited speakers being given approximately thirty minutes each plus allowance for a ten- to fifteen-minute discussion period.

A working committee has been formed to consider the details, and formal notifications and invitations to attend will be issued by the Academy. Interested persons should write to Dr. E. G. Bowen, Chief, Division of Radiophysics, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization, University Grounds, Sydney, Australia.

### Vacuum Technology<sup>1</sup>

**T**HE American Vacuum Society will be host to the International Organization for Vacuum Science and Technology for the Second International Vacuum Congress to be held October 16-19 at the Sheraton-Park Hotel in Washington, D. C. Papers are invited on all phases of vacuum technology, including generation, measurement, and application in research and industry. Abstracts should be submitted by April 15 to the chairman of the AVS Scientific Program Committee, L. E. Preuss, Edsel B. Ford Institute for Medical Research, Detroit 2, Mich.