MAGNETISM and CRYSTALLOGRAPHY

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN KYOTO

A report by ***A. M. Portis*** *and* ***J. Kanamori***

IT is no secret that physics research in Japan has grown rapidly in the post-war years and is continuing to grow. Still, with the holding of two international conferences in Japan during the summer and fall of 1961, this development was felt by the participants in a more concrete way than had been possible from a reading of Japan's scientific literature alone. As a valuable by-product of this direct scientific contact, a large number of conference participants were able to view the country of their Japanese colleagues for the first time.

Set in Kyoto, the ancient capital of Japan, the conferences were held in an atmosphere suggesting the serenity of pre-nineteenth-century Japan. First, the International Conference on Cosmic Rays and Earth Storm brought 197 foreign scientists to Kyoto early in September. Then, at the end of the month, 225 foreign scientists joined their 600 Japanese colleagues for a conference housed in the magnificent facilities

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Kyoto Kaikan, the new conference hall in Kyoto where more than 800 scientists gathered last September for sessions of the International Conference on Magnetism and Crystallography. (*Photo by Asahi Newspaper Co.*)

of the Kyoto Kaikan, the newly completed prize-winning assembly hall designed by the modern Japanese architect Kunio Maekawa.

The conference was really two conferences. First there was the International Conference on Magnetism, sponsored by the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics. Second, the International Symposium on Electron and Neutron Diffraction, sponsored by the International Union of Crystallography. The meeting included both joint programs on magnetism and neutron diffraction and joint programs on neutron and electron diffraction.

An introductory session provided abundant evidence of the tremendous amount of preparation which had gone into this international conference. The conference was organized jointly by the Science Council of Japan, the Physical Society of Japan, and the Crystallographic Society of Japan. The chairman of the Organizing Committee was Professor S. Kaya, the president of the University of Tokyo, famous for his contributions to magnetism. Professor I. Nitta, an internationally known x-ray crystallographer, acted as vice chairman. The subcommittees for the magnetism and crystallography parts of the conference were headed by Professors T. Nagamiya and S. Miyake. Under the organizing committee nearly one hundred physicists gave their time in preparing for the meeting. Financial support for the conference came from the Charles F. Kettering Foundation in the United States and from a large number of industrial and commercial organizations in Japan.

At the opening session Professor Nitta spoke of the development of work in magnetism and in crystallography in Japan. Much of the interest in the physics of magnetism in Japan follows from the work of Dr. Kotaro Honda, who was professor of physics at Tohoku University in Sendai and director of its Research Institute for Iron, Steel, and Other Metals. Many contemporary physicists trace their scientific lineage to Honda. Japan has also made notable contributions to electron diffraction, beginning with the work of Dr. Seishi Kikuchi, now director of the Japan Atomic Energy Research Institute. The conference participants were told that with the construction