

AWARDS

National Medal of Science

Theodore von Kármán, chairman of the Advisory Group for Aeronautical Research and Development (AGARD) of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, has been awarded the first National Medal of Science. The award, presented by President Kennedy on February 18, was made on the basis of recommendations received from the President's Committee on the National Medal of Science, which cited Dr. von Kármán for "leadership in the science and engineering basic to aeronautics, for distinguished counsel to the Armed Services, and for promoting international cooperation in science and engineering".

A native of Budapest, Dr. von Kármán received his PhD from the University of Göttingen in 1908. Prior to coming to the United States in 1928, he was director of the Aeronautical Institute of the University of Aachen in Germany, and he subsequently served for a number of years as director of the Guggenheim Aeronautical Laboratories at the California Institute of Technology. During World War II, he headed Caltech's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. In addition to his current duties as AGARD chairman, Dr. von Kármán is chairman of the technical advisory board of Aerojet-General, a firm which he helped found in 1942.

The National Medal of Science was established by the 86th Congress to be awarded by the President to individuals "who in his judgment are deserving of special recognition by reason of their outstanding contributions to knowledge in the physical, biological, mathematical or engineering sciences".

Fermi Award

At a ceremony held in the White House on December 3, President Kennedy presented the 1962 Enrico Fermi Award to Edward Teller of the University of California for "contributions to chemical and nuclear physics, for his leadership in thermonuclear research, and for efforts to strengthen national security". The award, which consists of a citation, a gold medal, and a check for \$50 000, was established under the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 and was first presented to Enrico Fermi (in whose honor it was posthumously named). It has since been given to John von Neumann, Ernest O. Lawrence, Eugene Wigner, Glenn T. Seaborg, and Hans A. Bethe.

The Fermi Award is made on the recommendation of the Commission's General Advisory Committee and is approved by the President. In a summary of Dr. Teller's scientific contributions on which the recommendation was based, the General Advisory Committee stated:

"Dr. Teller is considered one of the most original, imaginative, and versatile scientists in the world today. His contributions to science extend from engineering



T. von Kármán

and technology to physics and chemistry, to the most abstract theories in quantum mechanics. There is a similarly wide range in the character of his contributions. Some form the foundations for major structures in scientific theory; some are illuminating flashes of insight which have helped to solve practical but often tantalizing puzzles."

Dr. Teller, who was born in Budapest, received his doctorate at the University of Leipzig in 1930. He came to the United States in 1935 as professor of physics at George Washington University, and during World War II, he participated in the work of the Manhattan Project at the University of Chicago and at Los Alamos. A fellow of the American Physical Society, Dr. Teller is currently professor-at-large and associate director of the Lawrence Radiation Laboratory at the University of California in Berkeley.



W. F. Meggers

Spectroscopy Awards

On March 7, during the Pittsburgh Conference on Analytical Chemistry and Applied Spectroscopy, the 1963 Award of the Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh was presented to William F. Meggers. Dr. Meggers, who