

letters

die year abroad with an appointment supported by the host institution also takes a budgetary load off American institutions. This does not place an excessive burden on institutions abroad, as many places, including the Weizmann Institute, would be happy to take on additional postdocs under these circumstances.

I do not think that it would be practical to make any formal arrangements through the APS involving two institutions and a candidate. However, publicizing the existence of this kind of program might make it generally acceptable and induce both institutions and candidates to consider it in individual cases.

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IUPAP on freedom

While the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics provides a variety of services to physicists, many of them might well be provided by other organizations. However, as the principal international agency for physics, it has had a special concern for the free movement of scientists from one country to another. Recently this cause has been sorely tried by new problems.

Over the years, IUPAP has struggled, for example, to insist that no physicist be barred for political reasons from an international conference organized by one of its Commissions. This is usually done by means of refusing visas. While success has been uneven, it has been steadily increasing, and in recent years few cases have been reported. However, few is too many, and at its last General Assembly in Washington, 1972, delegates voted unanimously a re-affirmation of IUPAP principles of free travel, which are similar to those of the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU). If it were stated by a conference's host country that visas would be refused for political reasons, IUPAP support for the conference would be withdrawn; if they were refused *de facto* too late for IUPAP to act, its international commissions would be warned against holding further conferences in the country. In 1973 no cases of visa refusal have been reported.

However, there can be harassments. In one 1973 case, following repeated cautions, visas were finally issued to twelve scientists who appeared to have been barred, but very late—too late for six of them to attend. While the letter of the agreement was observed, the spirit was not, and further conferences in the country concerned will require stronger guarantees.

There can also be more delicate problems. At the same conference, it was learned that several nationals of the host country who wished to attend the meeting were prevented from doing so. The Commission chairman, who was present, had worked hard and successfully to surmount the visa problem and now bent his best efforts to what appears to have been, legally, an internal matter. Therefore his interventions, although vigorous, had to be of a private nature and were not successful. We are faced with a new obstacle to the free movement of scientists.

Problems involving internal matters are no less pressing or less urgent than those that involve frontiers. They may not be dismissed or swept under the rug for that reason. However, many years of bitter experience from the United Nations downwards has proven how difficult these problems are and how frustrating it is to pin them down in rules, regulations or sanctions. Many authentic-sounding apolitical reasons can be invoked to cover an act of political discrimination, just as cries of political motivation can arise from disappointed applicants in a travel grant competition. The cause may be clear, but the lawyers are clever.

These questions will be reviewed at the coming IUPAP Executive meeting. However, all physicists involved in international gatherings must be alert to them and exercise their influence to safeguard those freedoms which are essential to science. Freedom of movement is one of the more important, and currently one that is threatened.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: We understand that the IUPAP executive meeting has now been held, and the ICSU principles concerning the free circulation of scientists were reaffirmed at that meeting.

Reactor safety questioned

I disagree with the bias of recent articles published in *PHYSICS TODAY* on the subject of nuclear power in general, and nuclear power-plant safety in particular (August 1973, page 30; May 1972, page 28). These articles, written by men working in the field who could be expected to be pro nuclear power, appear to be largely self-serving. Surely enough controversy has arisen over the question of nuclear-power generation that a qualified member of the opposition could be found to present another viewpoint.

One interesting aspect of the article by Charles Leeper (August, page 30) is the fact that many significant tests re-

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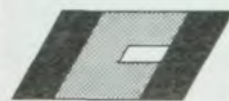
QUADRUPOLE FACT SHEET

Quadrupole optics and design criteria are reduced to a single sheet, laminated in plastic to stand up indefinitely, and are available to you for the asking.

Prof. Harald Enge, who works with and through I.C.I. has carefully and concisely stated the criteria for quadrupole specification and design in a manner that is of great assistance to the scientist and the engineer.

This is the first of a series of fact sheets on accelerator magnets. . .

Check the facts . . . check with I.C.I.



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