

advocated an organization within the Executive Office that is "much more than merely advisory in character and which is co-equal with other policy and execution mechanisms." This Office of Research and Engineering Management would review government-wide R&D programs as to their content and responsiveness to Presidential policy. It would also look for overlaps, duplication and omissions, but most important it would judge the quality of the programs, authorizing only those that were worthy for budgeting by OMB. Thus the Office of Research and Engineering Management would have an independent voice in guiding Federal R&D. Only programs with its certification would be forwarded to OMB for funding.

The Senate bill, S 2495, was originally introduced last September. In an amendment introduced on 27 June, Moss, Magnuson and Tunney incorporated essentially all the provisions of the Killian report. The hearings scheduled for 11 July will be on the amendment.

—GBL

Technician-education program launched by NSF

The National Science Foundation is initiating a Science and Engineering Technician Education Program (SETEP) under which NSF will support the development, testing and trial implementation of technician education programs at collegiate-level institutions.

NSF plans to make the first SETEP awards totalling approximately \$1 million in June. Proposals may be submitted at any time and will be considered from nonprofit institutions that offer two and four-year college-level education for technical support personnel.

Further details on SETEP are available in a pamphlet, *Guide for Preparation of Proposals* (E-74-18). Inquiries in general should be directed to SETEP, Materials and Instruction Development Section, Division of Higher Education in Science, NSF, Washington, D.C. 20550.

International seminar in Moscow is blocked

A seminar organized by Soviet scientists who want to emigrate to Israel failed to take place in Moscow early in July. Its organizers had been arrested or were in hiding, and foreign scientists planning to attend were not granted visas.

The International Seminar on Collective Phenomena and the Applications of Physics to Other Fields of

Science was scheduled to take place in the Moscow apartment of physicist Alexander Voronel during 1-5 July. The time coincided with the visit of President Richard M. Nixon to Moscow. An organizing committee of 19 Soviet scientists, including physicists Mark Azbel and Benjamin Levich, had invited foreign scientists to the seminar in an effort to maintain contact with the outside world. The Soviet scientists had been dismissed from their jobs after applying for visas to emigrate to Israel. Over 120 papers had been submitted to the conference, including one from Andrei Sakharov, the well-known plasma physicist. (At the time of the conference Sakharov was conducting a hunger strike to protest the treatment of political prisoners.) An American group of 30 scientists had applied for visas to attend the seminar, but in late June Intourist canceled their trip.

On 8 June Voronel was arrested and threatened that if he did not cancel the seminar he could be prosecuted under the criminal code for "incitement of national enmity, restriction of rights or establishment of privileges for citizens in dependence on their national appurtenance." He was subsequently released and then arrested several more times in the month that followed, according to newspaper accounts.

One of the seminar's international secretaries, Norman Chigier (University of Sheffield), received a call at the end of June from a cousin of Azbel. She had just left the Soviet Union and reported that Azbel and Victor Brailovsky (a computer scientist), who were in hiding in a village outside Moscow, were arrested there on 21 June. Meanwhile Voronel had been arrested at home. The three men, she said, were being held in jail outside of Moscow.

On the first scheduled day of the seminar several scientists showed up at Voronel's apartment house, only to be arrested by representatives of the KGB, according to newspaper accounts. Thus the seminar, its scheduled participants all prevented from attending, did not take place.

By 7 July a dozen scientists were able to meet in Voronel's apartment for their customary weekly seminar. All the scientists had been released after spending 10-20 days in prison, Voronel told Emanuel Lubishitz, who called him from Jerusalem on 8 July. The group would like to reschedule their international seminar for September or October, but first they plan to consult with the seminar's international board of sponsors.

Meanwhile it appears that in principle Benjamin Levich and his family have been officially promised that they will be allowed to emigrate. In a cable sent by Mrs Levich to Brian Spalding (Imperial College) on 29 June, she said

that their sons, Alexander, an engineer, and Evgeny, an astrophysicist, would be allowed to leave in 1974 and the elder Leviches some time in 1974.

How the Soviet Academy of Sciences feels about free emigration was expressed by S.G. Korneev, head of the Academy's Foreign Relations Department. In a letter to Leo Goldberg, president of the International Astronomical Union, Korneev endorsed an article by I.I. Mintz published in *Literaturnaya Gazeta* in Moscow at the end of 1973. The true purpose of free emigration, Mintz argues, is to allow developed capitalist countries to lure brainpower from other countries, thus leading to a braindrain in the exporting country and a consequent lagging in the quality of its science. Furthermore, Mintz says, because a scientist is constantly associating and exchanging ideas with his colleagues and because the elaboration and development of many ideas requires participation of related institutions and industrial enterprises, when a scientist leaves his country, he is "taking away not only his personal knowledge but a part of knowledge which belongs to others too."

in brief

Biophysical Chemistry, an international journal devoted to the physical chemistry of biological phenomena, is available from the North-Holland Publishing Co, PO Box 211, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, for \$29.75 per year (four issues).

Improvements Needed in the Program for the Protection of Special Nuclear Material (B-164105), a report by the US General Accounting Office on the Atomic Energy Commission's program for protection of special nuclear material, can be obtained from the US General Accounting Office, Rm 6417, 441 G St, NW, Washington, D.C. 20548. A check or money order for \$1.00 must accompany each order.

The College of Radiological Sciences, an organization for educators in diagnostic, therapeutic and nuclear-medicine technology, has been established. Anyone working in the natural or physical sciences, nursing, communications or radiology may join. For applications write to the College of Radiological Sciences, 328 Marengo Ave, Suite One West, Forest Park, Ill. 60130.

The National Science Foundation recently dedicated the earth-sciences laboratory at McMurdo Station, Antarctica, to the memory of Edward C. Thiel, a noted polar geophysicist who died in Antarctica in November 1961. □