

## Keyworth proposed science adviser

President Reagan has nominated George A. Keyworth II to be his science adviser and the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy.

Keyworth was educated at Yale (BS 1963) and Duke (PhD 1968). After five years as a researcher at Duke, he joined the Los Alamos National Laboratory, where he has worked since 1968. He became assistant group leader, neutron physics, in 1973, group leader in 1974, alternate physics division leader in 1978 and was acting laser fusion division leader 1980-81. He is currently leader of the physics division. His research interests are nuclear structure, isobaric analog states, polarization experiments, fission and neutron physics.

The position of science adviser has been vacant since the resignation of Frank Press last winter. Press, currently President of the National Academy of Sciences, was professor of earth and plane-



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tary science at MIT until President Carter appointed him in 1977 to be his science adviser.

of the poorer countries' technological capacities as catalysts for growth.

Negotiations continue for further funds. "We are opening up arrangements with a variety of banks and funds to broaden our financial base." Many, such as the OPEC Development Fund, are interested in supporting energy-related research and development projects. In many cases the Interim Fund and another agency might cofinance a particular project; in others, an outside agency might provide all the money necessary. Altogether, these monies could be a significant addition to the \$40-45 million already raised.

The fund, and whatever will succeed it, aims at more than providing technological assistance. It is attempting to assist developing countries in building indigenous scientific technological capabilities in a "coherent and sustained way." On the one hand, new sources of money are being sought, especially from such nongovernmental organizations as regional agencies and development banks. On the other hand, the Fund is providing a focus for the support of science programs for development at the UN. Working with other agencies such as UNESCO in the execution of projects, it is trying to achieve a balance in developmental programs both in geography and in fields of technology.

Accordingly, in selecting from the enormous and unanticipated number of proposals received from developing countries—850—Lees and his staff of 10 professionals are concentrating on "the critical elements involved in the application of science and technology for development, which have so far received inadequate attention and on which the Fund could make an optimal impact," in the words of a UN document.

**The projects.** Many of the approved projects are helping national governments and regional organizations assess their technical needs and strengthen their science policy-making in such areas as food processing, industrial techniques and energy sources. Others are developing information systems: A technical lexicon in the national language of Ethiopia is being produced. In Mexico a high-level technology forecasting unit will review international trends to aid in setting priorities for technical development.

While nearly all projects will have technical training components, some will be entirely educational. Two programs, supported by UNESCO, are being orga-

## UN fund for science and technology

A United Nations fund for science and technology for developing countries started operation in May 1980, began approving proposed projects in November, and by now has provided money for 25 projects that have begun to function. As of May 1981, out of 850 proposals received, the fund has approved 44; fifteen more are on the way.

The fund was formulated at the UN Conference on Science and Technology for Development held in Vienna August 1979 (see *PHYSICS TODAY*, November 1979, page 92) and approved by the UN General Assembly that December. Developing nations had proposed the establishment of an agency that would provide \$2 billion a year for science and technology for development. The industrialized countries came up with a counterproposal that was adopted: An interim fund would operate for two years with a budget of \$250 million from voluntary contributions. Meanwhile negotiations would take place to establish permanent financial arrangements.

**Funds raised.** At a conference in March 1980 between \$40 and \$50 million was pledged. The amount disappointed

many from the developing countries and from the scientific community in developed nations.

As of this writing, between 80 and 90 countries have pledged money; most of them, developing, are able to promise only limited amounts. Some OPEC countries have already pledged to the fund and are engaged in consultations for future contributions. While Italy (\$8-9 million), the Netherlands, Canada, and Scandinavian countries have committed themselves, France and the UK have not. Through a special arrangement, West Germany will support specific projects.

Although at the pledging conference the US said it would match 20% of other funds raised, no money has been committed. R. Martin Lees, the Director of the Interim Fund, says "pressing the Reagan Administration at the present time might be counterproductive," while much larger amounts of money are being cut from the national budget. Still, says Lees, some members of Congress are in favor of the US coming through with a contribution because they acknowledge the US did promise money and because they are committed to the development