

nized by the International Centre for Theoretical Physics in Trieste. One will offer a course in monsoon dynamics in Bangladesh. Another, in Ghana, is a Colloquium of Solid-State Physics in Africa that will instruct in basic properties of solids and liquids, electronic and vibrational structures in solids, lattice defects, surface physics, amorphous solids and liquids.

Among ventures aimed at developing productive capacities are the following that have some relevance to physics:

The Fund is assisting the China State Commission for Science and Technology in establishing a central coordinating system for remote-sensing services for national resource exploitation.

In Pakistan laboratories and training programs for industrial silicon production are to lead to manufacture of semiconductor photovoltaic cells for converting solar radiation into electrical power.

Carbon filter technology is being developed in Brazil. This project, executed

by the UN Industrial Development Organization and assisted financially by a Brazilian national agency, is engaged in research and development of materials for application to the construction of boats and propellers for wind power.

In the Seychelles a project will diminish the island group's dependence on imported oil by adapting solar, wind and biomass methods of energy production. A demonstration generator providing 50–100 kW will be built.

Owing to limits of its money, the Interim Fund is so far concentrating on small projects and ones proposed by governments. In each case money sufficient to carry a project to completion is allocated because no one can be certain what will happen when the Fund ends. To make limited funds stretch further, when possible, projects are chosen that can be of relevance in other countries.

The process by which proposals become formulated and accepted involves Fund personnel or consultants at every step.

For some countries the Fund has provided the technical and procedural expertise needed to formulate proposals. In all cases the Fund cooperates in assessing proposals with the local UN Development Program, the focal point for UN activities in a country. Lees's staff often seeks the assistance of other expert UN Agencies, such as UNESCO and the World Health Organization, and the views from country experts of the UN Development Program in New York. Once approval is obtained and documents are signed, funds are made available.

The Interim Fund will come to an end on 31 December 1981. What follows it is now being negotiated within a complicated apparatus formulated at the Vienna Conference. Lees is confident that the program will continue, even at a time of economic recession for much of the world. And if it is to continue, he maintains, "if the effort is to be considered seriously, more money than currently available will have to be provided." —DG

To NASA: Beggs, head; Mark, deputy

President Reagan has nominated James M. Beggs to be Administrator of NASA and Hans Mark to be his Deputy. Beggs succeeds Robert A. Frosch, who is now President of the American Association of Engineering Societies.

Beggs, a 1947 graduate of the US Naval Academy, served in the Navy until 1954.



BEGGS

In 1955 he received a master's degree at the Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration. He has worked at Westinghouse, the NASA Office of Advanced Research and Technology as associate administrator, Summa Corporation and, most recently, General Dynamics Corporation as an executive vice-president.

Hans Mark received a bachelor's degree in physics from Berkeley in 1951 and a PhD in physics from MIT in 1954. He

was assistant professor of physics at MIT, and at Berkeley he was professor of nuclear engineering and physicist at the Lawrence Radiation Lab. In 1969 he became the Director of the Ames Research Center. He was Undersecretary of the Air Force from 1977 and its Secretary from 1979. His fields of research



MARK

have been nuclear and atomic physics, nuclear instrumentation and astrophysics.

Poll: what is the chance of nuclear war?

In a recent PHYSICS TODAY poll of APS members on the threat of nuclear war almost two-thirds estimated that there was a 20% or greater chance of nuclear war

before the year 2000; one-quarter indicated the chance was 50% or more.

The survey was mailed to 300 persons randomly selected from the most recent (1979) APS Directory; 109 returned the survey (in postage-paid envelopes); 8 came back, undeliverable. Responses ranged from 0 to 90% chance of nuclear war. The single figure indicated by the greatest number was 10% (stated by 21 of the respondents). The second most frequently cited number was 50% (by 16).

Respondents were asked "How, in your opinion, can the probability of nuclear war be substantially reduced?" Of the 87 who answered the question, over half specified negotiated arms limitations. Twenty mentioned preventing proliferation of weapons to minor powers. Nineteen mentioned disarmament, abolition of nuclear weapons or unilateral arms reduction. According to one respondent, "There is only one way—complete disarmament." Twelve of the respondents recommended military deterrence, defensive weapons or civil defense. One, for example wrote "the physics community should try to convince both the people and the government that we need a civil defense program against nuclear attack, using passionless logic and hard data as we normally do as a profession. Serious nuclear arms reduction can only hope to begin when nuclear attack no longer assures the total annihilation of the intended enemy." With a quite different view on civil defense, another respondent replied "provide no fall-out shelters for the military planners."

Seventy-five answered the survey's other open-ended question, "What contribution could the physics community and physicists as individuals make to this effort?" The most frequent response—from half of those responding—was, in