

Nuclear-arms resolution evokes international response

The resolution on nuclear-arms limitation passed by the APS Council in January was sent to a number of heads of state and presidents of physical societies and scientific academies both here and abroad. Replies from some of these leaders are now in hand.

Among the responses received was one from Vice President George Bush, speaking on behalf of the US Administration, who wrote, "Verifiable and balanced reductions in nuclear arms are indeed an important means of diminishing the threat that such weapons could be used. Precisely for that reason, the Administration is currently engaged in serious negotiations with the Soviet Union across the spectrum of military capabilities: strategic nuclear forces, intermediate-range nuclear forces, and conventional forces. . . . The Administration is determined to seek significant reductions in all major weapon categories. It is persuaded, however, that unless we see to our own security needs negotiations will be fruitless." An additional US response from the Department of State said, "We share the Society's concern about the risk of nuclear war, and recognize the special contribution scientists can make toward furthering public awareness on these issues. . . . The task of reaching sound and verifiable arms-reductions agreements which can contribute to a stable peace is among the most important issues we face. . . . We welcome the Society's efforts in this area."

The office of the Prime Minister of Great Britain wrote, "The Government shares the widely felt concern about the level of nuclear arms in the world, and is committed to working toward balanced and verifiable measures of arms control and disarmament. . . . the Russians have been dragging their feet, apparently confident that they do not need to negotiate seriously. They have been refusing American offers to discuss crucial issues which would have to be settled before an INF [Intermediate Nuclear Force] agreement of any sort could be made. It still has to be proved

to them that only by negotiating at Geneva, rather than with the public opinion of Western Europe, can nuclear weapons be reduced. . . ."

The German Physical Society (DPG) replied, "The Council of the DPG took a position in response to the APS Council resolution which was adopted at the January 1983 meeting. . . . The members of the Council [DPG] share the concern of their American physics colleagues about current developments, and support their resolution to work in the direction of disarmament. However, German physicists are in a different position where questions of conscience are concerned, because West Germany refrained from developing, building, or possessing nuclear weapons. But German physicists understand and support the warnings of their American colleagues who also represent a large number of physicists who

are not permitted to speak out. The DPG turns to the representatives of the German parliament and government with the urgent request to support the superpowers in working toward an agreement on nuclear disarmament. . . ."

The response from the Chinese Academy of Sciences said, "I trust no peace-loving people will feel completely indifferent about the menace to the world peace of the increasing nuclear arsenals of the two superpowers. It is for this reason that I appreciate very much the announcement reiterated by our government that China will never be the first country to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-armed countries; China's limited development of nuclear weapons is for the sole purpose of defense, of breaking up the two superpowers' nuclear monopoly and of safeguarding the world peace. . . ."

Washington office follows secrecy issue

The APS Council decided unanimously during its 5 November 1982 meeting to establish an Office of Public Affairs in Washington, D. C., on an experimental basis. The appointment of Robert L. Park of the University of Maryland as Executive Director of the new office for 1983 was reported in these pages in January 1983. Park has been joined by Lander McConkey, and the two of them have been actively securing and reporting to APS Officers and Committee Chairmen information relating to the physics community. *PHYSICS TODAY* appointed a Washington Editor, Irwin Goodwin, in April 1983, and AIP accepted an APS invitation that he share the APS office in the Joseph Henry Building.

On the recommendation of the Panel on Public Affairs APS Council unanimously voted to continue the Washington Office for another year and to empower its Executive Committee to extend it for a period of up to three years beyond December 1984.

An important project on which the

Washington Office has been working is to follow the progress of government efforts to establish Federal regulations and guidelines covering scientific communication and national security. Some of the relevant information has been readily available, but gaining access to much of it has called for the persistent pursuing and questioning of various sources.

Events leading up to and a summary of the National Academy of Sciences Panel study chaired by Dale Corson appeared in an earlier issue of *PHYSICS TODAY* (Dale Corson, "What price security?" *PHYSICS TODAY*, February 1983, page 42; see also November, page 69. The follow-up to this report has been much more difficult to track. Some of it has appeared as a *PHYSICS TODAY* news story in June (page 41).

On 23 December 1982, President Reagan issued a National Security Study Directive instructing his Office of Science and Technology Policy to coordinate an inter-agency review of scientific communication, the objective

of which was to establish a policy for the protection of sensitive but unclassified scientific information resulting from Federally supported research. Because the President's directive identifies the Corson Report as the starting point for the study, many government officials felt that the inter-agency study would simply result in a document recommending procedures for implementing the recommendations of the Corson Report. Yet no public announcement was made of the President's directive and there was no contact between the inter-agency study group and the scientific community. By mid-February drafts of the report of the inter-agency review began to leak out. To the consternation of those who had endorsed the Corson Report, the four criteria that formed its basis had been rejected in favor of the very much broader language of the Export Administration Act of 1978.

To further the dialog between the government and the scientific community on this crucial issue, APS invited Louis Montulli of OSTP to speak at a special session of the Spring Meeting in Baltimore on "Scientific Communication and National Security." Montulli revealed publicly for the first time that

a new Presidential national-security directive had been issued on 25 February. This one broadened the initial study to include all aspects of export control; it includes, for example, non-Federally supported research. A deadline no earlier than 1 October 1983 was given for the report.

In the meantime, the scene of action has shifted to the halls of Congress, where the 1978 Export Administration Act is up for renewal. On 18 May, the Sub-Committee on International Economic Policy and Trade reported out bill HR 2971, entitled "Export Administration Amendments Act 1983," to the full Committee on Foreign Affairs. Lee Hamilton (D-Ind.), along with Larry Winn (R-Kan.), introduced an amendment into the bill (subsequently adopted by the sub-committee) stating that "It is the policy of the United States to sustain vigorous scientific enterprises. To do so requires protecting the ability of scientists and other scholars freely to communicate their research findings by means of publications, teaching, conferences and other forms of scholarly exchange." What will emerge from the complete legislative cycle on this issue remains to be seen.

APS starts physics program with China

APS is launching a new American-Chinese research program with the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Ministry of Education. The program was approved by APS at its January 1983 meeting; its objective is to develop collaborative basic research programs between American and Chinese scientists in atomic, molecular and condensed-matter physics. Initially the program will focus on placing a group of senior Chinese physicists in American universities for one to two years to work on basic research projects with American colleagues. Plans call for these carefully selected scholars to assimilate the latest research techniques and results in the US and, upon their return to the People's Republic of China, to play key roles in the formation of new basic-research programs in the fields mentioned. It is expected that the new research groups formed in China will ultimately include younger Chinese physicists who have received their doctoral training in the US.

The first group of ten Chinese physicists will arrive in the US late this fall, and take up residence at several Eastern universities under the new APS physics program with China. Half of the ten visitors will come from institutes operated by the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the other half from Chinese university laboratories. The research fields for this first Chinese

group, which are being matched to the interests of the American researchers, will include nonlinear optics and laser spectroscopy, amorphous solids, superlattices, two-dimensional electron systems and positronium studies. The geographical proximity of the host universities in the US will make it possible for the Chinese group to meet regularly to share experiences and to plan for their future research activities in China.

This Chinese-American physics program will be operated under the joint aegis of an American Coordinating Committee (ACC), appointed by APS, and a similar Chinese committee. ACC consists of six representatives from the participating universities, one member selected by each of the APS Divisions of Condensed Matter and Electron and Atomic Physics, and three members-at-large appointed by the APS president. The chairman of ACC for the academic year 1983-84 is Joseph Birman of the City College of New York. The other members of ACC are: Nicolaas Bloembergen (Harvard), Elias Burstein (University of Pennsylvania), Robert Park (University of Maryland), Daniel Tsui (Princeton), Robert Wheeler (Yale), Daniel Kleppner (MIT), Steven Louie (University of California, Berkeley), Colin Flynn (University of Illinois), Theodore Hänsch (Stanford), C. N. Yang (SUNY at Stony Brook) and Peter

Levy (NYU and New York Academy of Sciences).

For the initial two-year period the program will be supported on a matching basis by five American universities (City College, Harvard, Maryland, Pennsylvania and Princeton) and by the World Bank's Chinese University Development program. During this same period, the program is being co-sponsored by the New York Academy of Sciences, who has appointed a member to ACC, and will serve as a host for the group meetings when they are held in New York City. In October of this year the formal memorandum of understanding establishing this new American-Chinese physics program is to be signed by Birman and APS President Robert Marshak in Peking.

Complimentary memberships help foreign exchange

At its January meeting the APS Council approved a resolution granting complimentary APS membership to deserving physicists in overseas countries where foreign exchange is a critical problem. The condition established for this grant is that if a sponsor pays half of the cost, then APS will pay the other half. Persons interested in contributing to this program should send their donations, which are tax deductible, made payable to APS International Physics Development Fund, to J. A. Burton, Treasurer, American Physical Society, 335 E. 45th Street, New York, New York 10017. The donor may either recommend a recipient or leave it up to the Society, which will make choices in consultation with its Committee on International Freedom of Scientists.

American, European Physical Societies give joint symposium

A symposium on International Facilities for Physics Research, jointly sponsored by the European Physical Society and the American Physical Society, was held in Copenhagen and Risø, Denmark, from 21 to 23 March. The Symposium was well attended and featured lively discussions on different types of large facilities, on methods of promoting international cooperation, and on priority setting within and between subfields of physics. There was particular concern among European participants on the relative importance of new high-energy physics facilities, spallation neutron sources and synchrotron radiation facilities. Martin Blume (Brookhaven) was the APS representative on the Program Committee. □