

Chinese-American cooperative program is officially launched

APS President Robert E. Marshak and Chairman of the American Coordinating Committee Joseph L. Birman represented The American Physical Society at a ceremony in Beijing, China, on 14 October 1983 to inaugurate the new Chinese-American Cooperative Basic Research Program in Atomic, Molecular and Condensed Matter Physics (see *PHYSICS TODAY*, July, page 82, and October, page 107). The signing ceremony was attended by President Lu Jiaxi of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Deputy Director Huang Xingpai of the Ministry of Education.

Within days of the signing of the memorandum of understanding, the first five Chinese scholars (of a group of ten) departed for East Coast universities to begin their participation in the program. The remaining five will arrive before the end of the year.

The memorandum of understanding was negotiated with representatives of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Ministry of Education and runs for four years with a review scheduled at the end of three years. The agreement was ratified by the APS Council at its meeting in San Francisco on 20 November. The co-chairpersons of the Chinese Coordinating Committee are Xie Xide, president of Fudan University, and Zhang Zhong, a deputy director of the division of mathematics and physics of the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

Readjustments to the financial arrangements for the program were necessitated by a decision of the Ministry of Education that it cannot continue to give direct support to individual Chinese scholars beyond the first group. Instead, a new program feature was added, which allows participating American professors to visit China. Each American host professor will be invited to spend up to one month in a Chinese research laboratory, with all expenses paid by the Chinese Academy of Sciences or the Ministry of Education, as appropriate. These visits will strengthen the cooperative, binational nature of the program.

The future thrust of this program will be to extend it to western and midwestern American universities. The total number of Chinese scholars in the US at any one time is expected to



Signing of a memorandum of understanding in Beijing by Robert Marshak (left) and Zhou Guangzhao inaugurating Chinese-American Cooperative Basic Research Program in Atomic, Molecular and Condensed Matter Physics.

be approximately fifteen. In the steady state, seven to eight scholars should be placed each year.

The members of the Chinese Coordinating Committee for the program are: Hu Yongchang, Deputy Secretary-general of Chinese Academy of Sciences; Huang Kun, Honorary Director of the Institute of Semiconductors (CAS); Zhou Guangzhao, Director of the Institute of Theoretical Physics (CAS), and Deputy Director of the Division of Mathematics and Physics (CAS); Guan Weiyan, Director of the Institute

of Physics (CAS); Zhang Zong, Deputy Director of the Division of Mathematics and Physics (CAS); Xie Xide, President of Fudan University; Shen Keqi, Vice-president of Beijing University; Feng Duan, Director of the Institute for Solid State Physics (Nanjing University); Zhao Ji, Secretary-general of Chinese Education Association for International Exchanges. □

Council endorses open communication

At a meeting in October the Panel on Public Affairs of The American Physical Society recommended a resolution affirming support for the principle of open scientific communication for the consideration of the APS Council. On 20 November the APS Council approved the following resolution:

Whereas the free communication of scientific information is essential to the health of science and technology, on which the economic well-being and national security of the United States depend; and Whereas it is recognized that the government has the authority to classify and thereby restrict the

communication of information bearing a particularly close relationship to national security; and Whereas members of The American Physical Society have observed the damaging effects on science of attempts to censor unclassified research results;

Be it therefore resolved that The American Physical Society through its elected Council

► Affirms its support of the unfettered communication at the Society's sponsored meetings or in its sponsored journals of all scientific ideas and knowledge that are not classified. □