



UNESCO D. ROGER

UNESCO Director
General M'Bow, at his desk in the secretariat headquarters in Paris, is at the center of a political and managerial controversy with the US and other western nations.

British sociologist who served as the agency's assistant general director from 1970 to 1977, argues that it was always a political battleground, though the conflicts have become greater and fiercer as UNESCO grew from the original 27 member nations that formed it in 1946 to today's 161. Under the rubric of "one country, one vote," the US was often outvoted in the past two decades—since the great influx of Third World states—especially on issues of human rights, education of refugees and a doctrine called the New World Information Order, which proposed to justify state control of news and journalists, ostensibly to address Third World grievances about distortions of events within their borders in Western press reports. At UNESCO's general conference last year, representatives of the member countries voted down a resolution to adopt the New World Information Order, though they adopted 132 out of 134 resolutions put forward largely by the secretariat to promote its own agenda of policies and programs without so much as a vote.

Along with this politicization of UNESCO came a bloated bureaucracy, which now numbers about 2300 employees at its headquarters in Paris and some 500 in the field. To Harry Lustig, provost at City College of New York and a former senior professional in technological education at UNESCO from 1970 to 1972, "the layers of people, many of them loyal only to those who control patronage, meaning M'Bow, have eroded the original ideal and goals of the organization." Lustig and others have argued that UNESCO officials often expect the staff to behave like scientists or cultural experts when they are simply administrators at best and all too frequently make judgments about programs without benefit of informed external advice. The NSF survey acknowledged in its list of UNESCO imperfections that the quality of scientific and technical staff recruited from Third World countries is often poor. It suggested that the US is at least partly

to blame for UNESCO's administrative problems. The absence of a central US body to coordinate academic and government participation has made it difficult to persuade leading scientists and others to join UNESCO projects, let alone exert leadership roles. Today, fewer than 40 US citizens work for UNESCO, and, according to the House staff study, the State Department doesn't actively recruit qualified Americans to serve the UNESCO secretariat or field programs. "We haven't taken UNESCO seriously in recent years," says Lustig. "Our neglect cannot be diagnosed as benign. It's critical."

Budget busting. Still, as US interest in UNESCO dwindled, its contributions to it mounted. The US pays 25% of UNESCO's current budget of \$347.4 million for the 1984-85 biennium—or \$86.2 million for the two years. In turn, UNESCO funds about one-third of the International Council of Scientific Unions, a nongovernmental body organized in 1931 and representing science academies in 20 countries and other scientific societies, including the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics. To turn aside some of the assaults by scientists of Western countries, M'Bow has increased the annual grant to ICSU by one quarter to \$500 000. In the past, ICSU provided most of IUPAP's \$100 000 annual budget, but in recent years ICSU has cut back its subventions, especially as representatives from Third World countries sought to lessen US presence and influence in international science groups.

"If we pull out of UNESCO," says D. Allan Bromley of Yale and a member of the White House Science Council, "it would give those who would limit or minimize our participation in IUPAP and other scientific bodies more ammunition to do battle." By staying in UNESCO, he observed, the US can continue to fight for the free circulation of scientists—that is, the prospect of obtaining visas to attend conferences and

conduct research away from their own countries, as well as, in some instances, the freedom of scientific inquiry within their own countries. As president of IUPAP and a past member of the executive board of ISCU, Bromley finds this issue to be of greater importance to US and world science than the organization's financial and management troubles. "The United States could contribute directly to ISCU if it left UNESCO," he points out, "but it would no longer be seen as contributing to the free and open exchange of science in the world. That openness has been one of our great contributions to world science. It would be a tragedy if that were lost." —IG

Tigner named to direct R&D program for SSC

Although the Department of Energy has not reached an official decision about including the proposed Superconducting Super Collider in its budget request for fiscal 1986, there are signs that it is going forward with the world's largest particle accelerator. It has approved the choice of Maury Tigner of Cornell to direct the R&D program for designing the behemoth machine. The selection of Tigner was announced 20 June by H. Guyford Stever, president of Universities Research Association, which was designated by DOE last March to administer the SSC venture. While URA also manages Fermilab, DOE made it clear that responsibility for SSC would be completely separate. To make sure of this, URA established an SSC board of overseers, with Boyce D. McDaniel, director of Cornell's Newman Laboratory of Nuclear Studies, as chairman.

DOE officials consider Tigner ideal as chief designer of the SSC. He headed some 150 physicists and engineers from more than a dozen national labs and universities in preparing a 441-page SSC reference design study, which went to DOE on 8 May (PHYSICS TODAY, June, page 17). He has championed the SSC before scientific groups and congressional committees. Representative William Carney of New York remarked after one hearing that "Tigner is one of the most informed and imperturbable witnesses I've seen on Capitol Hill."

Tigner's new job has at least two purposes: to maintain the head of steam among accelerator architects that drove the reference design study to completion in three months, and to organize a central working party to develop a single national design for the SSC, thereby preventing a shoot-out among different groups, each claiming the best plan. —IG □