

KRUMHANS� PROTESTS CHINA SITUATION, URGES SUPPORT FOR SCHOLARS IN USA

Even as the Chinese government puts its propaganda apparatus into full swing—insisting, in newspaper and television accounts, that the massacre of demonstrating students in Tiananmen Square never took place—APS has stepped up its protests against the crackdown. President James Krumhansl, appealing to Chinese and US government leaders on a number of fronts, has voiced concerns about the continuing repression of Chinese students in the People's Republic, the precarious situation of Chinese nationals currently studying in the US, and the uncertain status of Fang Lizhi, the Chinese astrophysicist and reform leader who has taken refuge with his wife in the US embassy in Beijing.

In a letter sent on 26 June to Han Xu, the Chinese ambassador to the US, Krumhansl appealed to Chinese leaders to "treat arrested students and faculty with restraint and leniency. Additional executions and arrests can serve no useful purpose and will force APS to withdraw from further contact with organizations and institutions in China." Earlier, on 16 June, Krumhansl had sent a letter to Zhou Guangzhao, president of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing, which said that APS was "appalled by the recent brutal suppression of peaceful dissent in China. Our continued cooperation is jeopardized by the repressive policies of the Chinese government."

The APS president has been equally outspoken on the domestic front, having sent a letter to President George Bush on 14 June that reads in whole:

"On behalf of the 41 000 physicists who comprise The American Physical Society, I wish to express our strong support for your firm yet measured response to recent events in the People's Republic of China.

"In particular, the protection accorded to our colleague, Fang Lizhi, by the US embassy is a clear statement to the world that the United

States defends the inherent rights of citizens to peaceful dissent. We are confident that you will resist the growing Chinese pressure to compromise the principle."

Krumhansl also sent letters to members of Congress supporting legislation that would allow the 37 000 Chinese students and scholars currently studying in the US to apply for permanent resident status (see page 40). "Many of these students," Krumhansl wrote, "were outspoken in their support of prodemocracy demonstrations in their homeland and have been equally outspoken in their denunciation of the Chinese government's brutal repression of peaceful dissent. We could not have wished them to behave otherwise. For these students and scholars to be forced to return as long as the present course is followed in China would almost certainly place many of them in grave personal jeopardy."

Krumhansl acknowledged in his letter that the US Attorney General has authorized an "extended deferral program" allowing PRC nationals to remain in the US until June of next year (see PHYSICS TODAY, July, page 45). Krumhansl noted, however that "during this time [Chinese nationals] would remain ineligible for permanent resident status and would be subject to the employment restrictions of the J-1 visa."

GASEOUS ELECTRONICS PRIZE ESTABLISHED IN HONOR OF ALLIS

The American Physical Society has authorized the establishment of a prize in honor of Will Allis. Allis was chairman of the Gaseous Electronics Conference for 13 years and is currently professor emeritus in the MIT physics department and Research Laboratory of Electronics.

The Will Allis Prize in Gaseous Electronics will recognize and encour-

age outstanding research on the microscopic or macroscopic behavior of partially ionized gases. The prize was proposed by the APS division of atomic, molecular and optical physics and was endowed through contributions from friends of Allis and from GTE, GE, Xerox, IBM and AT&T.

The Allis Prize will be awarded every other year, with the first award expected in 1990. Nominations should be submitted to Allis Prize Committee Chairman Manfred Biondi, University of Pittsburgh, Department of Physics and Astronomy, 100 Allen Hall, 3941 O'Hara Street, Pittsburgh PA 15260.

FOURTH ALLIANCES WORKSHOP TO BE HELD IN NORTHWEST

The fourth APS Local Physics Alliances workshop, supported by a grant from the National Science Foundation, will be held in the Northwest United States on Friday evening, 3 November, and Saturday, 4 November 1989. The alliances project brings physics faculty from high schools and universities together to form local alliances, which meet regularly to share physics teaching resources and ideas (see PHYSICS TODAY, November 1988, page 139). To date, workshops have been held in North Carolina, Indiana and Oklahoma.

Due to the distances between populated areas in the northwest region, the workshop will be conducted simultaneously in Boise, Salt Lake City and Spokane via satellite. Physics teachers from Washington, Idaho, Utah, Wyoming, Nevada, Oregon and Montana will be able to participate at the location of their choice.

For application forms or information on how to "tune in" to the Northwest workshop, contact Charlene Borsack, Project Manager, APS, 335 East 45 Street, New York NY 10017, no later than 15 September. ■