

APS FORMS TIES WITH THE PHYSICAL SOCIETY OF THE SOVIET UNION

The American Physical Society has begun building ties to the Physical Society of the Soviet Union, which was revived last November after nearly 60 years (see *PHYSICS TODAY*, April, page 65). Last May APS President Eugen Merzbacher, of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, met in Washington, DC, with the president of the Physical Society of the Soviet Union, Sergei Kapitsa of Moscow's Institute of Physical Problems, to discuss possible joint and reciprocal projects for the two societies.

Both leaders gave highest priority to establishing a reciprocal membership agreement, similar to those APS now has with the Physical Society of Japan and the Japan Society of Applied Physics (see *PHYSICS TODAY*, April, page 89). The APS committee on membership is now considering such a reciprocal arrangement, and Kapitsa reported that his own society's council is doing the same.

Merzbacher and Kapitsa also talked about the possibility of holding jointly organized meetings, although they agreed that such meetings would be most productive if initiated and planned by individuals within the specific disciplines, rather than by the leaders of the societies.

Other discussions between the two societies have dealt with getting more physics students and younger researchers involved in the field. At the May meeting, Kapitsa said he hopes that in the near future Soviet physics students will be able to spend a year studying in the US and that APS will help arrange such exchanges. In a separate exchange, Yuri Novozilov, vice president of the Physical Society of the Soviet Union, sent a proposal to APS vice president Nicolaas Bloembergen inviting APS to help establish an annual international school of physics intended to introduce more young scientists in Eastern Europe to the international physics community.

The proposal sent to APS says that while senior scientists from Eastern

Europe now have greater opportunities than in the past to attend conferences and work abroad, their younger associates rarely have such opportunities. A major aim of the school, therefore, is to enable these young researchers to meet physicists from other countries and to learn about research being carried out in the rest of the world. To facilitate their participation, Novozilov proposes that scholarships be made available to young scientists from Eastern Europe who would otherwise be unable to take part. Candidates will be limited to individuals having less than four years of postdoctoral research experience and will be nominated by their countries' physical societies and institutions and selected by the school's organizing committee.

The school's plan calls for 30 young scientists and an unspecified number of senior researchers from various countries to spend two weeks each year in lectures, tutorials and technical seminars. The topic of each school will reflect the research interests of the sponsoring institution, although Novozilov's proposal states that the school will not overlap with other international schools now in existence.

The Physical Society of the Soviet Union has also invited physical societies from other countries to support the school, which will be administered by an advisory board designated by the participating physical societies. The advisory board's responsibilities will include maintaining the school's scientific standards, reviewing proposals from countries wishing to host a school and appointing an organizing committee for each school.

The site of the school will rotate among countries in Europe, North America and Asia, with the first school planned for Leningrad in fall 1991. The United Nations's scientific organization, UNESCO, has agreed in principle to provide \$15 000 for the first year, with similar amounts in

future years.

APS has agreed to participate in the international school. After discussing the proposal with the APS council and executive committee, Bloembergen told Novozilov that APS will help find lecturers for the school and identify foundations and other organizations that might act as sponsors and possibly provide funding.

In addition to the Physical Society of the Soviet Union, APS has been in touch with another Soviet physical society. On 22 August Vladimir Gribkov, a representative of the newly formed Moscow Physical Society and a professor at the Lebedev Physical Institute, visited APS headquarters to learn about the organization and function of APS and to discuss possible joint programs.

APS PROVIDES TRAVEL GRANTS FOR WOMEN SPEAKERS

The APS committee on the status of women in physics has introduced a program to provide travel grants for women colloquium speakers.

The program offers two types of grants. The first type provides physics departments with up to \$500 to cover the travel expenses of the second of two women speakers in an academic year. The other grant awards \$1000 to physics departments if more than one-third of the colloquium speakers in an academic year are women.

The committee maintains a list of 157 women colloquium speakers and their colloquium topics. The colloquium speakers list and travel grant application forms have been sent to PhD-granting department chairs and are included in the October issue of the committee's newsletter, *CSWP Gazette*. Forms and lists are also available from APS, 335 East 45 Street, New York NY 10017. ■