

SCIENCE SOCIETIES PRESS FOR REVIEW OF US POSITION ON UNESCO MEMBERSHIP

Even before the UNESCO general conference met last fall and adopted reforms in response to complaints from the United States, Britain and Singapore (PHYSICS TODAY, January, page 63), several leading science societies in the United States had adopted statements or resolutions recommending that the US rejoin the international education, science and culture organization.

The US State Department still seems reluctant to review the US position regarding UNESCO, and Assistant Secretary John Bolton continues to insist that he has seen nothing that would warrant a change. But the National Academy of Sciences has sent information to the Office of Science and Technology Policy reviewing the activities of US scientific organizations relative to UNESCO.

Commenting on the situation for PHYSICS TODAY, Presidential Science Adviser D. Allan Bromley said he "is aware that substantive reforms have gone forward under Director General Mayor" and that he "is encouraged at the progress made in addressing the administrative problems that hampered UNESCO's science programs in the past." Last fall, after a group headed by former Senator Robert T. Stafford issued a report saying that the United States should rejoin UNESCO if the organization adopted satisfactory reforms, Bromley wrote to Stafford saying, "I believe that UNESCO, under the leadership of Director General Federico Mayor, has come a long way toward addressing many of the concerns that precipitated US withdrawal five years ago."

Dante B. Fascell and William S. Broomfield, the chair and ranking minority member of the House Committee on Science and Technology, wrote to Secretary of State James A. Baker on 19 October 1989 suggesting that the Bush Administration "will want to conduct its own far-reaching assessment of American interests in UNESCO later this year." Fascell and Broomfield noted that subcommittees

of their committee have been seeking views on UNESCO from US professional communities.

A similar letter addressed to Baker on 20 November by Claiborne Pell and Richard Lugar, chair and ranking minority member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, proposed that he assemble a panel of distinguished American leaders in science, education, culture and communications to assess US membership in UNESCO. "The panel could measure the progress UNESCO has made in its program and report on the agency's direction based upon the decisions of the general conference," Pell and Lugar said.

Science society statements

Among the major science organizations that have adopted pro-UNESCO statements is The American Physical Society. Its statement, adopted by the APS council on 12 November in response to initiatives by the society's subcommittee on international scientific affairs and its Panel on Public Affairs, reads as follows:

"Whereas UNESCO is improving its operations and reemphasizing the importance of science in its work under the leadership of its new director general, and whereas a strong US role in UNESCO's worldwide scientific activities would be of benefit both to the US and to the world, therefore be it resolved that the council of The American Physical Society recommends that the United States return to active membership in UNESCO and take an active role in identifying strong candidates for leadership positions in UNESCO's secretariat and its governing and advisory bodies."

Similar statements have been adopted by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Chemical Society, the National Science Teachers Association and the National Education Association, among others.

Except for the "whereas" provisions in the preambles, the statement

adopted by the American Chemical Society's Board of Directors on 9 April 1989 is identical to the resolution the AAAS council adopted on 18 January 1989. Both resolutions say:

▷ that the United States [should] return to active participation in UNESCO with a budget of at least the level at the time of departure in 1984, and

▷ that the United States [should] take an active role in naming strong candidates for UNESCO staff leadership positions, advisory council and general assembly positions, and for the delegation at UNESCO in Paris, in order to provide leadership and to assure continued improvement in the administrative and programmatic aspects of UNESCO.

The AAAS and ACS resolutions drew heavily on the language adopted by the National Science Teachers Association at its national convention on 7-10 April 1988. The NSTA statement differed slightly in that it recommended that the US return to UNESCO with a budget "essentially equivalent" to the budget at the time of departure, which it said was about \$50 million.

Outlook

The impact of statements favoring the US's rejoining UNESCO may be somewhat reduced by the fact that many organizations always were in favor of the United States being in the organization, never were in favor of US withdrawal, and have wanted the US to rejoin all along. This was the position, for example, of the NEA—probably the largest US professional organization with an interest in UNESCO.

A staff member at NEA, who has been trying to rally non-governmental organizations to the UNESCO cause, reports that generating much of a groundswell was not easy last year. Still, he takes satisfaction that the American Council on Education, an organization that had resisted signing onto the rejoin-UNESCO movement,

finally adopted a strong statement in favor of the organization late last year. The council, based in Washington, D.C., represents university and college presidents.

Overall, it is difficult to avoid the

impression that there is a crescendo—a restrained crescendo, to be sure—of scientific and professional opinion in favor of the United States's getting back into UNESCO. If Bromley reports the situation objectively to the White

House, which seems to be his intention, he will contribute to the mounting pressure for a serious review of the US position and the return by the US to the organization.

—WILLIAM SWEET

WIEDERSICH AND ROTHMAN ARE NEW EDITORS OF AIP'S APPLIED PHYSICS JOURNALS

Hartmut Wiedersich and Steven J. Rothman of Argonne National Laboratory have been chosen to succeed Gilbert J. Perlow and Lester Guttman of Argonne as editors of *Applied Physics Letters* and the *Journal of Applied Physics*, respectively. *APL* and *JAP* are both published by the American Institute of Physics, and Wiedersich and Rothman were recommended as the new editors by a search committee headed by Sokrates T. Pantelides of IBM Thomas J. Watson Research Center in Yorktown Heights, New York (PHYSICS TODAY, May 1989, page 66).

Perlow edited both *Applied Physics Letters* and *Journal of Applied Physics* from 1970 until 1974, when Guttman took charge of *JAP*. Perlow remained editor of *APL* and Guttman of *JAP* until 1 January, when Wiedersich and Rothman took over. Editorial management of the two journals remains at Argonne, and both Perlow and Guttman will continue to serve as consulting editors.

Wiedersich received his doctorate in physics and metallurgy from the University of Göttingen in 1954 and subsequently joined the research laboratories at Westinghouse Electric Corporation in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, as a research engineer. From 1960 to 1962 he was a research specialist at Atomics International in Canoga Park, California. From 1962 to 1971 he worked at the Science Center of North American Rockwell Corporation in Thousand Oaks, California, first as a member of the technical staff and then as a group leader.

Wiedersich joined Argonne as a senior scientist in the material science division in 1971. He served as a group leader from 1971 to 1982 and as associate division director from 1982 to 1989. His research interests have included non-equilibrium precipitation, crystal growth, plastic deformation, the Mössbauer effect, magnetic structures, fast ionic conductors, crystal defects and effects of irradiation on structure and processes in solids.

Rothman earned a bachelor's de-



Hartmut Wiedersich

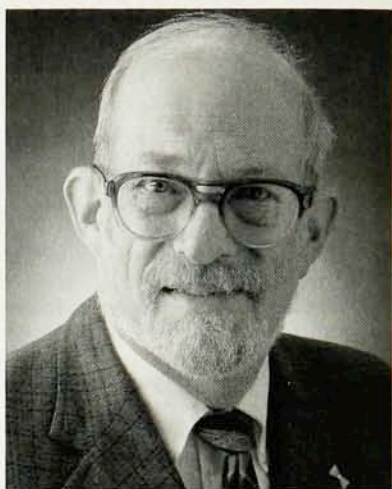
gree at the University of Chicago (1947), and a BS (1951), an MS (1953) and a PhD (1955) in metallurgical engineering at Stanford University. He has been associated with the materials science division of Argonne since 1954.

Rothman's principal research interest has been the application of tracer diffusion measurements to the study of point-defect behavior in crystals in a wide range of materials.

Perlow earned his BA (1936) and his MA (1937) at Cornell University and his PhD in physics (1940) at the University of Chicago. After teaching at the University of Minnesota in 1940–41, he worked as a physicist at the Naval Ordnance Laboratory in 1941–42 and at the Naval Research Laboratory from 1942 to 1953. He was a research associate at the University of Minnesota in 1952–53, and joined Argonne as an associate physicist in 1953. He became a senior physicist at Argonne in 1958.

Perlow's research has been in x rays, cosmic rays, nuclear physics and the Mössbauer effect.

Guttman earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry at the University of Minnesota in 1940 and a PhD in chemistry at the University of California, Berkeley, in 1943. He was an assistant chemist at the University of California from 1940 to 1942 and an



Steven J. Rothman

associate scientist with the Manhattan Engineering District from 1943 to 1946. He was a research associate in the Institute for the Study of Metals at the University of Chicago from 1946 to 1947 and a faculty member at the University of Chicago from 1947 to 1955. After a year as a Guggenheim fellow with the United Kingdom's Atomic Energy Authority in 1955–56, he joined the General Electric Company's research laboratory as a physical chemist in 1956. He moved to Argonne in 1960 as a senior chemist.

Guttman has studied the statistical thermodynamics of alloys, x-ray diffraction from alloys and the structure of covalent glasses.

GRAD STUDENTS TAKING LONGER TO EARN PhDs

Students enrolled in US physics graduate programs are taking longer to earn their PhDs, according to the latest American Institute of Physics survey of graduate students. From 1978 to 1988 the average time spent completing a physics doctorate increased from 5.2 to 5.7 years.

The survey's principal author, Susanne D. Ellis of the AIP education