# AIP HEADQUARTERS TO BE MOVED FROM MANHATTAN TO WASHINGTON AREA

Meeting in Rye, New York, on 30–31 March, the governing board of the American Institute of Physics voted 20 to 10, with 4 abstentions, to move the headquarters of AIP from New York City to the Washington, DC, area.

The question of whether to move AIP headquarters has been a major preoccupation of the institute's management and governing bodies for several years, and the decision to move headquarters was not taken lightly. "The decision is very important," says Judy Franz, current president of the American Association of Physics Teachers and a member of the AIP board. "It will have a big impact on physics and AIP for a long time to come."

AIP is an umbrella organization that does publishing and provides services for ten member societies. It currently maintains a staff of about 550 at locations in Manhattan, in Washington and on Long Island, where 55 physics journals are produced. The institute is the world's largest publisher of physics journals.

Moving AIP's headquarters will involve transferring approximately 100 staff positions from two locations on East 45th Street in Manhattan to the Washington area. The present best estimate is that the transfer will not begin for at least two years.

The staff currently located in midtown Manhattan includes individuals with advanced training in physics, history, sociology and statistics, as well as experienced professionals in publishing, journalism, advertising, marketing, accounting and finance. Several of AIP's member societies also maintain professional staffs at the New York headquarters, and AIP has promised to continue providing services to those societies that choose to remain in Manhattan and desire such services.

AIP management hopes to decide within a month which operations might remain in New York. Some managers are expected to argue in favor of keeping their divisions in Manhattan, but the presumption is that nearly all divisions will be moved to the Washington area. Relocation benefits will be provided to those who choose to move, and incentives will be provided to encourage staff members to stay with AIP until the move takes place. The AIP staff has been told by management that all of AIP's professional employees in New York and some of its clerical staff will be invited to move.

## College Park site

The site that is under most serious consideration for AIP's new headquarters is located in an undeveloped area of College Park, Maryland, near the University of Maryland (but not actually on the campus). The suburban site would provide good access to the District of Columbia's subway

## Board Resolutions on Relocating AIP Headquarters

The following resolutions were adopted by the governing board of the American Institute of Physics on 30 March:

### General motion

In order (1) to respond to the need to consolidate AIP operations into fewer locations with adequate space for current operations plus anticipated growth, (2) to respond to the future needs and interests of the Washington, DC-based member societies, and (3) to maintain a level of AIP operations needed to support those New York City resident societies that wish to remain in New York City, it is resolved that AIP operations shall be consolidated at three sites located on Long Island, in New York City and headquarters within a 50-mile radius of Washington, DC. Member societies that colocate with AIP shall be offered the opportunity to take an equity position in any properties acquired by AIP.

### Implementation motion

▷ AIP management is requested to prepare a human resources plan that will encourage current staff to remain with the institute, emphasizing their vital importance, both at present and in the future, to the welfare of the institute.

▷ The chair of the governing board is requested to appoint a committee selected from governing board members whose charge is to work with AIP management and with resident member societies so as to ensure that adequate support services are available to these societies should they elect to remain in New York City when the sale of the current building and a move of AIP headquarters from New York City occur.

▷ The executive committee is requested to explore the legality of an offer by AIP to pay the employee-related relocation costs for any member society that chooses to colocate with AIP at its new headquarters location, and to make such a proposal if it is found to be legal to do so.

▷ In consultation with affected member societies, AIP management is requested to prepare plans for the locations of and interactions among AIP's operating units.

▷ In consultation with member societies, AIP management is authorized to negotiate for the acquisition of property (1) at a site within 50 miles of Washington, DC, and (2) when appropriate, in New York City.

▷ AIP management is authorized to negotiate for the sale of the AIP property located at 335 East 45th Street, New York, NY.

system once the system is extended, as well as to university amenities.

The site also would provide easy access to the Baltimore–Washington airport, a convenience for the physicists who serve on advisory and governing committees for AIP and its divisions. "Getting into and out of New York for meetings is a hassle," Franz told PHYSICS TODAY, "and accommodations are exorbitant." Her sentiments are widely shared among leaders of AIP's member societies.

Leaders of the American Association of Physics Teachers, already headquartered in College Park, have said AAPT will seriously consider sharing ownership in a building with AIP if the College Park site is selected. The American Geophysical Union, the Optical Society of America and the American Astronomical Society already are headquartered in downtown Washington.

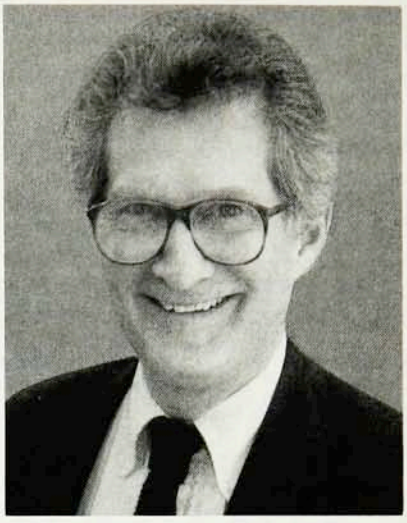
The American Vacuum Society and the American Association of Physicists in Medicine maintain small staffs in Manhattan. The Acoustical Society of America and the Society of Rheology have staff liaisons in New York, and the American Crystallographic Association currently is based in Buffalo.

It is expected at this writing that The American Physical Society will decide to move its headquarters from New York to the Washington area and that it will co-own a new physics building with AIP. Growing interest by APS in the College Park location was a major factor in the decision by AIP's governing board to move AIP to the Washington area.

## Background to decision

When moving AIP from New York to Washington was first proposed several years ago (see PHYSICS TODAY, May 1988, page 89 and December 1987, page 75), proponents of the idea argued that AIP should be close to the Federal government and to societies and other organizations based in Washington, and that a move to Washington would save money and result in a desirable consolidation of staff. But AIP's ten member societies and the governing board split evenly on the question of the move when it was first submitted to them, and subsequent reviews indicated that a move to Washington would not necessarily result in significant savings. (A consultant's report showed, on the other hand, that moving to Baltimore or Philadelphia would yield savings.)

Last fall, at a special meeting in Chicago of member society representatives convened by Hans Frauenfelder, chairman of AIP's governing board (see PHYSICS TODAY, February, page 113), society leaders reached a consensus that the institute's publishing operations should not be moved from Long Island anytime in the foreseeable future.



**Kenneth W. Ford,** executive director and CEO of AIP, has worked persistently to move AIP closer to Washington, with a view to reducing long-term costs and consolidating staff.

During the months after the Chicago meeting APS and AIP staff and leaders gave serious consideration to sites in downtown Manhattan and College Park, and in the course of two visits to College Park, APS leaders began to find the site there quite attractive.

In a meeting of AIP senior staff on 20 March, AIP Executive Director Kenneth W. Ford said that The American Physical Society would be considering alternative locations for its headquarters, and that once APS had reached a decision, the institute might well follow suit.

When the idea of moving APS to College Park was put to the society's executive committee on 27 March, the committee split evenly, 4 to 4, with 1 abstention. But the APS executive committee also voted on three other questions, and its recommendations to the APS council on these questions set the stage for the decision in favor of Washington by AIP's board:

▷ The committee recommended unanimously that if AIP stayed in New York, APS also should stay in New York.

▷ It recommended by a majority of about two to one that if AIP moved to the Washington area, APS also should plan to move.

▷ And it recommended that APS should not move to downtown Baltimore even if AIP decided to do so.

The APS council is expected at this writing to vote at the end of April on whether to relocate in the Washington area, and a vote in favor of the move is considered likely. The president-elect and the present and past presidents of APS, Nicolaas Bloembergen (Harvard University), Eugen Merzbacher (University of North Carolina) and James Krumhansl (Cornell), have come down strongly in favor of a Washington-area location, and sources say they played a decisive role in persuading the AIP governing board to vote in favor of relocating AIP.

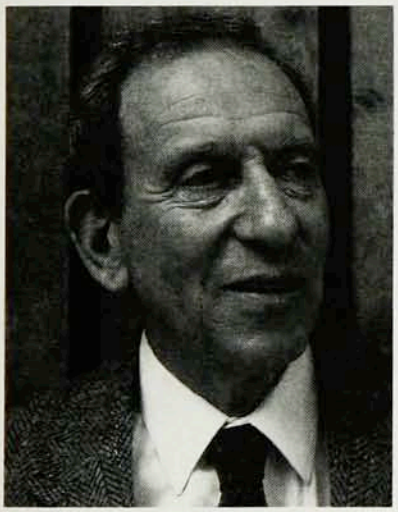
## Reasons for vote

Reviewing the process that led the AIP board to vote in favor of moving AIP, Krumhansl says that the most difficult part of the history concerned the question of whether some significant financial advantage was attached to one location or another. Once it was decided not to move the AIP–APS publishing operations from Long Island, according to Krumhansl, it became clear "that within a physicist's error bars, financial considerations would not yield an overwhelming reason for doing one thing or another." That made the problem "really tough," he says—the decision had to be made on the basis of where the organizations were going in terms of their missions or roles, rather than on the basis of hard data, which is what physicists prefer. At this juncture, Krumhansl says, a "short list" of advantages and disadvantages prepared by Bloembergen was decisive.

Bloembergen says that two advantages weighed strongly in favor of College Park: First, being just a half-hour from downtown Washington by Metro, it is close enough to Washington to provide ready access to policymakers while being just far enough away to enable AIP (and APS) to steer clear of images associated with "influence peddling." Second, it will permit closer interaction with member societies, several of which relocated to Washington long ago.

In addition, Bloembergen says, the College Park site leaves open options for future expansion.

Against all that, according to Bloembergen, no overwhelming advantage could be found to staying in New York, "except of course that leaving New York will be disruptive for personnel and will disrupt services during the transition period." Inevitably, he says, there will be loss of personnel, including people who have served APS and AIP faithfully for many years.



**Nicolaas Bloembergen,** James Krumhansl and Eugen Merzbacher (clockwise from upper left), played a decisive role in setting the stage for the decision by AIP's governing board. They are, respectively, president-elect, past president and president of APS.

Bloembergen says that a proposed site for AIP near New York University in downtown Manhattan—a trendy section of town with many boutiques, restaurants and theaters—was found to have the wrong ambience. "It might be good for fashion but not for physics," Bloembergen says.

Given that many of AIP's staff professionals in Manhattan provide management and support for the Long Island publishing operations, PHYSICS TODAY asked Bloembergen about disadvantages associated with AIP becoming an absentee manager. He said that while details have yet to be worked out, some rearranging of staff will have to be done so that managers in Long Island can report to Washington. He pointed out that some other professional societies maintain publishing operations in unlikely locations separate from their headquarters.

## Rationale for decision

According to AIP Executive Director Kenneth W. Ford, at least eight reasons figured in the decision by the board to move AIP headquarters out of New York. Ford emphasizes that these are not merely his personal reasons for favoring the move. Rather, it is his judgment, based on conversations he has had with members of the board, that these are "the reasons that played a role in the votes of those that favored the move." Without making any attempt to say how important any of these factors were in any particular person's mind, Ford says the reasons are roughly as follows:

▷ Bringing AIP, APS and AAPT together in the same location because of the substantial number of cooperative projects that they conduct; this could create a base for a common home for physics in the United States

▷ Closeness to the Federal government, with the thought that the member societies and AIP ought to be playing a greater role in science policy, science funding and science education

▷ Closeness to a substantial number of Washington-based organizations, not only AIP's own member societies but also a number of others with which the institute interacts

▷ Attractive links to the University of Maryland

▷ Lower capital costs for acquiring property and lower operating costs

▷ Lower cost of living for employees

▷ Acquisition of a site with adequate room for future expansion

▷ Convenience to visitors and committee members, many of whom have other reasons for going to Washington

"I would not even want to try to arrange those reasons in any kind of priority order," Ford emphasizes again. "The last one on my list might have ranked first in somebody's mind, but might have been irrelevant in somebody else's mind. But I think those were all reasonably important considerations, at least some of which played a role in everybody's thinking."

To be sure, the AIP governing board was not of one mind when it voted to move headquarters to the Washington area. In conversations with PHYSICS TODAY, representatives of the American Vacuum Society, the Acoustical Society of America and the American Association of Physicists in Medicine, which opposed the proposed move, gave several reasons for doing so.

Having to relocate staff members and to hire new employees to replace those who do not make the move will be extremely disruptive, opponents said. "I think AIP will have a very hard time reconstituting its staff after the move," says Jean St. Germain, who represents the American Association of Physicists in Medicine on the governing board. Frederick Dylla, a board member representing the American Vacuum Society added, "There has to be a loss of morale among the New York staff right now."

At least part of the operations of AIP and its member societies are better suited to New York than to College Park, said those who were interviewed. "You can argue that for activities such as publishing (including PHYSICS TODAY), marketing and advertising, New York is a better place to be," says Dylla. He pointed out that the member societies "are largely volunteer-driven and New York has a large pool of volunteers. And the strongest industrial supporters of AIP, such as AT&T and IBM, are near New York."

Some felt that the needs and wishes of AIP's New York-based member societies were not properly considered by the AIP governing board. According to Robert Beyer, one of the board representatives for the Acoustical Society of America, "the New York-based organizations, which favored staying in New York, give AIP most of its business, while the organizations in Washington give AIP very little business." St. Germain said that once AIP moves, it may be difficult for those who remain in New York "to

interface with a Washington-based organization."

Opponents said that proposals that would have kept headquarters in New York and that seemed to be competitive with College Park in terms of space, cost and other factors were not treated as viable options by AIP management.

All of the New York-based societies are now deciding what to do, in light of the AIP board decision. Frauenfelder, the chairman of the AIP board, has convened a special committee to consider how to help these groups handle the move and which services AIP will continue to provide for them.

—WILLIAM SWEET, JEAN KUMAGAI

## COMMITTEE SEEKS NEW EDITOR FOR *PHYSICS OF FLUIDS B*

A search committee headed by Barrett H. Ripin of the Naval Research Laboratory has been formed to find a new editor for *Physics of Fluids B*, which is published by the American Institute of Physics. Since the beginning of 1989, when *Physics of Fluids* was divided into two sections, the editor of *B*, which covers plasma physics, has been Fred Ribe of the University of Washington, Seattle. Ribe plans to leave Washington for retirement in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

The search committee includes, beside Ripin, C. Wendel Horton Jr, University of Texas, Austin; Clifford Surko, University of California, San Diego; Hans Griem, University of Maryland, College Park; Andreas Acrivos, City College of New York and editor of *Physics of Fluids A*; and John T. Scott, American Institute of Physics (*ex officio*).

## BROOKHAVEN NAMES AXE AN ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

John M. Axe has been named associate director for basic energy sciences at Brookhaven National Laboratory. He will be responsible for the chemical and materials science programs in four of the laboratory's departments, namely chemistry, the National Synchrotron Light Source, physics and applied science.

Axe earned a BS in chemistry at the University of Denver in 1956 and a PhD in chemistry at the University of California, Berkeley, in 1960. After working at IBM for seven years, Axe joined Brookhaven's physics department in 1969. As a researcher at Brookhaven he has worked mainly on the structure of materials, using neutron scattering on the High Flux Beam Reactor.

Axe has been scientific program head for the High Flux Beam Reactor since 1988 and will still have that responsibility as associate director.

## IN BRIEF

Finland has opened negotiations toward becoming a member of CERN. If it joins, it will be the organization's 15th member state, thereby making all the nations normally considered part of Western Europe part of CERN.

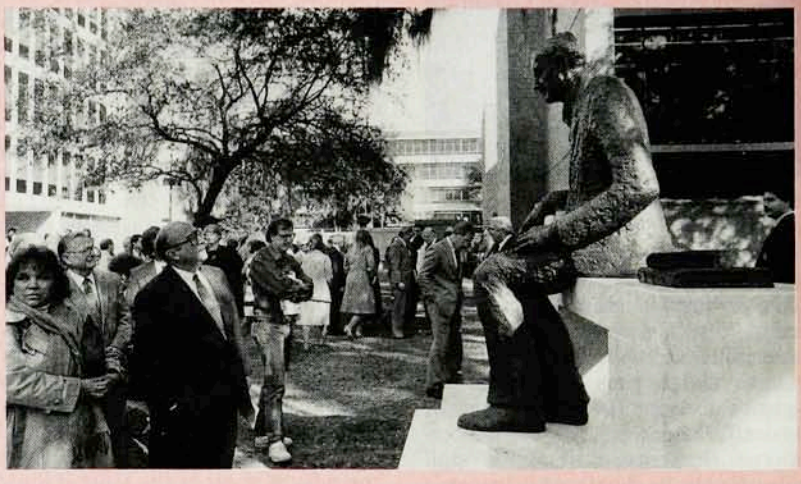
Starting in January of this year, a new quarterly newsletter of the International Commission for Optics appears as a part of *Optics and Photonics News*—formerly *Optics News*—the monthly magazine published by the Optical Society of America.

Japan and the United States have agreed on a joint space mission to explore the flow and transformation of solar energy in the Earth's magnetosphere. Japan will provide the spacecraft, dubbed Geotail. It is scheduled to be launched by the US in July 1992, on a Delta II rocket. Both countries will provide instruments, and information will be shared among participants in the International Solar Terrestrial Physics Program.

Werner Buckel of the University of Karlsruhe in West Germany has succeeded Nicholas Kurti of Oxford University as editor of *Europhysics Letters*. The new address for editorial correspondence is *Europhysics Letters*, P. O. Box 69, CH 1211 Petit-Lancy 2, Switzerland.

Hans F. Zacher, a specialist in international welfare law, will succeed Heinz A. Staab as president of West Germany's Max Planck Society next June. Zacher, who has been head of the Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Welfare Law in Munich since 1980, will serve a six-year term. ■

### Dirac Science Library Dedicated at Florida State



**Statue of Paul A. M. Dirac** was unveiled at Florida State University in Tallahassee on 4 December last year in a ceremony held to dedicate the P. A. M. Dirac Science Library. In a short speech read by John Albright of the Florida State physics department, Margit Dirac, the widow of Dirac (and sister of Eugene Wigner), said, "The physics department [at Florida State] made Paul's last years happy years. His lifelong shyness eased, [and] he became more approachable. He enjoyed belonging to this dear, friendly group. In our long years in Cambridge, he hardly ever spoke of his coworkers. . . . But here at Florida State, he often talked about his colleagues and always with pleasure and affection." Margit Dirac has donated her husband's papers to the Florida State library. The science library building (to the right behind the statue in the photograph) was designed by the architectural firm of Schweizer Inc, and the statue is by Gabriella Bollobás. The man in the dark suit in the foreground of the photo is Charles Reed, chancellor of the state university system of Florida.