

conference earlier this year by the Secretary General of the United Nations, Dag Hammarskjöld. The conference itself will be presided over by the chairman of India's Atomic Energy Commission, Homi J. Bhabha.

Elaborate preparations have been made for exhibits relating to reactor technology, nuclear instrumentation, and isotope applications. The United States is constructing a small research reactor (at an estimated cost of \$350 000) for demonstration during the conference to "enable visiting scientists and technicians to observe a reactor which provides excellent facilities for a variety of cross-section measurements and experiments with neutrons and gamma rays, including shielding studies and production of radioisotopes". After the conference the research reactor will be sold to Switzerland.

Ceremonies at CERN

REPRESENTATIVES of Switzerland and its Canton of Geneva, where the laboratory of the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) is being constructed, took part in two ceremonial functions last month that signified progress in the cooperative endeavor of twelve European nations to complete the laboratory. During the afternoon of June 10th the Foundation Stone was set in place at the CERN site at Meyrin in the presence of Max Petitpierre, President of the Swiss Confederation, François Perréard, President of the "Conseil d'Etat" of the Republic and Canton of Geneva, Sir Ben Lockspeiser (England), President of the Council of CERN, and a large assemblage of distinguished guests. The following morning, P. R. Micheli, Minister Plenipotentiary and head of the Division for International Organizations of the "Département politique fédéral", and CERN's Director General, Felix Bloch, signed a "Headquarters Agreement" defining the status of CERN in Switzerland.

International Geophysical Year

AN Office for the International Geophysical Year has been established by the National Science Foundation, which is the government agency responsible for the administration of special federal appropriations being made in support of United States participation in the International Geophysical Year and for coordinating government interests in the undertaking. The new office is headed by J. Wallace Joyce, who comes to the Foundation from the Department of Defense, where he has been serving as a member of the staff of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Applications Engineering. As administrator of the Foundation's activities in IGY, Dr. Joyce will work closely with the Earth Sciences and Astronomy Sections of the Foundation, utilizing both the facilities and the information available through these continuing programs.

Under the auspices of the International Council of Scientific Unions, thirty-eight nations have already

agreed to join, during the year 1957-58, in a vast effort to collect synoptic data in such fields as geodesy, meteorology, the upper atmosphere and ionosphere, oceanography, earth magnetism, and latitude determinations.

The National Academy of Sciences, which adheres to the International Council of Scientific Unions on behalf of scientists of the United States, has been responsible for developing the scientific program to be carried out by this country during the International Geophysical Year. To plan and carry out the program, the Academy established the U. S. National Committee for the International Geophysical Year, composed of leading American scientists. This committee is assisted by the twelve technical panels dealing with the various phases of the program.

Letter to the Editor

THE importance of Dr. Heinz Haber's aptly titled article "Safety Hazard of Tinted Automobile Windshields" in the June *Journal of the Optical Society of America* should not go unheeded by members of the Institute. The information and conclusions presented by Dr. Haber affect every person who drives or rides in an automobile. The sense of sight is of prime importance for safe driving. The magnitude of visibility losses resulting from tinted windshields may be argued in technical journals for years, but the fact remains that there is a loss which is readily apparent to any driver whose car is equipped with tinted windshields. Moreover, according to Dr. Haber "safe" visibility is incompatible with the attainment of the advantages claimed for tinted windshields, namely glare protection and reduction of radiant heat transmission.

Fortunately, tinted windshields introduce a driving hazard which could be readily eliminated. The problem is how to do it. I doubt that modification of windshield specifications in the American Standard Safety Code or articles in technical journals will directly eliminate the menace. Automobile manufacturers are likely to sell tinted windshields as long as there is a market for them. Thus, it seems to me that the most direct and possibly the simplest method of eliminating tinted windshields is to legislate them out of existence on the state level. This should not be too difficult when it is stressed that tinted windshields are an item on which everyone stands to lose and few, if any, stand to gain. Passage of laws banning tinted windshields on new cars in just a few states would undoubtedly encourage other state legislatures to do likewise and would ultimately discourage automobile manufacturers from equipping new cars with them. It is in convincing state legislatures by individual action, if not by collective action, in the form of letters that the members of the Institute can do every automobile driver a service.

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