Miscellany

International Atomic Agency

Delegates from eighty-two nations agreed in October on terms for the establishment of an international agency to advance the peaceful uses of atomic energy. Originally proposed by President Eisenhower in an address before the United Nations General Assembly in December 1953, the organization was more fully defined in a document drafted early in 1956 by a twelve-nation committee which included representatives from the US and the USSR. In September the draft statute was submitted for approval to an 82-nation conference which met at the UN Headquarters in New York. The Agency will officially come into being after the document has been ratified by at least eighteen nations. Its headquarters site will tentatively be located in Vienna.

As accepted by the unanimous vote of the conference members, the proposed International Atomic Energy Agency will be governed by a board of at least eight member nations that will report to an advisory body consisting of representatives from all participating states. The Agency will control a pool of equipment and fissionable materials contributed by nations in a position to do so. Materials from the pool will then be available for loan to the "have not" member states for use in approved atomic energy projects. The Agency is empowered to send inspection teams into recipient countries to guarantee that borrowed materials will not be diverted into military channels.

An initial contribution of 11 000 pounds of U-235, plus as much additional material as all other nations contribute until 1960, has already been pledged to the Agency by the United States. Great Britain and the USSR are also expected to pledge contributions of material.

Awards

Unesco's Kalinga Prize, awarded annually to a science writer selected by an international jury, has been presented this year to George Gamow, professor of physics at the University of Colorado, Boulder, Colo. He was honored at a brief ceremony held October 12 at United Nations Headquarters in New York, where the prize was presented by Director General Luther Evans of Unesco in recognition of contributions "to the wider public knowledge and understanding of science" made by Professor Gamow through his popular writings on science. These have included a number of articles and the following books: Mr. Tompkins in Wonderland, Mr.

Tompkins Explores the Atom, Mr. Tompkins Learns the Facts of Life, Atomic Energy in Cosmic and Human Life, One Two Three . . . Infinity, The Creation of the Universe, and Biography of the Earth.

The Kalinga Prize was established in 1952 by B. Patnaik of India for the dual purpose of recognizing outstanding interpretation of science to the general public and of strengthening scientific and cultural links between India and other nations. The winner receives a cash prize of 1000 pounds sterling, and also is invited to the annual meeting of the Indian Science Congress and to spend a month visiting and lecturing in India. "Kalinga" was the name of an ancient empire of the Indian subcontinent which was conquered in the Third Century B. C. by the Emperor Asoka, who was so appalled by the cost of his conquest in terms of human life and suffering that he swore never to wage war again.

The fifth winner of the prize, Dr. Gamow was selected from among eight writers nominated from as many countries. The jury this year was composed of Abdel Rahman, professor of astronomy at the University of Cairo, Egypt; L. J. F. Brimble, director of *Nature* Magazine, Great Britain; and J. L. Jakubowski, member of the Polish Academy of Sciences. Dr. Gamow was nominated by the Venezuelan Association for the Advancement of Science.

The Bingham Medal for 1956 was presented by the Society of Rheology to Arthur V. Tobolsky of Princeton University at the Society's fall meeting in Pittsburgh on November 8th. Dr. Tobolsky, whose field of research is polymerization mechanisms and the correlation of structure with properties of polymers, is Eugene Higgins Associate Professor of Chemistry at Princeton.

The Optical Society of America has awarded its Frederic Ives Medal for 1956 to John Strong, professor of experimental physics at The Johns Hopkins University. The Medal, which was endowed in 1928 in memory of Frederic Ives, a charter member of the Society, was presented to Prof. Strong at the banquet held during the October meeting of the OSA at Lake Placid, N. Y. The citation for the award paid tribute to Prof. Strong for his research on the evaporation of substances in vacuum, which has found noteworthy application in the aluminizing of telescope reflectors (at Mt. Wilson and Mt. Palomar), and for his contributions to the field of infrared spectroscopy and to the design of ruling engines for diffraction gratings.

The Navy's Distinguished Civilian Award has been presented to Harry Krutter, physicist and chief scientist at the Naval Air Development Center, Johnsville, Pa., for his contributions to the development of radar and other electronic equipment incorporated in the Navy's airborne early warning aircraft. The award, in the form of a citation and $300, is the highest in the Navy's Incentive Awards Program that can be conferred upon a civilian. Dr. Krutter directed a group of experimentalists at the Johnsville facility, the Navy's largest aeronautical research and developmental ac-

tivity, working in close cooperation with the Navy's Bureau of Aeronautics and the Office of Naval Research.

Research Facilities

California Institute of Technology has announced that in recent experiments the Caltech synchrotron has accelerated electrons to the record energy level of 1.2 Bev. The synchrotron was installed at Caltech in 1951 under contract with the Atomic Energy Commission, and during the first phase of its operation, covering a period of three years, it operated at energies in the neighborhood of 500 Mev. Modifications in the past two years have brought its output up to an energy level in excess of one billion volts. The synchrotron, which is essentially a device for generating high-energy x-rays for the bombardment of atomic nuclei, has proved effective at lower energies in producing relatively lightweight mesons in experiments employing hydrogen and deuterium targets. With the higher energies now available it is expected that efforts will be made to discover whether such other particles as heavy mesons and hyperons can also be produced by x-ray bombardment.

The Harvard University Computation Laboratory has received a Univac electronic computer as a gift from the Sperry Rand Corp. The computer, valued at $1.5 million, will be employed in solving mathematical problems associated with research at Harvard in physics, chemistry, engineering, astronomy, operations research, and the social sciences. The computer will find early use in calculations relating to the design of the 6-Bev Cambridge Electron Accelerator, a joint Harvard-MIT project now in progress.

Michigan State University has commenced construction of an electronic digital computer similar in logic and design principles to the machine developed at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton. The computer will be located in the electrical engineering building on the University's East Lansing campus, and is expected to be complete late in 1957.

The University of Maryland Department of Physics has been awarded $83 350 in grants for cosmic-ray research by the National Science Foundation. Two of the grants are for the construction of cosmic-ray monitor telescopes to be used in the International Geophysical Year cosmic-ray program in the Arctic and Antarctic, and a third grant will be used to establish a new research project for an IGY study of cosmic-ray fluctuations.

Continental Oil Co. has announced plans to add a radiation laboratory to its research establishment in Ponca City, Okla. The $500 000 laboratory, designed by Walter Kidde Nuclear Laboratories, will include facilities for radiation studies of petroleum products and refining processes.

Westinghouse Electric Corp. has formed a new Central Physics and Mathematics Department at its Bettis Plant, the Pittsburgh atomic power research labo-