

F. A. S. NEWSLETTER

Published by the
FEDERATION OF AMERICAN SCIENTISTS
1805 H Street, N.W., Washington 6, D.C.
Charles C. Price, Chairman

----- to provide information
and to stimulate discussion. Not to
be attributed as official FAS policy
unless specifically so indicated.

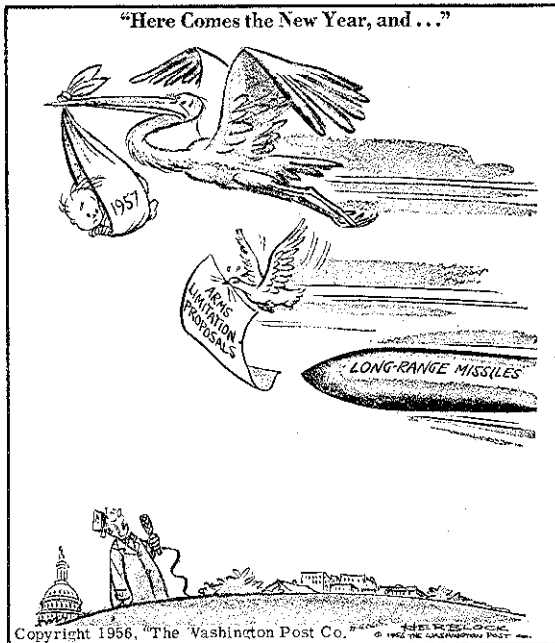
No. 57 - 1

January 21, 1957

MISSILES PUSHING DISARMAMENT

Increasingly rapid development of intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) has been responsible for another reorientation of military strategy. Together with political unrest in Eastern Europe, this has stimulated attempts at modification of the earlier disarmament positions of Russia and the US.

NEW US PLAN On Jan. 14, US Ambassador Lodge proposed to the UN General Assembly's Political Committee the following 5-point disarmament plan: (1) that all fissionable materials "be used or stockpiled exclusively for non-weapons purposes under international supervision, [thereby] in a secure manner to limit, and ultimately to eliminate, all nuclear test explosions;" (2) that meanwhile methods be worked out "for advance notice and registration of all nuclear tests;" (3) a reduction, under adequate inspection, of conventional armaments and armed



forces to previously agreed-upon levels; (4) that tests of all space missiles, including earth satellites and space platforms, be internationally controlled for peaceful development; and (5) that an international inspection and control system be installed progressively to guard against surprise attacks.

In a recent note (see NL 56-9) to the West and India, Premier Bulganin has approved a withdrawal of all troops to 500 miles on either side of Warsaw Pact boundaries, with aerial inspection of this area. This is the first time the Russians have agreed to any aerial inspection. Allan Noble, British Minister of State, called on the UN Political Committee on Jan. 15 to ban ICBMs, long-range submarines, and nuclear weapons tests.

RE-EMPHASIS Matching changes in US military strategy include greater reliance on nuclear weapons and
(Continued on Page 3, Column 1)

AAAS and PUBLIC AFFAIRS

"... there is an impending crisis in the relationship between science and American society. This crisis is being generated by a basic disparity: At a time when decisive economic, political and social processes have become profoundly dependent upon science, the discipline has failed to attain its appropriate place in the management of public affairs."

FAMILIAR FAS THEME The general tenor of the above statement will raise few eyebrows among FAS members; the crisis referred to has been at the cornerstone of Federation policy for 10 years. What gives it significance, and makes it doubly welcome, is its source -- an "Interim Committee on the Social Aspects of Science" established by the American Assn. for the Advancement of Science at its annual meeting in 1955. The committee reported to the AAAS Council in New York in the closing days of 1956. In accepting the report of the Interim Committee, designedly preliminary and suggestive rather than definitive, the Council voted to continue and expand the studies with the objective of "defining the problems, assembling the relevant facts, and suggesting a practical program" for the AAAS with respect to the social aspects of science.

GIST OF THE MATTER In essence, the Committee said the following: Scientific activity and the use of scientific knowledge have expanded at a spectacular rate in the past decade, and there is yet no sign of a plateau. As the importance of science has been more fully recognized by society, the demands of society have been more obviously controlling the development of science. In the absence of carefully formulated policy, and under the pressure of practical needs, the growth of science has been unbalanced, and certain of its activities hampered. In particular, basic research has failed to keep pace with application and development, the physical sciences are overwhelming the biological and social sciences, and scientific communication is breaking down under its own weight and because of restrictions imposed by security considerations. The advances
(Continued on Page 2, end of Column 2)

FAS OPEN MEETING in NEW YORK

Panel Discussion "RADIATION HAZARDS" M. Deutsch
Chairman

Eugene P. Cronkite, chmn., Nat. Acad. of Sciences Subcommittee on Hematological Effects of Atomic Radiation
Merrill Eisenbud, head, N.Y. Operations Office, AEC, and
Alt. US delegate to UN Comm. on Radiation Effects
Walter Selove, assoc. prof. of physics, U. Pennsylvania, and
member, FAS Committee on Radiation Hazards
Bruce Wallace, geneticist, Long Island Biological Labs.
Shields Warren, chmn., Nat. Acad. of Sciences Committee
on Pathological Effects of Radiation; chief US delegate
to UN Scientific Comm. on Effects of Atomic Radiation

Thursday, Jan. 31, 4 PM - - - Parlor A, Hotel New Yorker

The FAS COUNCIL will hold its winter meeting at the Columbia U. Men's Faculty Club, 400 W. 117th St., on Sat., Feb. 2nd, beginning at 4 PM and extending into the evening. Member observers are welcome. Arrangements for the Open Meeting announced above were made by the FAS Brookhaven Chapter.

SECURITY BRIEFS

The US Court of Appeals in Washington, D.C. has sustained contempt-of-Congress convictions of 2 out of 3 defendants who refused to answer questions regarding Communist Party membership. Acquitted on Dec. 21 was Harvey O'Connor, who refused to tell Sen. McCarthy if he was a "member of the Communist conspiracy" when he wrote books which later appeared in US Information Service libraries. His previous conviction by District Court was reversed because the Senator's question was "imprecise and ambiguous." Convictions were sustained on Jan. 3 for Lloyd Barenblatt, former instructor at Vassar, and attorney Harry Sacher. Both invoked the First Amendment and claimed that the questions they were asked were not pertinent to the inquiry. On Jan. 10, Fed. District Court in Washington, D.C. convicted Mary Knowles, librarian in Plymouth Meeting, Pa., on similar charges defended by similar arguments. She was sentenced on Jan. 18 to 120 days in jail and a \$500 fine.

CONFLICT-OF-INTEREST According to a Justice Dept. ruling, a Federal employee is liable to criminal prosecution, under the conflict-of-interest statutes, for assisting a dismissed Government worker to regain his job. This information appeared in an exclusive Washington Post article (Dec. 9) by Jerry Klutz; a Post editorial the same day characterized the situation as "an absurdity and an outrage." The ruling has not been publicized or enforced, but gossip about its existence has deterred many employees from testifying about the character or ability of a dismissed fellow worker, or contributing money to his defense, Klutz said. The Administration and employee groups will probably urge Congress to clarify the conflict-of-interest law, since, claims Klutz, Congress did not have such intent in passing the law.

TEACHERS & INVESTIGATORS Harry Slochower has been reinstated as Asso. Prof. of German at Brooklyn College, more than 4 years after he was fired for refusing to tell a Senate Judiciary Subcommittee whether he was a Communist in 1941. College President Harry D. Gideonson announced that Slochower would be suspended again in a few days "on the broad professional ground" of conduct unbecoming a faculty member (AP, Jan. 3). Meanwhile, he has received more than \$40,000 in back pay. Julius Hlavaty, a N.Y. high school teacher, has likewise regained his job and back pay after 3 years' suspension. Thirteen teachers, however, who were ousted in similar circumstances, lost their appeals to the US Supreme Court because, unlike Slochower and Hlavaty, they failed to raise the due-process-of-law issue in the state courts.

The N.Y. State Education Commissioner, J.E. Allen, Jr., ruled that a teacher cannot be fired for refusing to identify other teachers as Communists. * * * * The Comm. on Academic Freedom & Tenure of the Assn. of Amer. Law Schools has recommended censure of American University (Washington, D.C.) for discharging Prof. Herbert Fuchs, a former Communist who testified freely before the House Un-American Activities Committee.

WRIGHT COMMISSION Loyd Wright, chairman of the Commission on Government Security, has indicated that he expects the Commission to meet the present extended deadline of next June 30 for recommendations as to how to "protect the individual's right and the national security at the same time." Recently, S. H. Hofstadter, N.Y. State Supreme Court Judge, suggested to the Commission that a board of public advocates handle the confrontation problem in security-risk hearings. The public advocates, who would themselves be cleared, would examine the secret witnesses or evidence, consult the accused without revealing the secret sources of information, and then return to present the defense case to the hearing board. The American Civil Liberties Union proposed security-risk program reforms to the Commission and Att. Gen. Brownell on Jan. 9. The ACLU board urged that an accused employee be given opportunity to cross-examine all adverse witnesses "except for counter-intelligence agents and the like." (N. Y. Times, Jan. 10).

Mrs. Dorothy M. Lee, former mayor of Portland, Ore., who replaced Harry Cain as a member of the Subversive Activities Control Board last August, has now been appointed Chairman of the SACB.

ACCEPTABLE RADIATION LEVELS REDUCED

At an Amer. Nuclear Society meeting in Washington on Dec. 10, Lauriston S. Taylor, chairman of the Nat. Comm. on Radiation Protection, reported reductions in the NCRP's recommended maximum levels of radiation exposure for humans. The NCRP is sponsored by the Nat. Bur. of Standards and includes representatives of the Public Health Serv., AEC, armed forces, medical and dental groups, and private industry. For radiation workers, the previous weekly limit of 0.3 roentgens remains in effect, but the integrated exposure over 1 year must not exceed 50 roentgens, and an individual should not accumulate more than 50r before age 30. For the general population, NCRP recommends a limit of 10r per "megabody" (million persons) by age 30 from all sources of radiation, excluding an estimated exposure of 4r per person per 30 years from natural "background" radiation.

TESTS NOT "HARMLESS" Testifying before the Senate Disarmament Subcommittee on Jan. 16, Warren Weaver, vice president of the Rockefeller Fdn. and chairman of the genetics section of the Nat. Academy of Sciences committee on radiation effects (which published its first report last June), estimated that radioactive fallout from nuclear weapons testing to date will account for some 6000 of the 30 million "handicapped" babies to be born in the coming generation. He warned "there is no radioactive dose which is too small to count" from a genetics viewpoint, and labelled as "very unfortunate" an official statement made last year by AEC Chairman Strauss that genetic effects from test radiation were "harmless."

In urging the UN Political Committee to take direct action to prohibit or limit nuclear bomb tests, Japanese representative Sawada, on Jan. 16, said Japanese scientists and medical experts are "not quite satisfied" with US and British reports that radiation from nuclear testing at the present level is not dangerous to human health.

AAAS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS (Continued from Page 1). of science are posing profound social problems which are not receiving adequate attention -- e.g., radiation hazards and the products of the chemical industry -- and social assets, such as natural resources, are being squandered despite the availability of scientific information to conserve them. Fundamental in all of this is inadequate public understanding of science, its nature, its products and its potentialities.

SCIENTISTS' CONCERN In this situation, scientists and their organizations have a special concern. The committee noted that "business and labor are not backward in presenting their opinions on social questions that affect them. They make sure that in the final decision their views have been considered. There are many who think that the viewpoint of scientists should also be stated publicly. In fact, if others express their opinions and scientists do not, a distorted picture will be presented, a picture in which the importance of science will be lacking and the democratic process will become to that extent unrepresentative." The committee concluded by agreeing with Warren Weaver, past president of AAAS, that the organization "cannot continue in the face of crucial situations with closed eyes and a dumb mouth." It saw AAAS responsibility as clearly established; "what is needed now," it said, "is a way to meet it."

REACTION The N.Y. Times (Dec. 31) printed the full text of the committee report and, in a friendly editorial, noted that "this new role" of the AAAS could be "a helpful and constructive one." The Nation (Jan. 12) saw the report as possibly the "biggest story of the year," and called its "sturdy and challenging tone an encouraging sign of the growing social consciousness of American scientists." Perhaps it was less a sign of growing social consciousness than of a growing sense of self-importance and of a growing need for self-assertion. What was demonstrated was not a new insight, but a new maturity. The scientific community has long had a social conscience; what is new is that this conscience may now be implemented by the community as a whole. One indication of such implementation is the fact that The Nation devoted its entire Dec. 29 issue to an article on "Science and Human Values," by J. Bronowski, British mathematician.

MISSILES PUSHING DISARMAMENT (Continued from Page 1). missiles and a de-emphasis of ground troops. The proposed military budget allocates about 35% of Air Force procurement money for missiles, instead of 10% as in 1954. Missiles are slated to supplement, and eventually replace, current weapons systems.

The dispute between the services as to which should develop and use which missiles has presumably been settled by a memo from Defense Secretary Wilson, reported in the Nov. 27 N. Y. Times. The Air Force is to control all land-based missiles which exceed a 200-mile range. Other changes concern shifts in allocation of aircraft of different types, as well as reorganization of ground and air force units.

MISSILES TO TOP PRIORITY On Jan. 18, 4 days after Lodge's proposals concerning missiles were presented in the UN, the President ordered the Commerce Dept. to give top procurement priority to all contractors and others engaged in production, research and development of atomic intercontinental- and intermediate-range missiles.

Recent developments in missile research include: (1) the firing of a Jupiter-type test intermediate-range ballistic missile. It appears to have climbed to more than 600 miles, at 15,000 mph, and to have traversed 3000 miles. (2) The disclosure that the Atlas ICBM will be more than 100 feet long and will travel at 8100 mph. It is reported to be capable of striking within 5 miles of target center at a range of at least 5000 miles and, with an H-bomb warhead, of causing complete destruction within a 12-mile radius. (3) The Navy is developing a missile to be fired from submerged submarines at targets hundreds of miles away. (4) The Matador -- the Air Force's first tactical missile -- is now reported to be on duty "just this side of the Iron Curtain."

SUBCOMMITTEE CONTINUANCE ? Considerable concern is being expressed over the fact that the Humphrey (Disarmament) Subcommittee of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee must terminate on Jan. 31 unless its continuance is reauthorized by the Senate. Whether the Subcommittee's work will be continued will probably be determined in the extremely near future. Therefore letters concerning its fate will probably be too late unless they are sent immediately to Subcommittee members at the Senate Office Bldg., Washington 25, D.C. They are: Sens. H. H. Humphrey (Minn.), Chairman; Alexander Wiley (Wis.), John Sparkman (Ala.), Wm. F. Knowland (Cal.), Russell B. Long (La.), Bourke B. Hickenlooper (Ia.), John O. Pastore (R.I.), Leverett Saltonstall (Mass.).

QUESTIONNAIRE: Please Return

IS THE FAS NEWSLETTER WHAT YOU WANT IT TO BE ?

Listed below are several functions which the FAS Newsletter could try to serve. The Newsletter now tries primarily to serve the first listed one. It is obviously essential to know which of these functions FAS members consider most important. Please indicate in the following blanks the order of importance you assign to the functions listed:

A _____ B _____ C _____ D _____

- A. To provide in each issue a very brief factual summary of only those news events which have occurred since the previous issue, in all fields of interest to FAS.
- B. To provide in each issue a thorough critical analysis, including adequate background material, of 2 or 3 fields of interest to FAS, written in the perspective of history, related facts and intelligent future expectations.
- C. To inform FAS members of FAS activities including meetings, actions and plans of the Council, the Executive Committee, other national committees, Chapters, Branches, and other local groups.
- D. Some other function. Please describe here: _____

MAIL TO: FAS, 1805 H Street, N.W., Washington 6, D.C.

SCATTERED PROGRESS ON SECRECY

With the continued existence of the House Government Information Subcommittee "considered a certainty" for at least the duration of the new session of Congress, according to Warren Unna writing in the Jan. 3 Washington Post, Chairman John Moss (D, Cal.) introduced a bill proposing to add to the so-called "housekeeping" act of 1789 the sentence: "This section does not authorize withholding information from the public or limiting the availability of records to the public." Sen. Hennings (D, Mo.) plans to introduce identical legislation in the Senate. Later this month, Moss plans to resume hearings to question Defense Dept. officials about their information policies. State, Justice and the AEC are scheduled for later hearings by the Subcommittee.

AEC to DECLASSIFY On Dec. 12, AEC Chairman Strauss announced that the US, UK and Canada had agreed on revision of the Tripartite Declassification Guide. Strauss said that revision of the Guide opened the way for the most sweeping declassification of material on peaceful uses of atomic energy since the Geneva atoms-for-peace conference in Aug. '55. In this review, a group of experts must match the technological data contained in the relevant documents against declassification standards established by the Guide. Much useful information should be made available within 6 months, said Strauss. The AEC's action was taken as a spur to the worldwide development of nuclear energy for peaceful uses, and as a result, in Strauss' words, "the US can now effectively cooperate with other friendly nations on an unclassified basis for civil power purposes."

FAS RADIATION SPEAKERS BUREAU

The FAS St. Louis Branch has formed a speakers bureau "to arrange contact between groups wishing to have a discussion of [radiation hazards] and FAS members who have studied some aspects of the problem." Arrangements can be made through J. Fowler, Physics Dept., Washington U., St. Louis 5, Mo. (phone: Parkview 7-4700, x 305). A summary of information on the fall-out hazard is also available from Fowler.

HEARINGS ON FALLOUT ? In a telegram to the Joint Atomic Energy Committee on Nov. 12, 130 members of the science and medical faculties of Washington Univ. expressed their concern that "fallout from nuclear explosions may be approaching a level which constitutes a serious, worldwide threat to health." They urged open hearings to "review in public the complete findings of the AEC [and the] most authoritative scientific interpretations." (Science, Dec. 7, '56)

The FAS is a national organization of scientists and engineers concerned with the impact of science on national and world affairs. The Newsletter is edited by members of the FAS Washington Chapter. Contributors to this issue were:

EDITORIAL STAFF: A. B. Bestul, editor

WRITERS: F. H. Attix, C. Grobstein, F. E. Kameny, E. D. Korn, V. Lewinson, J. Motz, T. K. Osgood, H. B. Rosenstock, E. Zwilling

- MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION** -- Dues: Regular - \$5 (with income below \$3000 - \$3); Supporting - \$10; Patron - \$25. New membership and an introductory subscription to Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists - \$8.50 (with income below \$3000 - \$6.50).
- SUBSCRIPTION to INFORMATION BULLETINS** -- \$10 to individuals; \$25 for Societies, etc. (including Newsletter)
- NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION** -- \$2 to non-members (all members receive the Newsletter)

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Check enclosed Send bill

MAIL TO: FAS, 1805 H Street, N.W., Washington 6, D.C.

SCIENTISTS SUCCUMB ?

"From evidence admitted in other cases that have come before the court, the court has gleaned the inference that the younger generation of pure scientists, specifically engaging in research in physics, has succumbed to communistic propaganda." Thus spoke US District Court Judge Alexander Holtzoff on Dec. 13, as he sentenced 27-year-old U. of Pa. physics student Bernhard Deutch for contempt of Congress. The judge went on to except "applied scientists, engineers and chemists" and "the older generation."

Responses were prompt and (to our knowledge) uniformly condemnatory. Editorials in all three Washington papers on Dec. 14 and 15 questioned the existence of the "evidence" as well as the propriety of sweeping generalizations from the bench. The Reporter (Jan. 10) particularly deplored the singling out of "pure" scientists. The Philosophical Society of Washington observed, in a letter to Holtzoff released Dec. 15, "there is no evidence that young scientists of any sort are more susceptible to such propaganda than any other group of young people within the general population," and regretted that the judge's remarks would increase the general public's distrust of the scholar. On behalf of FAS, Chairman Price wrote Holtzoff, in a letter released Dec. 16, that his attack on at least 1000 young physicists implied lack of confidence in the universities and the entire future of this country, and urged that he either supply facts or properly qualify his remarks. Holtzoff did neither, but felt he had been misunderstood, according to the Washington Post of Dec. 16.

PUBLIC HEARINGS ON PRIVATE A-POWER

In public hearings Jan. 8-9, the AEC was sharply criticized for violating the law in permitting the Power Reactor Development Co. to construct a "fast-breeder" reactor at Lagoona Beach, Mich., before satisfying necessary safety and financial regulations. The United Auto, Electrical and Paperworkers unions petitioned for the hearings, to be resumed Jan. 28. PRDC witnesses claimed the plant could be built without undue risk, and disclosed that PRDC (a) expects to obtain, without charge, AEC research services amounting to about \$4 million, (b) will seek exemption from Public Utilities Holding Co. Act regulations, and (c) will ask the government for liability insurance and for permission to deduct from taxes -- as research expenses -- the contributions of its members to the PRDC members. While union spokesmen argued that their concern is the possibility of radioactive contamination of the atmosphere, which could arise from a ruptured nuclear core, Strauss held that the union attack was inspired by the ideological conflict of public vs. private control of A-power, and that, if successful, it could greatly weaken, if not eliminate, private competition in the atomic energy field.

F A S NEWSLETTER

Federation of American Scientists
1805 H Street, N. W.
Washington 6, D. C.

57 - 1

Postmaster: If addressee has moved and new address is known, please forward and advise of new address on Form 3547. If new address unknown, return to sender. Postage for these services guaranteed.

REFUGEES STIR IMMIGRATION DEBATE

The problem of relocating Hungarian refugees has heightened the already sharp awareness of US responsibilities concerning immigration. Of particular interest to the scientific community is the action of the Nat. Research Council of the Nat. Academy of Sciences, in adopting a program of aid to refugee Hungarian scientists who seek opportunities to continue their work in the US (N. Y. Times, Dec. 12). On Jan. 17, it was reported that 21 refugee scholars will spend 8 weeks at Rutgers U., studying the English language and American civilization, before they move on to responsible positions in the US scientific community. These 21 are the "vanguard of a program that will involve over 100 refugee scientists, engineers and technicians" (INS, Jan. 17).

PUBLIC POLICY In the realm of public policy, the refugee problem has intensified debate concerning revision of the McCarran-Walter Immigration Act, which governs present US procedures. In order to admit significant numbers of refugees to the US, it has been necessary to use what the Dec. 3 Washington Post editorially calls "loopholes" in the present act. In the face of this situation, new proposals, to provide more equitable procedures, have been advanced by many groups.

As a result of Russia's intervention in Hungary, the State Department has decided to suspend its cultural exchange program so far as the USSR is concerned, pending a reappraisal of this program.

SCIENTIST TRAVEL In a letter published in Science (Jan. 4), Walter M. Rudolph, Assistant to the [non-existent] Science Adviser for the State Dept., states that, rumors and reports to the contrary, attendance by foreign scientists at scientific meetings in Russia would, in general, not jeopardize their chances of getting visas to visit the US. Said Rudolph: "A visit to a country in Soviet-dominated territory in itself is no ground for the refusal of a visa or a delay in its issuance unless such a visit is attended by activities which suggest affiliations with, or advocacy of, the Communist program. Repeated visits to such a country, however, may raise a question as to the visa applicant's political affiliations. ..."

NO DISCLOSURE REQUIRED On Dec. 1, Federal District Judge Joseph C. McGarraghy ruled, in the case of V. Bruce Dayton (see NL 56-8) that the State Dept. is justified in refusing to disclose the confidential information on which it based a passport denial. The judge stated that the right of confrontation is conferred only on defendants in a criminal action, and not upon the plaintiff in an administrative proceeding, and that were he to rule otherwise, the government would be forced to make "disclosures destructive to our national interest" and "prejudicing the conduct of the US foreign relations."

Sec. 34.66, P. L. & R.
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
WASHINGTON, D. C.
PERMIT NO. 9124

EMERY I SIMS
1644 TAYLOR ST.
SAN FRANCISCO 11, CAL.