

F. A. S. NEWSLETTER

FEDERATION OF AMERICAN SCIENTISTS
David L. Hill, Chairman

1749 L Street, N.W., Washington 6, D.C.
March 22, 1954 -- No. 54 - 3

ATOMIC POTENTIAL MOUNTS FOR PEACE OR WAR

THE PEACEFUL SIDE

The State Department announced on March 19 that it has delivered to Soviet Ambassador Zaroubin "a concrete plan" to implement President Eisenhower's proposal of an international pool of atomic materials to be used for peaceful purposes. A proposal by the USSR "in connection with the general subject of atomic matters" had already been received. Thus negotiations conducted during the past three months on procedural questions appear to have passed to the substantive stage.

CONTENT NOT REVEALED No details of either proposal were officially divulged but the US note, according to the N.Y. Times of Mar. 20, was understood to emphasize: "Formation of an international atomic energy agency with a membership including the US, the Soviet Union, Britain, France, Canada, and possibly other nations serving as either suppliers or producers of fissionable materials."

"Pooling of atomic energy materials for use and development for peaceful, energy-making purposes by the international agency."

"Control and reduction of the potential power of destruction of the world's atomic stockpiles."

"Initiation of talks, by the major powers concerned, on ways to achieve a general lessening of the peril of atomic warfare."

VOICE SEES HOPE Possibly grasping at straws, the Voice of America found hope for success of the Eisenhower plan in an early March announcement by Radio Sofia (Bulgaria) that the Soviet Union is sharing "the radioactive fruits of its progress in nuclear physics with its Eastern European satellites." The Voice noted the possibility that, having begun isotope exchange within the Soviet orbit, the USSR might take the next step and cooperate in an international pool.

JEEP SETS EXAMPLE Meanwhile a 3-year-old European international project for the non-military exploitation of atomic energy and its by-products is receiving press attention as a model for larger things. Described by Lin Root (N.Y. Herald-Tribune, Feb. 21), the Joint Establishment Experimental Pile (JEEP) in Kjeller, Norway, is owned and operated in equal partnership by Norway and the Netherlands and governed by a committee of 3 Norwegian and 3 Dutch scientists. There are no security safeguards. The general public, both domestic and foreign, is invited to visit -- and does. Any qualified scientist can work at Kjeller and the staff has included physicists from Italy, Sweden, the US and Yugoslavia. In both partner nations, support for JEEP is by a combination of public and private funds.

JEEP VERSATILE JEEP is actively engaged in all kinds of atomic energy research for peaceful purposes. These include reactor design, isotope production, atomic power plant development, atomic ship propulsion equipment development, and the use of isotopes for research and industrial purposes. In August, 1953, JEEP sponsored an informal international conference on atomic reactors attended by over 100 scientists of 19 nations from India to Brazil, including US representatives of the AEC and Office of Naval Research.

The conference culminated in a proposal by Gunnar Randers, director of JEEP, for the establishment of an International Nuclear Energy Society, open to scientists of all nations, for the
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H-BLAST BEYOND EXPECTATION

Failure of political control of the atom has been a matter of chronic concern since Hiroshima. Information slowly emerging from behind the security curtain suggests that at least partial failure of physical control of explosions, long feared as a possible ultimate danger, has become of immediate practical concern and may have important political repercussions.

NOT ACCORDING TO PLAN What the AEC referred to on March 1 as a "routine test" at Eniwetok now appears to have been a thermonuclear explosion of unprecedented force and, according to the N.Y. Times of Mar. 20, "three or four times greater than was expected." Unofficial estimates place the force at 600 to 700 times that of the Hiroshima bomb which killed 60,000 persons. Certainly not according to plan was injury by the Mar. 1 blast to 315 persons -- some reportedly by fall-out radioactive dust 80 miles from the test site, others exposed to milder radiation at distances more than 100 miles from the flashpoint.

Also unanticipated was what a N.Y. Times correspondent on Mar. 18 referred to as "near-panic" in Japan, when the fishing boat Fukuryu Maru returned from the Bikini area with 23 of its crew suffering from "atomic illness" and a cargo of tuna which had to be destroyed because it had been affected by radiation. The government was said to be resisting powerful pressure from the press and opposition parties urging it to protest and demand indemnification. For the moment, it was said only to be seeking an inquiry to establish definite facts on what is called "American atom bombing of Japanese fishermen -- a second Hiroshima."

JOINT COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE In Washington on Mar. 19, Rep. W. Sterling Cole, chairman of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, disclosed that his committee already had an investigation in progress. This followed public requests by Reps. Price (D, Ill.) and VanZandt (R, Pa.) for a full-scale probe to determine blame, if any, on the part of military and scientific supervisors of the test. VanZandt urged that results of the inquiry be made public because "the Communists are going to use this Japanese incident against us in their propaganda throughout the world."

INCALCULABLE EFFECTS Not emphasized in press accounts is the implicit warning in this "incident" that current tests may be approaching orders of magnitude where close control not only becomes difficult, but effects in fact may become incalculable. The possibility of incitement of explosive chain reactions in the atmosphere has not been given much credibility in recent serious public discussions. But the possible effects of feeding radioactive materials into the complex chains of biological exchange in the oceans can hardly even be estimated from presently available data. This, combined with the meteorological uncertainties which apparently gave particular trouble in an explosion of the March 1 magnitude, give symbolic significance to the radiation-damaged tuna. The question is raised whether international political control of the atom has not acquired a new *raison d'être* -- not only to eliminate a future catastrophe in war but to reduce a present danger in the drive to produce bigger and better explosions.

"NEW LOOK" The enormity of the Mar. 1 blast gave new urgency to the debate, both at home and abroad, over the New Look
(Continued on Page 4, Column 2)

PRESIDENT SPELLS OUT A-ACT CHANGE RECOMMENDATIONS

On Feb. 17, the President recommended to Congress that the Atomic Energy Act of 1946 be amended to make possible: (1) "widened cooperation with our allies in certain atomic energy matters," (2) "improved procedures for the control and dissemination" of atomic information, and (3) "broadened participation in the development of peacetime uses of atomic energy in the US." The recommendations were specified as being entirely separate from the President's proposal of a new basis for international cooperation in the field of atomic energy. The President outlined the progress made since 1946 in nuclear science and technology and, in view of these developments, urged that the Act, designed to fit the conditions of 1946, be revised.

COOPERATION WITH OTHER NATIONS

Under the present law, the President said, we cannot give our allies "tactical information essential to their effective participation with us in combined military operations and planning." All of them, he urged, should be better informed on problems of atomic warfare and thus better prepared to meet the contingency of such warfare. Authority should be provided, he said, to exchange "such tactical information as is essential to the development of joint defense plans." The President also recommended amendments allowing "the exchange of certain 'restricted data' on the industrial applications of atomic energy and also the release of fissionable materials in amounts adequate for industrial and research use."

AE INFORMATION

The present Act does not recognize degrees of sensitivity of "restricted data," the President explained. The same clearance requirements apply to "access by the unskilled construction laborer to 'restricted data' of only marginal security significance" as to "access by a scientist to the heart of atomic weapons information. ... Many costly background investigations required by present law are unnecessary." The Act should be amended to permit the AEC to differentiate between degrees of sensitivity. Such amendment would be "especially pertinent to the proposed broadening of private participation in the development of atomic power." The President further recommended that the Dept. of Defense join with the AEC in declassifying "restricted data" which relate primarily to military utilization of atomic weapons and which can be published without endangering the national security.

DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENT

According to the President, there are indications that the private corporations now collaborating with the AEC on reactor studies would increase their efforts significantly if the way were open for private investment in such reactors. He recommended

THE PEACEFUL SIDE (Cont. from Page 1).

promotion of peaceful uses of atomic energy through exchange of knowledge. The proposal was seconded by Stevan Dediđer, head of Yugoslavia's Inst. for Research on the Structure of Matter, and unanimously adopted. Organization of the Society is now under way; without waiting for this, Switzerland has joined the JEEP nations in an interim arrangement for joint research.

REACTORS ABROAD

At least partly as a result of the pioneering by JEEP, Sweden has almost completed an industrial reactor, and others are planned or in progress in Switzerland, Belgium, France, Great Britain, Italy, Netherlands, Canada, Mexico, Brazil, Australia and India. Alvin M. Weinberg, research director at Oak Ridge, recently reported that England has several uranium reactors in operation and France has two. He also said Europe may have nuclear power plants in operation ahead of the US (*N. Y. Times*, Feb. 18).

PHOENIX PROJECT

In the US, there is also growing activity on non-military atomic energy developments. The third annual progress report (Dec. 1953) of the Phoenix Project at the Univ. of Michigan reveals a varied program involving all phases of atomic energy -- including the social sciences. The program was started over 5 years ago and has grown exponentially. Last year's expenditures of \$500,000 equalled all expenditures up to last year; now a reactor is planned, which would

amendments which would: (1) relax "restrictions against ownership or lease of fissionable material," (2) "permit private manufacture, ownership and operation of atomic reactors... under licensing systems administered by the AEC," (3) authorize the AEC "to establish minimum safety and security regulations," (4) permit the AEC "to supply licensees special materials and services" at prices which would adequately compensate the government, (5) "liberalize the patent provisions," with some mechanism to assure prevention of a patent monopoly.

(The full text of Eisenhower's message to Congress on amending the Act is available on request from FAS.)

REACTIONS

Comments on the President's proposed amendments were generally favorable -- with some reservations on his plans for the domestic development of atomic power.

According to Drew Pearson, most members of the AEC are ready to go beyond the President's proposals for unveiling atomic secrets to our allies and to private business. The majority opinion of Congressmen, Pearson, says, is that the US cannot go ahead with the "new look" military strategy based on atomic weapons, while confining its allies to conventional World War II weapons. The Congressmen also argue that the best way to keep ahead of the Russians is to pool the atomic research of the great democracies.

Marquis Childs called on Congress to act quickly in carrying out the President's recommendations, stating that a carefully controlled exchange of atomic energy information with our allies could do much to bolster the NATO defense structure. Sen. Johnson (D, Col.) is quoted as saying that he is opposed to the President's plan to permit private industry to own and operate atomic energy plants independently of the government. He also calls for an exhaustive congressional investigation before atomic information is shared with friendly nations.

Rep. Holifield (D, Cal.) expressed approval of the President's plans to improve present procedures in achieving mutual defense objectives with our allies (*Cong. Record* Appendix, Mar. 1). With regard to the increased activity of private enterprise in the atomic energy field, however, Holifield holds that while private industry has a legitimate and useful place in this field, the proposed legislation is at the moment ill-advised and would result in freezing the strategic monopoly position of a few large corporations. In particular, he suggests that the use of inventions should be open to all interested and qualified businesses for a period of 10 years instead of the 5 mentioned by the President. Furthermore, he adds, an independent review board apart from the AEC should be established to which firms may appeal when they believe they have been denied fair treatment.

be the third non-governmental unit. The AEC had previously approved use of atomic fuel for a reactor at Pennsylvania State University and for the one which began operation last September in North Carolina (*N. Y. Times*, January 19).

AEC POWER

The AEC itself has proposed a 5-year program of its own, by which it expects to further the development of commercial power reactors. AEC Commissioner H. D. Smyth outlined this program in a speech March 9 to the Amer. Inst. of Chemical Engineers. Five reactors are to be built: (1) a previously announced pressurized water reactor; (2) a breeder reactor; (3) a water-boiling reactor; (4) a homogeneous reactor; (5) a reactor using both graphite moderator and sodium-potassium alloy coolant. All but the last are to generate heat and electric power. The sodium-graphite unit will generate heat only. (The *N. Y. Times* on Feb. 28 gossiped that the AEC will soon lose Smyth, "one of its most brilliant public servants.")

BORST A-LOCOMOTIVE

At the University of Utah, Lyle B. Borst, past chairman of FAS, has developed a proposal for a reactor-powered, electrically driven locomotive. This study was made with the cooperation of the Amer. Assoc. of Railroads and many individual railroad lines and associated manufacturers. Borst told the Atomic Industrial Forum on Mar. 17 he believed engine and train would cost \$1.2 million, only twice the initial price of a regular Diesel.

ACS TURNS DOWN Mme. JOLIOT-CURIE

The Committee on Admissions of the American Chemical Society has rejected the membership application of French Nobel Prize chemist, Mme. Irene Joliot-Curie. The basis for the Society's action, given by Alden H. Emery, Executive Secretary, in a letter to the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, was "information . . . that Mme. Joliot-Curie is an avowed and active Communist."

COMMUNISTS EXCLUDED Emery went on to say "the Committee does not see how a person actively working to further Communist beliefs can have a sincere interest in fostering public welfare in the US, aiding the development of the industries of this country, or adding to the material prosperity and happiness of the American people." These are, in part, the objects of the Society as stated in its Charter. Mr. Emery concluded: "Race, color, creed, and political beliefs of themselves are not a consideration for membership. Only when firm convictions as evidenced by the activities of an applicant demonstrate his or her inability to comply with the objects of the Society is there any consideration for membership other than professional competence." No specific activities were listed, however, leaving the impression that to be "an avowed Communist" might be considered by the Society sufficient basis for exclusion.

SCIENCE & POLITICS The question raised, apparently sooner or later to confront many traditionally non-political scientific groups, is phrased by Robert C. Cowen in the Christian Science Monitor: "Should these groups stick to the tested maxim of 'science above politics at all costs' or would they be wiser to conform a bit to popular sentiment when the issue is clear and thus maintain the confidence of the community?" Other questions also deserve consideration, for example: Can we oppose McCarran Act restrictions on scientific visits by foreign colleagues if some of these cannot appear on the rosters of our societies? Are whole groups -- Chinese, Russians, Yugoslavs -- to be refused membership? Will the present case be interpreted as acceptance of two worlds of science as a fait accompli?

BULLETIN DISAGREES In a lead editorial by Eugene Rabinowitch, the current Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists questions the wisdom of the ACS decision. Condemning scientists who hew to the Communist Party line and endorse "Soviet denial of the freedom of thought and doctrinary perversion of wide fields of science," the Bulletin nonetheless asserts that "the Society would have better served the cause of free science if it had accepted Mme. Joliot-Curie as any other professionally qualified chemist, without inquiring into her political affiliations and attitudes."

American scientists, says Rabinowitch, "like to view themselves as keepers of the light of free science, temporarily obscured in the countries of ideological and political oppression." The ACS action is viewed as not in keeping with this desire. Pointing out that there would not appear to be any threat to the Society or any damage to the national interest involved in the admittance to membership of the French scientist, Rabinowitch warns that the refusal to admit her may "initiate a trend toward the purging of American professional societies and academies of politically undesirable members" and may "damage the standing of American science in the free world."

ACADEMIC FEARS

Robert M. Hutchins, former president of Chicago University, has expressed alarm at a tendency on American campuses toward the avoidance of the "controversial." He feels that the recent "attack" by Sen. McCarthy on Harvard University would have the effect of silencing faculty members in colleges all over the country. Writing for Look magazine, he stated, "Professors everywhere will hesitate before they express opinions contrary to those of Sen. McCarthy or before they say anything that can be twisted -- somehow, sometime, by someone -- into an unpopular statement. . . . It is even dangerous for the teacher to say what everybody was saying 10 years ago, that we must do all we can to promote world understanding. . . . Vocal pressure groups throughout the land now take the view that any kind of interest in organizing the world for peace is unpatriotic."

NSF "POLICY" DUTIES SPELLED OUT BY PRESIDENT

In an Executive Order on March 17, President Eisenhower has confirmed and spelled out in detail the Congressional mandate contained in the NSF Act of 1950 which directs the Foundation "to develop and encourage the pursuit of a national policy for the promotion of basic research and education in the sciences," and "to evaluate scientific research undertaken by agencies of the Federal Government." The Order simultaneously resolves a behind-the-scenes controversy over the "policy functions" of NSF and enunciates fundamental administration policy that "this nation must extend its support of research in basic science," and that NSF is regarded as a central staff agency with evaluative and supervisory responsibility for the entire federal effort.

NSF CUTTING NEW TEETH The Order recognizes that basic research related to the specific functions of each agency should continue under the jurisdiction of the particular agency, but provides that "the Foundation shall be increasingly responsible for providing support. . . for general-purpose basic research." It specifically directs that "the Foundation, in concert with each Federal agency concerned, shall review the scientific and research programs and activities of the Federal Government. . . and shall recommend to the heads of agencies concerning the support of basic research." In this connection agency heads are directed to "make certain that effective executive, organizational, and fiscal practices exist to ensure. . . that the Foundation is consulted on policies concerning the support of basic research. . . ."

DIRECTED TO GIVE ADVICE Apart from its basic research and federal coordinative responsibilities, the NSF is directed to continue to make "comprehensive studies and recommendations regarding the Nation's scientific research effort and its resources for scientific activities" and to "recommend to the President policies for the Federal Government which will strengthen the national scientific effort and furnish guidance toward defining the responsibilities of the Federal Government in the conduct and support of scientific research."

The Executive Order, which can only be briefed here, deserves the careful consideration of scientists, not only for its significance in defining the increasingly important role of the National Science Foundation, but as a fundamental policy statement on the administration attitude toward science such as has been called for by FAS and others. Copies are available on request from the FAS Washington Office.

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The FAS is a national organization of scientists and engineers concerned with the impact of science on national and world affairs. This Newsletter is designed primarily to inform the membership and stimulate discussion of relevant issues. The facts and opinions contained do not reflect official FAS policies unless specifically so indicated. The Newsletter is edited by members of the FAS Washington Chapter.

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HOW MUCH TO TELL TO WHOM ?

In recent weeks, two high administration officials have questioned whether too much technical and scientific information is circulating in open, unclassified channels of communication. Before the American Institute of Chemical Engineers on March 8 Assistant Secretary of Defense Donald A. Quarles, whose office under the reorganization of the Defense Department replaced the Research and Development Board, stated:

TOO MUCH TO ENEMY "In keeping our people informed, I believe we overdo it. We hand the enemy important information by the publishing of vital technical material that leaves all too little to the imagination of our competitor. Time and again technology of the highest classification has leaked into print. This is of enormous value to the other side. Such information about our plans, programs, and our technical achievements enables them to be very selective in their own weapons development program. We are deprived of this aid in planning our program but, at the same time, we give it to our competitor on a silver platter. Spying and defection have been very serious, and we should and are, taking every reasonable measure to prevent them. I believe, however, that our open, unintentional assistance in technical fields has been just as important as the covert information they have received."

Similar opinions were expressed by Allen W. Dulles, Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, in an interview with the magazine US News and World Report of March 19. Discussing the advantages possessed by Soviet intelligence over US intelligence, Dulles noted that "we Americans publish a great deal in our scientific and technical journals and in congressional hearings. ... I would give a good deal if I could know as much about the Soviet Union as the Soviet Union can learn about us by merely reading the press."

"Sometimes I think we go too far in what our Government gives out officially and in what is published in the scientific and technical field. We tell Russia too much. Under our system it is hard to control it."

TOO LITTLE TO US Precisely what the two influential officials had in mind is not clear; and top Defense research and development administrator Quarles may have been misinterpreted by the Washington Post headline writer who bracketed his remarks under the hearing "Science Reporting Gives Reds Data, U.S. Aide Says." But the argument over how much information is too much for the eyes and ears of a potential enemy, and how little is too little for intelligent policy formulation in a democracy, has been going on too long for scientists (usually among the "too littles") not to read remarks of this kind with some misgiving. If they are directed against the premature and over-enthusiastic publicizing of new weapons

H-BLAST BEYOND EXPECTATION (Cont. from Page 1). in United States global strategy. Testifying before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on March 19, Secretary of State Dulles stated that the primary purpose of the New Look was to make clear to the Russians that "if they attack the US or our vital interests we will hit them with everything we have." No other interpretation seemed possible than that such a war would involve thermonuclear weapons. (Chairman Cole had reported on Feb. 17 on the potency of the apparently now obsolete 1952 model -- it would wreak "absolute destruction" in a 30 square-mile area; it did, in the Eniwetok tests, obliterate an island and dig a mile-wide crater in the ocean floor, 175 feet deep at the lowest point. And Cole, on March 16, made the first official admission that the "hydrogen device" was an H-bomb.)

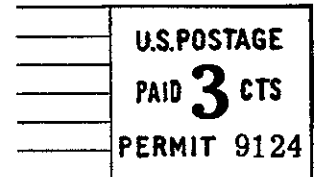
STRATEGY RE-EXAMINED The New Look, according to the Alsop brothers' discussions of Feb. 22-24-26, arose when changing world conditions and a new administration forced a re-examination of military strategy early in 1953. The first plan submitted to the National Security Council was considered too expensive by Budget Director Dodge. The NSC instructed the Joint Chiefs to come up with a new plan using new atomic weapons wherever and whenever these would be effective. "This single change," say the Alsops, "from conventionally balanced forces to forces primarily designed to exploit the new weapons is the strategic essence of America's New Look at defense. The change required larger investment in air power, allowed sharp cuts in the Army and Navy, with resulting overall economy."

DEFENSE NOT FEATURED The Alsops hold that the new look does not feature an "all-out" air defense effort such as was contemplated in Project East River and the Lincoln and Summer study groups (Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, Sept. '53). Rather it implements the "instant retaliation" concept enunciated by Secretary Dulles, the subject of rising concern both at home and abroad. Yet Rep. Cole noted on Feb. 17: "The time is coming when large, though not astronomical, sums of money will be needed to establish and maintain a continental defense system commensurate with our peril. Yet the urgent need of the moment is less for dollars than for determination, less for resources than research, less for manpower than for bold and imaginative brain power."

in competitive bidding between the services for congressional appropriations, or the unguarded remarks of informed high officials which have sometimes spoken volumes, they certainly have pertinence. If, however, they are directed at the circulation of knowledge of natural phenomena as elaborated in scientific and scholarly journals, there is something to be said on the other side.

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SECURITY RATINGS and FAS MEMBERSHIP

Thirteen United States Government agencies have been queried, and have made replies, on the question of whether membership in the Federation of American Scientists influences the security rating of an employee in the agency concerned. None of the replies indicate that FAS membership has any effect whatsoever on an employee's security rating.

PROMPTED BY MONMOUTH The queries were made after Murrey Marder of the Washington Post reported last November that, among the list of charges given to a suspended scientist at Fort Monmouth, was: "You held the official position of representative of the Association of Monmouth Scientists to the national organization of the Federation of American Scientists. ... The Association of Monmouth Scientists and the Federation of American Scientists are reported to have been infiltrated by Communists or Communist sympathizers." Some of the other charges and the suspended employee's answers to them have been presented in an earlier FAS Members' Bulletin (No. 12, Nov. 23, 1953). They are repeated on the reverse side.

LETTER OF INQUIRY FAS, without trying to evaluate the case in detail, is of course concerned over the specific implications with regard to FAS. The Executive Committee therefore instructed Chairman David L. Hill to make these inquiries. Dr. Hill's letter follows:

"Occasionally prospective members of the Federation of American Scientists inquire whether membership in the Federation can have any effect on their security rating. In replying that membership carries no adverse implications, we encourage the prospect to study carefully the record of objectives and activities of FAS and point out that a large fraction of our members -- probably the largest fraction of any politically active organization -- have in the course of their careers required and received official Q-clearance.

"It would assist us in providing a brief and authoritative answer to this inquiry, as it may apply to your particular department, if we could refer to an official statement, and I would therefore appreciate a comment from you on the question: In the evaluations carried out by your department, does membership in the Federation of American Scientists serve to upgrade, downgrade, or leave unaffected the security rating of an individual?"

A longer letter was addressed to the Secretary of the Army.

REPLIES FROM HIGH LEVELS In all cases the reliability of the replies is enhanced by the fact that they were made by high-ranking officials. The departments and agencies questioned, and the names and positions of the officials who replied, are:

Agriculture - C. T. Forster, Dept. Personnel Security Officer
Air Force - Frederick Ayer, Jr., Special Asst. to the Secretary
Army - John G. Adams, Department Counselor
Atomic Energy Commission - C. A. Rolander, Acting Director, Division of Security
Central Intelligence Agency - Allen W. Dulles, Director
Commerce - Newman Smith, Security Control Officer
Health, Education and Welfare - Frederick H. Schmidt, Director of Security
Interior - J. Cordell Moore, Director of Security Division
Justice - William P. Rogers, Deputy Attorney General
National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics - Hugh L. Dryden, Director
National Science Foundation - T. Marl Hemphill, Security Officer
Navy - Rear Adm. Carl F. Espe, Director of Naval Intelligence
State - Scott McLeod, Administrator, Bureau of Security, Consular Affairs, and Personnel

AEC, ARMY, COMMERCE In several cases clear statements were made. Quotes from three of these are as follows:

AEC - "In response to your inquiry, on the basis of the information presently available to the Atomic Energy Commission concerning the Federation of American Scientists, the Atomic Energy Commission does not regard membership in the Federation of American Scientists as of any significance in determining whether an individual is eligible for Atomic Energy Commission security clearance."

Army - "In answer to your first question please be advised that at the present time an allegation of membership in the Federation of American Scientists would not, of itself, be considered derogatory."

Department of Commerce - "Please be advised that, on the basis of information presently available to this office membership in the Federation of American Scientists, by itself, has no effect on the security of an employee of this Department or on any other individual in whom this office has a security interest."

MONMOUTH CHARGE Chairman Hill also asked the Army for a clarification of the charge at Fort Monmouth mentioning the FAS. The respondent failed to give a clarification, stating that "the Department of the Army pursues a policy of not discussing in any way the charges or details in such matters while still pending." He concluded with the statement: "Your attention is directed to the fact, however, that the Army did not charge, in any of the recent loyalty cases at Fort Monmouth, that the Federation of American Scientists is Communist controlled."

Mr. Adams' reply, that FAS membership is not "in itself" considered by the Army to be derogatory, is clear enough. However, the cited charge made at the Monmouth hearings focuses attention on the phrase, "in itself," and appears to require further clarification. Steps in this direction are being taken.

SECURITY OFFICERS NON-COMMITTAL The inevitable reluctance of security officers to make unqualified endorsement is seen in some of the replies.

Several of the respondents declined to answer the question on the basis that they render decisions only in the cases of actual employees under their jurisdiction. Some declined to answer on the basis that it would transgress the prerogatives of the Attorney General. Several said that their only criterion is the Attorney General's list; several stated that this list is their main criterion, and several specifically stated that they consider the Attorney General's list plus other information. In a number of cases the replies suggested that the question should be directed to the Attorney General.

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT Since a number of the respondents cited the primary authority of the Attorney General, and/or suggested that the inquiries should be directed to him, the reply of the Department of Justice is particularly pertinent. It states:

"Your attention is invited to the fact that your organization has not been designated by the Attorney General under Section 12 of said Order [Executive Order 10450, April 27, 1953, setting forth the security program of the Federal Government] and I know of no citation of your organization as subversive by any Congressional or state legislative committee."

Taking into account the caution of security officers, these replies would appear to justify the conclusion that FAS is recognized as a responsible organization whose primary interest is clearly in the well-being of the nation. They are consistent with the undeviating respect encountered by the officers and Washington Office representatives in all contacts with government officials.

CHARGES AS REPORTED IN PRESS

That FAS was involved in one of the formal security charges against a scientist was made public in a series of searching articles on the Monmouth situation by Washington Post reporter Murrey Marder, extensively summarized in FAS Members' Bulletin No. 12, Nov. 23, 1953. The section in the article of Nov. 12 dealing with this particular scientist is here repeated in its entirety. - - Ed.

* * * * *

One charge against a suspended scientist here, as noted earlier in this series, states that he "held the official position of representative of the Association of Monmouth Scientists to the national organization of the Federation of American Scientists" which sponsored the "Shore Conference on Atomic Energy on May 15, 1947." The man is charged with attending the conference and having "introduced the speaker of the evening, _____, reported to be the founder of the American Peace Crusade and the husband of a reported Communist Party member."

The charge goes on to state that, "The American Peace Crusade has been reported by the Special Committee on Un-American Activities, House of Representatives, as an integral part of the Communist 'peace' offensive. The Association of Monmouth Scientists and the Federation of American Scientists are reported to have been infiltrated by Communists or Communist sympathizers."

FAS NEVER CITED

It was pointed out in these articles that the Federation of American Scientists, successor to the Federation of Atomic Scientists, has never been cited by either the Attorney General or the House Committee on Un-American Activities, and includes many of the Nation's distinguished scientists in atomic research, and virtually every other field of science.

The man accused in the charge has replied that he had not met the speaker he presented at the 1947 Shore Conference until a few minutes before he introduced him, but knew him to be a university physicist who "had worked at Los Alamos on the final stages of construction of the A-bomb....Because he had the highest clearance to perhaps the most important military secret of all time," the suspended man said, "I had not the slightest suspicion that he was, or would be, a Communist or Communist sympathizer." "I looked up the American Peace Crusade," the scientist continued, "and found it was organized in the early part of 1951, almost four years after the meeting in question. The American Peace Crusade is thus irrelevant. I was opposed to it because I considered our intervention in Korea a necessity...."

LIKENED TO "INFILTRATION" OF CIA

"The rest of the charge alleges Communist infiltration of the Federation of American Scientists and the Association of Monmouth Scientists," the employee continued. "It is logical," he said, "to assume that the federation might be a target for Communist infiltration and that a small number of such individuals may have possibly become affiliated with it. The situation," the scientist said, "is analogous to when Gen. Bedell Smith said essentially the same thing about the Central Intelligence Agency. But it is as silly to exhibit the federation as a kind of quasi-subversive group, as the charge does, as to assume that anyone connected with the Central Intelligence Agency is necessarily a poor security risk."

"Common sense tells us that the CIA is not a subversive group," he said, "and common sense, looking at the goals and program of the federation, its achievements and its sponsors, tells us that any infiltration of the federation was necessarily small or negligible and had no effect on its policies. The same is true

of the Assoc. of Monmouth Scientists....Beyond a shadow of a doubt, Communist control of the two groups in question is a "myth."

ANOTHER CHARGE HAS SIMPLE ANSWER

The same Ft. Monmouth scientist also is charged with having attempted "to transmit a technical article written by you to a professor in Czechoslovakia." That charge is true, the man replied, but "the circumstances show it to be evidence that I am a good, rather than a poor security risk."

"A short article by me was published in a scientific journal which circulates all over the world and goes to Iron Curtain countries as well as friendly ones. The article, of course, has been properly cleared for publication." About a year after its publication, he said, "a request was received from a professor in Czechoslovakia for a reprint. It is a customary scientific courtesy to accede to such a request. I could have simply mailed the reprint and nobody would have been the wiser. Instead," he said, "I discussed the matter with my superior, _____, who concurred with me in the belief that security was not involved as the article was available behind the Iron Curtain, and that a reprint and some pro-democratic propaganda in the covering letter should be sent."

"I wrote such a letter, and sent it through proper channels," the scientist said. Transmission of the letter and reprint, he said, was approved by his own superior, by the technical director of Evans Signal Lab., and by the top director of research for all the laboratories here. The documents, however, were not transmitted to Czechoslovakia, said the scientist, for it was eventually decided that "security did not permit them to be sent out. I thought this was the wrong decision and said so, but did not send out any reprint on my own." "In short," he said, "the 'attempt' was made in response to a request and through proper channels. It seems to me a malicious distortion of the truth to represent the incident as evidence of my being a security risk."

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SOCIOLOGICAL QUESTIONNAIRE

FAS members may expect to receive a questionnaire next month from Marie M. Bestul, graduate student at the University of Maryland. Circulation of the questionnaire was authorized by the Council, upon recommendation of the Executive Committee.

The questionnaire is part of a sociological study of the FAS. The replies will be used only in connection with the study. Interest is not in particular cases, but rather in the over-all results to be obtained on attitudes and motivations of FAS members in participating as scientists in social affairs. Although intended primarily as a social scientific study, the results may be useful to FAS as an organization in designing future membership drives and in keeping its policies close to the wishes of its members.

FAS ELECTIONS

A REMINDER Members should not forget to exercise their franchise. Ballots for the 1954-55 election (and of Council delegates-at-large for members-at-large), which were distributed March 10, must be in the mail by April 1st. Send, in the envelope provided, to the Elections Committee, c/o A. S. Wightman, Palmer Physical Laboratory, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey