

scientists to freedom from interference—on grounds of race, creed, or political beliefs—with scientific inter-communication and personal contact across and within national boundaries. (2) Advising accordingly as follows: (a) Committees sponsoring and/or organizing international scientific meetings, to avoid their being held in any country where such freedom is significantly restricted. (b) Individual scientists, contemplating a personal visit abroad for scientific purposes, to consider avoiding any country where restriction to such freedom may interfere significantly with the object of the visit.

It may also be important to consider other factors, such as the means for resisting exploitation, by governments or other agencies, of scientific meetings and individual visits for (a) purely political propaganda unrelated to their scientific objectives or (b) espionage purposes.

It would be valuable to have some other opinions on these very tentative suggestions.

Yours faithfully,

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Appointments

The following have been appointed to the **Medical Research Council** from October 1: **Professor A. S. V. Burgen**, University of Cambridge; **Professor W. S. Peart**, St Mary's Hospital Medical School, London; and **Professor R. E. O. Williams**, St Mary's Hospital Medical School.

Mr J. Aitken has been named chief of the Space Research Facilities Branch of the **National Research Council of Canada**, in succession to Dr R. S. Rettie.

Mr G. Wilson, Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene, has been appointed to the new post of secretary to the **Wellcome Institute of the History of Medicine**.

Announcements

Professor H. H. Hopkins, University of Reading, has been elected president of the **International Commission for Optics**, in succession to Professor G. Toraldo di Francia. The ICO is an affiliated commission of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics.

ERRATUM. In the article by A. N. Bunner *et al.* on "Soft X-ray Background Flux" (*Nature*, **223**, 1222; 1969) the equations on page 1225 should read:

$$I = S_0 \int_0^{\infty} \exp - \left(\frac{r}{z_s \sin b} \right)^2 e^{-\tau} dr$$

$$\tau = \sigma n_0 \int_0^r \exp - \left(\frac{r'}{z_g \sin b} \right)^2 dr'$$

Farther down the same column, $J = (3.4 \pm 0.5) \dots$ should read $J = (1.2 \pm 0.2) \dots$

ERRATUM. In the article "Enzymes controlling Weight?" from our Medical Biochemistry Correspondent (*Nature*, **223**, 1100; 1969), the name of G. L. S. Pawan was unfortunately misspelt Palan.

ERRATUM. In the announcement of the appointment of Professor J. F. Fowler as director of the British Empire Cancer Campaign for Research's Research Unit in Radiobiology (*Nature*, **223**, 1395; 1969), it was stated that Dr O. C. A. Scott would retire on December 30. This should have been September 30.

International Meetings

October 27–29, **Low Cost Waste Treatment**, Nagpur (Director, Central Public Health Engineering Research Institute, Nehru Marg, Nagpur-3, India).

March 11–12, **Welded Process Plant**, London (Miss M. E. Keegan, Conference Publicity Section, The Institution of Mechanical Engineers, 1 Birdeage Walk, Westminster, London SW1).

March 16–18, **6th Annual Meeting of the Solar Energy Society**, Sydney (Mr F. E. Edlin, Executive Secretary, Solar Energy Society, c/o Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona 85281, USA).

March 16–20, **Fourier Spectroscopy**, Colorado (Dr G. Vanasse, Air Force Cambridge Laboratories, Research Information Office, Bedford, Massachusetts 01730, USA).

March 17–25, **Horticultural Congress**, Tel Aviv (Mrs L. Roman, Ministry of Agriculture, Ha-Qiurya, Tel Aviv, Israel).

March 23–26, **International Aerospace Instrumentation Symposium**, Cranfield (N. O. Matthews, Department of Flight, College of Aeronautics, Cranfield, Bedfordshire, UK).

March 25–27, **World Traffic Safety**, Kyoto (Asahi Broadcasting Corporation, 2-2 Minamai, Oyodo-cho, Oyodo-ku, Osaka, Japan).

March 31–April 2, **Microwave Research**, New York (J. Fox, Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn, 333 Jay Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, USA).

March 31–April 3, **Yield Deformation and Fracture of Polymers**, Cambridge, UK (Meetings Officer, The Institute of Physics and the Physical Society, 47 Belgrave Square, London SW1).

April 6–10, **Stress Analysis and its Influence on Design**, Cambridge (Miss M. E. Keegan, Conference Publicity Section, The Institution of Mechanical Engineers, 1 Birdeage Walk, Westminster, London SW1).

April 15–17, **5th International Zootechny Symposium**, Milan (Italian Society for the Advancement of Zootechny, Via Monte Ortigara 35, Milan, Italy).

Sabbatical Itinerants

In the hope of providing some practical assistance in the good cause of mobility between laboratories, *Nature* advertises the needs for housing of families about to take up periods of sabbatical leave. To begin with, no charge will be made for advertisements like this. It is hoped that a period of experiment will show what form these advertisements could most usefully take and whether they are effective.

Wanted: Furnished accommodation in London for American sociologist, wife and infant for 3 month period beginning in May or June 1970. (Can offer a 7 room Manhattan apartment, adjacent to Columbia, in exchange if desired.) Please contact M. Hechter, Department of Sociology, New York University, Bronx, NY 10453, USA.

Wanted: Three-bedroom furnished house or apartment for Canadian professor and family (4 children —10, 8, 7, 6) near University of Oxford from March 15 to August 15, 1970. Please contact W. H. Vanden Born, Department of Botany, University of California, Davis, California 95616, USA.