

Exchange Lifts Curtain

► THE U.S. NATIONAL Academy of Sciences and the Academy of the Socialist Republic of Romania have announced the beginning of a three-year exchange program, providing for visits of up to one year by individual scientists of the two countries to lecture and to conduct research. The new program is the third to go into effect this year between the U.S. Academy and one of its sister institutions in Eastern Europe; earlier, similar arrangements were concluded with the Council of the Academies of Yugoslavia and with the Polish Academy of Sciences.

The program of exchanges will take place under a Memorandum of Understanding, confirmed by the respective presidents of the Polish, Romanian, Yugoslavian and U.S. academies, which provides for visits in each direction totaling approximately 40 man-months a year. The exchange programs were proposed by Dr. Frederick Seitz, president of the National Academy of Sciences.

Exchanges under the inter-academy understanding may cover all areas of the natural, engineering and behavioral sciences. There is no requirement that either the number of visits or the fields of study of exchange scientists be the same for both countries.

In addition to individual visits, the new programs also provide for exchanges in the areas of scientific publications, seminars and conferences, and information on institutions and programs of research.

The countries will share in the cost of the program, U.S. participation being financed under a contract between the U.S. Academy and the National Science Foundation. International transportation between foreign cities

and Washington, D.C., will be provided by the sending academy, and the receiving academy will be responsible for domestic transportation and the subsistence expenses of exchange scientists.

Under the flexible provisions of the inter-academy exchange program, nominations for both short- and long-term visits may be made at any time, with arrangements subject to the approval of the receiving academy.

The new program is not intended to be the exclusive instrument for scientific exchanges between two countries, but rather to supplement existing contacts between individuals and institutions. Thus the academies will work actively to encourage and support interchanges beyond the scope of the formal program.

• Science News, 89:238 April 9, 1966

GENERAL SCIENCE

Drafting of Ph.D. Candidates Protested

► A PROTEST against drafting graduate students working for their doctorates in science and engineering is registered in a communication to Science, 151:1332, 1966, by Dr. Robert A. Gross, professor of engineering sciences, Columbia University, New York.

"Near the culmination of their 20 or more years of formal training they are being drafted to fill local quotas," Dr. Gross said. "This is a poor utilization of scarce and nationally needed talent and is certainly not in the best interest of our country, yet the scientific community has not raised its voice in audible protest.

"The National Science Foundation, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the National Academy of Sciences have developed strong financial support for graduate education in the sciences, yet all agencies are strangely silent while some of our brightest young men have their careers interrupted at a crucial time in their training.

"It is time for the agencies within and outside the government which represent the scientific community to speak out, loudly and clearly, against this. Failure to do so will cost our country dearly in the future, for all the battles are not being fought in Southeast Asia.

"Our future scientific strength resides with the young Ph.D.'s and drafting them to fight, or idly pass the time as former generations of soldiers have done, is to ignore history and misinterpret this meaning of democracy."

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