

Social Sciences

URBAN RESEARCH

Greek-U.S. Center

A Greek city planner and an American research firm have announced they will establish a major center devoted to exploring urban problems.

The center, to be located in Washington, D.C., will be known as the Doxiadis System Development Center, named after well-known architect, Dr. Constantinos Doxiadis, and the American research firm, System Development Corp.

Its purpose, according to the announcement, is to "contribute to improved operation of the contemporary American city and to better development of future cities."

SOCIOLOGY

Israel's Immigrants

Israel is taking steps to assure that its Jewish immigrants from North African and Middle Eastern countries do not end up as slum dwellers.

Originally rural inhabitants of such countries as Morocco, Iraq, Yemen, Tunisia and Persia, the immigrants have been thrown into a highly urbanized and westernized Israel.

Some 800,000 Oriental people, as they are called in Israel, now live in cities, where they are threatened by social breakdown, says Dr. Louis Miller, Israel's director of mental health services.

On a recent visit to this country Dr. Miller said his country has thrown "most of its social resources into an effort to prevent the breakup of Oriental peoples."

Psychiatrists have trained cadres of community organizers to work among the people and develop local leadership. Schools are organized to handle a wide range of social and psychological troubles.

These people still remain "very much in the mental health balance," says Dr. Miller, but they are beginning to integrate with less stress.

PSYCHOLOGY

Candy-eating: A Character Clue

The way people eat candy—sucking, chewing or crunching—offers clues to their character, according to a survey of 1,200 British candy-eaters.

Chewers are "usually more extroverted people;" crunchers "tend to be slightly impulsive and volatile," while suckers are likely to be calm, contemplative and well-integrated. Suckers, however, can sometimes be smug and lacking in ambition.

This analysis comes from a team of industrial psychologists in London who questioned 1,200 people in a national sample. Led by William Schlackman, head of a market research firm, the team concludes that adults identify candy with their childhood experiences.

Half the sample said they chew candy; nearly a third said they suck it; the rest crunch and swallow immediately.

The survey confirmed that Britons still have the world's sweetest tooth, averaging 7.6 ounces of candy a week, said the report. Comparable figures in the United States and West Germany are about 5.4 ounces per week.

England's lower income groups turned out to be bigger candy eaters than the upper income groups.

Environment Notes

OCEANOGRAPHY

Drake Passage Current Flow

A current more than twice the volume of the famed Gulf Stream flows past the southern tip of South America, a Columbia University oceanographer has calculated.

Flow through the Drake Passage between Cape Horn and Antarctica averages 200 million cubic meters a second, according to computations by Dr. Arnold L. Gordon of Columbia's Lamont Geological Observatory.

By contrast, the Gulf Stream moves a volume of some 75 million to 90 million cubic meters a second as it meanders from the Straits of Florida into the northeastern Atlantic Ocean.

In the June 30 *SCIENCE*, Dr. Gordon observes that his calculations are consistent with observations of flow in the Passage made over 30 years by oceanographic ships.

Estimates of the current volume flow in the 1,000 kilometer wide Passage in the past have ranged up to 218 million cubic meters per second.

POLLUTION

Packaging Wastes Studied

Noting that fully 40 percent of the nation's trash consists of packaging materials, the U.S. Public Health Service has awarded a contract to the Midwest Research Institute to find out how to cut the total.

Midwest Research in Kansas City, Mo., will analyze the kinds and amounts of packaging materials used today and the reasons for their use.

A major problem to be solved, a Government spokesman point out, is what to do with glass and aluminum containers which last indefinitely if just dumped on land. Polyethylene, one of the most common packaging materials today, also does not break down readily, he noted.

The contract, for \$53,975, was awarded by the PHS Solid Wastes Program office in the National Center for Urban and Industrial Health.

MICROBIOLOGY

Tropical Bacteria Eat Watch Oil

Soviet microbiologists have found that the prime cause of wristwatch failure in the tropics is a massive attack on its lubricating oil by microorganisms.

Fungi and bacteria affect watch oil under conditions of high temperature and humidity, they report. The presence of salts of nitrogen and phosphorus accelerates the organisms' breakdown of the oil.

The answer, they found, lies in doping watch oil for the tropics with organo-mercury compounds in a ratio of one part per thousand of oil.

Various compounds of phenols, antimony, tin, lead and thiocyanates were also tried. While organo-mercury compounds proved most deadly to the tropical microorganisms, thiocyanates and organic tin compounds also were effective.

An important difference was that mercury and tin compounds killed the bacteria while thiocyanates simply kept them from multiplying.

The study, at Moscow University, was directed by Prof. Irina Rabotnova of the department of microbiology, the Soviet press agency, Novosti, reports.