

GENERAL SCIENCE

International Laboratories

Cooperative attack on such problems as conquest of space and control of hydrogen bomb reactions for peaceful production of power urged "to disarm the future."

► THREE MAJOR international laboratories to attack such problems as the conquest of space, control of H-bomb reactions to produce power, and weather modification have been proposed by Senator Clinton P. Anderson (D-N.Mex.).

Addressing the Sixth Annual Conference on High Energy Nuclear Physics at the University of Rochester, Rochester, N. Y., the chairman of the Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy urged a halt in the present arms race and a "new try at disarmament" by what he calls "disarming the future."

Areas of technology now in their infancy offer the best hope for international cooperation, he said, because no nation now has a strong vested interest in such fields. To encourage their development, Senator Anderson called for removal of present restrictions on exchange of non-secret scientific information between nations and establishment of a world passport, which would be granted annually to a select list of world-wide nominees by unanimous agreement.

He suggested such world passports might be given to Nobel prize-winners, four of whom attended the conference, outstanding artists, and leaders in religion, government, science and education. They could promote a degree of mutual trust and understanding that might help to halt the arms race and forestall "a war nobody wants," Senator Anderson said.

As prime examples of the many problems that "can and should" be attacked by international efforts, since they do not have respect for national boundaries, he listed launching satellites into outer space, controlling thermonuclear reactions for peaceful production of power and possible world-wide weather modification.

If the race to develop an intercontinental ballistic missile, armed with atomic warheads, ended in a tie between the United States and Russia, Senator Anderson pointed out, "fantastic sums of money, materials and scientific skills" would have been spent on a weapon the people of earth would banish as they did poison gas in World War II.

Since the weapon may never be used, he urged setting aside attempts at space conquest for an international laboratory. Exploration and development of other worlds should be under an organization reflecting the common interests of all peoples of the world.

"The man in the moon," Senator Anderson said, "belongs to the children of every country, is a part of their dream world, and if reached by space ship, might better remain the property of all."

A space missile intended for the moon but landing on another nation's territory because of defective mechanism or planning might touch off the spark of world conflict, if its development were secret, but not if its development were an international effort.

Many programs, he noted, are now being successfully carried forward by joint agreement among nations. Among these Senator Anderson cited the "inspiring scope of the International Geophysical Year," a world-wide effort to probe the earth, its seas and skies, beginning July 1, 1957.

The World Health Organization, he said, is successfully fighting diseases and promoting new understanding of medical care for infants, the aged and the handicapped. The Atoms-for-Peace program, the multitude of activities supported by the United Nations Educational and Scientific Organization, UNESCO, the giant atom smasher being built by several European nations in Switzerland and an internationally run electronic computer are also examples of effective cooperation among nations.

Yet undeveloped technologies may have even more dreadful potentialities for destruction than those now known, Senator Anderson said. Military techniques arising from them can make the present stalemate no worse, since mutual annihilation is now possible.

New fields of science, he urged, can best be developed jointly by all nations. The result might be that a war-weary world would achieve in time a form of disarmament by obsolescence.

Science News Letter, April 21, 1956

PHYSICS

Sub-Nuclear Zoo

► A PICTURE of atomic hearts was drawn by more than 200 of the world's leading physicists gathered in Rochester to discuss the past year's important theoretical and experimental developments in nuclear physics.

Three Russian scientists and four Nobel Prize winners were among the more than

200 physicists attending the Sixth Annual Conference on High Energy Physics at the University of Rochester.

During the five-day meeting, the scientists examined the mass of data compiled from atom-smashing and cosmic ray experiments the world over. Their aim was to



INFORMAL EXCHANGE BY PHYSICISTS—One of the two women invited to a conference on high energy physics in Rochester, N. Y., Dr. Sulamith Goldhaber, University of California, is shown here with W. Fry, University of Wisconsin, C. O'Ceallaigh, Institute for Advanced Studies, Dublin, Ireland, D. Glaser, University of Michigan, and K. Gottstein, Max Planck Institute for Physics, Gottingen, Germany.