

GENERAL SCIENCE

U. S.—Moscow Exhibit

A first-hand, "in person" view of American science and technology will be available to Russians for six weeks this summer at a Moscow park.

► THIS SUMMER about 3,500,000 Russians are expected to get a first-hand look at American science and technology, from rockets to nuclear reactors to smog control to antibiotics.

It all will be on view in Moscow's Sokolniki Park for six weeks, starting July 25 when Vice President Nixon officially opens the American National Exhibit. By reciprocal agreement, a Russian exhibit will open on June 28 at the Coliseum in New York.

Although the American exhibit will include how Americans live, work, play and learn, science will play the major role, permeating almost everything on display. Russian visitors will be seeing "live" displays, models, films and photographs.

Perhaps the most dramatic display will be an entire ceiling covered with the photographic result of the Mt. Palomar Sky Survey. The survey took seven years to compile, covers the entire sky to a depth of 600,000,000 light years as seen from Mt. Palomar, and consists of 1,758 photographic plates.

The remainder of the "Exploration of Space" section will include the X-15, the first U. S. vehicle designed to take a man to space and back, space capsules, a complete moon village, telescopes and sky cameras,

representations of the Van Allen radiation belt surrounding the earth, and miniature rocket instruments.

The last named exhibit will be somewhat underplayed because it is feared that the Russians might construe it as an excuse for the small size of our earth satellites. The Soviet press has poked fun at what it calls American "oranges."

The agricultural exhibit will include examples of the tremendous increase in farm production. It will be shown that hybrid corns in the past 25 years have raised the harvest by a billion bushels while corn acreage has been reduced 25%. There will be displays showing the uses of antibiotics in animals and plants to keep them healthy and to promote growth, radioactive isotopes for research, and chemicals against weeds and insects.

A great deal of space will be given to Salk vaccine in the public health and medicine section. Antibiotics, nuclear medicine and other treatments will point up the 20th century in therapy. Pittsburgh will be an example of the conquest of air pollution and New York's food and water controls will be shown.

The peaceful uses of atomic energy will be emphasized. Examples of our eight existing nuclear power plants will be promi-

nently displayed. Experimental test and research reactors, isotopes in medicine and agriculture, and isotopes for measurements and quality control in industry will be included in this section.

The Russians will be especially interested in the chemical research section, which will concentrate on plastics, a subject becoming increasingly important in the Soviet Union.

In the basic research section, the visitors may learn the names of the 34 U. S. scientists who won Nobel Prizes between 1943 and 1956. Some of America's current and recent basic research projects will be those conducted during the International Geophysical Year, the drilling of a hole through the earth's crust to its mantle, the nature of deoxyribonucleic acid, one of the basic chemicals of life, and the field ion microscope. The section also will contain a description of the relationship of the research done by the Government, industry, universities and non-profit institutions.

SCIENCE SERVICE is cooperating in displaying aids for elementary science education.

Science News Letter, May 16, 1959

PUBLIC SAFETY

Floods of Past 30 Years Have Claimed 2,430 Lives

► MORE THAN 2,400 people have died from floods that have occurred in the United States in the past 30 years.

The number of deaths per year has varied, but the annual toll was generally less than 100, data from the *Statistical Bulletin* of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company show.

During the year 1931 there were no flood deaths reported. On the other hand, 302 were reported in 1955, the largest number for any year since 1927.

Floods have caused 555 deaths just within the past five years, 1954-58. The catastrophes that occurred in 1955 account for the majority of these deaths. The 1955 record was unusual also in that about two-thirds of the flood deaths that year occurred in the northeastern section of the country.

Nearly 200 lives were lost in Pennsylvania and Connecticut during the floods that followed the hurricane of Aug. 17 to 19, 1955.

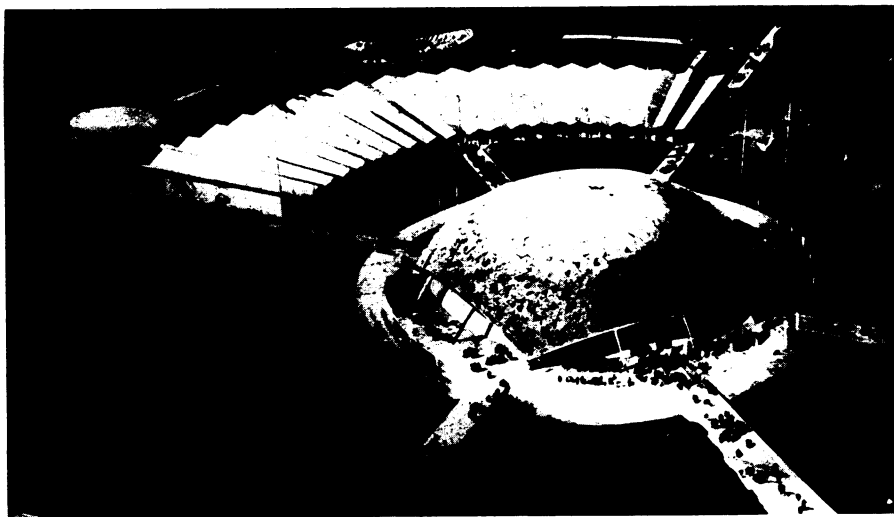
But the Ohio Valley experienced the largest loss of life from floods for the entire 30-year period, accounting for nearly one-fourth of the victims in the entire U. S.

Flood deaths were rare or infrequent in the Great Basin, which includes Nevada and surrounding states, the East Gulf, the Colorado and the Great Lakes Districts.

The peak incidence of mortality usually occurs in late spring and early summer. Severe floods at these times of the year are often the result of a combination of factors such as large accumulations of snow, the break-up of river ice, excessively warm spring temperatures and persistently heavy rains over a wide area.

Flood control programs now include effective measures such as reforestation of watersheds, construction of reservoirs and flood walls, the diversion of rivers.

Science News Letter, May 16, 1959



EXHIBITION BUILDINGS—A preliminary architect's sketch shows the buildings and landscaping planned for the scientific and cultural exhibition. In the foreground is a gold-tint aluminum geodesic dome, 200 feet in diameter, which will serve as an information center and house various exhibits. The fan-like building behind the dome will be some 400 feet across and 28 feet high, built of glass, steel and aluminum; it will contain cultural and industrial exhibits. Circarama films, shown on a circular screen in a 360-degree arc from 11 projectors, will be shown in the round building at the left. The Soviet Union has agreed to purchase the buildings after the exhibition.