

too many foreigners arrive in the United States saying they are going to study, but really plan to stay afterwards and work. This is a "backdoor immigration policy", he said, which must be reformed as part of a general tightening of US immigration.

The provision may have originated with an engineering activist, Irwin Feerst. Feerst says there was no consideration of a change in the old law regarding students, until he sent out a special issue of an independent newsletter he publishes to engineers around the country. Three hundred responses he received, he says, indicated that professional US engineers want to "throw the foreign students out". Feerst spoke to Senator Simpson and testified to this effect in December. According to Feerst, there is

Nationality of foreign students in the United States 1980-81

| Regions | Selected sub-totals | Totals |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------|
| Africa | | 38,180 |
| Nigeria | 17,350 | |
| Europe | | 25,330 |
| UK | 4,440 | |
| Greece | 3,750 | |
| FRG | 3,310 | |
| France | 2,570 | |
| Eastern Europe + USSR | 1,670 | |
| Latin America | | 49,810 |
| Middle East | | 84,710 |
| Iran | 47,550 | |
| Saudi Arabia | 10,440 | |
| North America | | 14,790 |
| Oceania | | 4,180 |
| South and East Asia | | 94,640 |
| Taiwan | 19,460 | |
| Japan | 13,500 | |
| India | 9,250 | |
| | | 311,640 |

Source: Institute of International Education

no shortage of engineers in the United States, only a "cabal" of academic engineers and corporate executives who are publicizing the alleged shortage so they can hire foreign graduates at lower pay.

However, the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE), the engineers' umbrella society in the United States (where Feerst has often run as an "alternative" candidate for president) does not favour the change in Section 212 as it is now written. Richard J. Gowen, chairman of IEEE's manpower task force and a candidate for president of IEEE, says that foreign engineers are being offered jobs at salaries that may be as little as 25 per cent of the salaries paid to US-born engineers. Gowen wants the proposed Section 212 to be changed to allow only "professional" hiring of foreign graduates. That is, a foreign graduate would have to go home unless his prospective employer certifies that he will be paid at least 75 per cent of what a US citizen would be paid in the job.

So far, Congress has been mainly concerned with getting the immigration reform bill through, and seems little disposed to tinker with the minor provisions. On the other hand, organizations like IEEE are becoming very active on the issue, as they begin to realize its implications. **Deborah Shapley**

EEC budget

Windfall ahead

Brussels

An unexpected shortfall of £280 million (500 million European Currency Units) in the European Economic Community's agricultural expenditure has resulted in an extra £19.6 million (35 million ECUs) becoming available for the European Community's research programmes in 1982. The strength of the dollar, favourable prices on the world market for agricultural goods and good weather have all helped to reduce the EEC's agricultural subsidies. Most of the extra money will be allocated to the joint research centres and in particular to nuclear safety research, but around £3.7 million will go to the indirect action programmes.

The budgetary revision highlights the degree to which the European Commission's ability to meet its goal of revitalizing scientific research and development in Europe, and thus create new jobs for scientists, is linked with the long-standing quarrel over agricultural prices, the British budgetary contribution, the reform of the Community's budget and the Common Agricultural Policy and even the Falklands crisis. If an agreement could be reached on lower agricultural prices for this year, as the British are demanding, an even greater sum could be set free for other areas of expenditure. The cooperation shown by the other member states over the Falklands crisis has now made it more difficult for Britain to push for budgetary reform. But if Britain achieves its objectives in the Council meetings this week, not only will its contributions be reduced, but it should lead to greater Community outlays in other areas including research.

The Commission's preliminary draft budget for 1983 reflects the hope that the other nine member states will agree to shift the emphasis of Community spending. Thus, the text emphasizes a "significant reinforcement of financial resources for energy policy, innovation and research and development". This includes increasing expenditure on energy research by 120 per cent although the total sum for payment appropriations will still be small, at £58.4 million.

Most of the extra money for this year will go towards the Supersara project on reactor safety at the joint research centre at Ispra in Italy. An extra £4.2 million will be needed this year as the project is overshooting its budget and will probably continue doing so until 1990 to the tune of £168 million.

The entire programme for the joint research centres is, in fact, now being reviewed and some changes are certain to be reflected in the 1984-87 research programme. Under consideration is a temporary increase in staff by 161, to provide replacements for scientists expected to retire in the next few years.

Apart from streamlining research on nuclear safety, the handling of radioactive wastes and the control of fissile materials, a new institute for developing countries is planned at Ispra for training in energy planning, new energies, remote sensing techniques and the inventoring of resources. The Commission is also hoping to increase staff for research into solar energy, fusion, the rational use of energy and the study of high temperature materials.

Again, the success of these proposals will depend on the attitude of the member states, who will be influenced by the amount of money in the budget left over after provisions have been made for agricultural subsidies. **Jasper Becker**

Polish arrest

Expel and detain

The expulsion from Poland, last week, of two US diplomats and the arrest of Dr Ryszard Herczynski bodes ill for the resumption of normal academic exchanges between Poland and the West. The two diplomats, Scientific Attaché John William Zerolis and First Secretary for Cultural Affairs, James Daniel Howard, found in Dr Herczynski's flat, were accused by the Polish ministry of foreign affairs of "pursuing activity conflicting with their diplomatic status". Their presence in the flat appears, however, to have been entirely in the line of duty; they had gone there to confer with Dr Herczynski and with Professor Wladyslaw Fiszdon, a former pro-rector of Warsaw University, on the forthcoming joint US-Polish symposium on fluid mechanics.

Dr Herczynski, a mathematician specializing in fluid dynamics, is employed at the Polish Academy of Sciences' Institute for Fundamental Problems of Technology. Although now accused of having been "one of the inspirers of activity contrary to our *raison d'être* in the scientific milieu", he has never been associated with the dissident movement. In autumn 1980, however, he founded the "Society of the friends of science" — a semi-popular organization based on the then current principles of the liberalization of learning.

It was presumably for this reason that, during the night of 12-13 December 1981, he was taken into custody and interned for some two weeks. Although the authorities now claim that before being released, he signed an undertaking to cease such activities, Dr Herczynski's friends insist that not only did he never sign such an undertaking, but that at the time of his release there had been no mention of any such document.

The arrest of Dr Herczynski was, according to official sources, effected as he handed Mr Zerolis a packet of material "damaging to the interests of the Polish People's Republic", apparently com-