

and actions and writings which had been previously considered perfectly legal were now retrospectively considered illegal, such as not taking part in the anti-Allende demonstrations and strikes before the coup.

"I was interrogated ten times in all, and eventually I left the country rather than risk the alternatives of imprisonment, suspension or of being allowed to continue teaching only courses approved by the government.

"These restrictions in education have reached down as far as the primary schools, and in my opinion the military government is trying to turn the clock back in their educational policies by stopping grants for workers to study at the universities and by strictly controlling the matter and methods of teaching. The restrictions now being placed on freedom of speech are becoming intolerable to most intellectuals, even to those Christian Democrats who opposed Allende and had welcomed the coup."

The reference in this account to the overturning of the legal and moral basis of action is echoed in a further report from Dr H. M. Gerschenfeld, a signatory to a letter about the plight of Chilean academics published in *Nature* in March. According to the military government's Law no 111, suppressing the legal governing bodies of universities, 34 professors of the University of Valdivia were expelled without right of defence, says Dr Gerschenfeld. In some cases the professors were offered the alternative of resigning, and if they refused to do so, they were expelled.

Among more serious casualties of the new order were Professors Merio Ramirez (Education) and Jorge Pena (Music), shot at La Serena; Dr Enrique Paris, secretary of the University of Santiago, died while undergoing torture; Professor Kirkberg, rector of the Technological University of Santiago, imprisoned on Dawson Island.

As for institutions which have suffered under the junta, Dr Gerschenfeld writes as follows:

"The destruction of the departments of psychology and sociology occurred in essentially all of the universities in the country. Even internationally supported schools such as the well known Facultad Latino-americana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO) was closed. The Institute of National Studies (CEREN) of the Universidad Catolica at Santiago was also dismantled. Seventy to 100% of the faculty members in the departments of geography, literature, fine arts, history and geology were removed from their positions in Santiago.

"The authorities of the universities who were nominated by the military government also expelled a large number of students on the grounds of sympathising with the government of Dr Allende. The data are fragmentary,

but the examples are indicative: for instance, of the 254 first year students of the Science School at Santiago, 174 were expelled, at Concepcion, of 70 students in the last year of the medical school, only 10 were readmitted after a selection on political grounds.

"The number of scientists, teachers, and professional people who are leaving Chile is so great that the military junta has become alarmed. There have been rumours in the last month that the government will impose a tax of 3,000 to 5,000 American dollars to each person having a university degree who wants to leave the country, even if they have been expelled from their jobs at the university or elsewhere. We could not confirm this directly, but the appeals for help from our Chilean colleagues mention this menace and urge the European scientific community to do something for them."

An idea of the lengths to which the military government will go in order to interfere with the career of an academic whom they consider hostile is illustrated by the experience of Juan Rada, who at the time of the coup was a third year student of the sociology of education at the Catholic University of Santiago. Rada had played an active part in the running of the university as a student representative on the higher council. He was a known supporter of Allende's social change programme, and within days of the junta's takeover he stood up and spoke against the military rulers during a meeting of the higher council. He received a phone call during the night (from one of the regime's supporters as it happened) warning him that the junta had decided he was dangerous.

Rada sought refuge in a foreign embassy, and since he was unable to obtain a safe conduct he left the country by a route which he prefers not to describe—although he is prepared to describe a fast car ride to the airport with motor-cycle outriders. He arrived in Britain earlier this year, and since he had not actually sat his final exams at the time of the coup he asked permission to qualify at London University. When the university wrote to Chile in order to learn about Rada's academic record there they were told that nobody of that name had ever been at the Catholic University of Santiago. As far as the university where Rada had served on the higher council was concerned, he had never existed. Rada was able to establish his bona fides, and to take his exam, and he is now a post-graduate member of London University's Department of the Sociology of Education. He is in touch, regularly, with former colleagues who remained in the country. Their reports, he says, add up to a single message: "Intellectual life is dead."

## Business report

John Gribbin and Roger Woodham

Gordon and Breach Science Publishers Inc., of New York, have filed a petition under Chapter XI of the United States Bankruptcy Act. The company's 1973-74 list contains 85 journal titles, most of them scientific; but, according to the management of the British subsidiary of the company, production has not been affected by the filing.

The G & B petition itself follows a similar petition filed under Chapter XI of the Bankruptcy Act by a subsidiary, Media Directions Inc., on November 2, 1973. According to a representative of the British company, the petition now filed by the American parent on March 29, 1974, was necessary "to protect the parent from repercussions from that action".

The Managing Director of the British-based operation — a wholly owned subsidiary of the American parent says that "production, promotion, distribution and other publishing operations are not affected by the filing, and subsidiaries of the American company are not involved. I should stress that we intend to continue our normal publication of journals and new books."

The first meeting of the G & B creditors was held in New York on April 24, before Bankruptcy Judge Edward J. Ryan. The proceedings were adjourned until May 13. Under American law it is possible for a company to bring the court and creditors into the running of that company without ceasing to trade.

According to figures circulated to major creditors by attorneys for the \$4,161,297 and 21 cents, while assets total \$2,302,940 and 84 cents including an item of \$2 million for "stock in trade".

● "THE most significant new product range in the history of the company" was how Mr Ralph Price, chairman of Honeywell in the United Kingdom, described the new Series 60 computers when they were launched last week. Only time will tell whether Honeywell has the upper hand when companies like ICL and IBM unveil their models for the late 1970s and early 1980s in the next year or two.

Honeywell's total turnover in 1973 was \$1,170 million, and the profit before tax was \$93 million. Although not actually disappointed with the growth of sales in the past year or two, senior management at Honeywell hope that sales will grow faster with the Series 60.

The advent of Series 60 is a positive move on Honeywell's part towards the marketing of fewer, but more flexible, pieces of hardware and software. The new range builds on the best of



Six weeks after the new Australian-Soviet science agreement was initialled in Canberra, it has been revealed that the Russian delegation which finalised these arrangements proposed at the same time that 'a joint scientific facility' be established in Australia. Although this was essentially a renewal of a previous proposal in 1971, the recent press stories caused a flurry of comment in the Parliament and diplomatic circles. There was reportedly a reaction from the United States Ambassador who was said to be concerned that the proposed 'facility' could be a threat to the various American defence bases in Australia.

Of these, two are in the big league—the naval communications base at North-West Cape (Western Australia) and the military satellite station at Pine Gap in the centre of the continent. A security screen surrounds the operations of these stations and there was immediate speculation that the Russians were 'trying out' Australia's diplomatic commitment to the American alliance by indirectly setting up a facility which could conceivably also act as an electronic monitor of American activities.

## Russians seek joint facility in Australia

*Peter Pockley, Sydney*

Both the Prime Minister, Mr Gough Whitlam, and the Foreign Minister, Senator Don Willesee, were, however, at pains to emphasise that no decision had yet been made and that the proposed facility—to be managed jointly by both nations—would be 'to photograph space objects and to contribute to atmospheric studies'. It is not, as reported by some news agencies, intended to be a tracking station. The proposal is now being studied by various departments before Mr Whitlam's planned visit to Moscow in the middle of the year.

For readers in the Northern Hemisphere, who have become accustomed over decades to continual contact with the Soviet Union of a military and diplomatic kind, the sharp Australian reaction to such an apparently mild proposal may seem excessive. But, rare

though it is in the Southern Hemisphere, even remote possibilities of direct influence by the Soviet Union on events here have always been greeted by over-reaction.

The most celebrated example in recent times was the case of Vladimir Petrov, a Russian diplomat-cum-spy operating out of Canberra, whose defection in 1954 was turned to long lasting political advantage over his Labour opponents by the then Prime Minister, Mr Robert Menzies. The first Russian scare occurred, rather extraordinarily, in the Crimean War when the new settlers actually built harbour forts in a show of self-reliant bravado against the imaginary invaders from the steppes.

The present concern has been a two-day political wonder but it has its roots in the fears of a possible buildup of Soviet naval power in the Indian Ocean on Australia's undefended western seaboard of about 2,000 miles. As with the Australian-Soviet science agreement itself, this latest matter was treated by politicians and press alike as primarily a diplomatic affair, with science as the passenger in the vehicle.

Honeywell's present lines and those of the erstwhile computer arm of General Electric (USA) which Honeywell took over three-and-a-half years ago. At that time Honeywell and General Electric actively marketed 10 computer series, 20 processors and 12 software systems—now there are just four, eight and six. The largest of the new series, Level 66 is based on the Honeywell Series 6000 which has brought in about \$1,000 million since it was launched in 1971.

The development costs for the new series have hardly been trivial; most of the \$50 million earmarked for development by Honeywell in each of the past three years has gone on the Series 60, and much of the development work was done in Europe. (Level 66 computers are, indeed, to be manufactured at the Honeywell factory in Newhouse, Scotland.)

Honeywell says that the Series 60 will be suited to existing computer users and newcomers alike. Prices for Level 66 systems start at £450,000—of £10,000 a month on a rental basis—but Honeywell do have relatively small companies and organisations in mind for the less sophisticated Level 61 which costs £22,000+£400+a month). Honeywell is using the phrase 'attack machines' to describe the Level 61, for it sees many potential customers buying this as their first computer, possibly to do such mundane jobs as stock control.

## Cash problems for public interest law

*Colin Norman, Washington*

SINCE they first rose to prominence in the late 1960s, public interest law firms have made an impressive contribution to the development of government policies in the United States, ranging from the regulation of food additives to the protection of the environment. Staffed by a handful of lawyers and supported chiefly by philanthropic organisations, they have provided the cutting edge of the environmentalist movement and in many cases have formed an effective counterforce to the big business lobby which traditionally dominates the Washington political scene.

But they are now facing the prospect that one of their largest single sources of funding, the Ford Foundation, may withdraw its support in the next couple of years and put its money elsewhere. Ford has been pumping millions of dollars into public interest law since the 1960s, and since it traditionally provides seed money for the establishment of projects, rather than financial support over long periods of time its withdrawal from the field has long been anticipated.

Some idea of the influence of the foundation on the field of public interest law can be gauged from the fact

that it provides between 85 and 90% of the budget of the Center for Law and Social Policy, the law firm which was in the forefront of the legal battle against the trans-Alaska pipeline and which have been effective in setting standards for treatment of the mentally retarded. The foundation also contributes some 40% of the operating funds of the Natural Resources Defense Council, which has won several landmark court victories against the Environmental Protection Agency and which argued the law suit which eventually forced the Atomic Energy Commission to publish an environmental impact statement on the liquid-metal fast-breeder reactor programme.

Faced with such the prospect that their funds may dry up, many of the law firms are exploring possible new financial arrangements which will put their activities on a sounder footing and provide them with a more permanent source of funds.

Two recent events have brought the matter to a head. The first is that last week the Ford Foundation announced that it will provide four of the largest firms with \$2.3 million to finance their activities at least until the end of 1975, but it accompanied the announcement with the statement that Ford's role after the grants expire "cannot be determined now". And the second is that the Ford Foundation itself convened a conference in San Diego in