the ambiguities that allowed the government to prosecute *The Progressive* for publishing an article on how the hydrogen-bomb works, even though it was based on material taken from public library shelves.

As Admiral Inman and others pointed out, however, the debate over the national security implications of scientific research is no longer purely a military question, linking up directly with concerns about the "export" of commercially valuable information through open publication.

"Some of our most carefully nurtured technological advances have suffered from a haemorrhage of foreign technology transfer from international trade — the licit or illicit selling of everything from chips to detailed manuals — to explicit espionage efforts", the session was told by Mr Daniel C. Schwarz, an attorney who, as general counsel to the National Security Agency, had helped draw up the proposed prepublication review procedure for cryptography research.

Admiral Inman also suggested, though emphasizing that he was expressing a personal opinion only, that there were several other fields such as computer hardware and software, lasers, crop projections and manufacturing procedures where publication of certain technical information "could affect the national security in a harmful way".

He also reacted to the charge that the National Security Agency had not provided public proof of its concerns about the potential damage that could be caused by the publication of the results of cryptography by arguing that such information was often even more sensitive than the basic information itself.

"Nowhere in the scientific ethos is there any requirement that restrictions cannot, or should not, when necessary be placed on science", he said. "Scientists do not immunize themselves from social responsibility simply because they are engaged in a scientific pursuit."

He quoted several other areas, such as controls on genetic engineering research or on the protection of proprietary data, in arguing that there was nothing inherently wrong with an attempt to impose restrictions on science. "Some of these restrictions are common sense, some are federal requirements, some are simply good business and some are good science," Admiral Inman said. **David Dickson**

Relative prosperity

A gift of $1 million from Mr Harold McGraw, chairman of McGraw-Hill the publishers, has ensured that work on the Einstein papers can continue to completion. But Dr John Stachel, the editor of the project for the past four years, says that although the gift is enough to ensure continuity, more money will be needed if the staff of the project is to be increased from two (at present) to the desired four or five.

For the time being, work is concentrated on the early years of Einstein's academic life. The intention is to include not merely extant letters and published papers but also ancillary documents. Dr Stachel is pleased to have come across already a letter of commendation from Einstein's eventual colleagues at the Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule (ETH), Zurich (where Einstein went from the Patent Office in Berne) saying, in effect, that although Einstein was a Jew, he was "quite a nice Jew, not like the others".

At this stage nobody is prepared to guess how long the project will take, or how many volumes will eventually be published (by Princeton University Press) although there will certainly be a score of them. Dr Stachel expects to be working on the project for twenty years.

Polish crisis

Exiled students speak

Paris

Poland's "independent student association" was disbanded last week by order of the Ministry of Science, Higher Education and Technology. According to this decision, the association was disbanded for continuing militant activity after the declaration of martial law. Activists had, it is alleged, continued to distribute leaflets calling for strikes and other protest actions which represented a "flagrant violation of the decree on martial law".

The day after the decree, a group of Polish students, stranded in the West by the declaration of martial law, set up a "coordination group of the independent student association" with a provisional office in Paris. The group intends to work mainly for the relief of academics and students interned in Poland under the martial law regulation. At a press conference in Paris last week, however, it stressed that the current situation, with the threat that oaths of loyalty must be taken by academics and students who wish to continue working in the universities, will prove disastrous for higher education in Poland.

It has therefore asked students throughout the world to press for the liberation of the interned students, and for all intellectuals to take a similar stand concerning intellectual and academic staff. In particular, it called for a boycott of scientific, economic and sporting cooperation with "representatives of Jaruzelski, Moscow and the Eastern bloc" until martial law is lifted in Poland.

One of the speakers at the conference, Miss Anna Krajewska, a philosophy student from Kracow, said that one of the major "sins" of the independent student association had been its participation in a plan to create a new international student organization independent of all political slant or affiliations.

Recent announcements by General Jaruzelski's military government has accused the association of "striving to create a new anti-socialist student international organization and at the same time to break up the existing international students' association" (a reference to the Prague-based and socialist-oriented IUS).

According to official statements in Poland, the Ministry of Science, Higher Education and Technology (which is at present without a minister) feels sure that members of the former independent student association will "judge correctly" the extremist leaders who "abuse the confidence" of rank and file students. By taking up studies, says the ministry, and "respecting the law", they can be sure of preserving their student status. This is a clear hint that the current process of political "verification" now taking place in Polish industry will be imposed on students before they are allowed to resume their studies. A meeting last week between the rectors of medical academies and political leaders suggests that in medical schools the process will be introduced even more rapidly and strictly. **Vera Rich**

British medical research

Vacancy filled?

Dr J.D. ("Dai") Rees, from Unilever, is for the time being the Medical Research Council's preferred appointment as director of its National Institute for Medical Research at Mill Hill, in suburban London. An appointment has become necessary because Sir Arnold Burgen, the present director, is leaving in the summer to become the Master of Darwin College, Cambridge. A definite proposal has not yet been put to Dr Rees, it is understood.

Dr Rees has been connected with the Medical Research Council for the past two years, since his part-time appointment as co-director of the council's Biophysics Unit based at King's College, London. Recently he has played an important part in suggesting a new management structure for the National Institute, which has an annual budget of £8 million. Part of this proposal, on which senior staff at the institute are being consulted, is that the new director should be advised by a four-member management committee empowered to determine the general pattern of research.

Dr Rees, in his early forties, is a carbohydrate chemist by background who has established a dazzling reputation at Unilever by his work leading to the development of polysaccharides capable of lending physical structure to otherwise fluid materials. The technique is now used commercially in the manufacture of ice cream and of instant desserts.

More recently, Dr Rees has turned to cell biology, including the study of cell movement on surfaces.

0028-0836/82/020089-02$01.00