

maximum of fifteen members, and will hold regular meetings up to six times a year. Some of the council's discussions may take place in public, since Dr Keyworth has said that he will comply with the requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, which requires federal advisory committees to hold open meetings unless there is a specific reason that the meeting should be closed.

In addition to the members of the council, OSTP is compiling a list of about 100 other outside consultants from the scientific and industrial community who are expected to be called upon on an *ad hoc* basis to carry out specific studies.

Although both the apparent "military-industrial" bias, and the lack of social scientists — and women — have already received a certain amount of comment in the scientific community, reaction to the announcement of the new council has generally been favourable.

Mr William Golden, a New York banker who is treasurer of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, said last week that although the Science Council was "not as good as a presidentially-appointed group would be", it was better than none. He added that the individual members of the council were "first class", and that the new council should help strengthen Dr Keyworth's standing in the White House, since at present he was "not very high on the totem pole".

David Dickson

## Council's members

**Solomon J. Buchsbaum** (chairman).

Executive vice-president, Bell Laboratories

**Edward Frieman** (vice-chairman). Vice-president, Science Applications Inc.

**Harold M. Agnew**. President, General Atomic Company

**John Bardeen**. Emeritus Professor of Electrical Engineering and Physics, University of Illinois, Urbana

**D. Allan Bromley**. Henry Ford II Professor of Physics, Yale University

**George A. Cowan**. Laboratory Senior Fellow, Los Alamos National Laboratory

**Edward E. David**. President, Exxon Research and Engineering Company

**Donald S. Fredrickson**. Fellow-in-residence, National Academy of Sciences

**Paul E. Gray**. President, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

**Robert O. Hunter Jr.** President, Western Research Company

**Arthur K. Kerman**. Director, Center of Theoretical Physics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

**David Packard**. Chairman of the Board, Hewlett-Packard Company

**Edward Teller**. Senior Research Fellow, Hoover Institution, Stanford University.

## Turkish civil rights

# Trials ahead

Dr Yeter Ögelman, a Turkish specialist in thermoluminescence and a lecturer in physics at Cukorova University, Adana, until her arrest and imprisonment on 16 May 1981, has now been released on bail. Her trial for helping to organize a women's rights group between 1975 and 1977 will, however, be resumed on 10 March. The prosecution is asking for a prison sentence of between 8 and 15 years.

Dr Ögelman's plight was exemplified some weeks ago when an article submitted for publication in *Nature* recorded her change of address and relocation in prison. The article will be published very shortly.

According to the Turkish authorities, Dr Ögelman's arrest and prosecution fall under the terms of article 141 of the Turkish criminal code. This lays down that those administering societies "with the purpose of establishing domination of a social class or overthrowing any of the established basic economic or social orders of the country shall be punished by heavy imprisonment from eight to fifteen years".

The code has already been used to ban the Turkish communist party. However, Dr Ögelman protests that, contrary to the authorities' accusations, neither she nor the "Progressive Women's Organization" was associated with the communist party. She says the women's organization was formed to campaign for women's rights and for improved education for women in Turkey.

Amnesty International has taken up Dr Ögelman's case, and says that her arrest contravenes the European Convention of Human Rights, of which Turkey is a signatory. That convention guarantees the right to freedom of expression and of association with others, although those rights may be prescribed by law "in the interests of national security or public safety". The Turkish authorities have denied that Dr Ögelman's arrest contravenes the convention.

Dr Ögelman was one of more than 170 people brought before the courts on 15 January, and was one of the lucky fifteen released on bail. Most of those on trial were allegedly members of the left-wing school-teachers' association. Teachers' unions were banned nearly ten years ago, while the association was banned after General Evren's coup in 1980.

A number of academics have been arrested since the coup, and Amnesty International is unsure of their fate. A more general worry facing Turkish higher education is the bill announced last November that will further circumscribe university autonomy — for example, by giving the state control of senior appointments. The government's stated intention is to reduce the universities' tendency to act as foci for political disruption and violence.

Philip Campbell

## European Space Agency

# Peace declared

There is a new cheerfulness among the delegates to the European Space Agency (ESA). One sign of this, at last week's council meeting, is that the member governments have agreed on a resource budget for the next five years. The practical result is that it should now be possible to settle the annual science budget without waiting for unanimous agreement.

The council agreed to maintain the mandatory budget, which covers both science and the agency's basic running costs, at more or less its present level. Hence about 900 million accounting units (£540 million) will be spent over the next five years. But the director-general has promised to shift the balance in favour of science by making savings on the agency's overheads and by diverting interest earned on capital into the science programme. During the next three or four years, the science budget is expected to increase by about three per cent in real terms.

The increase is unlikely to make a substantial difference to the scientific community, which typically has to wait up to ten years for a particular kind of satellite. But the extra money may help ESA out of some of its difficulties.

The council's agreement is nevertheless something of an achievement. The level of the science budget has been hotly disputed for at least the past year, with some member states struggling to maintain their existing commitments and others, in particular France and Germany, arguing forcefully for a substantial increase. At the end of last year, agreement seemed beyond reach, largely because of Germany's wish to spend 20 per cent more on science after 1983. That would have involved all other member states increasing their contributions proportionately. In the event, Germany agreed to the five-year resource level with the proviso that discussions on the level of the science budget start again in 1984.

Last week's council meeting was notable for the formal announcement that Britain has joined the Ariane launcher programme as a fully-fledged member. Until now, Britain has contributed just over 2 per cent of Ariane's development costs through a bilateral agreement with France. The decision to contribute 3.5 per cent of the cost and to enter the programme proper is a recognition of the early promise of Ariane — and also of the diplomatic need to participate in other member projects.

The quarrels of early last year seem thus to have receded. Then the British hankering after telecommunications and the French after the development of launchers polarized discussion of a ten-year plan for the agency proposed by Erik Quistgaard, the new director-general. The agency then had insufficient new applications programmes to fill the gap left