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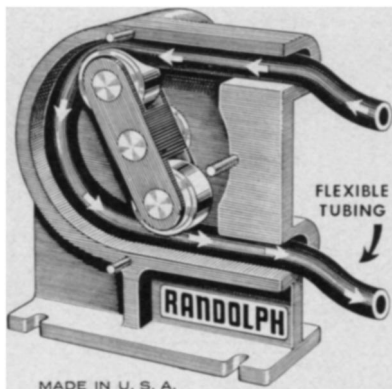
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FROM SWEDEN

Pugwash Fights Atrophy

The international conferences of scientists begun at Pugwash, Nova Scotia, 10 years ago have had major effects, particularly in the fields of disarmament and the nuclear test ban, getting men of science to push their governments toward perhaps more rational approaches to problems.

But at the latest Pugwash Conference which just ended at Ronneby, Sweden, some of the steam of the group seemed to have evaporated. The 200 scientists from around the world appeared at least as concerned with the problems of their movement as with those of the world.

Pugwash's achievements have been impressive, though not always immediately apparent, least of all to the public. The meetings are private, and members speak their own, not their government's opinions. Limited publicity is a condition of maintaining free and frank exchange.

The first meeting of 22 internationally renowned scientists, including seven from the U.S. and three from the U.S.S.R., was held in 1957, at the height of the cold war. It was the first serious attempt to bring scientists from East and West together to discuss the implications of scientific progress.

"At that time only eminent scientists specializing in the exact sciences could foresee with sufficient clearness the scale of destruction following a thermonuclear war," Lev Artsimovitch, head of thermonuclear research in the U.S.S.R., said at Ronneby. The 22 scientists were able to issue a long, joint statement—in itself a remarkable achievement for the time—warning in particular about the dangers of radiation, a hazard about which few people, or statesmen, were clear then.

The first meetings were remarkably fruitful. First, they did much to restore the damaged relationships between scientists of East and West. Second, to cite Joseph Rotblat, United

*Conferees search
for new goals
in international
cooperation.*



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Artsimovitch: "pithiness has gone"

Kingdom secretary-general and a founder of the movement, "In the first few years there were very few ideas about disarmament and few people were thinking about them." Thus the Pugwash meetings produced a series of ideas of subsequent importance.

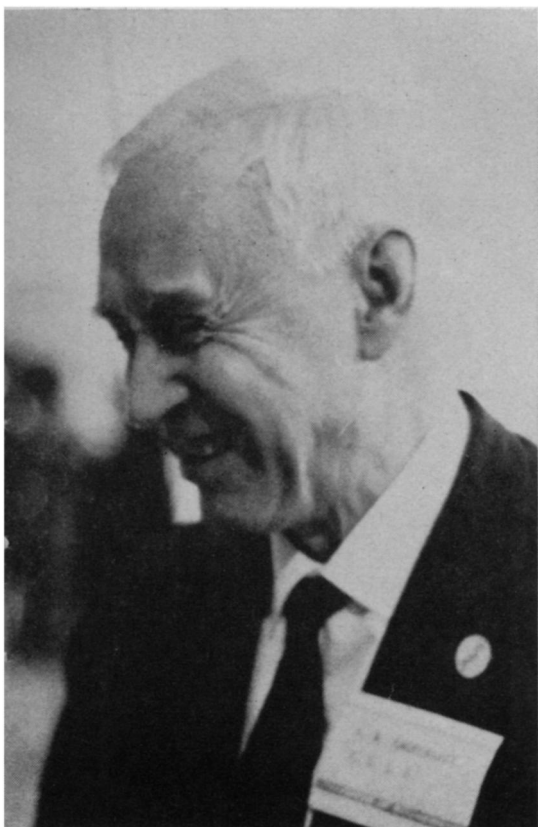
The black boxes idea, the nuclear umbrella to prevent nuclear proliferation and the hot line were first raised at Pugwash meetings. It is widely believed that without the Pugwash exchanges the partial test ban treaty would never have been written. Says ardent U.S. Pugwashite Jerome B. Wiesner, former adviser to President Kennedy, an author of the test ban treaty, and now provost of Massachusetts Institute of Technology. "This group has been more successful than any other international group in finding possible areas of agreement and getting a



C. W. Stoughton

Wiesner: "area of agreement"

"Increasing commitment to the developing countries."



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Engelhardt: "widen the scope"

hearing for them."

However, in the second five years "the progress was much slower, the tangible achievements fewer," says Rotblat. And Artsimovitch remarks that "The pithiness has gone out of our discussions."

The problem for the Ronneby conference was to decide what to do about this. None of the delegates seemed to doubt that the Pugwash movement had a great deal to do, even though circumstances are very different now from what they were in 1957. "It is important in itself that these scientists should talk together," says the United Kingdom's Robert Nield, director of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.

Winnet Boyd of Canada suggested the movement was in danger of degenerating into the dilettante study of any problem which happened to crop up. He advocates a single-minded study of the apparent inability of man to live together with his fellow men, citing Konrad Lorenz, author of "On Aggression." But most delegates agreed with Academician V. A. Engelhardt of the U.S.S.R., who urged widening the scope of the conferences by taking on the problems of world nutrition, for example.

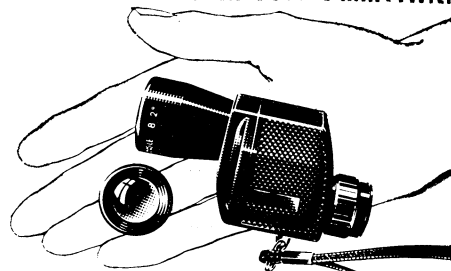
"I think the most important thing to come out of the conference is the increasing commitment to problems of the developing countries," veteran Pugwashite Martin A. Kaplan, U.S. observer from the World Health Organization. His colleague from the Food and Agriculture Organization, T. E. Ritchie of the U.S., agreed.

In keeping with this view of things, Pugwash will now, in addition to annual conferences, organize symposia for a more thorough investigation of problems ranging from disarmament to education for life in the scientific age and the development of technologically underdeveloped areas. It was also agreed to involve more, and especially younger, scientists, technologists and scholars through this expanded program.

Among matters on which the conference was able to agree were a call for the ending of the bombing of North Vietnam, conclusion of the atomic non-proliferation treaty as rapidly as possible, the establishment of an International Science Foundation to permit scientists from the developing countries to undertake research programs which their countries could not provide, the avoidance of all further militarization of the oceans and outer space, and a formal treaty banning biological and chemical warfare.

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