NEWS FROM

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

2101 CONSTITUTION AVENUE, N. W. WASHINGTON 25, D. C. TELEPHONE EXECUTIVE 3-8100

FOR RELEASE SUNDAY, AUGUST 3rd

For further information call
Howard J. Lewis, Ext. 310

National Academy of Sciences Establishes Space Science Board

Washington, D.C., August 2nd -- Dr. Detlev W. Bronk, president of the National Academy of Sciences - National Research Council, announced today the formation of a 16-man Space Science Board, "to survey in concert the scientific problems, opportunities and implications of man's advance into space."

Dr. Lloyd V. Berkner, president of Associated Universities, Inc., president of the International Council of Scientific Unions and a member of the National Academy of Sciences, has been named chairman.

The Board, besides acting as the focal point for all Academy-Research Council activities connected with space-science research, will be called upon to coordinate its work with appropriate civilian and government agencies, particularly the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Science Foundation, and the Advanced Research Projects Agency, and with foreign groups active in this field.

In making the announcement, Dr. Bronk stated, "We feel that the formation of this Board can have especial significance for science as we face the challenge and adventure of the new steps into space that are surely and swiftly on the way. It is my hope that the Board will give fullest possible attention to every aspect of space science, including both the physical and the life sciences. I believe that the Academy-Research Council has a unique opportunity to bring together scientists from many fields to find ways to further a wise and vigorous national scientific program in this field."

The functions of the Board will include studies of scientific-research opportunities and needs opened up by the advent of modern rocket and satellite tools, advice and recommendations on space science to interested agencies and institutions, stimulation of research interest in the rocket and satellite fields, and cooperative activities in this area with Academies and similar institutions abroad.

Eleven ad hoc committees have already been organized to carry on the work of

the Board under Dr. Berkner's leadership. These committees, together with their chairmen and vice-chairmen (who comprise the membership of the Board), follow:

1. Geochemistry of Space and Exploration of Moon and Planets -- Chairman, Dr. Harold C. Urey, Professor of Chemistry, University of California, La Jolla; Vice Chairman, Dr. Harrison S. Brown, Professor of Geochemistry, California Institute of Technology.

2. Astronomy and Radio Astronomy -- Chairman, Dr. Leo Goldberg, Chairman, Department of Astronomy, University of Michigan.

3. Future Vehicular Development (Beyond vehicles immediately available and including possible space stations and interplanetary vehicles for scientific research) -- Chairman, Dr. Donald F. Hornig, Professor of Chemistry, Princeton University.

4. International Relations Field (Co-ordination with International Council of Scientific Unions and other national scientific bodies on problems in international sharing of payloads, international cooperation in space activities and advice on the formulation and effects of regulatory policies) -- Chairman, Dr. W. A. Noyes, Dean, College of Arts and Science, University of Rochester.

5. Immediate Problems (Space laboratories, orbits, currently feasible research projects, and liaison with the Technical Panel on the Earth Satellite Program of the U.S. National Committee for the International Geophysical Year during terminal phases of IGY) -- Chairman, Dr. R. W. Porter, Chairman of the USNC-IGY Technical Panel on the Earth Satellite Program, and Consultant - Communication and Control, Engineering Services, General Electric Company, New York.

6. Space Projects (Analysis of advanced space research proposals and long-range planning) -- Chairman, Dr. Bruno B. Rossi, Professor of Physics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

7. Ionosphere (Experiments pertaining to auroral and ionospheric effects, including whistlers and special propagation phenomena) -- Chairman, Mr. A.H. Shapley, Physicist, National Bureau of Standards, Boulder, Colorado.

8. Physics of Fields and Particles in Space -- Chairman, Dr. John A. Simpson, Professor of Physics, University of Chicago; Vice-Chairman, Dr. James A. Van Allen, Head, Department of Physics, State University of Iowa.

9. Future Engineering Development Beyond Available Facilities (Telecommunications, telemetry, guidance, environmental conditions and advanced

laboratory requirements) -- Chairman, Dr. O. G. Villard, Jr., Professor of Electrical Engineering, Stanford University.

10. Meteorological Aspects of Satellites and Space Research -- Chairman, Dr. Harry Wexler, Director of Meteorological Research, U.S. Weather Bureau.

11. Psychological and Biological Research -- Chairman, Dr. H. Keffer Hartline, Biophysics Section, Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research; Vice-Chairman, Dr. S. S. Stevens, Professor of Psychology, Harvard University.

A twelfth committee, on Geodesy, will be chaired by a Board member still to be selected.

In describing how the Board would seek to accomplish its tasks, Dr. Berkner said, "To insure the development of U.S. space science on a broad base, we shall encourage the participation of scientists from universities and private research institutions. While government participation is essential, we feel that it would be unwise if space science were to be developed entirely within the bounds of government activity.

"We shall also encourage broad participation from all fields of science in order to offer useful guidance to all groups engaged in space-science research, suggesting -- when advisable -- the integration of similar proposals and the elimination of those that are inappropriate."

Still another task before the Board would be a program to gain the further cooperation of the International Council of Scientific Unions and other international organizations in the prevention of undesirable and unnecessary contamination of moon and planet surfaces and atmosphere with alien particles of energy and matter introduced from earth by space vehicles.

Named as executive director of the new Board was Dr. Hugh Odishaw, who also serves the Academy-Research Council as Executive Director of the U.S. National Committee for the IGY. A permanent staff will be recruited to serve as a Secretariat.

Although it is a private agency, the National Academy of Sciences - National Research Council is obliged, under the terms of a Congressional charter signed in 1863 by Abraham Lincoln, to advise the government, upon request, on any matters of scientific or technical interest. A non-profit organization of distinguished scientists from all branches of natural science, the Academy-Research Council is dedicated to the furtherance of science and its use for the general welfare.