

NATIONAL CENTER FOR ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH

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September 30, 1974

You are cordially invited to attend a news conference to be held by the International Federation of Institutes for Advanced Study (IFIAS) at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, October 4, at the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) in Boulder. The news conference will be held in the Damon Room of the NCAR Mesa Laboratory.

Two Colorado-based institutions, the Aspen Institute for Humanistic Studies and the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR) are among twenty IFIAS member institutions in sixteen countries. The IFIAS Board of Trustees is meeting at the Aspen Institute from Monday through Wednesday of this week and will meet at NCAR on Thursday.

IFIAS was created in 1972 under the auspices of the Nobel and Rockefeller Foundations. According to the first chairman of its board of trustees, Dr. Nils K. Ståhle of Stockholm, Sweden, IFIAS was planned as "an effort in bringing to bear some of the best minds of the world on critical global problems which call for a real transcendence of disciplinary and geographical boundaries."

IFIAS has been described as an experiment in contacts, coordination, and cooperation across geographical and disciplinary border lines, and an attempt to meet an increasingly felt need among scientists and scholars of different professional and cultural backgrounds to contribute to the analysis of some of the increasingly complex and interrelated problems of our world.

At Friday's news conference, the newly elected Chairman of the IFIAS Board of Trustees, Dr. Alexander King, former research director of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development in Paris, will discuss the purposes and goals of IFIAS and the progress that the Federation has made during its first two years of existence. Dr. King will describe some IFIAS projects that are centered on understanding the nature of human settlements and guiding their development for the benefit of man, the socio-economic and ethical implications of enzyme engineering, and the impact of climate change on the character and quality of human life.

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Dr. Walter Orr Roberts, who was NCAR's first director and now heads the Aspen Institute's Program on Science, Technology and Humanism, is program director for IFIAS and also heads the IFIAS project on the impact of climate change. He will discuss this project and summarize the conclusions and recommendations of an IFIAS workshop held in Bonn, Germany, last May. The participants, who came from eleven countries and included climatologists, agricultural economists, geographers, lawyers, oceanographers, and political scientists, concluded that there is a high probability that climatic conditions will cause major crop failures during the next ten years. In their unanimously adopted conclusions, the climate workshop participants said that "If national and international policies do not take these near certain failures into account, they will result in mass deaths by starvation and probably in anarchy and violence that could exact a still more terrible toll." They urged the nations of the world "to plan and act to establish the technical, social and political means to meet this challenge to peace and well-being."

The subject matter of this news conference has broad significance and impact for policy makers and for the public at large, and I believe that you will find it highly newsworthy.

Cordially,



Henry Lansford
Information Officer