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SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

By

Author Unknown

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SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

The traditional annual assembly of the Academy of Science USSR took place during this week on 6 - 7 February in the House of Scientists. The assembly was opened by the President of the Academy of Sciences USSR, Academician M. V. Keldysh. Academician Ye. K. Fedorov, Scientific Secretary General of Presidium of the Academy of Sciences USSR, reported on results of scientific activities of the Academy during the past year.

"A huge army of Soviet scientists, together with their colleagues in socialist countries", said the lecturer, "are conducting at present researches over the entire front of modern science. Right now there is hardly a scientific problem, worthy of attention, on which our scientists would not be working.

Valuable results were obtained during the past year, and a considerable progress achieved on many sectors of this front. In many instances they exceed in their significance the level attained in leading capitalist countries".

- A laboratory model of a fuel element that converts directly the chemical energy into the electric power was created in the Institute of Electrochemistry, Academy of Sciences USSR. Its efficiency attains 70%. This is approximately twice as much as in modern steam and gas turbines.

- Scientists of the Biophysics Institute, together with staff members of the Institute of Organic Chemistry, clarified many special features in the structure of protein-collagen. A portion of its molecular chain consists of only three links (amino acids) alternating in a certain specific way. Success was achieved in reproducing peculiarities of architecture (spatial structure) of this protein on synthetic product with the same given recurrence of amino acids in the chain.

- An important geographic discovery was scored by the expedition on board the ship "Mikhail Lomonosov". A powerful deep-sea countercurrent was discovered in Atlantic Ocean, in the region of equator. It crosses the entire ocean. Participants of the expedition named it Lomonosov's Current.

- Methods for synthesis of silicon-organic polymers, resistant to a protracted action of high temperatures, were developed in the Institute of Elemento-Organic Compounds. Experimental batches of these polymeric materials passed the tests successfully.

- An extensive application of methods of isotopic analysis to determine the age of rocks made it possible for the first time to outline most exactly the history of the geological development of European USSR territory for three billions of years. This work was performed by the Laboratory for Geology of Precambrian Period, Academy of Sciences USSR.

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