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FROM WASHINGTON

is also director of the technical laboratory. Over 40 companies have joined the laboratory, paying an entrance fee of 100 million yen and an annual fee of 12 million yen. Each company can send to the laboratory one or two researchers who remain on an individual company's payroll. Memberships in the center and the laboratory are open to industries worldwide. The Japanese, noted a discussion participant, have even published a comic book on superconductors in order to raise the public consciousness to the possible applications of the new materials.

The Solid State Sciences Committee Forum was rounded out by presentations from Praveen Chaudhari on the current status of the Academies' Materials Science and Engineering Study, from William D. Wilson of Sandia National Laboratories—Livermore on the NMAB study of the impact of supercomputing on materials science and technology, and from James J. Wynne of the IBM Thomas J. Watson Research Center on the SSSC's study of photonics science and technology assessment.

E.N.K.

Council on Superconductivity for American Competitiveness Testifies Before Senate Subcommittee

The Council on Superconductivity for American Competitiveness submitted a formal statement (February 26, 1988) to the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Water Resources, Transportation and Infrastructure on S. 1794, the Federal Advanced Superconducting Transportation Act. The legislation is being sponsored by Senator Daniel P. Moynihan of New York.

Though magnetically levitated superconducting train transport could be "a very visible symbol for America's commitment to rejuvenate its competitive spirit," the CSAC statement "views S. 1794 with mixed emotions." "We support the intentions of S. 1794, but at the same time ask that the Senate focus attention on the need for an overall federal program that will keep the spotlight on superconductivity as a national priority," says the CSAC.

According to Kevin Ott, executive director of CSAC, keeping superconductivity a priority would include "expeditious consideration" by Congress of the Superconductivity Competitiveness Act of 1988. Transmitted by President Reagan to Congress on February 23, 1988, the act covers patent policy changes, joint cooperative development ventures, and access to information under the Freedom of Information Act.

The CSAC statement also advocates consideration by the House Committee on

Science, Space and Technology of the National Superconductivity Competitiveness and National Security Act. Sponsored by Representatives Don Ritter of Pennsylvania and David McCurdy of Oklahoma, the bill calls for the formation of a national commission on superconductivity and authorizes \$120 million each year for five years for R&D among various federal agencies.

In a final recommendation, the CSAC statement encourages the Senate "to continue support for those programs which could have a direct bearing on America's competitive posture in the long term, such as those programs funded by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) and the Office of Naval Research (ONR)."

The CSAC is located at 1050 Thomas Jefferson Street NW, Sixth Floor, Washington, DC 20007; telephone (202) 965-4070.

NBS Budget Proposal Includes More Funds for Superconductor Research

The budget proposal for the U.S. National Bureau of Standards for fiscal 1989 proposes some increases. The electronic materials area includes \$6.5 million (in addition to a fiscal 1988 increase of \$4.8 million) to enable the NBS to provide U.S. industry with research findings and the measurement capability needed to develop and commercialize products based on the new high temperature superconductors. There is also \$3 million for development of fiber-optic technology. □

ERRATA:

The name of Gholem-abbas Nazri (GM Research Labs) was inadvertently screened out of the Call for Papers copy for the 1988 MRS Fall Meeting (January issue, p. 67). Nazri is an organizer for Symposium M on Solid State Ionics. Also missing from the same page was the title of Symposium X, Frontiers of Materials Research.