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Advantages of an Atlanta Meeting

The AAAS board of directors has received several communications urging that the 1955 meeting be moved from Atlanta, Georgia, to a city in which segregation laws and customs do not prevail. The board considered these communications at its meeting on 11-12 June and concluded that the advantages of an Atlanta meeting needed clearer statement and wider dissemination than they had been given in 1953 when the decision to hold the 1955 meeting in Atlanta was reached.

In order to advance science and its public understanding, it is desirable that the American Association for the Advancement of Science hold meetings in every part of the country. Atlanta is a center of a region in which the Association has not met since 1913 and in which there has been impressive scientific, technologic, and educational growth.

Because the Association recognizes no distinction of color in the achievement of its purposes, the situation in Atlanta was carefully explored. It was determined that all program sessions, the exhibits, the Science Theater, and the Association's social functions—the Presidential Reception and the Biologists' Smoker—could all be held on a nonsegregated basis. Although all the professional activities are thus non-

segregated, it unfortunately remains true that segregation still obtains in hotels, restaurants, and transportation. The board believes, however, that scientists of all races will benefit from participation in this meeting, and that the advantages outweigh the disadvantages.

The board recognizes the existence of honest differences of opinion regarding the most effective means of reaching a common goal and made its decision to hold a meeting in Atlanta because it believes that the meeting will serve to "improve the effectiveness of science in the promotion of human welfare."

The anthropology section of the Association has decided not to hold any sessions at the Association's 1955 meeting in Atlanta because of the practices of racial segregation in that city. Several individuals and organizations have urged the whole Association not to meet in Atlanta. The decision to meet there was made in 1953 after a most careful study of all of the factors involved, and the board believes that the original reasons are valid.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

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