U. S. Nuclear Data Program

The need for Nuclear Data compilation and evaluation continues and is anticipated to increase dramatically in the next decade. Increased focus on nuclear astrophysics will create additional compilation and evaluation needs, especially in light and medium mass nuclei. The proposed RIA activities, as well as new initiatives in Europe and Japan, will generate a very large amount of new data to be compiled and evaluated. The development of research programs and proposals at these new facilities will rely on the existence of complete and dependable evaluation of nuclear data in the relevant mass regions. This will lead to improved interpretation of new results, which will provide a better understanding of the specific physics issues that are under investigation.

Specific problems presently include the present lack of coordinated responsibility for Nuclear Astrophysics data evaluation activity and a gap that was created when the Utrecht group of Endt *et al.* gave up responsibility for evaluation of the mass region from A=21- 44 that they had covered for several generations. While the mass region from A=31- 44 has presently been included with the responsibilities of the McMaster evaluation group, additional resources will be necessary to ensure that the entire region is maintained.

Present issues include: (1) a pressing need for younger nuclear physicists -- to provide a core for the next generation of nuclear data experts, (2) a parallel need for active involvement of senior researchers in the evaluation process - to provide guidance in the prioritization of data evaluation efforts, (3) a need for improved international coordination - to reduce redundancy in evaluation efforts, and (4) the development of the most cost-effective strategy to meet these increased demands.

Conclusion - there will be a growing requirement for Nuclear Data activities in the coming years. With the increase in the volume of data and the additional complexity of the information desired, this will place a major strain on the present system. Efforts to disseminate these results in new and innovative formats must be maintained. The most crucial requirement is the active involvement and support of more senior research scientists. Such involvement will provide enhanced status and stronger leadership for the nuclear data project. This appears to be a necessary, if not sufficient, first step towards a successful Nuclear Data community for the next generation.