

Chancellor H.F. Robinson Is Chosen To Serve On National Panel

CULLOWHEE — Western Carolina University Chancellor H.F. Robinson has been chosen as one of four Americans to serve on a select 10 - member international panel that will conduct the second quinquennial, or five year, review of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization's Research Center in El Batan, Mexico.

In preparation of the quinquennial review, Dr. Robinson left the United States Saturday to chair a three - man preliminary mission to the South American Republic of Ecuador to review that nation's wheat and maize programs.

Robinson was invited to join the quinquennial review panel by P.J. Mahler, executive secretary of the United Nations FAO Technical Advisory Committee in Rome. Robinson, Mahler and Professor A.E. Hall of the University of California's department of botany and plant sciences will survey the Ecuadorian program July 4 - 10.

"It is an excellent opportunity to represent the United States, the University of North Carolina System and Western Carolina University in a very important evaluation of a

center where work on cereals is vital to meeting the world food needs and in some ways basic to our food production," Robinson said. "For example, the germplasm banks of the corn collected in Central and South America, the native home of the corn, are part of the operation of the center to be reviewed.

"The proper preservation and replenishment of the basic races of corn in these banks is of inestimable value to corn production

here and throughout the world," he said.

"Another reason for our interest is that the United States supplies financial support amounting to between \$40 million and \$50 million a year for the operation of these centers. The reviews are intended to determine the appropriate use of these resources," Robinson said.

The review panel's objective is to assess the content, quality, impact and value of the overall program

of the International Agriculture Research Center and to examine whether the operations being funded are being carried out in line with declared policies and to acceptable standards of excellence.

Robinson, an expert on corn - breeding methods, is a quantitative geneticist. Hall is a physiologist.

Other panel members, in addition to TAC Executive Secretary Mahler, are Dr. Eliseu Alvez of Brazil, an

agricultural economist; Dr. D. Plucknett of USAID in Washington, an agronomist and the panel's scientific advisor; Dr. J.D. Parlevliet of the Netherlands, a cereal pathologist - breeder; Dr. Georg Popov of Switzerland, a maize breeder; Dr. Calvin O. Qualset of the University of California - Davis, a wheat breeder - geneticist; Dr. F.J. Wang'ati of Nairobi, Kenya, an agrometeorologist; and Prof. John L. Dillon of Australia, an agricultural

economist and chairman of the panel.

Ecuador is one of the center's off - campus sites which will be reviewed.

Robinson's mission to Ecuador is scheduled to begin in Quito, the nation's capital on Sunday. Robinson also will visit Pichilique, Santa Catalina, Ibarra and Cayambe to see maize and wheat programs.

Ecuador, located in northwestern South America and bordered by the Pacific Ocean, Peru and Colombia,

has a population of more than 8 million people. A member of OPEC, the country has benefited in recent years from oil and the trans - Andean pipeline, but more than half of the people are subsistence farmers and the per capita income is \$1,050.

Dr. Robinson has been actively engaged in a number of assistance projects involving developing nations throughout his career in higher education. He is

currently a member of the foundation committee to establish the Sultanate of Oman's first university. Robinson recently traveled to Nepal in conjunction with WCU's involvement with a \$28 million U.S. assistance program to that Third World kingdom.

Within the last month, Robinson has met with representatives from Micronesia and Swaziland in connection with programs based at Western Carolina University.

Vets Population To Decline

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current veteran population of 612,000 and is expected to have 341,700 living veterans in 2030 and their average age will be 58.4 years.

The VA's projections of the number of living veterans cover each year from 1982 through 1985 and every fifth year thereafter up to the year 2030.

Prepared by the agency's Office of Reports and Statistics, these data show the number of living veterans worldwide by age and period of military service, and they further display the veteran population of each state and age.

In announcing the release of the data, VA Administrator Robert P. Nimmo pointed out that information of this type is essential to the VA to best address the needs of veterans.

"Effective management of the wide range of VA programs is greatly enhanced when a detailed profile of the veteran population is at hand," he said.

1982 World's Fair

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Therefore, if the inventory indicates that the hotel - motel is booked, the visitor may want to call the lodging choice directly to check on unreserved rooms. Rooms in many nationally known lodging chains with hotels and motels in the Greater Knoxville region can be booked through their own reservation system. Visitors should check their Yellow Pages for toll - free numbers. Visitors are also encouraged to call the Chambers of Commerce in the nearby resort communities of Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge where rooms are abundant.

The number to call for general information and accommodations is (615) 971 - 1000. Call Monday through Friday from 9 A.M. to 9 P.M., Saturday from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. and Sunday from 12 P.M. to 5 P.M.

The Fair will be open through October 31. Admission prices are \$9.95 for adults and \$8.25 for children. "You've Got To Be There" is The 1982 World's Fair slogan, and the Fair's success echoes that theme daily.



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