

## Glantz Selected For Climate Study

Dr. Michael Glantz, a senior postdoctoral fellow at the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) has been selected as the commissioned author of a study of "The Moral, Legal, Political and Economic Implications of a Credible and Reliable Climate Forecasting System."

The study will be done under the auspices of the International Federation of Institutes for Advanced Study (IFIAS) as part of a project on the impact of climate changes on the character and quality of human life.

Research is currently underway at NCAR and other atmospheric research institutions to determine causes of climatic change and whether it can be forecast a year in advance.

"The ability to forecast climate," Glantz says, "can be a potential source of national power comparable to a nation's natural resources, population, and geographical location. Therefore it becomes very important to understand the impacts that climate-forecasting capability may have on the behavior of international decision-makers."

Dr. Glantz' selection as the study author was announced by Dr. Walter Orr Roberts, leader of the IFIAS climate project. Commenting on the need for

studies such as this one, Dr. Roberts said:

"In our fast-moving society, we cannot afford to wait until the feasibility of applying a new scientific development is fully proven before we begin to consider its potential social impacts. We must do our best to see that new scientific and technological capabilities, such as climate forecasting, are applied to improve the quality and character of human life. Thus it clearly is desirable to try to anticipate the best use of such capabilities before they are at hand. Otherwise, we may discover necessary conditions and constraints on their use only after the new development has been applied in ways that have undesirable impacts or that fail to optimize the benefits."

"I am very pleased that Dr. Glantz is undertaking this technology assessment study now," Roberts said. "I am certain that the impact of climate fluctuations on human life, and particularly on food supplies, is one of the most important issues facing the world. Perhaps forecasting of climate anomalies can alleviate some of the massive starvation and suffering that such events now visit upon humanity."

Dr. Roberts, who directs the Program in Science, Technology and Humanism of the Aspen Institute of

Humanistic Studies, is past president of the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR), the consortium of universities that operates NCAR under the sponsorship of the National Science Foundation. Both UCAR and the Aspen Institute are among 20 IFIAS member institutes in 16 countries.

According to Roberts, Glantz was selected from a large number of candidates in the United States and other countries. A social scientist with an engineering background, Glantz holds a Ph.D. in political science from the University of Pennsylvania. He is now on leave from an assistant professorship in the Department of Government and Law at Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania.