UNIVERSITY PLANNING IN DENMARK*)

Present Situation

From the founding of the University of Copenhagen in 1479, Denmark has had a long tradition of highly scholarly university education for the small percentage of young people who were capable of work at that level. Although a number of technical and other specialized institutions were developed outside the university, primarily during the present and last centuries, the idea of providing for mass education at the university level has not, until recently, been a major consideration in Denmark.

In recent years, the increase in numbers of young people completing the upper secondary school (gymnasium) and desiring to attend a university has increased such that the government has found it necessary to look toward further expansion of university and other higher educational institutions. In 1950, the two universities and other institutions of higher education enrolled about 2300 new students; in 1968, more than 8600 new students were enrolled. In each year about three-fourths of the total enrolled in the universities.

Further evidence of the pressure is found in the fact that in 1955, 6.2 percent of the 18-year-old youth in the country completed the gymnasium (i.e. passed the studentereksamen); but in 1968 this figure had risen to 13.0 and the Ministry of Education expects it to rise to about 20 percent by 1980.

The University of Copenhagen is the center of scholarship in Denmark. New institutions, programs, and plans that evolve do so within the context of the history and tradition of that institution. The original site of the University was in the center of Copenhagen where the faculties of humanities, and law and economics are still located. The medical faculty and the sciences moved a number of years ago to the northern part of Copenhagen.

One must remember that in Denmark, technical and professional subjects, other than law and medicine, are not offered in the university but are found in separate institutions. The faculties of the University of Copenhagen include: Theology; Law and Economics, which also includes statistics, sociology and political science; Medicine; Arts (Det Filosofiske Fakultet) which includes physics, chemistry, astronomy, zoology, botany, geography, and other sciences.

The University of Aarhus, located in that city on the east coast of the Jutland peninsula, was founded in 1928 and includes the same faculties as the University of Copenhagen. However, the science faculty was established only in 1954.

The need for additional university level education, especially in medicine, became evident in the early sixties and in 1962, the Folketing (Parliament) directed the Minister of Education to proceed with plans for a third medical school to be located in Odense on the Island of Funen. Plans were developed and the Folketing passed a law in 1964 establishing the University of Odense. The new University opened in the fall of 1966 with 183 students in medicine and the humanities.

*) This Communication is based primarily on the author's interviews with officials in the Danish Ministry of Education during his stay in Denmark in 1967 and on his observations of the Danish educational system during the years following.
As previously noted, except for law and medicine, higher education for the professions and in technical subjects is not offered in the universities. As need for preparation in technical and professional subjects developed, separate institutions were established. Other institutions of higher education in Denmark, listed in order of their establishment, are as follows:

*The Royal Academy of Fine Arts* (founded 1754) trains architects, painters and sculptors. It had about 700 students of architecture in 1968–69.

*The Technical University of Denmark* (1829), with an enrollment of just over 2800, trains engineers of building and construction, mechanics, chemistry and electrotechnics. Although it offers university level work, most general references to universities in Denmark include only the universities of Copenhagen, Aarhus and, now, Odense.

*The Royal Veterinary and Agricultural College* (1858) offers training in veterinary medicine, forestry and agriculture. In 1968, it had 1415 students.

*The Danish Academy of Music, Copenhagen* (1867), includes an opera school and enrolls about 240 students. Similar academies, established more recently, are found in Aalborg, Aarhus, Esbjerg and Odense.

*The Dental College of Copenhagen* (1888) and the *Dental College of Aarhus* (1958) enroll about 1270 students together.

*The Royal Danish School of Pharmacy* (1892) enrolls about 625 students.

*The Copenhagen School of Economics and Business Administration* (1917) and the *Aarhus School of Economics and Business Administration* (1939) enroll approximately 4900 and 1500 respectively. These schools also offer foreign languages. There are six branches in different parts of the country whose instruction is under the supervision of the two schools in Copenhagen and Aarhus.

*The Royal Danish College of Education* (1963) had fulltime enrollment in 1968–69 of about 200 plus several thousand teachers enrolled in late afternoon and summer courses at the College in Copenhagen and at centers located throughout the country.

*The School of Architecture* in Aarhus opened in 1965 with an enrollment of 52 students. In 1968 it enrolled 135.

The titles of the various colleges and schools do not fully reveal the nature and extent of their offerings. Several are, in fact, comparable to universities in that they offer training leading to the *licentiate* (2½ to 4 years of postgraduate study) and are authorized to confer the doctorate. In Danish, they are known as *højere laereanstalter* (university level institutions) or more commonly as *højskoler* (high schools), a term that is applied broadly, ranging from institutions whose instruction is of a sub-collegiate nature to those offering university level postgraduate work. This ambiguity parallels roughly that of the term "college" in America which may refer to a barber school or to a scholarly institution offering instruction through the doctorate, such as Dartmouth College.

The foregoing do not include the 29 teacher training colleges in Denmark which prepare teachers for the elementary and lower secondary schools (grades 1–10). These institutions offer curricula of three years' duration for graduates of the *gymnasium* and four years' for those who have completed only the lower secondary