

International Center groundbreaking

August 4, 1969

The international community of the San Diego campus of the University of California will establish permanent roots Tuesday, August 5, when ground is broken for UCSD's new International Center.

The ceremony, scheduled for 10:00 a.m., will be held on the building site near old Miramar Road between Revelle College and the Matthews Campus. Construction on the 3,000-square-foot, wood-frame, single-story building is scheduled to be completed in about one year.

UCSD expects to enroll 272 graduate foreign students and 77 undergraduate foreign students in the coming fall quarter. There is currently a community of 500 to 600 foreign individuals connected with the San Diego campus.

The purpose of the International Center will be to provide a meeting place and hospitality center for students and scholars from all countries, including the United States, who are affiliated with the University community. Activities will include assistance with English conversation, visas, finances and other personal problems for visitors.

The center will provide meeting rooms, lounge space, temporary guest quarters and reading, music and game rooms. In addition, there will be a nursery, kitchen facilities and a coffee garden.

The center will also contain the offices of Henry Ward Beecher, Assistant Dean of International Education and Foreign Student Adviser at UCSD, who will direct the center's day-to-day operations and programs. An International Center Governing Board, made up of community and university representatives, will be responsible for the overall operations of the center.

Construction of the center at a relatively early state in UCSD's development was made possible by a donation of \$125,000 from the International Center of La Jolla, Inc. Plans for an International Center on the San Diego campus began in 1965 when discussions were held between University personnel and interested individuals in the community. At one time, a plan to have the International Center group lease land from the University was presented, but no agreement was ever reached.

When the community group formed a nonprofit organization known as the International Center of La Jolla, Inc., new discussions between Center representatives and the campus resulted in the selection of a site near what will be the center of the completed campus. The center will be adjacent to the UCSD Student Union to be constructed on the campus in the future.

Among the groups and individuals who have been instrumental in bringing the International Center to reality are the Zonta Club of La Jolla, Mrs. Walter Munk, Mr. and Mrs. P. H. Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Theodor S. Geisel, and Mr. and Mrs. Cecil H. Green.

Participants in the ceremony will include Chancellor William J. McGill, Beecher, Dr. Solon Palmer Jr., president of the International Center of La Jolla, Inc., other campus officials and International Center representatives.