

Student Miss Kristina Ahlnas to attend Williamsburg Conference

May 7, 1964

Miss Kristina Ahlnas, 26, a Finnish graduate student in oceanography at the University of California, San Diego, has been selected as one of 56 foreign delegates to attend the eighth Williamsburg International Assembly in Williamsburg, Virginia, June 7 through 10.

Miss Ahlnas, whose home is Helsinki, has been working in Physical Oceanography at Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UCSD since September. She received a Fulbright Scholarship for a year's study in this country.

The Williamsburg International Assembly is aimed at bringing together foreign graduate students studying in this country. Each must have completed at least one year of graduate-level study and must be returning home before the next academic year.

In Williamsburg, the foreign students will have an opportunity for a farewell appraisal of their American experience before returning home. The purpose of the Assembly is to encourage a frank and personal analysis of the significant political, socio-economic, and cultural aspects of America.

Eight well-known authorities on American life will guide the participants in informal discussions and question-and-answer sessions around the topic, "America: The First New Nation."

Sponsor of the conference is Colonial Williamsburg, the organization established by John D. Rockefeller Jr., to restore Virginia's pre-revolutionary capital to its eighteenth century appearance.

Miss Ahlnas received her master's degree in geophysics in 1962 from the University of Helsinki. She arrived in New York last August and although able to speak little English at the time, came across the country to California by bus.

She plans to leave San Diego the last of this month for a bus tour of the country that will include the four-day Assembly in Williamsburg. She will return to UCSD for one more month of study before returning to Finland by freighter through the Panama Canal. In her native country, Miss Ahlnas will work in the Institute of Marine Research at the University of Helsinki.

This year the 56 delegates, representing 49 countries, were chosen from 175 nominations by presidents and foreign student advisers of 81 colleges. Four American students from the Foreign Service Institute of the Department of State will also attend the four-day gathering. Since its inception in 1957, 379 delegates from 84 countries have attended the Assembly.