'Sixth Annual Meeting . . .

'Enthusiasm' Is SCONA Keynote

Ed. Note: Mary Anne Boone, Syd Nathans and Jim Doty represented the Rice University student body at the sixth annual SCONA conclave last December. Miss Boone, who also attended the 1950 SCONA meeting, penned for The Thresher the following observations of what happens when college students from several countries discuss together the problems of a divided world.

By Mary Anne Boone

Enthusiasm.

This is the one word which most nearly describes the Sixth Student Conference on National Affairs, held at Texas A&M December 7-10—Enthusiasm on the part of students from the US, Mexico, Canada, and Pakistan that the problems of the world could be resolved, if not settled, with understanding and mutual cooperation.

The conferees from sixty-two colleges and universities heard an array of well-known speakers, including Dudley Sharp, Secretary of the Air Force; Azziz Ahmed, Ambassador from Pakistan to the US; Former Ambassador Howard H. Smith; Under-Secretary Thomas Mann; and William P. Hobby, Jr. of the Houston Post.

"The task for the Free World; Problems and Opportunities in the 60's" was the topic of discussion for a series of five round-table discussions. The delegates stressed economic aid as the prim factor in dealing with The Lesser Developed Lands. Most of the conferees agreed that the major Communist Challenge lay on the ideological level. The Free World must make a positive demonstration to the uncommitted nations.

The widest divergence of views at the conference probably came on the question of World Disarmament. Disarmament seemed at the moment impossible. A workable system of inspection and controls has yet to be found. However it was generally agreed that negotiations concerning disarmament must continue.

The discussion of the Americas centered largely around the economic problems of Latin America, the problem of political stability, and the need for hemispheric solidarity. Relations of the United States and Canada seemed to be a good example of Peaceful cooperation among neighbors.

Finally the conferees asserted the need for education all over the world. Goals and aims at every level were discussed. Many felt the desirability of establishing a Foreign Service Academy on the order of the military academies to train diplomats for the Foreign Service. Such an academy would remove the Foreign Service from the realm of politics and often result in a higher caliber of diplomats.