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** ABOUT FIFTY SCIENCE JOURNALISTS from various countries of Europe were recently invited, under the auspices of the European Union of Associations of Science Journalists, to visit the plants of the Centre national français pour l'exploration des océans (CNEXO) in Marseilles and Toulon, and the Marcoule plant of the Commissariat français à l'énergie atomique (CEA).

ANNEX 2 contains extracts from a recent address given by Mr G. Masini, then president of the European Union of Associations of Science Journalists, on the role of the scientific press in European cooperation.

** THE QUALITATIVE AIMS OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH and the choices they entail are still a subject of passionate debate. In this connection a group of European officials not directly concerned in the problems of research recently attempted

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The information and articles published in this Bulletin concern European scientific cooperation and industrial development in Europe. Hence they are not simply confined to reports on the decisions or views of the Commission of the European Communities, but cover the whole field of questions discussed in the different circles concerned.

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an experiment of considerable originality. The group - which naturally is not permanent - was composed of men and women of different nationalities, ages, occupations and opinions; its purpose was to reflect freely about the possible aims and options of scientific research in Europe. ANNEX 2 summarizes some of the results of this "think-in". The views are of course those of the authors concerned, not of the European Commission.

** The Economic and Social Committee rendered a favourable opinion on the proposal for a Council Regulation on COMMUNITY CONTRACTS presented by the European Commission in July 1972 (IRT No. 154). In view of the hitherto limited results achieved by international technological cooperation, the Committee considers that, for the proposed regulation to be fully effective, the Community authorities should map out a European scientific and technological policy stating the guidelines to be followed and the means to be employed.

The Economic and Social Committee also approved the proposed directive, presented by the European Commission, for a revision of the basic standards of HEALTH PROTECTION applying to workers or members of the general public exposed to HAZARDS RESULTING FROM IONIZING RADIATIONS (IRT No. 134). The Committee emphasized the timeliness of this proposal, as ionizing radiations are now used increasingly in all fields of research, medicine and technology, and the second forward programme for nuclear energy published by the Commission envisages rapid and extensive recourse to nuclear energy for the Community's energy requirements (IRT No. 161). The Committee even recommended stronger protective measures in certain cases.

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Finally, the Economic and Social Committee approved the proposed directive on the approximation of Member States' laws on COSMETIC RPRODUCTS, recently presented by the European Commission (IRT No. 162).

- ** PRIMARY ENERGY PRODUCTION reached 169,592 million tce in Britain, 2.280 million tce in Ireland and 8,000 tce in Denmark in 1971. Total production in the Community of the Six amounted to 335.856 million tce in the same year.

These figures are taken from a special report on energy production and requirements in Britain, Ireland and Denmark in 1969, 1970 and 1971. The report has just been published, in several languages, by the Statistical Office of the European Communities and is available at the price of 150 Bfrs. from the Official Publications Office of the European Communities (Case Postale 1003, Luxembourg).

- ** The European Commission is sponsoring a comparative critical study of Member States' laws on INDUSTRIAL DEEP-SEA DEVELOPMENT.

The Commission has already expressed the wish that appropriate measures be taken, especially at international level, to protect seawater from pollution (IRT No. 185). There is a serious risk that industrial development of the sea, whether off-shore oil extraction or the mining of other resources from the sea-bed, will both increase and diversify sea pollution. As the situation evolves, the present laws of the Member States will probably have to be revised or replaced. The Commission therefore thought the time ripe for a thorough study of the legislation now in force in the Community, in order to detect the loopholes in it and assemble the necessary material for an international convention defining rules for the protection of deep-sea regions against pollution due to sea-floor development and

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laying down basic provisions to ensure the rules are respected. The material could then be transmitted to the Council of Ministers with a view to a Community initiative at the appropriate international level.

This study has just been launched. No results are available yet.

** According to a short-term survey conducted at the beginning of 1973 in France, Germany, Italy, Belgium and the Netherlands, the next few months should witness an appreciable rise in SALES OF CONSUMER DURABLES in all the original Community countries except Italy.

As in the past, most of the consumers questioned thought it was reasonable to save some of their earnings. On the basis of their expressed intentions, we may expect SAVINGS to be proportionally higher than the Community average in Germany and the Netherlands in the coming months. The forms of saving preferred by consumers are still the savings book and bank account. Building society investment seems to be increasingly popular in Germany, and fairly popular in France. Government loans and private company bonds enjoy the widest esteem as a preferential form of saving for households in Belgium and Italy. Company shares are the least popular form of saving: in all the countries this type of investment is confined almost exclusively to households in the upper income brackets.

** The European Commission has published a comprehensive report on the CHANGING FINANCIAL SITUATION OF SOCIAL SECURITY in the Community Member States (1965 - 1970 - 1975). The report forecasts the future trend of social security expenditure and receipts, both globally and specifically, assuming that ..//..

legislation in this field remains unchanged and present trends are maintained, and using each country's economic hypotheses for variations in prices, wages and employment during the period 1971 to 1975. The report may be obtained in French, German, Italian or Dutch, from the Official Publications Office of the European Communities.

** An international colloquium on the IDENTIFICATION OF IRRADIATED FOODSTUFFS is to be organized by the Commission of the European Communities and the Bundesforschungsanstalt für Lebensmittel-frischhaltung in Karlsruhe (Germany) on 24 and 25 October 1973. The colloquium will discuss current research and recent findings on the physical, chemical and biological changes that are detectable in foodstuffs irradiated for preservation purposes. On the basis of such changes it should be possible to develop suitable and practical control techniques to determine whether foodstuffs have been irradiated.

** The annual report on Community research in BIOLOGY AND HEALTH PROTECTION has just been published by the European Commission. It gives a brief picture of the work accomplished in 1972 by the research team at the Ispra Establishment of the Joint Research Centre and other work carried out under contract (37 contracts concluded in 1972 with some 70 institutes, universities and national or international agencies). Research was concerned with radiation protection (measurements of rays, interpretation of measurements, dosimetry, radioactive contamination of the environment, short-term and long-term hereditary effects of ionizing radiations), and the application of knowledge acquired in radiation protection, radiation biology and nuclear techniques to medical and agronomic research (IRT Nos. 104 and 175).

This report, published under the number EUR 4864 (759 pages, 900 Bfrs., several languages), may be obtained from the Official Publication Office of the European Communities, Case Postale 1003, Luxembourg 1.

THE ROLE OF THE SCIENTIFIC PRESS IN EUROPEAN COOPERATION

(extracts from an address given at a recent meeting of the European Union of Associations of Science Journalists, by Mr G. Masini, President of the Union)

The European Union of Associations of Science Journalists was created and developed by the thrust of European awareness: the peoples of Europe are realizing their present and future responsibilities and feeling the need to meet, to get to know, appreciate and help each other in a single community effectively embracing the full richness of their diversity.

Obviously this coming-together cannot be confined to governmental and political matters; it must be given cultural support, substance and roots by the exchange of our respective experiences, for it is imperative that henceforward we pool our ideas in an effort to find a joint solution to the problems which confront mankind today.

One of the most practical and effective ways of informing and guiding people is through journalism.

Thus journalists have a vital and very specific role to play. First they must inform the public of the problems, achievements and prospects of science and technology (which - for better or for worse - determine the pattern of modern life). This requires a constant effort to keep abreast of new knowledge and close collaboration with the people directly involved in leading scientific fields, since journalists must naturally be able to understand the processes and problems associated with the various developments before they can hope to put them into a language accessible to the layman. In short, science journalists represent a vital link between the scientific world and a general public which has the right to know about scientific progress.

Science fortunately uses a language that transcends the historical or cultural differences between countries - the language of mathematics, common to all men. Whereas history, philosophy and literature can be conceived and understood in various ways, depending on the slant imposed by different traditions and national interests, science is not limited by such constraints. To take an ordinary and straightforward example, Pythagoras' theorem in mathematics or the Carnot cycle in physics are expressed in a language which has a universal and identical meaning for Frenchmen, Englishmen, Italians and Chinese. This feature of the science journalists' field of activity constitutes yet another reason for their union and mutually profitable collaboration.

Furthermore, because of the present structure of the world it is inconceivable that scientific and technological (or any other) problems can be solved by a single country, especially one with the dimensions to be found in Europe.

Finally, but not least important, there is the fact that Europe can and must continue to make a major contribution to the progress of human civilization. This is illustrated by the activities of the European Union of Associations of Science Journalists as well as the other manifestations of the awakening of a European consciousness. It is unthinkable that European culture and European values, which have developed over 20 centuries of history, should have nothing more to offer the modern world. Even in science and technology, Europe has not exhausted its resources. On no account should it let itself be overwhelmed by the giants of America and Asia.

The difficulty lies, once again, in the task of maintaining unity, in learning to work together and to forgive our respective failings. In accomplishing this task, science journalists have a dominant role to play. The European Union, originally composed of the national associations of Community countries, is therefore trying to expand its ranks to include all European countries. It has already had some success in this endeavour.

AN ORIGINAL METHOD FOR TRYING TO DEFINE THE OBJECTIVES OF A SCIENTIFIC
RESEARCH POLICY CORRESPONDING TO REAL NEEDS

THE QUALITATIVE AIMS OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH and the choices they entail are still a subject of passionate debate.

In this connection, a group of European officials not directly concerned with research problems recently carried out an original experiment in Brussels. The Group, which naturally has nothing permanent about it, was composed of men and women of different nationalities, ages, specialities and opinions. Its purpose was to think freely about the possible aims and options of scientific research in Europe. It intentionally avoided the question of military research.

We thought it would be interesting to summarize some of the results of this think-in. The views are of course those of the authors themselves and not of the European Commission.

1. A few questions

The governments of the western industrialized countries, especially the Community countries, have so far based their scientific and technical policies mainly on considerations of international power (or prestige) and economic growth; the objectives are often confined to a few privileged sectors (military research, atomic power, space, aeronautics, data-processing). Are these priorities, established over 10 years ago, still justifiable today? If not, what new objectives should we strive for? What priorities should we adopt?

Competition through constant innovation is a trend fostered by the industrialized States and has directly engendered - if not actively provoked - a similar trend in private life. The rapid renewal of products, the constant encouragement to consume and to change, the unbridled economic expansion - despite the occasional expression of scruples or taking of precautions - are all established characteristics of modern industrialized societies. Should the public authorities continue to foster this trend? Does the pace of change allow sufficient control over scientific and technical progress?

2. A few simple truths

In reflecting about these questions, the "free-thinking" group thought it useful to restate what it considered to be confirmed truths:

- Most Official working parties responsible for preparing high-level decisions are composed of men only.
- Whatever their respective fields, the members of these groups have almost all been through the mill of higher education. Their thought processes and criteria are comparable and they usually reach similar conclusions. The similarity of R & D policies based on their work, and the fact that the same policies have been followed unswervingly for more than ten years, are a striking illustration of this fact.

- Glimmers of originality or innovation are generally confined to the work of independent or marginal groups. Isolated original suggestions that occur in the debates or documents of official groups almost always disappear in the final documents or at best when the decisions are made.
- Official working parties seem to find it difficult to appreciate the real needs of the man-in-the-street, and especially their relative importance or urgency. In preparing for decisions, official groups tend to discuss matters between themselves, on the basis of their own knowledge or impression of the facts, rather than on the basis of the facts themselves.

3. A few general remarks

The following general reflections emerged from the group's discussions:

- The external trappings of modern life are too often confused with progress. The products or services lavished upon the consumer, and the systematic pursuit of innovation, distract or prevent him from expressing his real needs.
- Living in an industrialized and increasingly complex world, which he barely understands and in which he finds it more and more difficult to situate or justify his existence, the man-in-the-street is surrounded by a growing abundance of sophisticated appliances and products which he can neither understand nor control. He is their victim as much as their master.

- The constant stimulation of the production-consumption cycle by government and industry contrasts strangely with the slow pace of social reorganization, the adaptation of teaching methods and the provision of mass education facilities. All too often, when trying to control these adjustments, the authorities end up by not making them at all.
- The information given to the man-in-the-street (by the politicians, the employers, the trade unions or the commercial world) is mainly designed to mobilize or to seduce him, almost never to encourage him to make an objective or reasonable choice.
- A higher standard of living must not be confused with a better quality of life. In the industrialized countries the satisfaction of basic needs - the goal of a "better life" - appears no more urgent than the quest for a "fuller life"; It is becoming vital for individuals or the collectivity to create an acceptable quality of life and to understand their particular place, legitimacy, role and power (not purchasing power).
- The many forms of dialogue, consultation, participation and co-management that are generously proposed to today's man-in-the-street (usually for the purpose of better assessing his needs) too often prove factitious. The concept of dialogue implies that the two parties admit that they may be wrong: this rarely happens.
- Finally, if it now appears that national interest and public interest are no longer always one and the same, perhaps we can find the way to promoting the general interest at Community level.

4. A few objectives for scientific research in the European Community

The group considered that the following priorities should be reflected in the allocation of funds for scientific research and technological development:

(a) Social sciences

In the share-out of funds for research there is a tendency to overlook the sciences of man - the social sciences, economics and the sciences of decision-making, organization and operational research. These embrace a wide range of subjects which should be given systematic support. They include:

- Information (in the broad sense): General research into methods of collecting information: new types of opinion polls, consultation procedures and ways of assessing real needs (in industry, administrative departments, towns and cities, regions, countries, etc.). Research into methods of disseminating information (distribution techniques and ways of presenting the information, especially commercial information).

- Education and training: Teaching undoubtedly represents a key factor in the development of a more mature society in which all people benefit from social progress. But this is a particularly difficult task. To continue to impart a static culture, a passive knowledge, cannot produce the "men of dialogue" that modern society needs. Here too, research can help considerably. Psychologists, psycho-sociologists, sociologists, educationalists can propose new approaches.

- The organization of society: Under this general heading a quantity of research could well be undertaken on the various existing or planned forms of social organization, with the aim of working out possible ways of improving them. Results would be submitted to the micro- or macro-communities concerned. This research could often be coupled with technical back-up research, particularly on electronics or automatization.

- Control over progress: It is desirable to slow down somewhat the production-consumption cycle. This would require research and experiment to determine the economic and social repercussions - especially on labour - of a gradual switch from present products (made for quick replacement) to more reliable and durable products. At the same time we should study ways of channelling advertizing towards more meaningful information.

(b) Protection and improvement of human health and safety

These fields include a number of R & D activities which should be given greater priority. Unlike most other research objectives, physical well-being is an end in itself (reduction and if possible elimination of pollution and nuisances, early detection of diseases, nervous disorders, etc.).

(c) Planning of the human environment and agricultural research

(town planning, building, civil engineering, transport, communications, environment, agricultural productivity and technology, etc.).

5. A few suggestions

Would it not be advisable to work out a new method of assessing which R & D projects should be launched?

In view of the increasing effect of the "secondary fall-out" of science on society, would it not be advisable to develop a scientific theory on the objectives of science and ways of attaining them?

Would it not be advisable to encourage research in order to find new patterns of life more consistent with people's aspirations than the way of life offered at the present time.

These, we repeat, are the ideas of a freely formed group of European officials. They commit no one but the authors themselves and are not, under any circumstances, to be considered as an indication of the opinion of the Commission of the European Communities. We thought it interesting to print them in order to show the importance that such a wide variety of people attach to the choice of objectives for scientific research.

