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- ** Increased, diversified production, better quality and lower costs - these are the advantages the Common Market has brought to the ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING sector. ANNEX 1 is a summary of a survey on this subject published by the Commission of the European Communities in its "Industry" series.

- ** No basic difficulties now stand in the way of the UNITED KINGDOM'S JOINING THE EUROPEAN ATOMIC ENERGY COMMUNITY. The few details still outstanding will be settled shortly by the experts. As to the other applicant countries, agreement is being reached among the Deputies and no problems are expected.

- ** In order to take specific action on the decisions of the Community's Council of Ministers regarding research and development (see "Research and Technology" No. 79) and those of the Summit Conference at The Hague, and to outline the framework in which European SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION should develop, the Commission of

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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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the European Communities has sent a questionnaire to the member countries' Senior Officials responsible for research problems, asking them to confirm their DESIRE TO DEFINE A COMMON POLICY on research and development and to entrust to the Community and its institutions the task of preparing and drawing up that common policy.

The questionnaire invites the Senior Officials to confirm that:

1. The defining of this policy, linked with the implementing of the economic union, ought to be based on a systematic collation of the economic and social requirements to be met in the Community, and of the resources that can be used to meet them; it should permit the pinpointing of original R&D objectives which it would be worthwhile for the European countries to develop jointly, and would enable a common strategy to be mapped out.
2. The developing of such a policy would necessitate specific, steady information in advance on all the national and international non-military projects of the member countries.
3. This common policy would be given active expression in a wide range of action (recommendations by governments, Community backing for projects carried out at national centres, Community R&D contracts, direct action at the Joint Research Centre, setting up of joint public services, etc.).

It would consequently be advisable to decide upon the general-purpose structures to be set up to deal with the information received, compare the requirements and the resources, and prepare the decisions for the Council of Ministers.

** The Commission of the European Communities is still advocating JOINT ACTION AIMED AT PROVIDING THE COMMUNITY WITH ITS OWN URANIUM ENRICHMENT CAPACITY, and in this context considers it desirable that any step taken by Member States, persons or enterprises of the Community in this field should form part of this joint action, in accordance with conditions to be decided upon in the said context (see "Research and Technology" Nos. 18 and 58). It recently restated its attitude in a reply to a written question from Mr Vredeling and Mr Oele, Dutch members of the European Parliament, concerning the United States' interest in the centrifuge process of uranium enrichment.

The information available to the Commission of the European Communities at present does not permit a forecast as to whether special relations will be established between Germany, the Netherlands and the UK on the one hand and the USA on the other. Nevertheless, as it has already stated, e.g., in its proposal of 22 May 1969 regarding the setting up of an independent uranium enrichment capacity, the Commission considers it expedient to explore the possibility of establishing collaboration between the Community and non-member countries, more especially in regard to access to knowledge.

** Replying to a written question from Mr Cousté, a French member of the European Parliament, on the METHODS OF FINANCING EUROPEAN AIRCRAFT COMPANIES, the Commission of the European Communities again stated that, generally speaking, it rejects the principle of exchange guarantees covering commercial operations inside the Community. As regards exports to non-member countries, the question of awarding such guarantees must be dealt with in the context of a common trade policy based on the adoption of standard principles.

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In the specific sector of aeronautical engineering, long-term agreements for cooperation between manufacturers will essentially depend on whether a sufficiently broad Community market is established to enable European production to enter foreign markets on a sound competitive footing.

** The Consultative Committee of the Coal and Steel Community (ECSC), meeting in Luxembourg on 18 May, congratulated the Commission of the European Communities on its draft memorandum on the GENERAL OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMUNITY'S STEEL INDUSTRY, which outlines the prospects for 1975-80, stressing the efforts to be made by the Community steel industry as regards rationalization and modernization and also as regards strengthening its position in external markets and ensuring dependable supplies for itself, if it is to achieve the predicted degree of expansion (see "Research and Technology" No. 93).

The Commission's proposal to modify the procedures governing the application of Article 60 of the ECSC Treaty with a view to more flexible PRICE-PUBLISHING CONDITIONS in the steel sector aroused fears of some reduction in the desirable transparency of the market.

Lastly, the ECSC Consultative Committee studied the question of THE UNITED KINGDOM'S ACCESSION to the Treaty of the European Coal and Steel Community. This raises no major problems, but certain provisions governing the UK coal and steel sectors will unquestionably have to be modified to bring them into line with the terms of the Treaty of Paris.

** As a result of the invitation from the Commission of the European Communities to firms interested in obtaining a contract for the design, and possibly the construction, of a

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"SORA" PULSED REACTOR (see "Research and Technology" Nos. 80 and 81), four tenders have been submitted by Community firms, one of them by a multinational consortium of firms from different member countries. The tenders are now being scrutinized, and a contract for a detailed design study of the SORA reactor will probably be negotiated by the Commission some time in June.

** The Commission of the European Communities recently approved projects for FINANCIAL AID by the Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) totalling 4,991,352 u.a., for a research programme concerning:

- hot compacting of ores;
- continuous refining of pig iron into steel;
- injection of hot reformed gases into blast furnaces;
- blast furnace automation;
- development of water-cooled steel supports for metal construction work;
- inspection and preparation of semi-finished products for rolling to remove surface defects;
- automation of cold tandem trains;
- greater use of steel in metal construction work;
- measurements in the steel industry;
- metal physics.

These ten projects will be examined by the ECSC Consultative Committee on 11 June.

** THE DRAGON EXPERIMENTAL HIGH-TEMPERATURE REACTOR at Winfrith in England has completed 100 days of uninterrupted operation of full power, a record number of experimental fuels having been loaded into the reactor core. This also completes a total operating time of 1,000 days for Dragon.

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Since the end of 1962 the European Community has had a 40% share in the Dragon Project, which is one of the joint enterprises of the European Nuclear Energy Agency and to which the United Kingdom, Sweden, Switzerland, Denmark, Austria and Norway also contribute.

- ** IRRADIATION processes which might be used in the TEXTILE INDUSTRY, more especially for fireproofing and sticking woven materials, were discussed by experts of the member countries during a meeting held by the Commission of the European Communities in Brussels on 19 May last. These two fields will be given priority in the context of a Community experimental research programme.

- ** On the initiative of the Commission of the European Communities, the Community countries' experts responsible for studying MEASURES TO COMBAT DUST IN MINES held two meetings, at Milan and then at Turin, on 5 and 6 May, to discuss the additives, surfactants or evaporation inhibitors used in the various anti-dust processes based on moisture.

- ** The Commission of the European Communities recently published, as No. 21 in the "Social Policy" series, a survey on THE ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF SOCIAL SECURITY. This survey can be obtained from the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, 37 rue Glesener, Luxembourg.

Domestic Electrical Goods Sector: Increased, Diversified
Production, Better Quality and Lower Costs

(from a study on the effects of the common market in the electrical consumer goods sector, published by the Commission of the European Communities in the "Industry" series)

Higher and varied production, better quality and lower costs - these are the advantages that the common market has brought to the sector concerned with domestic electrical appliances which, from refrigerators to TV sets and washing machines, play such an important part in improving the daily life of ordinary people by making household work easier, providing greater comfort or occupying time.

Since 1958 growth in the output of electrical goods has been faster than that of the manufacturing industry as a whole (the total Community production, excluding the Netherlands, for which no figures are available, rose from 2,500 million dollars in 1960 to 3,600 million in 1965, an increase of 44%), and demand is still rising.

As production increased, both quality and prices improved, owing to the greater competition resulting from the lifting of the customs barriers (import taxes on refrigerators, washing machines and electric cookers had previously been 26% in Italy, 17% in France, 11% in the Benelux countries and 7% in Germany). Since the common market was established, exports within the Community have expanded to an extraordinary degree, particularly in the field of large domestic appliances. Between 1960 and 1965 exports of washing machines increased in value by over 400%, cooker exports by 331% and refrigerator exports by 164%.

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The stepping-up of trade between the Community countries led to a restructuring of the market in the countries concerned, providing the consumer with greater choice.

The forming of the Economic Community led to certain production transfers: in Italy, the proportion of household equipment in the production structure increased substantially between 1960 and 1965. Belgian production now concentrates on a few categories of products, the manufacture of other goods (e.g., refrigerators) having been almost entirely given up over the same period. Since the inception of the common market, Dutch production has likewise become highly specialized and is now centred mainly on radio and television sets, record-players and lamps.

In the commercial sector, competition has stiffened for all manufacturers and they have had to adjust their company policy to new markets and new situations. In the years that followed the birth of the Community, considerable concentration took place among the firms manufacturing large electrical household equipment, so that today only 50 big firms or groups of firms dominate the Community market. By comparison, the degree of concentration achieved in the small electrical household goods and the radio, television and record-player industries is still relatively low.

Through concentration most electrical household equipment can now be mass-produced, i.e., at attractive prices. Apart from the concentration measures, some of which were taken owing to government pressure (France, Italy), the firms are also seeking to consolidate or improve their trading position through cooperative arrangements. Cooperative schemes are already being set up on a large scale between firms of the various Community countries. Numerous negotiations are in progress, and international collaboration will become more and more widespread in the coming years.