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- ** THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY COUNTRIES' SHARE OF THE WORLD MERCHANT SHIPPING FLEET DECLINED FROM 14.6% IN 1955 TO 12.2% IN 1969. Over the same period, however, the COMMUNITY COUNTRIES' TANKER FLEET REGISTERED A CAPACITY INCREASE OF 147%. These points are taken from a statistical study of marine transport to and from the Community countries, carried out by the Statistical Office of the European Communities at the request of the European Parliament. ANNEX 1 gives an outline of the situation.
- ** The Commission of the European Communities recently sent the Council its reasoned opinion on the request for the granting of JOINT ENTERPRISE status (within the meaning of the Euratom Treaty) to SEMO, the Société belgo-française d'énergie nucléaire mosane, set up in 1968, with a view to the construction and operation of the TIHANGE NUCLEAR POWER PLANT, by the Belgian company Centre et Sud (and the companies holding its shares) and Electricité de France. A highly condensed version of the view expressed by the Commission will be found in ANNEX 2.

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The information and articles published in this Bulletin concern European scientific cooperation. 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 circles concerned in European cooperation in science and technology.

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** The Commission of the European Communities recently approved a draft Council directive on the holding of COORDINATED ANNUAL SURVEYS OF INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITY.

In connection with its work on industrial policy and medium-term economic policy, the Commission of the European Communities needs a set of quantified data which can be used, in particular, to analyse the situation and economic development of the various branches of industry, their productive activity, and their growth potential or problems, as well as permitting an appraisal of the interpenetration of industrial economies inside the Community and the consequences thereof. Although the Member States are in possession of industrial statistics, these are hardly comparable from one country to another owing to the differences in the methods used.

The inadequacy of the statistical background made itself felt particularly during the preparation of the Commission's memorandum to the Council on Community industrial policy. It is therefore essential, if the Community industrial policy is to be soundly based, to obtain detailed statistics on Community industry with a satisfactory degree of comparability between the data from different Member States: this will enable schemes for promoting the required restructuring and remoulding of the Community's industries to be better designed, as part of both policy for industry as a whole and policies for individual industries.

** The Commission of the European Communities has had a study carried out on METHODS OF MANAGING RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES AND FUNDS through autonomous public or semi-public bodies. This study will help in deciding

whether the Community ought to administer its research and development programmes and funds in a decentralized manner, through other bodies or agencies. The facts thus obtained will be used in determining both the structure of such bodies or agencies and the links between them and the Community Institutions.

- ** As part of the COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY AND THE USA IN THE FIELD OF COAL PROCESSING AND UTILIZATION, a party of six American experts, led by a senior official, is to make a study tour of the Community countries from 14 to 24 June, in the course of which they will visit research establishments. On the completion of the tour a programme for collaboration between the USA and the Community will be formulated.

- ** The Commission of the European Communities is to instruct four specialist institutes in Community countries to carry out on its behalf a study of the FEASIBILITY OF USING NUCLEAR ENERGY IN THE IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRY, intended to assist the formulation, at a later stage, of a detailed research programme on this subject.

- ** The Commission of the European Communities is to set on foot five TECHNICAL RESEARCH PROJECTS IN STEELMAKING, dealing with measurements in steelmaking, the physics of metal or physical metallurgy, the physics of metal (precipitation-hardened steels), automating a four-high rolling train for heavy plate, and speeding-up the process of arc-furnace refining. The funds budgeted for these five projects total 2,270,224 units of account.

- ** The Commission of the European Communities has just issued a SCHEDULE OF RESEARCH CENTRES IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES (INDUSTRIAL MEDICINE) giving various items of information

on research centres in the Community countries cooperating in the European Coal and Steel Community's research in the field of industrial medicine. It is obtainable from the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, 37, rue Glesener, Luxembourg.

** The Commission of the European Communities recently published the proceedings of the second information meeting on PRESTRESSED CONCRETE REACTOR PRESSURE VESSELS and their thermal insulation, which it held in Brussels on 18-20 November 1969. The publication (reference: EUR 4531 d/f/i/n/e) is obtainable from the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, 37, rue Glesener, Luxembourg.

Trends in the Community countries'
shipping and seaborne trade

(Based on a study by the Statistical
Office of the European Communities)

A. The merchant fleet

Between 1955 and 1969 the size of the world's merchant fleets, expressed in terms of gross register tons or GRT (1 GRT = 2.83 m³, 100 ft³) rose from 100.6 million GRT to 211.7 million GRT - an increase of 111%. Over the fourteen-year period the Community countries' share in the expansion of the world merchant fleet was 11.7 million GRT, or 10.5%. In relative terms, however, the Community countries' merchant fleet grew by 80%, but since other countries' fleets expanded faster, the proportion of world merchant tonnage registered in Community countries declined from 14.6% in 1955 to 12.2% in 1969.

The Community countries' tanker fleet showed a 147% rise in capacity between 1955 and 1969, and a rapid trend towards "super tankers" is apparent. Over 54% of the tanker tonnage added to the world fleet in 1968 and 1969 consisted of large units of more than 100,000 GRT, with 51 in service at 1 July 1969. The European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries possess 51% of these large tankers, the European Community countries only 9%. The remaining 40% are split between Japan (18.7%), Liberia (17.6%) and Kuwait (3.7%).

Growth of the Community countries' merchant
fleet from 1955 to 1969

(in '000 GRT)

Country	1955		1960		1965	
	Total tonnage	Tankers	Total tonnage	Tankers	Total tonnage	Tankers
Germany	2,644	-	4,537	560	7,027	1,464
Italy	3,911	-	5,122	1,726	7,038	2,773
France	3,922	-	4,809	1,858	5,962	2,573
Netherlands	3,696	-	4,884	1,357	5,255	1,997
Belgium	498	-	729	158	1,052	304
EEC countries	14,671	3,860	20,081	5,659	26,334	9,111
The World	100,569	24,455	129,770	41,465	211,661	77,392

B. Trends in seaborne traffic

Of the Community countries, only Italy, France and Germany have coasters plying between seaports, and they mainly carry mineral oils.

In 1967, shipping traffic between ports in member countries - on the basis of delivered tonnages - totalled 21.85 million metric tons. Mineral oils (59.2%), coal (16.2%), stone, earth and untreated ores (6.2%) were the chief items.

International traffic handled by all seaports in the Community countries in 1967 amounted to 646.6 million metric tons (goods loaded or discharged), of which inward cargo accounted for 513.6 million metric tons (79.4%) and outward cargo 133 million metric tons (20.6%).

Since 1960 the seaborne traffic handled by the Community countries has increased by 281.5 million metric tons, i.e., 77.1%. Inward traffic has expanded by 237.6 million metric tons and outward traffic by 43.8 million metric tons. There has thus been an 86.1% rise in inward traffic compared with only 49.2% for outward traffic. In 1967, the total inward traffic consisted as to 59.6% of petroleum and its derivatives.

In the same year, 247.5 million metric tons (37.7%) of the international seaborne trade for all the Community countries was carried in Community bottoms, while 200.2 million metric tons (30.5%) were carried in ships belonging to countries of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), and 208.6 million metric tons (31.8%) in ships of other countries. In comparison with 1955, the proportion carried by ships of the Community countries (48.6% in that year) and EFTA countries (31.5% in 1955) has fallen, whereas that carried by ships of other countries (19.9% in 1955) has risen.

The Commission of the European Communities expresses
a favourable opinion on the granting of Joint
Enterprise status to SEMO, the company operating
the Tihange Nuclear Power Plant

The Commission of the European Communities recently sent the Council its reasoned opinion on the request for the granting of Joint Enterprise status (within the meaning of the Euratom Treaty) to Société belgo-française d'énergie nucléaire mosane (SEMO), set up in 1968 by the Belgian company Centre et Sud (and the companies holding its shares) and Electricité de France for the construction and operation of the Tihange nuclear power plant.

After making a thorough study of the project and consulting the Community Member States, the Commission of the European Communities reached the conclusion that the primary advantage afforded by the project to the Community nuclear industry lies in its beneficial effect on the structure of the industries of the two member countries in question: the venture being, in fact, planned and implemented by public and private bodies belonging to two Member States which have decided to combine forces, for the second time, in the construction and operation of a large nuclear power station on a joint basis.

In view of the value to the Community of this kind of industrial cooperation between two Member States, following on that set up within SENA (the Joint Enterprise operating the Chooz nuclear power station), the Commission of the European Communities has expressed a favourable opinion on the granting of Joint Enterprise status within the meaning

of Article 45 and subsequent articles of the Euratom Treaty, subject to certain detail changes in SEMO's articles of association.

The Commission did not, however, find from the facts laid before it any justification for granting SEMO special tax concessions in addition to Joint Enterprise status, as had been requested by the promoters of the project: from the technical angle, the design of the reactor hardly breaks any significant new ground in engineering terms and, from the economic angle, the Tihange station is claimed by its promoters to be competitive with other electricity generating media in the present economic situation in Belgium.

In view of this the granting of special financial help to this nuclear station would not appear to be warranted, particularly from the aspect of competition between different sources of energy.