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BERLIN  
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Zittelmannstraße  
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\*\* After a break of one year the WORKING PARTY ON SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH POLICY began work again in Brussels on 7 and 8 January, as a result of the decision taken by the Council of Ministers of the Community on 10 December 1968 (see No. 2 of "Research and Technology"). Its task is to draw up before March a report on possibilities for cooperation in seven high-priority fields (data processing, telecommunications, development of new means of transport, oceanography, metallurgy, nuisances and meteorology). This report will be examined by the Council, which will then make proposals to the states concerned, and in particular to states which are candidates for admission to the European Community.

The Working Party, which therefore has a tight schedule, has chosen its new chairman (Mr. Pierre Aigrin, who has succeeded Mr. Maréchal at the French General Delegation on Scientific and Technical Research) and has defined the scope of the sectorial reports to be submitted by the experts concerned in each of the seven fields before the end of February; these reports will set out as concretely as possible the research subjects and programmes on which cooperation is possible and desirable from both the national and European standpoints, and will estimate the funds required, propose a timetable and give details of the results expected. It will then be for the Working Party, in a general report, to assign priorities to the proposals put forward, on the basis of their scientific, industrial, economic or other value, and to make suggestions as to the practical means of implementing them.

This "resumption" of the work of the Working Party took place in an excellent atmosphere, characterized by a unanimous will to reach precise proposals for concrete scientific and technical cooperation. In particular, the proposal to extend cooperation to non-member countries, which had at one time aroused some bad feeling, seems to have been accepted as a realistic basis of work.

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\*\* Following the decision taken by the Council of Ministers in the night of 20-21 December 1968 (see No. 2 of "Research and Technology" of 21 December 1968), the Commission of the European Communities has just forwarded to the Council of Ministers of Euratom an initial draft RESEARCH AND INVESTMENT BUDGET FOR 1969. The total expenditure allotted is 56,061,000 dollars, including 48,630,000 dollars for the research programme proper (joint programme of the six countries and supplementary programme financed only by the states concerned), 2,211,000 dollars for Community participations in the Dragon project and 3,973,000 dollars to enable the entire present staff of the Joint Research Centre to be retained (in order to ensure, in accordance with the wish of the Council, their most effective use).

\*\* During its meeting on 20 December 1968 the Council of Ministers of the European Community decided to draw up by 1 July 1969 new MULTIANNUAL PROGRAMMES OF RESEARCH AND TRAINING FOR EURATOM, and to examine the possibility of defining a coordinated industrial policy in the nuclear field on the basis of the "White Paper" drawn up by the Commission during October 1968.

The Commission will therefore study the possible form of these multiannual programmes in close contact with interested circles in the Community, and particularly the industries of the six Community states.

\*\* SIX NEW TECHNICAL NOTES, containing brief descriptions of the patented results obtained under Euratom research programmes, have just been published by the Commission. These notes are intended to enable Community industries to appreciate more fully the value of industrial exploitation of the results reported in them. They cover the following topics:

1. an experimental and control rod for nuclear reactors
2. an electromagnetic flow viscosity meter
3. control systems for gantries or cranes
4. pneumatic liquids level gauges
5. an assisted control device for gantries or cranes
6. thermal insulation for tanks of liquefied gas.

\*\* The Commission of the European Communities has begun negotiations with a view to the extension for two years of the NUCLEAR COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN ATOMIC ENERGY COMMUNITY AND GREAT BRITAIN.

- \*\* The report on LONG-TERM SUPPLIES OF ENRICHED URANIUM TO THE COMMUNITY, drawn up by an ad hoc group of the Consultative Committee on Nuclear Research, has just been sent to the Council of Ministers of the Community. The authors of the report examine the European needs for enriched uranium and the available sources of supply, and conclude that it is desirable to set up a European uranium enrichment facility, since the existing American and British plants will be unable after 1980 to meet the needs of the Western world.
  
- \*\* THE RESEARCH WORK CONDUCTED BY EURATOM from 1961-67 IN THE ISPRA ESTABLISHMENT of the Joint Research Centre is the subject of a survey published by the Commission of the European Communities under the number EUR 3940e. Written in English, this report comprises three volumes, dealing respectively with physics, nuclear materials and nuclear engineering.
  
- \*\* Mr. W. Haferkamp, the Commission Member responsible for energy matters will express his point of view at the international symposium entitled "The consequences of the change in structure in the energy market in the EEC" to be held by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation at Bad Godesberg, in a paper on "THE POSSIBILITIES OF A COORDINATED ENERGY POLICY IN THE COMMON MARKET". (January 20 and 21).
  
- \*\* The Commission has just published a report (EUR 4199e) which draws up a BALANCE SHEET and outlines the PROSPECTS of the research carried on by Euratom in the field of BIOLOGY from 1964-67, with an annexe giving the references of the 980 scientific publications which have appeared during the course of this programme. A first report (EUR 1884e) had similarly summarized research for the period (1961 starting date for the Euratom biology research programme) to 1964.
  
- \*\* The Commission of the European Communities has placed a contract with the European industrial grouping "Eurosace" for a study on THE POTENTIAL VALUE OF EUROPEAN METEOROLOGICAL SATELLITES from the economic and social standpoints, and on a comparison of the cost and future prospects of new techniques in this field.
  
- \*\* According to the estimates of the Battelle Institute, the United States will spend about 26,000 MILLION DOLLARS on research and development in 1969. This would be an INCREASE OF 3.6 % on 1968. Again according to the Battelle Institute, 60 % of the research credits will be provided by the state.