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** On 28 February the Commission of the European Communities invited the representatives of the Union of Industries of the European Community (UNICE) to a meeting devoted to the study of the PRESENT SITUATION OF THE NUCLEAR INDUSTRY IN THE COMMUNITY. The discussions, which were based on a questionnaire sent to UNICE by the Commission beforehand, dealt in particular with the following subjects:

- the need for a regrouping of firms within the Community, notably with regard to fuel fabrication and the manufacture of reactor components;
- the need for better coordination of orders for nuclear plants or their components;
- the possible effect on the future trend of orders for nuclear plants of setting up a Guarantee Fund or a Development Fund to encourage electricity producers to place orders for proven-type plants and to incorporate advanced types of plant in their grids;
- the need for closer links between the Joint Research Centre and the Community's industries, which latter should, in particular, be more closely associated with the planned research programmes.

This joint discussion meeting should be followed by others, one of which could be held shortly at the Ispra establishment of the Joint Research Centre.

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** On 4 March 1969 the Community's Council of Ministers adopted the EURATOM RESEARCH PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR 1969. Attached is an item-by-item breakdown of the budgetary commitments thus authorized for 1969, both for the joint programme (financed by the six Member States) and for the complementary programmes (financed by the individual countries concerned).

Staff at present on the payroll for whom there is no immediate employment under this programme (382) will be retained as supernumeraries - some of them being gradually absorbed into the programme itself - until 1 July 1969, the date on which the Council expects to adopt the multiannual research programme (see "Research and Technology" N°2).

In a statement to the Council of Ministers, the President of the Commission of the European Communities reiterated that the Commission remains convinced that any reduction of the staff, if called for, should not be carried out until after the adoption of a multiannual programme. Were the Council to decide otherwise, the Commission could only take note of the fact whilst nevertheless maintaining its opposition.

** In reply to a proposal put forward by the Commission, the Council of Ministers of the Community has adopted the text of a memorandum on the creation of a EUROPEAN SYSTEM FOR THE GRANTING OF PATENTS, which will be sent to interested non-member countries, in the case of seven of them (Austria, Denmark, Ireland, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom) for negotiation purposes.

** On 27 and 28 February, the European Parliament's Committee on Energy, Research and Atomic Problems held a wide exchange of views with various experts on THE PRESENT STATE AND THE PROSPECTS OF THE EUROPEAN ATOMIC ENERGY COMMUNITY. The participants in this seminar, apart from the members of the Parliamentary Committee, were the Community's most highly qualified representatives from the three sectors of electricity production, from the fuel-element fabrication industry, from the reactor and components constructors and from the

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nuclear research establishments. The general opinion that emerged was that it would be desirable for Euratom's work to be directed more towards industrial ends (e.g., by carrying out research projects on behalf of industry) and that there was a need for vigorous action to ensure better coordination and promotion of the Community's industrial activity in the nuclear sector.

** On 25 February various representatives of international organizations and enterprises concerned with the production of electricity met with the aim of exchanging under the auspices of the Commission of the European Communities views on the present state and the medium- and long-term prospects of the USE OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF ELECTRICITY WITHIN THE COMMUNITY. The general opinion was that the rise in the demand for electricity would continue at its present pace at least until 1985, after which date it would decrease, but only very slowly, until the end of the century. In spite of the difficulties which have hitherto hampered the introduction of nuclear power plants in the generation of electricity in Europe (in particular, their relatively poor reliability and the long-standing doubts as to their ability to compete with rival sources of energy, especially heavy fuel oil, the price of which is continually falling), the utilities did not notify any radical change in their forecasts concerning nuclear installations for the next ten years.

** At the invitation of the Commission of the European Communities, a group of industrialists will visit the Essor test reactor at the Ispra establishment of the Joint Research Centre on 6 March in order to assess on the spot the POSSIBILITIES OF THIS COMMUNITY REACTOR BEING USED BY INDUSTRY.

** A meeting of experts was held at Luxembourg on 25 February 1969 under the sponsorship of the Commission of the European Communities in order to study the possibilities of standardizing the various INDIVIDUAL DOSIMETERS at present on the market.

** The Commission of the European Communities has just awarded a contract to the German company of Interatom for the study of the SAFETY ASPECTS RELATING TO THE EXPLOSION HAZARD WITH ORGANIC COOLANTS, which presents a major problem in the design of an Orgel plant. Its satisfactory solution should therefore have important effects not only on the operational safety and availability of a plant but also on its overall cost and its economics.

** On 27 and 28 February 1969 the Commission held a working meeting with experts in order to examine the possibility of organizing, in collaboration with the public authorities of the Community countries, a series of demonstrations of the uses of GAMMAGRAPHIC INSPECTION OF REINFORCED AND PRESTRESSED CONCRETE STRUCTURES.

for 1969

Budgetary commitments
(in millions of dollars)

ANNEX

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Item	Joint programme	Supplementary programmes	Total
I. FAST REACTORS	0.651	0.684	1.335
II. HEAVY-WATER REACTORS	5.361	4.000	9.361
III. HIGH-TEMPERATURE GAS REACTORS	0.213	0.730	0.943
- Dragon	2.239		2.239
IV. TECHNOLOGICAL PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH REACTOR DEVELOPMENT		1.553	1.553
V. PLUTONIUM AND TRANSPLUTONIUM ELEMENTS	1.791	2.540	4.331
VI. REACTOR PHYSICS		0.572	0.572
VII. CONDENSED STATE PHYSICS		2.000	2.000
VIII. RESEARCH INTO NUCLEAR MATERIALS		2.315	2.315
IX. DIRECT CONVERSION OF ENERGY		0.600	0.600
X. FUSION AND PLASMA PHYSICS	6.200		6.200
XI. BIOLOGY AND HEALTH PHYSICS	2.995	0.599	3.594
XII. CETIS - INFORMATION SCIENCE		3.500	3.500
XIII. NUCLEAR MEASUREMENTS AND STANDARDS	2.902		2.902
XIV. OPERATION OF BR-2 REACTOR		0.473	0.473
XV. OPERATION OF HFR REACTOR		3.312	3.312
XVI. INDUSTRIAL APPLICATIONS OF RADIATIONS AND ISOTOPES	0.123		0.123
XVII. DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION	1.796		1.796
XVIII. TRAINING AND INSTRUCTION	0.520		0.520
XIX. COORDINATION ACTIVITIES	1.230		1.230
Total	26.021	22.878	48.899
Supernumerary personnel			4.1245 ⁽¹⁾
Taxes and pensions apportioned among the various items			1.294
		Grand Total	54.3175

¹⁾ of which 1.1 million for "personnel expenditure not otherwise provided for"

