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With the policy which the Commission of the Communities has always followed of acquiring and disseminating the maximum possible amount of knowledge on the construction and operation of nuclear power plants in the Community, the Commission wishes to obtain from the producers of electricity who are constructing new nuclear power plants information relating to their design, construction and operation. In exchange, the Commission would make available to these producers the knowledge which it itself has obtained through power reactor participation contracts, agreements signed when joint enterprises were set up and certain research contracts awarded by it.

** The COMMUNITY'S WORKING PARTY ON SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH POLICY (previously known as the Maréchal Group) held another meeting in Brussels on 20 and 21 February. It reviewed the work undertaken by the experts from the Member States with a view to defining a possible Community research programme in the seven sectors accorded priority status by the Community's Council of Ministers (see "Research and Technology" No. 1), namely, information science, telecommunications, metallurgy, meteorology, oceanology, abatement of nuisances and new means of transport.

The seven sector reports which the experts are due to submit at the end of this month will be examined by the Working Party at a further meeting scheduled for 6 and 7 March. Its task will then be TO COLLATE THE PROPOSED RESEARCH PROJECTS in an overall report to be submitted to the Community's Council of Ministers on 15 March. Under its terms of reference the Working Party will also deal with the "HORIZONTAL" PROBLEMS presented by scientific cooperation (coordination of national programmes, the fiscal and legal background to research, orders placed by public authorities, scientific information, the training of research workers, etc.) ..//..

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This report, it will be recalled, is to form the basis for the specific proposals for technological cooperation which the Council of Ministers has planned to put to non-member countries, notably those which have applied to join the European Communities.

- ** The Commission of the European Communities has decided to consult the Community's Economic and Social Committee concerning the White Paper "SURVEY OF THE NUCLEAR POLICY OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES" recently published by the Commission.

- ** The Commission of the European Communities has just published (Report EUR-4198f) the results of a study on THE PSYCHOLOGICAL ATTITUDES OF NUCLEAR WORKERS TOWARDS RADIOACTIVE HAZARDS. This study, the contract for which was awarded to the Centre de Recherches Psychopathologiques, Paris, was carried out in the nuclear research centres of the Community, in hospital departments which use radiation sources and in centres which employ nuclear energy for industrial purposes.

- ** Euratom's Scientific and Technical Committee (STC), which is made up of experts from the Member States sitting in a personal capacity, met in Brussels on 20 February 1969 with Mr. Hellwig, a Vice-President of the Commission of the European Communities, in the chair. Among the matters discussed were the practical ways in which the STC will assist in drawing up of EURATOM'S NEXT MULTI-ANNUAL PROGRAMME, which the Community's Council of Ministers has decided must be adopted before 1 July this year (see "Research and Technology" No. 2).

The STC has set up four specialized working parties, which, in collaboration with the Commission, are to review the multiannual research programmes to be carried out by the Community in the following fields: reactors and component technology, general nuclear physics (including thermonuclear fusion), fuel cycles and materials studies (including technical problems relating to uranium enrichment) and biology and the use of isotopes.

- ** In accordance with its policy of maintaining contacts with European nuclear power plant constructors in order to COORDINATE RELIABILITY standards for reactor components, officials of the Commission of the European Communities had a meeting with representatives of the Rheinisch-Westfälisches Elektrizitätswerk, a German utility, on 20 February 1969.

- ** The Commission of the European Communities recently submitted to the Consultative Committee of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) seven projects for financial aid to seven RESEARCH PROGRAMMES AIMED AT IMPROVING STEEL-PRODUCTION TECHNIQUES (physical metallurgy, measurements, methods of gas analysis in steels, automation of reversing rolling mills, etc.).

- ** The Commission of the European Communities recently approved the continuation of a programme of INTERCOMPARISON IN PERSONAL DOSIMETRY. This programme, which was started in 1964 in collaboration with specialized institutes in the Community, aims at improved physical surveillance in radiological protection.

- ** The Commission of the European Communities has asked the Council of Ministers of the Community to express an opinion on a proposal for long-term cooperation in the field of SCIENTIFIC DOCUMENTATION submitted to it by the United States Atomic Energy Commission (USAEC).

- ** A new CAPSULE IRRADIATION device known as EPSILON (électro-pneumatique système d'irradiation à longue durée) has just been installed in the Ispra-1 reactor at the Ispra establishment of the Joint Nuclear Research Centre. Another device, known as DELTA (dispositif électro-pneumatique tournant automatique), will be installed very shortly. These irradiation devices are being used for a series of research projects ranging from the physical properties of solid states to biology and radiochemistry.