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** EUROPEAN COOPERATION ON TECHNOLOGY, EURATOM'S
FUTURE ACTIVITIES AND THE COMMUNITY'S NUCLEAR
INDUSTRY POLICY were the subject of a wide-

ranging discussion by the six Ministers for
Research at a meeting of the Community's Council
of Ministers held at Luxembourg on 30 June 1969.

It was hardly expected that specific decisions
would be adopted, if only because the new
French government has not had time to study the
latest documents. However, at least the exchange
of views was very frank and a timetable was drawn
up, which some will find very tight but which has
to enable a multiannual nuclear research programme
to be adopted BEFORE 1 JANUARY 1970 and the pro-
cedures laid down for non-nuclear technological
cooperation with non-member countries to be
implemented WHEN THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS HOLDS
ITS NEXT MEETING, SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER NEXT.

A short summary of the conclusions that emerged
from this exchange of views will be found in an
ANNEX.

** The Commission of the European Communities
arranged a meeting of representatives of the ..//..

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CEEP (Centre Européen de l'Entreprise Publique) on 18 June last, to discuss the INDUSTRY AND ENERGY ASPECTS of the proposals submitted by the Commission to the Council in the context of Euratom's future activities (see "Research and Technology" No. 15).

** In "Research and Technology" No. 18 it was announced that the European Community's Supply Agency had signed a contract with the US Atomic Energy Commission for the supply of 110 KG OF PLUTONIUM.

This plutonium will be used for physics experiments to be carried out in the SNEAK critical assembly at Karlsruhe, which was built under the FAST REACTOR ASSOCIATION agreement concluded in 1963 between the "Gesellschaft für Kernforschung", Karlsruhe, and the Euratom Commission. This Association, for which the Commission provided 40% of the backing, expired at the end of 1967 but was extended throughout 1968 without any financial contribution from the Commission.

In its proposals regarding the future activities of Euratom (see "Research and Technology" No. 15) the Commission asked for the work being carried on in the fast reactor field, particularly at Karlsruhe, to be DOVETAILED INTO A COORDINATED WHOLE in which all the public authorities in the Community could participate.

** In pursuance of the Treaty establishing the Coal and Steel Community, the Commission of the European Communities has decided to subsidize seven COAL TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH projects, to a total of 4.7 million u.a., subject to the approval of the Consultative Committee and the Council of Ministers.

The projects cover research in the following fields:

- soil mechanics;
- remote monitoring and remote control of coalface cutting, and the propagation of radio waves in underground media;
- special cokes;
- the utilization of highly fire-resistant fluids in pit installations;
- mechanical excavation of galleries;
- the formation and release of firedamp deposits in virgin coal;
- thick seam coal-winning.

** The OBRIGHEIM nuclear power plant in Germany was opened officially on 26 June 1969. This plant has JOINT ENTERPRISE status within the meaning of the Euratom Treaty (see "Research and Technology" No. 12).

EUROPEAN COOPERATION ON RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGYDeliberations of the Council of Ministers of
the European Communities on 30 June 1969.

Meeting in Luxembourg on 30 June 1969, the Council of Ministers of the European Communities held a wide-ranging discussion on European co-operation in technology, Euratom's future activities and the Community's policy for the nuclear industry.

It was hardly expected that specific decisions would be adopted, if only because the new French government has not had time to study the latest documents. However, at least the exchange of views was very frank and a timetable was drawn up, which some will find very tight but which has to enable a MULTI-ANNUAL NUCLEAR RESEARCH PROGRAMME TO BE ADOPTED BEFORE 1 JANUARY 1970 and the procedures laid down for non-nuclear technological cooperation with non-member countries to be implemented WHEN THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS HOLDS ITS NEXT MEETING, SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER NEXT.

1. INDUSTRIAL POLICY FOR NUCLEAR INDUSTRY

As a result of the discussions, which were based on the analysis of the situation as presented by the Commission both in the "White Paper" (published in October 1968) and in its proposals relating to Euratom's future activities (see "Research and Technology" No. 15), the Council acknowledged the usefulness of ELECTRICITY/..

PRODUCERS COMING TOGETHER PERIODICALLY to take note of each other's viewpoints, intentions and technical experience. The Commission was accordingly instructed to ease the way for such consultations, and more generally to submit to the Council EVERY WORTH-WHILE PROPOSAL for furthering the speedy growth of nuclear industries in the Community, as provided by the terms of the Treaty.

2. MULTIANNUAL NUCLEAR RESEARCH PROGRAMME

The Council agreed to continue studying the Commission's proposals (see "Research and Technology" No. 15) with a view to arriving at a JOINT PROGRAMME "HAVING AS BROAD A BASIS AS POSSIBLE".

The concept of "complementary" programmes (financed only by those Member States interested), which was introduced in 1969 (see "Research and Technology" No. 2), has been discarded, the President of the Commission having given the governments a solemn warning against the danger inherent in this formula, nothing more nor less than a cancer which threatens to invade other sectors and thus gradually destroy the entire Community.

In order, however, to ensure OPTIMUM USE OF THE JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE in any circumstances, a study will be set on foot to determine the possible subject matter and the legal and financing procedures for SO-CALLED "SPECIAL" PROGRAMMES, i.e., research carried out at the request and the expense of interested firms or governments (contract work). ..//..

Meanwhile any decision regarding a possible cut in the Joint Research Centre's staff has been deferred to 1 November 1969.

3. INSTALLATION OF URANIUM ENRICHMENT CAPACITIES IN EUROPE

The Council is to proceed with its study of the problems involved, while awaiting the opinion of the Euratom Scientific and Technical Committee, which will be holding a meeting on this subject on 11 September 1969 (see "Research and Technology" No. 20).

4. COOPERATION IN NON-NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY

The Council had a discussion on the basis of the report submitted by the Working Group on Scientific and Technical Research Policy (PREST, or Aigrain Group). It decided to ACT QUICKLY, since BEFORE 15 JULY 1969 a committee of senior officials from the Member States is to start examining, in conjunction with the Commission, the technical aspects of the cooperative projects adopted, while the Permanent Representatives of the six Ministers will continue studying the Aigrain Group's report so as to be able to submit to the Council of Ministers BEFORE 1 OCTOBER 1969 PRIORITIES for the planned cooperative activities and a LIST OF THE NON-MEMBER COUNTRIES who will be called upon to cooperate in them.