

# research and technology

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\*\* The high-ranking national officials appointed by the Council of Ministers of the Communities to examine, from the technical standpoint, the comparative projects proposed by the Aigrain Group (see "Research and Technology" No. 21) met for the first time on 9 July, members of the Commission's staff also being present. Numerous other meetings are planned between now and 1 October, the date on which a report is due to be submitted concerning the ACTIVITIES which should be given PRIORITY, the PROCEDURE (financial, etc.) for their implementation and the NON-MEMBER STATES which should be invited to participate.

The first steps taken, both by the national officials and the Council, revealed a large measure of agreement on a number of such activities.

\*\* Under its research programme in the THERMONUCLEAR FUSION field, the Commission of the European Communities has just authorized the signing of SIX CONTRACTS OF ASSOCIATION with, respectively, the Commissariat à l'Energie Atomique (CEA, France), the Comitato Nazionale per l'Energia Nucleare (CNEN, Italy), the Institut für Plasmaphysik (IPP, Germany), the Stichting voor Fundamenteel Onderzoek ..../..

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der Materie (FOM, Netherlands), the Kernforschungsanlage Jülich (KFA, Germany) and the Belgian government, acting on its own behalf (Ecole Royale Militaire) and on behalf of the Free University of Brussels.

- \*\* The Commission of the European Communities has just invited the Institute for University Studies of the European Communities to conduct an enquiry into present data and requirements with regard to the training of technicians and engineers, the ultimate aim being the MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF DIPLOMAS, certificates and other qualifications awarded to ENGINEERS AND TECHNICIANS in the Community countries.

The enquiry will include:

- a country-by-country analysis of training courses for engineers and technicians in universities, colleges of advanced education and institutes of technology, and of further training schemes run by industrial companies and special training centres;
  - a qualitative and quantitative assessment of the training received abroad both in educational establishments and in research centres and industry;
  - a comparison of the training given to engineers and technicians in the different countries of the Community and non-member states (US, Japan, Britain, Sweden).
- \*\* The Commission of the European Communities has just decided to participate in two research programmes aimed at GREATER SAFETY IN COALMINES. These relate to the development of the use of large-diameter drills for rescuing trapped miners and to the perfecting of systems for detecting explosions and spreading fire-fighting substances in galleries. As a result of its participation in these programmes, the Commission ..//..

will be able to provide all interested parties in the Community with the results of the research, which is to extend over a two-year period.

\*\* The vast majority of THERMAL POWER PLANTS INSTALLED IN THE COMMUNITY at present have a POWER RATING of between 250 and 500 MW, whereas after 1971 many of the plants now planned will be above the 500 MW mark. This emerges from a study undertaken by the Commission of the European Communities in an attempt to draw a comparison between the size of the thermal power plants of over 250 MW installed and planned, both in the Community and in other European countries. A table showing the results of this study is attached as an ANNEX.

\*\* As part of the campaign undertaken by the Commission of the European Communities to encourage exchanges of experience between nuclear power plant operators, a meeting was held at Formia, Italy, on the subject of MAINTENANCE, INSPECTION AND REPAIRS IN THE CONTROLLED AREAS OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS. The discussions between the 50-odd participants - experts from all the Community countries - showed that, even in the event of serious damage occurring in a nuclear plant, inspection and repairs do not present insuperable difficulties, although the technical facilities for these operations should be improved.

\*\* The Commission of the European Communities is to hold an INTERNATIONAL STUDY MEETING on STRATA CONTROL AND SUPPORTS IN COALMINES in Luxembourg on 13-14 November 1969. These problems, which are a focus of particular interest in the mining industry, have for a long time now formed the subject of Community research backed by the European Coal and Steel Community.

\*\* Mr Hans Michaelis, Director-General for General Research and Technology at the Commission of the European Communities, has just been appointed Honorary Professor at the Albertus-Magnus-University, Cologne, upon nomination by the university's Department of Mathematics and Science.

## CAPACITY OF THERMAL POWER PLANTS IN EUROPE

Units of 250 MW and over

| C o u n t r y                     | Maximum gross capacity (in GW) |             |                     |              |                      |              |                    |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|---------------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------|--------------------|
|                                   | Total                          |             | Units of 250-499 MW |              | Units of over 500 MW |              |                    |
|                                   | 1968                           | 1971        | 1968                | 1971         | 1968                 | 1971         | after 1971 (plans) |
| 1                                 | 2                              | 3           | 4                   | 5            | 6                    | 7            |                    |
| Community                         | 93.4                           | 116.6       | 13.11               | 29.02        | 1.80                 | 4.33         | 16.25              |
| Belgium                           | 6.3                            | 7.2         | -                   | 0.25         | -                    | -            | 0.75               |
| France                            | 18.6                           | 24.7        | 5.78                | 10.06        | 0.60                 | 1.80         | 4.95               |
| Italy                             | 15.5                           | 21.4        | 2.75                | 7.55         | 1.20                 | 1.20         | 1.30               |
| Luxembourg                        | 0.2                            | 0.2         | -                   | -            | -                    | -            | -                  |
| Netherlands                       | 9.3                            | 12.0        | 0.51                | 1.54         | -                    | -            | -                  |
| West Germany                      | 43.5                           | 51.3        | 4.07                | 9.62         | -                    | 1.33         | 9.25               |
| <b>Total</b>                      | <b>71.0</b>                    | <b>92.8</b> | <b>7.80</b>         | <b>11.68</b> | <b>12.10</b>         | <b>29.14</b> | <b>8.73</b>        |
| Austria                           | 2.1                            | 3.1         | -                   | -            | -                    | -            | -                  |
| Spain                             | 60.7                           | 77.7        | 7.03                | 8.56         | 12.10                | 29.14        | 5.12               |
| Sweden                            | 3.9                            | 4.9         | 0.50                | 1.25         | -                    | -            | -                  |
| Switzerland                       | 0.1                            | 0.1         | -                   | -            | -                    | -            | 0.50               |
| Yugoslavia                        | 0.5                            | 0.8         | -                   | -            | -                    | -            | -                  |
| Denmark                           | 3.1                            | 5.0         | 0.27                | 1.87         | -                    | -            | 2.46               |
| Norway                            | 0.6                            | 1.3         | -                   | -            | -                    | -            | 0.65               |
| <b>Subtotal of Western Europe</b> | <b>9.2</b>                     | <b>12.9</b> | <b>1.74</b>         | <b>3.30</b>  | <b>-</b>             | <b>-</b>     | <b>5.64</b>        |
| <b>Total : Spain</b>              | <b>5.7</b>                     | <b>9.0</b>  | <b>1.74</b>         | <b>3.30</b>  | <b>-</b>             | <b>-</b>     | <b>5.64</b>        |