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** THE FIRST WORDS of Mr Jean Monnet, the President of the Action Committee for the United States of Europe, when he opened the press conference he gave after the Committee's meeting in Brussels on 15 and 16 July, were:

"At Cape Kennedy, the American astronauts are leaving for the moon, for which the Soviet device is also heading. In the conquest of space, as in the case of atomic energy, Europeans were in at the beginning. Today, it is others who are doing all the work since the Europeans are no longer organized on a scale commensurate with the present-day world. This concerns us all."

During the meeting, the Action Committee for the United States of Europe examined a document drawn up by Lord Plowden, Chairman of Tube Investments Ltd (Britain), and Professor Karl Winnacker, Chairman of the Board of Farbwerke Hoechst AG (Germany), on the subject of TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION IN A COMMUNITY ENLARGED BY THE ENTRY OF BRITAIN. By way of conclusion, the rapporteurs advocate the creation of a Community institution with the aim of:

- breaking down national barriers within the Community to which the highly technology-oriented industries are subjected;
- encouraging collaboration between the governments and competent authorities with a view to cutting down the

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discrimination observed in purchases by the public authorities.

** Replying to the written question submitted by Mr Hougardy, a Belgian member of the European Parliament, concerning the INTELSAT negotiations (see "Research and Technology" Nos. 10 and 18), the Commission of the European Communities recalled that on 15 May 1968 it had forwarded a communication to the Council in which it stressed that "in order to ensure that EUROPE'S POSITION DOES NOT DETERIORATE ANY FURTHER in the talks on the extension of the Intelsat agreements, it is essential that Europe adopt a standpoint on the matter as soon as possible and decide immediately whether it wishes to try and play a reasonably important part in the rapidly expanding field of world-wide telecommunications or whether it is throwing in the towel. At all events, the Commission feels that if the acquisition of telecommunications facilities at the best possible price is a major objective for Europe, pursuit of this objective is indissoluble from the need for technological and industrial development".

** The Euratom Supply Agency, which is responsible for ensuring supplies of nuclear fuels for peaceful purposes to consumers in the Community, has signed a contract with the United States Atomic Energy Commission (USAEC) on behalf of the Stade nuclear power plant in Germany for the ENRICHMENT OF THE NATURAL URANIUM supplied by this plant so that it can be used as nuclear fuel in the power plant's reactor up to the end of 1975.

ELEVEN TOLL ENRICHMENT CONTRACTS worth a total of about 200 million dollars have thus been concluded by the Euratom Supply Agency since December 1968 on behalf of users in the Community.

- ** In a written question submitted to the Commission of the European Communities, Mr Vredeling, a Dutch member of the European Parliament, spoke of the DISCONTENT aroused in the Netherlands by the fact that the contract FOR THE BORSSELS NUCLEAR POWER PLANT had been awarded to THE WEST GERMAN COMPANY SIEMENS (see "Research and Technology" No. 14). The Commission has now replied that, for its part, "it has always stressed the prime importance which it attaches to the implementation of a GENUINE NUCLEAR COMMON MARKET, as well as the part which INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION ACROSS THE FRONTIERS could play in this..... While unable to pass an opinion on the contract in question, the Commission is in favour of cooperation between industries in the Community through a system of sub-contracting, this being one way of ensuring the balanced development of the entire Community industry without prejudicing the necessary specialization and the opening up of markets. However, such sub-contracting should also be carried out in the best possible economic conditions on a Community scale".
- ** A report on the RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINATION OF FOODSTUFFS and a study on the results of MEASUREMENTS OF THE BACKGROUND RADIOACTIVITY (air, fallout, water) carried out in the Community countries in 1968 are to be forwarded to the national authorities of the six countries and to the members of the responsible committee of the European Parliament by the Commission of the European Communities.
- ** An information meeting for LECTURERS in scientific and technical subjects at COMMUNITY UNIVERSITIES is to be held at the Ispra Establishment of the Joint Research Centre on 18 and 19 September.