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** A study published by the Institut français de l'opinion publique (IFOP) summarizes the conclusions to be drawn from various public opinion polls conducted between September 1947 and May 1967 in an attempt to assess FRENCH OPINION ON THE COMMON MARKET AND EUROPEAN INTEGRATION. An extract from this study, dealing with French public opinion about a JOINT SCIENCE POLICY, is given in the ANNEX.

** The Commission of the European Communities has just forwarded to the Council of Ministers the EXPERT OPINION OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (STC) OF THE COMMUNITIES on the document entitled "Euratom's Future Activities", drawn up by the Commission (see "Research and Technology" No. 15).
With regard to the underlying criteria and principles of industrial policy outlined in the document, the STC welcomes the Commission's intention of helping to ensure a rapid increase in the number of orders placed for nuclear power plants, of opening up the market and, by the same token, of strengthening the Community's nuclear industry.

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As regards the proposals for a research and training programme, the STC firmly approves of the Commission's intentions both in connection with REACTOR DEVELOPMENT and concerning PUBLIC SERVICE ACTIVITIES or the BASIC RESEARCH planned (and notably the construction of the SORA pulsed reactor at the Ispra Establishment of the Joint Research Centre).

Finally, as regards the production of enriched uranium, the STC admits that the problems involved in the supply and, in particular, in the isotopic enrichment of uranium form the crux of European nuclear collaboration. It expressed its concern at the situation which has arisen in the Community as a result of the agreements announced in the ultracentrifugation field between two Community countries and a non-member country. Also, on 24 June the STC will hold a meeting devoted specially to this problem (see "Research and Technology" No. 18).

** At its meeting of 9 June 1969, the European Parliament's Committee on Energy, Research and Atomic Problems studied THE PRESENT SITUATION AND THE FUTURE PROSPECTS OF EURATOM and the Joint Research Centre on the basis of a report drawn up by Mr. Oele, a Dutch Socialist member. The Committee has decided to submit a draft resolution, calling in particular for A SPECIAL EURATOM BUDGET, to the European Parliament, which will discuss it at the session due to be held from 30 June to 5 July. In addition, the Committee reiterates the need to avoid all staff cutbacks before such time as a multiannual research programme has been approved. Finally, it states that technological developments are opening ..//..

up possibilities for the Community-level execution of major projects, both nuclear and otherwise, provided there is a POLITICAL WILL TO COOPERATE.

** During the past month the Patent Bureau of the Commission of the European Communities has filed TWELVE PATENT APPLICATIONS.

TWO LICENCE CONTRACTS have also been signed, namely:

- a licence contract with a Belgian company for the exploitation of a process for the fabrication of parallelepipedal alpha glove-boxes and for the manufacture and sale of alpha glove-boxes made by this process;
- a licence and technical aid contract, concluded with another Belgian company and covering the development of a process and device for stripping fast reactor fuel elements.

** The European Parliament's Committee on Energy, Research and Atomic Problems met in Britain at the invitation of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office for an exchange of views with the interested British quarters concerning the DEVELOPMENT OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES IN EUROPE. Draft plans for the creation of a European Research and Development Organization are to be submitted to the British government, on the one hand and to the European Parliament, the ~~Commission~~ and the Council of the European Communities on the other.

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** As part of the campaign which has been conducted by the Commission of the European Communities for over three years now with a view to encouraging the pooling of experience acquired by the operators of nuclear installations, electricity producers and equipment manufacturers recently met to exchange views on PRESENT PROBLEMS RELATING TO THE OPERATION OF STEAM TURBINES.

Manufacturers are being obliged to reconsider to a certain extent the problems relating to the construction of turbines owing, firstly, to the need to build increasingly powerful units and, secondly, to the low pressure and the lack of superheating in the steam supplied by the present proven-type nuclear reactors. The exchanges of views arranged by the Commission have revealed that the causes of the difficulties encountered are numerous and varied but generally have the same effects, namely, excessive stressing of the moving blades. In many cases, however, the modifications required do not entail any technical innovation, the main problem being to arrive at better knowledge and a more thorough evaluation of the additional sources of stress.

** Replying to a written question submitted by Mr. Vredeling, a Dutch member of the European Parliament, on work carried out by the Community in the field of OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH, the Commission of the European Communities mentioned the activities of the Working Group on Scientific and Technical Research Policy. It went on to recall that in a memorandum dated 15 May 1968 it had already asked ..//..

Member States to adopt a common position with regard to the proposal put forward by the United States which aimed at holding a symposium to mark TEN YEARS OF OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH some time in the seventies.

** Having been consulted in accordance with the terms of the Euratom Treaty, the Commission of the European Communities has just handed down a favourable opinion with regard to the technical characteristics of the DOEL NUCLEAR POWER PLANT in Belgium. This is a pressurized water plant of Westinghouse design with a net capacity of 780 MWe obtained from two identical units, each of 390 MWe. The first of these units is due to go into service in May 1973 and the second in February 1974.

** The Commission of the European Communities is shortly to publish the results of a study carried out on its behalf by the Belgian company Controlatom on THE RADIOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF THE FABRICATION AND USE OF RADIOACTIVE LIGHTNING CONDUCTORS.

For more than 25 years lightning conductors using a radioactive source have been manufactured and installed in several Community countries. The activity of these sources is fairly high and, once they are installed, these lightning conductors are not generally subjected to any kind of check. It is therefore advisable to study the effects which the radioactivity of these lightning conductors has on the population at large, and the Commission will pass on the results of this study to the health authorities in the Member States.

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** The Commission of the European Communities has just published three new "Eurisotop information sheets" on THE USE OF IRRADIATION TECHNIQUES in the chemical and textile industries, in the wood trade, in the manufacture of medical and surgical appliances, in agriculture and in food production.

** The Italian Common Market Study and Information Centre (CISMEC) is holding a study meeting on "THE INDUSTRIAL POLICY OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY" at the Milan Chamber of Commerce on 19 and 20 July. The general report will be introduced by Mr. Colonna di Paliano, member of the Commission of the European Communities with special responsibility for industrial problems.

ANNEX

WHAT DO THE FRENCH THINK OF A JOINT SCIENCE POLICY?

based on public opinion polls

A study published by the Institut français de l'opinion publique (IFOP) summarizes the conclusions to be drawn from various public opinion polls conducted between September 1947 and May 1967 in an attempt to assess FRENCH OPINION ON THE COMMON MARKET AND EUROPEAN INTEGRATION.

Generally speaking, taking the population as a whole, the advocates of European integration (61% in 1947 and 72% in 1967) considerably outnumber their opponents (10% in 1947 and 7% in 1967) and the "don't knows" (29% in 1947 and 21% in 1967).

Only two polls were carried out with particular reference to EURATOM - in 1956 and 1957 - and both of them revealed that little is known about this organization.

In reply to the question "Have you ever heard of Euratom? If so, what do you know about it?", posed in July 1956,

43% replied that they had never heard of Euratom,
57% replied that they had heard of it, but of these:

- 30% could not say precisely what it was
- 5% thought that it meant the pooling of scientific research
- 1% thought it stood for the joint organization of nuclear industrial equipment
- 2% thought it was an agreement concerning the peaceful uses of atomic energy
- 4% thought it was a plan concerning nuclear weapons
- 15% thought it was a European atomic energy organization (without being more explicit)

Also in July 1956, in reply to the question "Are you in favour of or against Euratom?"

- 21% approved
- 9% disapproved
- 4% were indifferent
- 66% had no opinion

Again in 1956, in reply to the question "What, in your opinion, would be the best way of developing the peaceful uses of atomic energy in Western Europe?", the following answers were received:

- 19% thought that each country should carry out its own policy independently
- 30% thought that all the countries of Western Europe should work together on a joint cooperative programme, but that each country should have the final say with regard to its own policy
- 14% thought that an integrated West European organization should be created which could take decisions concerning the actions of member countries
- 37% had no opinion

And in reply to the question "Do you think that France should continue to maintain its own independent atomic research and industry or should it rather join forces with the other countries of Western Europe, such as Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg, Germany and Italy?", the answers received were as follows:

- 22% thought that she should stay independent
- 38% thought she should join forces with other West European countries
- 5% gave some other answer
- 35% had no opinion

More recently, in February 1962, a poll aimed at probing public opinion with regard to different joint policies showed that 83% were in favour of a joint science policy (as opposed to 72% in favour of a joint agricultural policy, for example, or 60% in favour of a joint foreign policy). The advocates of a joint science policy broke down into the following figures according to their social or occupational class:

- 96% of the industrialists, business executives and liberal professions
- 90% of the office-workers
- 85% of the traders and craftsmen
- 82% of the employers of farm labour
- 80% of the manual workers
- 80% of the students, old-age pensioners and persons of independent means
- 74% of the farmworkers