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FOR PRESS BACKGROUND

EURATOM AIDS PREPARATIONS FOR N.S. SAVANNAH'S EUROPEAN VISIT

WASHINGTON, Nov. 21--The European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) has assisted in making possible the visit to Europe next year of the N.S. Savannah, the world's first nuclear-powered merchant ship.

Euratom has assisted its member countries in exchanging information on the Savannah and in adapting existing administrative and technical regulations covering its visit.

Meetings recently were held in Bremer, Hamburg and Antwerp between port authorities and national officials of Belgium, the Federal Republic of Germany, and Italy and the Savannah's builders and operators. Also attending the meetings were representatives of a special Euratom/German Lloyd/Bureau Veritas working group, set up on Euratom's initiative to assess the Savannah's technical safety. The working group's assessment was supplemented by a study made after the results of the first trials.

The working group's reports, both before and after the trials, found that the builders and operators of the ship had taken necessary steps to ensure that the Savannah's presence in coastal and port areas would not involve any hazard to the ship's construction or any major risk of radioactive contamination in event of accident.

Copies of the reports may be obtained from Euratom headquarters in Brussels.