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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

March 7, 1961

EURATOM TO SET UP RADIOISOTOPES BUREAU

Euratom is to establish, in close cooperation with the representatives of specialized industries in the six countries of the Community, an information bureau on the applications of radioisotopes. This bureau will distribute to potential utilizers documentation on the many uses to which radioisotopes can be put and an Advisory Committee will be set up for this purpose composed of experts from radioisotope-producing institutions and from industries manufacturing equipment using radioisotopes.

This is the outcome of a meeting held on February 27 in Brussels by the Euratom Commission and attended by some thirty representatives of industry specializing in this field.

In the course of the meeting, which took place in a very frank and cooperative atmosphere, the need was acknowledged for a considerable effort to be made to familiarize the public with the applications of radioisotopes. With this in mind, it is planned to produce two types of documentation: the first will consist of a collection of the administrative regulations on this subject at present in force in the six countries. The second will deal with technical characteristics, grouped according to branches of industry utilizing radioisotopes, to be issued in the form of booklets which Euratom will make available to industry. The representatives attending the meeting unanimously approved these proposals by Euratom.

Furthermore, they considered that the Commission could make a very appreciable contribution to the technical development of practical applications of radioisotopes in industry, should this development not prove to be immediately possible within the present commercial set-up.