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EURATOM CONCLUDES FUEL REPROCESSING AGREEMENT WITH EUROCHEMIC

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 15, 1966 -- The Commission of the European Atomic Energy Community concluded on March 7 a contract with Eurochemic (European Company for the Chemical Processing of Irradiated Fuels) for reprocessing nuclear fuel elements.

This is the largest agreement signed in the Community to date for reprocessing such elements. Approximately 4,000 kilograms of enriched uranium and aluminum from the Petten (Holland) HFR reactor and the Mol (Belgium) BR2 reactor are to be treated during the period 1967-68.

Eurochemic is a joint undertaking of 13 governments of the European Nuclear Energy Agency (ENEA), an agency of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Its plant at Mol, which will reprocess the fuels, will come into operation in July.

The nuclear material to be reprocessed by Eurochemic has been supplied by the United States Atomic Energy Commission and is subject to the provisions of the Additional Agreement for Cooperation between Euratom and the United States concerning the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

The Euratom safeguards system will automatically continue to be applied during all reprocessing operations and will guarantee, in conformity with the Additional Agreement for Cooperation, that such material will be used for peaceful purposes only.