

February 10, 1967

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**THIRD FIVE-YEAR EURATOM RESEARCH PROGRAM OUTLINED**

WASHINGTON, D.C., February 10 -- The Commission of the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) has tabled a proposal before the Euratom Council of Ministers for its third five-year research program for speeding nuclear industry development in the Common Market.

The new lines of the research program to begin in 1968 take account of certain factors such as:

- \* Europe's economic growth and energy needs,
- \* the development of new nuclear industry techniques,
- \* the approaching commercial applicability of certain new power reactor designs,
- \* world-wide competition in nuclear industry, and
- \* Euratom's own nine years of experience in applied nuclear research.

The first "Target for Euratom" (the so-called "wise men's report") published in 1957 proposed ten-year goals for Europe's nuclear power development which today have turned out to be far too conservative. Today the Commission considers its urgent task to be the setting of priorities for the most efficient use of funds available to meet some of the challenges listed above.

The third Euratom five year program would cover joint research, dissemination of information, promotion of health and safety in nuclear industries, technical and mechanical studies, and encouraging industrial uses for nuclear technology.

(MORE)

In addition, the Commission proposed Euratom participation in national projects which could benefit the entire Community. Euratom could assist in financing these projects and lend personnel, services, installations, and equipment for them.

Joint Research Program

The joint research program would be financed by all members of Euratom and executed primarily at the Joint Research and Information and Documentation Centers in Ispra, Italy. The program includes the construction of a pulsed reactor for use in conjunction with the French Government's very high flux reactor at Grenoble and research in the direct conversion of nuclear energy into electricity.

At the European Transuranium Institute at Karlsruhe, Federal Republic of Germany, the recycling of plutonium in thermal reactors and transuranium elements would be further developed. At the Central Nuclear Measurements Bureau in Geel, Belgium, there are plans for installing an accelerator and a mass-separator. At the Petten reactor in Germany, further work would be done on high temperature gas reactors and the operation of the HFR materials-testing reactor.

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