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- ** In a motion which it recently adopted, the Union of Industries of the European Community (UNICE) emphasizes the importance which it attaches to the efforts to provide European industry with a URANIUM ENRICHMENT PLANT. According to UNICE the construction of such a plant would enable the Community to set on foot a fresh and truly effective joint nuclear policy, help to diversify the sources of enriched uranium supplies, promote the export of nuclear power stations to non-Community countries and, lastly, contribute indirectly to the development of industrial activities in conventional sectors through technological "fall-out".
- ** It is essential that electricity producers should set up a system under which CALLS FOR TENDER ARE ISSUED ON AS WIDE A BASIS AS POSSIBLE WITHIN THE COMMUNITY in order that Community firms able to meet the technical requirements should be free to participate. This step, which should be carried out in a gradual and balanced manner, is the only means of EFFECTIVELY ACHIEVING THE COMMON MARKET in this field and will help to strengthen THE COMMON EUROPEAN NUCLEAR INDUSTRY. The Commission has been pursuing this aim for more than a year, particularly through its proposal for the concertation of the purchasing policies of electricity producers.

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The Commission of the European Communities recalls these facts in the reply which it has just given to a written question put by Mr Oele, a Dutch member of the European Parliament, on the decision taken by the Italian electricity company ENEL to award the contract for the construction of its fourth nuclear power station to Ansaldo Meccanico-Nucleare in cooperation with the American firm of General Electric.

** The Institute of Air Transport (Paris), a non-profit-making international association, has been asked by the Commission of the European Communities to carry out a study on the SPECIAL PROBLEMS OF AIR TRANSPORT with a view to the establishment of a COMMON POLICY in this field.

** In reply to a written question from Mr Bersani, an Italian member of the European Parliament, on the AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS STUDIED BY EURATOM CONCERNING THE AFRICAN STATES AND MADAGASCAR ASSOCIATED WITH THE COMMUNITY, the Commission of the European Communities has just announced that it has approved two of these projects, namely:

- the extermination of the tsetse fly, the carrier of trypanosomiasis, by sterilization of the males; a pilot experiment can begin before the end of 1970 at Bangui and in the adjacent forest areas, and will last four years;
- the improvement of millet, a project for which the Commission has decided to provide backing amounting to 1,205,000 u.a.; the project consists in drawing up a programme of applied agricultural research over a period of four years with the aim of creating new and more productive varieties of millet in line with the needs of Senegalese agriculture and having in addition to their qualities of adaptation to the environment a grain-straw ratio superior to that of the varieties currently and traditionally cultivated. Recourse will be had not only to the methods of work conventionally employed in both the genetic and the physiological fields, but also to ionizing radiations for the production of genetic mutations and the use of radiotracers (carbon-14) for the intensive study of the plant's actual physiology.

- ** The Commission of the European Communities has recently published the following scientific reports in the Euratom Reports series:
- Study of the radiological aspects of the manufacture and use of radioactive lightning conductors (76 pages - 100 FB - No. EUR 4292 f - available in French)
 - Ardennes nuclear power plant: Annual Report 1968 (28 pages - 50 FB - No. EUR 4395 f - available in French)
 - Environmental radioactivity - Ispra 1968 (50 pages - 70 FB - No. EUR 4412 e - available in English)
 - Results of environmental radioactivity measurements in the Community countries in 1968: air - fallout - water (68 pages - 100 FB - No. EUR 4418 d/f/i/n - available in Dutch, French, German and Italian).

These reports can be obtained from the European Communities Publications Office, 37 rue Glesener, Luxembourg.

- ** The efforts to COORDINATE LARGE-SCALE TECHNOLOGICAL RESEARCH IN EUROPE, to which the Commission of the European Communities attaches particular importance, have induced the industries of the United Kingdom to set up their own coordinating body for technological research in the 'seventies - the Confederation of Industrial Research Associations (CIRA) - with 42 industrial research associations as its founder members.

The Community area has for some time possessed an industrial organization of this kind - UNICE (Union of Industries of the European Community), with which the Commission discusses technological research projects.

- ** The European Communities' Supply Agency for nuclear fuel has again awarded the United States Atomic Energy Commission (USAEC) a TOLL ENRICHMENT CONTRACT for the delivery of 56 kg of enriched uranium, to be used in the AVR and DIDO reactors at the Jülich Nuclear Research Centre and also in the research reactor of the Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt Braunschweig in Germany.

** In connection with the research programme drawn up under the ECSC Treaty, the European Communities have commissioned a research project on "PROTECTIVE CLOTHING AGAINST THE EFFECTS OF HEAT" for the requirements of the iron and steel industries. This study is intended to test the effectiveness of the equipment commercially available and provide suggestions for practical improvements and new designs.