

# research and technology

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- \*\* URANIUM ENRICHMENT IN THE COMMUNITY is the subject of a reply given by the Commission of the European Communities to a written question from Mr Oele, Dutch member of the European Parliament. The text of the reply will be found in ANNEX 1.
- \*\* An official from the Biology Department of the Commission of the European Communities took part in the fourth General Assembly of the EUROPEAN CANCER RESEARCH ORGANIZATION, held at Paris and Rheims on 26 and 27 June. ANNEX 2 contains a brief note on the numerous ways in which the Community "Biology" research programme has helped to improve methods of cancer treatment.
- \*\* A research project on EUROPEAN SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION, to be carried out by the University of Sussex (UK), will be subsidized by the Council of Europe. The aim of the research is to formulate proposals for improving the efficiency, hitherto deemed inadequate, of European cooperation in scientific and technological fields.

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- \*\* In the opinion of major European aeronautical engineering firms, COMMUNITY ACTION ON BEHALF OF THE AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY would facilitate cooperation between firms in member countries and make it easier to carry out large-scale joint programmes which would strengthen their competitive position vis-à-vis their American rivals. ANNEX 3 gives a short report on this problem and measures that might be envisaged in the context of Community action.
- \*\* A conference for NATURAL URANIUM PRODUCERS in the Community countries, sponsored by the Commission of the European Communities, was held at the Joint Research Centre's Ispra establishment. There was wide-ranging discussion of the technical and economic aspects of the Community's natural uranium prospecting and supply arrangements: whilst no shortage is observable at present, it seems likely that the deposits being mined today will not suffice to cover requirements in the closing years of this decade. The conference asked that the Community develop its efforts towards harmonization of current regulations in this field and study measures to encourage uranium prospecting by Community firms.
- \*\* Replying to a written question from Mr Vredeling, Dutch member of the European Parliament, concerning TAKEOVERS OF CERTAIN COMMUNITY FIRMS BY NON-MEMBER COMPANIES, the Commission of the European Communities has pointed out that in its memorandum on the Community's industrial policy (see "Research and Technology" No. 48) it proposed CONFRONTATION AND COORDINATION OF ACTION TAKEN IN THE MEMBER STATES REGARDING THE RESTRUCTURING OF ENTERPRISES. Such confrontation should relate to the attitude to be adopted towards certain foreign investments, with particular reference to the maintaining of effective competition on the Community market, and to the need to favour the growth of European firms in certain sectors. It might also relate to the guidelines for securing the requisite combinations of enterprises. In view of the political and economic importance of the problems which would be dealt with, there is a distinct call for this confrontation to be conducted at Ministerial level.

- \*\* The Commission of the European Communities has approved, for forwarding to the Council of Ministers, a draft text of EUROPEAN COMPANY LAW, intended to facilitate cooperation between enterprises with headquarters in different Member States and thus help to integrate them in a common market.
- \*\* Replying to a written question from Miss Flesch, Luxembourg member of the European Parliament, on the technological development of the industrial production potential, the Commission of the European Communities stated that it is keeping a particularly close watch on the initiatives and experiments being undertaken inside and outside the Community, more especially among the countries seeking membership, to ensure INDUSTRIAL EXPLOITATION OF THE RESULTS OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH. When the time comes the Commission will, if appropriate, propose that the Member States "either harmonize and align the existing ways and means of exploiting the inventions or knowhow resulting from research and development, or set up a Community body with certain responsibilities regarding the transfer of technical knowhow".
- \*\* A conference on the problems of demarcation of the controlled area in medical and university installations, laboratories and gamma source vicinities was held by the Commission of the European Communities in Rome, as part of the work dealing with the REVISION OF THE EURATOM BASIC STANDARDS.
- \*\* An expert from the Commission of the European Communities took part in the 6th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NON-DESTRUCTIVE TESTING of pressure vessels held at Hanover (Germany) in June.
- \*\* A list of existing PARTICLE ACCELERATORS and associated equipment in the European Community has been published by the Commission of the European Communities. It can be obtained on request from the Scientific and Technological Information Service, 200 rue de la Loi, 1040 Brussels, Belgium.

Uranium Enrichment in the Community

Reply from the Commission of the European Communities to a written question from Mr Oele, Dutch member of the European Parliament

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- (1) On the occasion of the Council meeting of 28 October 1969, the Commission urged that the competent authorities should start examining its proposals as soon as possible. In its communication of 27 November 1969 to the Council, the Commission again stressed the value it attached to its proposals of 22 May 1969 and to consideration thereof at the earliest possible date. At its session of 6 December 1969, the Council agreed to give its decision on these proposals within one year at the latest. The Commission is taking part in the work already set in train by the competent departments of the Council for this purpose.
- (2) The Commission considers that it would certainly be expedient to have the question of granting Joint Enterprise status examined when the Council's Decision has clearly defined the general framework for the Community's industrial development in the uranium enrichment sector.
- (3) As regards the present stage of R&D on the various enrichment processes envisaged by their promoters, the object of this work is to check, on pilot or demonstration plants, the practical worth of equipment which has previously been tested only on the laboratory scale. Such pilot or demonstration plants are a necessary phase in the development of industrial-scale enrichment cascades and plant. They do not involve any additional financial burdens due to insufficient coordination or overlapping of development work.

As to the future stage of industrial development, for which no programme has been drawn up yet, the financial burden which the Member States might have to shoulder owing to overlapping or insufficient coordination of work cannot be evaluated at the present time. The Commission nevertheless considers that lack of coordination in the building and operation of enrichment

facilities in the Community would increase the risks of economic loss to the Community, particularly if the choices of method are not made with full knowledge of what is involved.

- (4) The Member States who signed the tripartite agreement have, in accordance with the United Kingdom government, formally declared that the tripartite agreement would in no circumstances be applied, either by themselves or by the United Kingdom, in such a manner as to render it impossible for these two Member States to comply with the obligations laid upon them by the Euratom Treaty.

The Commission considers that the general undertaking given by the two Member States to respect the obligations stemming from the Treaty of Rome is an earnest that this Treaty will be properly implemented as to Articles 52 and 75 and also any other of its relevant provisions.

The Community's Biology Research Programme  
is helping to improve cancer treatment

A member of the Biology Department of the Commission of the European Communities took part in the fourth general assembly of the European Cancer Research Organization, which was held at Paris and Rheims on 26 and 27 June.

The research programmes conducted by the Commission's Biology Department, both at the Joint Research Centre's establishments and through contracts with the Community's principal specialized laboratories, concern two major sectors (see in particular "Research and Technology" No. 57):

- study of the hazards connected with radiation, i.e., radiation protection for man and animals,
- the development of nuclear processes for application to agricultural and medical research.

In the course of its work, the Biology Department is confronted every day with immunological problems, and immunotherapy is, jointly with chemical therapy, the most up-to-date method of treating cancer.

The Biology Department of the Commission of the European Communities has therefore shared in the work of the European Cancer Research Organization ever since the latter was founded and has, within the limits of its capacity, encouraged the organization's expansion and the development of its working methods.

Today the European Cancer Research Organization, an association for scientific purposes, has become a model of efficient European-scale organization. It comprises a large number of European research scientists who pool the information supplied to them by numerous practising physicians. The pooling of individual results and statistics widens the common field of experiment, with all the more efficiency as the research groups that form the Organization are connected by telex, so that they can compare their findings day by day and lose no time in taking the steps prompted by these comparisons. In addition, they meet every other month, just as if they were geographically part of a single Institute.

Through its indirect contribution to the work of the European Cancer Research Organization, the Community's Biology Department feels that it is doing what it can to help in the treatment of one of the most destructive diseases of our time, pending the day when official recognition of the Organization by the European governments serves to expand still further the facilities available to specialists for improving cancer treatment.

Community action would facilitate integration of  
the European aeronautics industry

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Close cooperation among the Community's aircraft firms for the purpose of planning and carrying out major programmes (airliners, families of aircraft, etc.) is essential to enable Europe to compete more successfully with rival non-member countries, and more especially the American firms, which are privileged as regards both internal markets and government aid.

The European firms' willingness to cooperate has already found expression in national-scale mergers, mainly in France and Germany, and in the establishment of certain international agreements despite the obstacles raised by different sets of legal provisions. Thus two Community firms, Fokker and VFW, have arrived at a merger and others have undertaken joint participation schemes.

Nevertheless, the risk of distortion on the economic and monetary level, through the fact that economic trends differ from country to country, is a major barrier in the way of developing such cooperation for long-term programmes. Coming on top of considerable industrial and financial hazards and greater trade risks than those faced by the American firms, this risk jeopardizes the competitive position of the European industry.

Community action, designed to afford the aeronautics industry some protection against risks beyond its control, could promote integration in this sector until such time as an economic and monetary union is established in the Community.

Such action by the public authorities, which is desired by the aircraft companies, and in particular by VFW-FOKKER (Germany), FOKKER-VFW (Netherlands), FIAT (Italy), SABCA (Belgium) and DASSAULT (France), should have three facets:

1. coverage of economic risks, which, by correcting abnormal economic phenomena, would protect manufacturers against inordinate changes in basic costs within any one country;
2. coverage of exchange risks, which, pending the introduction of a European currency, would help to offset the distortions resulting from changes in monetary parities;



3. a credit policy, consisting in harmonization of the terms of credit, and coverage of the political and commercial risks by Community credit insurance organizations. In this respect it is desirable that the draft common credit insurance policy be adopted as soon as possible.

Action of this kind by the authorities would tend to level out charges among the Community firms and, by favouring cooperation among them on a uniform basis, would enable European firms cooperating in this way to plan long-term programmes whilst affording them the indispensable safety margin. By correcting a structural disadvantage in relation to the rival American firms, it would enhance the competitive capacity of the European aeronautical engineering industry.