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An Overall Approach to Scientific and Technological Policy within the Community

The Council of Ministers of Technology of the European Community held an important meeting on 23 July 1970 in order to examine the general scientific and technological policy of the Community.

At this meeting the Commission of the European Communities stated that under the terms and in accordance with the spirit of the Rome Treaties, and in conformity with the will of the governments of the Member States as expressed at the Hague Conference, it would submit to the Council as soon as possible general proposals concerning the following matters:

- (1) Scientific and technological cooperation, including methods of executing and financing projects, together with the multiannual nuclear research programme.
- (2) Action to be taken as a result in the restructured Joint Research Centre.

A further session of the Council of Ministers of the Community is to be held for this purpose on 12-13 October.

In the meantime, in the discussions being held by the Fifteen among experts of the Community and nine other European countries - Bratain, Ireland, Denmark, Norway, Austria, Spain, Portugal, Sweden and Switzerland - (see "Research and Technology" No. 61), the Community will propose to the nine countries that the work should be continued; it will be coordinated by a Committee made up of high-ranking officials of the participating countries and of the Commission. which will be entrusted with powers of decision and will be provided with funds (500 000 u.c.) to cover the necessary initial expenses.

A meeting of the ministers responsible for technology in the sim Community countries and the nine other countries concerned is scheduled to be held before the end of the year in order to take the first practical decisions.