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** Since the representatives of the governments have now agreed on a multiannual joint programme on CONTROLLED THERMONUCLEAR FUSION based on the proposals of the Commission of the European Communities (see "Research and Technology" No. 57), it appears that the Council will be able to take a positive decision along these lines at its next meeting. The trend of ideas is towards a five-year research programme with a total budget of 184.7 million units of account (1 u.a. = 1 US dollar) for the Community as a whole.

It should be recalled that the representatives of the Member States had already agreed in principle back in the spring of 1968 to carry out a multiannual programme of Community research in this sector. It has taken the representatives more than three years to draw up a definite programme.

** The results of basic research on cryogenics (low temperature technology), which is highly developed in Britain, could be judiciously supplemented and furthered in a practical way by a European joint project, particularly since full-scale

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The information and articles published in this Bulletin concern European scientific cooperation and industrial development in Europe. Hence they are not simply confined to reports on the decisions or views of the Commission of the European Communities, but cover the whole field of questions discussed in the different circles concerned.

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industrial exploitation, in the fields of transport and energy storage especially, will not be possible for some years to come. This opinion was voiced by several Members of Parliament during the discussions on the POSSIBILITIES OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY AND GREAT BRITAIN IN THE FIELD OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY which the Committee on Energy, Research and Atomic Problems of the European Parliament held with Members of Parliament and British experts in Brussels on 28 May last.

This cooperation between Members of Parliament, which has existed for several years, is designed ultimately to lay the technical, economic and political bases for future cooperation within the expanded Community.

** When they meet in Paris on 16 June, the members of the General Consultative Committee of the Joint Research Centre (JRC) will be in possession of a file on the major problems entailed in the basic options relating to the preparation of a MULTIANNUAL RESEARCH PROGRAMME for the Community; it will include the following items:

1. A detailed analytical table of the current activities pursued of the Ispra establishment of the JRC.
2. A very important file on the future of the ESSOR test reactor and its possible new uses in connection with irradiation tests on fuel elements for light water reactors, and in general with a view to the optimum use of irradiation facilities within the Community.
3. A proposal for research on water reactors to back up the programmes under way in Member States.

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4. A document on the role which the Scientific Data Processing Centre (CETIS) could play, particularly through the creation of a European program library and research on automatic documentation.
5. A research programme on applications of nuclear energy other than the production of electricity.
6. A proposal for research in the sector of environmental protection, based on the work of a group of experts from the Member States.
7. A proposal concerning reference substances and the Commission's role in the suppression of technical impediments to trade, based on the work of another study group.

The other subjects (SORA pulsed reactor, Community Bureau for Nuclear Measurements, Institute of Transuranium Elements, etc.) do not raise problems of principle or of particular urgency.

It is to be hoped that the General Consultative Committee will be able to express an opinion on a draft multiannual programme (three years) at a meeting planned for 30 June.

The first outlines of such a programme were sketched on 2 June before the experts of the Council by Mr Caprioglio, Director-General of the Joint Research Centre.

** The maintenance of STOCKS OF OIL AND PETROLEUM PRODUCTS is an essential feature in the joint fuel supply policy, and the Commission of the European Communities is therefore undertaking a study of the geological prospects for the creation of underground depots for crude petroleum within the Community, together with the economic and technical problems concerned in the transport of products for storage, the choice of sites which are best placed in case of emergency and the overall cost of storage.

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The Commission of the European Communities is also having a preliminary study carried out on the technical and economic prospects of the UTILIZATION AND PROCESSING OF COAL produced in the Community and the United Kingdom; this study will take into account the results of research and the present state of the art in the field of coal chemistry and physics.

** An analysis of the structure of the MAJOR EUROPEAN INDUSTRIAL FIRMS has recently been published by the Centre for Research and Socio-political Information, Brussels.

** The Consultative Committee of the Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) will give an opinion on 11 June on the proposals which the Commission of the European Communities is to submit to the Council concerning financial aid to various TECHNICAL RESEARCH programmes in the COAL sector, namely:

1. Research on the development of conventional techniques for the exoavation of galleries (609,687 u.a.).
2. Research on the increase in production and efficiency in working areas (high performance face) (1,063,960 u.a.).
3. Research on the mechanization, automation and rationalization of transport and supply at the pit head (990,000 u.a.).
4. Metrological studies on the dynamic stresses in mine extraction devices (214,760 u.a.).
5. Research on "Increasing the efficiency of coke furnaces by means of a heating programme and an improved generator" (715,575 u.a.).
6. Research on the fabrication of coke briquettes (321,380 u.a.).

** A seminar on INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION AS A SOURCE OF EFFICIENCY AND PROGRESS was held in Luxembourg on 3 and 4 June by the Franco-German Mathematical and Computer Science Society

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and the departments of the Commission of the European Communities. The participants visited the installations of the Commission's automated nuclear documentation system (see "Industry, Research and Technology" No. 73).

** SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL REPORTS recently published by the Commission of the European Communities include the following:

- Studies on the radioactive contamination of the sea
(Annual report 1968-69)
(No. EUR 4508 e - 110 pages - 150 BF - available in English);
- Movement of certain isotopes in animals and man
(Annual report 1969)
(No. EUR 4527 f - 44 pages - 60 BF - available in French);
- Dodewaard 50 MWe nuclear power plant
(Annual report 1969)
(No. EUR 4595 n - 24 pages - 40 BF - available in Dutch);
- Results of environmental radioactivity measurements in the Community countries in 1969 - air - fallout - water
(No. EUR 4605 d/f/i/n - 78 pages - 100 BF - available in German, Dutch, French and Italian).

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