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\*\* The guidelines proposed by the Commission of the European Communities for INDUSTRIAL POLICY (see "Research and Technology" No. 48) have been reviewed by the national delegates briefed to do so by the Community's Council of Ministers (see "Research and Technology" No. 63). The text of the delegates' report, which was finalized on 18 and 19 March, reflects broad unanimity on the major aims of a Community industrial policy and, in particular, proposes the setting-up of a permanent Community body dealing with industrial policy. Some differences of opinion were recorded, however, about the practical implementation of the Commission's proposals, which the ministers will need to reconcile. Now that it has learned the views of the Member States, the European Parliament, the Community's Economic and Social Committee and the representatives of labour and management, the Commission will prepare specific proposals which will be sent to the Council of Ministers before the end of the year.

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*The information and articles published in this Bulletin concern European scientific cooperation. 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 circles concerned in European cooperation in science and technology.*

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\*\* In 1970 the amount of ELECTRICITY GENERATED BY NUCLEAR POWER STATIONS in the Community amounted to 14,000,000 MWh NET - up 30% on the previous year.

This is one of the points made in a note compiled by the Statistical Office of the European Communities, an extract from which will be found ANNEXED.

\*\* Meeting in Brussels on 23 March, the European Parliament's Committee on Energy, Research and Atomic Affairs was given a particularly thorough briefing by Mr Haferkamp, Vice-President of the Commission of the European Communities, on the status of work in the implementation of the outline COMMUNITY ENERGY POLICY. Mr Haferkamp announced that the Commission would very shortly submit to the Council of Ministers proposals regarding oil reserves, Community aid for the supply of energy in general, as well as the feasibility of a common policy for cooperation with the oil-producing countries. His briefing was followed by an exchange of views on the common energy policy.

The Committee also decided to put to the Commission of the European Communities a spoken question on the CONTRACT FOR THE SUPPLY OF ENRICHED URANIUM RECENTLY CONCLUDED BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION AND FRANCE.

\*\* The Commission of the European Communities has had a study carried out to determine a MINIMUM RATE OF BIODEGRADABILITY to be imposed, at Community level, on DETERGENTS in washing and cleaning products, and one or more methods of measuring biodegradability best suited for Community-wide application. The study will be used in framing a draft directive on detergents with a view to removing the technical obstacles to trade resulting from the Member States' differing regulations on the subject.

- \*\* Materials and engineering problems relating to the INTEGRITY OF STEEL COMPONENTS IN NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS are the subject of activities organized jointly by the Commission of the European Communities and the European Atomic Energy Agency (ENEA). A group of experts briefed to study these problems held its first meeting in Brussels on 17 and 18 March 1971.
- \*\* The Commission of the European Communities recently held, in Brussels, a ROUND-TABLE CONFERENCE attended by the Community countries' representatives in the European Mechanical Handling Federation (FEM), with the aim of listing the differences between Member States' regulations governing the activities of the various sections of the Federation (rules governing construction, installation and inspection), and establishing priorities for the ELIMINATION OF TECHNICAL OBSTACLES TO INTRA-COMMUNITY TRADE IN THE MECHANICAL HANDLING SECTOR.
- \*\* An information meeting on PRECIPITATION-HARDENED SPECIAL STEELS is to be held in Luxembourg on 14 June 1971 by the Commission of the European Communities. The latest results of research in the field of physical metallurgy suitable for practical application in the construction of welded assemblies will be presented to an audience of specialists in the field (managers and experts from the steel industry and national research institutes, professional bodies, universities and other specialized teaching establishments, etc.).
- \*\* The Commission of the European Communities has decided to publish, as No. 6 in its "Industry" series, a study on HIGH-POWERED AUTOMATIC DATA-PROCESSING SYSTEMS - requirements and applications in the European Community and United Kingdom in the seventies. It will be sold through the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, 37 rue Glesener, Luxembourg.

- \*\* Representatives of the Community's RUBBER MANUFACTURERS INDUSTRIES (excluding the tyre and inflatables industries) met as a working group convened by the Commission of the European Communities, in Brussels on 23 March this year, in order to review developments in the structure of this industry, the various activities covered by it and the future outlook for the sector.
- \*\* The Commission of the European Communities has decided to publish 12 monographs reviewing INDUSTRIAL RETRAINING IN COAL- AND STEEL-PRODUCING REGIONS.
- \*\* As part of its programme on the STANDARDIZATION OF METHODS OF OXYGEN ASSAY IN NON-FERROUS METALS, the Euristop Office recently held meetings in Brussels on charged-particle and gamma-photon activation, oxygen assay of silicon and germanium, and methods of chemical analysis.
- \*\* The Commission of the European Communities has just published the Proceedings of the seminar on RADIATION PROTECTION PROBLEMS RELATING TO TRANSURANIUM ELEMENTS which it held in Karlsruhe last September. The document, reference EUR 4612 d-f-e, can be obtained from the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, 37 rue Glesener, Luxembourg.

Power Output from Community Nuclear Power Plants in 1970

The electricity output of nuclear power stations in the Community reached 14,000,000 MWh net in 1970 - up 30% on the previous year.

German plants currently account for 40% of the Community's nuclear electricity. Four plants out of six achieved or surpassed a utilization of 7,300 hours, allowing for the fact that some were shut down for several weeks for refuelling and overhaul. Even the AVR experimental reactor at Jülich, an advanced gas reactor, operated satisfactorily.

In France, despite several plants being out of service for varying periods, output was similar to that in Germany. This was due, in particular, to the excellent running of the EDF-2 plant at Chinon, which was phased to the line for almost 8,000 hours and recorded the remarkable utilization of 7,900 hours, the best operational performance yet recorded by a nuclear plant. The Chooz and Saint-Laurent-des-Eaux stations were back on load; operation of both was at first restricted by the inevitable inspections during start-up, but has gradually improved and foreshadows satisfactory running for the coming year.

Italian output was marked chiefly by the return to service of the Trino plant, which enabled this country to exceed the level of 3,000 GWh for the first time since 1967.

Thus, the average utilization for all plants in the Community rose to 4,500 hours in 1970 (against 3,800 in 1969).

Regarding installed capacity, the Grosswelzheim prototype reactor with nuclear superheat, rated at 22 MWe net, was added to the existing plants, bringing the number in operation to 20 and their

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net capacity to 3,150 MW. Despite the fact that 15 nuclear plants with a net capacity of 9,200 MWe are under construction, 1971 will see little change in the amount of nuclear generating plant in operation; not until 1972 will there be any notable increase, with the commissioning of the large units at Stade (630 MWe), Würgassen (640 MWe), Saint-Laurent-des-Eaux II (515 MWe) and Bugey-1 (540 MWe).

Current nuclear generating capacity is divided about equally between light water reactors (this type being in service chiefly in Germany and Italy) and natural uranium reactors (the latter being primarily a French type). Owing to the better availability of the former type, 60% of the total output of nuclear plants in 1970 came from enriched uranium. Analysis of plant operations shows an average net efficiency of the order of 30% for light water plants and 25% for natural uranium installations.