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- ** The Commission of the European Communities has just adopted a rigorous programme of work in order to be in a position to present to the Council before 1 July 1969 its proposals for a MULTIANNUAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR EURATOM on the basis of the resolution adopted by the Council on 20 December 1968 (sec No. 2 of "Research and Technology"). To this end the Commission will endeavour in the coming weeks:
- to compare the nuclear research programmes of Community countries, and also the non-nuclear programmes
 - to consult the public authorities and private interests concerned in order to sketch the broad lines of Community policy in the field of reactors and more generally to establish the criteria underlying a coordinated nuclear policy.
- ** The Commission of the European Communities has just commissioned the German firm of S.S.G.K. to complete its study of STATE AID DESIGNED TO ENCOURAGE FIRMS' EFFORTS WITH REGARD TO SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH in the member countries, the United States, the United Kingdom and in Japan. This will be done by extending an earlier contract.
- ** The industrial grouping GAAA (France), Interatom (Germany) and Montedison (Italy) has submitted on time its tender for the "ORGEL PROTOTYPE" COMPETITION. This consists of 17 documents which the Commission's departments have begun to study both from the angle of the amount of the bid and the technical quality of the draft design submitted.

For all further information please apply to the :

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** The competent German authorities are considering, in close liaison with industry, a new definition of their scientific and industrial strategy with regard to FAST REACTORS. In view of the latest scientific findings and the programme guidelines recently laid down in the United States, the steam-cooled family might be abandoned, it is believed. Should this trend be confirmed, and a decision is expected shortly, the concentration of the Community's main efforts on developing the sodium-cooled type could be greatly facilitated, in keeping with the wishes of the Commission of the European Communities.

In another connection, the Commission's departments are taking part in the work of the European Nuclear Energy Agency's (ENEA) Working Party on the COMPARATIVE EVALUATION OF FAST REACTORS, both gas- and steam-cooled and sodium-cooled. The Working Party's report is to be submitted next March.

** A NEW NATURAL URANIUM TARGET, designed at Geel by the Joint Research Centre's Central Bureau for Nuclear Measurements (CBNM) has just been delivered by the French firm of CERCA, which had been awarded the fabrication contract. This target is capable of absorbing an electron beam power of the order of 10 kW. It can also be fully disassembled, which will facilitate the recovery of its uranium kernel, if required, or its replacement by an enriched uranium kernel.

** The Commission of the European Communities organised a meeting last December of the companies and organizations of the Community engaged in the STUDY OF THE APPLICATIONS OF NUCLEAR TECHNIQUES (RADIOMETRY AND GAMMAGRAPHY) to the non-destructive examination of reinforced and prestressed concretes. The success of this meeting suggests the possibility of close collaboration in the field of laboratory tests on standard blocks. The Commission has concluded a contract in this sector with the French company AGS.

** The Italian Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers will organize an INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON NUCLEAR ELECTRONICS at the Ispra establishment of the Joint Research Centre from 6 to 8 May 1969.

** The contract under which the Commission of the European Communities PARTICIPATES in the operation of the GARIGLIANO nuclear power station in Italy has been extended to 31 December 1973.

** The IRRADIATION CAPACITY AVAILABLE in the Joint Research Centre's HFR high-temperature reactor at Petten CAN BE USED, against payment, by research organizations and industrial enterprises for irradiating samples of nuclear materials and fuels.

** A short summary of Report ref. EUR 4199e is attached. This report has just been published by the Commission of the European Communities and is entitled "EURATOM'S BIOLOGY PROGRAMME 1964-67". See Issue No. 3 of "Research and Technology".

EURATOM AND THE LIFE SCIENCES

Seriously undernourished children whose mortality rate has been reduced by 10 to 30 %. A barley of garden pea plant whose productivity has been increased by 30 %. Roses which take on new, unaccustomed and all more enchanting colours.

These are real facts, made possible by the atom, tangible results obtained by research workers on the staff of Euratom's Directorate for Biology, a few of the many applications of the nuclear science which European experts have developed. These examples are taken from a report just published by the Commission of the European Communities under the title "EURATOM'S BIOLOGY PROGRAMME 1964-1967" (report EUR 4199e). This is a fascinating review of a complex long-term research programme directed along two main axes - the struggle against the harmful effects of radiations, and the application of nuclear sciences to agriculture, biology and medicine.

In four years the research programme of Euratom's Directorate for Biology has published 980 scientific reports, articles or communications; this indicates its richness and also its diversity. The report just published gives only a general idea of these activities, ranging from the study of radiological influences on blood cells and the marrow (in the fight against cancer) to research on the chromosomes and an important contribution to the problems still raised by the rejection of transplanted organs, from the study of the production of new varieties of apples or potatoes to research on protection against harmful insects (by mass breeding in economic conditions of sterilized males); the list of research projects undertaken of results already obtained and of discoveries now in sight is long.

As nuclear industry develops and reactors multiply, the protection of man against radiations becomes more difficult and more necessary. Happily our knowledge of nuclear phenomena is also increasing, and this facilitates the efforts of our scientists to combat the harmful effects of radiations.

It remains to extend the applications of the beneficent effects of radiations. This is an exciting task with numerous and interdependent scientific aspects, a task which, according to the Commission's report, should be tackled by a well-knit scientific community, uniting men, experience and imagination in the service of the life sciences.

