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** Problems relating to the setting up of a EUROPEAN URANIUM ENRICHMENT CAPACITY formed the focal point of the meeting of the Euratom Scientific and Technical Committee - made up of experts from the Community member countries appointed on a personal basis - when it met in Brussels on 11 September 1969.

Broadly speaking, the STC came out in favour of the Commission's proposals on the subject (see "Research & Technology" No. 18).

The STC laid particular stress on the need for the Community to be assured of a source of enriched uranium supplies which rendered it independent. However, it pointed out that, as things stood at present, it was impossible to say to what extent and by what date a choice could be made between the various possible enrichment processes, since a combination of different processes might well prove the best solution in due course.

At all events, the STC emphasized the need for the Community to dovetail activities in this direction, which are extremely scattered. The Community's assistance would subsequently assume a form which would make due allowance for the characteristics of the different processes, in particular the effect of the size (the adoption of gaseous diffusion inevitably implies the construction of one single plant in the Community, i.e.,

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a joint enterprise and large-scale Community backing); on the other hand, if use is made of techniques in which the minimum sizes are much smaller, it might be possible to build several plants and the creation of a joint enterprise would appear feasible. The assistance provided by the Community would naturally have to take due account of the normal industrial processes. According to the STC, the persistent and virtually total uncertainty with regard to the economic possibilities of centrifugation means that the Community should spare no effort to have an early evaluation - even of an approximate nature - made of the chances of arriving at reasonable production costs. On the basis of such an evaluation the Community could then embark on the necessary negotiations with a view to bringing about a full and gradual exchange of information in the light of which a balanced decision could then be taken with regard to the placing of an order for enrichment capacities in the Community and their subsequent operation.

At all events, the sole aim of these joint efforts is to ensure the Community regular enriched uranium supplies at a fair price, on favourable terms and with reasonable delivery dates.

**** ONE-SIXTH OF EUROPE'S ELECTRONIC PRODUCTION IS ACCOUNTED FOR BY SUBSIDIARIES OF AMERICAN FIRMS, who are increasingly giving preference to investment in the electronic industry. American domination is virtually 100% in the case of integrated circuits.**

These are some of the facts which emerge from a recently published study carried out by the Bureau d'Informations et de Prévisions Economiques, Paris, on behalf of the Commission of the European Communities. Details from this report will be found in the ANNEX.

**** FIVE NEW RESEARCH PROJECTS RELATING TO DUST PREVENTION**

IN MINES will be granted aid totalling nearly 215,000 u.a. by the Commission of the European Communities from the 6,000,000 u.a. appropriated for this field of research at the end of 1964. The subjects of the five new projects are:

- research into pneumoconiotic lesions resulting from exposure to dust;
- research into the physical properties of coal and waste and into the behaviour of dust therefrom;
- research on the influence of additives in dry-way dust extraction using drum-type cutter-loaders;
- development of and experimentation with special dust prevention devices for loading points at highly mechanized workings;
- development of an aerosol filter offering a high efficiency for a low flow resistance.

**** On 25 September 1969, the working group created by the Community to promote exchanges of information between member countries on everything connected with MEASUREMENTS OF NUCLEAR RADIATIONS IN RESEARCH REACTORS will hold its next meeting in Brussels.**

As a result of contacts set up with the UKAEA (United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority), an observer from the Winfrith Centre in Britain is attending the group's meetings.

The part played by US industry in
the production of electronic equipment in Europe

One-sixth of Europe's production of electronic equipment is accounted for by subsidiaries of American firms, as a result of the latter's increasingly giving priority to investment in this sector of European activity. Thus the US has acquired virtually total domination of the market where integrated circuits are concerned.

These are some of the points brought out in a study carried out on behalf of the Commission of the European Communities by the Bureau d'Information et de Prévisions Economiques (Paris) and recently published by the Commission.

Another fact which emerges from the study is that 100 US enterprises possess interests in 196 European electronic enterprises.

The capital of some of these "European" firms is 100% American-owned. Cases in point are IBM-France - which, we learn in passing, was incorporated as far back as 1914 - IBM-Netherlands, IBM-Italy and IBM-Germany. Honeywell, for its part, settles for a 99.9% holding in its European subsidiaries.

By contrast, Fairchild Camera and Instruments own no more than 33% of the capital of Fairchild-France, SGS-Fairchild (Germany) and SGS-Fairchild (Italy).

International Telephone and Telegraph, with participations ranging from 40 to 100% in 17 European firms, and General Electric, which has provided 45-100% of the capital of 11 Community companies, head the list as regards the number of interests acquired in Europe.

The table on the following page demonstrates the difference in size between the electronics industries of the Community countries and those of the United States, and may go some way towards accounting for the situation with which we are at present confronted.

Turnover of electronics industries (in millions of dollars)					
Country	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964
France	716	873	1,035	1,217	1,411
Germany	1,290	1,384	1,321	1,407	1,596
Belgium and Luxembourg	94	117	124	167	205
Netherlands	275	295	320	333	366
Italy	<u>229</u>	<u>253</u>	<u>296</u>	<u>310</u>	<u>310</u>
Total Community	2,604	2,922	3,096	3,434	3,888
United States	13,098	14,914	16,617	18,053	18,756

Is there still time to slow down and, if possible, reverse the trend of US penetration in this sector? It would appear that there is, provided first and foremost that Europe's industrial structures are thoroughly modernized, for the consumer firms lack financial standing, and the producing firms have not yet concentrated their production sufficiently.

As the market potential is considerable in Europe, it will also be necessary, if the genuinely European electronics industry is to secure an adequate share of that market, for the governments of the "Six" to agree on a common policy for research and development in the field of electronics, which means that the European enterprises for their part will have to make a greater effort than they have done so far to link up research, production and marketing.

On top of this, however, the authors of the study propose that an agreement be reached between the US government on the one hand and the European governments and the Commission on the other for the European firms to benefit from the vast expansion of the European electronic equipment market. Such a step, which would not rule out collaboration between European and American enterprises, can only be taken in the context of a common industrial policy aimed at integrating Community electronics industries.