E TE C E E AND

INFORMATION SERVICE

236 Southern Building, Washington 5, D.C., telephone NAtional 8-5070

COMMON MARKET · EURATOM · COAL & STEEL COMMUNITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BRITISH NEGOTIATIONS FOR EURATOM ENTRY

TO BEGIN NEXT WEDNESDAY

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 16--Negotiations at the deputy ministerial level will begin next Wednesday (Nov. 21) in Brussels on Great Britain's application for membership in the European Atomic Energy Community, it was announced today.

These negotiations will be separate from those now taking place between Great Britain and the countries of the European Economic Community for Common Market entry.

The Euratom Council of Ministers and the British delegation met Wednesday night in Brussels to hear the Community's official reply to Lord Privy Seal Edward Heath's speech of July 3 regarding Britain's application for Euratom membership.

H. R. Van Houten of the Netherlands, heading the Community's negotiating team, declared that "by acceding to Euratom, the United Kingdom will automatically benefit from the results of our Community effort (in the peaceful applications of nuclear energy).

"Consequently, our six governments have noted with satisfaction that the British government, for its part, is prepared to make a very large contribution to the development of research in the Community and will be glad to let the Community benefit from the experience gained by the United Kingdom. They attach particular importance to this undertaking in view of the long history and the scope of the British effort. (more)

"Our six governments therefore consider that it would be opportune not to limit the negotiations to a discussion on the procedure of our future cooperation in the technical and scientific field. We believe in fact that it will be necessary, during the course of the negotiations for your (U.K.) accession to Euratom, to arrive at an agreement on the contribution which the British government is prepared to add to the Community effort carried out under our first program, as well as on the contribution which they propose to make to the second program. These are fundamental and concrete questions..."

"It will be possible to settle the problems which may arise from this accession which cannot, however, change the impact and spirit of the (Euratom)

Treaty," Van Houten declared.

Pierre Chatenet, President of the Euratom Commission, declared that the Commission's principal aim in the negotiations would be to assure that financial and technical efforts of Euratom and the six member countries could be combined with those of Britain for the benefit of the enlarged Community. He said the Commission shared the reserve expressed by the Council of Ministers regarding any protocols revising the Treaty.

"The intelligent application of the (Euratom) Treaty should enable all problems that might arise in this sector to be resolved," he said, referring to the question of separate national military programs involving nuclear energy.

The present members of the European Atomic Energy Community are Belgium, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands.