

March 17, 1967

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FRANCO-EURATOM RAPSODIE FAST REACTOR REACHES FULL POWER

Washington, D.C., March 17 -- RAPSODIE, a 20 MWth fast neutron breeder sodium-cooled experimental reactor in Cadarache, France, started to operate at full power today less than eight weeks after the power run-up commenced on January 28.

The RAPSODIE, built under the France-Euratom association, illustrates the potential of fast reactors, the Commission of the European Atomic Energy Community said in making the announcement in Brussels. The high standard of planning for the RAPSODIE operation and the efficiency of its measuring system, which incorporates a centralized data gathering unit, made this extremely fast power run-up possible, the Commission said.

Fast breeder reactors are expected to be in commercial use by 1980. They are economically attractive because they produce more fuel than they consume.

#