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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EURATOM PROMOTES IRRADIATION TECHNIQUES WITH
WORLD'S LARGEST MOBILE IRRADIATOR

WASHINGTON, D.C., June 15, 1967 -- Euratom launched a Community-wide campaign to promote the application of irradiation techniques in industry and agriculture today when the world's largest mobile irradiator went into service at Wageningen, The Netherlands.

The unit, called IRMA, is mounted on a semi-trailer, 31 feet long. In the next six months, it will travel 16,000 miles throughout Europe to demonstrate for industries and agricultural enterprises in the six European Atomic Energy Community nations the many practical applications of isotopic irradiation techniques. The IRMA tour is sponsored by Euratom's Eurisotop Bureau.

Manufacturers and processors of chemicals, pharmaceuticals, textiles, agricultural products, and medical supplies will have the opportunity to test new irradiation techniques that have been developed to improve efficiency of production or product quality. The IRMA irradiator has a CS-137 source of 175,000 curies. In one hour it can pasteurize 400 pounds of fish, prepare 120 pounds of wood plastic compounds, or sterilize 30 pounds of surgical catgut.

The Institute for Atomic Sciences in Agriculture at Wageningen will use the unit to irradiate strawberries, cultivated mushrooms, bananas, beans, fish, and meat as a means of preservation.

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