



**European
Community**

PRESS RELEASE

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CONFERENCE ON HEALTH PROTECTION FROM RADIATION

WASHINGTON, D.C., September 24, 1970 -- This week experts from ten countries are meeting at the European Transuranium Institute in Karlsruhe, Germany, to discuss health and safety hazards connected with the growing use of transuranium elements in research and industry.

The meeting on September 21-25 is being jointly sponsored by the Commission of the European Communities and the European Agency for Nuclear Energy, an agency of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Transuranium elements, which are artificially produced elements characterized by high radioactive emissions, have useful applications in research and industry as energy sources (isotopic generators) and as gamma and neutron emitters.

These substances are now becoming more easily available. Originally produced mainly in high flux reactors and particle accelerators, transuranium elements now are being produced also by spent reactor fuel reprocessing plants.

As supply and use of transuranium elements grow, so too do the potential health and safety hazards to the people handling them.

The special importance of this conference is underlined by the presence of Dr. Glenn T. Seaborg, chairman of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission who opened it with a paper on "Recent Progress in Transuranium Research."

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