

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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ORAL QUESTION (0-111/78)

with debate, pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

by Mr Dankert, on behalf of the Socialist Group to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject: Imports of uranium from South Africa

On 9 May 1978 Commissioner Burke was unwilling, for reasons of commercial secrecy, to answer my question on the extent to which the Community was or would become dependent on South Africa for its uranium supplies.

On 10 May 1978 the President-in-Office of the Council, Mr Andersen, said in reply to similar questions that he expected the Community to become less dependent on South Africa than it was at present.

The December 1977 issue of the German magazine 'Atomwirtschaft - Atomtechnik' (No. 12, Year XXII), however, gives the following figures:

- in the period 1965 to 1976 inclusive, the Federal Republic of Germany imported 1,700 tonnes of natural uranium from South Africa representing 27.2% of its total uranium imports of 7,000 tonnes;

.../...

- contracts have been concluded under which, over the period 1977 to 1980 inclusive, the Federal Republic is due to import 4,200 tonnes of natural uranium from South Africa, representing 46.7% of its total uranium imports of 9,000 tonnes in that period.

Furthermore, the annual report of the Euratom Supply Agency for 1977 shows that some of Community supplies of uranium come from Namibia.

1. Can the Commission state how far these figures concerning the Federal Republic's imports of uranium from South Africa (there being clearly no 'commercial secrecy' restriction on the publication of these figures) are comparable with uranium imports from South Africa by the Community as a whole?
2. Can the Commission state what share of the Community's uranium imports from South Africa come from Namibia?
3. In view of the undesirability of being dependent on South Africa in any way at all, is the Commission prepared to secure alternative supplies of uranium for the Community in the longer term?
4. Is the Commission willing to observe the ban imposed by the UN Council on Namibia on the exploitation of or exploration for Namibian raw materials, and to do its utmost to stop the importation of uranium originating in Namibia?