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- ** Following the decision of the Council of Ministers of the Community to hold meetings of experts of the Member States of the Community and nine other European countries to prepare the deliberations of the FIFTEEN EUROPEAN MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR TECHNOLOGY (see "Research and Technology" No. 46), the Belgian Permanent Representative to the European Communities has received the Heads of Missions of the nine non-member countries concerned. All have affirmed the intention of their governments to participate as fully as possible in the proposed meetings of experts.
- ** THE TRIPARTITE AGREEMENT signed by Germany, the Netherlands and Great Britain on the ISOTOPIC SEPARATION OF URANIUM BY ULTRACENTRIFUGATION is IN CONFORMITY WITH THE EUROPEAN TREATIES. IT WILL STRENGTHEN TECHNICAL COOPERATION and CONTRIBUTE TO THE ECONOMIC REINFORCEMENT OF EUROPE in the context of its subsequent expansion. This is the essence of the statement made on 11 March by Mr Martino, a Member of the Commission of the European Communities, to the European Parliament in reply to an oral question put by Mr Berkhouwer, a Dutch member, on behalf of the Liberal Group. During the debate many members of Parliament expressed their concern at the recent boom in bilateral nuclear agreements, which constitute a number of little "nuclear clubs" liable to encroach upon the role of Euratom, despite the decision taken at the Hague Conference to strengthen this role.

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** THE ABSENCE OF A COMMUNITY ENERGY POLICY has not yet had SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES for the sole reason that its effects have hitherto been masked by the existence of an abundant energy supply. This is stated in a resolution adopted by the European Parliament on 11 March (of which a brief analysis is given IN AN ANNEX) following an extensive debate opened by a report presented on behalf of the Parliament's Committee on Research, Energy and Atomic Problems by Mr Leemans, a Belgian member of the European Parliament.

** On 30 January 1970 the Commission of the European Communities forwarded to the Council of Ministers a draft directive on the NEGOTIATIONS TO BE OPENED BETWEEN EURATOM AND THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY CONCERNING THE CONTROL OF FISSIONABLE MATERIALS, particularly following the coming into force of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. This is the substance of the reply recently given by the Commission to a written question by Mr M. Oele, a Dutch member of the European Parliament.

** The proceedings of the colloquia held at Aix-en-Provence in December 1967 and at Nice in December 1968 have just been published under the title of "THE FRAMEWORK OF INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION AND THE EUROPEAN PROBLEM". This important work contains about fifty reports relating both to specific legal problems (such as research and development contracts) and to the institutional or political questions involved in international scientific cooperation. The reports relate to Europe and therefore include numerous references to activities in each of the major sectors of European cooperation (e.g., atomic energy and space research) and also to each of the European organizations for scientific cooperation.

** The Committee on Research Projects of the Consultative Committee of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) has held a wide-ranging discussion on the SLANT which the Commission of the European Communities intends to give to the Community's RESEARCH

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ACTIVITY based on Article 55 of the ECSC Treaty. The Commission insists on the need to respect the specific interests of sectoral research in the FIELDS OF COAL, IRON AND STEEL AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS, but at the same time desires this sectoral research to be fitted into the wider framework of a general European policy on scientific and technical research.

- ** About twenty specialists in NUCLEAR SCIENTIFIC DOCUMENTATION from the countries of the Community and Great Britain, together with several experts from the International Atomic Energy Agency, met at a seminar organized by the Commission at Luxembourg on 2-13 March in order to study problems relating to the indexing of scientific documents.

- ** The Commission of the European Communities will shortly submit to the Consultative Committee and the Council of Ministers of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) a new research programme with a budget of 2.5 million units of account on THE FIGHT AGAINST THE CHRONIC RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS which affect coal and steel workers. This programme, designed to last three years, will relate particularly to industrial dust, pneumoconiosis, tuberculous infections and air pollution.

- ** An international colloquium on the NON-DESTRUCTIVE INSPECTION OF NUCLEAR REACTOR COMPONENTS, held a few days ago at Rotterdam, was attended by representatives of the Commission of the European Communities. The colloquium was organized by the Netherlands Atoomforum and provided an opportunity to examine the inspection problems arising in the fabrication and operation of reactor vessels.

The European Parliament Desires the Rapid Creation
of a Community Energy Policy

The only reason why the absence of a Community energy policy has not yet had serious consequences is that its effects have hitherto been marked by the existence of an abundant supply of energy. This is what the European Parliament states in a resolution adopted on 11 March 1970, following an extensive debate on a report presented by Mr Leemans, a Belgian member, on behalf of the Parliamentary Committee on Research, Energy and Atomic Problems.

The European Parliament admittedly feels that the initial guidelines for a common energy policy, recently approved by the Council of Ministers at the request of the Commission of the European Communities, constitute a first step and an appropriate framework for the creation of a common policy, but it warns against the disintegrating effect of isolated acts of commercial policy committed by certain Member States in the energy sector.

The resolution passed by the European Parliament recalls the aims which must underly a common policy, namely, reliable and cheap supplies, the smooth arrangement of substitutions between energy sources, stability of supplies, free choice for consumers and the unity of the Common Market. In view of the basic role played by competition, the European Parliament draws attention to the cardinal importance of rendering the price-determination process within the Community more transparent.

Lastly, it considers that a common economic policy cannot be genuinely realized unless the Council of Ministers lays down a common energy policy based on the proposals of the Commission of the European Communities; it is happy to note the recent initiatives taken by the Commission in this respect. It insists that the guidelines laid down by the Hague Conference should be effectively followed in the field of energy policy, which is still almost exclusively governed by national interests.