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** At its meeting on 31 March and 1 April 1969 the Community's Medium-Term Economic Policy Committee discussed and approved the REPORT of the Working Party on SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH POLICY (see "Research and Technology" No. 12) and decided to forward it to the Council of Ministers.

It will be recalled (see "Research and Technology" No. 1) that on 10 December 1968 the Council of Ministers decided to put PROPOSALS FOR COOPERATION TO INTERESTED NON-MEMBER COUNTRIES.

The Working Party on Scientific and Technical Research Policy has since continued its work, in particular in order to ensure that by July it can submit to the Council PRACTICAL WAYS OF IMPLEMENTING the joint projects decided upon.

** The Commission of the European Communities is working hard on drawing up the next EURATOM MULTIANNUAL RESEARCH PROGRAMME, which the Council of Ministers has decided to adopt/..

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before 1 July 1969 (see "Research and Technology" No. 2). Following a series of meetings with various interested parties in the Community (see in particular "Research and Technology" Nos. 9 and 12), a document is being prepared which will probably be studied by the Commission on 16 April, for submission to the Council towards the end of the month.

** Five members of the European Parliament (Messrs. Scarascia Mugnozza, Bersani, Galli, Noé and Santero) have just submitted the following written question to the Council of Ministers of the European Communities:

"One of the basic tasks facing the European Communities during the next few years will be to develop scientific research at all stages, not only in order to promote technology, which is an essential factor affecting progress, but also, and in particular, to utilize the intellectual and material resources of Europe in a world where competition is already extremely keen.

Moreover, it is obvious that there can be no adequate scientific and technical progress without European institutions which are capable of coordinating and developing research activities.

Basing their remarks on the above considerations, the authors ask whether the Council does not feel that the time has come to apply the provisions of Article 9, paragraph 2, of the Euratom Treaty, concerning THE CREATION OF A UNIVERSITY-LEVEL INSTITUTION.

The vast experience and equipment acquired by the Joint Research Centre, particularly by its Ispra establishment, could, in the authors' view, be used in setting up such an institution.

All this can be done without affecting the present organization of Euratom, which, it is felt, should as soon as possible be provided with a suitable multiannual programme."

** At its meeting on 27 March the European Parliament's Committee on Research, Energy and Atomic Problems carried out a preliminary review of the conclusions to be drawn from its exchange of views with various Community experts on the PRESENT POSITION OF AND FUTURE OUTLOOK FOR EURATOM (see "Research and Technology" No. 9). In particular, it dealt at length with the agreement concluded by Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom regarding uranium enrichment by the ultracentrifugation technique. The Committee will resume work on this problem at its meeting on 24 April.

** Pursuant to Article 103 of the Euratom Treaty, the French government has forwarded to the Commission of the European Communities the draft of an AGREEMENT BETWEEN FRANCE AND THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA concerning the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes. The Commission has just officially announced that this text contains no clause which might hamper the implementation of the Euratom Treaty, so that the agreement can be signed in the immediate future.

** THE POSSIBILITIES OF INCREASED COLLABORATION IN THE FIELD OF IRON AND STEEL RESEARCH were examined during talks held between the representatives of the Commission of the European Communities and the Swedish authorities at the end of March under the agreement for cooperation between Sweden and the European Coal and Steel Community.

** A VAN DE GRAEFF ACCELERATOR, producing a proton current of 400µA with an energy of between one and three million eV, has gone into operation at the Ispra establishment of the Joint Research Centre. It is to be used in particular for studies on the transfer of fast and epithermal neutron energy to cellular and subcellular volumes of biological tissues and for the production of certain special radioisotopes. At the present moment there is no accelerator in the Community capable of carrying out this type of work.

** The Italian company Laboratori Elettronici Nucleari has just started commercial production of a GAMMA SPECTROMETER using germanium-lithium semiconductor detectors. This apparatus was developed JOINTLY with the Ispra establishment of the Joint Research Centre under a Euratom research contract.

** The Commission of the European Communities is shortly to publish, in the form of a Euratom report, the proceedings of the international conference on "PRESTRESSED CONCRETE VESSELS" ..//..

held in Brussels in November 1967. A second conference on the same subject is to be arranged by the Commission next November.