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236 Southern Building, Washington 5, D.C.  
telephone NATIONAL 8-5070

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DUTCH REACTOR TRANSFERRED TO EURATOM

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 1 -- The European Atomic Energy Community completed the establishment of its fourth research center yesterday at Petten, Netherlands, when the Petten high flux reactor was transferred to Euratom ownership.

The agreement covering the transfer, concluded between the Dutch Government and Euratom on July 25, 1961, was ratified by the Netherlands States-General on July 24, 1962.

Operation of the HFR test reactor will be the responsibility of the staff of the RCN (Reactor Centrum Nederland) for a four-year period under the Euratom agreement, which also covers conditions on use of the reactor for the RCN's own program.

Euratom will construct the necessary buildings and installations in the near future and plans to spend \$10 million on the Petten establishment during the next five years. This will be in addition to estimated investments of \$7 million already undertaken by the RCN and to a Euratom contribution of about \$1 million.

The research program at Petten will include the optimum use of the HFR for irradiation experiments, the technical coordination of research on gas reactors (in particular the high-temperature "Dragon" reactor and the "pebble-bed" reactor at Juelich) as well as experiments on liquid fuels.

The Petten research staff will amount to 350. The Petten establishment will be the Community's second "general competence" research center (Ispra is first). Euratom's other two research centers are at Mol, Belgium, and Karlsruhe, Germany.