

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY INFORMATION SERVICE

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EMBARGO: May 20, 1700 HOURS

BRITAIN, EURATOM SIGN PLUTONIUM CONTRACT

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 20 -- The British Atomic Energy Authority has concluded a contract with the Supply Agency of Euratom to supply British plutonium oxide for use in the experimental fast reactor 'Rapsodie,' being built at Cadarache, France, by the French in association with Euratom.

The contract, signed today in Paris, is between the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority and the Supply Agency of the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom), acting on behalf of the French atomic energy commission (CEA).

The Rapsodie project is a part of the Community's cooperative effort in the field of fast reactors. The total quantity of plutonium required for the first fuel charge will be about 90 kilograms. The present contract covers half this quantity for delivery in early 1964. The Euratom Supply Agency has an option on a further 45 kg. for delivery in 1965.

The material will be supplied under terms of the Cooperation Agreement between the United Kingdom and Euratom. Signed in February 1959, the agreement was concluded to provide cooperation and exchanges of information on the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

U.K.-Euratom Committee Meets

Within the framework of the Cooperation Agreement, the U.K.-Euratom Continuing Committee is today holding its fourth meeting at Ispra, Italy, one of Euratom's research centers. Euratom is represented at the meeting by Commission President Pierre Chatenet and Commissioner Emanuel M.J.A. Sassen. The United Kingdom's representatives are J. B. Godber, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Sir Roger Makins, chairman of the Atomic Energy Authority, and D. K. Freeth, personal representative of the Minister for Science, Lord Hailsham, who is unable to attend.

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NOTE: As of June 3, the Euratom office will be at a new location:

801 Farragut Building
Washington 6, D. C.

Euratom's new telephone number as of June 3: 296-5145.