

**REPRODUCTION AUTHORIZED**

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\*\* It has recently been announced in the British press that the government of the United Kingdom has ACCEPTED the Commission's invitation (see "Research and Technology" Nos. 1 and 30) to participate in the discussions on the development of EUROPEAN COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY on the basis of the Aigrain Group's report.

\*\* Five new TECHNICAL NOTES, each summarizing a result obtained under Euratom research programmes, have been issued by the Commission of the European Communities. The purpose of these texts is to enable industrial firms to assess the prospects for industrial exploitation of the results described. The subjects of these new technical notes are as follows:

1. Device for heat treatment in vacuum (N 15/C)
2. Rapid sealing device for tubes (N 16/C)
3. Device for securing finned tubes to measuring benches in vertical position without deforming (N 36/C)
4. Automatic X-ray apparatus for fuel element welds (N 47/C)
5. Pneumatic device for transporting irradiation capsules in a nuclear reactor (N 50/C)

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For further information please apply to the

Commission of the European Communities  
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- \*\* The conclusion in the near future of a number of study contracts in the fields of HEALTH PHYSICS and BIOLOGY has recently been approved by the Commission of the European Communities. The aim of eleven contracts of association and nine shared-expenses contracts is to improve knowledge in two directions, namely, the study of radiation hazards and the development of appropriate nuclear techniques to be applied in biological, medical and agricultural research.
- \*\* The problems inherent in the use of PRESTRESSED CONCRETE REACTOR PRESSURE VESSELS, and in particular their thermal insulation, were the subject of an important meeting held in Brussels on 18-20 November 1969 under the sponsorship of the Commission of the European Communities. This meeting, the second of its kind, was attended by 350 specialists from 14 different countries and by representatives of several of the international organizations concerned. The reports pointed up the progress achieved since the first meeting, which was in 1967. In particular, the use of prestressed concrete would now appear to offer indisputable advantages from the technical, economic and safety standpoints in the construction of pressure vessels for very large reactors. In every case, the discussions brought out the desirability of improved coordination of plans and programmes drawn up at the national level, in order to avoid duplication of effort and above all to secure reasonable and balanced apportionment of the work relating to the various aspects of the necessary research.
- \*\* RADIATION AND ISOTOPE TECHNIQUES IN THE BUILDING INDUSTRY will form the subject-matter of a European conference to be organized by the Commission of the ..//..

European Communities and to be held in July 1970. From this conference it will be possible to assess the situation as regards devices and techniques now in use on an industrial scale, as well as the most recent results of applied research in this field.

- \*\* In the context of the projects for technological co-operation which the Community proposes to initiate in the "NEW MEANS OF TRANSPORT" sector, the Commission of the European Communities is to assign to the Société SETEC, Paris a study on the present state of and outlook for R&D activities in the field of transport over land and sea. In addition to the Community countries and the United Kingdom, this study will cover Switzerland, Sweden, the United States, Canada and Japan.
  
- \*\* The meeting on problems inherent in GROUND PRESSURES and SUPPORTS held in Luxembourg on 13 and 14 November 1969, under the sponsorship of the Commission of the European Communities, was attended by 270 specialists from 16 different countries. The participants discussed 23 reports outlining the results of the research carried out in this sector, which has a vital role to play in increasing both productivity and safety in collieries, and to which, moreover, the European Coal and Steel Community assigns more than 17% of its appropriations for coal research.
  
- \*\* FOOD IRRADIATION applications are constantly on the increase, as illustrated by the Dutch authorities' decision to authorize for the first time the irradiation of mushrooms under cultivation. Furthermore, an authorization concerning potato irradiation is shortly to be issued in France (this being already common practice ..//..)

in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, the USSR and Israel). These developments give rise to problems as regards the free movement of goods in the Common Market, and the Commission of the European Communities has already organized several discussions between experts with a view to harmonizing the laws in force at the present time.

\*\* The Commission of the European Communities has published a small booklet on the CENTRAL BUREAU FOR NUCLEAR MEASUREMENTS, the Geel (Belgium) Establishment of the Joint Research Centre. This booklet is available on request from the Scientific and Technological Service (200, rue de la Loi, Brussels 4, Belgium). Please state your OCCUPATION and the LANGUAGE DESIRED (German, French, Italian, Dutch or English).

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