

uniformly and permanently with the fibre. The complete new material thus created resists wear, decay, insects and acids, will not burn easily, last for a long time, retains its shape and is easy to work with machines. It can also be given new colours.

The Bangkok study group consisting of 22 participants from 13 countries, came to the conclusion that the most worthwhile subject for immediate research was fibre-board, as this could produce benefits for the building industry in the Far East, and suggested a number of test projects. One of these is the Finnish study, in which artificial ways of accelerating aging effects are being used to test the durability of bagasse impregnated with plastic and subjected to radiation. Bamboo and jute also appear to be promising materials for the treatment.

Discussions took place on ways of co-ordinating research work, resources available, economic considerations, potential markets and future programmes. Reports were presented from Australia, Canada, China, Finland, Hungary, India, Japan, Korea, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sweden, Thailand, UK, USA, Vietnam, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East.

AGENCY TO APPLY SAFEGUARDS UNDER NEW US-JAPAN AGREEMENT

A new agreement for Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy between the United States and Japan was signed in Washington on 27 February. Secretary Rusk and AEC Chairman Glenn T. Seaborg signed for the United States and Ambassador Shimoda for Japan.

This agreement, which is for a period of 30 years, continues co-operation in the peaceful development of atomic energy begun with Japan in 1955. It provides for the supply of enriched uranium from the U.S. to fuel 13 large nuclear power reactors to be built in Japan, and for the transfer by the AEC of up to 365 kilogrammes of plutonium for use by the Japanese in their peaceful research and development programme. In keeping with the long-standing policy of both countries, the International Atomic Energy will continue to administer safeguards under the new agreement.