

Dr. Sigvard Eklund, Director General, in accepting the gift on behalf of the Agency, said that studies with it would form part of an extensive programme being carried out with other international organizations and in collaboration with scientists in many countries as part of peaceful collaboration in the Hydrological Decade. He expressed thanks on behalf of the Agency and all who would profit from the use of this mass spectrometer, a notable addition to other equipment already received through the generosity of Member States and in used at the laboratory.

EQUIPMENT TO ASSIST TRAINING COURSE

The Agency in conjunction with the International Labour Organization has organized a course starting in April at the ILO Centre in Turin on the repair and maintenance of nuclear instrumentation.

In order to increase the practical value of the course the U.K. Government has donated nine new items of specialized equipment to the value of approximately \$6 000. All of it was tested beforehand at the UK Atomic Energy Research Establishment at Harwell. The gift is additional to the UK voluntary contribution to the General Fund, and it will remain available for any future similar courses or for such other purposes as the Agency may find valuable, especially in the field of technical assistance.

TWENTY YEARS FIGHT AGAINST DISEASE

After 20 years of fighting to improve world health and to combat disease the World Health Organization can claim some impressive achievements.

Malaria has been stamped out in large parts of Asia, Africa, Europe and America to the benefit of more than 450 million people. A massive programme for examination of yaws affecting 150 million people has led to 46 million being treated with long-acting penicillin. At present a world-wide drive against smallpox has been launched with the aim of eradicating the disease by 1977.

While this has been going on WHO has also been carrying out programmes to ensure that the full advantages gained by reducing disease can be maintained. For this purpose better health services and improved environmental conditions must be established. Support has accordingly been given to less spectacular tasks which will produce equally useful long-term results. These include aid to schools for encouragement of interest in the professions