ENRICHED URANIUM FOR PAKISTAN POWER STATION

Agreements signed with Pakistan and USA in June marked the first arrangement made by the Agency to supply special nuclear material for a power station.

The material consists of about 17 kilogrammes of uranium containing 1696 grammes of uranium-235 for the fabrication of special "booster" rods. These rods will be used in controlling the operation of the KANUPP reactor being built to produce 125 megawatts of electricity under an arrangement with Canada, which is supplying the natural uranium fuel.

Signatories were Mr. Enver Murad, Ambassador to Austria for Pakistan and Resident Representative to the IAEA; Ambassador Henry D. Smyth, USA Member of the Board of Governors; and Dr. Sigvard Eklund, Director General. Also present was Mr. John O. Parry, Alternate Member for Canada of the IAEA Board of Governors.

Signing the agreement by which Pakistan is to receive nuclear material for its Karachi power station. Seated left to right are Enver Murad, Ambassador to Austria for Pakistan and Resident Representative to the Agency, Dr. Sigvard Eklund, Director General, and Ambassador Herny D. Smyth, USA Member of the Board of Governors. Standing behind them is John O. Parry, Alternate Member for Canada of the Board of Governors. Photo: IAEA

The Pakistan Ambassador recalled that his country's first research reactor at Pinstech was placed under the Agency Safeguards System by an agreement signed in 1964. He expressed appreciation of the help of the Government of USA and of the IAEA, and the gratitude owed to the Government of Canada in providing the scientific, technical and financial help enabling Pakistan to undertake the KANUPP project. When completed in 1970 it would stand as a symbol of his country's entry into the field of nuclear power and help to speed up economic and industrial development.

Ambassador Smyth pointed out that even though the amount of material was so small that safeguards did not have to be applied, nevertheless the experience of the past six or seven years in negotiating agreements and carrying them out had helped to prepare the Agency for the very important tasks which presumably it was now facing under the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Dr. Eklund found it gratifying that it had been possible to assist a power project which was itself a notable example of how a developing country could apply nuclear technology in its programme of industrial development.

TRIESTE'S LESSON IN SCIENTIFIC COMMUNICATION

The opening of the new home of the International Centre for Theoretical Physics in Trieste also marked the start of a most important manifestation in science — a review of the whole of contemporary physics carried out by world leaders of scientific thought. Eight Nobel Laureates were included among more than 300 distinguished participants.

During three weeks of concentrated lectures and even more concentrated private discussions, these world leaders of scientific thought in all branches of physics were able to explain to each other the goals for which they were striving, the methods they were adopting and the results they had achieved. Many of them are responsible for national or university programmes, and the opinion was generally expressed that one of the immediate benefits would be a reappraisal of research priorities in the light of what had been learned. When the proceedings are published by the IAEA in some months' time they will provide a unique compendium of studies ranging from the most minute particles of the atom to the structure of cosmos, covering the facts which have been established and many of the theories on which future experiments will be based.