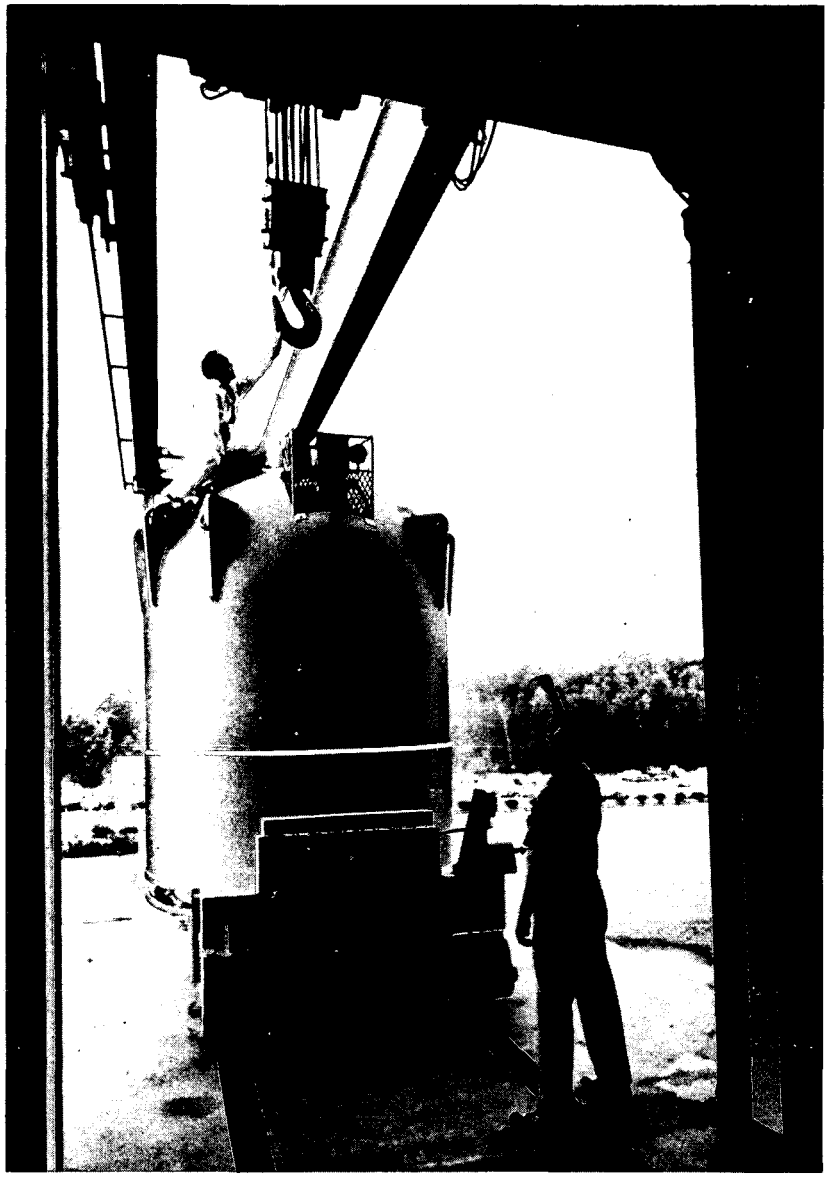
safe transport of nuclear materials

A comprehensive review by world experts of regulations prepared by the Agency for the safe transport of radioactive materials has now been completed. Their recommendations and decisions will be assembled into a draft to be sent to the 103 Member States and to international air, sea, river and land transport organizations for comments and suggestions. The revised text may be completed, approved by the Board of Governors and published in about two years.

The regulations were first published in 1961 and were re-published in a revised edition in 1964. A third edition, published in 1967, incorporated the results of studies on special aspects of the regulations, including the technical specifications and administrative approvals required for packages containing large radioactive sources.

Preparation for the review which is now in hand included the submission of detailed comments and proposals from 22 Member States and nine international organizations. During discussions experts stressed repeatedly that the regulations, while providing adequate safety, must be as simple as possible to understand and apply.

More than 40 experts took part in discussions on the final review during two weeks in February. They were drawn from Argentina, Australia, Canada, France, the Fed. Rep. of Germany, Italy, Japan, Poland, Sweden, the USSR, the United Arab Republic, the UK and the US; and from the UN (European Office), the World Health Organization, the Intergovernmental Maritime Consultative Organization, the International Air Transport Association, the European Nuclear Energy Agency, Euratom, the European Company for the Chemical Processing of Irradiated Fuels (Eurochemic), the Commission Centrale pour la Navigation du Rhin, the Office Central des Transports Internationaux par Chemins de Fer and the Nordic Nuclear Co-ordination Committee.



Target rods irradiated in a high flux isotope reactor are transferred
in this carrier to another plant for chemical separation of
fission products and transuranium elements. Photo: Oak Ridge National Laboratory