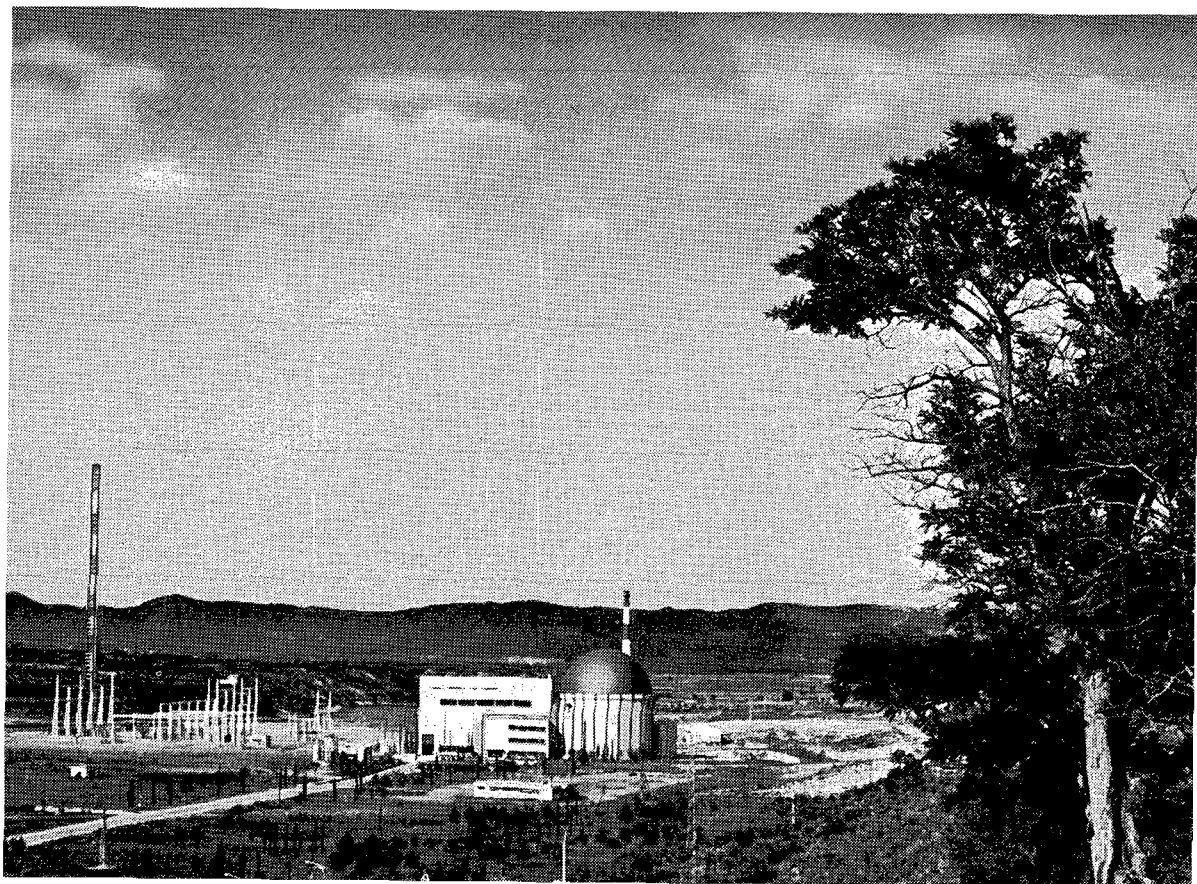


# assessing the market

The IAEA plans to undertake a survey of the market for nuclear power in selected interested developing countries, with the object of assessing the potential role of nuclear power in meeting their energy needs during the next five to 15 years.

The size of nuclear power plants which are now being ordered from manufacturers is larger than many developing countries need or can fit into their electrical supply networks; the capital costs of nuclear power stations are greater per kilowatt — although their running costs are lower — than those of conventional plants; and developing countries may have difficulty in finding the extra foreign exchange needed for nuclear power plants.

The José Cabrera nuclear power station, a 153 MW(e) pressurized water reactor installation at Zorita de los Canes, Spain, which went critical in June 1968.  
Photo: IAEA



These and other factors have been discussed in detail at successive meetings of the IAEA Board of Governors and General Conference, and were reviewed at the Fourth International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy, held in Geneva in September. In October, 1971, a special Working Group of experts meeting at Agency headquarters again considered the status and prospects of nuclear power plants in developing countries and recommended, *inter alia*, this survey of the market for power reactors smaller than those now being ordered in the more advanced countries.

Developing countries which take part in the survey will be asked to make available relevant basic data relating to national energy needs, resources and costs, the organization of the indigenous electric power industry, historical and projected electrical load growth, planned generation and transmission expansion programmes (including information on planned unit sizes and the basis for size selection), local industrial capabilities and so on. Of special relevance will be information relating to each country's planned nuclear power programme; recent feasibility studies; current assessments of the competitive position of nuclear power; programmes for training manpower and their relation to the proposed nuclear projects; what regulatory authorities exist, and their procedures for licensing and safety assessment; and what "nuclear" legislation there is on the national statute books.

This information will be gathered by questionnaire; small teams of experts will also visit participating countries to obtain and clarify information not fully covered by the answers to those questionnaires. The material thus gathered should help to define more clearly the nature, size and timing of the likely market for nuclear power plants of interest to the developing countries, particularly those of small- and medium-size. The results of the survey should also help financial institutions to anticipate financing needs of the countries concerned.

It is expected that the survey will be initiated early in 1972, and completed about a year later. The survey will be carried out and coordinated by the Agency with the co-operation and assistance of other supporting international and national agencies.