

nuclear power and the environment

Power demands throughout the world are increasing: energy is essential to assure public health and to provide for the quality of life to which man aspires. Interest in the environmental aspects of nuclear power stations led the IAEA, in co-operation with the US Atomic Energy Commission, to convene a symposium in New York on this topic in August 1970. The enthusiastic response both during and after that meeting, and the interest in environmental matters evidenced by the convening of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm in June this year, led to a decision to summarize the information presented in New York in a condensed and readily understandable form for those not engaged directly in this field of work.

The resultant booklet, prepared in co-operation with the World Health Organization, has now been published under the title of this note.* It is intended for wide distribution, especially among delegates and others attending the Stockholm conference. This initial distribution is free; it is probable that the booklet will be up-dated later for re-issue as a sales publication at a price to be fixed.

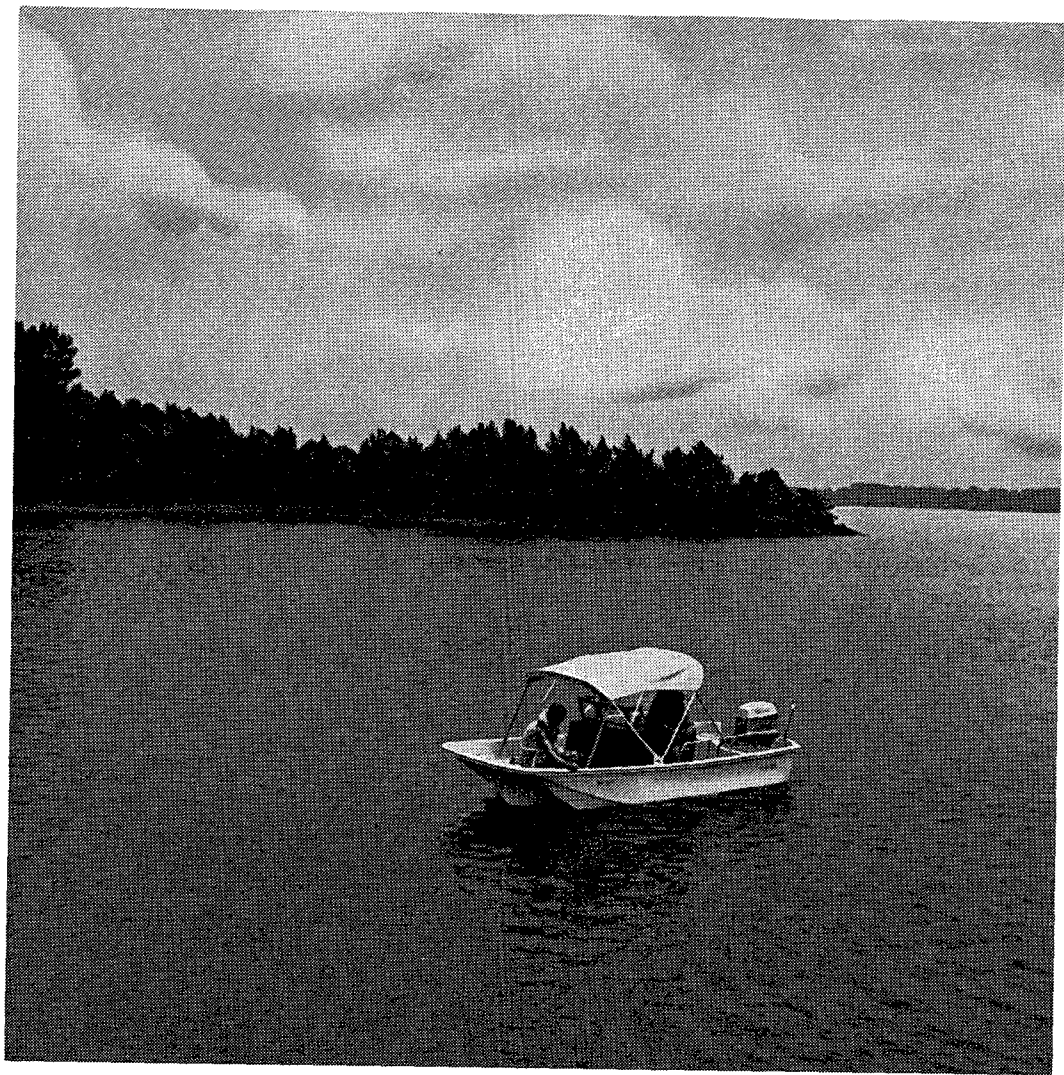
"Nuclear Power and the Environment" is presented in five sections, each treating a specific aspect of the general topic: the rôle of atomic energy in meeting future power needs; radiation protection standards; safe handling of radioactive materials; other impacts of the nuclear power industry; and public health considerations. The booklet concludes with a summary of the material presented, and annexes listing pertinent publications of the IAEA, WHO and other international organizations, for further reading. Contributions to the booklet were supplied by 28 experts from the IAEA and WHO and a number of Member States; these were compiled and edited in house. The interests and technical background of the prospective audience have a broader spectrum than one would normally try to cover with a single publication.

For the lay public the IAEA has published a folder containing "facts sheets" reviewing in non-technical language many aspects of the uses of nuclear energy and nuclear techniques — for power generation, in studies of air and water, in agriculture, medicine and so on. These "facts sheets" will also be available at Stockholm, and for general distribution on request.

It is intended that each of these publications should eventually be published in other official languages of the IAEA; as this issue of the Bulletin went to press the Spanish editions were in preparation.

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Nuclear Power and the Environment, 85 + iv pp; paper bound; initially free on request.



news from headquarters

Sigismund Freiherr von Braun, State Secretary of the Foreign Office of the Federal Republic of Germany, Bonn, paid a courtesy visit to the Headquarters of the IAEA in Vienna on 23 May. He was received by the Director General, Dr. Sigvard Eklund, and by senior officials of the Agency.
