the spectrum. The same party also studied the distribution and intensity of radio emission over the sun during the eclipse. A British expedition from Cambridge University, an Italian party from the Astrophysical Observatory at Arcetri, a group from the Royal Observatory of Egypt, and a party of Swiss scientists from Zurich also were reported to have made spectrographic observations during the eclipse.

The U. S. Air Force set up several stations along the belt of totality from the west coast of Africa to Arabia for a geodetic study in which the course of the eclipse was accurately timed to obtain precise measurements of the distances covered. A similar project was sponsored by the British and carried out by an expedition from the Royal Greenwich Observatory for measuring the geodetic arc between the Sudan and Iraq. Expeditions from Canada, France, and India were also reported to have set up stations at various points along the path of the eclipse, and a cooperative program of the Joint Commission on the Ionosphere of the International Council of Scientific Unions and the International Union of Radio Sciences made radio noise observations from a network of stations on both sides of the belt of totality.

International Nuclear Lab

Council Formed to Supervise Studies

As reported previously, a conference of the representatives of several interested European nations was held in Geneva last February under the auspices of Unesco to give further consideration to proposals for establishing an international physics laboratory and for organizing other forms of cooperation in nuclear research. According to information from Unesco headquarters in Paris, the Geneva conference reached full agreement to set up a Council of Representatives of European States to plan the laboratory and its study groups and ultimately to supervise activities initiated under the cooperative program.

Representatives of twelve nations attended the conference. The Netherlands, Germany, and Yugoslavia signed definite commitments to be represented on the planning board. France, Denmark, Italy, Greece, Sweden, and Switzerland gave their accord, subject to ratification by their parliaments, while Norway and Belgium were expected to sign after a brief delay. The representatives of Great Britain, it was indicated, attended the conference without authority either to sign or to commit funds.

The new Council, it was agreed, will function independently of Unesco, with whom it will have a special agreement, and will operate on funds granted by the participating states. Guarantees have already been subscribed in the amount of $71,000 by France, $35,000 by Germany, $25,000 by Italy, $23,000 by Switzerland, $20,000 by Belgium, $10,000 by the Netherlands, Sweden, and Yugoslavia, $8,000 by Denmark, $5,000 by Norway, and $4,000 by Greece. It has been estimated that about $200,000 will be needed for Council operations during the first year.

In addition to the Council's planning studies for the proposed laboratory itself, the board will be responsible for supervising the activities of a special study group at the Institute for Theoretical Nuclear Physics at Copenhagen and presumably for a similar program at Liverpool, where use of the 400 Mev synchrocyclotron has been offered by Great Britain.

Some speculations have been recorded in the European press to the effect that a rift had developed among the participants at the Geneva conference concerning the selection of a permanent location for the proposed laboratory. A site in western Switzerland has been offered and discussed and is reported to have been favored by a number of the conference delegates because it is centrally located and close to good sources of electric power. No decision on the site was made at Geneva, in any event, and while the plans for the laboratory and of its equipment are slated to be drawn up by study groups established by the Council, it was indicated that there is little expectation that construction can begin within two years.

Forty delegates and observers participated in the Geneva conference. Among them were Professors Werner Heisenberg (Germany), J. L. Verhaeghe (Belgium), Niels Bohr and Jakob Nielsen (Denmark), Francis Perrin (France), Démètre Hondros (Greece), G. Colonnetti (Italy), O. Dahl and E. Hylleraas (Norway), O. J. Bakker (Netherlands), Sir George Thomson (United Kingdom), Hannes Alfven and Iwar Waller (Sweden), Peter Preiswerk and Paul Scherrer (Switzerland), A. Peterlin and Paule Savic (Yugoslavia). Unesco was represented by Professor Pierre Auger, Director of the Department of Natural Sciences.

Atomic Energy Program

The AEC's Eleventh Semiannual Report

The first one-third of the Atomic Energy Commission's most recent report to Congress, submitted at the end of January, contains a summary for the last half of 1951 of those major activities in the atomic energy program which "can be publicly reported without hazard to the national security," together with a condensation of the AEC's 1951 financial report. The next third of the report, entitled "Atomic Energy and its Applications in Plant Science," reviews the effects of radiation on plants, isotope research applications, and photosynthesis and biosynthesis of tagged compounds. The final section of appendices is the usual collection of miscellaneous items and tables concerning the Commission, its organization and activities, and related matters.

In one of its few comments regarding future plans, the report states that no new fellowship awards will be made by the Commission in view of the contemplated National Science Foundation program for the academic year 1952–53. The NSF program will be supplemented by renewing the awards to qualified AEC fellows now on the rolls.