

Amaldi played a decisive role in dispelling the last doubts of a somewhat reluctant British government.

Amaldi held the post of secretary general of the organization before Felix Bloch succeeded him to become CERN's first director general. Although Amaldi was an early candidate for that position, he turned down the offer. On Bloch's insistence, Amaldi briefly served as vice director, from late 1954 to early 1955. He returned to Rome in 1954 and continued to influence CERN's development by serving in various capacities from 1957 to 1975. He also was on CERN's history advisory committee from 1980 until his death in 1989.

CERN has developed into the largest physics research center in the world, where approximately half of the planet's particle physicists do research. Amaldi's dream of reestablishing a center of excellence in Europe has been fully realized.

References

1. C. Rubbia, *CERN Report*, CERN-91-09 (1991), p. 9.
2. E. Amaldi, in *Proceedings of the International Conference on High Energy Collisions in Hadrons*, CERN Yellow Reports, CERN-86-07, vol. 1, p. 415.
3. Reference 2, p. 421.
4. Reference 1, p. 12.

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Krige replies: The letters from Herwig Schopper and Sameen Ahmed Khan are reminders that many actors were engaged in launching CERN; all contributors need to be given due credit. In volume 1 of our *History of CERN* (North Holland, 1987), I and coauthors Armin Hermann, Ulrike Mersits, and Dominique Pestre evaluated at length this aspect of the laboratory's origin. I would recommend that volume to Khan, who seems unaware of it.

It was not my intention to repeat those arguments in my article, nor shall I belabor our very different perceptions of the precise roles of people like Denis de Rougemont and Edoardo Amaldi. My aim was rather to show that I. I. Rabi, in particular, had a foreign policy agenda when he took the floor in Florence. He wanted to suggest that the US would not look favorably on a laboratory that included a research reactor, as did Brookhaven—a project being actively promoted by the French but that would necessarily exclude Germany.

More fundamentally, in line with the aims of the Marshall Plan and the Schuman Plan, he wanted to reintegrate and relegitimate West German physics by including that country, which had barely gained limited sovereignty, as part of a supranational European laboratory equipped only with accelerators. My aim was not to attribute credit but to situate CERN squarely in Rabi's and the US State Department's agenda for the postwar reconstruction of Europe in the early cold war era.

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Reader Rights Polymer Prize Slip

I was pleasantly surprised to read that Thomas Russell is about to receive the "Polymer Prize in Nuclear Physics" (PHYSICS TODAY, March 2005, page 82). I had already known of his most deserved selection as the winner of the 2005 American Physical Society Polymer Physics Prize, but I must admit that I had failed to realize its connection to nuclear physics. However, upon further reflection, I am now convinced that Professor Russell's contributions must be so unique that he will be not only the first recipient of this prestigious new prize but undoubtedly also the last.

As a long-standing advocate of the pervasiveness and importance of polymers to both the physical and the biological world, I am delighted to see that the nuclear-physics community apparently agrees. I hope this new prize will serve as an impetus for the long-delayed establishment of similar polymer prizes in fields such as astrophysics and gravitational physics—and I look forward with great anticipation to nominating Professor Russell as their first recipient.

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[Editor's Note: We thank Andrew Lovinger for pointing out our error.]

Correction

March 2005, page 40—Charles Rhodes and his group are at the University of Illinois at Chicago. ■

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