Miscellany

Atoms for Peace

The United States has agreed "in principle" to a request of the Italian Government for the purchase of 10 tons of heavy water to be used in Italy's first research reactor, according to an AEC announcement made late in March. The project was among the matters discussed between representatives of the two governments during the visit to Washington of Prime Minister Scelba of Italy. Professor Francesco Giordani, chairman of the Italian Government's Committee for Nuclear Research, heads the Italian technical mission which is working out the details of the transaction with the AEC. The projected sale of heavy water to Italy is the second of its kind. The first, announced February 12th, was for the sale of 10 tons of heavy water to be delivered to India in 1955 and 1956 for use in a research reactor to be built near Bombay. Both actions are part of the support of the President's atoms for peace program.

A resolution (H. J. Res. 180) has been introduced by Sidney R. Yates, Democrat from Illinois, to provide for the construction of a nuclear power reactor in Japan. The bill, which reads in part that the city of Hiroshima "should be designated as a center for the peaceful use of atomic energy through the construction of a nuclear reactor capable of producing power for industrial purposes", has been referred to the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy.

A citizen's panel to study the "present and future impact" of peaceful applications of atomic energy on industry and the economy, at home and abroad, has been established by the Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy. The eight-man panel of scientists, industrialists, and civic leaders is headed by former Assistant Secretary of the Interior Robert McKinney, now editor and publisher of *The Santa Fe New Mexican*, and includes among its members John R. Dunning, dean of engineering at Columbia University, and former Atomic Energy Commissioner T. Keith Glennan, president of the Case Institute of Technology. The panel is also authorized to appraise those activities of the AEC that bear on the panel's study and to recommend to the Joint Committee "any legislative or policy actions needed to speed the proper development under both government and private auspices of peaceful uses of atomic energy".

Plans for the nation's first regional joint council of nuclear science "to speed the exchange of information among engineers and scientists" have been made in Detroit under the auspices of the local section of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers. Delegates of 40 engineering, professional, and scientific societies representing groups interested in the industrial applications of atomic energy and its by-products met late in February to elect a steering committee; Robert W. Hartwell, head of Detroit Edison's atomic power development project, was named chairman.

Research Facilities

Dedication of the new Glenn L. Martin Institute of Technology of the University of Maryland took place on March 25th at College Park, Md. The eight buildings of the Institute, which have been constructed during the past ten years at a cost of $8.5 million, house the entire College of Engineering, including the Institute for Fluid Dynamics and Applied Mathematics, and several departments of the College of Arts and Sciences, including the departments of physics, mathematics, and chemistry, and the new Institute of Molecular Physics. Funds for the Institute included an original gift of $2.3 million from Glenn L. Martin, pioneer aircraft manufacturer, nearly $5.7 million from the State of Maryland, and $142 946 from the Office of Naval Research and the Defense Department Bureau of Ordnance. 1300 visitors attended the dedication ceremony at which Lee A. DuBridge, president of the California Institute of Technology, was the principal speaker. An important part of the ceremony was the awarding of five honorary degrees. The two physicists who received honorary doctor of science degrees were Dr. DuBridge and J. H. Van Vleck, dean of the Division of Applied Science at Harvard University.

Harvard University has received a National Science Foundation grant of $132 000 for the construction and operation of a new radio telescope (a 60-foot parabolic antenna) to be located at the Harvard Observatory's George R. Agassiz Station at Harvard, Mass. The instrument, which is expected to be completed in about a year, will supplement the Agassiz Station's 24-foot radio telescope, also sponsored by NSF, which has been in operation since 1953. Harvard's radio astronomy program is under the joint direction of Bart J. Bok and Harold I. Ewen. The 60-foot antenna, according to Dr. Bok, will be used "to pin point more accurately the sources of radio energy and to accommodate special experimental projects not now possible because the 24-foot antenna cannot be spared from established programs". The new instrument, he said, will make it possible to investigate the fine details of spiral structure of the Milky Way system and to make studies of the so-called radio stars.

The highest laboratory in the United States is soon to be established at an altitude of 14 246 feet atop White Mountain in California, extending the present facilities of the University of California's White Mountain High-Altitude Research Station, which includes the Crooked Creek Laboratory (10 500 feet) and the Mt.