

NEWS IN BRIEF

● **NUCLEAR POWER STATION IN INDIA:** India's first commercial nuclear power station, located about 60 miles north of Bombay near Tarapur, is reported to be generating electrical power to the western states of Gujarat and Maharashtra. The power plant, estimated to cost about \$114 million, is being built from money borrowed in part from the U.S. government. The Agency for International Development is loaning about \$75 million, and the Indian government is investing about \$40 million in the project. The U.S. Atomic Energy Commission has agreed to supply about \$100 million in enriched uranium to the power station over a 30-year period. The plant, which has a total capacity of nearly 400,000 kilowatts, is said to be one of the first commercial nuclear power stations in Asia.

● **STATION BANS CIGARETTE ADVERTISING:** For the first time in history, a major public broadcasting station has officially agreed to ban cigarette advertising. In a letter to the chairman of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), the head of the Post-Newsweek television and radio stations has said that Post-Newsweek will ban new cigarette advertising after 1 June 1969. Station officials say that the action results from a February FCC proposal, which recommends that radio and television cigarette advertising be barred for public health reasons. It is estimated that Post-Newsweek's income from cigarette advertising in 1968 was about \$700,000. Post-Newsweek stations are affiliated with CBS and owned by the Washington Post Co. in Washington, D.C.

● **HOUSE GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS REORGANIZES:** House Government Operations has abolished its Research and Technical Problems subcommittee, chaired by Representative Henry S. Reuss (D-Wis.), who has accepted the chairmanship of another subcommittee, Conservation and Natural Resources. In disbanding the subcommittee, Government Operations has cut the only subcommittee which handled broad, interagency research matters. The committee plans to reassign some of its functions to other subcommittees which have individual agencies under their jurisdiction. Capitol Hill

sources say that the new Reuss subcommittee will conduct an in-depth study of government pollution research and development activities. A special studies subcommittee, chaired by Representative John S. Monagan (D-Conn.) is expected to handle some of the functions of the disbanded subcommittee. The Government Operations Committee's organizational change, which resulted in a reduction in the total number of its subcommittees from 11 to 8, follows criticism last year by the House Administration Committee, which charged that Government Operations had too many subcommittees, some of which were relatively inactive and expensive to operate.

● **PLANNING AHEAD:** A group concerned about the harmful effects to the earth of pollution, the depletion of resources, overpopulation, and wars of mass destruction is preparing a document on a desirable and attainable system of world order for the 1990's. The policy group, known as the North American Group, has such distinguished members as natural scientists George Kistiakowsky of Harvard, Joshua Lederberg of Stanford, Lyman Spitzer of Princeton; social scientists Kenneth Boulding of the University of Colorado, Amitai Etzioni of the Bureau of Social Science Research in Washington, Harold Lasswell of Yale; and former Defense Department officials, Robert McNamara and James Gavin. North American Group was established in 1968 as part of an international group, the World Order Models Project, which is co-sponsored by the World Law Fund in New York and the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton. The group, which has nearly 40 members, plans to have its proposal for a world order ready by 1 July 1970.

● **"RADIOACTIVE DAISY":** Scientists at the University of Minnesota last week staged a series of discussions called "Radioactive Daisy," patterned after the 4 March research stoppage at M.I.T. They met to discuss national scientific priorities, the anti-ballistic missile (ABM) system, and "currently under-funded" government research areas, such as pollution control, public health, and urban housing and transportation. An estimated 750 persons were involved in the 2-day meeting.

using scare tactics. Senator Stuart Symington of Missouri pointedly observed that, a few months earlier, another defense official had described the SS-9 as a "second-strike" or retaliatory weapon.

● A new foreign relations subcommittee, on U.S. security commitments abroad, has been set up under Senator Symington and instructed to explore such matters as military aid, bases and troop deployments overseas, and their effect on foreign policy. This, too, promises to be an aggressive public inquiry once preliminary staff work is completed and hearings get under way. Symington, a former secretary of the Air Force and the only member of foreign relations who is also on the Armed Services Committee, describes himself as part hawk, part dove.

● The Armed Services Committee, criticized in last year's ABM debate for not inviting independent scientific witnesses to its hearings, now seems disposed to alter its procedures. Chairman Stennis has promised that, in considering the ABM issue this year, the committee will hear testimony from independent scientists. This step is regarded as overdue even by some members of the Armed Services Committee. Indeed, if the committee is to hold its own in debate when the Senate takes up the ABM question sometime hence, it had best be boning up on the subject. The Foreign Relations Committee is not the only rival claimant to expertise on the ABM. Senator Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts has his own experts (Jerome Wiesner of M.I.T., among others) preparing an anti-ABM treatise.

● The heir apparent to the chairmanship of the Appropriations Committee is Senator Allen J. Ellender of Louisiana, who has long been denouncing the Pentagon as a spendthrift organization committed to policies impeding progress toward world peace. He views wryly the interest members of the Foreign Relations Committee are now showing in military questions. "I've got a lot of followers now," he told a recent interviewer, shaking his finger for emphasis. Though Senator Russell, the chairman of Appropriations, remains active in Senate affairs, he has told his constituents that he is undergoing cobalt treatment for a lung tumor which he says is probably malignant.

In the House, while a tightening up on the military may not be imminent, there are at least these indications of change:

● The Democratic Study Group (DSG), in which 100 or more House