

Paris and Bonn Alter Nuclear Stand

In the face of growing international concern over the proliferation of nuclear weapons and the advocacy of an incoming American president pledged to strong antiproliferation measures, both France and West Germany have indicated that they will forego further exports of nuclear fuel reprocessing plants that could be used to acquire plutonium for atomic weapons.

The separate announcements did not apply to existing contracts, and therefore left uncertain the status of France's agreement to sell a reprocessing plant to Pakistan and West Germany's agreement to sell fuel reprocessing as well as enrichment technologies to Brazil. These two deals have been the subject of much criticism in the last 18 months, and were singled out by President-elect Carter when he called for a voluntary moratorium on the sale or purchase of sensitive nuclear technologies during his election campaign. Although France and West Germany indicate publicly that they will honor their existing contracts, the European press reports that France would not be sad if Pakistan bowed out and that Germany is reluctantly investigating ways to strike the sensitive technologies from its Brazilian nuclear package, while preserving the lucrative reactor contracts.

On 16 December, the French government's nuclear export council announced that it would halt future sales of reprocessing plants, saying that "France does not intend to contribute to the terrible threat of nuclear arms proliferation." The council is headed by President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing and was set up just 3 months ago to reconsider French nuclear policy, after the departure of Prime Minister Jacques Chirac who was said to have been responsible not only for the reprocessing sale to Pakistan but also for the controversial sales of power reactors to Iraq, Libya, and South Africa.

The shift in the French position immediately put additional pressure on West Germany to reconsider its policy, particularly its \$4 billion package deal to supply Brazil with eight commercial power reactors plus the peripheral technology for a complete nuclear fuel cycle (*Science*, 30 May, 1975). Four days after the French announcement, a spokesman for the West German foreign ministry, Klaus Terfloth, said that his country would go along with the position taken by France, except in the case of Brazil. Terfloth's remarks did not constitute a formal policy statement, but were made in response to reporters' questions. Renegotiation of the Brazilian sale would be politically risky for Chancellor Helmut Schmidt's shaky coalition government, since the sale was the largest export contract in German history. Nevertheless, the German press reports that the government is responding to American pressure, especially the prospect of more duress from Carter.

Reconsidering the Brazilian Deal

In a December article, the newsmagazine *Der Spiegel* says that there is widespread resignation in Bonn to the idea that reprocessing and enrichment technologies can no longer be used as sweeteners for large nuclear sales. At the most recent nuclear supplier's conference this fall, the Ford Administration reportedly pointed out that U.S. shipments of nuclear fuel to West Germany were not necessarily guaranteed, and in the face of such threats the Bonn government may be backing down.

Der Spiegel reports that "Chancellor Schmidt himself gave the order to check how West Germany may be able to wind herself out of the Brazil deal elegantly and without endangering the contract for exporting the [eight power] reactors." The newsmagazine further reports that the German state department is searching for precedents for unilateral cancellation of parts of the contracts.

Thus, even before Carter assumes office, his strong stance on nuclear exports is apparently bringing France and Germany into line with a more conservative policy, and there is some evidence that the Carter position may eventually be effective in reversing the two trade agreements that presently loom as the most likely vehicles for further weapons proliferation.—WILLIAM D. METZ

vey Brooks, chemist Paul Doty, and physicist Edward Purcell. Also on some lists is Ivan Bennett, provost of the medical center at New York University.

Speculators are paying particular attention to Baldeschwieler because of what is said to be his closeness to Harold Brown, the president of Caltech and Secretary of Defense-designate. Some say that Brown will promote Baldeschwieler as the President's science adviser, while others think that Brown will want him as Director of Defense Research and Engineering. A third post being mentioned for him is that of director of the National Science Foundation, although the guess is that the present acting director, Richard Atkinson, will probably also have a chance for the job. Baldeschwieler, a chemist, was deputy director of the Office of Science and Technology during the Nixon Administration.

The Carter staff do not yet seem to have turned their attention to the NSF, although they already have lists of names for the science positions at assistant secretary level in the departments of State and Commerce. In some instances the names for these posts are the same as those for the science adviser, which perhaps points to a certain naïveté by the list makers in thinking the same people would be suitable for either job.

Carter's personnel search is being handled by his aide Hamilton Jordan and by another group called the Talent Inventory Program. The two groups are "cross-talking," explained an aide in a third group.

There are two other such bodies whose activities affect scientific matters—a group studying reorganization of the federal government, and a policy analysis group under Carter's issues man Stewart Eizenstadt. Alfred Stern, a mathematics professor at Wayne State University, Detroit, and Eizenstadt's deputy, is the staff member responsible for science. Stern has working for him liaison officers to the NSF and the Office of Science and Technology Policy (no liaison officers have been appointed for NIH). The two-person team assigned to the NSF has gone through several changes and at one time included a 22-year-old Yale graduate fresh out of college. It now consists of Leonard Roellig, a physics professor friend of Stern's from Wayne State University, and Janet Brown, a political scientist delegated for 3 weeks from the Opportunities in Science program of the AAAS. According to Brown the team's job is to identify the policy issues on which the President or NSF director might have to make decisions within the next 6 months. The team has also been