

feelings at the time of the debate, since shipments were resumed after the debate. Mauroy took the lead in arguing for the government's nuclear policy. Emphasizing economic concerns, he urged parliament not to let a lack of energy hamper the government's economic program. In respect to La Hague, the government took the stand that commitments had been made to Japan, Sweden, and West Germany and that France should honor its obligations.

Divisions in the Socialist Party on nuclear matters had produced a heated discussion within the party in advance of the debate. Socialist members, however, put aside their differences to support the government in parliament.

In the campaign before his election, President François Mitterrand had indicated he would slow the rapid pace of the nuclear power program and had won the backing of French environmentalists in the so-called "green party," which has become a significant factor in French politics. The antinuclear group was pleased after the election when the government "froze" five sites being considered for new nuclear plants and canceled one project at Plogoff, a scenic spot on the Brittany coast that had been a special target for antinuclear protesters.

Mitterrand's actions since taking office have been seen by the environmentalists as a pronuclear shift, causing some estrangement. What is unusual in Europe is that France also has a substantial number of pronuclear activists drawn mainly from labor organizations and from among those who feel that economic well-being depends on energy independence.

Since the debate, nuclear militants of both persuasions have focused on the five sites for new plants that were frozen by the government. Recently, the government has sought local consent to unfreeze the sites by asking municipal councils in the areas affected to vote on the projects. In the case of adverse decisions, provision was made for review by regional councils and final authority was reserved to the central government.

Three of the projects got the go-ahead at the municipal level. At two sites, Golfech in southwest France and Le Pellerin on the channel coast, the local governments said no. In the case of Golfech, where the controver-

sy has been most violent, the regional council reversed the local stand. On Le Pellerin, the regional council has not yet acted.

The government's broader intentions in the nuclear field will not be known until the end of 1982 when it is to set schedules for plant construction to 1990. The question of future French policy on breeder reactors will not be resolved until after the Super-Phenix 1200-megawatt commercial prototype breeder reactor in southeast France goes into service, probably at the end of 1983.—**John Walsh**

Medfly in California Down but Not Out

The notorious Medfly has faded from the national news, but in California the threat lingers on, although at a much reduced level. In Florida, state and U.S. Department of Agriculture officials on 12 November issued a celebratory announcement of eradication of the pest in the much smaller outbreak there.

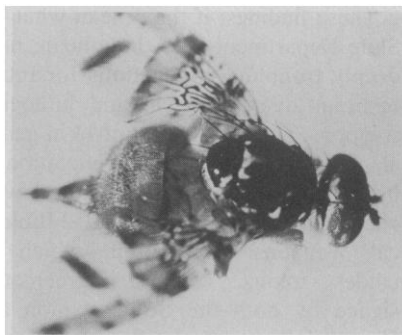
Officials of the California project are in the process of reducing the extent of aerial spraying in the five-county San Francisco Bay area under Medfly alert. At the peak of the campaign some 1300 square miles were in the spray zone. By December, if things go well, the spray area will be cut to 200 square miles or less.

Medfly project deputy director Dick Jackson says that spraying of the pesticide malathion ceased in a 500-square-mile area in early October. Officials say they will go ahead with plans to stop spraying another 630-square-mile sector in San Mateo, Alameda, and Stanislaus counties on 17 November despite the recent find of two live fertile Medflies in Mountain View in Santa Clara County. A poll of the project's advisory committee produced a consensus for the phasing out of spraying. Project officials say, however, that the spraying area around the Mountain View infestation may be widened. Further cuts in spraying in Stanislaus County and in the small spray area in Los Angeles County in southern California will be made by the end of November.

The situation in general is "looking good," says Jackson, but officials plan

to continue spraying operations into next spring and say they would not be surprised to find small infestations then.

Repeated spraying with the pesticide malathion has been carried out under the program and fruit stripped from trees in areas where even a single fertile fly is found. Where maggots appeared the ground was sprayed with the pesticide diazinon several times.



Jackson says that the key to detection has been the widespread placement of traps baited with a synthetic lure for Medflies. Some 120,000 traps have been distributed around the state in areas where host material grows. In the critical Bay Area infestation zone, some 28,000 traps have been placed in unusually heavy concentrations of as high as 50 traps per square mile.

The serial spraying program will be adjusted to winter conditions. Cooler weather slows down the Medfly life cycle. In its native subtropical habitat there may be four or five Medfly cycles a year. In northern California, only two generations a year may be produced. Stretches of warmer weather in the winter speed up Medfly emergence from the soil where they pupate. Heavy rains, characteristic of Bay Area winters, wash pesticides off sprayed surfaces. Spraying is timed, therefore, by taking into account "degree days" above a certain temperature and is done when dry weather is predicted.

In Florida, the pronouncement that the Medfly had been eradicated was coupled with lifting of a quarantine on shipment of "host material" from the area. The infested area south of Tampa is not a commercially significant fruit-growing area. In California, the quarantine still applies to a 3500-square-mile "regulation" area much larger than the spray zone.

—**John Walsh**