for tenure-track positions. Women are twice as likely to be "underemployed," and data from the National Science Foundation show that "women earn less than men in almost every field of science, in every employment sector, and at every level of experience."

The report also addresses the alleged "problem" of the increasing dominance of foreigners in graduate departments in quantitative fields. The report emphasizes the benefits of cross-fertilization, and says there is no good evidence that foreigners are driving down salaries. In fact, it says, "recent analysis indicates that foreign degree recipients appear to contribute more than the full cost of their education to their host institution." ■ CONSTANCE HOLDEN

Britain Seeks to Broaden Debate on CERN's Future

Paris.

The British government has proposed to its European partners that a joint committee be set up to discuss the long-term future of high energy physics in Europe, and in particular to explore whether cutbacks can be agreed in the budget of the European Laboratory for Particle Physics (CERN) in Geneva.

The government's proposal follows intense debate within the British cabinet on the conclusions of a purely national review, conducted by a committee headed by Sir John Kendrew, which recommended in June that Britain should reduce its overall expenditure on high energy physics—including its annual $50-million contribution to CERN—by 25 percent by 1991 (*Science*, 28 June 1985, p. 1509).

This timing, it was argued, would allow for the completion of the Large Electron Positron (LEP) 50 × 50–billion-electron-volt (GeV) collider, currently under construction at CERN, but would require an "attainable adjustment" in the organization's plans after that date. It would also permit Britain to increase research funds allocated to other areas of science without substantially raising the overall budget.

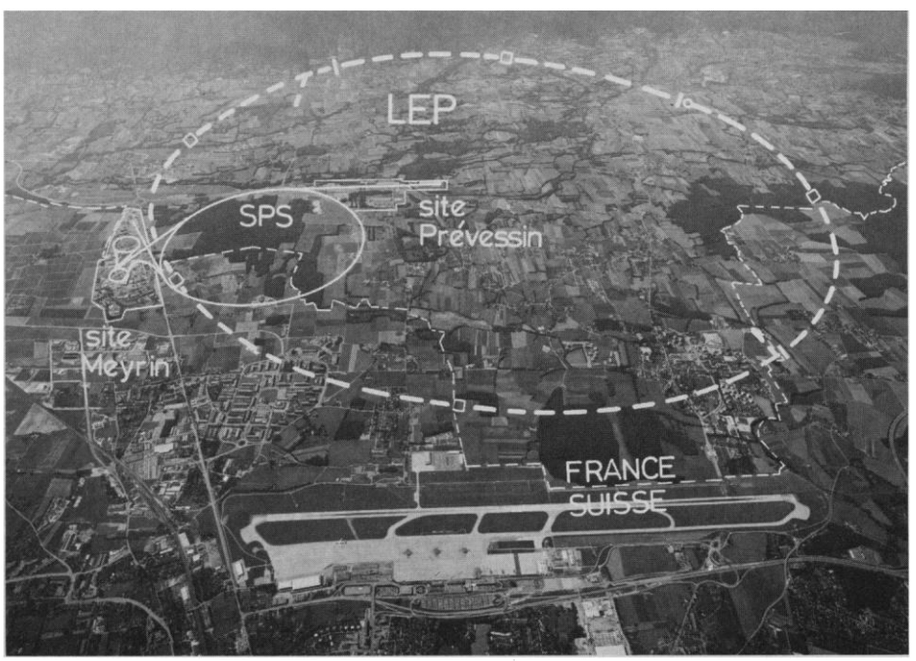
The need to cut back spending on high energy physics has apparently been accepted by the Science and Engineering Research Council, whose long-term strategic plan, published in London last month, reveals that it is already intending to distribute its research budget over the next 5 years based on the assumption that funding for high energy physics will fall by at least 20 percent over this period.

The government had clearly been hoping that, following the publication of the Kendrew report, others among CERN's 14 member states might come forward with their support for either a negotiated reduction in the organization's budget, or make a major effort to attract new members (the strongest candidates being Japan and Canada, with the United States also being mentioned as a possibility).

Such declarations, however, have been made difficult by the widespread outcry—coming particularly, but not exclusively, from the physics community—that greeted the Kendrew committee's recommendations. The European Committee for Future Accelerators (ECFA) dismissed Kendrew's call for a 25 percent cut in CERN's budget by 1991 as "totally unrealistic," arguing that because of fixed overhead costs it would imply "a cut of 50 percent in the materials budget and the consequent cessation of most experimental activity."

The British government is expected to make a statement on its response to the Kendrew report in the next few weeks. But whereas the report had concluded that Britain should give the CERN council "immediate notice" of its intention to reduce its contribution after the completion of LEP, the government is now expected to propose the joint review committee as an interim arrangement.

Preliminary discussions on this proposal were held last month by George Walden, the new undersecretary of state responsible for universities and scientific research in the Department of Education and Science, during a series of visits to his counterparts in other European capitals. British officials are said to feel that, despite their reluctance to offer public support for Kendrew's recommendations, several other governments are privately sympathetic to the view that the time frame for CERN's long-term plans could be extended without inflicting excessive damage on European high energy physics as a whole.



CERN's new ring

Plans to upgrade LEP after 1989 could be jeopardized by funding constraints.

An official in West Germany's Ministry for Technology and Research—the largest single contributor to the CERN budget, paying 25 percent in comparison to Britain's 16 percent—said last week that Walden's suggestion had received a "positive response" in Bonn. He pointed out that the German government—in common with most of its West European partners—is already under strong pressure to increase its research spending elsewhere, for example, in space-related activities, without the promise of any overall growth in the size of the budget. But he emphasized that such a committee should look not merely at the possibility of reducing the costs of CERN's budget, but also more positively at the long-term opportunities facing the agency.

Meanwhile, at CERN itself, physicists are focusing their efforts on attempts to secure funding that would allow LEP to be upgraded from 50 × 50 GeV to 100 × 100 GeV as soon as possible after the completion of the first phase in 1989, aware that this could be one of the first casualties of any decision to reduce the laboratory's resources after that date. ■ DAVID DICKSON