

being held in Jerusalem to take up the issue of cooperation over raw materials.

Development is also the focus of Italy's coverage of the Sadat-Begin talks. The Italian daily *L'Unita* reported Nov. 21 that "behind the meeting there may be an economic cooperation plan," noting that two joint economic plans have already been drawn up, one by Israel, and the other by Egypt, with the latter written by an Egyptian Marxist.

Mexico Calls For Joint Arab-Israeli Cooperation

Following West Germany and France's lead, Mexico has firmly backed the Egyptian-Israeli detente as the precursor of Middle East development. In a statement made last week praising Sadat's trip to Israel, Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo called for a joint Arab-Israeli development program as the only way to ensure a lasting Middle East peace. "I have always reflected on the significance for the stability and structure of the world if that area were successfully united," said Lopez Portillo. "Imagine what could be done in the Middle East with the resources of the Arab world and the technology and organization of the Israeli people." The Mexican President continued by blasting Kissinger-style diplomacy, stating that it was clear that negotiations are much easier "when intermediaries are eliminated."

Lopez Portillo's remarks were made on the eve of the arrival of Israeli President Ephraim Katzir in Mexico. Upon Katzir's arrival, the Mexican President reiterated his call for economic cooperation and the Arab nations to transform the region from a "critical zone" into a "prosperous" one.

Global Strides Toward Nuclear Power Isolate U.S. Policy

A series of highly significant international agreements and governmental policy commitments have critically tipped the international balance toward development of nuclear power resources. This international push comes at a time when the U.S. nuclear industry is threatened with imminent bankruptcy from the combined efforts of the Carter Administration, congressional non-proliferation policies, and domestic sabotage of nuclear energy by environmentalist movements. Among the most significant such international agreements occurring over recent days:

**Iran and West Germany:* Iran signed a "qualified letter of intent" Nov. 10 with Kraftwerke Union of West Germany to supply four additional 1,200 Megawatt (1,200,000,000 watts) pressurized water fission power plants for central Iran. The Iranian Atomic Energy Organization announced that the first unit is scheduled to begin operation in 1984, followed by the other three at one year intervals. Although no official cost figures have been released, sources estimate the pact to be in excess of \$5 billion, making it the largest single nuclear reactor

deal in history. (Although the West German-Brazil deal, finalized last year, involves a larger total, it was signed in several separate parts.)

**Iran and France:* Following the Nov. 17 visit to Paris by an Iranian delegation headed by the Shah, Iran completed an already-announced agreement to purchase two twin-900 Megawatt nuclear power plants from the French Framatome corporation as part of an overall Franco-Iranian trade accord of 30 billion francs. The largest single trade accord in France's history, the French deal is part of Iran's plan to develop 23 nuclear reactors by 1994, and was signed just shortly after the Shah's trip to Washington, D.C. where he offered the U.S., as part of the package, possible sale of 8 U.S.-built reactors in an overlap deal reported to reach between \$20 and 35 billion. Talks with the U.S. broke down over the Carter Administration's insistence on various safeguard policies encroaching on Iranian sovereignty.

**Egypt-France:* On Nov. 10 the Egyptian and French governments assigned experts to begin preparing technical and field studies of locations for building nuclear power stations on the Mediterranean and Red Sea coasts as part of Egyptian development plans for building 15 nuclear reactors by the end of this century.

**Kuwait-West Germany:* The Kuwaiti government announced Nov. 15 that an agreement to purchase a dual-purpose nuclear reactor for electric power and desalination is imminent. It is to be a 1,300 MWe unit and the supplier is reported to be Kraftwerke Union of West Germany.

**Japan-Soviet Union:* A private agreement between the Japanese Atomic Industrial Forum and the Soviet Atomic Energy Committee was signed Nov. 17. The agreement calls for cooperation in Atomic Energy Development, including nuclear power reactors and thermonuclear fusion research and development. Initially, the five-year agreement will provide for exchange of experts on fast-breeder reactors and fusion.

**Sweden-Soviet Union:* An official delegation from the Soviet Union is presently in Sweden on a 10-day visit, where a part of the discussion centers on possible joint Swedish-Soviet exploitation of the vast, and as yet untapped, Swedish uranium fields at Ranstad. Ten years ago Sweden and the Soviet Union signed a general agreement on nuclear fuel development which was never implemented during the Social Democratic regime of former Prime Minister Olof Palme.

**Mexico:* On Nov. 11, the Mexican National Nuclear Energy Institute (INEN) announced that the country will acquire a Tokamak nuclear fusion test facility as part of a vastly expanded program of fission and fusion experimentation. Mexico has developed a plan for substantial development of nuclear power generation by the 1990s. The first commercial reactors at Laguna Verde, are scheduled to come on line in 1982. The INEN program, now being considered by the government, calls for 20 nuclear reactors by the end of the 1990s.