

nuclear research assistance and joint exploration of uranium in Saudi Arabia. Just last month, the Saudis signed a similar agreement with West Germany. Both agreements portend the future supply of research reactors to Saudi Arabia.

Unlike Iran, the Saudis do not foresee the use of nuclear fission as a means of generating power, but rather are looking to nuclear energy as a source of massive desalination projects. As well, the Saudis are planning to employ nuclear energy for medical purposes.

Saudi Prince Mohammed ben Faisal, as a representative of his government, this summer broke the silence from Riyadh on the issue of fusion power. Speaking on New York City television, Faisal warned against scare stories from environmentalists against fusion, which he termed the "energy source of the future."

Iraq: Iraq, like its neighbor Saudi Arabia, is just beginning its nuclear program. Framatome will provide the Iraqis with one 600 megawatt power gener-

ating reactor. France will also provide highly enriched uranium to feed the reactor. As well, Framatome will sell Iraq a smaller research reactor, in a deal which has yet to be finalized. It is estimated that the power generating station will be operational by the mid 1980s.

Libya: Like Iraq, Libya has kept its nuclear program quiet. A \$300 million agreement was signed two months ago between Tripoli and Moscow for a large fission plant for power generation. Libya has also aggressively promoted an educational drive to train nuclear physicists both in the U.S. and in Europe.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE): In tandem with the creation of a board of prominent UAE political and business figures to centralize industrial development, the UAE this summer finalized an agreement with France to establish cooperation on nuclear fission. This was the first foreign agreement aimed at establishing a nuclear program within the UAE.

U.S. oilmen seek expanded nuclear energy role

The annual meeting of the American Petroleum Institute in Chicago opened Nov. 13 with a panel discussion which centered on the need for more energy production — particularly nuclear energy production. Although the API is frequently derided as "oilmen talking to oilmen," this year's meeting appears characterized by a desire on the part of the petroleum giants to broaden their political and industrial-economic base. In fact, one of the conference co-chairmen referred in his opening remarks to a "dialogue" that has been occurring among various U.S. forces favoring expanded energy production, and stated that "one of the highlights of the dialogue has been in the NAACP energy program."

Featured on the opening panel were Robert Georgine, head of the AFL-CIO's Building Trades department, Allen Grant of the American Farm Bureau, Thomas Ayres of Illinois' Commonwealth Edison, and scientist Jerome Weisner of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The participants were united in either explicitly or implicitly criticizing the no-growth emphasis in the Carter Administration energy program designed by Energy Secretary James Schlesinger. Declared the AFB's Grant: "In effect we have no national energy policy, despite the fact that the President signed what he calls an 'energy bill.' The reason we don't have an energy bill and the reason Congress could not agree is that the original proposal was nonsense. Many

people," he continued, in an apparent reference to some oil interests, "thought it was necessary to compromise to get any bill out. The Farm Bureau is straightforward — when we're right we're right, and we don't compromise with someone who's wrong.

"We still need an energy policy," Grant continued. "Nuclear power is its substance. Fusion is a promising source down the road, but atomic power, which we have on line now, is the cleanest, safest, most inexhaustible source we have. We need more nuclear plants; we need the breeder reactor, at the core of a national energy policy."

Adopting a conciliatory tone, the AFL-CIO's Georgine declared that "I could speak for two hours or two years on our disagreements — but I came here to speak on our common areas of agreement and to enlarge to new areas where we can agree." Several times repeating that his views do not represent the entire organized labor movement, the building trades leader told the oilmen's gathering: "We share a common goal: the current and future growth of the economy of this nation, the continued growth of the energy industry, including the oil industry. Our real strength is in our unity. Members of the Building Trades Commission are also part of the petroleum industry. The thing that unites us all is the understanding that the only real alternative is nuclear power. . . . Refusal to unite would ensure our defeat by the philosophy of no-growth."