

Introduction by the Chairman

Without attempting a "summary of summaries", it is worthwhile to stress the fact that real progress has been achieved in three fields:

- chemistry of separation (see the summary of Dr. Baetslé);
- first cost figures have been announced for a P&T scenario in the frame of the EU strategic study;
- experimental irradiation of actinide-based fuels and targets has been launched in the frame of national or collaborative programmes.

The value of the information exchange meetings has been confirmed. However, in future meetings, one can look for a better focus on the main topics of P&T. Reports from other related working groups could be envisaged.

As far as system studies are concerned, the indications of this meeting can suggest an intercomparison between a P&T strategy based on "expanded" standard reactor/fuel cycle technology (as in the European Union study) and a P&T strategy based on the "double strata" proposed in the paper of Dr. Mukaiyama. Moreover, it would be worthwhile to consider the impact on system studies of the methods to account for secondary wastes from partitioning. It would also be relevant to address the impact the intercomparison (as done at TUI-Karlsruhe) of different extraction processes.

MAJOR PROGRAMMES AND INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

Chairman: G.H. Stevens

Noted the report on new activities of the Nuclear Science Committee. Pleased that ways were found to have complementary work at the IAEA. The variety of work under the European Community reported by M. Hugon was impressive.

This session displayed both major programmes and international activity. Japan is pursuing P&T as an integral part of their radioactive waste management research programme. The whole nuclear, and indeed, energy policy is being seen against a very different geopolitical background but the nuclear programme shows great consistency of aim. Within the P&T programme there is emphasis on basic technology, including beam technology, the being, apparently, of greater commitment to accelerator-driven fuel assemblies than is evident in most of Europe.

Referring to the paper by Salvatores and Viala, he noted the 15-year legally established basis for the French R&D programme. The paper pointed to the different foci for research presented by wastes buried in varying conditions. Attention was drawn to the need to consider all the daughter products of the radioisotopes that were finally disposed of, to take account of all secondary wastes, and to give due weight to off-normal or accident conditions. He agreed with the observation that it was too early to draw general conclusions. His main impression was that the main objective remains to remove plutonium from the biosphere but that it is worth continuing to look at the benefit of adding