

Japan Continues Push for U.S. Cooperation in Fusion

Japan's newspapers are giving big coverage to Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda's proposal for a \$1 billion fund for joint U.S.-Japan fusion power research, first made during Fukuda's trip to Washington in May. Both of the country's major dailies, the Yomiuri and the Asahi, reported that the two countries had reached a preliminary agreement during discussions preparing for the Bonn economic summit of this week to extensively cooperate on the development of new energy sources, especially fusion.

The energy cooperation plan was to be finalized in a private meeting between Fukuda and President Carter in Bonn, though the details of these talks have yet to be released. Here are excerpts from Japanese news reports of the Fukuda plan:

Yomiuri, July 15:

Japan and the U.S. will reach a broad agreement on cooperation in the development of new energy sources when Prime Minister Fukuda and President Carter hold a separate meeting in Bonn.

A draft of the agreement, a copy of which has been obtained by *The Yomiuri*, has revealed that the two countries will cooperate on an equal footing in the development of nuclear fusion, photo-synthesis and other technologies.

During the seven-nation economic summit to be held in Bonn July 16-17, Fukuda and Carter will appeal to leaders of other advanced countries to join them in their joint energy development efforts.

The scope of the Japan-U.S. cooperation will cover: (1) nuclear fusion; (2) utilization of solar energy, including photosynthesis; (3) geothermal energy; and (4) liquefaction of coal.

Regarding fusion, Japan has proposed joint endeavors for the development of equipment related to the JT60, a nuclear fusion critical plasma testing facility being developed by the Japan Atomic Energy Research Institute (Jaeri), and the TFTR, a similar facility being developed at Princeton University.

Asahi, July 14:

Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda will tell President Jimmy Carter in a meeting before the opening of the Bonn economic summit Sunday that Japan is prepared to provide an annual sum of about \$1 billion to carry out joint research and development on nuclear fusion.

Fukuda will also propose to Carter the creation of a Japan-U.S. committee for scientific and technological cooperation to promote the development of future forms of energy.

a draft agreement for cooperation between the U.S. and Japan on an "equal footing" in the development of nuclear fusion, photosynthesis, and other technologies.

In draft form, the agreement calls for the establishment of a joint committee for scientific and technological cooperation with members appointed by the Japanese Prime Minister and the U.S. President to promote the development of future sources of energy and cites specific areas for cooperation in the development of the Japanese plasma testing facility JT60 and the similar Princeton Tokamak. The Japanese government has already pledged to sink more than \$500 million of its own money into the U.S. fusion program in order to help speed up its development.

The July 17 *Christian Science Monitor* let the cat out of the bag on just how receptive U.S. officials have become to the idea of international cooperation in fusion energy development. Titled "Fusion Power Research: World Cooperation Urged," the front page article quoted a U.S. fusion official in the Department of Energy, Robert Mason, as saying his office is "enthusiastic" about following up recent offers of collaboration in fusion research from both the Soviet Union and Japan. According to the *Monitor* and an earlier article in the *Washington Post*, the Soviets have proposed the establishment of a major international research facility with a jointly-built Tokamak machine, possibly in a third country. Although Washington sources close to Schlesinger and Blumenthal were reportedly "upset" by the fact that these offers were made public, according to Mason's office, the focus of the current U.S. program is much too narrow and must be expanded to "determine

the highest potential of fusion as a practical source of power."

Britain is now the only country standing in the way of a brute force commitment to develop nuclear energy as the alternative to continued dependence on shrinking oil supplies — the basis for worldwide economic expansion. Britain has spitefully thwarted efforts by the European Economic Community to agree on a site for the Joint European Torus (JET) experimental fusion program and most recently undermined attempts by the EEC to work out a common policy on fast breeder reactors, reprocessing and the management of nuclear wastes. According to the London *Times*, European initiatives in these crucial areas have been "abandoned indefinitely because of British opposition."

On the other hand, political leaders in France and Italy are openly embracing the summit's commitment to vastly expand and "promote the peaceful uses of nuclear energy." Italian Treasury Minister Pandolfi declared in an article in the financial daily *Il Sole* that Italy "agreed completely" on the results of the Bonn summit, emphasizing that now Italy must go ahead to realize its own nuclear development plan.

Following the visit of Mexican Foreign Minister Roel to Paris for talks on Third World "partnership" with Urenco, the European nuclear consortium behind the West German-Brazil nuclear deal, the French government is reportedly ready to supply Mexico with nuclear technology, machine tools and other advanced technology. A high West German official accurately noted that the issue of world war or peace hangs on the issue of nuclear power development.