

"The United Kingdom Ministry of Supply offers to buy all uranium ores and concentrates produced in the Colonial Empire during the period of ten years from the date of this announcement at a minimum price of 13s./9d. per lb. of contained uranium oxide delivered f.o.b. ocean port."

16. Completion of Harwell "Hot" Laboratory (Ministry of Supply Press Notice, June 24, 1949)

One wing of the new Radiochemical Laboratory at the Atomic Energy Research Establishment, Harwell, is now ready. Scientists are to start work in it almost immediately.

Announcing this today, the Ministry of Supply says that the building is the most complicated project of its kind ever undertaken on this side of the Atlantic.

What the Laboratory Will Be Used For

The laboratory will be used primarily for research on the chemical problems of separating the fissile element plutonium from uranium rods that have been irradiated in a pile. The rods also contain very radioactive "fission products," and the chemical separation problem involved means that the scientists will be tackling one of the most difficult jobs in the Atomic Energy Programme.

The laboratory will also be used for other chemical work with radioactive materials, including the separation of radio-isotopes produced in BEPO (British Experimental Pile), and processing materials that have been irradiated in the pile.

The type of work to be carried on in the laboratory means that entirely new problems-- particularly regarding the health and safety of the worker and the control of any active material in dust, gasses or effluent -- will have to be tackled.

Scientists Call it the "Hot" Laboratory

The building-- designed to provide every facility for working with "hot" (radioactive) materials-- is known at Harwell as the "hot" laboratory.

17. Testimony of Dr. Robert F. Bacher before the Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy, July 6, 1949, Regarding Progress of the British Atomic Energy Programme (Hearing before the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, Congress of the United States-- Eighty-First Congress, on Investigation into the United States Atomic Energy Project, Part 19, July 6, 1949, United States Government Printing Office, page 794.)

Mr. Jackson: ... do you feel that it will be a very short time or will it be easy for other countries to catch up with the progress that we are normally capable of bringing about?

Dr. Bacher: Let us take a specific example. I think maybe we can do this without getting on too delicate ground.