

French-Italian Joint Venture for Nuclear Energy

Aug. 4—The French and Italian state companies, Areva and Enel respectively, yesterday signed a deal to establish a joint venture for nuclear energy development in Italy. The agency will be called Sviluppo Nucleare Italia (SNI), and will draft feasibility studies for four 1.6 GW plants to be built, starting as early as 2012. The technology used will be the French EPR reactor. The chairman and deputy chairman of SNI will be French; the CEO will be Italian. SNI will be based in Rome.

Italy is now one step closer to a nuclear energy revival, after the infamous 1987 decision to destroy its advanced nuclear energy system. The next step will be to choose the three sites for the four plants, but according to Enel engineers quoted in the media, “sites have already been chosen, but nobody will tell you [where], not even under torture.”

The government is seeking ways to prevent the program from being blocked by anti-nuclear hysteria induced by Prince Philip’s anti-nuclear mobs in the local communities, and has moved to put the whole nuclear program under control of the military. Thus, it is reported that a new commercial agency set up by the Defense Department will manage and lease the nuclear sites.