Editorial

A new branch of science is born

The third International Conference on Cold Fusion convened in Nagoya, Japan, from Oct. 21 to 25. While the venue of the conference had been planned since the first Cold Fusion Conference was held in Provo, Utah in 1990—the idea was to rotate conferences between the United States, Europe, and Asia over a three-year period—nonetheless it was particularly appropriate that this was the location.

Were it not for the Japanese it is most likely that this extraordinary new window on nuclear phenomena would have been open for only a brief time. Certainly the actions of the U.S. and British scientific establishments were intended to drive the two cold fusion pioneers, Martin Fleischmann and Stanley Pons, into oblivion. Not only did the Japanese company, Technova, offer financial support and laboratory facilities to the two experimenters (located in a small town near Cannes, in France), but they themselves have embarked on an equally ambitious program in Japan itself.

The results of this investment in science by the Japanese was the landmark announcement by a Japanese scientist, Eichi Yamaguchi, that he had detected the presence of helium-4 in amounts commensurate with a sharp rise in temperature—during an experiment in which deuterium was gas-loaded into a palladium cathode. Similar results had, of course, also been reported in Italy, last year at the Como Cold Fusion conference, by the American experimenters Melvin Miles and Benjamin Bush.

As he said, this is a stunning confirmation of the Fleischmann and Pons hypothesis that the generation of excess heat in their cold fusion experiment, is indeed from a nuclear (and most probably a fusion) process. These results should finally put to shame those "traditionalists" who believed that they were on safe ground in denying that this could be true, because of the failure to confirm the existence of a nuclear "ash." Earlier in the year, Akito Takahashi had likewise startled the world with the announcement, reported on at the time in *EIR*, that he had achieved high excess heat near to the level reached by Fleischmann and Pons in their own experiments.

The most dramatic moment in the conference, however, came when Pons played a videotape of cells which boiled out their contents in a mere 12 minutes—an occurrence only to be accounted for by the occurrence of a nuclear reaction.

Conference chairman Hideo Ikegami closed the conference on a note of high optimism, declaring that Martin Fleischmann and Stanley Pons had opened up a new branch of scientific inquiry for mankind with their discovery of the existence of fusion in a solid state rather than a gaseous plasma. We can confidently expect that this new energy source will offer untold benefits to future generations, but even more important will be its scientific implications.

We wish to fully support the remarks of the honorary chairman of Technova, Mr. Minoru Toyoda, made to the guests of the conference on the occasion of a banquet. Cold fusion is not a matter to be studied by one single enterprise or nation. "I have confidence that it will become the greatest asset as an eventual energy source for humankind to be shared among the world."

Cooperation has already begun on the most practical level, between Italian, American, and Japanese researchers, in precisely the spirit of Mr. Toyoda's remarks. Nevertheless it is the fact that aside from Italy in Europe, and the efforts of researchers at Stanford Research Institute in California, the situation with regard to cold fusion research remains dim in Europe and the United States.

Official government support is lacking (and in Italy also researchers suffer from lack of necessary funds), and scientists who pursue this field anyway, are often still subject to ridicule by their peers. That this situation is a disgrace is almost too obvious to need saying.

We applaud the efforts of the Japanese, and most of all the courage of Martin Fleischmann and Stanley Pons, and all of those scientists who have supported their efforts despite the sometimes heavy penalty which all of them have suffered in service of the truth. It is because of such commitment, by men and women such as these, throughout the centuries, that our civilization has still a potential for greatness.