

231. In July, an agreement concerning the provision of a **dose assurance service** by the **Agency** for irradiation **facilities** in Member States **entered into effect** through its **acceptance** by a Member State - Argentina; at the **end of the year**, it had been **accepted** by 13 Member States. **As regards the technical operation of this dose assurance service**, the Agency **concluded an agreement** with the Gesellschaft für **Strahlen- und Umweltforschung** (Federal Republic of Germany).

232. **Normalization studies being conducted** at a number of national **standards laboratories** with the aim of **achieving standardized electron beam conditions** for the co-ordinated electron **dose assurance** programme were **completed**.

233. The proceedings of an **Agency** symposium on high-dose dosimetry were published.

234. In 1985, support was provided for 40 technical **co-operation projects** relating to the establishment or **further development of SSDs**.

235. **In November**, the arrangements for the establishment and operation of a network of **SSDs** by the Agency and WHO which had existed since 1976 were **formalized** through the conclusion of an agreement between the two organizations.

Radiation oncology

236. **In Egypt**, under the IAEA/WHO technical co-operation project on the use of brachytherapy in **treating cancer** of the cervix, a third training/demonstration course was attended by specialists from Kenya and **Sudan** as well as by Egyptian specialists.

237. The **results** of a co-ordinated research programme on the use of **high-LET** (linear energy transfer) radiation in non-conventional radiotherapy of cancer revealed the significant clinical advantages of this **therapeutic** technique for both **advanced** and developing **countries**.

238. An Agency **seminar** held in Kenya reviewed current nuclear **techniques** for the radiation **sterilization** of local **medical supplies** in developing countries of Africa and the Middle East,

239. Work **continued** on promoting relevant nuclear **techniques** for the **radiation-sterilization** of **tissue** grafts for clinical use in Asia and the Pacific region through an RCA **co-ordinated** research programme and an advisory mission to Sri Lanka,

240. The results of a **co-ordinated** research programme on **radiation-induced chromosomal** aberrations as a biological monitor in accidental **over-exposure** situations and of a **co-ordinated** research programme on the radiation treatment of **sewage** sludge for disinfection and safe **reuse** were reviewed at research co-ordination meetings held in Japan.

241. Support continued for **co-ordinated** research programmes on the **application** of nuclear **techniques** in immunoprophylaxis and in the **diagnosis** of **parasitic** diseases; progress was **reviewed** during a symposium on **nuclear medicine** and related medical applications of nuclear **techniques** in developing countries. Progress in evaluating the use of **monoclonal** antibodies in **radioimmunoassays** as a means of **achieving** improvements in the diagnosis of