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# **Western Europe Weekly Review**

**8 March 1978**

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WESTERN EUROPE WEEKLY REVIEW

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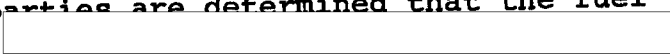
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(b)(6)Brazil - West Germany: Nuclear Issues

Brazilian President Geisel, visiting West Germany this week, wants to reaffirm Brazil's nuclear accord with Bonn before President Carter goes to Brazil. Geisel intends to sign an agreement to cooperate with the West Germans in high temperature reactors and the thorium fuel cycle. The West Germans in turn are to gain long-term access to Brazilian thorium.

Both Brazil and West Germany remain committed to fulfilling their nuclear agreement--including sale of nuclear reactors and pilot uranium enrichment and fuel reprocessing facilities--despite the serious difficulties Brazil's nuclear program faces.

The two countries' agreement on the thorium fuel cycle undercuts a US offer to Brazil to join the US - West German - French - Swiss consortium on thorium research as an alternative to acquiring a reprocessing facility.

Brazilian and West German officials are also likely to discuss the Netherlands' effort to require further safeguards on plutonium storage before URENCO, the West German - Dutch - British consortium, ships enriched uranium fuel to Brazil for its Angra II and III reactors. Dutch officials are to report to their parliament on Thursday whether their URENCO partners and Brazil will accept this requirement, but with or without Dutch approval, the other parties are determined that the fuel will be supplied. 

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