



A cobalt 60 teletherapy unit recently installed at the Alexandra Hospital, Athens. At the request of the Greek AEC, an expert from IAEA went to Athens to help the hospital staff in charge of the unit in putting it into operation and advise them on various aspects of its working

research on diseases which are common in Greece. The advice of a third expert will be available mainly in connexion with the research programme of the Greek reactor. The fourth expert will advise the Greek AEC on the setting up of the biological laboratory of the Greek Nuclear Centre; he will also assist in developing a work programme and take part in actual research work.

The IAEA Board also approved a Greek request for the supply of a small amount of equipment, essential for the work of the experts. Besides, the first medical research contract to be given by IAEA was placed with the Department of Clinical Therapeutics of Athens University for work on the diagnosis of certain diseases with the aid of radioisotopes. The investigations are expected to help in the treatment of echinococcus, a parasitic disease which forms cysts in the lungs and the liver, and of certain types of haemolytic anaemia. These disorders are common in Greece as well as in several other sub-tropical regions of the world.

IAEA's first Visiting Professor, Dr. A.G. Maddock of Cambridge University, went to Greece to give a series of lectures at a radioisotope training course held by the Greek AEC in April this year. While part of the laboratory facilities for his teaching work in Greece was provided locally, Dr. Maddock also had at his disposal the Agency's mobile laboratory which was sent from Vienna for this purpose.

WITH THE ISOTOPE UNIT TO ATHENS

IAEA's mobile isotope laboratory, which had earlier been used for some training work in Austria, made a rather eventful trip to Athens in March-April this year. A vivid description of the journey was given in a report by the driver of the vehicle, some extracts from which are reproduced below:

"We crossed the border (between Austria and Yugoslavia) ... The customs formalities consisted of the police admiring the interior of the truck and the size of it seemed to surprise them ...

"After Niš, the condition of the roads became very bad. People everywhere began to take considerable interest in the Unit. When we stopped for the night, it was necessary that the truck be within visual distance; otherwise we could have lost a door as a souvenir ...

"The effects of the roads were beginning to show; even bolts and nuts on the tires were loose ... The weather began to get cold and there was snow in the mountains. Roads became much worse. There were narrow, sharp curves full of holes. We crossed bridges with signs fixing a 6- to 10-ton limit. The bridges were made of wood. Our truck weighs 13 tons. There was a long bridge across the Morava River with a 10-ton limit. It was a very narrow bridge, just as wide as our truck; consequently, other vehicles had to wait until we crossed the bridge. We were very concerned about breaking the bridge and travelling into the river ...

"It rained all day and this was our worst day ... It was necessary to drive across an agricultural field; the main road was under repair and there was no way but to go through the field ... A railway crossing

was under repair on a hill. In order to go up the hill it was necessary to drive into a meadow and cross the railroad. In performing this manoeuvre the Unit almost turned over as we were driving along the side of the hill through thick mud, and the Unit began to slide down the hill. The back right wheels left the ground. One foot more of sliding down, and the truck would have toppled over ... We were deeply embedded in mud which had piled up on the left side of the Unit. We shovelled for over an hour. We were finally able to move onwards across the railroad crossing. The fuel tank of the truck hit the rails and only by putting stones under the wheels was it possible to make the truck move again ..."

The mobile isotope laboratory crossing a wooden bridge on the Yugoslav side of the Greek frontier

