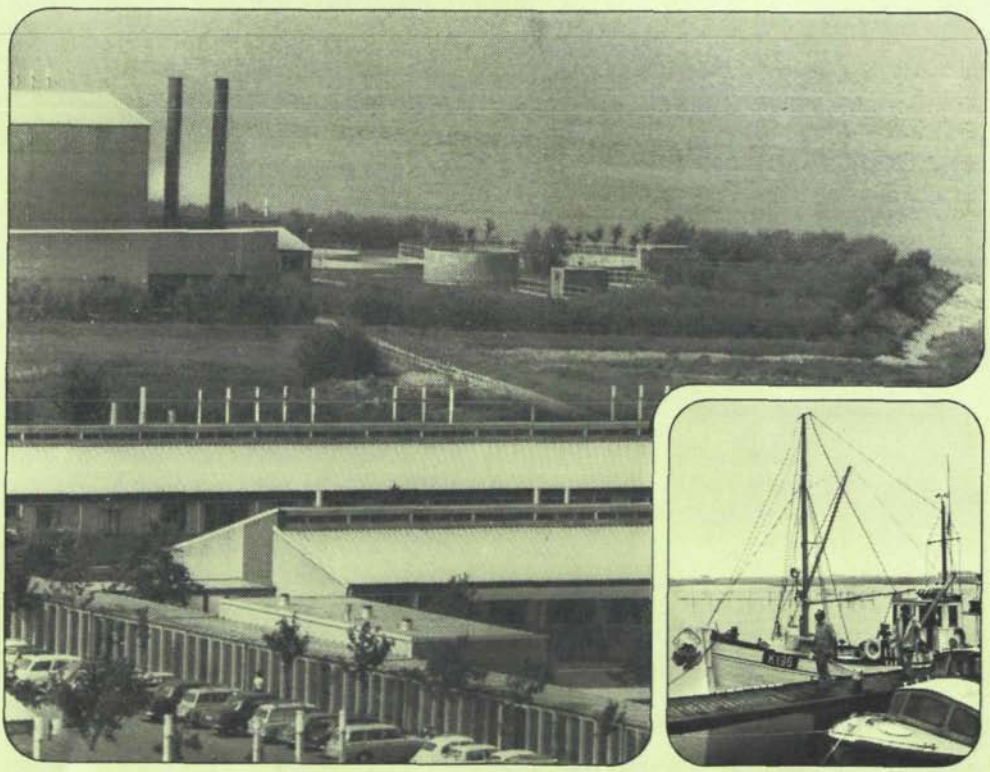
Risø Research Establishment, Denmark

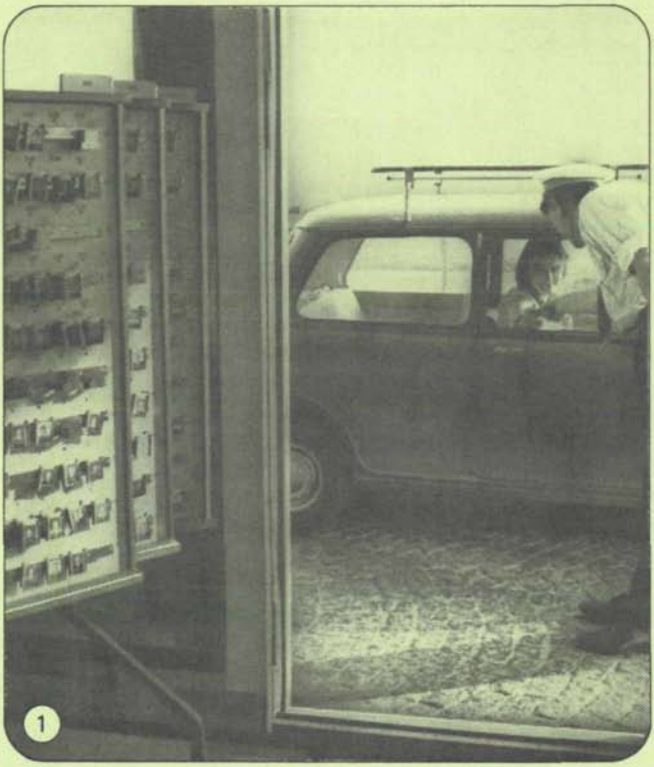
On the poetic Roskilde Fjord, 40 kilometers from Copenhagen, and near Roskilde, capital of Denmark in the 12th century, stands the Risø Research Establishment of the Danish Atomic Energy Commission.

Here 700 men and women are engaged in searching for ways in which atomic energy can be used to make the world a better and healthier place. The work at Risø comprises fundamental research, reactor technology and other technological studies, agricultural research and health and safety studies. Nuclear power stations are scheduled to be operative in Denmark some time between 1975 and 1980, and the planning of these stations and development of the many processes this will involve has become a major task at Risø.

Special conditions have to be fulfilled in selecting the site of an atomic research station, and the barren Risø peninsula had them all: safety, because the site was free from buildings to permit continuous control; closeness to the scientific institutions of the capital, Copenhagen; social amenities in Roskilde; finally, access to an a adequate water supply.

This special series of photos covering some aspects of the work and safety conditions at Risø was commissioned by WHO.





1 On the central approach road is the guardhouse where visitors to Risö are checked in and out.

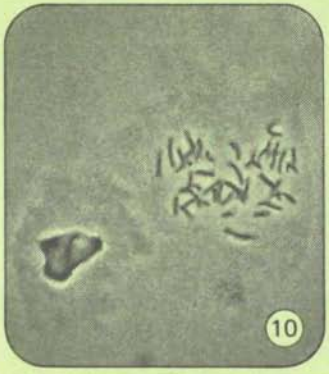
2 Stringent security precautions include special equipment to wash down protective shoes on leaving a "red area."

3 A monitor is used to control radioactive contamination on leaving the hot cell area.

4 Work in this area entails wearing specially protective clothing, such as this frogman's suit.

5 Rubber gloves, washed and sterilized, are drying before being re-issued.

6 Work in a so-called "glove box" in the plant, necessary for handling radioactive waste.



7 Equipment for the treatment of radioactive waste is also used for washing and decontaminating the protective clothing worn by staff.

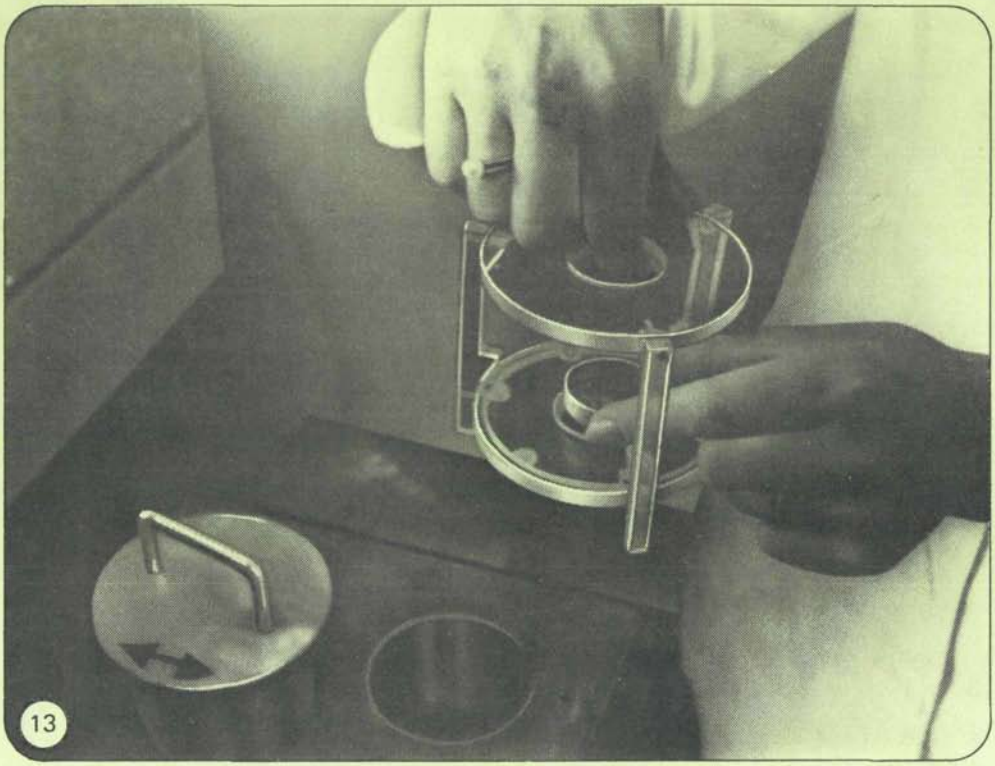
8 As part of Risö's environmental control, samples of water and fish from the seabed are collected.

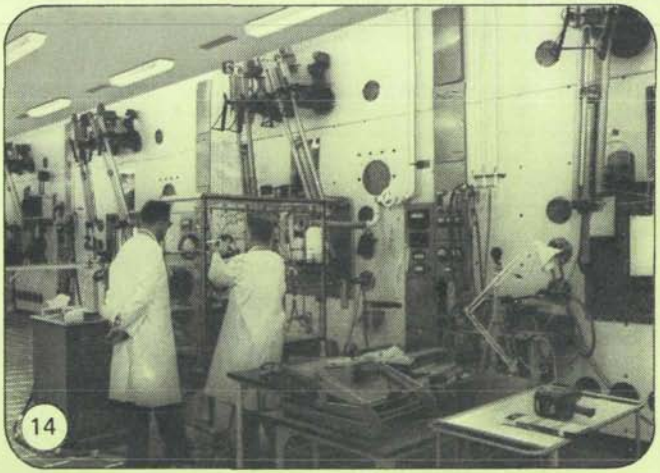
9 Radioactive waste from the hot cell facility is transported by special tractors in drums to the storage ground,

10 Micro-photograph of wheat chromosomes.

11 In this bird-protected enclosure plants are cultivated to study the uptake of various elements using radioactive tracers.

12 These medical utensils, made of plastic, are being radiosterilized, and will be thrown away after use.





13 Samples being prepared for insertion in a multi-channel analyser.

14 In the Risø hot cells area some 60,000 cubic meters of air are purified every hour. This photo shows the hot cells facility where highly radioactive samples removed from the reactors may be examined in specially shielded cells behind thick lead-glass windows.

The Danish Atomic Energy Commission, established by an Act of Parliament in 1955, maintains close contact with atomic energy institutions in the Nordic area and in many other countries. It participates in the ENEA high-temperature reactor project, Dragon, in the boiling-heavy-water reactor project at Halden, in the Eurochemic plant and in the Seibersdorf project. Under the auspices of the IAEA research fellowships are granted for foreign workers to pursue studies at Risø, and many students carry out practical work at the Establishment.