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SUMMARY

Our first meeting in 1975 with Dr. Holighaus, co-chairman of this conference, and our subsequent meetings with him and his colleagues confirmed that the EPRI program and that of the German Ministry of Research and Technology had basically the same philosophical approach. That approach was to stimulate and cooperate with private energy and engineering companies in building and operating large pilot plants. Technologies that could draw on a background of analogous commercial experience were emphasized. On such work, the foundation for a synthetic fuels industry would be soundly based.

The results of work from these pilot plants have been presented; most significant is that the major organizations represented are proceeding with aggressive plans to develop commercial-sized units in the mid-1980s.

In the field of liquid fuels from coal, both the H-Coal and Exxon EDS large pilot plants in the U.S. are operational. The Department of Energy plans to operate SRC Demonstration plants by the mid 1980s. Next year these projects will be augmented by a comparable pilot plant that will start up at Bottrop, West Germany. The plans of the shale community to use above-ground retorts and modified in-situ methods are progressing, and modules producing synthetic fuels should be in operation by this decade.

Coal gasification for production of clean gaseous fuel is also proceeding. With Texaco, large commercial units are planned for the Cool Water and Ruhrchemie projects and for Tennessee Eastman. Shell plans to build one 1000 t/d unit at Moerdijk, and possibly another in Germany. Lurgi dry-ash units are already widely deployed commercially, and there are plans to scale up the improved Ruhr 100 version. At Westfield, Scotland, the British Gas Corporation will be scaling up their gasifier to 8-foot diameter, a commercial size that can handle about 700-800 t/d of coal. Many other technologies, as presented in this volume, are also planned for scale-up to commercial size.

This activity signifies exciting competition among many technologies. We anticipate the implementation of these plans for scale up to commercial-size units the final stage in the commercial development process. We look forward to meeting once again some four years hence and to the challenge of the years that lie between.