tributes the state of the river to the construction of the power station; in fact, the chief offender is a paper-mill which also happens to be sited at Krsko.

Although naturally concerned with safety and environmental questions, the members of the safety committee remain optimistic that the power station will, in the end, be completed, though probably not by the deadline of October/November.

Meanwhile both sides of the belated nuclear debate can find comfort in the recent news that after years of prospecting, a rich uranium deposit (Yugoslavia's second) has been found near Probitip in Macedonia, while in the middle of May a federal Council for Solar Energy was established in Belgrade.

Vera Rich

London University

More trouble ahead

Some of the smaller colleges of London University may have to close and others amalgamate, but the large colleges with international reputations in many subjects should be kept largely intact. That is the gist of suggestions put forward in the second discussion document of the committee on the reorganization of London University, issued last week.

The problems facing the university have grown since the committee issued its first document last December. Now the university has to contend with an 8 per cent cut in its grant over the next three years in addition to the loss of income from the expected shortfall in overseas students.

The University Grants Committee is expected to tell each university how much money it has for 1981-82 and to allocate student quotas for 1983-84 at the beginning of July. But the London University committee urges that the implications of the expected cut in income are so severe and the timescale so short that discussion of what should be done must start now.

The document says that the university must cater for at least a 10 per cent decrease in the number of students and should reduce the number of buildings it occupies. The suggestion most likely to raise hackles is that Chelsea College, which caters mainly for science and mathematics, be drastically slimmed down or even closed. Chelsea has a good reputation in science education, nursing and the history and philosophy of science, says the committee. But it is not confident that the college's other departments are as good. The good should be sorted out from the bad by peer review, says the committee. Departments surviving the review may be sufficient to form a small college on one site — Chelsea is now widely scattered over several sites. Otherwise they should be incorporated into another college.

The sites that should be kept intact are those supporting colleges with high reputations in a wide range of subjects and, if

consistent, those with low costs. Imperial, University and King's colleges and the London School of Economics are likely to emerge largely intact. They may even gain from closer cooperation with some of the smaller colleges — for example, the committee would like to see Queen Elizabeth College, a small but successful institute of science, increase its links with Imperial College. Poor departments in Bedford and Westfield colleges should be weeded out and the two combined on the Bedford site, with the help of money acquired by the sale of Westfield's valuable Hampstead property.

Judy Redfearn

Research in Poland

Cutting red tape

The Polish production ministries have proved ineffective in coordinating research and development and their role should be phased out, according to Dr Janusz Gorski, Minister of Science, Higher Education and Technology. Writing recently in the weekly *Polityka*, he argued for decentralization and a restoration of decision-making power to the universities and academic institutions.

Academic autonomy, in research as in every other field, has been widely urged in Poland during the last few months by the Academy of Sciences, by the universities, and by the Solidarity "circles" in research and academic institutes. Indeed, Dr Gorski's article was an answer to a swingeing attack, also published in *Polityka*, by Maciej Ilowiecki, one of Poland's leading science writers. According to Ilowiecki, only the restoration of academic autonomy to the scientists could cure the long list of ills of Polish science, including an "absurd" system of financing.

Dr Gorski's article, for the first time, makes some concrete suggestions for improvements. In particular Dr Gorski criticizes the "hierarchy of problems", which has been the basis of Polish science planning since the early 1970s.

According to this scheme, all research funding, with the exception of a small basic research sector, is divided between various "problems" associated with the needs of the national economy. These are classified, in order of importance, as "governmental", "key", "interdepartmental", "departmental" and "branch" problems. Research topics are normally subdivided between a number of institutes and research teams, whose work is co-ordinated, according to the class of problem concerned, by the Academy of Sciences, and/or the relevant ministries.

Not surprisingly, this scheme has produced a mushrooming bureaucracy, and a scramble among research teams to get their own project as high up the ladder as possible. Now, however, Dr Gorski has proposed eliminating the bottom two levels, "departmental" and "branch",

Psychiatrist on trial

Dr Anatolii Koryagin, consultant psychiatrist to the Moscow "Working Group to Investigate the Use of Psychiatry for Political Purposes", went on trial in Moscow last week. Until his arrest last February, Dr Koryagin was the last member of the group still at liberty in Moscow — his fellow psychiatrist, Dr Aleksandr Voloshanovich, emigrated in February 1980 and the remaining members of the group are either in prison or labour camp.

Dr Koryagin practised psychiatry in Soviet hospitals for 17 years. Since the working group was set up in 1977, he has examined a number of patients consigned to psychiatric clinics as a result of their conflict with the Soviet State system, and found no sign of disorder.

Although the Soviet authorities have recently abandoned the confinement on psychiatric grounds of well-known dissidents, according to Dr Koryagin, the practice has become widespread for citizens of no great standing who commit some act construed as anti-Soviet. In an article which he sent to *The Lancet* shortly before his arrest, and which was published in April, Dr Koryagin analysed a number of these cases. In many of the cases he cited, the "patients" were simply confined for some weeks or months and then released without receiving any treatment — proof positive, he concludes, that the reason for containing them was isolation, not therapy.

Dr Koryagin was charged with "anti-Soviet agitation" — a far more serious offence than that of slandering the Soviet state, with which several of his fellow members of the commission were charged. In an appeal to foreign colleagues, which reached the West a few days before his trial, Dr Koryagin stated that the "transformation of psychiatry into an instrument of politics" was an attempt "drastically to distort the nature of this humane science". While praising the efforts of Western psychiatrists to combat these abuses of their profession, he urged them to be even more decisive in the future.

precisely where the role of the production ministries is greatest. In their place, he suggested a system of direct contracts between industry and research institutes, possibly based on competitive tenders.

Whether Dr Gorski's ministry will survive to implement any changes, however, is in doubt. Proposals on rationalizing government spending may lead to the ministry's responsibilities going to enlarged education and industry ministries. In any case some feel that the much-needed reforms cannot be settled while the new legislation on higher education and new statutes for the Academy of Sciences are still only in the discussion stage.

Vera Rich