Opera Mundi EUROPE

A WEEKLY REPORT ON THE ECONOMY OF THE COMMON MARKET

CONTENTS

THE WEEK IN THE COMMUNITY
March 17 - March 23, 1969.

4414.32 in Ref. files

EUROFLASH: *Business penetration across Europe*

March 27, 1969. No 505

Opera Mundi EUROPE

A WEEKLY REPORT ON THE ECONOMY OF THE COMMON MARKET

PUBLISHED ON BEHALF OF OPERA MUNDI BY EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCE LIMITED
EUROPA HOUSE ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS KENT *TEL. 25202/4 TELEX 95114*

OPERA MUNDI EUROPE

100 Avenue Raymond Poincaré - PARIS 16e
TEL: KLE 54-12 34-21 - CCP PARIS 3235-50

EDITOR & PUBLISHER . . PAUL WINKLER
EXECUTIVE EDITOR . . CHARLES RONSAC
MANAGING EDITOR . . . . ANDRE GIRAUD

SWITZERLAND	ITALY	BENELUX
54 Rue Vermont GENEVA TEL: 33 7693	72 Corso di Porta Romana MILAN TEL: 540.301 - 540.309	4 Boulevard Anspach BRUSSELS TEL: 18-01-93

o

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

U.K. EIRE AND STERLING AREA £75 ONE YEAR £40 SIX MONTHS
U.S.A. AND CANADA $250 ONE YEAR $135 SIX MONTHS INCLUDING AIRMAIL
OTHER COUNTRIES AT LOCAL EQUIVALENT OF U.K. RATES

Printed and Published by EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCE LIMITED
at Europa House, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, England

VIEWPOINT

THE DEVELOPMENT OF WEST GERMAN TRADE WITH THE EAST BLOC

by Otto Wolff von Amerongen
President, Conference of West German Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

For many years now, West Germany has been the main Western trading partner of the East Bloc countries and this is due largely to its geographical position, its economic structure and industrial capacity. During the past few years West German trade with the East Bloc has risen constantly and during 1967 there was a 12% rise in volume worth some Dm 6,200 million.

This upsurge was largely the result of a 20% increase in exports, as imports fell by some 2.5%. Thus there was Dm 830 million surplus on the trade balance, although in 1966 there had been virtual equilibrium with a surplus of only Dm 12.6 million. But an analysis of the figures brings two important facts to light. For the first time there was a surplus on trade with Poland (+ Dm 52 m). Secondly the deficit on trade with the Soviet Union - West Germany is the USSR's second largest non-communist trade partner after Japan - was cut by a half in one year, as it fell from Dm 600 million in 1966 to Dm 300 million in 1967.

The growth in trade with the East Bloc can largely be attributed to the relative weakness of the West German domestic market in 1967, which incited producers to boost their export efforts. Nevertheless the reversal in the economic situation which occurred in January caused imports from the East Bloc to expand at a faster rate than exports, and with the likelihood of the West German economy continuing to improve, the trade balance with the East Bloc will probably be slowly reduced.

In fact such a such a change should be welcomed since it would help to strengthen economic relations between both sides. Thus it might well be worthwhile examining just how imports from the East Bloc can be increased. While it benefits West Germany to have an overall trade surplus, she should take care about the extent to which this stems from commerce with the East Bloc. As the Socialist states do not have convertible currencies, their trade with the West can only be paid for in foreign currency. This means that for Western exports to rise, steps must be taken to encourage imports from the East Bloc so that the latter can acquire the necessary foreign currency.

The imbalance in West German trade with the East Bloc is largely due to increasing difficulties met with in handling agricultural products, which account for some 30% of exports from the East Bloc. This figure is bound to drop sooner or later as a result of the Common Market agricultural regulations, and the scope offered by massive purchases of industrial products as compensation are somewhat limited. As far as West

Germany is concerned from this particular point of view, there are limits imposed by what the market will absorb and by the range of products which the East Bloc countries are willing to export.

It is not just a question of price and quality, as there is also a need for an improved analysis of the West German market, in order to understand its requirements. East Bloc products are faced with foreign competitors who continually strive to improve their products so as to gain the largest and most secure outlets. This means that market surveys and market trends should play an important role in East Bloc export thinking, and indeed the signs are that such factors are being treated with increasing respect.

With the aim of reducing - as far as possible - East Bloc sales difficulties, the West German government has made the maximum number of concessions. In the near future there are to be no value or volume quotas imposed on East Bloc exports. At the same time it cannot be denied that the exporting organisations in the latter countries do not make full use of these facilities, and continue to prefer swap agreements with West German suppliers who find themselves having to accept - in lieu of payment - goods which are often unsaleable on the West German market. Deals of this sort have little to do with trade liberalisation, except perhaps to thwart it.

But the gradual changes which East Bloc countries are introducing into their economic policies, allied to the progressive expansion of their domestic markets justifies the hope that trade with West Germany will continue to increase. It should be possible for further facilities and quotas to be granted for certain products, without unduly affecting West German industry. There are also further interesting possibilities regarding economic and technical cooperation, but here we are only beginning to scratch the surface.

Basically however the members of the East Bloc must themselves make the efforts needed to improve their trading position. They must realise that they are up against tough international competition and that success depends upon making bids acceptable to the customer, whilst at the same time making the most of West German trade liberalisation measures.

It should be pointed out that most West European countries have been showing an increased interest in East Bloc markets during the past few years, and especially Britain, France, Italy and Japan. Characteristic of their efforts to expand trade have been increased import liberalisation allied to competition over the granting of ever-longer credit terms. West Germany has now closed this particular gap, so that most countries are now on a fairly equal footing. Furthermore East Bloc countries are no longer as interested in long-term payment schemes as they used to be, and tend to evaluate the effective cost of such systems.

German industry has welcomed the measures taken by the Federal Government to enable it to strengthen its traditional position in the markets of Eastern Europe. It is ready to seize any opportunity, compatible with economic requirements, to further economic and trade links with its East Bloc partners. This should be easier after the steps taken by the Socialist states to approach both centralised planning and external trade in a more flexible manner.

Nevertheless there is a need for Western countries to cooperate more closely on their economic relations with the East Bloc. Action might be taken to eliminate excessive competition, to introduce a more rational division of profitable work, and cooperation over joint projects. From this standpoint the ultimate aim would be to include the East Bloc countries within the same framework.

THE WEEK IN THE COMMUNITY

March 17 - March 23, 1969.

THE COMMON MARKET

The Six's Gordian Knot

Last week the EEC Commission became divided into two camps over its approach to the whole question of how the Community venture should be handled in the months to come. As it responded to certain member countries' requests (notably Belgium) that an action programme for the internal strengthening of the Community should be drawn up, its members clearly identified themselves either as those who would cut or those who would unravel the "Gordian Knot" of outstanding legislation that the Six must cope with before the end of the ten-year transitional phase of the Common Market, as laid down in the Treaty, can be properly realised. According to the Treaty, this phase should be complete by the end of this year, but the possibility of this happening, even with the best will in the world on the part of member states (which in fact is conspicuously lacking), can now in fact be ruled out. The heated and protracted wrangle that is bound to ensue over the Mansholt Plan, for a start would obviously belie any promise made in Brussels that the building of the full Community was all but complete by January next. Even Mansholt himself, seeing the writing on the wall, has suggested that this year's farm finance regulation be extended for another twelve months. As far as completion of the Community format is concerned, moreover, this further demands in agriculture the pooling of all produce levies in FEOGA or its equivalent, and this again brings us on to the thorny problem of achieving wider budgetary initiative for the European Parliament. This is to mention only the agricultural side of the problem, and similar conditions exist in most of the key sectors that must be fully integrated before completion of the true economic Community can really be proclaimed.

It is the Commission's programme, which in fact covers three years, and its divided opinion over the January 1, 1970 deadline, that brings to a head the issue of completing the transitional period that started with the launching of France's "Debre Plan" - a counter-move to the enlargement plans being pushed by the Benelux and Italy - last November. During the backlash of the Soames Affair (see No. 502, p 3-4), there were again signs that France was fishing for concessions from the Five (specifically on her claims on FEOGA) in return for her cooperation on the achievement of the 1970 transition deadline. Nevertheless, in getting down to specifics, the Commission's programme has now made it only too clear that even with such cooperation this particular objective is unlikely to be met.

It is not only a question of the impossibility, in terms simply of "Commission-and Minister-hours" available, of completing all the harmonisation and integration that adds up to meeting the deadline, but of the ramifications that most of the sectors concerned have beyond the Treaty's provisions. To deal with these rationally, it may well prove far wiser to use such a device as the three-year schedule recommended, and thus work towards full and measured solutions to the problems arising, rather than "botch" the task by over-anxiety to meet the deadline.

As far as the programme itself is concerned, however, this falls into two main sections: recommendations on four fields of action, and the definition of six priority legislative projects. As to the first, the Commission cites freedom of establishment and the free movement of labour and capital in the Community, external relations, common economic policies and, that decisions in these spheres should be properly implemented, the financial and legal harmonisation that goes with them.

The six priority projects singled out by the Commission, and which it believes should, if possible, be dealt with definitively before the end of this year -certainly if the deadline is to be met, are:

1) Coordination of economic policies and the creation of machinery for monetary cooperation in the Community (the Barre Memorandum).

2) Common commercial policy - which is specifically mentioned in the Rome Treaty, for realisation by the end of the transitional period.

3) Renewal of the financial regulation pertaining to the C.A.P. (ditto).

4) Structural reform in agricultural production - what are the chances of completing the debate on the Mansholt Plan before the end of the year?

5) Reform of the European Social Fund to meet fresh needs in the Community labour market, with respect mainly to building up a qualified labour pool and providing incentives for essential workers to move where they are needed inside the Community.

6) The definition of the Euratom pluri-annual research budget, and getting technological cooperation under way (mainly on the basis of the report of the Aigrain - formerly Marechal - Group, which will come before the Council early next month - see No 504 p. 18).

With these "objectives" now before us, we can see the dilemma that faces the Commission and the Community at large: items 2) and 3), for instance, cry out for immediate action because they come specifically within Rome Treaty terms of reference, but with these and others, such as freedom of establishment, which again is singled out in the Treaty, there are ramifications, covered in fact by the four-part action programme. The question is whether to "go for broke" - to aim for the deadline come what may and simply "write off" those particulars in which it fails to be met, or whether to rationalise. By rationalisation here one means in effect updating the Treaty, filling out those provisions in which it was so vague, along the lines offered in the action programme, and with a three-year extension of the transitional phase providing the Community with a series of deadlines, of the sort they have worked to so successfully in the past. This, one might hope, would enable the Six to set their sights far more accurately, giving them immediate but feasible objectives to pursue, and at the end leaving them with a form of economic integration measuring up to both the letter and the spirit of what the Treaty envisaged for the end of the transition phase.

Opinions on this, as we have said, however, nonetheless remain divided - after all, the Rome Treaty itself does state that the definitive stage of the Common Market should come into being between twelve and fifteen years after the Treaty itself comes into force - i.e. between January 1, 1970 and January 1, 1973. Thus to postpone the end of the transitional period would in fact not be a failure nor in any sense an illicit move on the part of the Commission. Jean Rey himself in the Commission leads the camp that favours keeping the 1970 deadline, but those who differ could well be in a majority, and indeed they are not lacking in arguments to back their case for postponement.

On the psychological level, they hold that it is folly to try to conceal the fact that all is not well in the Community, to force completion of the deadline through to give the appearance of success and cohesion, as this could lead to even worse internal tensions than already exist. Moreover, as a matter of tactics, it could they say be argued that a three-year extension may appear not so much as a defeat as an admission of crisis, which is something that in the past the Six have responded to well: it could well prove the stimulus that member states so badly need. Economically, to push ahead with the deadline could again prove little short of disastrous - inter alia, it involves the dropping of the safeguard clauses inscribed in Article 226 of the Rome Treaty, which means that member states would no longer have the option of bringing in unilateral measures (viz. France last year) to protect certain sectors temporarily from the over-taxing effects of the opening of internal frontiers. Allied to this is the matter of farm finance regulations, already mentioned above. Although the date limit set for this is again January 1, 1970, the two deadlines are not in theory linked, though in practice it is impossible not to do so: the fact that farm finance and agricultural reform are now accepted as inseparable issues therefore makes agreement here within nine months out of the question - far better to embark on the task with a reasonable time limit in mind. Finally, at the political level, the climate in the Community at the present time clearly does not admit of the degree of added power for the Commission, budgetary initiative for the European Parliament, complete pooling of the Six's levies on produce and indeed majority voting that must eventually accompany this, that the implementation of the definitive stage of the Common Market must bring with it.

Overall, the imponderable question really is, what course of action is likely to stimulate the Six most? The burden of argument in favour of postponing the deadline seems impressive, but the Rey faction has itself a forceful case to make:the final stage cannot be realised in fact before the Treaties as such are merged, and to hamper the task awaiting in this field with an extended transition period could well prove very dangerous. Better surely to get the deadline through, albeit in the makeshift manner that sufficed for the July 1, 1968 deadline, than to have this three-year "vacuum" in which the "centrifugal forces" to which the Six are a prey might well get a hold that could never again be broken. Also, to set to work in earnest on meeting an early deadline might be the best way possible of healing the wounds opened up by the enlargement quarrel.

* * *

EEC ECONOMY

Labour Shortage Ahead?

The latest information published by the Commission confirms that industrial production was rising at an unusually fast rate in late 1968, with a 5% increase over the average for the year, but special factors helped to account for this. In West Germany, exporters strove to beat the deadline of the export tax, whilst in the Netherlands the fear of higher prices with the introduction of the VAT system at the start of 1969 stimulated consumer expenditure. In France the approach of tax increases had a similar effect, whilst in Belgium it was export demand in particular from West Germany which played the major role, even though domestic demand has shown signs of recovering. Luxembourg's production figures for the iron and steel industry were very good but the expansion of Italian industry was to some extent slowed down by strikes.

Unemployment throughout the Community showed signs of declining at the start of the year, and the very high level of productivity achieved in many industries may have now reached its peak. Despite this satisfactory trend the number of those seeking work is still above the record low figure set in January 1966, but since the number of unfilled vacancies is already above the previous peak, there may well be a distinct strain on the Community's labour market in the near future.

During December-January there was a distinct rise in consumer prices in most member countries, although there was virtually no change in Italy or Luxembourg. In the Netherlands there was a large increase due mainly to the VAT, and the cost-of-living index rose by 3.5%. In France taxation changes produced a 1.1% rise in price levels. There was a 0.6% increase in West Germany due mainly to higher rents and food prices, whilst the 0.4% recorded in Belgium was probably only partly due to the business trend. In the last quarter of 1968 expansion of private comsumption rose throughout the Community and especially in France, the Netherlands and West Germany. In the first two countries the advent of new taxes played a large part in this trend which concentrated on consumer durables. In France the wage increases granted during the year helped to provide the necessary boost, whilst in the Netherlands savings were used. In Germany the rise in wages and salaries was a major contributory factor.

Although the information available is sometimes subject to delay, it would appear that the rise in agreed wages was slowing down by the end of the year. Total gross wages and salaries by contrast made rapid gains in most member countries owing to very lively industriel activity. In Germany total wages and salaries were 10% up on the same 1967 figure, whilst in the Netherlands wages rates were raised considerably at the start of the year with a special cost-of-living supplements being granted to cover price increases.

Imports into the Community started to rise again very rapidly and the improvement in late 1968 regarding the trade balance with non-member countries was not maintained. Exports also feil off partly because of the American dock strike, but also because West German firms had made a major effort to beat the export tax deadline during December. In fact the trading balance for January recorded the lowest surplus since 1965. There was somewhat of an improvement in the French trade balance, although domestic demand is high and manufacturers' stocks are low. The vigorous expansion of consumer and investment demand led to high imports of consumer goods and machinery, whilst both imports of raw materials and agricultural produce rose sharply. Almost all major exporting countries and areas benefited, with the exception of the United States, hit by the dock strike. By the end of 1968 it seems that the terms of trade were swinging slightly in favour of the Community, and in general average import values showed no change, and average export values were tending distinctly upwards in some countries, especially France. However German export prices may rise because of the export taxes, and this will be reflected in imports by other EEC members, but it also seems that West German import prices were showing an upward movement.

The survey of businessmen's views as to future trends shows that in December 26% considered their total order books were above normal (34% in France 24% in Germany and 18% in Belgium) with 60% considering their books were normal. French business chiefs included 30% who thought their export order books were higher than normal, followed by 23% in Italy, 22% in West Germany and 21% in Belgium. The figures in the same countries for those who considered their export books below normal were France 17%, Italy 19%, West Germany 18% and Belgium 20% with the overall figure of 18% for the Community. Regarding stocks of finished products, this ranged from 79% who considered they were at a normal level in Germany, down to 65% in France, with Belgium (73%) and Italy (72% occupying the intermediate positions. It confirms that French stocks for October (64%), November (65%), December (65%) are well below the Community average for the same three months (72% - 73% - 72%). Again the highest number of those who expect an increase in production was found in France (30%) followed closely by Italy (30%), Germany (26%) and Belgium (23%). It was in the latter country that there was the greatest number expecting a decrease (9%) compared with France (6%), Italy (5%) and Germany (4%). Belgium also heads the list for those expecting an increase in selling prices (28%) followed by France and Germany (24% in each country) and Italy (15%). Nevertheless throughout the Community 69% do not consider a rise in their selling price likely during the next three or four months, ranging from 78% in Italy to 60% in France.

* * *

MONETARY PROBLEMS

French Safeguard Measures

In a recent reply to a question from a member of the European Parliament the Commission stated that France had been authorised on December 4, 1968, to apply the emergency regulations and exchange controls introduced on November 25 as part of the overall plan to defend the stability of the franc. Before the Commission gave its authorisation, it had been informed by the French government of decrees and measures necessary for the application of the emergency measures. The Commission did not think it necessary to state explicitly that the French government should keep it informed of the way the measures were applied, since the authorisation had been made in accordance with paragraph 3, Article 108 of the Rome Treaty "the Commission shall authorise the State in difficulties to take the measures of safeguard of which the Commission shall determine the conditions and particulars". In effect this means that if a member country wants to introduce changes, it will have to receive a fresh authorisation from the Commission.

Furthermore, the French measures are regularly reviewed by a number of bodies, chiefly the Monetary Committee and the Economic Policy Committee, and since the Commission is represented on both of these and provides the necessary administrative services, it is able to keep a permanent watch on the measures in question. Too short a space of time has elapsed since their introduction for concrete results, but despite a deterioration of the French trading balance, the weekly figures issued by the Banque de France have shown an improvement in the position since last November. Nevertheless this improvement is not sufficient to warrant the abolition or modification of the measures authorised by the Commission in December.

* * *

FINANCE

Dutch and Italian Investment Rules

The Commission has recently requested both the Dutch and Italian governments to abolish a number of regulations limiting the investment rights of other member countries. In the Commission's opinion the regulations in question are incompatible with Community rules regarding the free movement of capital and freedom of establishment. Briefly the problems raised are as follows.

According to the Commission the application of the Law No 43 of February 7, 1956 (Article 4) which covers foreign investments in Italy, to other member states of the Community should be abolished. A request to this end has been made to the Italian government.

In the Netherlands, the West German firm, Neher Maschinenfabrik-Stahl-und-Apparatebau GmbH has complained to the Commission that when it came to establish a Dutch subsidiary, restrictions were imposed regarding the possibility of raising a long-term loan in the Netherlands. The restrictions arose out of a directive issued by the Nederlandsche Bank which requires that the financial needs of foreign subsidiaries must be in part covered by foreign funds. The Commission has therefore requested that this directive should no longer apply to subsidiaries of firms established in other member countries.

* * *

COMPETITION

Community v. National Law

In November 1967, the Federal Cartel Office in West Berlin fined a number of leading German chemical firms, Bayer AG, Hoechst AG, Badische Anilin & Soda Fabrik and Cassella Farbwerke Mainkur AG for having acted together on three separate occasions during 1964, 1965 and 1967 in raising the price of aniline. At the same time the Commission was tackling the question under Article 85 of the Rome Treaty, dealing with "concerted practices".

The firms then appealed to the Berlin Appeal Court on the grounds that the Federal Cartel Office could not under German law enforce the relevant procedure for the infringement in question, since the matter was already in the hands of the Commission. The Berlin Appeal Court therefore decided to ask the Community Court of Justice to clarify the situation. This involved a clash between the principle whereby Community and national legislation is limited to those matters over which they have exclusive competence, and the principle according to which an agreement having effects within a member state as well as on trade between member states is subject to both Community and national legislation.

The main questions before the Community Court were whether it was possible under Article 85 of the Rome Treaty and the related Community rules to apply both the penalties foreseen under EEC legislation as well as those instituted by national legislation. Secondly does the risk of being found guilty twice prevent the application of the two separate forms of legislation.

With regard to the first question, the Community Court replied that Community and national law tackles the problem of agreements from different standpoints. For Article 85 applies to impediments to trade between member states which might be established, whilst national legislation is concerned with the effect of such agreements within a country's own frontiers. If therefore the same agreement can be dealt with under both bodies of law, and this is confirmed by Article 87 para 2 (e) enabling the Council to define the relationship between national and Community legislation on competition, the simultaneous application of national legislation is only permitted insofar as it does not conflict with the uniform application throughout the Common Market of Community rules on agreements. This means that a company cannot turn round and try to block the application of Community legislation by a more favourable national decision. On this particular point, the Court stated that the EEC Treaty clearly establishes that with regard to competition, Community law takes precedence over national law. It would therefore be inadmissable for member states to apply measures which would have the effect of limiting the scope of the Treaty. Thus if a national decision were to be incompatible with a Community decision, the courts of the country in question would have to apply the latter decision.

As to the second question, which is linked to the first, the Court said that the possibility of a company being found guilty and penalised under two different sets of legislation does not of itself prevent the application of both, for the objectives under investigation can be different.

* * *

FREEDOM OF ESTABLISHMENT

"Academic Equality"

In a reply to a question from a member of the European Parliament, the Commission has stated that in its efforts to achieve equality for qualifications within the Community, it has begun by concentrating on the problem of professional qualifications so that each member state will recognise and accept the standards and examinations set in other member states. At a later stage the Commission will aim at bringing about recognition at a Community level of the years of study needed to acquire professional qualifications. It is intended to use the existing bilateral and multilateral educational agreements between the Six as a basis for this work.

Member states have signed and ratified a number of conventions within the Council of Europe dealing with access to higher education, equivalence for university study and recognition of academic qualifications.

Furthermore the various directives adopted by the Council with regard to freedom of access for degree-holders within the Community to professional occupations and the application of the various Council of Europe conventions should provide a freedom of choice through a guaranteed recognition of qualifications. Again the Community's Scientific and Technical Research Committee in its efforts to achieve a greater exchange of scientific information and coordinated training, will look into the problem with regard to scientific personnel.

* * *

ENERGY

Common Policy on Paper

During the recent meeting of the European Parliament, Herr Wilhelm Haferkamp the member of the Commission responsible for energy policy presented the "First Guidelines for the Community Energy Policy" which contains 37 main points. During the coming months these will be discussed by both the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament, but the Commission is also likely to make several proposals to the Council in the near future with the aim of gradually introducing the guidelines.

The Commission already has experts working out ways in which a true comparison of electricity prices within the Community can be established and at the same time it intends to find out and publish under what conditions large-scale users of electricity obtain their supplies.

Before the end of March the Commission intends to submit to the Council an analysis of the present situation and the outlook for coking coal and coke within the EEC, a factor which may well play an important part in determining the EEC's coal policy. As far as petroleum is concerned, Herr Haferkamp recalled that the Council had agreed to a storage policy for the Community to ensure at least two months' supplies. The Commission intends to take the necessary steps to reduce as far as possible the effects of the sudden loss of supplies, by maintaining a permanent study of alternative measures and sources.

Herr Haferkamp also stressed the need to harmonise energy taxation within the EEC. For the increasing number of plants using massive quantities of energy, the cost of energy supplies was a vital factor in choosing a site. He said that during January 1969 according to studies made by the Commission ex-refinery prices, before tax, for heavy fuel varied from $ 18 to $ 20 a ton for consumers in Northern Italy and around Hamburg to $ 13 and $ 14.6 a ton for Rotterdam, Le Havre and Marseilles.

Turning to nuclear energy he spoke of the recently completed report - the work of the Commission and the member states - dealing with the Community's long-term requirements for enriched uranium. He did not consider that the recent agreement by two Community states (the Netherlands and Germany) to link with a non-member country (Britain) in building an enriched uranium plant using the gas centrifuge principle detracted from the need to carry out detailed studies, regarding the construction of a similar plant for the Six alone. In fact such a study might well prove that it would pay the Community to have enriched uranium production plants operating on both the gas centrifuge and gaseous diffusion principles.

* * *

TRANSPORT

Pilot study on infrastructure costs

On 13 May 1965, the Council adopted a major programme for surveys designed to provide information and background material for a Community solution to the problem of allocating the costs of infrastructure use. One of the key items in the programme was a pilot study to set out the detailed conditions in which the various possible allocation systems could be introduced. This was carried out by the Commission with the assistance of experts from the Six and of French government departments and the French National Railways, which gathered the information required and did the cost calculations. Specialists from university institutes and official research organizations and private consultants were also called in to help. The report on the study has now been submitted to the Council by the Commission.

The first part of the study is concerned with the theory. It defines the principles of four possible systems of cost allocation - 1) marginal social cost 2) economic tolls 3) budgetary equilibrium and 4) full economic cost - and explains how they could be put into effect. It also outlines the results of studies on transport demand and price elasticity, factors that must be known before any of these arrangements can be implemented.

The study goes on to give figures for the four different systems between Paris and Le Havre, which are linked by road, rail and water infrastructures.

A few points are essential to a proper understanding of the scope of this study. First, it contains no value judgement on the theoretical plane, and its purpose is not to enable Community institutions to make an immediate choice between the different possibilities. The figures are valid only for the Paris - Le Havre route and cannot be transposed to other particular cases or to a nation-wide network of one or other of the three modes of transport. The normative value of the pilot study is confined to the definition of systems and methods of cost calculation. Lastly, the study is virtually confined to infrastructures in the open country. Urban infrastructures, which raise very specific problems of their own, had to be excluded: they will be covered in later studies, whose organization and procedures are the subject of a proposed decision put forward by the Commission in July 1968.

* * *

E.C.S.C.

Iron & Steel Production: January-February

For the first two months of this year, Community production of both iron and steel is well up on the figures recorded for the same period in 1968, with 7.8% more steel produced, and 7.1% more iron. The country-by-country breakdown for this, in millions of tons, is as follows:

Country	Production: January-February			
	Steel		Iron	
	1969	1968	1969	1968
Belgium	1.996	1.882	1.787	1.708
France	3.868	3.650	3.071	2.920
Germany	7.134	6.554	5.208	4.781
Italy	2.870	2.797	1.319	1.275
Luxembourg	879	752	762	673
Netherlands	718	579	514	453
EEC Total	17.475	16.214	12.661	11.810

Extraction of Iron Ore in the Community in January also was higher in January than in the same month last year, the figures being in 1,000 tons:

	Iron Ore Extracted	
Country	January 1969	January 1968
Belgium	9	8
France	5,396	5,237
Germany	691	611
Italy	87	110
Luxembourg	563	494
EEC Total	6,746	6,460

*

Healthy Steel Market in April-June Period Forecast

Consumption of steel in the Community, according to the forecast made by Sig Guido Colonna of the Commission last week to the ECSC Consultative Committee, should rise in the second quarter of this year to around 21 million tons, from 19.23 million tons in the same period last year, which equates to an increase of 9%. At the same time, stocks at plants and with finishing industries should rise by no more than 400,000 tons, such that this rise in output is quite in order, and the market thus promises, if the trend continues, to remain reasonably balanced throughout the year, such that the anticipated production figure for the year, of over 100 million tons, is still likely to be met (provisional output figures for the third quarter are now 25.4 million tons, as against 23.24 million last year, and the last three months of 1969 should see 26.13 million tons of crude steel produced in the Community).

As far as coal is concerned, there should in fact be a slight rise in production in the April-June period, from 40.530 million tons in 1968 to 40.905 million this year, because of increased demand from the steel sector, and hence the greater need for coking-coal (see No 504, p.16).

*

$ 7 Million ECSC Loan for Dutch Dock

The ECSC authorities have just contracted to grant the Dutch shipbuilding concern Cornelis Verolme a loan of Fl 25 million (just under $ 7 m.) to cover one-third of the cost of building a graving dock at Rozenberg, west of Amsterdam.

This project is sponsored by the Dutch Government, which has guaranteed repayment of the investment costs in full. Capacity of the dock is 400,000 tons, and construction is being carried out by Verolme, with the building pit already completed. The dock should come into operation by the end of 1970.

* * *

TECHNOLOGY

OECD Backs Technological Institute

The Council of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation & Development has now added its support to that of Britain, Germany, the Netherlands and Italy and many industrial interests for the creation of a European Technological Institute (see Nos 483 and 495).

On April 10, the management board of the Institute is to hold its first meeting, and in addition to the nations already involved, there will be Swedish and Swiss government observers present. Other countries are still expected to join. This meeting will be chaired by Professor E. Pestel of the Technical Institute in Hanover, and the main item on the agenda will be the selection of a site for the Institute, in the hope that the first courses (probably advanced management training) may begin in the 1969-70 academic year. The choice will probably lie between Maastricht in the Netherlands and Milan, as the other two towns originally suggested - Strasbourg and Fontainebleau - have had to be eliminated since the French Government's decision not to participate (M. Olivier Giscard d'Estaing, chairman of the original steering committee has since stood down). The likelihood is that the four governments involved will in fact choose the site between them.

* * *

AGRICULTURE

"Avoiding the Issue"

As expected, this week's meeting of the EEC Agriculture Ministers in Brussels resulted in another long-drawn out struggle which finally ended at 1 a.m. on the morning of March 25. They had been faced with the problem of setting the price level for dairy and beef products for the coming season (1969-1970) due to become effective on April 1st. Despite opposition from the Commission, the ministers agreed that the present prices should be extended until July 1, when they undertook to review the situation, in the context of the EEC's need to overhaul its agricultural policy. The French Minister, M. Robert Boulin favoured a middle-of-the-road approach between the Dutch and West Germans who wanted an immediate reduction in the price of milk, and Italy, Belgium and Luxembourg who felt that present prices should be maintained for at least a year.

The problem of how to tackle the question of the Community's butter surplus remains a major preoccupation for the governments of the Six, despite any action taken in Brussels. It was felt however that the ministers might reach agreement over the price of sugar as well as a possible change in the price of cereals.

French Eat Most Fish

For the fifth year running, the EEC has published annual figures for the fishing industry.

For the Community as a whole, per capita consumption of fresh fish is increasing slightly. It came to 10.8 kg per head in 1959/60, increased to 11.7 kg in 1965/66, and in 1966/67 was 11.9 kg. As for developments in the individual countries, consumption in Germany fell by approximately 15% over the eight years. In France and Italy, on the other hand, fresh fish consumption increased by about 20 and 30% respectively, the largest increase registered in the Community. Consumption in Belgium and the Netherlands increased less noticeably - by about 10% on average (approximately 7% in Belgium and 12% in the Netherlands). France is at the top of the consumption table with 15.4 kg per head; next comes Belgium (12.3 kg), followed by Italy (11.4 kg); Germany and the Netherlands come at the bottom of the list (9.9 kg).

Landings of fish in 1967 were very little lower than in the previous year. The slight reduction can be traced to a drop of more than 10% in Community landings of herring and the like due to a decline in German, Dutch and Belgian landings. This was partly offset by increased landings of round fish - mainly in Germany and to a lesser extent in Belgium and Italy. The increase in Germany was mainly due to a very marked rise in landings of fresh cod - from 59,000 tons in 1966 to 80,000 tons in 1967. Landings of flat fish were very slightly down on previous years; the only country in which landings increased to any notable extent was Belgium (approximately 18%). There is a tendency for landings of shellfish, oysters and the like to increase, mainly because of larger French landings.

* * *

TRADE

Pacts Sought by Argentina and Portugal

The Commission has requested authorisation from the EEC Council of Ministers to embark upon talks with the Argentine Government, which last month submitted an official application to Brussels (see No 501) for a trading agreement. The aim at this stage would be to clarify the issues and problems likely to arise in connection with such an agreement, in particular one assumes concerning Argentinian beef exports to the EEC in the light of the common agricultural policy. On the Argentinian side, a separate regime for this commodity might well be preferred, and in addition it is hoped that aid from the E.I.B. might be obtained, plus clauses in any agreement covering free movement of labour and freedom of establishment in the Community for Argentinian nationals.

As far as Portugal is concerned, the Government in Lisbon has let it be known officially that it would like to participate in any negotiations that may take place concerning trade links between the Six and other European countries. In 1967, Portuguese trade with the Community accounted for $ 346 million in EEC exports, an increase of 90% since 1959, although the EEC share in Portuguese imports (under the opposing influence of EFTA), dwindled from 39.2% in 1958 to 33.5% in 1967. Over the same period, Portugal's exports to the Community fell from 24.8% of its total to 16.9%.

* * *

ENLARGEMENT

Preparing For The Summer

The future shape of Western European unification or integration is still a major topic for discussion by the governments and parties involved. The backers of the various options involved, intra-governmental or supra-national, are limbering up and it can be expected that this summer will see the opening of a major campaign by both sides in an attempt to sway the waverers to one view or the other. Although the attitude taken by General de Gaulle appears often to be completely different from that adopted elsewhere, his views have found support in other countries, even if these have not been publically expressed.

For the time being the West Germans, whom the French President has relied upon to maintain the Community status quo in his favour, appear to be switching their support to the other camp, and in particular the Social Democrats led by the Vice-Chancellor and Foreign Minister, Herr Willy Brandt. Twice in the past ten days he has refuted French arguments that the WEU is being used by Britain to get into the EEC by the back door. Herr Brandt has also made it plain that for West Germany, the Common Market remains the very basis of any attempts at further European unification, whilst the fears that enlargement - in particular to include Britain - would change the nature of the EEC were unjustified. This is a virtual rebuttal of General de Gaulle's view that the entry of other countries would so change the Community that it could no longer continue in its present format. Nevertheless it should be remembered that the approach of elections in West Germany is likely outwardly to influence matters, and this alone might well result in a tougher line with Paris.

The increasing evidence that France intends formally to propose a further series of moves aimed at achieving European cooperation was strengthened last week when it became known that the French Prime Minister, M. Couve de Murville will address the Council of Europe on May 12th. Officially this is because of the 20th anniversary of the Council of Europe, but it is also being suggested that the organisation would provide a convenient framework for cooperation along the lines envisaged in Paris between the EEC and non-member countries. This was put forward last week by a Gaullist member of the Council's Political committee M. Nessler, and is in line with French thinking that the WEU crisis has blocked the scope for further progress there.

Britain's newly-appointed Minister to the WEU, Lord Chalfont, in a Brussels speech read for him earlier this week claimed that consultations within the WEU framework were an important step to the full harmonisation of policies not covered by the Rome Treaty, and would help to bring nearer the day when Europe would speak with one voice in foreign policy matters. He also made it clear that renewed French participation would be welcomed, although stressing that "the best basis for the development of European unity in politics, defence and economic matters" lay with the existing Communities. On March 25, the British Foreign Secretary Mr. Stewart denied that Britain was trying to outflank or isolate France. Speaking on scientific and technical cooperation he claimed that much useful cooperation between British and Common Market industries could be carried on at a company level.

During a press conference last week after his five day Rome visit. Dr. Luns, the Dutch Foreign Minister, said he did not think that France would quit the WEU. In fact he hoped France would take part at the next WEU ministerial meeting in early May, but thought this was unlikely at present because of her continued decision to boycott the organisation, which he greatly regretted. The Netherlands, Italy and other countries too would support measures which could help to improve Anglo-French relations, and this would include bilateral talks, since the British government would be unlikely to let these lead to action harmful to "the interests of European unity". It was also made clear that Italy is very interested in linking with the Netherlands, Britain and West Germany in the production of enriched uranium through use of the gas centrifuge principle.

March 27, 1969. A

EUROFLASH - HEADLINES

AFRICA	TEXAS GULF SULPHUR links with CFP in Senegal, Madagascar	P
BELGIUM	SCIENCE MANAGEMENT CORP forms subsidiary in Brussels	R
	INTERMILLS (U.S. PLYWOOD) to link with Dutch PICUS panels	W
BRAZIL	DEUTSCHE UBERSEEISCHE BANK opens branch in Sao Paulo	K
FRANCE	CHATILLON-COMMENTRY and BIACHE-ST-VAAST steel to merge	H
	KRONENBOURG and DUMESNIL beers may merge to rank No 2	M
	INDOSOJA (CARGILL) and EUROSOYA link for 1,200 tpd plant	O
	TRIGANO VACANCES, DOCKS DE FRANCE to run "leisure-markets	U
	Major French and Dutch transporters link for container network	V
GERMANY	TENNESSEE GAS TRANSMISSION subsidiary takes over SCHLOZ factors	B
	Swedish ELECTROLUX forms domestic appliances finance company	E
	COIN-A-MATIC, London (Canadian OSHAWA) forms subsidiary	E
	S. African DESA EXPORT forms plant buying subsidiary	F
	E.D.P. RESOURCES forms software leasing subsidiary	F
	FAIRCHILD, SGS stake sold, forms semiconductors sales company	G
	Swiss REFINA holding takes over BAYERISCHE WIRTSCHAFTSBANK	K
IRELAND	UHU WERK FISCHER to market its glues and cosmetics etc	D
ITALY	PIAGGIO to assemble B-S Viper jet engines (ROLLS ROYCE)	B
	MONTEDISON pools four electronic components subsidiaries	F
	ALLIS CHALMERS civil engineering plant revamps European sales	I
LUXEMBOURG	GOODYEAR to build Lux F 250 m. tyre-moulding plant	Q
NETHERLANDS	AMSTERDAM BALLAST-NEDAM building merger comes into effect	C
	MOULINEX, links with TOMADO broken, for independent sales	E
	New BANK & ASSURANTIE ASSOCIATIE; details of rationalisation	L

CONTENTS

ADVERTISING

** The expansion of the West German interests of the British advertising agency HAMILL TOMS LTD, Cheltenham, Gloucester (see No 492) has led to the formation in Düsseldorf of a subsidiary called HAMILL TOMS GmbH (capital Dm 20,000) with Mr. John Martlew as manager.

The British concern also intends to exchange shares in the local agency, Hubert Schnabel & Partner Werbeagentur.

AEROSPACE

** The Derby ROLLS ROYCE LTD group (see No 503) has extended the industrial links it has with the Italian group PIAGGIO & CO SpA, Genoa (see No 493) by entering into a licensing agreement with its aeronautics subsidiary INDUSTRIE AERONAUTICHE & MECCANICHE RINALDO PIAGGIO SpA (see No 384).

The British group's division Bristol Siddeley Engines Ltd (see No 501) has released to the Italian concern a licence to manufacture "Viper" Mk 526 and 540 jet engines, to be used respectively in the PD 808 executive aircraft, produced under the Piaggio/Douglas Aircraft Co alliance, and the MB 326 G trainer.

AUTOMOBILES

** The West German concern MOTOR-CONDENSATOR COMPAGNIE SCHLOZ KG, Mannheim (car accessories, especially muffled exhaust pipes) has come under the control of the American company TENNECO CORP, Wilmington, Delaware. Through TENNECO INC, Wilmington, the latter belongs to the group TENNESSEE GAS TRANSMISSION CO, Houston, Texas (see No 453), which has interests in Europe through the Dutch firms Gebr. Broere NV, Dordrecht, and Transicol NV, Rotterdam. The West German concern, which belonged to Mr. Heinrich Schloz, had a 1968 turnover of Dm 25 million with 700 persons on the payroll.

** The re-organisation in Belgium of the vehicle trading concern ETS AUTOMOBILES MOSANS SA, Liege, has strengthened the position of two subsidiaries formed with a capital of Bf 5.6 million each, both of which will trade in, and sell vehicle accessories, as well as run garages.

The first is called LIEGE MOTOR SA, Liege, and has as director MM Paul and Philippe Timmermans and Jacques Oury, whilst the other is called ETS DES GROSSES BATTES SA, Angleur, and its directors are MM Paul Baron de Viron, Yves Grisard de la Rochette and Jacques de Geradon.

BUILDING AND CIVIL ENGINEERING

** The Dutch building, public works and utilities construction concerns, AMSTERDAMSCHE BALLAST MIJ NV, Amsterdam, and NEDAM - NEDERLANDSCHE AANEMING MIJ v/h FA. H.F. BOERSMA NV, The Hague, which embarked upon a merger a few weeks ago (see No 493), have taken the operation further, with the conversion of the former into a holding company named BALLAST-NEDAM GROEP NV. This will have 5,000 persons on its payroll, having an annual turnover of around Fl 250 million, and controlling five main operative companies, all of them formed recently in Amsterdam with Fl 5 million capital in each case (all 20% paid up). These are: 1) AMSTERDAMSCHE BALLAST BAGGER & GROND (AMSTERDAM BALLAST DREDGING) NV, which has interests in Surinam (Sudreco NV), the Argentine (Ballast Argentina SA) and Britain (Ballast Co Ltd), being mainly for dredging and excavation work: 2) AMSTERDAMSCHE BALLAST BETON - & WATERBOUW NV, which produces concrete castings, and carries out tunnel, bridge, viaduct and airport cast concrete construction in West Europe generally; 3) AMSTERDAMSCHE BALLAST TEAMBOUW NV, for utilities construction contracts in West Europe; 4) AMSTERDAMSCHE BALLAST WONINGBOUW NV, for housing, and 5) AMSTERDAMSCHE BALLAST MIJ INTERNATIONAAL (AMSTERDAM BALLAST INTERNATIONAL) NV, for hydraulic engineering and road building, having control also of NV Ballast Saudi-Arabie, Amsterdam, and Samco NV.

The new holding company will also take charge of several subsidiaries of the former Amsterdamsche Ballast, in particular: Scheepswerf & Maschinenfabriek de Liesbosch NV, Jutphaas; Beton- & Spanbetonfabriek de Liesbosch NV, Jutphaas; Exploitatiemij, Transportbeton NV; NV Combinatiebouw Amsterdam; Bouwmaterialenhandel de Vibouw NV; Ingenieursbureau voor Systemen & Octrooien Spanstal NV; Grindexploitatiemij Bichterweerd NV etc.

** M. Charles de Pauw, head of and a major investor in the Brussels property group centred on CONSORTIUM DE PARKINGS SA (see No 502), has taken 50% (in token association with the TERRES & DOMAINES SA group) in the formation of two new Bf 1 million garage, parking lot and service station concerns, PARKING DU PASSAGE 44 SA and PARKING LOI SA, both in Brussels. Most of the balance of the capital here is held by M. Claude de Clercq, chairman of IMMOBILIERE GENERALE DES PARKINGS SA, Brussels, and a director of PARKING MEIR SA, Antwerp, and PARKING SAINT-SAUVEUR SA, Brussels, with both of which Consortium de Parkings is linked in Parking des Deux Portes SA, Brussels (capital Bf 10 m).

The latter is also an affiliate of the firms Cie Industrie & Travaux Emile Blaton SA, Immobilier 66 SA, Batiments & Ponts SA, all of Watermael-Boitsfort, and Promotion Immobiliere Belge- Promibel SA, all members of the Blaton group (see No 476), one of the heads of which, M. Adolphe Blaton, further holds a minority stake (in association with Banque Pictet & Cie of Geneva) in Consortium de Parkings.

CHEMICALS

** Not long after forming its Belgian subsidiary, STEUBER CO EUROPE SA,Schaerbeek-Brussels (see No 487)the American manufacturer of organic chemical products STEUBER CO INC, New York, has decided to close down its Cologne subsidiary STEUBER EUROPA CHEMIEHANDEL GmbH, formed in November 1967 with a capital of Dm 240,000 (see No 449). This had an interest in Belgium in Interorgana Chemiehandel Belgien NV, Antwerp, an 86% affiliate of the company Interorgana Chemiehandel GmbH, Cologne (see No 469).

** The two Milan companies INDUSTRIALE SILOS SpA (capital Lire 10 m) and VETROCOKE COKAPUANIA SpA (capital Lire 3,400 m - and a member of the Montecatini-Edison group - see No 427) are to merge with the latter taking over Silos' port handling and storage facilities for bulk goods and chemicals at La Spezia.

** The MONTECATINI EDISON SpA, Milan group which recently acquired (see No 500) from the UNION CARBIDE Co group, New York its 50% stake in CELENE SpA, Palermo (petrochemical plant at Priolo-Syracuse - see No 359) is to make the latter over to another Sicilian petrochemical subsidiary SINCAT-SOC. INDUSTRIALE SpA, Palermo (see No 427).

This has had its capital increased to Lire 78,000 million and in 1966 it took over another subsidiary of the Milan group, Augusta Petrolchimica SpA, Priolo (see No 407) and during 1967 two dormant companies, S.A.B. - Soc. Mineraria Santa Barbara SpA and S.M.A.-Soc Mineraria Realmonte (see No 421). In 1968 it raised its capital to Lire 68,000 million when it took over another investment company belonging to the group formerly operating in the energy sector, Sta Di Elettricita Ponale SpA, Milan.

** The West German adhesive products firm UHU WERK H.V.M. FISCHER oHG, Bühl, Baden ("Uhu" trade name, but also "Badedas" bath oils and cosmetics) has formed an Irish sales subsidiary called FISMAR LTD.

Uhu (1968 turnover Dm 90 m) has a well-established network of "Fismar" or "Uhu" subsidiaries in Strasbourg, Milan, Basle (2) Malgrat de Mar, New York and Toronto.

** The West German MOELLENBERG & SONERTAG oHG, Schwelm (lubrication) has taken a 15% stake in the formation of the Brussels cooperative company L.T.I.- LUBRIFICATION TECHNIQUE & INDUSTRIELLE S.C. (initial capital Bf 100,000). This will carry out R & D and trade in all systems, methods and products connected with lubrication. A 50.25% stake is held by the Antwerp firm CIE DENS OCEAN SA (see No 500), whilst M. Charles Deplus holds a 30% shareholding representing other Belgian interests.

CONSUMER DURABLES

** The French domestic appliances firm MOULINEX SA, Bagnolet which in late 1968 decided to terminate the representation agreement covering the Dutch market it had with TOMADO NV, Dordrecht (see No 497) has now formed its own Dutch sales organisation. This will be backed by a newly formed Rotterdam subsidiary called MOULINEX NV (authorised capital Fl 500,000) under MM. J.J.M.Courson and R.C.Marchant.

** DELMONICO OVERSEAS CORP, New York (see No 262), member of the American electric domestic appliances group T.S.T. INDUSTRIES CO (formerly Thompson-Starrett Co Inc - see No 311) has opened a Milan branch under Sig Sergio Rave.

T.S.T.'s international Delmonico division has for several years been linked by a technical and trading agreement with the Italian group IGNIS SpA, Comerio, Varese, which supplies it with domestic appliances, to be marketed in the United States under the "Delmonico" marque.

** The Swedish domestic appliances concern A/B ELECTROLUX, Stockholm, has formed a new hire purchase finance company in Hamburg under the name of ELECTRO-FINANZ GmbH, with Dm 3 million capital.

In West Germany, the group already has a manufacturing subsidiary, Electrolux GmbH, Berlin (capital Dm 3 m.), which employs some 600 people, while in France it has also just formed a finance company (see No 500) named Dimelec SA, Courbevoie, Hauts-de-Seine.

COSMETICS

** The Swiss investment company THE GOLDEN ARROW CO AG, Zug, has joined with Herr F. von Streng of Herrliberg, Zurich, in forming a cosmetics, perfumes and household products company in Milan named NISCO CHEMICAL ITALIA SpA, with Lire 200 million authorised capital, Sig Joseph Nissim of Milan as chairman, and Sigs B. Giussani of Milan and G.P. Kerr of Florence as directors.

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

** The London company COIN-A-MATIC LAUNDRY EQUIPMENT LTD (specialists in laundry equipment) has formed a subsidiary in West Germany called COINAMATIC MASCHINEN GmbH, Erlangen (capital Dm 20,000 - manager Mr. Robin Philipps, London).

The founder belongs 75% to the Canadian group OSHAWA WHOLESALE LTD, Toronto, Ontario (food distribution and development of hotel, restaurant and department store chains).

** The South African company DESA EXPORT (PTY) LTD, East London is a shareholder in the newly formed Hamburg DESA EXPORT (PTY) LTD & CO KG with Herr Hans Lindenau as director. The new concern will buy heavy electrical equipment in West Germany for sale in South Africa, Rhodesia, Zambia and Angola.

** Mr. Mizuo Moriyama has been appointed manager of TOSHIBA EUROPA GmbH now formally established in Dusseldorf (capital of Dm 500,000) by the electrical, electronic and engineering group TOSHIBA TOKYO SHIBAURA ELECTRIC CO LTD, Tokyo (see No 503).

The Japanese group intends to continue the expansion of its foreign marketing operations by forming subsidiaries in New York, Honolulu and San Francisco.

** The Canadian manufacturer of electrical office equipment, GRAPHICO PRECISION WORKS LTD, Scarborough, has formed a sales subsidiary in Berlin called DEUTSCHE GRAPHICO GESELLSCHAFT FUR ELEKTRO-TECHNISCHE ERZEUGNISSE mbH, with a capital of Dm 50,000 and Herr Wolfram Knaver as director.

ELECTRONICS

** The New York company EDP RESOURCES INC, which specialises in the hiring of data processing equipment and the supply of software, has formed a subsidiary in Frankfurt called EDP RESOURCES DEUTSCHLAND GmbH (capital Dm 50,000 - manager Herr Bruno Rubess).

** The Paris company JIVECO ELECTRONICS SA (see No 414), which specialises in the distribution of electronic and electrical equipment (president M. Jules Bessis) has formed a subsidiary in Geneva called JIVECO TRADING SA, with a capital of Sf 2 million (president M. Arthur Kägi - director M. J. Bessis).

The French company formed Jiveco Aerospace Sarl, Paris, in 1965, control of which passed in October 1966 to Sodeteg - Ste d'Etudes Techniques & d'Entreprises Generales SA, Plessis-Robinson, Hauts-de-Seine (see No 502), a member of the Paris group Cie Francaise Thomson-Houston Hotchkiss-Brandt SA.

** The Milan MONTECATINI EDISON SpA group (see No 501) has rationalised its industrial electronics and components interests by merging four affiliated concerns, LABEM - LABORATORI ELETTRONICI & NUCLEARI SpA, Milan; ELETTRONICA MERIDIONALI - ELMER SpA, Pomezia; OFFICINE TOSCANE ELETTROMECCANICHE - O.T.E. SpA, Venice, and I.R.C.I. - IMPRESE RIUNITE COSTRUZIONI INDUSTRIALI SpA, Milan, together with its Milan subsidiary Comelit - Cie Elettronica Italiana, SpA.

This combine will take the company name of MONTEDEL - Montecatini Edison Elettronica SpA, and with capital raised to Lire 1,170 million will run a factory at Cassina De' Pecchi.

** The American group FAIRCHILD CAMERA & INSTRUMENT CORP, Syosset, New York, which recently formed FAIRCHILD SEMI-CONDUTTORI SpA (see No 503) is continuing to establish its own European sales network in the semi-conductors field and has now formed FAIRCHILD HALBLEITER GmbH, Wiesbaden (capital Dm 200,000) with M. Dedy Saban, Saratoga, as manager. In 1968 the group sold its one-third interest (held through Fairchild Semiconductors Ltd) in S.G.S. - Sta Generale Semiconduttori SpA, Agrate Brianza (see No 481) to Ing. C. Olivetti & Co SpA, Ivrea. It no longer holds any stake in S.G.S.'s West German subsidiary SGS - Fairchild GmbH, which has been re-named SGS Deutschland Halbleiter Bauelemente GmbH with its head office switched from Stuttgart-Bad Cannstadt to Wasserburg. It does, however, have an interest in Fairchild Graphische Geräte GmbH, Karlsruhe (see No 424), which makes electronic equipment for the printing industry.

** The export efforts of EUCOMED - (EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR X-RAY & ELECTRO-MEDICAL EQUIPMENT), Vaduz, Liechtenstein, will be taken over in France by EUROMED-FRANCE Sarl, Ezanville, Val d'Oise, which has been formed with a capital of F 45,000 to trade in medical, surgical, precision and measuring equipment. Manager of the new concern is M. Rene Martinie.

The founder (see No 324) was formed by four European companies making X-ray, radiology and electro-medical equipment: Elin-Union AG Für Elektrische Industrie, Vienna (see No 427), Fritz Hoffman GmbH, Erlangen, J. de Vree & Co NV, Merksen, Antwerp, and Rank-Bush Murphy Ltd, Welwyn Garden City, Herts, a member of the London group The Rank Organisation.

ENGINEERING AND METAL

** The West German manufacturer of heavy vehicles, concrete-mixers, welding materials etc., KELLER & KNAPPICH GmbH MASCHINENFABRIK, Augsburg (see No 407) has taken part in the formation in Stockerau, Austria, of the sales company MASCHINEX MASCHINENVERKAUFS GmbH (capital Sch 100,000). Directors of the new concern are Herren Kleinz Rodenburg and Alois Riedl (both of Augsburg) and Herren Herbert Hausmann and Herbert Meisel (both of Stockerau).

The West German company, which employs around 3,500 persons, belongs to the Quandt group (see No 501) through the holding company ALLGEMEINE GESELLSCHAFT FUR INDUSTRIEBETEILIGUNGEN mbH, Stuttgart-Feuerbach. It is especially concerned with the industrial development of Bulgaria by means of an agreement with the company ELEKTROIMPEX, Sofia (see No 434).

** The West German manufacturer of grinding and milling machines H.A. WALDRICH GmbH, Siegen (see No 470) has formed its own Paris susbsidiary called WALDRICH Sarl (capital F 150,000) with M. G. Bourdon as manager and under the 83.3% control of its own managing director Herr E.G. Klein.

The West German company was until now represented in France by the machine tool import and export concern Martin & Cie SA, Paris (see No 441).

** The CIE PECHINEY SA, Paris and Lyons group, which recently decided not to build an aluminium plant near Hamburg (see No 501) has formed a Düsseldorf sales subsidiary called PECHINEY METALL-HANDELS GmbH (capital Dm 20,000), whose managers are MM Yves Debard and Jean-Pierre Chauvin.

In October 1968 (see No 481) the group formed a French plant manufacturing aluminium cables and alloys (capacity 5,000 t.p.a.), which is run by PECHINEY-ALUMINIUM PRESSWERK GmbH (capital Dm 100,000). The group also markets its semi-finished products in West Germany through Mehako Metall-Halbzeug-Kontor GmbH, Düsseldorf and Stuttgart of Ets Brossette & Fils, F. Brossette & Cie Sca, Lyons (an affiliate of Scal GP - Ste de Conditionnement en Aluminium - see No 472).

** The American group CLEVITE CORP, Cleveland, Ohio (precision castings for engines and bearings - see No 414), which has had an Antwerp subsidiary since July 1966, Clevite Service Europe NV, has how decided to forma a branch on its premises run by M. Dieter Kurt Beigel. The group has a West German manufacturing subsidiary Clevite Metall GmbH, Eichstetten, Emmendingen (electrolytic copper sheets for printed circuits), which has a capital of Dm 2 million and in 1967 had a turnover of Dm 5 million.

** Two steel groups affiliated to BANQUE DE PARIS & DES PAYS-BAS SA (see No 502) are to merge. FORGES DE CHATILLON COMMENTRY & NEUVES-MAISONS SA (see No 487), which makes rolled sheet at Isbergues, Pas-de-Calais (210,000 tons for a turnover of F 430 m in 1968) of a quality comparable to those made at Biache, Pas-de-Calais by LAMINOIRS & CIMENTERIES DE BIACHE-SAINT-VAAST SA, will take the latter over. The latter makes 150,000 tons for a turnover of F 130 m in 1968, as well as nearly 700,000 t.p.a. of cement and clinker. It is a 21.5% affiliate of DENAIN-NORD-EST-LONGWY SA (see No 493).

** The West German interests of the Luxembourg steel group ARBED - ACIERIES REUNIES DE BURBACH-EICH-DUDELANGE SA (see No 499) now include the wire drawing firm DRAHT-SEILEREI GUSTAV KOCKS AG, Mülheim, Ruhr (capital Dm 2 m), which is a family-owned concern employing some 200 persons. Its production will now be integrated with that of FELTEN & GUILLEAUME CARLSWERK AG, Cologne (see No 405), the Luxembourg group's main West German subsidiary.

** The leading Japanese company trading in steel and metal products, NISSHO IWAI CO LTD, Osaka (also the fifth import export concern in Japan) has established a permanent office in Milan under Mr. Katsuki Mutsuo. This will aim at increasing trade between Italy and Japan, especially in the pharmaceutical and laboratory measuring and control instrument sectors. Nissho Iwai was formed by the 1968 merger of two import export concerns, Nissho Co Ltd and Iwai Co Ltd, and the group has several Common Market subsidiaries in Hamburg, Düsseldorf and Paris. Iwai Co holds a considerable stake in the steel group Yawata Iron & Steel Co, which during 1968 negotiated a merger with Fuji Iron & Steel.

** The Swedish manufacturer of machine tools MALCUS INDUSTRI A/B, Halmstad, has decided to form a Düsseldorf subsidiary which will be called MALCUS GmbH. The Swedish company (capital Kr 10 m) belongs to the MALCUS HOLMQUIST A/B, Halmstad group, whose subsidiaries include Malcus Tools Corp, Long Island, New York. In France it is represented by FENWICK SA, Paris (see No 493).

** The Italian company TUBETTIFICIO LIGURE SpA (hollow metal products for packaging purposes including aerosols, tubes etc. - see No 472) has gained control of the metal packaging firm METALGRAF SpA, Lecco (capital doubled to Lire 600 m) and its subsidiary SIRMA SpA, Parma.

Tubettificio Ligure (capital Lire 850 m), which is headed by Sig Ulisse Guzzi, has changed its name to GRUPPO TL (TUBETTIFICIO LIGURE). With a turnover of some Lire 10,000 million, the new group employs around 1,300 persons and heads Tubettificio del Tirenno, which was formed in 1955 at Anzio. It runs 5 factories at Abbadia Lariana, Genoa-Pontedecimo, Parma, Lecco and Anzio, and has minority interests in a Yugoslav and Venezuelen aluminium packages firm (see No 380).

** FONDERIES DE PONT-A-MOUSSON SA, Pont-a-Mousson, Meurthe-et-Moiselle (1968 sales F 571.22 m), a member of the CIE DU PONT-A-MOUSSON SA, Nancy group (see this issue) has acquired from Ets. C. Masson SA, Neuilly-sur-Seine (capital F 1.4 m) its production of inverse and reduction gears for marine and railway engines, as well as its industrial mixers, which are based at Courbevoie, Hauts-de-Seine. The trade names for these products are "Masson" and "Atlantic".

** The American group ALLIS CHALMERS MANUFACTURING CO, West Allis, Wisconsin (civil engineering, agricultural materials-handling and industrial plant - see No 495) has re-organised its Italian interests where it controls a long-established manufacturing subsidiary in Cusano Milanino. It has made its Rome regional headquarters and technical assistance services into a subsidiary called Allis Chalmers Overseas SpA (capital Lire 10 m - see No 470), which will be run by Sig G.N. de Vinci and Messrs H. Olson and J.J. Chluski-William. The Rome office was established a few months ago and covers the Common Market countries, Switzerland, Austria, Yugoslavia, Greece, Turkey, Morocco, Algeria and Libya.

Allis Chalmers is awaiting the completion of a distribution centre at Herstal-lez-Liege, Belgium, which will handle spare parts made by its factories in the USA, Italy, France and Britain.

** The West German precision engineers W. HEIDENHAIN GmbH, Berlin, have formed a London subsidiary HEIDENHAIN (G.B.) LTD (capital £5,000).

Since 1966 the founder has had a Swiss holding company Heidenhain Holding AG, Ittingen, Berne (see No 392), which controls two other firms Igma AG, Zurich, and Heidenhain Corp, Niles, U.S.A.

** The Austrian group EUMIG-ELEKTRIZITÄTS- & METALLWAREN-INDUSTRIE oHG, Vienna (cameras and projectors - see No 377), which is controlled by the Vockenhuber and Hauser families, has dissolved its Paris subsidiary STE FRANCAISE EUMIG SA (capital F 10,000) and appointed M. Pierre Couffin, the head of its French representative Pierre Couffin & Cie SA, Paris, as liquidator.

The Vienna group employs some 2,600 persons and recently moved its manufacturing facilities from Micheldorf to its new plant at Kirchdorf, and in 1968 it had a turnover of Sch 370 million. In West Germany it controls a sales subsidiary Eumig Industrie GmbH, Stuttgart, and co-operates closely with the Robert Bosch GmbH, Stuttgart group (see No 500): the latter's subsidiary Robert Bosch Elektronik & Photokino GmbH, Berlin ("Bauer" cameras and projectors), which has recently taken over the Berlin projector interests of the Siemens AG, Munich group, also assembles "Eumig" cameras and uses parts supplied by Eumig for the manufacture of its projectors. The Austrian group is also represented in Italy (Eumig Italia Srl, Milan), in Switzerland (a sales subsidiary Eumig Verkaufgesellschaft AG, Zurich, and a holding company Immatra AG, Zurich), in Sweden (sales promotion and patent management company Eumig Skandinaviska A/B) in association with its local representative Fns Foto A/B.

** The American firm of pipeline construction and maintenance equipment T.D. WILLIAMSON INC, Tulsa, Oklahoma, has established in Nivelles, Brabant, a branch to its subsidiary WILLIAMSON INTERNATIONAL CORP, Tulsa, which will be run by the latter's president Mr. A.B. Steen. The founder has had a Belgian subsidiary since April 1967, T.D. Williamson SA, Brussels (see No 408).

** The interests of the CIE DE PONT-A-MOUSSON SA, Nancy (see this issue) in the precision casting and industrial plumbing sector will be strengthened by the acquisition of a 40% stake in SAPAG SA, Paris (factories at Blois and Rosny-sous-Bois - see No 307), which specialises in making taps, valves, valve controls and high pressure joints for the petrochemical and nuclear industries.

The latter (1968 sales F 29.4 m - 40% exports), whose president is M. J. Oyer, recently formed a Paris subsidiary Sofas - Ste de Fabrications de Soupapes de Surete SA (capital F 100,000). Its activities will now be co-ordinated with those of two other casting concerns recently taken over by Cie du Pont-a-Mousson, two sister companies Ste des Appareils a Jet - Ste de Robinetterie S.A.J. SA and Comap - Ste Commerciale d'Appareils Industriels SA (1968 cumulative sales F 64.99 m).

** The engineering group BILLITON MIJ. NV, The Hague has gained control of the manufacturer of non-ferrous alloys, EERSTE NEDERLANDSCHE WITMETAALFABRIEK NV, The Hague (authorised capital Fl 250,000 - 60% issued). The latter's factory at Loosduinen (30 employees) will be transfered to Naarden.

** The Marseilles engineering and metal working company REBOUL SA (capital raised to F 7.65 m) has taken over another firm in the same sector CHARTRON POULIN & CIE SA, Marseilles (capital F 600,000).

FINANCE

** Continuing the extension of its Latin American network, DEUTSCHE UBERSEEISCHE BANK, Berlin and Hamburg (see No 480) has opened a branch in Sao Paulo named BANCO ALEMANO TRANSATLANTICO.

The founder (assets Dm 507 at end 1968), an affiliate of DEUTSCHE BANK AG, Frankfurt (see No 478), already has a 4.1% share in BANCO DE INVESTIMENTO & DESENVOLVIMENTO INDUSTRIAL SA (see No 478).

** The group CREDIT LYONNAIS SA, Lyons (total of balance sheet at end 1968 F 36.24 m - see No 503) has decided to open a third London agency.

The French group has branches and agencies in Brussels, Antwerp, Ghent, Liege, Luxembourg, Saarbrucken, Geneva, Madrid and Barcelona.

** COFICA - CIE POUR LE FINANCEMENT DE L'INDUSTRIE, DU COMMERCE & DE L'AGRICULTURE SA, Paris (see No 276) has backed the formation of a new vehicle leasing company (cars, commercial vehicles under 3.5 tons, boats and light aircraft) called COFIBAIL-AUTO-CIE-FINANCIERE POUR LA LOCATION-BAIL D' AUTOMOBILES SA, Neuilly, Hauts-de-Seine. With a capital of F 500,000 and M. Philippe Bergeron as president, the new concern's shareholders include CIE IMMOBILIERE DE LA COFICA - CIFICA SA, a subsidiary of the founder.

The latter formed in November 1968 a capital goods and plant hire firm Cofibail - Cie Financiere pour la Location-Bail d'Equipements SA (on whose premises the new company is based) with a capital of F 4 million and whose board is headed by M. Didier Moreau-Neret. Cofica's main shareholders are B.N.P. - Banque Nationale de Paris SA, Credit Lyonnais SA, Ste Generale SA, Banque de Paris & des Pays-Bas SA, Worms & Cie, Vernes & Cie Snc and Cie Bancaire SA.

** The Munich merchant bank BAYERISCHE WIRTSCHAFTS-BANK AG, (capital Dm 5 m)has been taken over by the Swiss holding company REFINA AG, Glarus, which was formed in October 1964 with a capital of Sf 100,000.

** The leading Dutch investment company ROTTERDAMSCHE BELEGGINGS CONSORTIUM NV - ROBECO, which recently acquired control of INTERNATIONALE BELEGGINGS UNIE "INTERUNIE" NV, The Hague (see No 499), now intends to make a takeover bid for WERELDENBERGIE NV (through UTILICO NV, which manages a public utilities fund). Wereldenergie manages an investment fund based on international energy securities.

** A rationalisation in the interests of STE MARSEILLAISE DE CONTROLE TECHNIQUE - S.M.C.T. SA, Marseilles, has resulted in the absorption of two Panamanian companies, ARENALES SA and AYACUCHO SA (each with a capital of $5,000). They have made over to the French company their controlling stake in STE CIVILE D'INVESTISSEMENTS FONCIERS, Neuilly, Hauts-de-Seine, whose capital of F 50,000 has now been increased to F 2.13 million.

** The Amsterdam holding company BANK & ASSURANTIE ASSOCIATIE NV (capital Fl 100 m - see No 501) which was formed a few months ago by the merger (see Nos 476,500) of NEDERLANDSE OVERZEE BANK (N.O.B.) NV, Amsterdam and the holding BANKIERS COMPAGNIE NV, The Hague (backed by the merchant bank MEES & HOPE, and the insurance brokers R. MEES & ZONEN ASSURANTIE NV) has begun the rationalisation of its structure. Its main shareholders (22% of the capital) are the NEDERLANDSE BANK VAN SUID-AFRIKA (PTY) LTD, Johannesburg (in which it has itself a 25% stake - see No 421), the HONG KONG & SHANGHAI BANKING CORP, London and Hong Kong and the MORGAN GUARANTY TRUST CO, New York (12%). The new structure will be based on three main companies:

1) The new BANK MEES & HOPE NV (capital Fl 70 m) with offices in Amsterdam and Rotterdam and a branch in The Hague will run the banking activities of N.O.B. and Mees & Hope. It will rank fourth amongst Dutch banks after Algemene Bank Nederland NV, Amsterdam-Rotterdam Bank NV and Nederlandsche Middenstandsbanken NV. With a balance-sheet total of Fl 1,800 million it intends to extend the existing network of branches to include Arnhem and Eindhoven. However the banks - THEODOR GILISSEN NV Amsterdam, KENNEMER BANKVEREENIGING, Haarlem, FA. FRED PHILIPS, Zalbommel and MESDAG & GROENEVELD'S BANK NV, Groningen - which N.O.B. acquired during the past few years, will continue to operate independently.

2) ASSURANTIEBEHEERMIJ NV which is being formed will take over the broking interests of R. MEES & ZONEN ASSURANTIE NV, and will rank third in the Netherlands after LANGEVELD DE VOS DE WAAL, Amsterdam and D. HUDIG, Rotterdam. It will be linked to the Dutch companies in the same sector, MARINKELLE & CO, Amsterdam and VAN VUGT & BEUKERS, Rotterdam whilst abroad it is linked to EMPLOYEE BENEFITS CONSULTANTS AG, Zurich (see No 489).

3) INVESTERINGSBANK AMSTERDAM NV, in association with HAMBRO INTERNATIONAL NV (25%) which will specialise in financing special and medium companies, mainly through the acquisition of shareholdings, as wèll as having a considerable stake in the investment company VEEM-VERENIGDE EINDHOVENSE EXPLOITATIE MIJ NV (see No 501).

** A link-up has been agreed in principle between two Paris groups STE DES GRANDS TRAVAUX DE MARSEILLE SA (see No 451) and EURAFREP - STE DE RECHERCHE & D'EXPLOITATION DE PETROLE SA (see No 472). This will involve Eurafrep selling to Ste des Grands Travaux de Marseille its shareholding in UNION FINANCIERE DE PARTICIPATIONS & DE PLACEMENTS - UFIPA SA, Paris (see No 451)in return for a 15.16% interest in Ste des Grands Travaux de Marseille, whose capital has now been raised from F 42.5 to F 50.1 million. Ste des Grands Travaux de Marseille, which is an affiliate of Ste Centrale de Dynamite SA (see No 498) and Ste Lyonnaise des Eaux & de l'Eclairage SA (see No 504) will thus become a shareholder of Ufipa, along with Lazard Freres & Cie Scs: International Holding & Investment Co SA, Luxemburg (a member of the Turin FIAT SpA group) and Sta di Investimenti Mobiliari SpA, Milan (10% each), as well as the insurance groups (5% each) La Concorde SA and La Paternelle SA. Eurafrep is affiliated to Banque de l'Indochine SA, Lazard Freres, Cie Nouvelle Repfrance SA (formed by the recent re-organisation of Repfrance-Cie Francaise pour le Financement de la Recherches Petrolieres - Genarep SA and Petrorep - Ste de Recherches Petrolieres dans la Region Parisienne SA.

FOOD AND DRINK

** The Dutch cannery CONSERVENFABRIEK H.C. HAK NV, Giessen, has formed a subsidiary in West Germany called HAK KONSERVEN GmbH, Duisburg, with Dm 100,000 capital and Mr. Aart Hak as manager.

** A merger is to take place between two Luxembourg breweries, whereby BRASSERIE D'ESCH ANC. BRASSERIE BUCHHOLTZ SA,Esch-sur-Alzette, will be absorbed by BRASSERIE DE LUXEMBOURG ANC. EMILE MOUSEL & CIE SA, Luxembourg, which has raised its capital in three stages to Lux F 72 million.

** The Strasbourg brewery group BRASSERIE DE KRONENBOURG SA (see No 496) has started talks with the Paris brewery BRASSERIES DUMESNIL FRERES SA (see No 499) aimed at giving it a majority shareholding in the latter. The group thus formed would be the second largest in France after STE EUROPEENNE DE BRASSERIES SA, Champigneulles, Meurthe-et-Moiselle (see No 502). It would be represented in the Paris area by Dumesnil Distribution Sarl, Ivry, Val-de-Marne, and in West Germany by Kronenbourg (recently taken over by Kronenbourg) and in Britain by a sales subsidiary Kronenbourg Distributing (U.K.) Ltd, Brighton, Sussex, as well as holding a stake in a Congolese brewery.

** The re-organisation of the Paris-based group SAPIEM - STE DE PARTICIPATIONS DANS L'INDUSTRIE ALIMENTAIRE SA, which is headed by M. Gustave Leven, president of the SOURCE PERRIER SA group (see No 502), has now been accomplished following the absorption of seven subsidiaries, whilst its capital has been increased to F 36.6 million. The companies which have been absorbed are: 1) BRETAGNE LAIT, LAITERIE SOVACO, BECHEREL, DELISSE, SILVI, SOCREMO REUNIS SA, Marcille-Raoul, Ille-&-Vilaine, which has also brought with it factories at Montauban-de-Bretagne and Becherel; 2) LAITERIES DE NORMANDIE SA, Creully, Calvados (capital F 10,4 m - see No 433); 3) LEHAGRE & CIE SARL, Charchigne, Mayenne; 4) PAILLAUD-TOURS SA, Lucay-le-Male, Indre; 5) LAITIERE LIMOUSINE SA, Paris (capital F 700,000); 6) ETS LAITIERS PREVAL (LAITERIES PREVEL & CAUNY REUNIES) SA, Paris (capital F 7.2 m) and 7) IMMOBILIERE DE SAINT-DENIS-D'AUGERONS SA, St-Denis d'Augerons, Eure.

** The Milan company CENTROPRODUCT Srl (trade operations with Yugoslavia - see No 467) has backed the formation in Milan of the property and agricultural investment concern BEREGUARDO SpA (authorised capital Lire 100 m). Control is shared 50-50 with CO. GE. FI - COMPARTECIPAZIONI GESTIONI FINANZIAMENTI SpA, Milan (see No 243). With Mr. S. Vojuslav as president and run by Sig A. Ferraloro, the new company will specialise in managing breeding units, canneries and meat trading concerns.

** The French group INDUSTRIE DU SOJA-INDUSOJA SA, Saint-Nazaire (see No 415) and EUROSOYA SA (see No 454) have agreed to merge into a single St. Nazaire plant with a daily capacity of 1,200 tons two rival 500 t.p.d. projects for soya trituration and oil cake. This will enable better use to be made of both production and marketing facilities.

Indusoja (president M. M. Santy - capital F 11 m) is a 50% interest of CARGILL INC, Minneapolis (see No 475) with the remainder shared between ETS PROVIMI SARL, Croix, Nord (see No 414), SOPRORGA - STE DE PRODUITS ORGANIQUES SA, St-Denis (a member of the ROUSSELOT-KUHLMANN SA group - see No 499) and SYNTHESE & OXYDATION-SYNOXY SA, Paris (see No 323), which is controlled by Cie Financiere Holding SA (a member of the EDMOND DE ROTHSCHILD group - see No 503). It was Eurosoya that first intended to build a soya processing plant at Saint-Nazaire and its backers included the Argentine and Belgian group Bunge (through Ste Francaise Bunge SA - see No 462), Lesieur-Cotelle SA, Boulogne-sur-Seine (formerly Elco SA - see No 445 - a member of the George Lesieur & Ses Fils SA, Paris group - see No 494), Unipol SA, Marseilles (see No 496) and the Belgian company Vandemoortele NV, Izegem, Courtrai (formerly Oliefabrieken Vandemoortele - see No 445).

** The West German wine company WEINGUT FERD PIEROTH GmbH, Burg Layen, Bingen (see No 453) operating through its French subsidiary STE FERDINAND Sarl, Colombes, Hauts-de-Seine, has backed the formation in Switzerland of an import and sales company ST FERDINAND AG (capital Df 50,000) with M. Richard Hager as director.

The West German company (capital Dm 4 m) had a 1967 turnover of Dm 44 million. Its numerous foreign interests include Pieroth Freres & Fils, Colombes; Ferd. Pieroth Sprl, Brussels; Pieroth NV, Amsterdam; Casa Vinicola Pieroth Srl, Milan; Pieroth Ltd, Manchester; Pieroth Ltd, Brentford, Middlesex; St-Ferdinand Vins Francais Ltd, London; Ferd. Pieroth A/S, Copenhagen; Adminvin GmbH, Zug; Pieroth Rheinwein GmbH, Fabrwangen, Argovie.

** The Belgian SA DES BISCUITERIES PAQUOT SA, Ivoz-Ramet, Liege, has strengthened its French sales interests by forming a Paris subsidiary called PROPADIS Sarl (capital F 20,000), which is directly controlled by its subsidiary Biscuiteries Paquot SA, Rheims (capital F 1.2 m). The latter's president M. A. Gritten is also manager of the new company. With M. L. David as president and run by M. J. de Beukelaer, the Belgian company has taken over two other biscuit firms in the Liege province in 1961 (Colon Freres Sprl, Huy) and in 1967 (Biscuiterie Deguee SA, Ivoz-Ramet).

GLASS

** A linkup within a "groupement d'interet economique" established to coordinate sales in the domestic glassware sector has been agreed upon by the CIE DE SAINT-GOBAIN SA, Neuilly-sur-Seine (see No 503) and the VERRERIE & CRISTALLERIE D'ARQUES SA, Arques, Pas-de-Calais, which formed in late 1968 with M. Jacques Durand by the J.G. DURAND & CIE Sca, Arques.

The agreement covers their "Acorpal", "Arcoroc" and "Lumiarc", products (at Arques) and "Duralex" (at Chapelle-St-Mesmin). It will be strengthened and later extended to cover production.

INSURANCE

** The Cologne insurance group GERLING KONZERN (see No 478) which has had two Brussels subsidiaries since 1964, GERFINA SA -GERLING INTERNATIONAL - STE DE FINANCEMENT and GERLING INTERNATIONAL - VIE, SA D'ASSURANCES & DE REASSURANCES will also be represented by the newly-formed GERLING KONZERN BELGIQUE SA (capital Bf 1 m). Directly controlled by the head of the Cologne group, Herr Hans Gerling, the new concern will operate as an insurance agent in Belgium and other countries.

The Cologne group ranks fifth in the Common Market, and its main shareholders are Herren Hans and Walter Gerling. In the reinsurance sphere it operates through Gerling-Konzern Globale Rückversicherungs AG and Gerling-Konzern Versicherungs-Zentrale AG (which controls the former company) and both are based in Cologne. Versicherungs-Zentrale is directly controlled by Gerling Finanz GmbH, Cologne, which acts as the group's holding company and as a result it is the majority shareholder in a number of Cologne companies: Gerling-Konzern Lebens-Versicherungs AG, Gerling-Konzern Friedrich Wilhelm Lebensversicherung AG (both operate in the "Life" sector), Gerling-Konzern Magdeburger Standard Versicherung AG, Gerling Konzern Rheinische Verwaltungs-Gruppe AG, Gerling-Konzern Speziale Kreditversicherungs AG, Gerling-Konzern Allgemeine Versicherungs AG and it also has shareholdings in numerous other companies in the same sector. Through another holding company, STANDARD LLOYD AG, Cologne the group has a stake in Global Bank Gerling & Co KG, Hamburg (18%) and in Bank Für Allgemeine Finanzierung AG, Cologne (25%) as well as interests in the air lines and air insurance companies, Air Lloyd Flugservice GmbH, Porz (100%), Air Lloyd Deustche Planzenschutz Gmh (51%) Air Lloyd Luftfahrtversicherungs AG (48%) and in Euro Lloyd Reisebüro GmbH & Co KG (48%). Abroad the group has a stake in the Swiss companies, Universale Rückversicherungs AG, Zurich, Hans Gerling GmbH, Mennebach, Global Group AG Chur, Chur, Grisons, Gerling Investment & Credit Bank AG, Zurich, whilst in Britain it has a stake in Gerling Global Reinsurance Co Ltd, London.

** The Italian interests of PETROFRANCE SA, Paris (a member of the NAHMIAS - see No 487) have been strengthened by a Genoa subsidiary engaged in the marketing and storage of hydrocarbons and derived products. Called PETROPEP ITALIANA SpA (capital Lire 25 m) this is headed by MM Marcel J. Nahmias, Salvator Adritty and Jean Condomine.

The French company has had a long established Genoa subsidiary, Petrofrance Italiana SpA (see No 384) but in late 1966 this was sold off to the New York group, Texaco Inc (see No 500) which made it over during 1967 to its own Rome subsidiary Texaco SpA.

** The talks which began a few months ago between the Paris oil group C.F.P. - CIE FRANCAISE DES PETROLES SA (see No 500) and the American sulphur firm TEXAS GULF SULPHUR CO, New York, have resulted in an agreement covering two separate African operations.

In Senegal, two of the American firm's subsidiaries, CASAMANCE PETROLEUM CO (C.P.C.) and CASAMANCE SULPHUR CO (C.S.C.) will become co-holders in a hydrocarbon and mineral prospecting permit (off Casamance, as well as along the coast) held by the CIE DES PETROLES (AFRIQUE-OUEST) - COPETAO SA, the subsidiary of the French company. A joint subsidiary called TOTAL-TEXAS GULF Sarl will prospect for oil and sulphur.

In Madagascar, the BEXCO subsidiary of the American company will acquire a 20% stake in the oil prospection permit for an area off the west coast,held by C.F.P.'s subsidiary, CIE DES PETROLES TOTAL (MADAGASCAR) COPETMA SA.

In both countries Texas Gulf Sulphur (1967 turnover $ 253 m) will contribute up to $ 10.4 million towards the cost of the work involved.

PAPER & PACKAGING

** The Zurich company RELIANZ AG (headed by M. G.O. Engeler - textile packaging containers and products) has taken an 85% interest in the formation of the Paris sales company AGRIJUTE SA (capital F 100,000). This will supply containers to agricultural co-operatives belonging to the LAFAYETTE group (see No 461).

Two of these co-operatives, SECLAF SA and U.G.C.A.F. - UNION GENERALE DES COOPERATIVES AGRICOLES FRANCAISES SA, each hold a 7.5% stake in the new company, whose president is M. A. Nickles.

** The merger in March 1968 (see No 454) between two Dutch card and paper firms PAPIER- & CARTONFABRIEK PEKELA NV, Nieuwe Pekela, and CARTONNAGE & GOLFCARTONFABRIEK LOMAN-HUIZING NV, Winschoten and Stadskanal, has resulted in the latter's Stadskanal factory being sold to another company in the same sector, STROOCARTONFABRIEK v/h E. FREE & CO NV, Oude Pekela.

PHARMACEUTICALS

** A research agreement in the cardio-vascular sector has been signed between the Belgian group U.C.B. - UNION CHIMIQUE SA, Brussels (see No 504) and CASSELLA-RIEDEL PHARMA GmbH, Frankfurt. The latter is a joint subsidiary of RIEDEL-DE HAEN AH, Seelze, Hanover (see No 494) and its 75.62% parent company CASSELLA FARBWERKE MAINKUR SX AG, Frankfurt (see No 493). This is itself controlled (over 25% each) by the three leading West German chemical groups Farbenfabriken Bayer AG, Leverkusen (see No 497), B.A.S.F. - Badische Anilin- & Soda-Fabrik AG, Ludwigshafen (see No 504) and Farbwerke Hoechst AG, Frankfurt (see No 501).

PLASTICS

** The Dutch company LINDNER NV, Amsterdam and Soest, which has been a licensee since December 1967 of the American company ANCHOR HOCKING GLASS CORP, Lancaster, Ohio (see No 285) for the manufacture of its glass containers and closures, has signed a new agreement which will give it the right to manufacture plastic tableware for use by airlines. In the United States, these are made by PLASTICS INC, St Paul, Miniesota, which was acquired during May 1968 by the Lancaster company.

The latter is the leading American producer of glass tableware and glass containers (13,000 employees - 1968 turnover $ 227.5 m).

** The French manufacturer of plastic and rubber products SALPA SA, Paris (see No 478) has made into a subsidiary called SALPA (U.K.) LTD (capital £ 100) the branch which it established last summer (see No 470) in Britain at Littleborough, Lancs. This will be run by the founder's own president M. Andre Bernard and M. Claude Pariente.

PRINTING & PUBLISHING

** The American TREE PUBLISHING CO INC, Nashville, Tennessee, has formed an almost wholly-owned Paris subsidiary dealing in literary, artistic and scientific works called PARIS TREE MUSIC Sarl (capital F 20,000), whose manager is M. Claude Pascal.

RUBBER

** The American rubber group GOODYEAR TIRE & RUBBER CO, Akron, Ohio (see No 495) has decided to build a tyre-moulding plant in Luxembourg near its manufacturing facilities at Colmar-Berg, which is expected to cost some Lux F 250 million. Construction is due to start during this year and it should start production during 1970 with some 250 employees. The new plant will be run by a subsidiary now being formed, LUXMOLD SA. The group makes tyres and inner tubes at Colmar-Berg (through its subsidiary GOODYEAR SA) and since the end of 1968 tyrecord through its subsidiary LUXEMBOURG INDUSTRIES SA; and it also has a European technical centre based there. Recently Goodyear decided to establish a European technical research centre in France at Orsay, Essonne, carrying out research into chemical products.

SERVICES

** The GENERAL BUILDING CORP (G.B.C.) SA, Uccle-Brussels has formed an almost wholly-owned subsidiary SENIOR RESIDENCE SERVICE SA, Uccle-Brussels (capital Bf 500,000). This has MM Joseph van Oekel, G. van de Werve de Schilde and Paul Böhme as managers, and will provide services (catering, laundering, medical assistance, general information and advice) to complement property development schemes.

** The international management consultants SMC - SCIENCE MANAGEMENT CORP, Moorestown, New Jersey (formerly Wofac Corp - see No 489) have formed a Brussels subsidiary called WOFAC SA (capital Bf 250,000). This was the only EEC capital in which it did not have interests.

The American group has long been established in West Germany (Frankfurt) and in France (Neuilly-sur-Seine). During 1968 it formed two Wofac subsidiaries in Amsterdam (see No 470) and in Milan (see No 458) and at the same time acquired a stake in the applied psychology firm, Loghea SpA, since remaned Wofac Loghea SpA (see No 489).

SHIP BUILDING

** The Dutch shipyard NV SCHEEPSWERVEN v/h H.H. BODEWES, Millingen - Rijn (see No 265 - a subsidiary of the West German group HUGO STINNES AG, Mülheim, Ruhr - see No 497) has signed a technical, economic and financial co-operation agreement with two other Dutch yards. This covers the completion, sharing out and tendering for contracts. A joint subsidiary called COOPERATIEVE VERENIGING RIJNWAAL SCHEEPSWERVEN G.A. has been formed, whose Dutch shareholders are SCHEEPSWERF DE WAAL NV, Zoltbomme, and SCHEEPSWERF GEBR. VAN DER WERF NV, Deest, both of which belong to the Amsterdam group Hollandse Scheepsbouw Associatie NV (see No 467).

* * *

TEXTILES

** In a merger between two Italian furnishing fabrics companies, LANIFICIO DI SOMMA SpA, Milan (see No 378) has taken over TESSITURA MECCANICA JACQUAR GIUSEPPE RADAELLI & FIGLI, Monza, Milan (headed by Sigs Giuseppe and Franco Radaelli) and changed its own name to ARREDAMENTO RADAELLI SOMMA SpA. Headed by Sig Guido Mosters, the latter makes a wide range of textile products from furnishings, and woollen blankets to mens suitings. In 1967 it took over the Turin concern Lanificio Filippo Giordano SpA, which was formerly controlled by the Fracassi family.

** The West German manufacturer of ready-made clothes DR. SCHMIDT KG, Düsseldorf (owned by the Schmidt family) has opened a branch in Brussels called BUREAU DE VENTE CLASSIC DR SCHMIDT KG, St-Josse-ten-Noode. This will be run by Herr Hans Bootz.

** The Basle company FARKA, FINANZIERUNGS- & HANDELS-GESELLSCHAFT has an 87% controlling interest in the newly-formed Dutch company F.T. DISCOUNT SERVICE NV, Voorschoten (authorised capital Fl 250,000 - 33% issued). This will trade in ready-made clothes, furnishings, furniture, household goods and shoes. The remaining interest in the new company is held by Mr. Jacobus Ph. van Tiggele, Rotterdam, who has made over the F.T. Discount Service company.

** In order to carry out the necessary rationalisation moves, the London textile group STAFLEX INTERNATIONAL LTD (see No 504) has made an unconditional offer for the remaining 24% it needs to have complete control of the Dutch concern KON. VEEDENDAALSCHE STOOMSPINNERIJ & WEVERIJ NV, Veenendal. This recently started to rationalise its activities by selling its sheet and pillow case manufacturing and sales interests to Wisselink's Textielfabrieken NV, Enschede.

** FILATEURS & TISSEURS FRANCAIS - F.T.F., Lille, has just been formed to develop and promote textile products with M. Daniel Lefebvre as president. It has a capital of F 100,000 and three companies are represented on the board: TISSAGE MECANIQUE EUGENE CONSTANT SA, Lille (capital F 3 m), SITRAPLAST - STE INDUSTRIELLE DE TRANSFORMATION DES PLASTIQUES SA, Tourcoing (see No 485) and S.A. DES ETS. GRATRY, Lille.

The latter has been linked for some months now (see No 485) to the textile group Agache-Willot SA, Perenchies, Nord (see No 504) by a technical, sales and financial cooperation agreement, which is expected to lead to a greater specialisation and integration of both partners' interests. It is also linked to Sitraplast within Ste d'Exploitation des Ets. Van Caillie Sarl, Lomme, Nord, along with a number of other French companies.

** Three French textile firms, STEINHEIL-DIETERLEN, G. MARCHAL FILS SA, Rothau, Bas-Rhin, MANUFACTURES HARTMANN & FILS SA, Munster (see No 250) and SA ETS DES HERITIERS DE GEORGES PERRIN SA, Cornimont, Vosges (see No 315) have extended existing links to form STEINHEIL-HARTMANN SA (capital F 600,000 - president M. J. Kleinknecht) to promote sales of their joint production. Together they employ some 4,000 persons making 12,000 tons of textiles products for a turnover exceeding F 200 million.

Their previous links include long-established bilateral handling and technical agreements as well as a recently formed groupement d'interet economique, set up to coordinate and rationalise production.

** The Rotterdam group VEREENIGDE TOUWFABRIEKEN NV (see No 482), which has recently formed two sales subsidiaries as part of its rationalisation moves, Verto-Floor NV (floor coverings) and Verkoopkantor Vereenigde Touwfabrieken (metal cables, ropes etc.) has now formed two further manufacturing subsidiaries, each with an authorised capital of Fl 2.5 million (20% issued). The first is called NV VEREENIGDE TOUWFABRIEKEN LEIDERDORP, Leiderdorp, and has taken over the factory at Leiderdorp. Headed by Mr. H.B. Haanappel, this will now manufacture metal cables and ropes. The other, which is VERTO-TAPIJTFABRIEKEN NV, Maasluis, is run by Mr. H.P. Wintiens and has taken over the factory at Maasluis, making sythetic fibres for the group's tufted and ordinary carpets.

As a result of these moves, the Rotterdam group has now become an investment company controlling NV Touw- & Staaldraadfabriek Holland, Maasluis; Plastic-Extrusiebedrijf Verdelta NV, Vlaardingen and Apeldoornse Nettenfabriek von Zeppelin & Co NC, Apeldoorn, which in return has numerous foreign interests in West Germany, Belgium, France and Portugal.

** A merger in the French textile industry between LORIDAN-BELL-SUEUR SA, Halluin, Nord (capital F 2.67 m) and GARNIER-THIEBAULT SA, Gerardmer, Vosges (capital F 1.65 m) will strengthen the former's position. This was previously known as J. LORIDAN-DUPONT SA and in 1965 it acquired various assets from ETS. BELL-SUEUR SA, Halluin, including the trade name BELL-SUEUR and the brand name "EBSSA". With M. Jacques Bellanger as president, it has some 280 employees and makes table linen, towels and woven inscriptions.

** A technical and sales cooperation agreement signed between two Dutch manufacturers of ready-made clothing, DAMESMANTELFABRIEK PLAZA NV, Amsterdam and CONFECTIEFABRIEK SOMEREN NV, Someren, is aimed at strengthening their respective position on the French and West German markets. The former is well-established in France, where it controls its own sales network, whilst Confectiefabriek Someren runs the Düsseldorf sales company VRIESCO GmbH, Düsseldorf.

TOURISM

** The British company MANSFIELD BREWERY CO LTD, Mansfield, Notts, has formed a Belgian subsidiary called INTERNATIONAL AIR TRAVEL SERVIÇEINAIR SA, Elsene-Bruxelles (capital Bf 1 m). This will operate as a travel agency in Belgium and other countries.

** The London group GRAND METROPOLITAN HOTELS LTD (see No 488) which a few months ago began to build a Brussels hotel, has now formed an operational subsidiary called BRUSSELS EUROPA SA, Schaerbeek-Bruselles (capital Bf 1 m).

The group intends to build other hotels on the continent, probably in Frankfurt, Milan and Zurich. Other recent moves include the acquisition of a company in Spain which owns a building site in the centre of Madrid, and the acquisition through its American subsidiary at a cost of $ 12 million of the New York "Royal Manhattan Hotel".

TRADE

** The West German firm J. CHRISTOFFEL JR. KG, Trier, whose shareholders are Herren Rudolf Christoffel and Norbert Felberg, has linked on an equal basis with Luxembourg interests represented by M. Carlo Risch to form COMPTOIR LUXEMBOURGEGOIS DE PRODUITS CHIMIQUES & INDUSTRIELS Sarl, Luxembourg. With a capital of Lux F 400,000, this will operate chiefly in the import export field and will handle agricultural, chemical, industrial and pharmaceutical products.

** The Swiss company TECHNICURIA AG, Chur, Grisons (see No 481), which trades in technical goods, has formed a 90% Dutch subsidiary called NV HANDELMIJ. DE MIENT, Alkmaar (authorised capital Fl 50,000 - 20% issued), which will be run by Mr. J.C. Dekker. The remaining 10% is held by a Swiss patent management and exploitation company KABOS-VERWALTUNGS AG, Chur, Grisons, whose president M. Peter Rechenberg holds the same post in Technicuria. The two Swiss companies took a total shareholding in October 1968 in the formation of the Belgian company BOSAL BENELUX SA, Oevel (administrative office in Antwerp). This trades in vehicle spare parts and accessories and is controlled by the Liechtenstein company Kirkegard Familienstiftung, Vaduz.

** The Paris groups TRIGANO VACANCES SA (see No 502) and DOCKS DE FRANCE SA (see No 492) have linked to establish, organise and run a network of "Suma-Trigano" chain-stores and supermarkets to sell camping, caravanning, boating, leisure and sports equipment. A subsidiary called STE DES GRANDS MAGASINS DES LOISIRS SA, Antony, Hauts-de-Seine (capital F 2 m) has been formed (president M. Andre Trigano. Also represented on the board along with Docks de France are its Paris subsidiaries, STE DES ANC ETS MARCEL FROGER (capital F 120,000) and STE CENTRALE R. DOC SA (capital F 500,000).

At the same time Docks de France has taken an 80% stake in the formation of a Paris company similar to Magasins de Loisir, called STE D'ETUDES BONHEURVILLE - S.E.B. SA (capital F 1 m) with 60% held through Ste Centrale, R. Doc, which has made over assets valued at F 600,000. The new concern with M. Henry Toulouse as president - he holds the same position in the founder - also has as a 20% shareholder the Cie Financiere de Suex & de l'Union Parisienne SA, which has a 10% stake in Docks de France.

TRANSPORT

** The French company FULTRANS- JET AIR SERVICES SA, Puteaux, Hauts-de-Seine (formerly Fuller C.F.C.T. Fultrans SA - affiliated to the London international group LEP GROUP LTD (see No 440) has taken a 50% stake in the formation of the new Antwerp freight handling concern BELVRACHT NV (capital Bf 100,000). The remainder is held by German interests represented by Herren Carl Press, Heftrich, Taunus; Helmut Fischer, Warmbronn; Heinz Herold, Seefeld.

** West German interests represented by Herren Heinrich Hans-meyer, Coblenz and Kurt Zinndorf, Mainz, have linked equally in Rotterdam to form a new company called SCHIROP SCHEEPVAART NV (capital Fl 20,000 - 20% issued). This will despatch, load, discharge and carry out other operations connected with freight handling. Herr Günter Ferch, Mainz is manager.

** The CIE FRANCAISE DE DISTRIBUTION PHYSIQUE SA, Paris (initial capital F 2 m - president M. Gilbert Y.E. Grandval) has just been formed to act as the first link in an international network covering all aspects of freight and goods handling. Concerned mainly with container transport, it will later extend its interests to West Germany, Italy, Belgium, Britain and the Netherlands.

The main founders of the new concern are 1) the Dutch transport group Wm. H. MUELLER & CO NV, Rotterdam (see No 400) along with its subsidiary THOMSEN'S VERENIGDE BEDRIJVEN NV, Rotterdam, who will later sell their 8% to a similar Dutch company now being formed with their backing; 2) 28% is held by the CIE DES MESSAGERIES MARITIMES SA, Paris (see No 501) controlled by the State and an affiliate of the Chargeurs Reunis group; 3) 10% each is held by the Paris groups, STE NOUVELLE DES TRANSPORTS RAPIDES CALBERSON SA (through the Ste Nouvelle des Transports Internationaux Cal-berson SA - see No 458), BANQUE DE PARIS & DES PAYS-BAS SA (through Omnium de Participations Financiers & Industrielles SA - see No 501) and the S.N.C.F. - Ste Nationale des Chemins de Fer Francaise - through the Cie Nouvelle des Cadres-C.N.C.SA, Lyons (see No 500); 4) with 8% each, the CREDIT LYONNAIS SA and the Assurances Generales de France - A.G.I.A.R.T. (see No 472); 5) and three transport companies (3% each) STE FRANCAISE DE TRANSPORT GONDRAND FRERES SA, Paris (see No 445), MESSAGERIES WALBAUM SA, Rheims, Marne (see No 481) and FREVAL-SILBON SA, Roubaix, Nord.

** The Belgian company CHARBONNAGES DE WERISTER SA, Romsee, has sold to BENECHAR SA, Romsee, a 50% stake in its subsidiary INTERNATIONAL COAL SERVICES - I.C.S. SA, Romsee, which trades in, processes and transports coal, oil, chemical and petrochemical products.

With a capital of Bf 5 million, I.C.S. has only recently been formed (see No 504) with Mr. Nathan Cohen, Rotterdam, as president, who also holds the same post in Benechar. The latter itself was only recently formed by the Rotterdam company Harteveld Hoos & Jeijermans NV, which has a 94% controlling stake, with a token shareholding held by Enceekolen Rotterdam NV, Rotterdam.

VARIOUS

** SA DES CHAUSSURES BARLETT, Paris (capital recently raised to F 2.37 m) has almost complete direct control of the newly-formed finance and investment company STE FINANCIERE HEYRAUD EUROPE SA (see No 504), which has been formed in Paris with a capital of F 2 million as a result of moves by the French footwear group HEYRAUD Sarl, Limoges.

** The Spanish manufacturer of domestic appliances APLICACIONES ELECTRODOMESTICAS, Barcelona (washing machines, vacuum cleaners, hair dryers etc). has formed a West German sales subsidiary called CROLLS HANDELSGESELLSCHAFT FUR ELEKTROGERATE mbH, Cologne (capital Dm 150,000). With Herr Harald Schirmer as manager, this has Sr. Luis Cricilles, Barcelona, as director.

The founder (capital Pts 10 m) has its production facilities at Reus, Tarragona.

** Negotiations are taking place between the Belgian paper group INTERMILLS SA, Malmedy (see No 480) and the Dutch timber firm HOUTINDUSTRIE "PICUS" NV, Eindhoven with the aim of establishing close cooperation in the wood panel sales sector.

The Belgium group is a 53% subsidiary of the New York group U.S. PLYWOOD-CHAMPION PAPERS INC which had a turnover during the last financial year of some $ 1,200 million. Picus (capital Fl 5 m) has some 750 employees and it has a interest in the furniture firm Handelmij Triboma NV, Amsterdam.

** The Dutch company AANNEMERSBEDRIJF DE HELHOEK NV, Zevenaar (public works) has formed a subsidiary in West Germany called "DE HELHOEK" TIEFBAU GmbH, Kleve, with a capital of Dm 20,100. This has Mr. Johannes Look as manager and Messrs Jan Westerman and Jacob Cloo, Zevenaar, as directors.

** The Dutch company trading in molasses and similar products, as well as technical machines and goods, SCHUURMANS & VAN GINNEKEN, Amsterdam, has opened a branch for France at Nantes, Loire-Atlantique.

INDEX TO MAIN COMPANIES NAMED

Robeco	K
S.M.C.T.	L
S.N.C.F.	V
Saint-Gobain	O
Salpa	Q
Sapag	J
Sapiem	M
Scheepswerven G.A.	R
Schirop Scheepvaart	V
Schloz, Motor-Condensator	B
Schmidt, Dr.	S
Schuurmans & Van Ginneken	W
Science Management Corp	R
Senior Residence Service	R
Silos, Industriale	D
Sincat	D
Sirma	I
Sitraplast	S
Someren, Confectiefabriek	T
Source Perrier	M
Staflex International	S
Steinheil-Dieterlen	T
Steuber Co	D
Stinnes, Hugo	R
T.S.T. Industries	E
Technicuria	U
Tenneco	B
Tennessee Gas Transmission	B
Terres & Domaines	C
Texas Gulf Sulphur	P
Tomado	E
Toshiba	F
Transports Rapides, Ste Nouvelle	V
Tree Publishing	Q
Trigano Vacances	U
Tubettificio Ligure	I
U.C.B.	Q
U.S. Plywood-Champion Papers	W
Ufipa	L
Uhu Werk Fischer	D
Union Carbide	D
Utilico	K
Veenendaalsche Stoomspinnerij	S
Vereenigde Touwfabrieken	J
Vetrocoke Cokapuania	D
Walbaum, Messageries	V
Waldrich, H.A.	G
Wereldenergie	K
Werister, Charbonnages de	W
Williamson, T.D.	J
Wofac	R