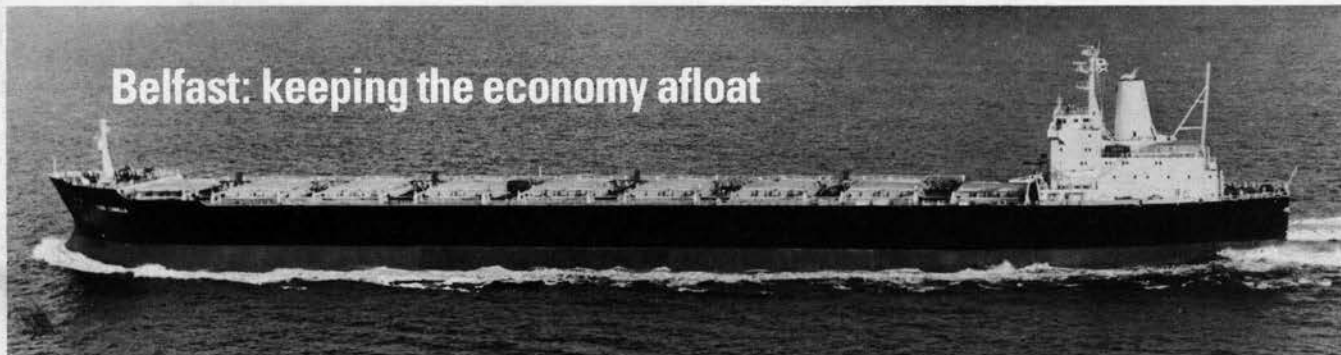


Europe 81

No. 10

October 1981

Belfast: keeping the economy afloat



Mapping the face of Europe – by computer



Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's latest hit



**Cheysson on ITV's
'Face the Press'**

**Europe's problems in
the textile market**

**Regional views of
life in the Community**

**EURO
FORUM**

One man's information may be another man's propaganda...

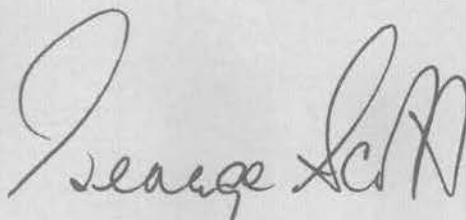
From the many friendly – even congratulatory – letters we receive from readers, it is clear that EUROPE 81 is meeting a need for a lively, informed magazine that explores and explains matters arising from Britain's membership of the Community. Since the first issue at the beginning of this year, circulation has risen by 50 per cent. Because the readership comprises, almost exclusively, those who have asked specifically to receive it, this suggests that the magazine is doing its job, and that readers value it as a counterweight to the treatment which Community topics receive in large sections of the British media.

A few of our readers, however, would prefer that we were more sparing in our choice of pro-Community material. We print two letters in this issue (page 16) in both of which we are reproached for propaganda'. So perhaps this is a moment to make our position clear.

EUROPE 81 is published by the London Office of the Commission of the European Communities. To that extent, it is a European Community journal. Its brief, as I said in the first Editorial, is to spread information about Community decisions and policies, and to show their impact on the lives of the British people and those of other member countries.

Of course, one man's information may be another man's propaganda. But we are impressed by the fact – revealed in the Consumers' Association inquiry earlier this year – that in this country opposition to the EEC is in direct relationship to ignorance about it. We see our job as helping to correct that imbalance, by publishing articles and features that show how the Community works and what its benefits are. At the same time, we acknowledge where the problems in Community relationships lie, and we report what is being done to solve them.

Within our limited resources, and encouraged by the response from our readers, that is what we shall continue to do.




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BELFAST

—priority for a stricken city

The name of Northern Ireland's capital city has become synonymous with violence. The very mention of Belfast, throughout the European Community, is enough to conjure up pictures that have become all too familiar . . . of riots, bloodshed

and sectarian murders. For those who live neither in the city nor in the Province, that is what Northern Ireland is all about. For the vast majority of those who actually live there, the political troubles are just one problem with which they have to contend.

The strife-torn streets of Belfast bear the scars of civil unrest. Housing conditions are often appalling. Incomes are lower than in the rest of the UK, and prices of essential commodities are frequently higher. For these and other reasons, Northern Ireland is treated by the European Community as a priority area. An application for funds in Northern Ireland are accorded the highest level of European support.

Political initiatives are not the only solutions for Northern Ireland's troubles. There is a growing feeling that economic and social pressures within the Province, made worse by the recession, may in time reach such proportions that they will require — and hopefully bring about — a greater reconciliation.

Already the EEC plays a useful role in providing a wider dimension to the affairs of Northern Ireland — for the Province is one of five less-prosperous Community regions. The city has given substantial sums of grant aid, as well as some loans, to help encourage investment and the creation of new jobs. One needs to look no further than Belfast to see the fruits of these decisions.

Visitors who arrive in the city, as I did, by air, will pass through Aldergrove Airport, which is currently in the throes of re-modernisation. Passengers with time on their hands are able to study display boards illustrating how Belfast Airport's expansion is progressing. These acknowledge the contribution of £7½ million, which the ERDF has made available for the project.

It is the Shuttle service that brings in most of the passengers; so British Airways' Tridents are a familiar sight around Belfast. But there is an even more pleasing spectacle for the city's inhabitants: the world's largest light aircraft buzzing quietly overhead. The Skyvan is made by Short Brothers Ltd in Belfast. One of the oldest aircraft builders in the world, it has a workforce of 6,700 workers and has also received substantial EEC help.

Belfast's links with the sea go back much further; which is not surprising, since Belfast Lough is a natural haven for ships. A shipbuilding industry has existed here for cen-

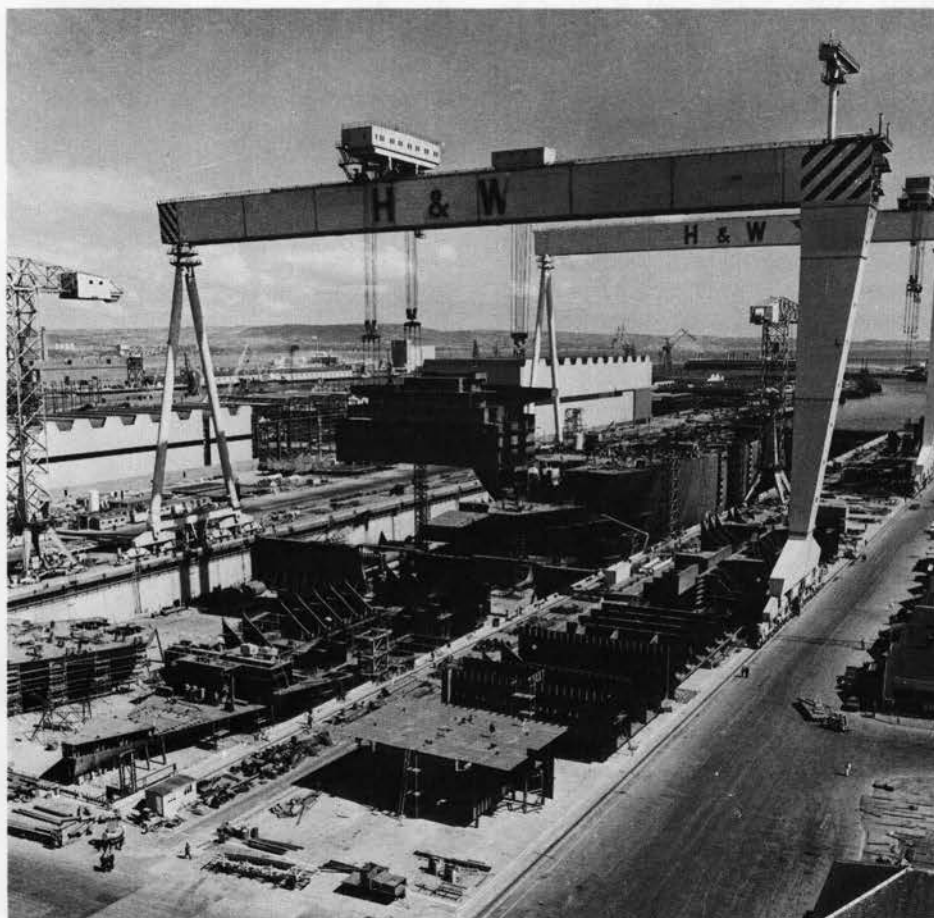
turies, and Harland and Wolff have been in existence for more than a hundred years. Their Queen's Island shipyard was once the largest in the world, and is still a very impressive industrial complex.

Shipbuilding, however, has felt the pinch,

along with many other industries. Ten years ago, Harland and Wolff employed 25,000. Today, the workforce is down to 6,500.

But new industries have set up in Belfast, attracted by the special aid schemes and beneficial terms. None has been more widely publicised than the De Lorean motor car project, which received close on £7½ million from the European Regional Development Fund, as well as much larger amounts from the UK government. The De Lorean company — whose affairs have lately been the subject of controversy — was founded by a former executive of General Motors, and his car was aimed at the American market. It was the special aid that Northern Ireland offered

Special aid is being directed to help the economy of one of the poorest regions in the Community, reports ROY STEMMAN



The Harland & Wolff shipyard — symbol of Belfast's industrial pride.

'The European Commission has launched an integrated operation for Belfast'

which persuaded De Lorean to build a factory for the gull-wing, stainless steel car on a green field site at Dunmurry, Belfast, where it built up a workforce of 2,500 employees, almost equally Protestant and Catholic.

There is another link with General Motors in the city: one of its subsidiaries, Fisher Body Ltd, has taken over a factory at Dundonald which was once used by Rolls-Royce. It manufactures seat-belt assemblies and window regulators, mostly for cars produced by the parent company.

The Dundonald factory is in a predominantly Protestant area. But Fisher Body is demonstrating its bipartisan approach to Ulster politics, and its confidence in the future of the Province, by building a new plant in the Catholic-dominated West Belfast area. It will be used mainly for the assembly of car components, and should be ready for operation by the end of the year.

This investment is encouraging for the people of Belfast. But new industries are not appearing fast enough to compensate for the change of fortunes in shipbuilding and in the man-made fibre industry, where Courtaulds and ICI closures have lost 20,000 jobs in the last 12 months at Carrickfergus, about 15km north-east of the city.

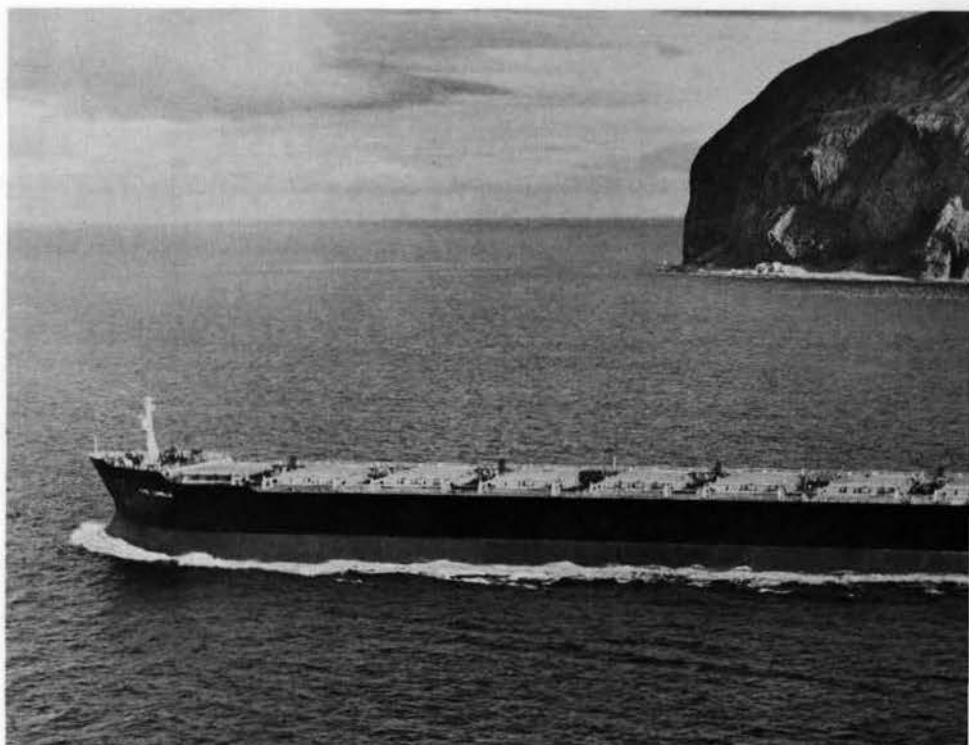
'Though there are 38 USA companies investing in Northern Ireland,' says Geoffrey Martin, the EEC's man in Belfast, 'employing something like 29,000 people, they are not coming nearly as fast as they were. We need them badly, because we are losing jobs rapidly in the traditional sectors... and there is no natural resource in the Province, apart from grass. Our current level of unemployment is 18 per cent overall, rising in some areas to 40 per cent.'

The population of Belfast is about 400,000, with a further 200,000 living in the peripheral area – and that accounts for 40 per cent of the total population of the Province. In the 17th century, Belfast was just a village. Then the appearance of shipbuilding and industries such as linen, engineering and tobacco, brought about rapid growth. Every ten years Belfast doubled in size. But it was only 86 years ago that its burghers bestowed the status of 'city' upon the bustling seaport.

The legacy of that growth can be seen in vast areas of small dwelling houses, running right into the city centre, which were erected hurriedly over two centuries and have long ceased to provide decent accommodation for Belfast's citizens.

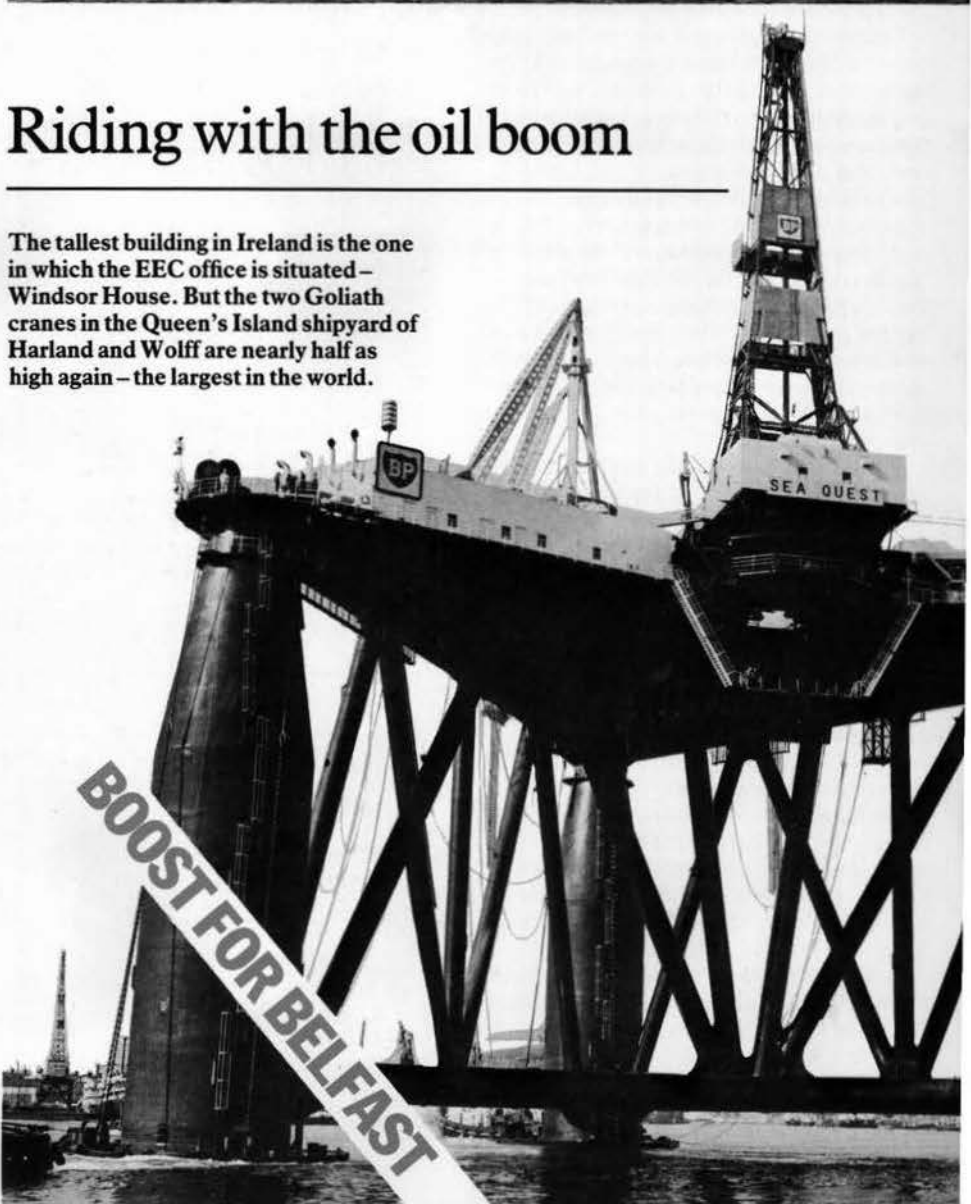
An official survey in 1974 showed that half of the dwellings in Belfast were insanitary.

STORY CONTINUES PAGE 6 ►



Riding with the oil boom

The tallest building in Ireland is the one in which the EEC office is situated – Windsor House. But the two Goliath cranes in the Queen's Island shipyard of Harland and Wolff are nearly half as high again – the largest in the world.





From this shipyard many of the most famous transatlantic liners have emerged, including the ill-fated Titanic. In more recent times, the Belfast shipyard has been building oil tankers (above), including four identical 318,000 tonners for Shell International Marine, which are among the largest vessels ever built in the UK.

Harland and Wolff is still the second largest employer in Northern Ireland.



General Motors take over

When the dummy driver, strapped into his seat belt, begins his journey along the test track at Fisher Body's Dundonald factory (above), he starts at 50 mph and then comes to an abrupt halt. Cameras record the moment of impact and the behaviour of the inertia seat belt, manufactured at the factory, which is designed to save lives.

Once the home of Rolls-Royce, the factory was taken over by the

wholly-owned subsidiary of General Motors, the Detroit-based American car giant, in 1979. Starting from scratch, Fisher Body has built up a workforce of 500 employees who produce 20,000 seat belt assemblies and 10,000 window regulators a week.

Another 450 jobs will be created when a second factory, now under construction at Kennedy Way, West Belfast, is completed towards the end of the year.



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

The situation is particularly bad in the inner city area, where a more recent survey (1979) showed that one in five of Belfast's homes still lacks four of the five basic amenities: a bath, internal lavatory, wash basin, kitchen sink or hot and cold water.

What is to be done? Large areas of the city have already been demolished – not through civil unrest, but by bulldozers. The Northern Ireland Housing Executive is spending £90 million on providing better homes.

But there is a feeling that the problems that confront Belfast call for a new approach entirely – a concerted effort to deal with the economic and social difficulties on all fronts, rather than piecemeal.

The European Commission proposed in 1980 to launch an 'integrated operation' for

'The EEC has given large sums of grant aid, as well as loans, to encourage investment'

Belfast. An operational dossier, prepared by the UK central authorities in collaboration with regional and local authorities in Belfast, is now under review in Brussels. The EEC's integrated operation would synchronise a group of actions in both public and private sectors concentrating on a geographically limited zone. Because the actions are complementary, they are likely to be more effective

than a one-at-a-time approach to a city's needs.

First operation of this kind, in favour of Naples, has already started – because that city, like Belfast, is one of the poorest regions of the Community. If the package of measures designed to restore the economic and social structure of Belfast is approved, it could cost the EEC £432 million. The dossier earmarks £216 million for home improvements, over £100 million for urban transport, and more than £50 million for improving social and industrial infrastructures.

But solving Belfast's problems is only part of the story. The Province faces many other difficulties, from agriculture to tourism, which the EEC is also helping with grants and loans. I shall be reporting on those aspects of Northern Ireland in the next issue.

Short's new commuter plane

Short Brothers are rightly noted for their short take-off and landing Skyvan light aircraft, which is made in Belfast. But the famous old firm has many other claims to fame.

Its founders were aviation pioneers who fabricated six aircraft for Orville and Wilbur Wright. Today, the Belfast company specialises in commuter aircraft, such as the 30-seater wide-bodied

330 Commuterliner, which was introduced in the mid-1970s and is one of the world's quietest airliners. A new aircraft, the 360, is currently in production and scheduled to enter service before the end of next year.

Shorts also make guided missiles and structural and engine parts for very much larger aircraft, such as Boeing 747s and Lockheed TriStars.

BOOST FOR BELFAST



Unemployment and the young: 'The Community is destroying its future'

— Ivor Richard, Commissioner for Employment and Social Policy, addressing the European Parliament on 15 September

The way in which unemployment has risen in the past three years is appalling. In Europe we have moved from some 6 million unemployed in 1978 to almost 9 million at the present time, and the total is still rising. We are consistently failing to create enough jobs. Since 1975 the rate of increase in the labour force has been almost two-and-a-half times greater than the increase in available employment.

Not only have the numbers of unemployed increased alarmingly, but the composition of the unemployed has also altered. The worst-hit sections of society have been the young, women, and workers over 50 — and this is likely to be a persistent feature of employment patterns unless a major improvement in the overall situation takes place.

For most workers over 50 who are at present unemployed, there is the real risk of their never finding work again. For large numbers of young people who become unemployed immediately on leaving school, the prospect of gaining work experience and training in order to equip them to obtain skilled employment when job opportunities improve, is remote.

Moreover, with over 3 million young people already unemployed in the Community, and many millions more knowing the same fate awaits them, this Community is destroying its future.

We must move towards a longer-term strategy in which *all* young people receive an adequate social and professional preparation for adult life — a guarantee not of any kind of unskilled, paid job but of a flexible range of learning opportunities where young people can gradually take responsibility for their career options.



At last — a place in space for Europe?

After 20 years of research and other activities, the European space programme may be reaching a turning point. It must now decide if it wants to retain its place in space against competition from the superpowers — and even from newcomers in the field, such as Japan and India.

This (according to EUROFOCUS, Brussels) is the conclusion of the European Parliament in Strasbourg. A report, and an accompanying resolution prepared by the Parliament's energy and research committee, urges Europe to define as a matter of urgency a long-term policy, with the fundamental aim of developing the commercial and industrial potential of space technology.

Europe's space activities, after several years of indecision under separate research

and launcher development organisations, have been united successfully under the Paris-based European Space Agency (ESA). Eleven member countries — eight European Community countries plus Switzerland, Spain and Sweden — are members. The successful launch of the Ariance L03 from the Kourou space station in French Guiana in June opened up a new era for European space research. It marked the first time that an ESA satellite had been put into orbit by an ESA launcher instead of an American booster rocket. It was also carrying two payloads indicating the dual aspects of the programme. One was Meteosat-2, the second European meteorological satellite, and the other APPLE (Ariance Passenger Payload Experiment), the Indian experimental telecommunications satellite sent aloft on a contract basis.

Creating a new farming community in the bush sounds like a return to the days of the early settlers. But this is exactly what the European Community is helping to do in Zambia under the Lomé Convention. It is a unique and ambitious pioneering project. If it succeeds, it will significantly reduce Zambia's reliance on imported wheat.

In the early days of independence Zambia had no problems about importing food: copper supplied all the foreign currency the country needed. Compared with most African countries, she was rich. The shops were full of goods and, because of the high urban population – 40 per cent, the highest proportion in black Africa – she was more concerned to keep the miners and townspeople happy by low food prices than worry about an increasingly impoverished countryside.

The fixed price for farm produce offered little incentive to the Zambian farmer to improve and expand his crops. Only seven per cent of Zambia's arable land is cultivated, and of this 600 European farmers supply 30 per cent of the maize production in the country. Yet Zambia has a marvellous climate, great rivers, and fertile soil. She should be able not only to feed herself but to provide for other less lucky neighbouring countries.

One of Zambia's problems is her tiny rural population. Out of five and a half million

people in an area of 752,000 square kilometers, there are only some three million on the land. And, because the men tend to migrate to the mines or the towns, the villages are often left with the women, children and the old.

Since the mid-1970s the price of copper on the world market has fallen drastically. Zambia has also been hampered by the disruption of the Benguela-Lobito railway as an outlet for her copper through Angola, and by the failure to live up to economic expectation of the Tazara railway, designed to replace the Zimbabwe/South African route closed during the Zimbabwe war. Foreign currency has become scarce, and Zambians have had to face up to shortages of food and other products never envisaged at the time of independence.

Food production, therefore, is now a priority in government development plans. Several ambitious projects have failed, partly because

there has not been the rural population to support them. There is no great arable farming tradition among Zambians, and the peasant farmer tends to be despised rather than, as in Tanzania, seen as a key element in the country's development.

The European Community is helping with cotton production in the southern province, and with improved cattle breeding and development of tea estates in other parts of the country. But the Mpongwe wheat development project, some 170 miles north of Lusaka, is its major gamble. Up to 1978 the land was uninhabited scrub and bush. However, feasibility studies, supported by the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Development, showed that the soil was very fertile and ideal for wheat – provided it could be irrigated.

Tests revealed that there were plentiful water supplies in underground reservoirs – they only needed to be tapped. Agronomists and water engineers were called in; and in February 1978 a pilot project was launched with the aim of putting 250 hectares of cleared land under wheat for the six-month dry season and soya beans for the remaining wet season. The early results were sufficiently successful to move on to Phase I, which involved clearing a further 750 hectares and getting it planted with wheat by 1982.

By June this year it was clear that a near-miracle had been achieved. At the end of

PEGGY CRANE,
in the second of her
despatches from Africa,
reports on efforts to
turn the barren bush into
wheatfields

Helping the people of Zambia to help themselves



nearly 40 miles of red dirt road there suddenly appeared an emerald sea – in reality, fields of young green wheat, planted in May and irrigated partly by sprinkling, partly by surface irrigation from canals fed from the underground reservoirs and a nearby small lake. The total cost for Phase I is some £5 million, to which the European Development Fund is contributing over 70 per cent, including expertise, the supply of six harvesters and development of feeder roads.

Two British firms are closely involved in the project as consultants. Landell Mills Associates, from Bath, provides management services and Sir Malcolm McDonald and Partners, from Cambridge, the irrigation expertise. This season the planted area is expected to yield 1,200 tonnes of soya beans and 1,000 tonnes of wheat – approximately 10 per cent of Zambia's current wheat production.

Such success is essential to fulfilment of the overall plan. The idea is to show that such crops are a profitable commercial prospect, and so attract Zambian farmers into the scheme. Eventually there should be 5,000 hectares under wheat and soya bean, and plots of 50 hectares will be divided between 100 farmers, each responsible for his own estate but sharing the communal water supply.

The farming, however, is highly mechanised; the shortage of time between the harvest of one crop and the planting of the next leaves little time for conventional ploughing and harrowing. At Mpongwe all crops are directly drilled using special machinery, while weeds are controlled by chemical sprays. The farmers who take over the project, therefore, will themselves have to be highly skilled.

There has already been an encouraging response from the copper mining area. There, the mines face exhaustion within the next twenty years, and Mr Charles Brook, of the European Commission delegation in Lusaka, is hopeful that within 15 years Mpongwe could become a thriving centre of 30 to 40,000 people. As farmers settle with their families this will in itself generate needs for co-operative or commercial handling of the crops, schools, health care, shops, repair shops, local industries and so on that have been the hallmark of all pioneering town development.

The scheme is not without its critics. Some fear the creation of a dust bowl at Mpongwe or the exhaustion of underground water reserves through over-ambition. The engineers in charge of the irrigation complex believe that it is possible to harmonise use and replenishment, but admit that there are risks.

On the other hand, Zambia has to find alternative sources of employment to the mines. Successful internal food production can help to ease balance of payments problems by cutting down on imports.

The project is a gamble, and many things could still go wrong. But to see that field of fresh green wheat spring from what so lately had been barren bush, suggests that the gamble could come off. **€**



In an interview given to EG Magazin, Bonn, the Commissioner for the internal market and the customs union answers some straight questions about how the Common Market is working

'Britain should be given a little more time to adjust to the European market' – KARL-HEINZ NARJES

EG-MAGAZIN: What is behind your belief that – as you recently said in Bonn – the Community's existence is an 'irreversible fact'?

KARL-HEINZ NARJES: The Community's member states are now so heavily interdependent that in normal political circumstances – that is to say, in peacetime – the social, economic and political costs of leaving the Community would be so high that any government which tried it would sooner or later pay with its political life.

What would it cost Germany, say, to leave the Community?

Nowadays, nearly half Germany's foreign trade is with its EEC partners, bringing in no less than 10 per cent of its gross domestic product. This level of trade compares with a figure of 30 per cent when the Community was founded in 1958. And here's another statistic – by 1978 German firms had invested around 17 billion marks in EEC countries, – which is nearly as much as in all other industrialised countries put together.

So the Community's existence is an irreversible fact because the economic imperative becomes the political indicative?

I can't rule out fits of political lunacy.

Isn't this lunacy already in evidence, since member states are busy re-erecting internal barriers in the Community and destroying the single market?

At times of economic recession there is a great temptation for each country to protect its own market against imports – even from other Community countries – just to gain a few months' breathing-space.

Do all member states practise this policy?

A country reared on Colbert sees protectionism in a different light from countries with a free-market tradition.

Is the Commission powerless in face of attempts by national governments to re-erect internal barriers?

Far from it. We always act with utmost determination against national measures which have an effect equivalent to tariffs, and make sure that Article 115 of the EEC Treaty, which gives governments an occasional pretext for re-introducing administrative barriers within the Community, is used as sparingly as possible.

So this protectionism involves only administrative measures?

No – it also involves subsidies, hidden or **▶**

◀ otherwise, to firms which are genuinely or allegedly in difficulties. We are threatened with what amounts to a subsidy race by finance ministers – as long as the weight of public debt allows them to run, that is.

Since you have only been in your Brussels job five months, protests about Germany being the paymaster of Europe must still be ringing in your ears. Are these protests justified?

The paymaster image owes more to German self-pity than to reality. Germany generates around 30 per cent of the Community's gross national product, but has little more than 20 per cent of its population. So it is quite natural for Germany to pay more per head into the Community than other countries with a less favourable ratio of GNP to population.

So the Community's financial system doesn't need any adjustment?

I didn't say that. The United Kingdom, for instance, certainly faces very heavy demands in relation to GNP and per capita income. By contrast, other countries – such as Denmark, the Netherlands and Belgium – should not, if prosperity were the criterion, be net beneficiaries. Adjustments need to be made, but no one should conclude that Germany has been exploited by the European Community for the last 20 years.

Let's go back to the United Kingdom for a minute. So the idea is that a country which hasn't got much – like the UK – shouldn't pay much, while a country which has more – like Germany – should pay through the nose. Is that your view?

I wouldn't put it that way. All I am saying is that Britain should be given a little more time to adjust to the European market. It is quite obvious that this has not happened as quickly as Mr Heath – who was Prime Minister when the Accession Treaty was signed – hoped it would.

So far, then, the anti-marketeters in Britain have been correct in seeing Community membership as a bad thing, on the whole?

I can answer that by quoting what Mr Pym recently said in the House of Commons – more than 2 million jobs would immediately be lost if Britain left the Community. And since accession, UK exports to Community countries have grown twice as fast as exports to other countries. Meantime, imports from the Community have risen by 43 per cent – as against 30 per cent before Britain joined.

You have warned against assessing membership of the Community simply in terms of profit and loss. What non-quantifiable advantages has membership brought to Germany?

For one thing, peaceful co-existence with its neighbours. Anyone who draws up a political balance-sheet of German membership of the Community must put the maintenance of peace high on the list.

'The CAP is not as black as it is painted'

Are there any other plus points which are more relevant today?

May I point out that the maintenance of peace is always relevant. But to answer your question: without Germany – in its exposed geographical position and with its strong economy – a viable European Community would certainly never have come into being. All the present-day Community countries would then have had no opportunity to join forces in presenting their political and economic interests successfully on the world stage. But because the Community existed, EEC countries have had a share in shaping the world economy in a liberal mould over the last twenty years, which they would never have had acting alone.

Are not the Community's successes in the industrial field overshadowed by the aberrations of the agricultural policy, whose surpluses, figuratively speaking, stick in every taxpayer's gullet?

The common agricultural policy is not as black as it is painted. Without an agricultural policy conducted and controlled at Community level, the enormous structural changes in agriculture, particularly in the Mediterranean area, would have been impossible. And another thing: the common agricultural policy should not be judged on its performance in the short term, but should be considered over a longer time-scale. We must not forget that by the end of the Eighties there will be about twice as many people in the world as there were thirty years ago, when the Treaties of Rome were negotiated.

I am not advocating that the Community should become a major exporter of agricultural products; I am simply asking people to look at the common agricultural policy in relation to the future and not just with reference to Europe. We Europeans cannot close our eyes to the fact that, by the end of the Eighties, the developing countries will have a grain deficit of over 100 million tonnes, and up to the year 2000 they will have to raise their agricultural production by 4 per cent a year instead of the 2.9 per cent which has been the norm so far, just to cover their most pressing needs.

So you think the day is near when the Community's agricultural surpluses will find ready markets?

No, I am only saying that the common agricultural policy should not be viewed from a purely European standpoint.

Does this mean that reform of the CAP is not as essential as it is usually claimed to be?

Of course it is essential, but world trends should be borne in mind when reforming the

CAP. Within the Community this means gaining acceptance for the principle of producers' co-responsibility for over-production.

Could Europe make a new leap forward if defence policy were brought fully into the integration process?

Definitely.

And why isn't it?

Because the governments of the Community's member states operate from too narrow a base in domestic politics for them to risk such an expansion of integration policy. It is not so much that Europe won't as that member states can't. And no minister gains any kudos at home by meeting his colleagues from other Community countries around the Council table. But one thing should be made clear. Bringing defence policy into the integration process could provide only an extra impetus – it should in no way be intended to replace or weaken the achievements of economic integration to date.

'We can see now that Hallstein and Monnet were probably two decades out'

One personal question: did you ever think, twenty years ago, when you were chef de cabinet to Walter Hallstein, President of the then EEC Commission, that the European Community would become what it is today?

There is no doubt that the Community has not become what we hoped it would twenty years ago. But it has still been worth the effort. It must have been in 1951 that Walter Hallstein asked Jean Monnet how long he thought it would be before the Community countries merged irrevocably into a federal structure. Both men thought it would be about a generation, say thirty years. We can see now that Hallstein and Monnet were probably two decades out.

Why did they get it wrong?

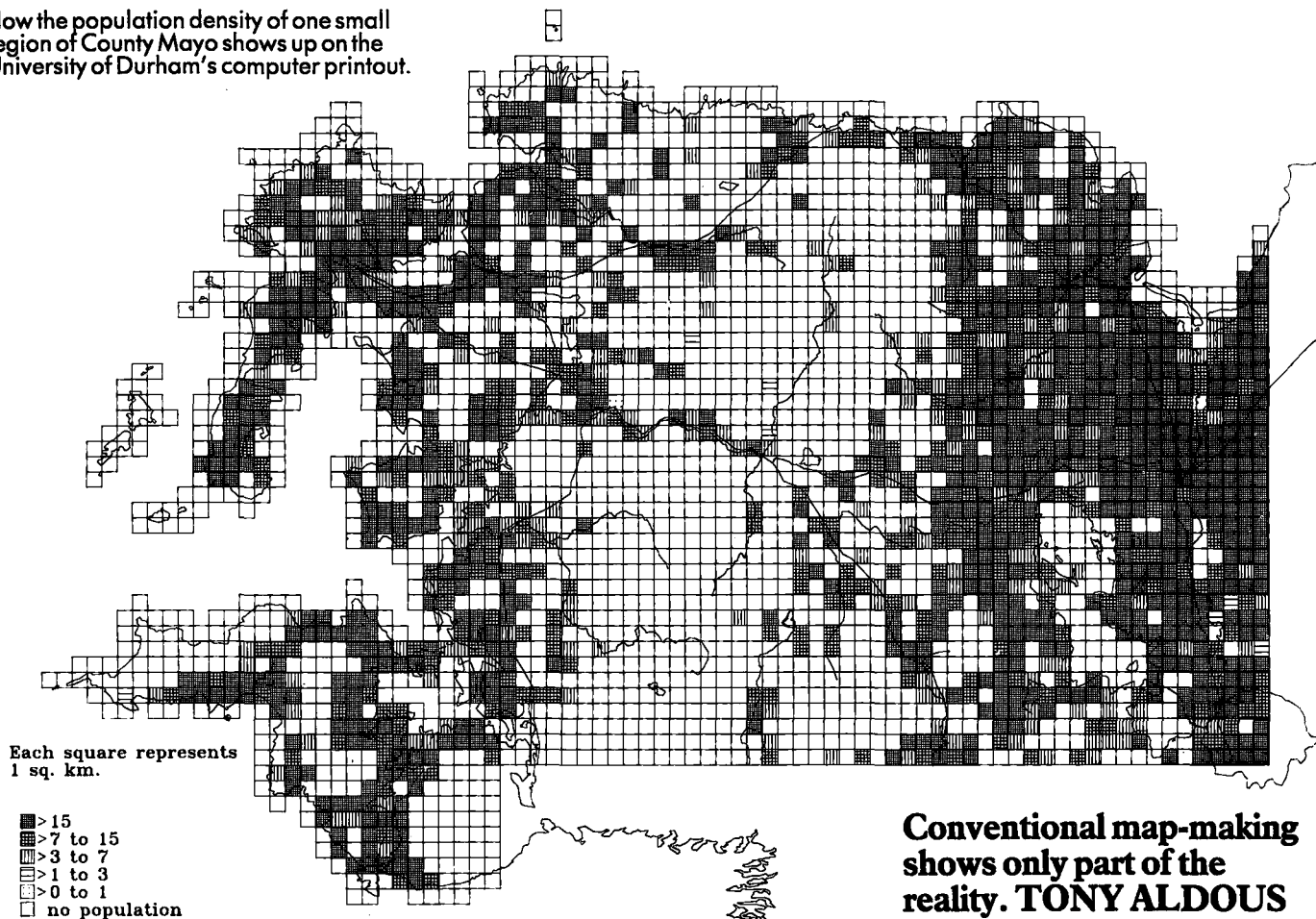
Firstly, they had no way of telling that there would be a revival of nationalism on the scale we have seen since 1965. And secondly, the course which the Community has followed since the Summit Conference in The Hague in 1969 could not have been foreseen.

Is enlargement to blame for everything?

Not for everything, of course. But as I see it, it was a serious error during the accession negotiations to exclude most matters of substance and concentrate simply on adapting the texts of the Treaties and secondary legislation. This has stored up a wealth of problems which have become a permanent brake on the Community, the most recent example being the common fisheries policy. □

Mapping the environment

How the population density of one small region of County Mayo shows up on the University of Durham's computer printout.



Helen, a 24-year-old researcher with ginger hair, freckles, and a disarming smile, sits in front of a computer terminal in a small room tucked away beneath Durham University's Appleby Lecture Theatre.

On the screen in front of her, in response to some dextrous keying-in, an invisible moving finger is steadily sketching in the map of Europe, with regional boundaries and a series of hatching and cross-hatchings.

These represent the incidence of industrial dereliction, but could as easily indicate water quality, industrial pollution, climatic factors, agricultural use, sites of scientific interest, landscape value or 50 or so other variables. For Durham's Department of Geography, together with a team based on South Yorkshire County Council and Sheffield University, have been taking part in an international programme commissioned by the European Community's environmental and consumer protection service, aimed at providing eventually nothing less than a computerised environmental map of Europe.

With data held on tape and continuously updated, it will be capable of printing out on paper diagrammatic maps to assist the solution of a wide range of environmental problems.

The experiment (for that is what it still is) started in 1974, after the Italian government had suggested that the EEC needed better Community-wide environmental data if it was to take the right decisions in implementing its then newly-launched environment programme. The Italians, among others, were all too conscious that, when hard facts and figures about the economy or industrial or agricultural output suggest one course of action but environmental conservation points to another, the environmental case may often lose out because it cannot be quantified, or stated in objective statistical terms.

Though hunch, horse-trading, and electoral gut-instinct may be at the bottom of many decisions taken in Brussels, a clearer factual picture of environmental factors affecting different parts of the EEC could not, it was argued, fail to make for sounder judgement and a fairer distribution of Community funds.

What better than to put all the facts on computer? And so the EEC's Environmental Mapping Project (originally known as 'ecological mapping,' but sensibly renamed to take account of a wider subject matter) was set in train.

The project proved less simple than had at first been expected. There are at least three

Conventional map-making shows only part of the reality. TONY ALDOUS reports on a Community programme to plot environmental data – by computer

reasons for this. First, the requisite level of data does not everywhere exist. This is true not only of relatively undeveloped regions like Greece and Italy's Mezzogiorno, but in some respects even of countries that pride themselves on their statistics.

For instance, the British trial run with a tentative mapping method, carried out under contract to the EEC by South Yorkshire County Council's environment department, highlighted some surprising deficiencies. Dr David Briggs of Sheffield University, who led the South Yorkshire work, says: 'We found we lacked basic ecological data, land use data such as the type of agricultural use. And a lot of the pollution data is not available in anything like the detail needed.'

Though South Yorkshire has 100 stations for recording atmospheric pollution, they are, says Briggs, very localised in application, leaving large tracts for which we have no data. ▶

'The British trial run highlighted some surprising deficiencies'

Secondly, the initial method, worked out at Munich University, proved too rigid to take account of the varying nature and quality of information available. The ideal is to have all the variables plotted on each of some 1.6 million 1Km squares into which the Community can be divided. But in practice it has been necessary to accept a coarser grain of map for many purposes and in many areas. After a second stage experiment in County Mayo in the Republic of Ireland, the nine-nation steering group settled on a 'modular' approach which goes for compatibility rather than uniformity of data.

Thirdly, the designers of the original method reckoned without the EEC's great diversity of conditions and assumptions. For instance, looking for 'indicators' on which (as it were) to award a mark to each area for recreational potential, they settled on prevalence of ski slopes and deep lakes. This worked well enough for the Alpine region with which the original designers were familiar, but when applied to County Mayo it produced virtually a nil result. Other factors, such as peat-cutting as a leisure activity, had to be built into the revised model.

While all the nine governments originally concerned have given moral support to environmental mapping, in some quarters considerable scepticism has emerged. Is it all worth the money the EEC have put into it? Or is it simply an expensive game to keep Eurocrats and academics busily and esoterically employed?

Some flavour of the attendant scepticism might be thought to come through in the quotation from Lewis Carroll with which Dr Briggs and his colleague S. T. Trudgill prefaced one section of a 1978 report. Taken from *The Hunting of the Snark*, it reads:

'He had bought a large map representing the sea

Without the least vestige of land
And the crew were much pleased when they found it to be

A map they could all understand'.

The scepticism of several of the specialist contractors, including the British and Irish teams, has taken the form not of questioning the objectives of environmental mapping, but rather a rigorous critical examination of methodology and the nature of data. The move from uniformity to compatibility of data has been mentioned. It is also desirable to keep data sources separate from – or uncontaminated by – the assumptions of the question-askers.

In other words, if you allow yourself to choose where your answer comes from, you may, even unwittingly, get back the answer you expect rather than objective fact.

Many of the 'indicators' from which the

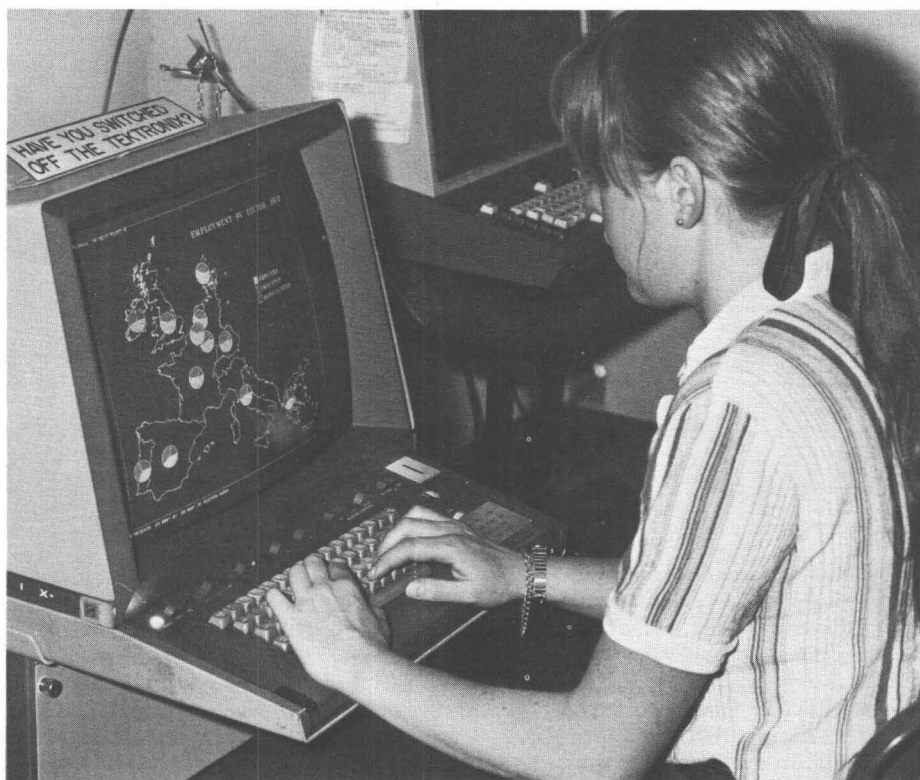
computer builds up answers to environmental questions are produced by remote sensing devices on satellites, in particular the Landsat series of orbiting spacecraft which have been amassing data about the earth's surface since 1973. Expensive though space technology is, it produces data much more cheaply and readily than conventional methods.

Indeed, if the EEC project had to rely on land-based surveys, this would render much of the information prohibitively expensive. Some satellite-derived data are still too crude for this purpose, but the technology is rapidly improving.

The less obvious faces of Europe – services, industry, agriculture – at Durham's department of Geography.

What sort of Community decisions could the environmental map-making tool assist? Deployment of EEC investment funds, certainly. For instance, print-out maps from the computer could demonstrate very clearly some of the likely effects of aiding industrial development and/or pollution control at various points on the Mediterranean. Or – to return to County Mayo – the effects on ecology and agriculture of draining peat bogs.

But, stresses Briggs, it can never provide ready-made, definitive answers. Whether aimed at guiding investment or giving environmental early warnings, it can do no more than clarify options and spotlight likely possibilities. From that point on, human judgement, experience and political will inevitably (and rightly) take over. ☐



ODA WELCOMES AID REPORT

There has been a warm welcome from the British Government for a report on development aid policy from the select committee on the European Communities, says the Overseas Development Administration.

In its observations on the report, the Government reaffirms its objective to encourage the emergence of a global community aid and development policy. It will seek to coordinate the positions of member states to carry out the committee's recommendation to 'act together to accelerate acceptance of a more urgent approach to the problem of global development and the expansion of world trade', the ODA says.

On food aid, the Government agrees that there are defects in its administration and points out that it has constantly pressed for the adoption of a regulation to improve planning. It also agrees with the committee that food aid should be concentrated on fewer countries.

EURO FORUM

OPINION

Balancing the budget

At its meeting on 23 July the Council of Ministers adopted a draft amending Community budget for 1981 and a draft budget for 1982. They now go to the European Parliament for examination.

The Commission considers that the amending budget has emerged from the Council in a form which meets the interest of the Community and enables the Parliament to adopt it in one reading. This would allow further non-compulsory expenditure, notably in the Regional Fund, to take place during the remainder of 1981 and would provide a means of putting an end to the dispute over budget procedure concerning three Member States that arose in connection with the adoption of the second supplementary budget of 1980 and the 1981 general budget.

The draft of the 1982 budget as established by the Council after its first reading is far from satisfactory and the Commission has not been able to associate itself with it. There are two objections.

The first concerns the balance of the budget as it has emerged from the Council. In its proposals, the Commission had sought to meet the urgent priorities of the Community by appropriate increases in non-compulsory expenditure, notably in the Regional and Social Funds. The Council has cut these proposed appropriations to levels at which they no longer keep pace with inflation and there is thus a decline in real terms.

Secondly, the cuts in the appropriations proposed by the Commission were

made without a discussion on their merits. Indeed, other than the Regional and Social Funds, there was no discussion at all of appropriations relating to other areas of non-obligatory expenditure, such as energy policy, industry, research, etc. The Council did not discuss development policy either.

'The results fall far short of what the European taxpayer is entitled to expect'

The Commission considers that the approach adopted by the Council is lacking in seriousness and that the result falls far short of what the European taxpayer is entitled to expect from one arm of the Community budget authority.

The first reading of the budget by the Council is only one step on the road to adoption of the budget by the end of the year. The Commission calls on the Council, at its second reading, to respond in a constructive manner to the amendments, which the Parliament will no doubt make to the existing draft.

The Community needs a budget for 1982 and also the right budget. The present draft falls far short of the Com-

munity's needs and much progress will have to be made between now and the end of the year. The Commission will use its best endeavours to bring this about.

CHRISTOPHER TUGENDHAT
Budget Commissioner

TALKING POINT

The European Commission's decision, just before taking its own holidays, to extend its competition or fair trading laws to cover air fares is timely. For two decades, the Commission has acted as a watchdog to ensure that fair play is observed in the provision of goods and services to the public. But, because of the close links between the major airlines and member state governments, a Commission role in scrutinising air fares was not encouraged.

There are special cost factors in the Community, such as the relatively short distances involved, the high costs of services at European airports and the number of borders to be crossed with which American airlines, which offer much cheaper fares, do not have to contend. But even taking these into account, air travel in Europe is expensive.

Changing this is not a simple matter, and a large number of considerations have to be taken into account, including the obligation of some of the major carriers to provide services on routes which may not be economical and the interests of aerospace industries within the Community. Nevertheless, the Commission believes that some air fares could be lower.

The Community has worked hard to reduce barriers between its citizens. It has eliminated customs duties, simplified frontier formalities and in many other ways made it easier for its citizens to travel from one member state to another.

More and more of them are now travelling by air and the fares which they are being asked to pay can no longer continue to be an exception to the Community principle of fair play for all.

THE MONTH IN EUROPE

External relations

Closer links with India

A new agreement providing a broader framework of cooperation between the European Community and India was signed recently.

The agreement extends the largely trade basis of the former agreement to include scientific and technical co-operation.

Trade with India, one of the poorest developing countries with about 40 per cent of its 640 million inhabitants living below the poverty line, represents around one per cent of the Community's total trade.

Some 26 per cent of all Indian exports in 1977 came to the Community, making the Ten India's most important export market. The Community was also India's major source of imports, providing 31 per cent of the total.

The Community had a £275 million trade surplus with India last year. Community exports were worth £1.26 billion compared with imports from India valued at £1 billion.

Ten stand firm on Afghan peace plan

The European Community will press ahead with its peace initiative on Afghanistan, despite the cool reaction of the Soviet Union to the proposal.

Foreign Ministers of the Ten have asked the current President of the Council, British Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington to continue his efforts to get the initiative off the ground.

The peace plan, drawn up by the Foreign Ministers and endorsed by Community heads of state and government at their European Council meeting in Luxembourg at the end of June, envisages a two-stage international conference. It aims at giving sufficient guarantees on the future neutrality of Afghanistan to allow the Soviet Union to withdraw the 85,000 troops it has stationed on Afghan soil.

At the first stage of the conference,

only the five United Nations Security Council permanent members – France, the United Kingdom, the United States, the Soviet Union and China – three regional powers (Pakistan, India and Iran) and representatives of the Islamic Conference would meet.

In the second stage of the conference – when the internal arrangements of the country will be discussed – representatives of the Afghan people would be invited.

The plan has so far drawn no official response from the Soviet authorities. It has, however, been warmly welcomed by other countries, including the USA.

An official reply from the Soviet Union is expected at the United Nations General Assembly in New York in September. Until then, as the Community Foreign Ministers made clear, there can be no question of changing the proposals to make them more acceptable to any of the interested parties.

Ten agree to £330 million aid for Turkey

The European Commission and the Turkish Government have negotiated a new financial protocol under the Community's 1963 Association agreement with Turkey.

The new financial protocol – the fourth – will be worth some £330 million over five years. It has still to be formally endorsed by the Ten and the Turkish government.

It consists of £124 million worth of European Investment Bank Loans and £206 million from the Community budget, composed of £179 million in special 40-year loans at a nominal 1 per cent interest rate and £27 million of non-refundable aid.

The cash will go to help social and economic development in Turkey. In particular, the non-repayable aid will be used to finance economic and technical cooperation projects, such as feasibility studies, while the remainder of the cash will be devoted to financing investment.

The new protocol, which is due to come into force on November 1, 1981,

represents a significant increase in Community financial aid to Turkey. Not only has the global amount of cash almost doubled (the third protocol covering the 1977-81 period was worth some £170 million) but the interest rate on the special Community loans has been cut from 2.5 per cent to 1 per cent.

Just prior to the negotiation of the fourth financial protocol, the Community gave a special £41 million aid package to Turkey to help finance energy supply projects.

At a recent meeting of the Community-Turkey Association Council, the Turkish ambassador reiterated his country's intention to restore democracy and to apply for full Community membership in due course.

Finance

Community bank to boost its Lending

European Community member governments have agreed to double the European Investment Bank's lending capital to £8 billion, reflecting the rapid expansion in the Luxembourg-based Bank's borrowing and lending activities.

The last four years have seen a considerable rise in financing operations as the Bank has pursued the tasks given to it under the Community's founding Treaty of Rome.

These are mainly support for investment aimed at furthering regional development or serving a common interest of several or all Community countries.

The EIB has also responded actively to the European Council's call for Community action to help counter unemployment and stimulate investment and to cut the Community's dependence on imported oil.

The doubling of the Bank's capital will allow it to step up investment significantly. The level of EIB financing from its own resources is geared directly to the size of its subscribed capital. The Bank's outstanding loans and guarantees must not exceed 250 per cent of its subscribed capital. With the doubling of the EIB's capital, that ceiling is raised to £20 billion.

The EIB Board of Governors, com-▶

Anti-terrorism plea

The European Parliament, anxious about the increase in international terrorism, particularly recent attempts on the lives of prominent people such as the Pope and President Reagan, has called in Community governments to step up their cooperation to fight terrorism. It has urged those governments which are dragging their heels to ratify without further delay the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism.

More for research

The Community is stepping up its research into thermonuclear fusion to maintain its international competitiveness in the development of this important source of alternative energy. It is planning to spend £374 million in the 1982-86 period, compared with £212 million on its 1979-83 programme.

THE NEWS IN BRIEF

Taking over

Commission President Gaston Thorn has appointed Jean Durieux to head his team of personal aides in succession to Fernand Spaak who was shot dead in his home in July. Like Mr. Spaak, Mr. Durieux, 56, is a Belgian and was previously deputy director-general for relations with the Third World in the Commission's service.

Role for China

European Parliament President Simone Veil paid a 12-day visit to China in July, at the end of which she urged a more active role for China in international affairs and more cooperation between the People's Republic and the Community, particularly in such fields as communications, energy, transportation and light industry.

Car plan urged

The European Parliament has once again called for urgent action to stem the loss of jobs in the Community's car industry, which has particularly been hit by Japanese exports. The Parliament would like to see changes in trading arrangements, more money for research, innovation and industrial reorganisation, and more attention paid to the social aspects of the crisis.

posed of one minister from each of the Ten Community member states, has also approved the Bank's 1980 annual report.

The report shows a 14 per cent increase in overall lending, including loans to developing countries, to nearly £2 billion last year.

Lending within the Community in 1980 rose by 20 per cent, or 3 per cent in real terms, to £1.6 billion of which 80 per cent was concentrated in Italy, Ireland and the UK.

Over £1 billion was lent for regional development programmes with more than four-fifths of the total going to assist regions with unemployment rates at least 25 per cent above the Community average. The EIB estimates that last year it created or safeguarded some 49,000 permanent jobs.

Most of the EIB's other lending has been concentrated on energy savings and oil substitution projects.

The Institutions

Permanent home for Parliament still elusive

Euro MPs, who for so long have complained that they are kept in perpetual motion shuffling between three work places, found they could not agree on a single site during a debate on the seat of the European Parliament at their July session in Strasbourg.

The MEPs eventually decided to hold all future plenary sessions in Strasbourg and all committee and political group meetings in Brussels, until the Community member governments agreed on a single site. The Parliament's 2,000-member secretariat is based in Luxembourg.

The last time Community heads of state and government discussed the issue, in March they decided to maintain the status quo. This is laid down in the Luxembourg Agreement of 1965, which said that Strasbourg, Brussels and Luxembourg were to be the provisional workplaces of the Parliament. It also said that the Parliament's staff was to be based in Luxembourg.

Most of the 434 MEPs feel that the Parliament should meet, work and be identified with a single site. They also feel that it is about time the member states made up their minds on where that site should be.

Employment

Ten see joint effort as best remedy

A major meeting of Community Economic, Finance and Social Affairs ministers to discuss the effects of their anti inflation policies on the worsening jobs situation facing the Ten was held in Luxembourg at the end of June.

The joint meeting concluded that a coherent Community policy for combating inflation and unemployment together was needed and Ministers called on the European Commission to draw up proposals for specific Community action.

These proposals should cover improved coordination of national anti-inflation policies, extension of loans from the New Community Instrument, review of the European Regional and Social funds with special emphasis on help for young people, an increase in European Investment Bank funding and better coordination generally of Community aid to the poorer regions.

Industry

Timetable for new steel order agreed

A comprehensive plan to rescue the European steel industry from its worst post-war slump was approved by European Community governments at the end of June.

The plan, agreed after four months of intense negotiation, aims at ending the damaging price war and overproduction that have drastically reduced the competitiveness of the European steel industry.

The three central planks of the recovery plan are further cuts in capacity, the gradual phasing out of state subsidies to the industry and a special package of social measures for redundant steelworkers.

Output will be controlled by a mix of voluntary and compulsory quotas. Following the failure of Europe's major steel makers to agree voluntary targets, the Commission will continue

THE MONTH IN EUROPE

to set production quotas for 65 per cent of all steel production, with the rest being governed by voluntary accords. The Commission will continue to monitor the steel market and set both voluntary and obligatory quotas quarterly. At the same time, the Ten governments have agreed to phase out state aids to the industry by the end of 1985. To qualify for aid in the future, steel firms must be engaged in industrial or financial restructuring to cut production capacity.

There are also provisions for a progressive reduction in the amount and intensity of aid and measures to limit the potentially damaging impact of state subsidies on competition between Community steel firms.

Aid must not result in price cuts, nor must it be used to keep prices at an unjustifiably low level.

The timetable for phasing out state aids lays down December 1982 as the deadline for notifying the Commission of intended national aid; July 1983 as the final date for bringing Commission-approved aids into effect; December 31 1984 as the final date for payment of aid to keep firms in operation and December 31 1985 as the final date for payment of all other aid except guarantees and interest rebates.

Finally, the recovery plan includes a package of payments worth some £116 million sterling designed to soften the blow of the rundown in the industry, especially in regions heavily dependent on steel jobs. The money will help finance early retirement and short-time working schemes.

Agriculture

EP urges halt to open-ended farm support

A report recommending limits on open-ended Community support for Europe's nine million farmers, was adopted by the European Parliament at its June session.

A two-to-one majority of MEPs backed the report, drafted by former

National Farmers Union leader Sir Henry Plumb (European Democrat), which recommends that farmers should help pay for the cost of disposing of the surpluses they produce.

It suggests that production targets be set each year for major Community farm goods, especially cereals, beef and veal and dairy products. Farmers who exceeded these targets would be penalised, either through a levy or a progressive cut in guaranteed support prices.

The report also calls for a genuine Community trade policy for agricultural and processed food products. Such a policy should include concerted use of long term export contracts, particularly with developing countries who would pay the going world price in return for guaranteed supply over a period of three to five years.

Instead the report proposes talks with major suppliers, including the US, aimed at concluding voluntary agreements on future import and price levels.

The Plumb report also suggests the setting up of a rural fund to help poorer farmers.

The financing of the Common Agricultural Policy will be the subject of concentrated discussion in the coming months as the member state governments begin their detailed examination of the European Commission's recent paper outlining reform of the Community's budget.

Education

Ministers face up to problem of unemployment

The role of education in helping member countries overcome their serious unemployment problems was the central theme of a recent meeting of Community Education Ministers.

The Commissioner responsible for Social Affairs, Mr Ivor Richard, told Ministers that it was crucial to include technical training in study programmes to prepare young people for the working world.

He welcomed the ministers' call for a coordinated Community approach to the problem and to the challenge to the educational system posed by unemployment and the new technologies.

The Ministers also looked at the

effect of the fall in the Community birthrate on education. Among the solutions proposed were to reduce the number of teacher training places and to use schools for adult education.

Finally, the Ministers discussed mutual recognition of academic qualifications. They agreed to improve information on each others' qualifications, using the Community's computerised education information exchange network 'Euridyce', to continue bilateral agreements, to include recognition of polytechnic as well as university degrees and to accept mutual recognition for students from non-Community countries.

The Regions

Support for aid to Northern Ireland

A resolution calling on the European Commission to look at ways of stepping up aid from Community funds to Northern Ireland was approved unanimously by the European Parliament in Strasbourg recently.

The move follows sustained pressure from Northern Ireland MEP John Hume, who first urged the Commission to report on the policies and resources needed to bring the strife-torn province up to the Community average for employment and living standards back in 1979.

The new resolution, drawn up by French Liberal Simone Martin, points out that Northern Ireland has an average unemployment rate of 16 per cent, rising to 32 per cent in some areas, compared with a Community average of 7.5 per cent.

Her report stresses the low per capita income, high emigration rate and depressed level of economic activity in the region. The sharp drop in job vacancies caused by the decline of traditional shipbuilding and textile industries and by agricultural reorganisation contrasts with an increasing demand for jobs linked to the high birthrate.

The Martin report calls on the European Commission to submit a study of all Community aid to Northern Ireland since the UK joined the Community in 1973, showing how much money from which funds has been granted and if possible how many jobs have been created.

◀ The report also urges the Commission to make a special study of a number of key factors when reviewing the economic outlook for Northern Ireland.

These include population growth forecasts and medium to long term job creation needs, guidelines for land use and industrial structuring development of farming and food industries, better job training facilities, special programmes for rural areas where unemployment is highest, housing, particularly in Belfast and possible subsidies to offset the 'natural disadvantages' of the region (transport and energy costs, etc).

Commissioner Karl Heinz Narjes has welcomed the report. He has said that the Commission recognised the special economic and social problems of Northern Ireland and promised better coordination of aid from Community funds.

The Economy

West's leaders link inflation and unemployment

The twin difficulties caused to European economies by high US interest rates and intensive Japanese exports were foremost in the minds of the Community countries represented at the Western Economic Summit in Ottawa in July.

The leaders of Italy, France, the United Kingdom and the Federal Republic of Germany, joined by European Commission President Gaston Thorn, succeeded in convincing the US to take more account of the impact that its high interest rates were having in European economies, influencing their own interest and exchange rates.

All the leaders agreed that the joint battle against inflation and unemployment must remain the highest priority. Inflation must be reduced to stimulate higher investment and lasting economic growth on which the durable recovery of employment depends.

The crucial point was to achieve a balance in the choice of policies used to secure these ends.

The Summit reaffirmed the western nations' commitment to free trade policies and the effective operation of GATT. They rejected any recourse to

protectionism, whether in the form of overt or hidden trade barriers or of subsidies to prop up declining industries.

The western leaders also committed themselves to providing increased aid to the developing countries, particularly the poorest of these nations, and to stamping out the growth of international terrorism.

Third World

New forms of aid needed for refugees

With the problem of refugees reaching unparalleled proportions as a result of political upheavals in South East Asia, Afghanistan and Africa, the European Commission has called on Community governments to step up their aid effort.

A recent international conference in Geneva drew attention to the presence of around five million refugees throughout the world. At the conference, the Community and its member states pledged contributions totalling \$170 million for African refugees alone.

Although the Community is equipped with the means to offer large scale emergency and subsistence help, the European Commission feels that member states should provide new funds specifically to assist re-settlement efforts.

Meanwhile the Commission has asked the member states to approve a £2.5 million emergency food aid package for Afghan refugees in Pakistan. There are currently estimated to be 1,700,000 Afghan refugees in Pakistan and the Community granted £8.25 million worth of emergency aid for them in April.

The Commission has also proposed granting £1 million worth of food aid to the people of Kampuchea.

Fish

Herring waters re-opened, but still no pact

The European Commission has decided to re-open herring fishing in Community waters after a three

year ban, despite the failure in July of Fisheries Ministers to agree how many herring can be caught and by which countries.

The Commission has set a total allowable catch (TAC) this year of 65,000 tonnes of herring to be taken off the west coast of Scotland and 19,000 tonnes in the southern North Sea as well as individual country-by-country catch ceilings.

It subsequently asked the member states to catch only two thirds of their allotted catch quotas, since a good part of the year is already gone.

The Commission decision to end the ban follows new scientific evidence that the once threatened herring stocks have recovered sufficiently to allow controlled fishing to begin again.

To prevent a recurrence of the over-fishing that had led to the introduction of the ban, the Commission has insisted that member states report their fishermen's catches twice weekly.

The Commissioner responsible for Fisheries Policy, Mr George Kontogeorgis told the member states that the Commission regards the TACs as legally binding and that the fisheries would be closed once the scientifically recommended catch ceilings were reached.

Tourism

Commission to step up efforts to help tourists

The European Commission has set up a special unit to coordinate the work of its various services which relate to tourism. It was established on the initiative of Georges Kontogeorgis who, last January, was the first member of the Commission to be given responsibility for tourism.

The new unit has the task of preparing a report before the end of this year on a broad range of matters affecting tourists, including procedures at frontiers, health, package deal legislation, taxes, the improvement of tourism infrastructure, employment in the industry and the possible extension of staggered holidays.

The Commission hopes that it will be in a position to present the Council of Ministers with a communication outlining its ideas on how to help tourists before next summer's holidays.

EUROPE AND YOU

Monitoring how women at work are coping

It is a sign of the times that more than two thirds of a hefty study on the economic and social position of women in the European Community which was published recently should be devoted to 'Women and Work'. Over the past few years, more and more Community legislation, financial support and information has been aimed at women who, though consistently in the majority as far as numbers go, have only recently been making their economic and social presence felt on a par with men.

There are now three Community directives on equality between men and women – equal pay; equal treatment in employment, vocational training and working conditions; and equal treatment in social security.

The Community's Social Fund finances vocational training projects for adult women with particular difficulties on the job market. Financial support is aimed at reducing disparities in the job hierarchy and helping women move into traditionally male-dominated areas offering greater opportunities.

The European Commission's Women's Bureau helps ensure that measures are effective, and an information section helps to spread the word among women's organisations and the media.

All this work is heavily dependent on statistical data from a wide range of sources which the Community's Statistical Office has been able to compile systematically. The office's study aims to provide a reference framework for monitoring trends.

As well as women and work, the study covers demography – births, marriages and deaths – and general and vocational training. Though Europe's 133 million women have a lot in common, some interesting national differences emerge as well.

Women make up 51.3 per cent of the Community's population, with the biggest percentage in the Federal Republic of Germany (52.4) and the smallest – 49.9 – in Ireland. Whereas the sexes are pretty evenly divided between the ages of 15 and 64, there are, in fact, more boys than girls under 15, and more than three women for every two men over 65.

A European woman born today can expect to live to 75.

Belgian women marry the youngest – at 22. Italian and Danish women tend to wait till they are 24. Ireland has the highest birthrate (21.4 per 1,000) and the Federal Republic of Germany the lowest (9.5). Though it's difficult to compare divorce rates because of the variation in legislation in member states (Ireland has no divorce law and Italy's is new) the figures show that the divorce rate is going up, with Denmark and the United Kingdom in the lead.

Fifty-two per cent of European women are classed as 'non-active' – the highest proportion is in the Netherlands (61.2), and the lowest in Denmark (42.6). Women represent 35.7 per cent of the labour force, and 45.6 per cent of the unemployed. In the age group 14-24, the ratio rises to 51.9 per cent. The most women with a main occupation are in Denmark, the United Kingdom and France. In spite of the fact that older women outnumber older men by 3.2 fewer than one third of the working people over 60 are women.

Though 63.2 per cent of married women are 'non-active' (mostly housewives), 35.4 per cent of married women do have a main occupation – mostly in the 25-44 age group – and the percentage is rising. The largest proportion is in Denmark (48.8) and the United Kingdom (46.5), and the smallest in Ireland (13.7) and the Netherlands (17.6). One fifth of unemployed married women are looking for a job after a voluntary spell off work, often to look after young children.

Of those women who work, 86 per cent are employees, and only 6.8 per cent are employers or self-employed:

Ireland has the fewest – 3.8 per cent followed by the United Kingdom and the Netherlands, while Italy has the most – 14.3 per cent – followed by Belgium (11.1).

Two-thirds of working women are employed in the services sector (nine out of ten as employees). Here the Dutch lead the way. 26.7 per cent of working women work in industry (only 2.4 per cent as employers or self-employed), and 6.6 per cent in agriculture (mostly as family workers). Italian women are in the lead in both these sectors. Of those women who work in agriculture, 74.6 per cent are unskilled. Female agricultural workers earn anything from 106 per cent (Denmark) to 77 per cent (Netherlands) of what their male counterparts earn (1977 figures). For industrial non-manual workers the percentage varied from 51 per cent in the Netherlands to 62 per cent in Italy in 1972.

More women than men have occasional work: over 2 million in 1977, compared with fewer than 1½ million men. Half of these women also work in the services sector.

However, unsocial hours hit men harder than women. 19 per cent of men work nights compared with 7 per cent of women, and 31.8 per cent of men work on Sundays compared with 20.4 per cent of women. Ireland has most women night workers, and Denmark and Italy the fewest. Denmark, however, has most female Sunday workers (followed by Ireland), whereas the Federal Republic of Germany and the Netherlands have the fewest.

In all these countries the pattern of working unsocial hours is similar for men and women – the biggest difference is in the United Kingdom where 6.3 per cent of women work nights compared with 22.2 per cent of men, and 18.9 per cent of women work on Sundays, compared with 43.4 per cent of men.

The proportion of unemployed women is rising all over the Community, and whereas more men than women are dismissed from their jobs, more women than men resign and the majority of people with a job but seeking another are women.

Over one-third of unemployed women have been looking for a job for more than a year, and one fifth for 6-11 months. More than half the unemployed people aged 14-24 are women.

As far as time spent getting to work is

concerned, women tend to live slightly closer to their workplace than men. Twice as many women as men walk or take public transport to work. Car and motorbikes or bicycles are favoured by men.

How do these female workers manage for help around the house? The answer is that most do it themselves – in the Federal Republic of Germany and the Netherlands the proportion is over 70 per cent. Belgian (33.7 per cent) and Luxembourg (28.6 per cent) husbands offer their wives most help around the house. Italian husbands the least (6.4 per cent). However, Italian working women have the highest level of paid help (15 per cent) and the most help from a member of the family (26 per cent).

Proportionally, the number of days female employees take off for domestic reasons, children's illnesses and so on, are perhaps fewer than might be expected – from 3.6 per cent in the Federal Republic of Germany to 14 per cent in Italy, compared with 74 per cent and 51 per cent for sickness respectively.

The proportion of women studying is growing, though women university students are still in the minority all over the Community. The proportion is just under 47 per cent in France and 30.5 per cent in Ireland. Teaching is the one subject where women outnumber men, though arts and fine arts are also popular. Least popular are engineering and agriculture. Just under one third of those following vocational training courses are women.

A part of the study is designed to shed light on the differences between the sexes regarding general and vocational training. These, combined with social and cultural factors, produce the different conditions under which the two sexes confront working life and show one of the reasons for women's fringe position in the working world.

The mass of information contained in the report does not give a complete picture of women's actual working life, because the sources of information tend to give preference to roles regarded as economically productive over those of housework and family care.

This means there is a marked imbalance between the abundance of information on 'active' work and a lack of information on housework. What is more, women who carry on an activity outside the home cannot give up their traditional roles for this reason, and thus have two or even three jobs (occupation, housework, and care of the family) – and information on this is either scanty or non-existent.

Sounds like piracy

Piracy, 'counterfeit' and 'bootlegging' are colourful words with an old-fashioned ring – more in place, one might have thought, in some historical romance than in an in-depth study for the European Community. But unfortunately modern technology has given these words an up-to-date meaning. And, though modern piracy is more specialised, it is a no less cut-throat business than of yore.

The study looks at record and tape (or phonogram) pirates who make unauthorised copies of popular works and sell them to the public without any of the profits going to the artists or the original producers. It is a flourishing business – worth almost \$200 million in Europe alone in 1978, and it's hitting the recording companies and the artists hard.

The European Commission has financed a study on the problem in 'Piracy of Phonograms' by Gillian Davies, a lawyer and assistant director general of the International Federation of Producers of Phonograms and Videograms. The study is one of three done in the context of the Commission's cooperation with the Council of Europe in the cultural sector.

The study considers the record market in the Community and compares the incidence of piracy in the member states. It also summarizes the international conventions and national laws in force or available and makes proposals for action.

The recording companies of the Community represent the second largest record industry in the world. In 1978 legitimate sales in the member states amounted to a retail value of \$3.5 thousand million. However, it's a risk business – in the United Kingdom, for example, only 1 in 9 singles and 1 in 15 LPs are profitable.

In 1979, for the first time sales dropped and forecasts predict that the trend will continue. Ms Davies underlines the social and cultural value of the industry and says its very life blood is being sapped by a parasite that feeds on its success – piracy.

There are three different kinds of piracy. Strictly speaking, it means copying original sound recordings on general release without permission and giving the copies new labels, artwork, trade marks and packaging. Another – counterfeiting – involves copying the whole thing, sound and packaging, to look like the original. The third – bootlegging – involves unautho-



rired recordings of an artist's performance at a concert or from radio or television, or unpublished studio tapes or demonstration tapes. The recording is then copied and sold. Private copying for non-commercial use can also lead to misuse, and 'cover versions' or 'sound alike' recordings can also be illegal in certain circumstances.

New technology has made copying – especially of tapes – relatively easy and cheap. Magnetic tape reproduction equipment and blank cassette tapes are available on the open market, and recorded tapes are increasingly sold not just in music shops but also in supermarkets, garages and market stalls, which may be easy prey for the pirates.

Experience in the Community, especially in Belgium, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom shows, says that author, that all the best-selling international pop repertoire is now being counterfeited in huge quantities.

The quality can be sufficiently good that at first sight it is scarcely possible to distinguish the illegal from the legitimate. Bootleg recordings, on the other hand, are usually of poor quality but can be sold at high prices because of the demand for such performances by famous artists.

Sales of pirate recordings in 1978 accounted for 4 per cent of the record market and 15 per cent of the tape market in the Community, though percentages differ from country to country from 6.5 per cent of records and 30 per

cent of tapes in Italy, 3 per cent and 20 per cent in Ireland and 7 per cent and 10 per cent in the Netherlands to 2 per cent and 7 per cent in the UK and hardly any in Denmark.

A high proportion of pirate recordings sold in Community countries are imported, either from other member states or from the rest of the world, especially Singapore and the United States. Up to 40 per cent of pirate recordings in Belgium, France the Federal Republic of Germany, Ireland and the Netherlands come from other Community countries. In Italy and the UK the majority of pirate imports are from outside. Ms Davies points out that when a phonogram is pirated two distinct rights are infringed – the author's and the producer's. Record producers' rights are protected by the Rome Convention (1961) and the Phonograms Convention (1971).

Six member states have adhered to the Rome Convention, Denmark, the Federal Republic of Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg and the UK. Belgium, France and the Netherlands are discussing legislation necessary to ratify it. Similarly, six member states have adhered to the Phonograms Convention, and Belgium and the Netherlands could adhere on the basis of existing law, though Ireland needs enabling legislation.

Artists are protected by the Berne Convention for the protection of literary works, to which the member states belong. Artists' and performers' rights infringed by bootlegging are covered by the Paris Convention on industrial property, to which all member states belong; and the tougher Madrid Arrangement on suppression of false or misleading labelling, to which five member states belong. Ms Davies re-

commends that the Commission should ask member states who have not yet adhered to the various international conventions to do so. Protection should also be extended to all phonograms originating in countries party to the Berne Convention, and the same protection should be granted to all foreign recordings to avoid situations where recordings that are illegal in one country are freely imported into another.

The author also recommends that the Community member states should settle on 50 years as the period during which recordings should be protected – at present, periods vary from 20 to 50 years.

Finally, she calls for national legislation to be enforced by police, customs and other agencies. Piracy must be eradicated, she says, if an important part of the Community's cultural heritage is to be safeguarded.

EUROPEAN REVIEW

Europassport to more Community awareness

Europeans will shortly have a more tangible symbol of the fact that they are citizens of the Community, as well as of their own countries.

The ten member states have finally worked out the details for a European passport, which will be phased in from 1985, completely replacing existing national passports by the mid 1990's.

The 32-page Euro-passport will be a red – described in English as "burgundy" but identified in other Community languages as "bordeaux".

The decision ends seven years of wrangling among member governments over the size, colour and contents of the new Euro passport.

The new document is hailed as an important symbolic step towards a united Europe. But it will continue to be issued by national governments.

Europeans continue to differ

One in 10 Britons now favours a revolution to change society, 59 per cent of Danes are 'very satisfied' with the lives they

lead and 53 per cent of the Irish population feels that the Community does too much to support agriculture to the detriment of other policies.

These widely differing views on society and the Community emerge from the latest public opinion poll carried out by the European Commission in the member states.

The 'Euro-barometer' survey concentrated on three particular areas: the mood of Europeans, gauged both from their personal satisfaction or dissatisfaction with the lives they lead and from their attitudes towards society as a whole; their feelings towards Europe and the Community; their attitudes towards the creation of a European passport.

The survey shows that people in Denmark, Luxembourg and the Netherlands are distinctly more satisfied with life than the French, Italians and Greeks, with the British and Irish somewhere between the two.

It also shows that the vast majority of Europeans favour improvement of society by gradual reforms rather than by revolution, although the survey notes that to find 10 per cent of 'revolutionaries' in the UK is a new phenomenon which will bear watching.

General support for

European unity continues to vary. Roughly 8 out of 10 are in favour in Luxembourg, Italy and the Netherlands, with no sign of weakening; the proportion is 7 out of 10 in Germany and France and 6 in Belgium, Ireland and Greece; it is only just over 5 in the UK and under 5 in Denmark.

Nevertheless, since the last survey favourable attitudes have declined significantly in Germany and especially in the UK. The poll concludes glumly that the 'reservoir of goodwill' in favour of a united Europe could be beginning to drain away, even in Germany, where efforts for European unity have always found solid public support.

New consumer protection plan approved

The Community's second Consumer Protection and Information Programme has been approved by the Council of Ministers. It will last for five years.

The second programme reaffirms the five guiding principles of the first, which was adapted in 1975 – the consumer's right to protection against health and safety hazards; the protection of the consumer's economic interests;

the improvement of the consumer's legal position (help, advice, the right to seek legal remedy); the improvement of consumer education and information; the right to be consulted and to be represented in the framing of decisions affecting consumer interests.

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STRASBOURG NOTEBOOK

LORD O'HAGAN, Member of the European Parliament for Devon

caused some confusion when, the youngest member of the Parliament, I arrived to sit as an Independent in January, 1973. It was thought suitable to park an unattached English lord next door to the Italian neo-fascist. I refused to be put there, and was therefore placed beside the Italian communists, an experience which many of my colleagues believe has coloured my political views ever since.

Gradually my novelty wore off, as the novelty of the arrival of all the delegates from the new member states waned. In contrast to today's humming confusion, the old Parliament was staid and lethargic, if more dignified and less self-important than its elected successor. The Community itself was beginning to settle into comfortable middle age, as were most nominated MEPs, for many of whom the Parliament was a substitute or compensation for lack of political success at home.

The old Parliament was a club. The new Parliament is much more awkward and prickly, uncertain of its direction, but clear that it wants to go somewhere, and pushed forward by people whose prime political activity is through membership of the Parliament.

Yesterday's Parliament was like the House of Lords; today's is like the House of Commons. When the European Community itself does not know where it is going, the elected parliament feels a duty to try to put up modern signposts, even if others are meant to be doing the driving.

'I put down a written question asking the Commission whether they planned to harmonise dog licences'

There was consternation, when, with Per Dich, a Danish folk-singing member with anarchic tendencies, I put down a written question asking the Commission whether they planned to harmonize dog licences. It was a little sacrilegious to poke fun at the sacred notion of harmonization

A silly question, but a serious point; nowadays, MEPs' scrutiny of foolish or provocative proposals on harmonization are much improved. The institutions have moved a little closer to the people, whereas in the non-elected parliament members' minds were still in the national parliaments which had sent them.

Certainly the building in Strasbourg is different. Instead of that tired old prefab, a relic of early days of the Council of Europe, we now have a Space Invaders palace, (into which the last fresh air entered when it was constructed). Physical surroundings have improved, and there is a greater sense of urgency and drive—matched, as it often is, by the greater sense of frustration.

The press takes the parliament a little more seriously, although the alleged scandals are no different. The preconceptions of Anglo-Saxon minds about the monastic approach to public life still encourages the same myths about the extravagances into which the parliament occasionally ventures.

Some things have not changed at all. The excellent interpreters continue to go on strike when they have worked too long—thank

goodness. The difficulties of travel there and back are hardly improved. I discussed Strasbourg with an ancient Labour peer who attended the first meeting of the Council of Europe, and communications remain exactly as they were. The paper-chase of documents goes a little faster, while committees bicker about the border line of their responsibilities a bit more violently.

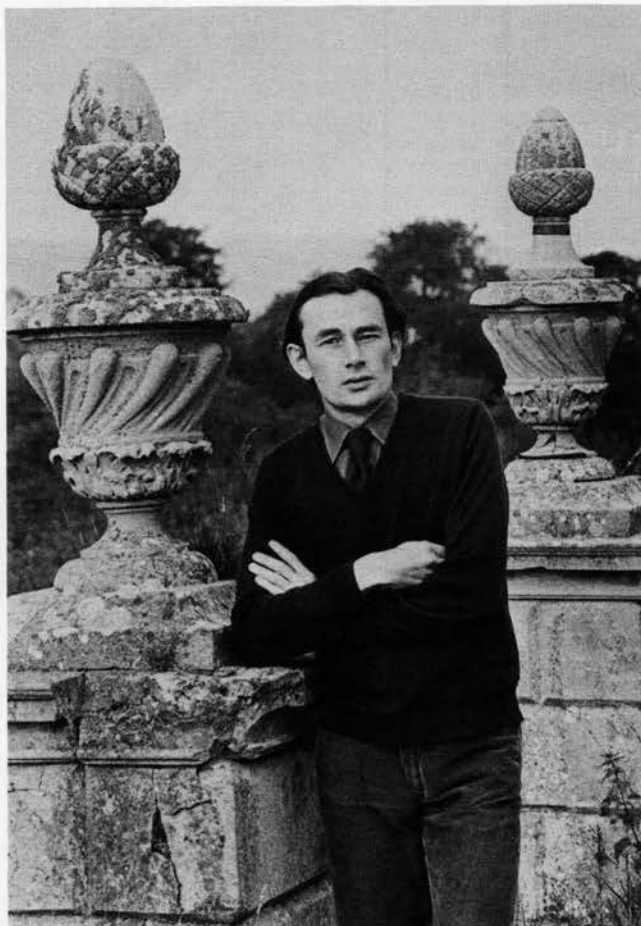
There remains, too, the cultural clash between the Brutal Brits, who leap into any discussion with bovver boots, and all the rest. *They* compromise, and go into coalitions. *We* honk. *We* barrack. *We* indulge in verbal kneecapping.

Another problem is that we tend to have no philosophical or theoretical framework on which any competent continental could hang his political hat. I remember Sir Peter Kirk, with the brutality of Westminster wit, causing great offence when, after a difficult argument he said: 'Nothing has changed since yesterday, except the mind of the chairman of the Christian Democrats.'

Nevertheless, there is a hidden development of more importance than the superficial variations and continuations noted above. The elected European parliamentarian knows that he has no genuine political ally apart from his colleagues. We all have a vested interest in the future of the Community and in the Community having a future. We may be foolish soldiers, and give each other contradictory orders; but we are no longer unelected spectators watching the big boys play the European game.

As our skill in using our limited powers improve, the Parliament emerges from the out-of-date European textbook to wield real influence in the politics of the Community.

European Parliament rules. OK?



The European Court of human Rights has quite properly ruled that the dismissal of Messrs James, Young and Webster constituted a breach of the European Convention of Human Rights.

Rejoicing, however, should be tempered in the knowledge that the court did not condemn the closed shop *per se* and did not guarantee that the freedom not to associate should be put on a par with the freedom to associate.

- Daily Telegraph

The judge ruled that 'compulsion to join a particular trade union may not always be contrary to the human rights convention'.

In effect, the judge has given the go-ahead for Britain's existing closed shop system... unless the Employment Secretary decides to take the opportunity to open up the closed-shop door even further.

- Daily Star

Yesterday's judgment by the European Court of Human Rights will encourage those who are opposed to the closed shop on both libertarian and economic grounds. There is no doubt that the closed shop is in principle offensive to personal liberty. There is no doubt, too, that its existence enhances the bargaining power of the trade unions.

It would be far preferable for such power as they can muster to be won through securing the loyalty of their members on a voluntary basis, not through coercion.

- Financial Times

It would be right, and fully in the spirit of the Strasbourg judgment, to provide effective means for a challenge to be made to the immense power over their followers that a closed shop can give to union leaders.

- The Times

The rebels see themselves as freedom fighters. Many trade unions see them as hypocrites.

- Daily Mirror

Women in Northern Ireland believe that they are much better off than their sisters in the Irish Republic, according to an opinion poll conducted for a Dublin women's magazine.

Northern women believe that their health and education services are better, that their politicians have a greater interest in women's affairs than Southern politicians, and that the Catholic Church has a much greater influence south of the border.

The poll, conducted by Ulster Marketing Surveys for IT, a women's monthly magazine, confirms the Northern stereotype of Southern society, but also reveals a wide gulf in communication that mirrors Ireland's political order.

- Guardian

In order to leave Llandudno when it suited him, Mr Roy Jenkins had an express train stopped for his convenience. I imagine the Liberals were very shocked.

- Hugo Young in the Sunday Times

Britain could find itself out of step with the rest of the EEC over plans to make life quieter for people in factories. The Health and Safety Executive last week published proposals that legally limit the amount of noise to which a worker can be exposed. But the British limit is 5 decibels higher than the one mentioned in the first draft of the proposals for the EEC. If the European plans are ratified, Britain would be forced to adopt the lower limit by 1988 or 1989.

- New Scientist

Mitterrand's message, in essence, is that Europe is talking itself into an ever worsening recession when it has the resources to buy its way out. Debates that he considers distracting, such as those about the EEC's Common Agricultural Policy or British budget, have in his view, got in the way of the priority of getting Europe into full production again.

- Observer

In Dundee at least there is an overwhelming majority in favour of the EEC. Dundee and Tayside Chamber of Commerce and Industry carried out a recent survey which revealed that 85% of companies wanted Britain to remain a member.

British trade and industry have already gained from the United Kingdom's membership of the EEC and stand to gain much more, said Mr Harry Terrell, the chamber's director.

The feeling in Dundee and Tayside is echoed at national level. Mr A. S. Kyle, chairman of the Scottish Export Committee, said that in Scotland, exporters in general 'would be very, very unhappy indeed' if there was any move to take the UK out of the Common Market.

- Dundee Courier

Two European MPs stepped up the pressure yesterday to prevent the Moonies setting up a new HQ in West Germany.

Mrs Janie Buchan, from Glasgow, joined Mrs Heidermarle Wiczorek-Zeul, from Frankfurt, in tabling a motion for the European Parliament, calling on German authorities to refuse residents' rights for the 300 Moonies on this 'dubious mission'.

- Daily Mail

The French government today took the penultimate step towards abolishing the use of the guillotine, by approving a Bill to end the death penalty.

- The Times

Guillotine gets the chop

- headline in the Daily Express

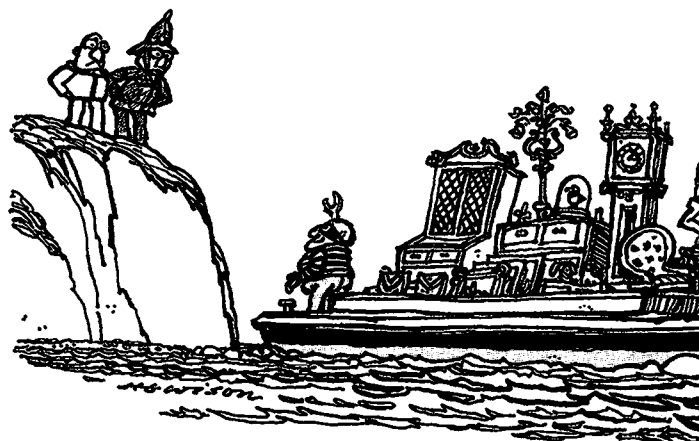
Antiques thieves are exploiting loopholes in Common Market laws to offload an estimated £6 million-worth of stolen goods every year on to Continental dealers.

Gangs specialising in major robberies know that the complex European laws governing the resale of goods deters all but the most determined British collectors from recovering their property.

Now the country's leading dealers and auctioneers are stepping up the pressure for a standard legislation governing all 10 member countries. It would give police forces increased powers of seizure and enable rightful owners to avoid costly civil litigation.

- Daily Mail

WHAT'S IN THE PAPERS



CHEYSSON ON 'FACE THE PRESS'

If Britain is having difficulty in adapting to the European Community, it is because of the long delay in joining, according to M. Claude Cheysson, the former EEC commissioner who is now Foreign Secretary in the Mitterrand government. This is what he told viewers in an interview on the Tyne Tees Television programme, 'Face the Press' . . .

'I think Britain came too late. If Britain had been in from the first day, the Community would have been built partly on the problems which Britain now has to face. Britain has to pay for problems that don't concern her directly - I think it's as simple as that.'

Asked how seriously he took the threat of the Labour Party to take the UK out of Europe, M. Cheysson said that he did not take the threat seriously. 'Britain is a great country,' he added, 'but she can't go it alone. The Commonwealth is still a very important political set-up, but it is no longer an economic organisation. You can't build a modern industry, a modern economy, with a market of only 50 or 55 million people.'

'You can't have Europe without Britain, just as you could not have Europe without Germany or France. These are simple facts. How could we build a common market that would not be Europe? I think we should go far beyond just a common market - we need a European dimension to deal with problems.'

'You are not going to build an aeronautics industry on the basis of a small market, or go into very advanced technology. You can't have social progress, as demanded by my party and by your Labour Party, if you are limited to 50 million people. We need the European dimension - and Britain belongs to the European dimension.'

Asked if Mrs Thatcher might feel more welcome at Europe's 'top table' now that President Mitterrand has come to power, M. Cheysson said:

'If there is no development in Europe I think things will get worse and worse. That development should be along lines which are of direct interest to all the present participants, including Britain.'

'Take the monetary system, for instance. I have always been very surprised that Britain has not joined - so was Roy Jenkins, who was president of the Commission when I was in Brussels. It is

thanks to the monetary system that we have kept a certain parity between the currencies of the Common Market countries, covering 50 per cent of our external trade.

'Right now, the rate of interest is a great problem. With very high interest rates we can have no investment - and if we have no investment there will be more and more unemployment. Could we, between us, arrange a kind of 'snake' system just for interest



'You can't have social progress if you are limited to a market of 50 million people'

rates? Could that be done? If it could, it would be of great interest to Britain. Britain will get more and more integrated into the common market, so long as there is progress.'

On Labour's declared intention, if elected, to remove the United Kingdom from the European Community, M. Cheysson said: 'We can do nothing about it. If they decide to do so, of course they can do it. Your parliament can reject, cancel or annul this or that law which makes you part of the common market.'

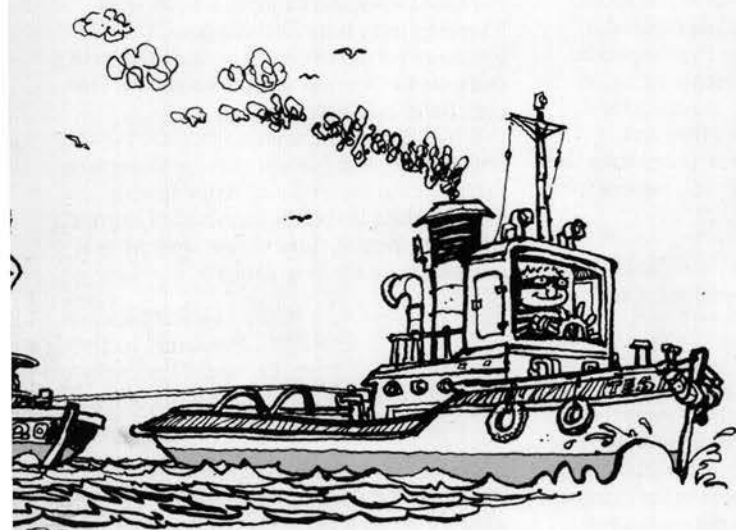
'But, again, where will you go? Somewhere on the moon? With no defence, no market, no chance for progress? Really!'

New European loans will mean more jobs

Loans worth £15 million have been granted by the European Investment Bank towards industrial developments in the north of England and in Cornwall. The projects are expected to provide about 1,000 jobs in areas where unemployment is severe. Finance has also been provided for draining, flood protection, water supply and sewerage works in the South-west of England.

A sum of £46 million has been made available for helping build a factory at Leeds to manufacture mini-computers. This project should be fully operational by mid-1984, and lead to the creation of some 450 jobs in Leeds, plus a further 350 in the company's other offices.

Express Newspapers have been loaned £1.5 million for expansion of a newspaper printing works in Manchester, which will generate some 300 new jobs. And a loan of £3 million has been made available to a subsidiary of the Tenneco group towards building a factory at Redruth, Cornwall, which will manufacture and assemble heavy building vehicles for the construction industry.



Letters

In the wake of trade

I should like to congratulate E.A. Traynor on his letter ('Blaming the Common Market') in your June issue. A Londoner like him, and also having had a continental upbringing followed by 20 years as an export manager specialising in the Common Market, I share his opinion that a background of that kind helps greatly towards an understanding of the various continental points of view.

It will surely become increasingly likely that a deeper understanding of the continental way of life, and a wider range of friendships, will follow in the wake of trade. Hopefully, too, the balance of language teaching will move a little more towards the *spoken* word.

R.M.D. Palmer
4058 Basle, Switzerland

A policy for the ozone layer

In the article 'A testing time for chemicals control' Jasper Becker says 'evidence is mounting that the vital ozone layer in the earth's atmosphere is being destroyed.'

European industry has been deeply involved in this issue, and has participated fully with both national governments and the European Commission in implementing a responsible policy towards it. It is therefore disappointing to read in a publication connected with the EEC a statement which is inaccurate and misleading.

The hypothesis proposed by Rowland and Molina remains an unproven theory. Ozone depletions quoted are theoretical model predictions, not actual measurements. It is true that CFCs and their breakdown products have been detected in the stratosphere, but no effect on stratospheric ozone has been demonstrated.

Atmospheric ozone has been the subject of widespread global monitoring for over twenty years. Detailed statistical analysis of this data reveals a small increase rather than a decrease in ozone over the last ten years.

J.F.D. Mills
Imperial Chemicals Industries Ltd,
Runcorn, Cheshire

Fair play for monsters

Why do you use the word 'juggernaut' in your background report numbered

'I would like to see this useful magazine used less for propaganda and more for information'

ISEC/B25/81 to denote a heavy goods vehicle? A juggernaut was a monstrous car which carried the idol of Krishna in procession at Orissa in India. Devotees were reputed to have thrown themselves to their deaths underneath its wheels. The image is one of horror and destruction.

A heavy goods vehicle, by contrast, delivers the daily necessities of life. Without such means of transport the economy would suffer seriously, and it is unjust to saddle the heavy lorry with such an unfair and emotive title. It is rather like calling a doctor a quack, a newspaper a rag or the European Communities Commission a bunch of bureaucrats.

Peter Muccini
Carl Byoir & Associates Ltd,
London SW1

Too pro-Europe?

One would think, from your issues to date, that everything in the EEC was splendid. Although, in reporting Mr Pym's speech, you had to include his reference to 'some quite genuine grievances', no-one would know from EUROPE 81 what they are.

Can you not give us the facts and leave us to judge for ourselves? Or are you committed to propaganda only?

W.H. Pedley
Stapleford, Cambridge

EUROPE 81 seems to be a rather jingoistic (European-style) publication – everything about how good the EEC is, little or nothing about its failings. Why not a full article on the continuing stupidity of moving the European Parliament around? Why not, instead of publishing another 'Europe is good for you'

speech (by Francis Pym MP), arrange a discussion between a 'pro' and an 'anti' marketeer?

I would like to see this useful magazine used less for propaganda and more for information.

Clive Tivey
University of York

See George Scott, page 2, for a comment on these two letters.

– or too pro-French?

I enjoy your magazine, but don't you think you are a bit fixated on France and the French? I know they loom large in Community affairs, but there are eight other members, besides ourselves, who are also active in Europe.

Assez is assez.

Ewan Pringle
Carshalton, Surrey

Force de frappe

In the June issue of EUROPE 81 Jean Lacouture writes of 'the two or three centuries when France was the dominant power abroad'.

If he was not joking, could he say which centuries he had in mind?

Phil Fountain
Aylesbury, Bucks.

Sterling only

Recently, when travelling on a Townsend Thoresen ferry from Zeebrugge to Felixstowe, I discovered to my astonishment that only sterling was accepted on board – not even Belgian francs.

It highlighted the amazing insularity of the United Kingdom (people queuing all evening to change money) and contrasted sharply with the situation on the mainland of Europe, where payment in three or four currencies is not unusual in shops or garages.

G. R. Chambers
Personnel Section,
European Parliament,
Luxembourg.

We invite readers' letters for this page, while reserving the right to shorten them, if necessary, for reasons of space.

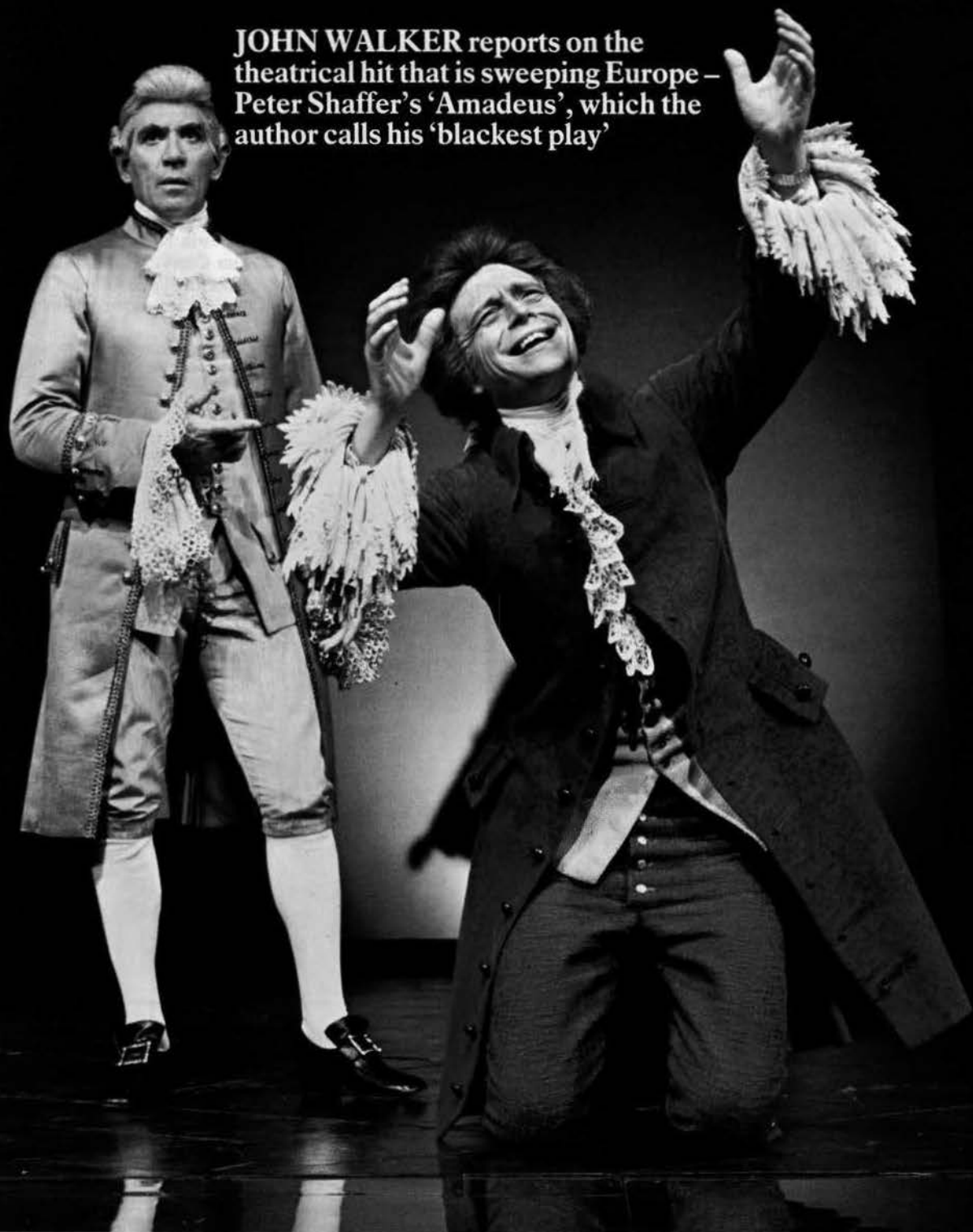
Re-writing the legend of Mozart

This month the British playwright Peter Shaffer will settle in a Connecticut farmhouse belonging to the Czech-born film director Milos Forman, and begin work on the third version of his acclaimed play 'Amadeus', this time for the cinema. 'Amadeus', focusing on the relationship between the now-disregarded composer Antonio Salieri and his prodigious contemporary

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, has been the most successful and praised theatrical work since – well, since Shaffer's previous play 'Equus' in the mid-1970s, which in turn was the most successful drama of the last 30 years.

Shaffer, born with his playwriting twin Anthony in Liverpool in 1926, has always been a great rewriter of his plays, sitting in on rehearsals so that he can reshape the drama according to theatrical needs. He even made

JOHN WALKER reports on the theatrical hit that is sweeping Europe – Peter Shaffer's 'Amadeus', which the author calls his 'blackest play'



The Business Page



PICTURES: BEN JOHNSON

TEXTILES—the talking gets tougher

GWEN NUTTALL
reports on a major European
industry reeling under
competition from the rest
of the world

This month, Europe's apparent unanimity over the re-negotiation of the Multi-Fibre Agreement is likely to crack wide open in Geneva. The Commission's mandate, based on a tougher approach than before, was agreed in July. But, once officials start interpreting that mandate in terms of actual figures for the amount of textiles and clothing to be imported from the less-developed countries over the next few years, the rows will duly start.

The talks will be the toughest yet, for two very good reasons. The first of these is politic-

al. This is the first example of the developed world in confrontation with the developing world—a dress rehearsal for other industries such as electronics, watchmaking, leather manufacture. And those countries seeking access to the lucrative European market look on the treatment given to their textile industries as reflecting the EEC attitude to the whole North-South dialogue.

Secondly, most European manufacturers—and Britain's in particular—reckon they have sacrificed enough to political considerations. Since the first Agreement was signed in 1973, 900,000 jobs have been lost in the Community, 370,000 of them in the UK. Last year alone, 120,000 jobs disappeared in Britain. At that rate, according to the joint textile industry 'Little Neddy' report in June, 'the entire industry would be virtually eliminated in the next five years.'

Nobody, of course, is prepared to go that far. But there is no shortage of forecasters who

expect further inroads into the industry. Brian McMeekin of Pretty Polly, the hosiery manufacturers, is on record as saying: 'I believe we'll see a further 25 per cent contraction over the next three to four years, on top of what has already taken place.'

The speed at which job losses proceeded in 1980 was unquestionably accelerated by the eruption of imports from the United States, which caused such grief to carpet manufacturers, producers of polyester yarn and makers of polyester-cotton bed linen. The Americans took a heavy toll in a recession-hit market—last year, imports accounted for 60 per cent of all home sales, in an industry already reeling from the impact of competition from low-cost countries. Imports of textiles and clothing from these countries have grown from £150 million to £1,102 million over the past decade. No fewer than 108 countries exported clothing to the UK last year, and 101 exported fabric or yarn. Twenty years ago, there were

only 15 sending clothing to the whole of Western Europe, and 26 exporting fabric.

Today's exporters are light years away from the image of Indian handloom weavers or Hong Kong sweatshops. Both Taiwan and South Korea have more man-made fibre capacity than the UK, with Mexico and Brazil bidding fair to catch up. International money, homing-in on countries with low labour costs and low expectations, has changed the whole situation. 'One of the big developments of the last five years has been the emergence of producers in Malaysia and Thailand, often backed with Japanese money and under Japanese management, who have undercut the traditional low cost suppliers,' claims Rod Hartley, who runs Tootal's textiles division. American finance has established clothing factories in the Philippines; Hong Kong money has spread out through South East Asia; the Dutch company, Macintosh, has moved to Tunisia.

For a labour-intensive industry like clothing, low wages make a dramatic difference to competitive appeal. When the latest index of comparative average wages shows South Korea at 52 per cent of the UK figure, Malaysia at 20 per cent, the Philippines at 13 per cent and Sri Lanka at 6 per cent, the attraction of manufacturing in those countries is obvious.

Tootal is one of the few UK textile companies – the Scottish-based Coats, Paton is the other leading example – which years ago saw

'Today's exporters are light years away from the image of Indian handloom weavers or Hong Kong sweatshops.' Carnaby Street, in London's West End, typifies the changed market.

'Marks & Spencer is probably keeping over 20 per cent of Britain's clothing industry alive'

that it would have to become an international operation. It grasped the fact that production does not necessarily have to be located in the same place as marketing. A host of British clothing manufacturers have since got the message, the latest being the garments division of Carrington Viyella. An entire women's leisurewear range is being manufactured in Hong Kong – but the design comes from Manchester. 'That way, you keep control of your business', maintains Robin Biggam, Carrington's finance director. It is a message which took a long time to penetrate.

'In this country, we let importing get into the wrong hands,' argues John Shelton of Coats, Paton. 'We ourselves tended not to import for some time, on the grounds that it was disloyal to our own employees. In Germany, importing is in the hands of the manufacturers, and they are better able to control their own destiny by averaging-out profit margins on home-produced and imported lines.'

Steilmann, the German manufacturers who sell women's skirts and jackets in the UK under the Styleman label, have garments cut out in Germany and then sent to Romania or Hungary to be sewn. They are returned for finishing, which might amount to no more than pressing. But it means each garment qualifies for a 'Made in West Germany' label, so ensuring that some jobs, at least, are kept in Germany.

The initial reluctance of British manufacturers to join the importers is only one reason why the British textile industry has fared worse than its counterparts in France or Italy. The strong pound, higher energy prices (and energy is a major cost in fibre production), as well as a more efficient distribution system, have all contributed. The very efficiency of Britain's retailing system, with half the retail sales in the country handled by no more than a dozen chains, makes it easy to penetrate. Once an imported line is accepted by Littlewoods, say, it immediately has nationwide distribution.

On top of that is a major change in men's wear retailing which is peculiar to the UK – the arrival of the ready-made suit. 'Not many years ago, over 50 per cent of men's outer wear was made and sold by the multiple tailors. A large part of this was bespoke. The British wool textile industry was geared to supply this requirement,' says Barry Spencer, managing director of Parkland Textiles. 'There has been a revolution in the men's wear industry since then, and nothing has taken the place of the clothing production which has gone from the multiples. Europe didn't have this phenomenon of the multiple clothier.' The



'Tell you what, Lord Sieff, I've got two dozen gross of "Botham is God" T-shirts – made in Australia.'

Italians, in particular, built their industry on ready-to-wear.

Marks & Spencer has not done badly with its ready-to-wear suits, even though it had to create a new manufacturer in the shape of Dewhirst's which had been known for its shirts until Marks decided that no existing manufacturer could meet its requirements. 'We do not accept that British industry cannot be competitive,' asserts M & S director John Salisse.

The company reckons it is actually increasing its penetration of the UK clothing market with its value-for-money philosophy – and Europe is responding, too. M & S sold just over £27 million worth of textiles through its French and Belgian stores last year, nine-tenths of them British-made. M & S is probably keeping over 20 per cent of Britain's clothing industry alive and well, and that is one road to salvation for some firms.

It is not the only answer, any more than the frequently-repeated advice to 'go up-market'. There is still plenty of room on the middle ground, provided people get their fashion right. And there are voices, like those of Brian McMeekin or Barry Reed, chairman of the Austin Reed Group, which make no bones about the manufacturers' need to create fashion instead of waiting for retailers to do it for them.

Marketing is what survival is all about, although there may be technical innovations which give UK companies an unexpected advantage. Coats Paton's John Shelton admits: 'I'm a bit of a radical on the subject of manufacturing in the UK. I believe there's a future in it, by winning back areas currently dominated by imports. The microchip can reduce the labour content to such a degree that it doesn't matter any more as a factor in competitiveness. I think we'll see quite a resurgence in the second half of the Eighties. It's a matter of survival over the next two to three years.' That is why the outcome of talks in Geneva is being awaited with such passionate interest.

How the Community regions feel about their economic situation

The latest EEC survey shows that, in the 120 or so Community regions, most people feel that they are relatively well-off – and that part of their taxes should be used to help those in their own countries who are not

There appears to be a general acceptance within the Community that things are going well for particular regions, according to an annual survey conducted on behalf of the Directorate-General for Regional Policy of the EEC. But much remains to be done to persuade Europeans of the need for Community solidarity.

The survey* chose eight different aspects of local life which could help to establish whether inhabitants of particular regions of the Community believe themselves to be better or worse off than people living elsewhere. The same questions were put to representative samples of the population aged 15 and over, in some 120 regions of the nine member states. In all, 8,892 respondents were interviewed between 8 April and 5 May last year. Whilst in most cases the comparisons contained in the questionnaire were confined to national territories, Europeans overall believe that their regions are relatively well-off as regards way of life, social and cultural facilities, public transport and communications. However, they are pessimistic about the prospects for young people, the labour market, dynamic industry and – though to a lesser degree – wage and income levels and progressive agriculture.

Overall, United Kingdom participants gave answers reflecting below-average satisfaction on almost all points compared with other responses within the Community. Also, along with Italy, they expressed the widest shades of opinion from region to region as to opportunities for work, acceptability of wage and income levels, and prospects for young people.

A computer analysis of all the regions taking part, as characterised by the replies, provides what might be interpreted as a 'mental attitude' map of Europe, highlighting the degree of Community spirit from area to area within member states. As might be expected, the public's assessment of the local situation fluctuates more widely in the largest and most heavily populated countries. Easily the broadest spectrum of opinion is found in Italy, followed by France, the UK and Germany. At the other extreme, Denmark is the country in which personal views vary least from region to region.

After several trial groupings which attempted to quantify such variations of opin-

ion, all 120 regional returns were classified into seven types in descending scale ranging from Category A – in which the overall feeling is highly optimistic – down to Category G, in which it is most commonly felt that the region is losing out.

The nine regions classified as Type A – representing 10 per cent of the Community population – gave replies which were distinctly pro-EEC, particularly regarding dynamism of industry, wages and incomes, opportunities for work and prospects for young people. These views were confined to particular regions of Germany, France and Italy which tend to be more rural than average, although not primarily agricultural. Their population includes a sizeable number of tradespeople and craftsmen, and their political leanings incline towards the Left.

Slightly less optimistic were the 12 per cent of the population represented in Category B, where the dominant impression is that they are holding their own. This group is most typically urban, with a high proportion of white-collar and salaried workers and people with high levels of income and education. They are most open to the idea of moving outside their own region, providing the conditions offered elsewhere are better than those they already enjoy. For the most part they live in large metropolitan centres, endowed with

long-established transport systems, social and cultural facilities, with good wage and income levels but where the quality of life is not seen as being any better than average. Here again, political leanings tends to be towards the Left.

The United Kingdom, in the shape of the Greater London Area, first emerges within Category C, where the inhabitants, region by region, consider themselves to be in a better position than most in almost every respect. The way of life, social and cultural facilities, public transport, wage and income levels, are all felt to be relatively satisfactory. Their situation on the work front is regarded as fairly good. Category C regions see themselves as quite capable of paying their own way while holding ground rather than developing. Politically they take a central stance. Their profile overall suggests that they have long enjoyed a high level of development, though inclined to rely more upon past achievement than future prospects.

Yorkshire, the East and West Midlands, along with South-East England, feature among the 29 regions which are characterised less by their objective situation than by their optimistic outlook. When asked about the extent to which they are satisfied with life as it is, the majority of this 20 per cent of the Community population gave favourable

THOSE PREPARED TO MOVE...

	to another region in their country (%)	to another country in the Community (%)	elsewhere (%)
Belgium	26	22	18
Denmark	24	13	14
Germany	22	13	10
France	44	22	20
Ireland	23	17	17
Italy	34	22	15
Luxembourg	29	16	13
Netherlands	41	25	20
United Kingdom	40	24	29
Whole Community	34	20	18

NB: The replies in each column relate to different questions. They cannot be aggregated.

answers. Overall, they tend more towards the political Right than elsewhere in the Community. They are also among those regions where small or medium-sized towns predominate, where income levels are higher than average, and where people are less attracted by the idea of moving elsewhere, even within their own country. Most of all, they feel that their region is able to pay its own way, and fewer of them see difficulties looming ahead.

Not surprisingly, perhaps, the rural areas of East Anglia, South-West England and Scotland – along with 28 similar areas in continental Europe – see themselves as fairly go-ahead as regards agriculture, but rather worse off than others in respect of wages and incomes, opportunity for work, social and cultural facilities and public transport. The level of satisfaction with the way of life for this 18 per cent of the Community – along with their attitude towards European unification and the Common Market – is just average, with the number of people prepared to consider migrating to another region at its lowest.

'Londoners consider themselves to be in a better position than most'

The greatest degree of pessimism concerning industry's future, and the most widely expressed need for outside help in the United Kingdom, comes from the North, the North-West, Wales and Northern Ireland. In common with 15 other regions in Belgium, Germany, France and the Netherlands (representing 15 per cent of the Community population), they are wary of the Common Market. Indeed, 22 per cent of the respondents think that it is 'a bad thing' for their country, and they are among the least enthusiastic about efforts to unite Europe.

Although more than half expressed the need for help from outside their region, they also voiced the greatest opposition to the idea of expending part of EEC tax levies on the development of needy regions in Community countries other than their own. The attraction of moving away from their present environment is average for the Community, and even a little higher in the case of a move to non-European countries. Their objective assessment of prospects for young people, however, is extremely low. Overall, they feel their region is declining and they are deeply resentful.

The remaining seven regions covered by the survey, which fall into Category G in regarding themselves as the poor relations of the EEC, are rural communities and small towns in north-west Eire and parts of Italy. They share a strong conviction that support must come from the outside. But, whilst they

feel that their region's present position is poor, they do not regard themselves as lacking in dynamism – and they are less pessimistic in this respect than those regions of Type F. They may not be satisfied with life as it is – and of those currently in employment only a third expressed no worries about work. But they are happiest at being part of the Common Market, and are prepared to give most support for efforts to unite Europe. The idea of moving to other regions of the country or elsewhere

bothers them the least, even among those who are no longer young.

RON BARRY

**Europeans and their Regions.* An internal document on the public perception of the socio-economic disparities: an exploratory study carried out in 1980. The same 15 questions were put to representative samples of the European Community countries. In all, 8,892 respondents were interviewed in their homes.

ARE WE DOING ENOUGH TO CURB LEAD-LEVELS?

Health authorities are generally agreed that the absorption of lead into the body is dangerous to the human central nervous system, particularly for babies and small children, in whom it is suspected of causing brain damage and retardation. For that reason the British Government's decision in May of this year to cut the amount of lead used in petrol by two-thirds can be regarded as the most important anti-pollution measure since the passing of the Clean Air Act a quarter-century ago.

However, some still see the proposed reduction to 0.15 grammes per litre by 1985 as an objective which is both too little and too late. Lead, it is felt, even at this reduced level, is still capable of harming children. The sceptics point to the fact that, in the United States, lead-free petrol was introduced as long ago as 1974, since when new cars on the market have had to be designed to maintain both engine efficiency and fuel economy, whilst running on lead-free fuel. Even so, half the American motoring population still drive cars sold before the new requirement, and therefore still need leaded petrol.

Fundamentally, the argument is one of public health versus international economics and fuel economy. Lead is added to petrol as a relatively cheap way of raising its octane level. With less lead, more crude oil is needed in the refining process to produce the same octane ratings. A lead level below that envisaged by the Government as their 1985 target would render it impracticable to produce the high-octane, 4-star petrols needed by modern high-compression engines, which are in turn more efficient in their use of fuel.

Lead-free petrol is only suitable for cars with special engines designed for the purpose, as lead acts as a lubricant. Without it there are problems of valve-seat recession, unless the cylinder-heads have been re-designed to fine tolerances. Moreover, the banning of lead in petrol by member states is prohibited by an EEC directive – though this does not preclude petrol companies from offering even purer

grades. Certain Government Ministers believe that British car manufacturers could have difficulty in exporting vehicles to the rest of Europe if other countries continued to use leaded fuel.

What is the present position? So far, Germany is the only Community member to introduce a maximum limit of 0.15 grammes per litre, which it did in 1976. Denmark plans to move to the same level in 1982/3. Outside the Community, other European countries which plan to make similar moves are Sweden – which has already imposed a 0.15 g/l limit during this year – Norway and Switzerland, which both propose a 0.15 limit from 1982/83.

But petrol is not the only source of lead poisoning. Whilst certain parts of London and other city centres have been shown to have unacceptably high levels of lead pollution in the air, for which petrol exhaust fumes are a principal cause, there can also be lead in paints, water, and airborne particles from industrial emissions.

In the older parts of city centres such as Glasgow, water-pipes made of lead are still in use, and a few rural communities continue to depend on spring-water supplies originating from former lead-mines.

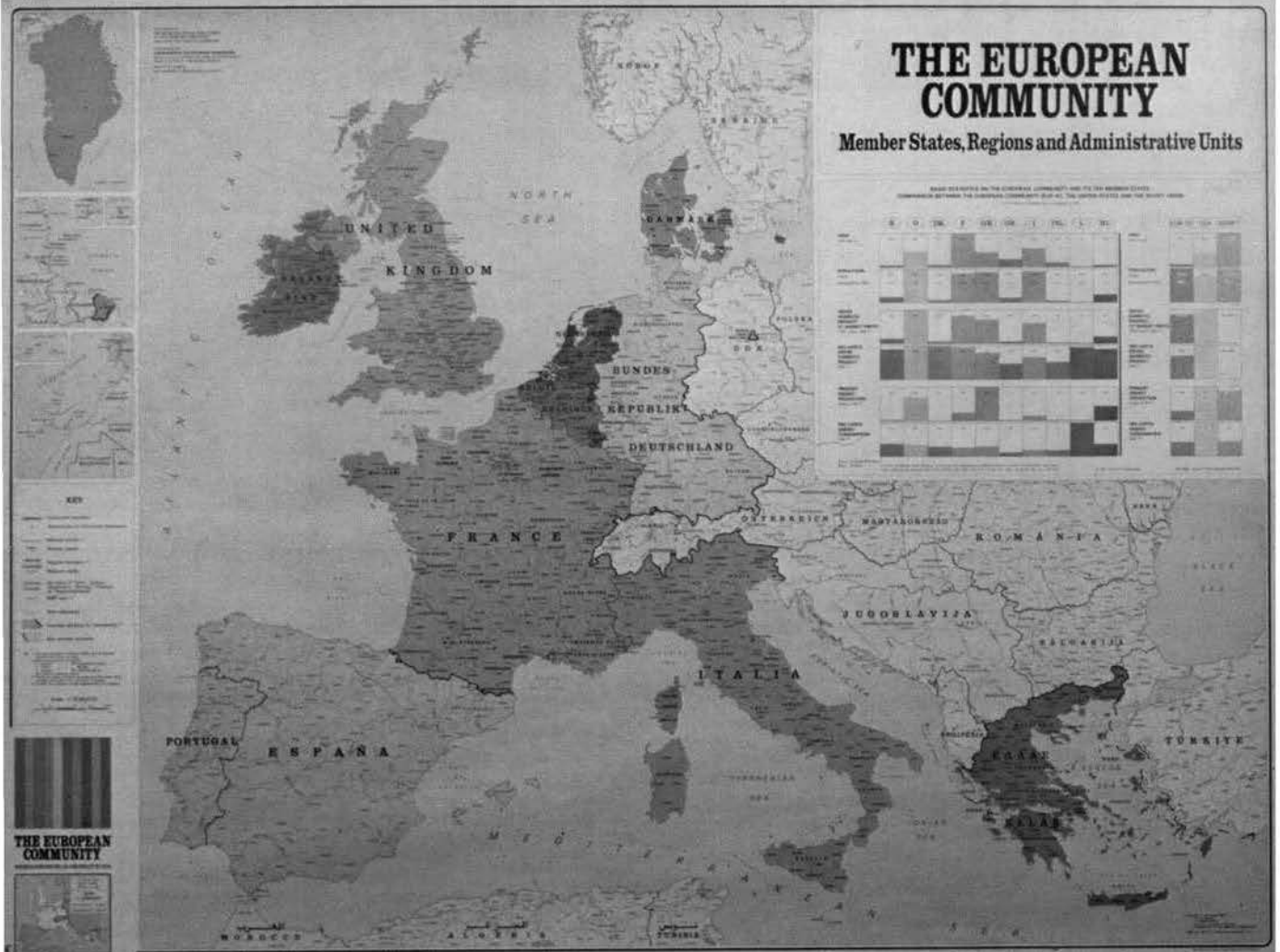
The Government measures already on the statute book to eliminate lead pollution in drinking water are a welcome step forward, but are regarded as insufficient in themselves to solve the problem. At least 100,000 homes must have existing lead plumbing replaced. Householders can apply for home improvement grants to cover part of the cost. But this will only work if individuals are willing and able to pay their share (about £100 on average) and if local authorities are able to make the grants available and encourage people to apply.

If the present scheme does not take off rapidly, the Government may have to change its approach and launch a special programme to replace existing plumbing free of charge.

Meanwhile, groups of children in Glasgow, Chester, and Thorpe, in Leeds, have been found to have blood lead levels higher than allowed by EEC directives. This is disclosed in a report published by the Department of the Environment giving the detailed results of the European Community screening programme for lead, carried out in 1979-80.

The EEC directive, issued in 1977, calls for two surveys co-ordinated across the EEC and separated by at least two years. ☐

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