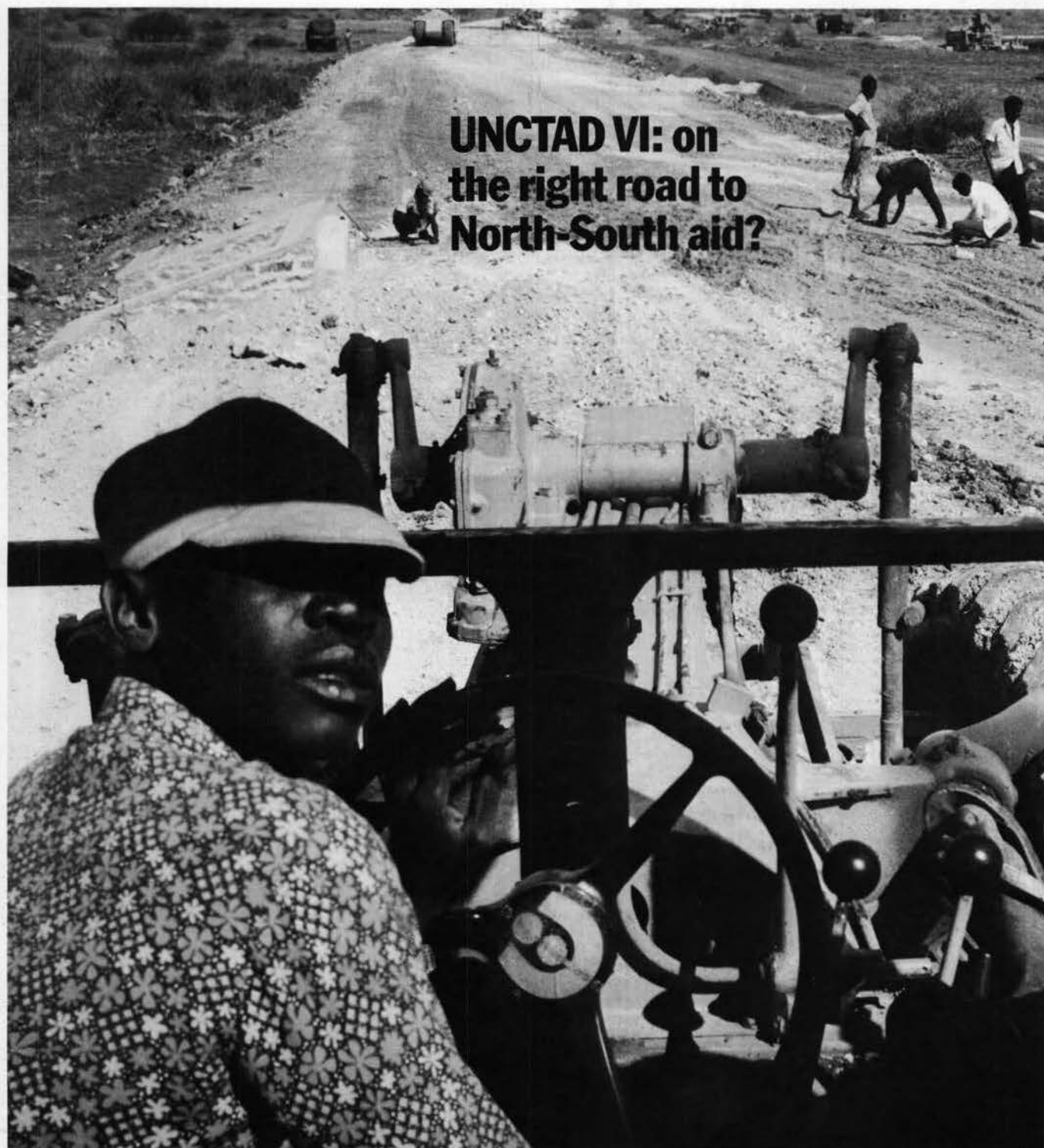


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On page 6 of this issue, Mr Gaston Thorn, President of the European Commission, speaks of the crisis facing the European Community.

One major feature of that crisis is the inadequacy of financial resources to meet either present demands or future needs. Too large a slice of the Community budget is being consumed by agriculture; too little is left to fund action to mitigate the worst effects of world recession and to offer new hope to regions and individuals for whom present prospects are bleak. Furthermore, the inequities of national contributions – conspicuously, that of the United Kingdom – continue to generate damaging political tensions within the Community and between member-governments.

As promised, the Commission has now produced proposals for expanding Community resources and for spreading them more evenly and more widely. EUROPE 83 will report in subsequent issues upon reactions to those proposals.

What the Commission is seeking to provide is a new basis for collective and co-operative activity by the ten member states. What was done in the past was well done; but the Community is changing, as the world is changing, and the machinery by which the Community is powered and operated must also change.

Only the member governments can provide the political will to bring about the change.



GEORGE SCOTT

The steeltown that refused to lie down

If all its plans materialise, Corby, in Northamptonshire, could be the home of Britain's first national 'theme park', attracting five million visitors a year by 1991. Supplying energy for the vast complex would be the first UK heat and power station.

The town's two projects look certain to develop. And they will do so with the help and support of the EEC, which has already given considerable financial aid to Corby – which a couple of years ago faced financial ruin.

I first reported on Corby at the beginning of 1981 (EUROPE 81, March), and it might be useful to outline briefly its story again, so as to put these later developments into perspective. The town sits above a vast ironstone field; and it is this geological chance which brought it success and – ultimately – heartache.

Until 1934 it had only 1500 inhabitants, but the arrival of Stewart & Lloyds soon changed that. The company moved to Corby in order to extract the iron and convert it into steel strip to make tubes. In just two years the workforce grew to twice the size of the original population, and continued to grow.

Expansion and prosperity continued hand in hand for more than 40 years, during which time the company became part of British Steel Corporation. By the mid-1970s it was employing 12,000 men, 1,000 women, and producing over 100,000 miles of steel tubes a year. Corby was steel. That was its strength – and its weakness.

Fears about the town's dependency on a single industry grew rapidly in the 1970s as the imminent world recession cast its shadows before it. Steel development plans throughout the UK were hastily abandoned.

Corby had already anticipated its fate, with the publication of a strategy plan, by the time BSC announced that iron and steel making at Corby were to cease. The town immediately became a development area, enabling it to offer various inducements to industry to move in. A £6¼ million re-adaptation grant from the European Coal and Steel Community helped cushion the financial blow to redundant steel workers.

It was to discover how Corby was planning to overcome its almost insuperable problems that I paid my first visit to the town, 85 miles north of London, over two years ago. What I could not reveal at the time (it was announced in April that year) was that Corby was to become Britain's first Enterprise Zone. The En-

When steelmaking ended at Corby a couple of years ago, the town set about building a new future for itself. ROY STEMMAN has been to see how it is getting on

vironment minister at the time, Michael Heseltine, visited the town in June 1981, to cut the last piece of symbolic red tape.

Three separate areas, totalling 280 acres of land, were rapidly developed for industrial use; and the town, under the slogan 'Corby Works', set about attracting new business with the very appealing ten-year package of incentives – including exemption from development land tax and local authority rates – which were made possible by its new status.

Has it worked? I went back to Corby in April to find out. I spoke first to the man at the centre of the industrial revival, Fred McClenaghan, Corby's director of industry.

'Out of 280 acres of Enterprise Zone land,' he told me, 'we have only 20 acres left, and they are under negotiation. There are already 1,500 people working in the zone.'

But that is only part of Corby's success story. Many companies, attracted by its Enterprise Zone incentives, visited the town to see if it was suitable for their operations. They liked what they saw, but the land in the zone was not always suitable for their needs. They have opened up elsewhere in the area.

'Some 180 companies have moved to Corby in the last few years,' Fred McClenaghan explained, 'and they are providing jobs for 3,500 workers. Associated British Tobacco has invested £25 million in two plants. RS Components, which distributes electronic components, probably occupies 10 per cent of the Enterprise Zone area, and Commodore Busi-



Duncan Hall signs the £250 million Wonderland agreement.



ness Machines are just moving here and they will employ 250 people.

'What pleases us is the variety of industries: from clay pigeons, grave stones, reproduction furniture, caravans, fire doors, wellie boots – to computers, foods and flavourings, plastics and medical disposables.'

£225 million of private investment has poured into Corby in this comparatively short period. The disappointment for Corby is that, despite the massive influx of new business, its unemployment rate has not fallen below 20 per cent. BSC still makes steel tubes there – the raw material is now made in other parts of the country. But, whereas Corby provided 12,500 jobs in 1978, it now employs only 3,000. The slimming-down operation continues – a further 600 employees were paid off this year.

What Corby has done, however, is to contain its unemployment problem. While the national figure has risen from eight to 14 per cent, Corby's has been more or less steady. What is more, it has been able to hold out the hope of new jobs to its inhabitants, and continues to do so. Few face the prospect of long-term unemployment.

Further industrial development is planned, with another 500 acres about to be developed, giving hope to the 6,000 people in Corby who are still without a job. Meanwhile, Corby has even more ambitious plans which could reduce the number of jobless dramatically.

The idea is to create a huge leisure industry around a 'theme park' dedicated to Great Britain. At the heart of the scheme will be a 500,000 sq ft glass building – inspired by the Crystal Palace – housing ten pavilions, each with its own entertaining and educational theme, such as filming, communications, and

'With EEC help, the town's two new projects look certain to develop'



energy. A covered stadium will offer top-flight sporting facilities, with seating for 10,000 spectators, supported by an outdoor sports area with another stadium seating 30,000 for such TV favourites as 'Superstars' and 'It's a Knockout'.

Seven hotels will be created to accommodate visitors and to provide conference facilities. There will also be an international 18-hole golf course and a large concert hall.

The consortium behind the plan, Group Five Holdings, liken their theme park – called 'Wonderworld' – to the world-famous Disneyland and Epcot 82 creations. But at Corby the emphasis will be on participation. The pavilions will offer not static exhibitions, but active and commercial concerns in which visitors can take part. And because the park is under cover it will be open every day of the year, regardless of weather.

It is a massive undertaking, and one that Corby did not initiate. Group Five Holdings developed the concept, then looked for a suitable site in the UK for its £250 million project. Duncan Hall, chief executive of Corby District Council, admits that the town would not be an obvious first choice. What convinced him and his team that it was right was the realisation that, within a two-hour drive from Corby in any direction, is a population of 22 million people. They also found Corby to be



'£225 million of private investment has poured into Corby'

Earlstrees, one of Corby's three 'enterprise areas' promoted by Fred McClenaghan (left), is filling up. Right: the Wonderworld site.

willing participants in the scheme from the outset.

Having established its commercial acceptability in Corby, work began on a detailed design. This was funded in part by Europe, with a £375,000 grant through the ECSC.

Now, after 2½-years of negotiations, the scene seems to be set to turn that dream into reality. Agreement between all the parties involved – Corby District Council, East Northants District Council, British Steel Corporation, and Group Five Holdings – was signed on March 15 this year. The land was purchased by the consortium in April. And bulldozers are now at work preparing the site.

If all goes according to plan, the first phase will be open in 1985/6, attracting 2½ million visitors a year. That number will double by 1988/9. The best news for the people of Corby, however, is that Wonderworld will create 3,000 new jobs.

With famous personalities adding their support and ideas, the theme park is certain to have wide public appeal. David Bellamy, Patrick Moore, Arthur C. Clarke and Jonathan Miller are among those whose expertise in

popular communications will be put to good use by the consortium.

Now that all parties are agreed, and planning permission for Wonderworld has been granted, Corby is looking to the EEC for aid.

'Wolfgang Stabenow, director-general of the Social Fund, came to Corby in March,' Duncan Hall told me. 'This was a follow-up to a visit he paid us two years earlier. Our discussions with him about Wonderworld led to the view by both of us that there is no set pattern or system in Europe to maximise EEC interest.'

'It's not like manufacturing industry seeking a loan or grant, or like us seeking Regional Development Fund aid for infrastructure. There are so many diverse elements in the theme park scheme, from training and re-training people right through to the development work itself. So what we've agreed to do is set up a joint team between ourselves and Dr Stabenow's department to assess, if you like, the way forward... the best way to deal with

which can bring it to the town. It also has another very important requirement: large holes in the ground, created by iron ore extraction. They will be filled gradually by the considerable amount of ash which will be left after the rubbish has been incinerated.

GEC are backing the scheme, and are Corby's major partners. The East Midlands Electricity Board and BSC are also involved.

'We happen to own the land next to the rail sidings,' Duncan Hall explained, 'and the only chimney left in Corby, on the steelworks site, is the one we will use for the power station. It is almost adjoining the tube works, which is a major user of energy. And there's 1,000 acres of industrial land immediately surrounding it, and a compact town, which makes the short physical transportation of heat a realistic proposition.'

Corby's chief executive emphasises that the project is not a social community operation for providing heat to the population. It is a commercial venture backed by private investment. The plant will take 3½ years to build, and construction is expected to start in May 1984. The overall cost of the scheme will be around £37 million. Basically, says Duncan Hall, 'we've got the money.'

What Corby is looking for right now—hence the visit to Brussels—is help with the design and specification of the power station, which will cost more than £½ million but will form the basis of the contract when construction starts. 'We will be looking for advice and assistance from the EEC's experts at the Energy Directorate,' Duncan Hall told me. 'They can be enormously helpful as well as directing financial aid our way.'

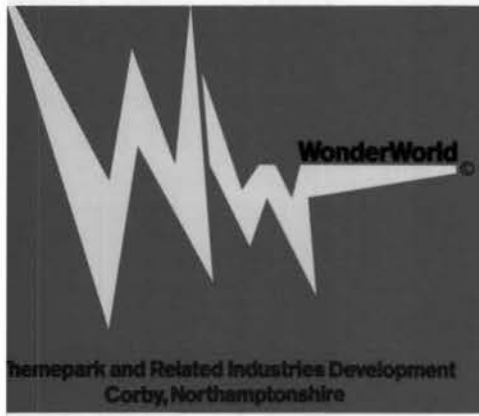
'Now that the Wonderworld scheme is agreed, Corby is looking to the EEC for aid'

The Corby team will be exploring the possibility of grant aid for the power station's infrastructure and perhaps its development as well. Then they will travel on to Berne to inspect a similar heat and power project in the Swiss capital.

Meanwhile, back in the East Midlands town which is being transformed so dramatically and rapidly, another project was completed recently: the biggest demolition contract in Europe. In April 1981 Corby District Council bought the steelworks which had dominated the town—visually and economically—for so long, with the 'deliberate intent of removing it as quickly as possible'.

It was partly for psychological reasons: to give a boost of confidence to Corby's townspeople and reaffirm that change was in the air. They may be haunted by unemployment, but not by the empty and deteriorating shell of the immense works which once provided so many of them with a job. New roads are now being built on the cleared site, and the first factories should be ready by Christmas.

In two years' time I hope to be able to report again from Corby—the town that refused to lie down, and which now looks forward to replacing its factories of steel with a profit making palace of glass.



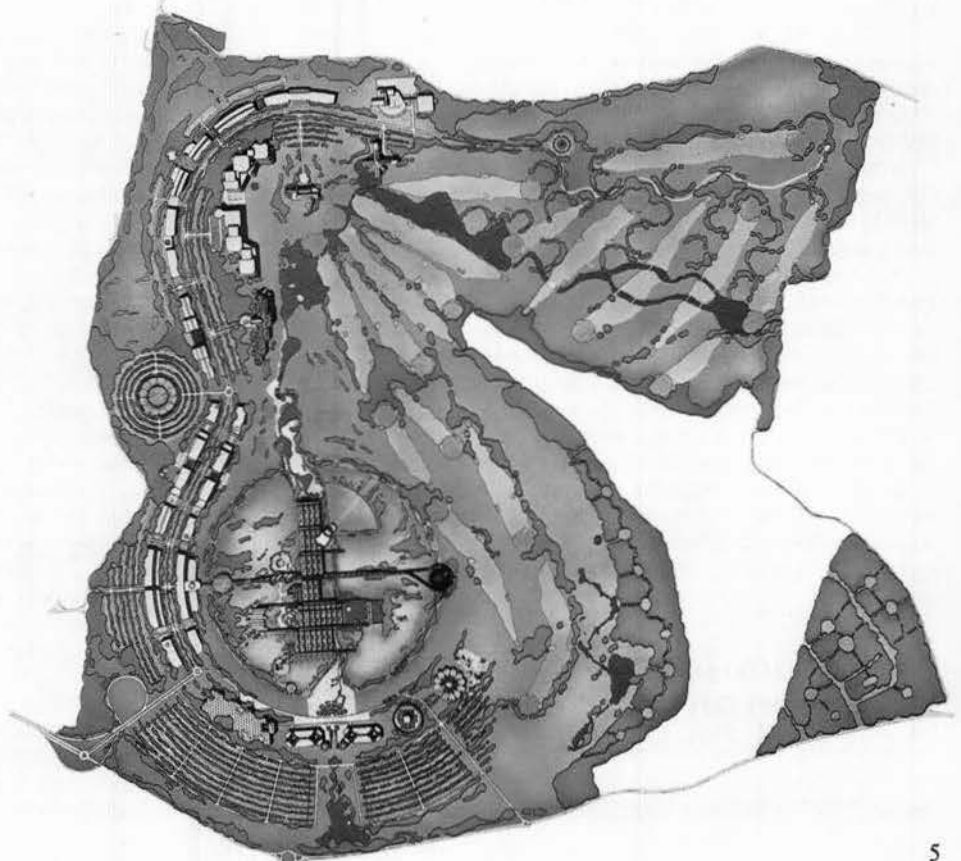
European involvement in this scheme.'

Duncan Hall pays tribute to the encouraging response Corby has received from the EEC ever since the announcement of steel closure in the town. He and his colleagues, working closely with the local Euro-MP, have paid a number of visits to Brussels in the past when Corby needed financial aid for its industrial development plans. A week after my visit, Corby's chief executive was flying out to the Belgian capital for new talks.

'They're about another unique scheme for Corby,' he said with unconcealed pride. 'We have been negotiating for more than a year now to provide a combined heat and power station in the town.'

The concept is a simple one, which began with the need to provide energy for the tube works which were left after the steelworks closed. The plan is to burn domestic refuse and convert it into energy, heat and power. The energy would produce electricity and be sold through the national grid (legislation to create private energy is going through Parliament at present). The by-product of this energy-producing scheme is steam, which in turn means hot water which can be used to supply heat for industrial or domestic uses.

Corby will need 350,000 tonnes of domestic refuse a year to burn in the power station. It has a rail network—a legacy of the steelworks—



'Let us be clear about one thing: we are indeed in a crisis, what I would call a crisis of ambition'

June 6 is the anniversary of D Day, the turning point in what Gaston Thorn prefers to call 'the second European civil war.' June 6 this year will see another such D Day, as far as the European Community is concerned, with stakes no less high than when the Allies stormed ashore in Normandy.

Gaston Thorn believes that, in Stuttgart, the outcome of the summit will affect the future and destiny of the European communities, and that this meeting must face up to a series of crisis decisions more difficult than any since he was chosen to fill the top seat at the Commission's round table at the start of 1981.

President Thorn confesses he is almost at a loss now to find a word which sums up just how critical and serious are the problems facing the summit.

A catalogue of the problems makes daunting reading. Essentially, however, they concern the very nature of the Community and its ability to respond to today's problems of unemployment and industrial decline. High on the list is the need to co-ordinate policies for strategically important sectors like energy, telecommunications and research, and to develop existing policies on youth unemployment, transport and the common market. Community enlargement to include Spain and Portugal is no less important and awaits a political stimulus. Underlying these problems is the argument over the Community's money or, more precisely, how to find the necessary financial resources for new policy initiatives.

The member states have been deferring decisions on many of those problems until, as the President sees it, they can be put off no longer.

He says: 'Let us be clear about one thing: we are indeed in a crisis, what I would call a crisis of ambition. In other words, what do member states want from the Community? What do they want in terms of collective European effort? What vision or visions do they have? The time has come for a collective clearing of minds between member states at the highest level about their aims for Europe and the ways for achieving them, and clear agreement also on the rules of the game.'

'If in this process of identifying or selecting strategies there are strong divergences, then so be it.'

A breakdown in Stuttgart would at least have the advantage of forcing everyone either to face up to the problems or run the real risk of destroying the Community. He told the Parliament frankly last month that the March summit had been 'disappointing,' but that word was scarcely strong enough for his real view that the European leaders were shying away from their responsibilities.

In Stuttgart, he wants this to stop. European leaders must focus their attention on the obstacles that prevent progress towards a second-generation Europe. The Commission – which has the institutional role of motor in the process of change – has tabled a series of proposals not only on finance but also on reducing unemployment and stemming industrial decline. These must be discussed by the Stuttgart Council.

Mr Thorn is realistic in his expectations of the Stuttgart meeting. 'Stuttgart will not be the moment when we achieve all of the goals we have set ourselves. But it must be the point of departure. We must show our resolve to continue with the development of the Community,' he says.

'European leaders must focus their attention on these obstacles to a second-generation Europe'



In an interview on the eve of the Stuttgart summit of EEC Heads of Government, Commission President GASTON THORN talks of his fears and hopes for the future of the Community

He is quite clear that there must be streamlining of the Council's decision making process, probably with the use of more majority voting in matters which are not of overriding national importance. As to what constitutes this 'vital national interest' he sees no real contradiction between them and Community interest.

'Most, if not all, vital national interests these days have a Community dimension without which they cannot be preserved or fulfilled – this applies to virtually the whole field of economic policy. Economic nationalism today has about as much relevance to today's reality as Genesis has to New Testament theology.'

As he sees it, attitudes of economic defensiveness are not identical with nationalism, even if they do spark it off. 'The epidemic of protectionism, which is the economic expression of people's fears and uncertainties, can only be countered by showing people how the impact of its continued growth will be fatal for the way of life they have enjoyed since the war.'

'We are all trying for greater markets, selling to Japan or, for example, Latin America. But we have our own market of 300 million people and we are destroying it.'

He wants to see public tenders for research and high technology projects – frequently restricted to enterprises in the member states concerned – opened up to the whole Community: 'We won't have a common market in these sensitive areas, often those of high growth possibilities, if we don't open things up.'

'The Community, our common market, our joint trade policy, our foreign policy co-operation – these are not luxuries but essential mechanisms of a European way of life we must seek to sustain and develop.'

Mr Thorn is only too well aware that the essential decisions and Community spirit needed to create his vision of things are difficult to come by. The 'over my dead body' attitude of member states' opposing ideas; the continuing evidence that some member states search only for short-term national advantage even if it means cheating; the fact that some

countries only see the Community from a narrow nationalistic viewpoint; the political reality that no government can remain deaf to domestic pressures; these are all blocking the kind of progress he wants.

Mr Thorn would like to count on the support of the European Parliament in the effort to sustain and develop the European way of life. But co-operating with the Parliament has its difficulties. One of the biggest difficulties is the fact that there is no fixed majority in the Parliament which is united by a set of ideals or priorities. 'When our Prime Ministers go to their national parliaments, they know where their majorities are', he said enviously. 'Unfortunately, the European Parliament does not have a majority committed to a single programme of desired policies, objectives and restraints. The Commission therefore has to live by the rule of chance majorities.'

This is one factor making it difficult for the Parliament to obtain greater powers. Mr Thorn regrets this, seeing the Parliament as the Commission's natural ally in fighting for the Community dimension.

In talking of the Parliament's powers, Mr Thorn chooses to emphasise its responsibilities. 'Responsibility and power cannot be divorced from one another,' he says. 'The European Parliament this year rejected Commission proposals aimed at controlling the growth of agricultural production and expenditure. This conclusion would have carried more weight if the Parliament had had to decide how to raise the necessary funds to finance its desired policy.'

The common agricultural policy remains, at one and the same time, a key element in the Community and one of its ongoing problems. Mr Thorn is convinced that the biggest threat to the policy comes from those who do not accept the need to control production.

'If we go on producing more agricultural commodities than the market can absorb, we shall end by destroying the policy that we are trying to safeguard.' A basic problem, he says, is that there is not one agriculture in the Community but several. Production costs of similar commodities, for example, are different in different areas. Mr Thorn wants this to be taken into account more in the policies used to support farm incomes.

In this way, says Mr Thorn, it would be possible to assure the income of the farming sector and control more closely the rate of growth of agricultural expenditure.

'It is absolutely essential for the Community to allow for an increase in financial resources'

Mr Thorn says it is absolutely essential for the Community to allow for an increase in its financial resources, which he believes will be needed whether or not Spain and Portugal are eventually allowed into the Community. This extra money would be needed to fund the new policies which the President believes must be introduced to create the 'Europe of the second generation' he is looking for.

The support for the first generation Europe he sees as born in 'the effervescence of post-war enthusiasm' when frontier barriers were symbolically torn down across the continent. Keeping down the barriers 'in a climate of economic retrenchment, political uncertainty, and the faltering vision of the Community's member states' he believes is a totally different challenge.

'Enthusiasm can never be the product of a situation characterised for most people by the reality of the threat of unemployment, low or in-existent growth and the strident absence of political vision. The Community's central role must be to help change this situation. Only by acting on all fronts - by showing people how the Community can help solve their everyday problems and by creating a vision able to capture popular imagination - can we create the conditions in which enthusiasm for Europe can be rekindled.'

'What we are fighting for now is not a brave new world, but the adaptation of the brave new world of the 1950s and the 1960s to the challenging realities of the years leading up to the end of the second millennium.'

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE

Thomas Megahy (United Kingdom):

'What would be the status of the UK within the EEC were the UK parliament to repeal the 1972 European Community Act whilst at the same time doing nothing to withdraw from Treaty obligations?'

Answer by Gaston Thorn on behalf of the Commission:

'The Honourable Member will understand that the Commission cannot reply to questions relating to purely hypothetical circumstances. The Commission would, therefore, simply repeat what it has said on several occasions, that membership of the European Communities implies both the full respect of the so-called 'acquis communautaire' and active participation in the realisation of the objectives of the Treaties. The formal way in which these obligations are fulfilled at national level is a matter for each member state.'

Mr Dieter Rogalla, (Federal Republic of Germany):

'In order to bring about closer cooperation between its own departments and the European Parliament, is the Commission prepared, in all its public opinions and reports on Community problems, to refer specifically to the opinions or publicly expressed views of the European Parliament and its committees and to issue corresponding instructions to its officials?'

Answer by Mr Andriessen on behalf of the Commission:

'The Commission would assure the Honourable Member that in its political activity the Commission attaches the greatest importance to the opinions of Parliament, and never fails to take them into consideration in its relations with the other institutions.'

The Commission has no wish to be a substitute for the channels through which Parliament can make its views known, but in its proposals for legal acts and in its other papers it naturally emphasises Parliament's opinions and pays due attention to Parliament's own-initiative resolutions.'

Mrs Vera Squarcialupi, Italy:

'In Italy, women who decide to accumulate previous periods of pensionable employment still suffer discrimination in that they have to pay a higher price than their male colleagues. Does the Commission

not agree that this attitude violates the principle of equality between men and women enshrined in Community directives?'

Answer by Ivor Richard on behalf of the Commission:

'Article 4 of Directive 79/7/EEC (1) on the progressive implementation of the principle of equal treatment for men and women in matters of social security prohibits any kind of discrimination on grounds of sex both as regards the calculation of benefits and of contributions. There is no particular provision stipulating that differences in life expectancy may justify an exception to this principle.'

Hans-Gert Pottering (Federal Republic of Germany):

'What action is the Commission taking to ensure that food consignments to Poland can be recognised by the Polish people as aid from the European Community? Is the packaging of the butter marked clearly to that effect? Is it satisfied that none of the Community's food aid to the courageous European Polish people is ending up in the Soviet Union or with the Polish or Russian armed forces in Poland? And does it agree that the dispatch of parcels from citizens of the European Community to the Polish people is an outstanding contribution to pan-European solidarity?'

Answer by Wilhelm Haferkamp on behalf of the Commission:

'Butter sales to Poland are at present effected on normal market terms and no special measure is applied.'

The food aid granted by the Community to the population of Poland is sent to the country by non-governmental charitable organisations which cooperate closely with the Polish church in distributing the aid. One of the main conditions which the Community attaches to the granting of the aid is that the consignments should be distributed to those in need without government intervention. In addition, the packaging is marked in Polish to show that the consignments are gifts from the EEC.

The Commission shares the opinion expressed by the Honourable Member as to the importance of parcels sent by individuals, and will draw the attention of the governments of other member states to the example set by the German authorities, which bear the cost of postal charges for individual parcels.'

Closer ties with Yugoslavia

April 1st marked the beginning of a new era in the Community's relations with Yugoslavia. On that day the cooperation agreement signed in Belgrade on 2nd April 1980 came into effect, following its delayed ratification by national parliaments.

Looking back from April 1st 1983, one can see the path taken since the first trade agreement concluded between the Community and Yugoslavia in 1970. A long process has matured the relationship and brought the two economic entities closer together to realise their economic complementarity and to measure the mutual benefits to be gained from closer and more durable links.

Closer ties began with a declaration signed in Belgrade on 2 December 1976 by the president of the Yugoslav Federal Executive Council, the president of the Council of Ministers, and a vice-president of the European Commission. By this formal act, which had considerable political significance, the Community and Yugoslavia, a non-aligned, European, Mediterranean member of the 'Group of 77', formally agreed to 'reinforce, deepen and diversify cooperation between them, in their common interest, whilst developing existing relations and extending them into new areas.'

There is a clear desire to go beyond a simple trade agreement, and to bring relations between Yugoslavia and the Community into new areas of economic cooperation. In future, international economic relations will no longer be confined to trade issues, on which considerable progress has already been made at the GATT and other international bodies. Long-term cooperation, when it extends to the wide variety of areas listed in the EEC/Jugoslavia agreement, will also allow a deepening of relations and bring with it the hope of economic development.

That was the spirit in which the cooperation agreement was signed in Belgrade. It also includes a trade section and a section on finance; but its novelty lies in the fact that it constitutes a framework, from which all kinds of up-to-date cooperation can emerge.

The commercial part of the agreement was put into operation in advance. It involves the removal of customs tariffs and quantitative restrictions on most industrial products and tariff concessions for a number of agricultural products of particular interest to Yugoslavia. The measures gave Yugoslav exports consider-

'A framework from which all kinds of co-operation can emerge'

Moves towards new trading agreements indicate that the Community's market economy and the East European system can do business together.
CHRIS LOM reports

able access to Community markets, recently enlarged by Greek membership. The fact that they came into effect immediately has meant that they should bring about an early increase in trade which Yugoslavia badly needs to remedy its trade deficit with the Community and improve its balance of payments.

The results of the application of the trade section are already evident. Yugoslavia now has a renewed trade deficit, largely due to the improved performance of its exports. In the first nine months of last year, the Community increased its imports from Yugoslavia by 25 per cent.

This, though significant, is not a measure of the sort of targets that the Yugoslav government is aiming for. The country's economic and financial situation requires a major effort to redress the trade balance and balance of payments situation in which it finds itself. The Community can contribute to solving the problem, simply because it accounts for 23 per cent of Yugoslavia's exports and 36 per cent of her imports. Tourism, and remittances sent home by Yugoslav workers employed in Community countries, also constitute an important source of foreign currency.

The Community has to recognise the courage and imagination of the Yugoslav authorities in their application of measures to combat the economic crisis. The member states have already expressed their confidence in the Yugoslav economy's capacity for rapid recovery, by making a major contribution to the international effort launched to bail Yugoslavia out of its financial difficulties.

The section on financial cooperation also came into operation before the rest of the agreement. The Yugoslav authorities have fixed priority areas for investment, and a financing agreement has been signed with the European Investment Bank to modernise the electricity grid. The rest of the 200 million ECU in credit offered by the Community will go towards a modernisation of existing road and rail networks. The Community has whole-heartedly supported the Yugoslav authorities choice of projects, as Yugoslavia has become an important transit country since Greece joined the EEC.

The plans to promote long-term economic

cooperation cover industry, energy, science and technology, agriculture, transport, tourism, the environment and fishing. Through a symbiosis between the Community and Yugoslavia, the country's economy will benefit from a transfer of technology that will help it attain a higher level of economic development. The Community will also benefit by taking advantage of the opportunities offered by Yugoslav agriculture and industry.

Jugoslavia is a large market, with extensive possibilities for development. It has a skilled workforce, which is being widely used in the rest of Europe. In addition exports in certain specialised sectors have found excellent markets in the Community.

Even before the agreement came into operation, the Community and Yugoslavia were on the road towards closer cooperation. Between March 7th and 11th of this year, a special Business Week, which brought together over 400 businessmen from both sides with the aim of furthering industrial, financial and commercial links, took place in Belgrade. A preliminary study of common interests enabled Yugoslavia and the Community member states to identify about 200 projects, related to automobile spares, agricultural machinery,

'200 projects of common interest, from automobile spares to food processing'

machine tools, electrical and electronic equipment, mining, and food processing. Projects discussed in Belgrade culminated in agreements on transferring technology, joint ventures and the development of third markets, and in a variety of forms of general economic cooperation aimed at developing and diversifying links between entrepreneurs on both sides.

The Business Week was seen as a concrete example of the political will to increase cooperation between the two economic entities. The Community and the member state governments believe that the right economic environment is vital if industrial, commercial and financial operators are to bring about the objectives defined in the text. It has already been shown that close links between the free market economies of the West and the centrally-planned systems of the East are possible.

All that remains is to create the legal and political framework specified in the agreement. That will take place on 24 May at a 'Cooperation Council' in Brussels. The meeting will be attended at ministerial level, and will decide the broad direction of future cooperation. Ways and means of fulfilling the ideas set out in the agreement will also be discussed. The two sides attending the meeting will be marking the beginning of a new sort of relationship between the Community and Yugoslavia. **E**

It's looking good for equal rights

The Commission is being urged by a special advisory committee to press ahead with further measures to make equal opportunities – and equal pay – a reality

Two new equality directives could be adopted by the European Commission before the summer. The proposed measures, now under discussion, have the full backing of the Community's advisory committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men, which met early in March.

The proposed directives could improve the position of self-employed women and women working in agriculture and introduce a system of leave for parental and family reasons.

Since its creation in December 1981 the advisory committee has been working with the Commission on these proposals. During the March meeting, final agreement was reached and the Commission is now ready to go ahead and finalise its equality proposals, which will be presented to the Council of Ministers.

The two draft directives are part of a three-year action programme, adopted by the Commission in December 1981, to promote equal opportunities for women. The Council of Ministers gave its support to the programme's general objectives in June 1982 and gave the green light to develop specific measures.

The proposals for a directive on equal treatment in self-employed occupations, including agriculture, are aimed at removing both direct inequalities (such as no social security, retirement, invalid or maternity benefits and tax discrimination) and indirect ones (such as lack of training opportunities for women in certain skills). The committee suggests that women working in family businesses should be recognised as equal partners both in civil and labour law and in professional or trade organisations. It wants to ensure that the directive covers all members of the family working in the business regardless of their statutory (i.e. co-trader, partner) or family/marital status.

Women who set up on their own should have equal treatment for training, access to credit facilities and professional bodies, said the committee. To enable all self-employed people to take leave, replacement or relief ser-

vices were essential, and the committee suggested that they could be paid for in part from public funds. Finally, certain positive action measures were proposed, including the suggestion that financial incentives, such as an installation premium, should be given to women to set up their own businesses in traditionally 'male' sectors, such as building, or where few women are represented.

Although the advisory committee admitted that the proposals on leave for parental and family reasons would certainly result in increased expenditure, it believed that this was an essential part of any equality policy. However, it stressed that public facilities and services also have to be extended. Parental leave is usually given after the birth of the child, whereas leave for family reasons can be given for looking after other members of the family, such as elderly relatives. Most of the member states have some provision for family leave. Parental leave is currently given for both parents only in Belgium (public sector), Italy and France.

The committee underlined that parental leave should be available to both parents, whether they are married or not. It should be a voluntary and a personal non-transferable right allowing fathers to enjoy it. It should be taken over a single period of about three to six months, within two years after the birth of the child. Parents on leave should also be guaranteed re-employment.

The question of paid parental leave aroused most controversy. In the end, the committee agreed that pay should be accepted in principle, and should be incomes related to encourage fathers to take advantage of it.

Leave for family reasons should also be paid and given the same protection as parental leave, stated the committee. It was suggested that parents take five to 15 days off work a year to look after, for example, a sick child or relative living with them.

The committee also discussed two other issues forming part of the Commission's action programme on women. On the first point raised – taxation – the advisory committee

'Relief services for the self-employed could be paid for in part from public funds'

suggested that the Commission prepares a memorandum on separate income tax treatment for women. The committee was reluctant to propose a directive in such a complicated area of national legislation.

A report on the revision of national protective legislation was also approved and a series of recommendations were made asking member states to abolish certain protective measures and extend others to both sexes. The Commission will use these recommendations to formulate its own opinion.

The advisory committee on equal opportunities for women and men was formally set up in December 1981, at the same time as the European Commission adopted its three-year action programme to promote equal opportunities for women.

However, the Commission had long before expressed the need for such a consultative body at a European level – a view shared by the European Parliament in its 1981 February Resolution on women and by the equality committees of the member states who met together in May 1980.

The Commission made the first move to establish the equal opportunities committee in December 1980. Representatives were invited to Brussels from the national equal opportunities commissions or commissions on women's employment, which in most countries have a semi-governmental status.

Within one year, the Commission gave this group a permanent advisory status. Its main task is to assist the Commission in the implementation of its action programme on women. The membership remains the same – two per country, from bodies specifically responsible for equal opportunities.



'Parental leave should be available to both parents...'



Wanted: policies to stop North and South from drifting apart

Led by the development commissioner, Edgar Pisani, the European Commission has embarked on the daunting task of reforming the European Community's development policies in two key areas: food aid and the Lomé Convention.

The Commission's initiative could not be more timely. The fact is that the continuing economic crisis in the West, and the sharp deterioration in East-West relations, have thrust into the background a third and no less alarming development: the almost casual way in which the rich, industrialised countries of the North, and the poor, developing countries of the South, are drifting apart.

The ministerial session of GATT last November failed to give a fresh impetus to North-South relations. Will UNCTAD succeed where GATT, a smaller forum and one which encourages a pragmatic, non-doctrinaire approach to North-South problems, failed? (see EUROFORUM).

It is difficult, indeed, to imagine a global initiative which could put a halt to the drift. Given the tensions within the West, notably over East-West relations, it is unlikely that the industrialised countries will agree, at present,

MALCOLM SUBHAN reviews new ideas for tackling a problem that won't go away – the plight of the world's poor and needy

on a common approach to the South. And while the South can be expected to adopt a common platform in preparation for UNCTAD this June, it will probably (judging by its preparations for previous such occasions) make unacceptable demands on the North.

The best hope for North-South relations lies, therefore, in a more limited initiative at the regional level. Hence the importance of the efforts of the European Commission to persuade the ten member states to re-define the Community's food aid programme and also adopt a fresh approach to the negotiations for a successor to the Lomé Convention. While the number of developing countries that would be directly affected is relatively large – over 60 in each case – the success of the Commission's efforts could also make all the

difference to the conduct of North-South relations.

This is because the European Commission is proposing nothing less than a political dialogue between the European Community and the beneficiaries of its food aid programme, in the one case, and the 63 African, Caribbean and Pacific countries that are signatories to the Lomé Convention in the other. The aim of the dialogue would be to see how best to meet their development needs; its focus, therefore, would be the developing countries themselves and, in the first instance, their policies rather than their projects.

What the Commission is proposing is a shift in the Community's viewpoint. Food aid, for example, would no longer be an end in itself – i.e. a means of reducing the Community's surplus stocks of cereals, milk powder, butter, etc. It would be integrated into local food strategies, with a view to helping eliminate the malnutrition endemic over a large part of the Third World.

The instruments which the Commission has devised to help developing countries would not be scrapped and replaced by others – this would be both time-consuming and unnecessary. What the Commission has pro-

Food aid could be integrated into local food strategies. Below: priority would be given to people rather than tools.

posed, in fact, is that the Community's existing instruments and practices be adjusted to the realities and requirements of development rather than the other way round, as at present. This means that the new Convention would be independent, as far as possible, of imported models, and would seek to bring about self-sustaining, self-reliant development.

The European Commission is proposing something of a quantum jump in its approach to the developing countries. However, it is not denying the heritage of the earlier Yaoundé and Lomé conventions; nor is it suggesting that the Commission hands over control of its development operations to the beneficiary countries. On the contrary, the Commission will fix its own priorities, which it will recommend to its prospective partners in development cooperation.

In the Commission's view, the Community should give priority to development rather than to equipment, i.e. to people rather than tools. The immediate priority would be agricultural development, with a view to seeking self-sufficiency in food production. More long-term operations would seek to re-estab-

development process. The Commission has also proposed that food aid be given in the framework of a contract which would run for several years to ensure continuity.

The Commission first outlined its views in a memorandum which it sent to the member states last September. This was essentially a political document, aimed at the Community's political leadership. Earlier this year the Commission sent the Council of Ministers two further documents. The first sets out its new

'Member states will need to open up their import markets even further'

approach to food aid; the second contains policy guidelines for the forthcoming negotiations with the ACP countries.

The Commission, in fact, has stressed the need to aim at self-sufficiency in food in the ACP countries also – because of shortfalls in food supplies, and a rising external debt, the majority of them are more economically dependent today than in colonial times. Unless they can be put on the road to self-sufficiency, increasing malnutrition and economic dependency will be the lot of most African countries in the Commission's view.

But hunger, and especially malnutrition, are endemic in large parts of the developing world. The FAO has put the number of hungry at 450 million, the World Bank at nearly one billion. As Mr Pisani has pointed out, even if all the development projects were successfully completed, food aid would still be necessary. The problem facing donor countries, therefore, is not whether to suppress food aid but how to eliminate its unfavourable effects.


After having carried out an in-depth analysis of its food aid programme, the Commission concluded that this could be done only by integrating food aid into development strategies. Food aid can be used to build up stocks, both as an insurance against short-falls and to prevent speculation. The counterpart funds arising from the local sales of food aid can be used to finance agricultural projects, to stabilise prices on the home market, and to encourage local processing of home-grown agricultural products.

If the Commission's proposals represent a much-needed change in viewpoint, they do not affect the contents of the aid programme. The EEC is currently supplying 1.1 million tonnes of cereals, including wheat, a year. This would continue, as cereals account for over half the food consumed in developing countries (in terms of calories and proteins). But the EEC is also supplying 150,000 tonnes of milk powder and 45,000 tonnes of butteroil.

The Commission seems reluctant to expand aid in dairy products, except in the context of projects such as India's 'Operation Milk

Flood' (in which milk powder and butteroil are used to prime the pump as it were). This is partly because of criticisms that the uncontrolled use of milk powder can result in a higher incidence of disease and malnutrition among infants. Dairy products would be used, therefore, to support nutritional programmes drawn up and implemented by such specialised agencies as UNICEF.

There is a danger that the EEC's concern for the poorest will be seen by governments in developing countries as an attempt to reduce its financial commitments. This is all the more likely at a time when European public opinion is more concerned with growing unemployment and falling living standards at home. The Commission has therefore stressed that food aid is only one of several development instruments. At the same time it has warned member states they will need to make more money available over a larger period, open up their markets even further to imports, and reinforce their efforts to stabilise commodity prices and export earnings.

The European Commission has shown the member states where their political responsibilities lie. It remains to be seen whether the Community's political leadership will follow the Commission's lead. If it does, the beneficiaries will be not only the ACP countries and those receiving food aid, but *all* developing countries. 

TWO-YEAR BAN ON SEAL PRODUCTS

The Community's environment ministers have agreed to adopt a directive which would ban the import into Community countries of certain harp and hooded seal pup products.

In a written parliamentary answer on 2 March, Environment under-secretary Giles Shaw said that the directive, adopted on conservation grounds, would provide for a two-year ban on these products from 1 October 'unless the council decides otherwise on the basis of a report and a proposal from the European Commission.' He added:

'This Community-wide action has already produced results. There will be no Norwegian cull of seal pups this year and any Canadian cull will be minimal. The implementation of the directive would give this action legislative force.'

Mr Shaw said that the West German government intended to convene in 1984 an international conference on the protection of the North Sea with particular reference to oil pollution. The European Commission and all states with a relevant interest would be invited to take part.



lish the biological, ecological and human bases for development. In practice, therefore, the EEC would seek to establish a dialogue covering policies, rather than simply discussing specific projects, as is the case at present.

This approach implies a long-term commitment by the EEC to its partners in the development dialogue. The Commission, not surprisingly, has proposed that the new Convention be of indefinite duration, as this would enable the EEC to extend its role from that of an 'aid donor' to a long-term partner in a continuing

A re-think on the politics of aid



31 October 1979: signing Lomé II.

In September this year the Community and sixty-four countries from Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific will sit down to start negotiations on Lomé III, the third Convention that is the showpiece of Community aid to the Third World.

Since 1975, when the first Convention was signed in the Togo capital on a wave of optimism and hope, the world economic situation has changed for the worse, and developing countries, particularly the poorest, have suffered a deterioration in trade and development, that has brought many near to bankruptcy.

Because Lomé had appeared to offer a different future, Community aid policies are now under attack, not only by countries of the Third World, but also by important agencies in Britain. In an abrasive new survey of the EEC and the Third World,* the Overseas Development Institute and the Sussex University-based Institute of Development Studies have produced an analysis of Community aid policies in which the words 'failure' and 'inadequacy' have been taken up by the British press. Yet a closer reading of the text reveals words of caution that suggest other influences besides those of the Community could be responsible for the disappointing results, not only of Community but of UN and bilateral aid over the last ten years.

No-one can deny that the results have been disappointing. Twenty-five years ago, as countries in Africa and Asia gained independence from their colonial masters, there was a

PEGGY CRANE finds some uncomfortable home-truths in a new survey of Community aid policies in the Third World

general genuine belief that, given sufficient money and technical aid, the new countries could bridge the gap from a peasant to an advanced industrial economy without the trauma experienced in the 19th and early 20th centuries by the developed countries of the North.

The dream, particularly in Africa, has proved a myth; but the sad corollary has been that too often, by seeking to concentrate on industrialisation, developing countries have neglected their agriculture, ignoring and despising the peasant and small farmer, so that they are no longer even able to feed themselves. In the last few years, therefore, donor countries, including the Community, have swung from prospects of industrialisation to much more emphasis on the need for concentration on agricultural and rural development, and the ability of developing countries to feed themselves.

Edgard Pisani, the European Commissioner responsible for development policies, has shown himself a strong advocate of such a strategy. But the political implications are far-reaching, both for Community donors and re-

ipients of aid; and it is not certain that his views will be endorsed by the ACP countries, whose main concern, if the contributors to the survey are correct, is a general loosening of direct-project aid from the Community and more money without ties.

But, however it is given, aid cannot be divorced from politics, and some of the more interesting chapters of the survey discuss differences in the political approach that govern American and Community aid. The Americans see aid – at least under President Reagan – in the global context of USA-Soviet confrontation, so that one-third of all foreign assistance has gone to Egypt and Israel alone!

The regionalist approach, preferred by the Community in general, takes a less simplistic view, appreciating that the conflicts in the Third World may have indigenous causes that are outside the super-power framework, and in which the Community has no obligation to meddle. Its aid distribution, therefore, is more impartial, adding to the 'Atlantic rift' already evident in the uneasy relations that have marked the American Administration and the Community over such vital policy questions as the handling of the Soviet Union and peace measures in the Middle East.

It would be naive to pretend, of course, that Community aid is bereft of politics. The bulk of it takes the form of bilateral agreements between member countries and recipients, and much of this has an historical or political content. The Commission would like to see the present 10 to 15 per cent Community share increased; but Denmark, for one, is strongly opposed to such an expansion, and several other partners are lukewarm.

Some countries outside Lomé resent the concentration of Community aid in Africa – though 22 of the 35 poorest countries are found there – and would like to see the Convention abolished. Many of the ACP states, too, are frustrated at their failure to 'take off' economically, and tend to blame Community lack of generosity for their ills.

There are flaws in the Lomé Convention – a contribution on Stabex shows how good intentions can go astray. But part of its alleged failure rests with the developing countries themselves – a situation which a few are now prepared to admit. But until the world moves out of economic recession and there is a boost in trade, aid can only be a palliative to improving their lot.

There are twenty-five contributors to the IDS/ODI survey, several of whom take a decidedly sceptical view of aid in general and of Community aid in particular. It is a useful anti-dote to some of the more high-flown claims that are made about aid to the Third World, but it is hardly helpful as to what to do next.

In this context Mr Pisani's intellectually forthright attempt to direct Community aid into more limited practical channels is a gleam of light. He deserves support. Whether he will get it remains to be seen. £

**The Atlantic Rift*. Hodder and Stoughton, £6.95

EURO FORUM

Third World problems for discussion at Belgrade

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, which opens in Belgrade on 6 June, will be among the most important international conferences scheduled for this year. With some 165 countries taking part, the sixth session of UNCTAD will certainly be the year's largest and most representative international gathering, on a par with the annual session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

But the importance of UNCTAD-VI is not a matter of numbers alone; it will be the key element in 1983 in the wide-ranging dialogue between industrialised and developing countries, between North and South. This is recognised by all industrialised countries. Even so, none attaches as much importance, both political and economic, to UNCTAD-VI as the European Community.

This is not very surprising. The EEC has close, and in many cases preferential, links with the majority of developing countries that make up the oddly named Group of 77. It is also the largest market for their exports and the largest donor of financial aid – one-third of the total, although it accounts for only 25 per cent of the total CDP of all donor countries.

For the Community, UNCTAD clearly is an important element in its external policy. The success or failure of the Belgrade Conference will make itself felt, therefore, on the Community's development policy as it is expressed through the Lomé Convention, its Mediterranean policy, its cooperation agreements with such major Third World countries as Brazil, India and the five-nation Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

'The EEC remains attached to the case-by-case principle in dealing with debtor nations'

In keeping with a tradition going back to UNCTAD-II, the Group of 77 met in ministerial session in Buenos Aires in early April to define its negotiating strategy for UNCTAD-VI and to frame a number of concrete proposals to be put forward in the Yugoslav capital. In a 'message for dialogue and consensus,' which the ministers issued at the end of their 5-day meeting, they noted they would be going to Belgrade 'in a spirit of understanding and cooperation and urged the industrialised countries to take part in UNCTAD-VI in the same spirit.'

But in the last year or two the Third World's financial problems have assumed dramatic proportions, to the point where the Group of 77 has felt obliged to propose a series of 'immediate measures' with a view to off-setting the sharp fall in the inflow of foreign

funds. According to the UNCTAD secretariat, the current account deficits of the non-oil developing countries rose to \$70 billion in 1981, compared with \$30 billion in 1978 and \$10 billion in 1972. The Community clearly believes that funds should be made available to help them meet their balance of payments deficits. To this end it is pressing for international financial institutions, such as the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, to be given the additional resources they require. The Community remains attached to the target for official development assistance – 0.7 per cent of GNP. Official aid flows have been increased in real terms, given their importance for the poorer developing countries. But even while recognising the need for more financial aid, the ▶

ON THE LINE

In a report to the European Parliament, a German MEP, Meinhoff Mertens, has drawn attention to the threatened demise of bogs.

'Bogs of the type that still occur in many different forms in Ireland today,' he says, 'were once common throughout north-west Europe. They have now totally disappeared in north-west Germany and Holland as a result of increasing industrial and agricultural development and have almost disappeared in south-west Scandinavia and England.'

'Ireland is therefore the only country in north-west Europe where this very specific ecosystem still exists in various forms,' goes on Mr Mertens. 'It may be claimed without exaggeration that Ireland is the only country, not only in Europe but in the entire world, where such a wide variety of raised bogs occurs in such a small area.'

'In particular, the blanket bogs are unique, surviving only in Western Ireland and Western Scotland. Comparable examples of specific bog types are found in North America but they are not identical.'

'Reputable scientists and conservationists calculate that the unique ecosystems of the Irish bogs will vanish completely in the next five years unless effective preventive measures are taken very soon.'

Mr Mertens' resolution, asking whether the EEC might purchase these bogs, was adopted, although some Irish MEPs felt unable to give it their support.

For the Commission, Karl-Heinz Narjes undertook to see what can be done.

EEC has challenged the view that more money automatically ensures economic development. The Community, in other words, believes that greater attention must be paid to the economic policies pursued by beneficiary countries.

With the debt service payments of developing countries now running in excess of \$106 billion a year, according to the Group of 77, the problem of debt relief has become urgent. The developing countries in fact want the industrialised countries and multilateral financial institutions to adopt a number of general measures, including the consolidation of certain debt service payments. But the EEC, like other industrialised countries, remains attached to the case-by-case principle, with the debtor country dealing with creditor 'clubs,' such as the Paris Club.

The Community's member states and the European Commission clearly intend approaching UNCTAD-VI in a positive way. The EEC's Commissioner for development policy, Edgard Pisani, said as much towards the end of March. The Commission would work towards a successful outcome. While it had ideas of its own it was ready to go down new paths.

But unlike UNCTAD-II, which paved the way for the generalised system of preferences, under which manufactures from developing countries can be imported duty free into the markets of the industrialised countries which adopted the Integrated Programme of Commodities and led to the Common Fund, UNCTAD-VI is unlikely to result in a major decision of this kind. It could, however, result in a package containing a variety of measures.

The Community, in any case, as Mr Pisani pointed out, would work very hard to ensure that the Belgrade Conference would set in motion a process culminating in concrete results in time. Both developed and developing countries seem to agree, in fact, that a three-week conference cannot be expected to find solutions to what is perhaps the severest economic crisis facing the international community.

The EEC, for its part, has tried to approach as constructively as possible the three key issues on the Conference agenda: commodities, trade in goods and services, and financial and monetary issues. The three are obviously inter-related. And it is the great merit of UNCTAD-VI that, since 1964, it has obliged both developed and developing countries to view them globally.

As regards commodities, the Community has been closely associated from the very beginning with UNCTAD's attempts to ensure developing countries

'The Third World's financial problems have assumed dramatic proportions'

a fair return for their exports. The fact is that, since it was founded in 1958, the EEC has been concerned with safeguarding the export earnings of the developing countries associated with it. Partly because of the failure of the international community to ensure stable, remunerative prices for commodities exported by the Third World, the EEC invented a mechanism of its own, which it wrote into the first Lomé Convention.

The main thrust of UNCTAD has al-

ways been in the area of trade, whether in raw materials or manufactures. In other words, from its inception it has emphasised the role of international trade in economic growth, and at times has appeared to identify trade expansion and diversification with development. The proposals drafted by the Group of 77 in Buenos Aires inevitably deal with international trade in goods and services at some length.

But this is one issue on which developed and developing countries may find it very difficult to reach even a consensus. If so it will be partly because of the exceptionally one-sided nature of the proposals drawn up by the developing countries, with their implication that protectionism in industrialised countries is both pervasive and wide-ranging.

How the franc and the mark made it up in Brussels

Most people would agree that it was the prelude that was the most important part of the European Council meeting in Brussels on 21 and 22 March. Three hours before the meeting of European Heads of Government, EEC finance ministers agreed on new monetary parities under the European Monetary System to restore peace on the exchange markets, to put an end to fluctuating exchange rates and speculation and to establish a new basis for economic convergence and consequently a more cohesive European Community.

What did the European Council have to do with an event that had already taken place by the time they met? It was the presence of the Heads of Government in Brussels that day which was partially responsible for the outcome of the meeting. They had instructed their finance ministers to conclude negotiations and decide parities before midday, even if it meant making certain concessions, in order for the Council to go ahead in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

As a result all the member states, and in particular France and the Federal Republic of Germany, consented to make a considerable effort, even to the point of going beyond the concessionary limits they had set the day before, to save the EMS from breaking up. There was very little doubt that the concessions represented a choice: a choice between European solidarity and a united Community, versus a strongly opposing force.

Taking into account what was at

'The German Chancellor and the French President decided to choose Europe'

stake, it was a choice that could not be left to the finance ministers on their own. It was the German Chancellor in Bonn and the French President in Paris who decided to choose Europe.

The story began with the Ten's decision to go ahead with a seventh realignment of the European Monetary System's monetary parities. Realignments are not contrary to the spirit of the EMS. In fact, they become essential when official parities no longer correspond to the real value of a currency.

The EMS is a means of avoiding the devaluations and revaluations caused by speculation, or by countries trying to artificially boost the competitiveness of

their exports by undervaluing their currency. Participating countries are not allowed to decide the parity of their own currency themselves; but when economic change causes a country to break away from the others, a realignment is not only allowed, it is imposed. As long as inflation rates continue to differ between member states, balance of payments situations will vary and regular realignments will continue to be necessary.

But what was so difficult about it this time? The size of the gap that had emerged between the strongest currency, the German mark, and the weaker currencies, the Irish punt, the Italian lira and the French franc were more or less admitted from the start to be of the order of about 8 per cent or 9 per cent. All that was left to decide was what was to be done with the other currencies and, perhaps above all, whether the mark parity would have to be shifted upwards or the parities of the weaker currencies shifted downwards.

At first glance the result would appear to be identical. The same distance would appear to be covered either way. But in reality it is very far from being the same thing, for at least three reasons. Firstly, the revaluation or devaluation of a currency also reflects on the dollar and other third currencies. Secondly, the effect on agriculture is different. And thirdly, considerations of prestige and public opinion also play an important role.

France, basing its view on existing EMS rules, pointed out that the DM has strayed upwards from its central rate much more than other currencies have shifted down from theirs. As far as the French were concerned, there was therefore only a 'mark problem', that had to be solved by means of a major revaluation. France also drew attention to the fact that her trade balance with the rest of the world outside the EEC was in equilibrium – which, she said, showed that the franc parity was correct. Her deficit was due to intra-Community relations, essentially with the Federal Republic, which confirmed the undervalued nature of the German currency, claimed the French.

The German government took a very different view. They said that they had adhered to economic policies agreed in advance with their Community partners, and has succeeded in controlling inflation and radically improving their balance of payments. It would be absurd, they argued, to treat this as a fault and to 'penalise' a country for carrying out Community policies.

In principle no compromise was possible. But other considerations came into



Eye-to-eye in Brussels: finance ministers Stoltenberg and Delors.

play. The new German Chancellor wanted to show how pro-European he was, and how much he wanted to strengthen the Community. In addition, the Federal Republic has a logical interest in preserving the EMS, which allows Germany to practice about half her foreign trade in predictable, if not totally stable, monetary conditions and to guarantee the continued existence of open markets around her borders.

The French President could have also, theoretically, chosen to withdraw the French franc from the EMS to let it float freely on the international exchange markets. This would have meant a choice between the EMS and France turning her back on years of shared European economic policies and European integration. It did not want to. The two basic instincts to do a deal led the Federal Republic to compromise by accepting a 5.5 per cent revaluation of the DM and a 2.5 per cent devaluation of the French franc, in exchange for France agreeing to bring its economy into line, so that future economic indicators will be less divergent. All in all, it was a fundamental political choice in support of a united Europe.

Immediately after the agreement the European Council had practically nothing to add to what had already been

'Were the Heads of Government overdoing the diplomacy?'

said. It took advantage of the good feeling generated by the deal, to define new objectives and to confirm those agreed at the last meeting in December 1982 in Copenhagen. It also set out general guidelines for future action and asked the Community institutions to prepare material for vital decisions, which will have to be taken at the next key session of 1983 at the beginning of June in Stuttgart.

The Heads of Government were so concerned about not upsetting the atmosphere of *détente* resulting from the monetary agreement, that they almost entirely avoided issues on which opinions differed. Some observers wondered if they were not overdoing the diplomacy, in leaving unanswered questions put to them by the Agriculture Council, aimed at defining the conditions for Spain's membership of the Community.

It is difficult to assess the effectiveness or importance of such a transitional Council, placed as it was between the monetary decisions and the Stuttgart meeting. The real value of the Brussels Council will almost certainly emerge from the decisions reached in Stuttgart. Among the topics currently being prepared by the Community institutions for decisions by the Heads of Government are future Community finance, essential aspects of negotiations for Spanish and Portuguese membership, additional measures to strengthen the internal market, the extension of research policy and the start of a new policy of industrial innovation. Some programme ... if they can agree on it.

FEDERICO RICCARDI

A fresh attempt to get the Mediterranean economies moving

The Mediterranean basin has a history, a civilisation and a culture of its own, with specific occupations and products. The EEC's Mediterranean regions – Southern and Central Italy, Greece, Corsica and the South of France have special problems, arising from a level of economic development below that of the Community average. The 'integrated Mediterranean programmes' which the Commission has proposed after several years of analysis and study are the Community's most ambitious attempt to date on how to provide an overall response to the problems.

The Commission has certainly been aware of the Mediterranean regions' problems for some time and measures to help the area under the Community's regional, social and agricultural policies have existed for many years. But their impact has been limited, if not non-existent. The development gap between most of the Italian Mezzogiorno and Corsica (Greece was not yet a member) on the one hand and the Community's central regions has grown larger rather than smaller. As Commission Vice-President Lorenzo Natali has observed, 'What is even more worrying is that this deterioration has occurred during high growth periods, the legendary Sixties and early Seventies. The phenomenon could get considerably worse in the course of the current economic crisis.'

Commission experts see the problem in essentially pragmatic terms. The Mediterranean regions are generally characterised by the weakness of their industrial base, high unemployment, low activity rates and a strong dependence on unskilled traditional agriculture. Agriculture suffers from a variety of major handicaps, including natural phenomena and underdeveloped production, processing and marketing structures.

The region's fishing industry is equally handicapped, being largely obsolete and lacking both efficient processing and marketing structures and balanced resource management. The tertiary sector also suffers from a basic lack of administrative infrastructures. In addition the population of inland areas is both declining and ageing, bringing about a gradual deterioration of the socio-economic fabric, which threatens to become irreversible.

The approach taken to combat the problem up to now has proven to be

'The Commission sees the problem in essentially pragmatic terms'

largely ineffectual. 'Experience has shown us the limitations of an approach based on sectorial measures, which are not coordinated in an overall development plan,' says the Commission. This short sentence effectively condemns the so-called 'development poles' theory, with which Italy has tried to develop parts of the Mezzogiorno.

The idea is that a large industrial plant, for example a steel works or a petrochemical complex, can create a large number of secondary jobs around it, breathing new economic life into a whole area. In reality, the situation turned out very differently. Industrial giants created artificially without the economic environment to absorb them have become 'Cathedrals in the Desert' and have withered and died.

Ideas about how to 'unstick' the economies of underdeveloped regions have changed radically over the years. Nobody in the Western world now thinks that a new steel plant or a petrochemicals factory would make them rich. Most of the developing countries can make the stuff cheaper and today most steel industries cost more than they make, anyway. On the other hand, well-run agriculture and an efficient agri-business sector for food processing, coupled with parallel development of tourism, crafts and services can really create an economic environment that will provide improved living standards.

Instead of destroying the sublime orange groves that border the ancient

bays and inlets of history, to build a steel plant, in a place where there is no iron ore, no coal and no service industries it is surely preferable and more logical to keep the oranges and lemons and to build small factories to produce jam (which currently comes from the United Kingdom) or orange juice (which currently comes from the Netherlands). Instead of building new coal-fired power stations in warm regions, why not use the sun to develop solar energy and use windmills or small hydro-electric power plants to supply local needs?

This is the sort of thinking behind the Commission's integrated Mediterranean programmes. They are 'integrated' in the sense that they will consist of coordinated and complementary measures operating simultaneously in the agricultural sector, which remains fundamental to the development of the region, and in other sectors, with the aim of creating jobs and increasing incomes. The proposed measures, added to existing national and Community programmes should have a multiplier effect. They cover agricultural production, small and medium-sized industry, crafts, tourism, forestry, fishing, renewable energies and training and are designed to change the economic fabric of the region at grass roots level.

The financial contribution asked of the Community is considerable: 6.6 billion ECUs over six years. This would only be possible if two things were to happen. Firstly the Community's 'own resources' would have to be increased considerably, because the scheme would not be feasible under the existing budget constraints. And secondly, the three member states concerned, Italy, Greece and France, would have to make a comparable contribution at national level, as the Community could not shoulder the whole financial burden on its own.

The Commission's role up to now has been to set the initiative in motion. If the member states can reach political and financial agreement on the plan, 1985 should be the starting date for what is an ambitious attempt to modernise and restructure a huge, homogeneous region of the Community. The plan would allow an estimated 50 million Europeans (33 million in Italy, 12 million in France and 6 million in Greece) to improve their living standards to the Community average, by creating local businesses so that they no longer have to emigrate to find work, whilst at the same time largely preserving their traditional lifestyle and culture, together with the environment in an area which contains some of Europe's richest historical and cultural heritage.

F.R.



Alarm signals for Europe's woodland: Gaston Thorn in the Black Forest.

If you go down to the woods today...

When Commission President Gaston Thorn visited the Black Forest in March, he saw for himself how Europe's forests are visibly dying. It was an 'alarm signal', he said, pointing to lack of attention to atmospheric pollution – not just in Germany, but in all Community countries.

In the Federal Republic, according to the ministry of agriculture in Bonn, an estimated 8 per cent of German forests have already been severely damaged. Trees are dying, essentially because of dirty air. A recent study cited the now notorious 'acid rain', which contains sulphur dioxide, heavy metals and photo-oxidants, as one of the main causes. Because of it, forests – and in particular the fir and spruce trees found in the Federal Republic of Germany – have been dying in large numbers.

The European Commission has been concerned about the issue for several years and a variety of measures aimed at combating pollution have been adopted. They include a 1977 directive on limiting the amount of sulphur in

fuel oil, and two rulings in 1980 and 1982 designed to limit the amount of sulphur dioxide and lead released into the atmosphere. Since 1982 member states have regularly exchanged information on air pollution.

But the problem has not yet been solved. Europe must substantially reduce emissions of toxic substances from a variety of different sources, including power stations, industrial firing plant, domestic heating and transport – so the Commission has to keep on introducing measures to strengthen existing standards.

After his visit to the Black Forest, Gaston Thorn emphasised that measures could only be effective if they were taken in an international context. 'The

real solution lies in active cooperation between the countries of Eastern and Western Europe, as well as between Community member states,' he said. The first step in this direction was the ratification of the Geneva Convention on cross-frontier atmospheric pollution by the Community and the member states in July 1982, which came into operation on March 16th 1983.

However, damage caused by chemicals, notably in the lower Rhineland, is not the only threat to Europe's forests. Biological damage is being caused by animals, insects, bacteria and fungi. Fires, too, have become a major problem: Every year fires devastate on average an estimated 110,000 hectares of forest in the Community's Mediterranean regions alone. In 1982 dry weather in Southern Italy, France and Greece led to a rash of fires. In the French department of Var alone, 10,000 hectares of forests were destroyed in just three days. During the months of August and September, fires also destroyed more than 4,000 hectares of wooded areas near Athens.

The best way to fight forest fires, according to the European Commission, is through preventive action. It has called for an improved system of public information to reduce the risk of fires caused by careless or irresponsible behaviour. In addition to preventive measures aimed at the public in general, future Community action should also include closer cooperation between fire-fighting services, involving specialised training and a sharing of resources and methods. The Commission also wants member states to impose heavier penalties against arsonists.

Up to now Community action has been very limited, considering the size of the problem. But the Commission is now planning a coordinated action programme aimed at saving, and capitalising on, Europe's wealth of forests. For forests are important not just in terms of the environment and leisure pursuits – they are also a major economic resource. Says Gaston Thorn: 'The Commission cannot remain indifferent to the destruction of forests, primarily because of the economic importance of preserving them for Europe's wood processing industry. An estimated 1.4 million workers – almost as many as in the car, chemical and textile industries – rely on the timber sector for a living.'

The European Community is currently the world's second biggest consumer of wood and wood products. But, despite its own extensive forests, it remains a net wood-product importer. It makes economic, as well as ecological, sense not to let our forests and woodlands die.

CHRIS LOM

Sorting out trade relations with Japan

What of the commercial 'peace' with Japan? Now that it is fairly well established, we hear little more about it. Yet it represents a real success for the Community and its institutions. And it has given relief from the state of tension between the Community and Japan which prevailed over the last few years.

To realise the significance of this event, it is necessary to go back a few months, to the time when proposals were being made for Europe to take restrictive measures against Japanese products. Perhaps it is necessary to go even further back, and to recall that, for many years, the EEC as a whole and some individual governments protested, objected and negotiated in an effort to re-establish a more favourable balance of trade with Japan; and that each time the new trade figures were published, they declared, 'This is too much! We have now reached the limits of tolerance. If the deficit does not decrease rapidly, we will take last desperate measures.'

However, 'the limits of tolerance' rose from year to year. In 1963, the EEC deficit was only 8 million dollars. Between 1963 and 1970 it rose slowly to 500 million. Then the increase really gathered pace — 2 billion, 4 billion, 6 billion, then 8, then 10, and finally 12 billion. Each time a new threshold was reached, negotiations were started, missions from individual member states went to Tokyo and came back with partial and provisional results, but without affecting the basic trend in the slightest. This basic trend can be summed up as the growing invasion of Japanese products on the EEC market, and the difficulty or near-impossibility for European products to penetrate the Japanese market.

The Commission presented analyses, made suggestions and indicated the route to take; but its actions could not at that time be really effective since the member states (or at least some of them) were still not convinced of the usefulness and indeed the necessity of giving the Commission a proper mandate to negotiate on behalf of all of them. Several governments thought that they would obtain more results from bilateral, intergovernmental negotiations with Japan, and they continued with this course of action without realising how easy it was for the Japanese government to play the national interests of EEC countries off against one another

Each time the new trade figures were published, governments declared: 'This is too much!'

and to remain masters of the situation by making small concessions here and there.

The Japanese ministers listened politely to the Commission but always at the end of the meeting asked, 'Do you have the authority to commit the EEC and the member states to your suggestions?' No, the Commission did not yet have this authority, as it did not have an explicit mandate from the EEC Council; and so everything continued as before.

Not until 1982 did the ten governments agree to ask the Commission to

make representation to the Japanese authorities to give tangible assurances that they would reduce their exports of 'sensitive' products to the EEC. Certainly, faced with such a steep rise in certain Japanese exports, individual governments might have been tempted to take national restrictive measures through unilateral decisions, but everybody was aware of the danger of such steps.

Unilateral restrictions can provoke counter-measures, and thus begin a process of escalation which would extend to include a wider and wider range of products and an increasing number of countries, thus putting world free trade at risk, this free trade having already been partially restricted by the effects of unemployment and economic recession. The EEC itself would have everything to fear from the rise of protectionism, since it depends on its exports just as much as on its imports.

It was therefore necessary to look upon the possibility of introducing restrictions on Japanese products as an ultimate threat, only to be used as a last resort, and to seek first to arrive at an overall agreement in order to establish 'commercial peace'.

The necessity of establishing this 'peace' on an EEC level, and not just a national level, becomes obvious when we consider the nature of the EEC, since to limit imports such as video recorders into one member state would not be of much use when they could be imported freely through other member states.

The Commission's task was not easy — commercial peace required not only difficult negotiations on the right of access for Japanese exports to the EEC, but



'Frenetic activity' on import quotas: an earlier delegation to Brussels.

Restrictions were looked on only as a last resort

also a package of measures covering access to the Japanese market for EEC products, industrial and technological co-operation, technology transfers and access to the financial market. All this had to be achieved without compromising the basic principles of competition and free-trade.

In all, the negotiations took nearly a year. In order to create an appropriate atmosphere, and to convince the Japanese authorities of the need to reach a compromise, the Commission, with the support of the Council, took many urgent steps such as lodging a complaint with GATT, accusing Japan of maintaining obstacles to the entry of European products on the Japanese market.

This accusation was not new, and had in the past been the subject of many memoranda and diplomatic notes from the European countries. What was new was the official complaint to GATT, the body which sees that the rules of international trade are observed. This step meant in practice that Japan was obliged to explain to the international community the difficulties encountered by foreign firms in penetrating the Japanese market. However, the matter went further than this. At the request of two European firms who had furnished sufficient proof of their claims – Philips and Grundig, supported by a certain number of other large firms – the Commission opened an anti-dumping procedure against some Japanese manufacturers of video recorders.

This step caused some consternation in Tokyo, since it was tantamount to accusing very large firms of unethical commercial behaviour, an accusation which, if the evidence offered is sound, inevitably threatens to call in question the 'trade mark' of the country concerned. But the Commission also contested several unilateral measures taken by European governments, such as the decision of the French government to channel all imports of video recorders through a single customs post, at Poitiers.

Results were achieved step by step. First, Japan started to take a series of measures giving wider access to its markets, such as reducing certain customs duties beyond what was required by its legal obligations, increasing some quotas and simplifying the inspection procedures for tests and certificates of conformity. While

this was happening, EEC missions to Tokyo and Japanese missions to Brussels examined the possibilities for co-operation. The decisive phase was not however reached until December 1982, when the Council gave the Commission the task of getting Japan to make an effective and definite reduction in its exports of a certain number of products.

In the first weeks of 1983, the activity became frenetic: Europe seemed to be full of Japanese delegations, and vice versa. They had to act quickly, as the Council had asked for the results of the negotiations to be submitted before the end of February. Should the negotiations fail, several member states – foremost among them France and the United Kingdom – had resolved to take unilateral restrictive measures, despite the risks involved.

At the beginning of February, Vice-Presidents Davignon and Haferkamp themselves travelled to Tokyo for general political discussions with the Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister, and also for detailed discussions with the industry ministries. Negotiations continued throughout Saturday and over Sunday morning, finally achieving success. The results were considered to be satisfactory not just by the Commission, but also by the Council, which at the end of February noted the assurances given by Japan and asked the Commission to follow and monitor the implementation of the agreements and to draw first conclusions in July on the results achieved.

Following the successful outcome of these negotiations – and despite the dramatic turn which they took at certain moments, when direct confrontation and the breaking off of negotiations were narrowly avoided – we can draw a certain number of conclusions. First, when the EEC negotiates together as a whole, and gives the Commission the responsibility and power to act on behalf of all the members, it wields a negotiating leverage greater than that available to individual member states, obtaining results which they have sought in vain for many years to achieve.

Secondly, the new Japanese government under Mr Nakasone has shown itself to be fully aware of its international responsibilities. The time has finally passed when Japan was only concerned to conquer foreign markets through the extraordinary vitality and dynamism of its industry. It is now Japan's intention to participate on the same footing as the EEC and the USA in the smooth operation of the world economy, to play a full role in an open and reciprocal trading system, to play an equal part in aiding the Third World – in short, to exercise responsibility commensurate with its economic power and technical development.

What are the best ways of achieving commercial peace?

And thirdly, co-operation between the great commercial and industrial powers is the only really effective way of proceeding. Whatever the difficulties of the moment, dialogue must never be abandoned, so that mutual understanding and comprehension of the motives of others can always be achieved.

It remains to be seen what are the best ways of achieving 'commercial peace' between the EEC and Japan. As from 1 April, Japan reduces customs duties on a series of industrial products, in particular tractors and other industrial machinery, and also on agricultural and food products such as chocolates, biscuits, brandy, cigarettes etc, of which the EEC exports large quantities. Also, a series of procedures will be simplified in order to make it easier for European products to enter the Japanese market. Japan is to continue to open up its market and to fulfil its obligations in maintaining an open trading system.

These reductions will take different forms, but will affect ten main products: saloon cars, light commercial vehicles (vans), motor cycles, video recorders, colour television tubes, colour televisions, numerically controlled machine tools and machining centres, lifts, hi-fi equipment and quartz watches. The methods and degrees of reduction will vary and will be adapted to meet the requirements of each product. The length of time for which the reductions are to be applied will vary from one year to two years.

The significance of these measures is in every case the same, namely that Japan has undertaken not to flood the market, to respect certain well-defined quantitative limits for certain products; and, in the case of video recorders, to respect a 'price clause' in order to counter the accusations of dumping mentioned above. These measures are to take effect on 18 March 1983.

If they do not succeed in this, the moderation will not have served anything, since in one or at the most two or three years' time free competition will be completely restored. The Commission has no

The Commission has no intention of shielding European industries from competition, but rather to give it a brief period of calm in which to catch up in its development and deal with economic difficulties and so enable it to take up the 'Japanese challenge'.

That is a lot to achieve, but it means no more than that. In particular, it should not be seen as a change in policy in favour of protectionism.

Hands up for sex education

MEP Maria Lisa Cinciari Rodano wants to know what the Commission is doing about an interdisciplinary research programme on conception, contraception, and sex education.

Parliament passed a measure in February 1981 asking for such a programme to extend knowledge of conception and contraception methods for men and women, with an emphasis on natural birth-control methods. Mrs Cinciari Rodano wants to know what progress has been made.

She also wants the Commission to report on any progress being made in the co-ordination and encouragement of experiments and surveys on sex education for young people and adults, as well as counselling on marital and family problems.

Making water work

A European Water Institute designed to train personnel in water management and protection methods has opened in the Italian city of Varese.

Aimed at adding a European dimension to the training, the Institute will offer intensive short courses, research seminars to bring specialists up-to-date with recent developments, European workshops to compare teaching methods and adapt them to existing needs and a variety of conferences and symposia.

The scheme, which has won the backing of the European Commission, will also become a major centre for documentation and information on water resource management training.

Although similar training centres already exist elsewhere in Europe, up to now they have primarily dealt with general issues outside Europe and in particular in the Third World.

The Varese Institute will fill an important gap by specialising in European environmental legislation at national and Community level. In particular, it will concentrate on the application of Community directives.

The service will be particularly valuable to Spain and Portugal, who will have to introduce Community environmental directives on water management and protection, when they join the Community.

Cleaning up the North Sea

The European Parliament has called for urgent measures to end growing oil pollution in the North Sea.

Improved surveillance of maritime traffic, including aerial surveillance, more stringent port controls, monitoring of oil and gas drilling platforms, the incorporation of black boxes on ships carrying dangerous cargoes, and the introduction of automatic data recorders for ships voyages, are some of the measures proposed by the MEPs.

The parliamentary resolution follows the publication of a report by the Heligoland Bird Observatory showing a disturbing increase in the number of birds killed by oil pollution last winter.

Two Socialist MEPs have reacted even more strongly to the report, calling for a Convention on the protection of the North Sea. Hans Seeler and Lieselotte Seibel-Emmerling want a ban on the dumping of any sort of wastes in the North Sea, the creation of joint monitoring centres and a North Sea police force empowered to take direct action against polluters, a set of agreed rules on sanctions and liabilities, and joint machinery to deal promptly and effectively with ecological disasters.

Plea for the Baha'is

The European Parliament has condemned the persecution of members of the Baha'i faith in Iran, and has called on the Iranian government to suspend death sentences passed on twenty-four members of the faith.

To date, over 120 Baha'is have been executed in Iran, because they were not prepared to renounce their faith, according to the European Parliament. An additional twenty-two out of ninety arrested in the city of Shiraz are awaiting execution, following the confirmation of their sentences by the Iranian Supreme Court. Three others condemned in September have already been executed and two more are awaiting a similar fate.

Baha'is form the largest religious minority in Iran, with an estimated 300,000 members but the religion is not recognised in the Iranian constitution as being 'worthy of protection.'



A Dictionary of the European Communities. By Geoffrey and Brenda Parker. Butterworths, £6.00

This deceptively slim volume encapsulates much basic and useful information. Entries cover all aspects of Community affairs, past and present, and include brief biographies of the more prominent individuals.

European Yearbook 1982. Published by La Navicella, Rome. 80,000 liras (about £38). 2 Vols.

The second edition of this comprehensive, multilingual work of reference includes new sections on EEC organisation and institutions as well as biographies of all members of the European Parliament and senior officials of the different institutions. Volume II deals with a number of important policy areas, from agriculture to cultural resources.

Politics and the European Community. By Anne Daltrop. Longman, £2.75

This handy guide starts with a summary of the Community's development from earliest years. The institutions and main policies are well handled in separate short sections. This book will be very useful to anyone seeking a comprehensive overview of the European Community in a concise form.

Political Rights for European Citizens. By Guido van den Bergh. Gower Publications, £15.00

If the EEC is gradually to be transformed into a political union, the question of European citizenship and the political, social and economic rights of the citizens assumes prime importance. This study, by a distinguished member of the European University Institute in Florence, concentrates on the right to vote and to stand in direct elections to the European Parliament.

Why quitting Europe may not be too hard on Greenland

Greenland's decision to leave the European Community, as expressed during the referendum of February 1982, was accepted by Community authorities with good grace, though not without regret.

That the decision took place at a precarious time for a weak economy was pointed out by European Commissioner Richard Burke in a live broadcast during a visit to Greenland last September. 'A harsh wind is blowing in international economic relations,' the Commissioner said, while stressing the considerable protection the Community offers, in particular, for the more fragile. 'But we respect your decisions,' he was to add, 'and we will do what we can to help you on the difficult road you have chosen.'

This promise has been honoured by the Commission. It proposed to the Council of Ministers last February that Greenland should be granted the status of OCT (Overseas Countries and Territories). This status is usually conferred by the Community on member states' overseas territories which have not yet achieved full independence. It offers virtually free access to the Community markets, as well as substantial financial assistance.

In the case of Greenland it would also settle problems in relation to fisheries – the island's single biggest economic activity – by offering a free outlet on EEC markets for fish products from Greenland and maintaining access to rich Greenlandic fishing grounds for EEC fishermen.

The Commission's opinion in favour of OCT status is in line with the request addressed to Community authorities by the Danish government after the Greenland referendum. While the 1979 Home Rule Act has conferred a large measure of independence on the people of Greenland, a number of policies, including foreign policy and relations with the EEC, are carried out in co-operation with the Danish government.

However, some arguments could be put forward against the granting of OCT status – usually the privilege of poor developing countries – to Greenland. At nearly 6,000 ECUs, the per capita GNP in Greenland is higher than that of Ireland, Italy and Greece. It is more than five times higher than that of the average OCT country. Nevertheless, this factor does not appear to reflect accurately the special economic situation of a country where climatic and geographical conditions are particularly harsh, and where substantial yearly

An offer of special status could mean free access to EEC markets for the country that last year voted itself out of the Ten

transfers from central government in Copenhagen are required to maintain basic infrastructure requirements.

In fact, Greenland's most outstanding feature is its size – 2,175,600 square km. It is the world's largest island. But only small areas are habitable, and offer the possibility for economic activities to the island's fifty thousand inhabitants. There is virtually no industrialisation and hardly a start has been made with the exploitation of mineral resources, among which uranium reserves offer promising prospects to the Community.

Fishing is, by and large, the main economic resource. In combination with processing activities it employs a quarter of the active population. The fishing industry is worth nearly 100 million ECUs – more than 40 per cent of GNP – and 80 per cent of production is exported, mostly to EEC countries. The industry has expanded rapidly in recent years. Thanks to Community assistance and EEC policies aimed at protecting local fishing interests, the fleet grew by 55 per cent and exports by 50 per cent in the years 1978-80.

Of a more political nature is the objection against OCT status, based on the fear of creating a precedent. Other regions of the Community might invoke the Greenland example, it is argued by some, for breaking away from the EEC while maintaining a maximum of benefits.

Legal opinion, however, is in no doubt that OCT status in itself excludes any territories inside Europe. Greenland, although a part of an EEC member state, is geographically outside Europe. Moreover, the Danish government, as the authority responsible for Greenland, has itself formally requested this status.

'The world's largest island exports 80 per cent of its staple product – fish'

Only the government of a member state or the Commission can submit to the council such a request, which automatically involves amendments of the EEC Treaty and ratification by all national parliaments.

These and other arguments will have to be carefully weighed by the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers before a final decision will be taken. It is the hope of the Danish government that the debate can be concluded by the end of June.

Economic considerations in reaching a decision have also a part to play. If granted, the OCT status of Greenland would involve a financial protocol which would impinge on the existing global financial arrangements for such regions. On the other hand, continued access to Greenland's abundant fishing grounds would net the EEC fishing industry some 60 million ECUs each year. It also facilitates for the European Commission negotiations on mutual fishing rights with third countries such as Canada and Norway.

Last but not least, the case of Greenland constitutes a challenge of a much wider, almost philosophical nature to the European Community. Will it manage to come to terms with a region which has formed the express desire to be different yet to keep close political links with the European Community?

The Eskimo population constitutes the vast majority of Greenland's inhabitants, and it is keen on preserving its own identity, social structure and language. As such it feels part of a cultural community which includes the Eskimos of Alaska and Canada. Mostly employed in traditional activities like fishing and hunting, it will do its utmost to defend its way of life. It is this deeply-felt need to remain different that has led to recent changes in the political and legal status of Greenland and ultimately to the wish, as expressed by 52 per cent of voters in February 1982, to abandon full EEC membership.

Introducing 'Exploring Europe'

– a magazine for the 16-19 age range produced at the Schools Unit, the University of Sussex. Four issues have been devised to link with BBC School Radio Advanced Studies Geography programmes (May-June 1983):

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'Our court is wide open...and one of its roles is to protect individual rights'

Mr Pescatore, one of the unique aspects of the EEC, as an economic organisation, is the existence of a Court of Justice. Why did the founding treaties set up the Court in the first place?

Historically speaking, the idea was to create a court which would review the legality of acts of the institutions of the Community. At that time it was the High Authority of the Coal and Steel Community. But soon, that role was enlarged by the EEC treaty to give the Court complete legal control over the whole Community process. That meant reviewing not only the legality of the acts of the institutions, but also exerting control over implementation by member states of their duties under the treaties. It also meant overseeing the implementation of Community law in the member states, which has given rise to a special legal remedy, the so-called 'preliminary rulings' which play a prominent role in the Court's actions.

What is the relationship between the European Court and the national courts?

That has been established under the proceedings for preliminary rulings, which I must explain. Whenever, before a national court, a point of Community law arises, either a point of interpretation of Community law, or a question of the validity of any Community acts, this court may seek a preliminary ruling from the European Court. Even if it is a supreme court, it is obliged to refer that question to the European Court, which will rule by judgement on the point of law raised. This judgement will be binding on national courts. Thus the treaty has established very close cooperation between the Court of Justice and national judges in the administration of Community law in the member states.

So in a sense it would be correct to say that the existence of the Court reduces the sovereignty of the various member states?

I wouldn't say that it reduces sovereignty. We must visualise all this within the framework of a large Community. What we administer are the common rules of the Community which are the heritage of all of us.

Who can use the Court?

Our Court is wide open. It is open to member states, to the various organs of the Community itself, and also to private persons. In that respect we are distinct from the International Court of Justice at The Hague, which is accessible only to states. Our Court is open also to private persons, and one of its roles is to protect individual rights.

In an interview with Ian Piper, Judge Pierre Pescatore, one of the eleven judges at the European Court of Justice, explains the role of an institution with a central part to play in how the Community works



Could you explain how the court is composed and the role of the judges and advocates-general?
As for the judges, it is very obvious what their role is. There are eleven judges, one judge from each of the ten member state, although they are not appointed by the member state. We are judges of the Community, not appointed by nationality, but it so happens that there is one judge for each member state. An eleventh judge has been appointed 'ad-hoc' by the Council to make an uneven number since judges must always sit in uneven numbers. He was formerly a Frenchman, and at the moment he is a German.

And what is the difference between the judges and the advocates-general?

The five advocates-general are members of the Court. Their role is to give an independent opinion on any case which comes before it, to lighten the Court. He has no vote in the Court itself.

Is the procedure of the court based on any particular national procedure, or that of another international court?

Our procedure corresponds to a certain standard of national procedures, and even to international ones. It's an adversary procedure, in

'Private parties have the right to present written observations, and also to be heard in argument'



The European Court in Luxembourg. 'What we administer are the rules of the Community.'

which the parties are equal. It's a procedure in which the parties must be fully heard, so we have complete respect for the parties right to a fair trial, and thus it corresponds to, I would say, the highest standards of national procedures.

The treaties which the Court safeguards are now somewhat old. Has the role of the Court changed from being a strict interpretation of the treaty to one of expanding its competence by making judgements based on what is implied by the existence of the treaties?

Well, there is no question of expanding the power of the judges. You know that the fundamental preoccupation of a judge is to abide by the law, and respect the law. But the Court has always been very sensitive to the purposes of the treaties. We know that these treaties were created for certain purposes, to free the movement of goods, to establish free circulation for persons, and equal treatment for everyone in the Community.

In the light of these aims and purposes, the Court has managed to keep the treaties flexible and forward-looking. The treaties were also created to give a certain shape to Western Europe, and the Court acts in that perspective too. We are not there to stick only to the letter of the treaties, we must always consider what the aims and purposes behind them were.

Both the President of the Commission and the President of the Parliament have suggested that we might need another Messina-type conference. Does that appear to you to be a good idea?

Only if it could bring real progress. As far as our institution is concerned I don't really see what might be added to its existing powers, which have already reached a sort of optimum stage. But I realise that many things might be improved in the relationship between the Council and the Commission, and in the powers of Parliament.

When the Court is dealing with a dispute between two member states, is it playing, in a sense, the role of a constitutional court, rather like the American Supreme Court?

In a sense, yes. Since we must visualise the treaties instituting the Communities as being the very constitution of the Communities. The Court has to see that the central rules and the balance of the treaties are respected, which means defining the relationship between member states and the Community. These are typical functions of a constitutional court. We see to it that the Commission, the Council and the Parliament play their proper roles as provided for in the treaties.

Is the Court able to cope with the work that is imposed on it, or will it in the near future be necessary to create tribunals, or additional courts to cope with it?

This is a very busy court, and at the present time we are burdened to the very limits of our abilities. But so far we have been able to cope with our task and I hope that this will remain

so in the future. There is no backlog at the present time. But we manage this only by going to the extreme limit of our combined forces.

Turning to the issues which come before the Court, would it be correct to say that most of the issues which arise are concerned with the market, with the free movement of goods, and with competition?

Certainly, the bulk of our cases are of a commercial and economic character. We administer a new sort of free trade law. But one should not forget other more human aspects of the Community. We have the principle of equality for workers; we have rules on social security at the Community level; and we have, moreover, the whole problem of free movement of persons, and the right of establishment. There are many cases which come to us under these chapters of the treaty, and in them the more human interests of the citizens of the Communities are at stake rather than just Commission interests.

'If member states were to flout the judgements of the Court, that would be the end of the Community'

So your judgements do have an impact on the man in the street?

Definitely, I think it is to the credit of this Court that we have enforced free movement of goods, a free flow of trade in the Community. The Court has also always endeavoured to ensure equal treatment for everyone, including male and female labour. This is one of the basic principles in our law.

Is there a problem in enforcing the decisions made by the court?

There are problems, but I would like to distinguish in that respect between enforcement against private persons and enforcement against member states. As for private persons it is very simple. Judgements of the Court are enforceable in all member states, just like national judgements. If the Commission imposes fines, for example, these fines will be and are in fact enforced. As for the member states themselves, the treaty does not provide for any mechanism of enforcement. This is a weakness, but I cannot see how this gap could really be filled. Thus, for the enforcement of judgements which are sometimes rendered against member states, we depend on their voluntary implementation. So far, all judgements of the Court have been implemented. Sometimes member states may have done so grudgingly, sometimes some of them may have delayed, but if you look back, the authority of our judgements has always been accepted in the end by the member states, and

Funds for human rights research

The European Human Rights Foundation, established in the Netherlands in 1980, announces that it has limited funds available for awards to individuals and non-governmental organisations for projects, studies and research in these fields.

Application forms are available from Mr Peter Ashman, European Human Rights Foundation, 95a Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1DT.

this is for good reasons.

The member states realise that if they flout the judgements of the Court, that would be the end of the Community. Nobody wants that. There is, moreover, one aspect which shouldn't be underrated. Whenever a member state disregards its obligations under the treaty, almost always private interests will be affected. We have already had many cases in which private persons have then brought cases before their own national courts, and finally it was through national courts that the judgements of the European Court were enforced.

The Community has a contractual relationship under the Lomé Convention with the ACP states. Does that contractual relationship figure in the Court's activities at all?

Surely, since agreements concluded by the Community are an integral part of the law of the Community. It may happen, and in fact it has happened in several instances, that this Convention has been cited before the Court, and we have already adjudicated on the basis of it. Thus, it is part of the rules which we apply. For instance, there has been litigation about the free import of goods coming from the ACP countries into the Community, and the obstacles placed by one or other member state in the way of free importation. The importers have brought cases before the national courts, they have been referred to us, and we have enforced free trade in favour of the ACP countries.

Is there a problem for the court in dealing with so many national languages?

Well, there is a problem. But this problem has been solved, I think, to the satisfaction of everyone. The Court has seven official languages, which means that all the official languages of the member states are also official languages of the Court. But don't think that each case is conducted in seven languages simultaneously. Whenever a person brings a case to the Court it is the claimant who will choose the language of the case among the seven languages. ☐

Believe it or not – they like it here

What do people from other Community countries who come to live here think of Britain and the British? From a random check among the various European groups working here, it seems that London is still an attractive city, and that the country as a whole meets with their approval.

I found Yvonne van Balen promoting her own country at the Netherlands tourist office in New Bond Street. A 24-year-old blonde from Soest, between Amsterdam and Utrecht, Yvonne came to this country after meeting English people whom she befriended while working abroad as a resort representative.

She took a holiday in London, which she did not like at first acquaintance, and made no definite plans about staying. 'Before I knew it,' she said, 'I was here for two years' Will she stay? 'Well, I have got a boyfriend now...' Her smile broadened, and she left the rest unsaid.

Despite Britain's high unemployment, Yvonne – who can speak five languages – was offered a variety of jobs by agencies when she arrived in London. But she did not like any of them. Instead, she approached the Dutch tourist office, found it had a vacancy, and has been working there ever since.

Yvonne's 21-year-old colleague, Anoushka Blydenstein, agrees. 'If you really want a job you can find one,' she assured me. Anoushka, who comes from western Holland, near Amsterdam, first visited the UK in 1980 as an *au pair*. She decided that was the best way of

ROY STEMMAN finds that young Europeans who have left home to work in Britain do not have too much to grouse about

learning English... and now she speaks four languages.

Since then she has spent two years in Germany and France, returning to England in February this year to be near her Dutch boyfriend, who is studying in London. Anoushka wrote off for many jobs before approaching the Netherlands Tourist Office. By coincidence, a job became vacant in the week that she applied, and she has been information officer ever since. She and her colleagues deal, on average, with 35 visitors and 100 phone calls a day, and double that number at the beginning of each year, when tourist interest in the bulb fields reaches its peak.

Daniel Regin, systems development manager with Air France, has lived in England for 28 years, having come to this country with his father, who was the company's traffic manager at Heathrow. He did not speak English when he arrived, and had eight months 'on the loose', during which time he learned the language from friends he made here.

His father returned to Paris after six years; but Daniel, having married, remained in England. He has since married a second time, also

to an English woman: they now live near the river at Shepperton, Middlesex. Although still a Parisian at heart, M. Regin likes London. He also loves the countryside. 'It is music to my ears to hear lawnmowers on a Sunday!' he says, with evident delight. Though still a French national, Daniel Regin says he considers himself an Englishman while in this country, and a strong supporter of Britain when he is in France.

A younger colleague in Air France reservations at New Bond Street, Mrs Dominique Ralu-Miller, is also planning a life in England. She first came in 1974, as a student, and stayed with a family in Bristol. They became firm friends and she visited them regularly. Now she is married to a son of the family. The couple have been together since 1978, living first in Gloucester and more recently in London and Twickenham. Her jobs have included being a nanny and working as a counter clerk, before joining Air France 18 months ago.

Au pairs seem to play an important role in the chemistry which unites European nations. Klaus Balzer's Austrian wife had been an *au pair* with a family in Wimbledon, and she brought him to England in 1970 to meet them. He was then director of the German-Arab Chamber of Commerce, based in Cairo. Four years later his counterpart in London returned to Germany, and Klaus Balzer applied to fill the vacant position. He and his family have been here since August 1974, living in Kingston, Surrey. Their son and daughter are being educated at the German School at Petersham.

As director of the German Chamber of Industry and Commerce, and UK representative of the Federation of German Industries, Klaus Balzer presides over a staff of 25, four-fifths of whom are German, at their offices in Suffolk Street, near Trafalgar Square.

For an Italian view I called at the Malavasi Agency near Victoria, where Mrs Malavasi

EMS is the key to integration – Andriessen

The recent agreement for exchange rate changes within the European Monetary System should have been regarded as a first step towards a policy of greater economic convergence, and increased monetary cooperation between Community member states, says European Commission member Frans Andriessen.

Speaking to the London Europe Society on 31 March, Mr Andriessen said it was astonishing that the Heads of Government had devoted scarcely any attention to this matter at their recent Summit. He said:

'The European Monetary System remains,

in my view, the kernel of further economic and monetary integration in the Community. It is also necessary that all member states should take part in it.

'So long as the pound sterling remains outside the system a substantial strengthening of the system does not seem possible. I hope, therefore, that the active participation of Sir Geoffrey Howe in the concluding stage of last week's monetary council is the prelude to an early participation of the pound sterling in the monetary system.

'We should now make a virtue of necessity and seize upon the latest realignment as the starting point for greater economic cooperation. The measures which the French Republic has taken at the end of last week give increased hope for a greater economic convergence. Strengthening of the EMS, and participation of the UK in the system, will in my opinion provide an extra incentive to achieve a more convergent economic policy.'

Mr Andriessen attacked growing protectionism in the Community. The internal market in the Community, he said, threatens to become ever more fragmented by reason of the maintenance and introduction of non-tariff barriers and an increasing tendency towards re-nationalisation of certain markets – a development which can only harm European firms and simply plays into the hands of Japanese and American competition.

The idea that anti-trust rules should be abandoned in times of economic crisis were rejected by Mr Andriessen. Structural crisis cartels covering production and marketing, and which impose protection against competition by outsiders, would never be compatible with the competition rules, he said. 'But a coordinated plan to reduce excess production capacity should not be prohibited by the competition rules – provided that the companies concerned do not, at the same time, fix prices, production or sales, or allot markets.'



'London has too many foreigners – and that includes Europeans'

has been running domestic and travel agencies for 25 years. Her secretary, Clelia Clements, who is 32, first came to England 12 years ago as a student to learn English. She comes from southern Italy, so our weather came as a shock to her. But she liked the English 'mentality', so much that she decided to stay.

Clelia says our outlook is similar to hers: we are more reserved than the Italians, and we respect privacy. She went back to Rome for two years to work; but the fact that she is now back in London tells its own story. 'Rome is crazy,' she has decided.

There are probably more Italians in London than any other European nationality – and that, says Clelia, is because our reputation is so high in her native country. 'You can rely on people. In Italy you have to pull strings to get a job.'

Francesca Floris, 31, is one of the people who have found work through the Italian Domestic Agency. She has been coming to England, on-and-off, since 1970 when she was an *au pair* eager to learn our language. 'It was horrible,' she recalls. 'I had no money, and after four months I went home to Sardinia.'

She returned five years later, taking a job as a waitress to finance a course in a language school. Five months ago she came back to England again. She is working as a chambermaid and in a coffee shop, and finding it hard to make ends meet. But, she says, she likes London 'despite everything'.

The likes and dislikes of the Dutch, French, German and Italian people whom I interviewed obviously differ. But they gave a collective thumbs-up to the English, their countryside, and their national lifestyle:

'Everyone has time for a chat, even though they seem to be in more of a rush than in Holland.' – Anoushka.

'The English have changed tremendously in the last 20 years. I don't find them at all conservative, though they are hard to get to know at the beginning. They're very friendly.' – Daniel.

'The English are reliable...honest...well organised.' – Clelia.

'People are very friendly – perhaps more so than on the Continent.' – Klaus.

'It's lovely, particularly when the sun shines – which it does far more often than Continentals believe.' – Klaus.

'I love the English countryside and the people in the country are so friendly.' – Yvonne.

'There's nothing as homely as an English pub on a Sunday.' – Daniel.

'Although the English seem more old-fashioned in their way of life, your appliances are more modern than ours.' – Dominique.

'You have a marvellous cultural life, particularly in London, with great theatres and always new plays. It's something we don't have to such an extent in Germany.' – Klaus.

'Work is much more relaxed in England. I love the tea breaks – that's something we do not have in France.' – Dominique.

'Roast beef and yorkshire pudding are excellent.' – Daniel.

That's the good news. Inevitably, we do have our bad points, even if those I spoke to expressed their disapproval more in sorrow than in anger:

'The English are more conservative than the Dutch, and they never say what they are thinking. I miss the spontaneous friendliness around me.' – Yvonne.

'You always have to make appointments to see people in England. In Holland you can drop in on your friends whenever you feel like it.' – Anoushka.

'London has too many foreigners, and that



Celia (top), David (above), Anoushka and Yvonne (below) and Klaus. 'Friendly criticism cuts more ice...'



'People are very friendly – perhaps more so than on the continent'

includes Europeans. Your immigration laws ought to be tightened.' – Clelia.

'Five years ago London was much better than now. It was cheaper and cleaner.' – Francesca.

'In the 50s drivers were very courteous. Now driving in London is a nightmare. The cost of public transport is also very high. What a pity you do not have something like the Metro, where you can travel where you like for a low fixed rate.' – Daniel.

'Your rail system makes it very difficult to get easily from one place to another, unless you are travelling between the major cities. London is a nightmare for the motorist. I know the back doubles between Kingston and London, but it still takes me an hour.' – Klaus.

'I miss the Parisian cafetarias. French self-service restaurants are better and cheaper than in London.' – Dominique.

Friendly criticism cuts more ice with the British than the other kind. If most of our EEC friends think the way of this random sample, there shouldn't be too many hurt feelings. ☑

Cutting risk to barbers

From January 1984 European hairdressers will be able to set up in the European Community country of their choice, following a directive adopted last July. But hairdressing is a dangerous business, and European legislation should be introduced to protect those who practice it—according to Italian Communist MEP Vera Squarcialupi, though Commissioner Ivor Richard says that the case is not yet proven.

Apparently all barbers suffer from more or less the same health hazards. The Italian Federation of Barbers and Hairdressers recently commissioned a study from the physiology and work-hygiene department of Rome University, which compiled an inventory of the occupational diseases from which they suffer.

Varicose veins, lumbago and arthritic pains are all common. So are skin problems caused by contact with dangerous chemicals contained in shampoos, lacquers, dyes and decolorants. Breathing problems are another hazard.

Mrs Squarcialupi primarily blames toxic chemicals contained in cosmetic products and says that they should be clearly identified. Community legislation should be introduced 'to protect hundreds of thousands of European hairdressers and their clients,' she says.

European Social Affairs and Employment Commissioner Ivor

Richard says that extensive research is already being done at European level. One of its central aims has been to assess possible long-term carcinogenic effects caused by exposure to certain toxic chemicals. But as yet no concrete evidence has come to light to substantiate fears that hairdressing is a particularly dangerous activity, according to Commissioner Richard.

Under the second Health and Safety at Work action programme for 1983-88, which was submitted to the Council for approval in November of last year, the Commission listed the relative risks involved in various occupations. Hairdressing was not classified as a 'high-risk' job, because the risks involved were unproven, says the Commissioner.



New fling for the Highlands

A European Parliament committee has published a report calling for massive integrated development aid for the Scottish Highlands and Islands and other 'severely disadvantaged regions' in Europe.

The Parliament's influential Agriculture Committee says that the European Community's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) has not only failed to prevent a serious decline in the population of peripheral rural areas, but has actually encouraged competition, which could be putting farmers in poorer areas out of business.

A high proportion of the population of the Highlands and Islands is employed in agriculture and suffers from low incomes, high unemployment and under-employment, poor communication and transport links, bad soil and climate and a lack of markets, according to the report, which was compiled by Scots Conservative MEP James Provan.

Emigration from the Highlands is by no means a new phenomenon. In

an area covering about 36,000 square kilometres, or about half of Scotland, there are about 323,000 people. The population density of about nine people per square kilometre compares with sixty-seven for Scotland, two hundred and forty-four for Britain and sixty-two for Basilicata — the most sparsely populated area of Southern Italy.

Increased Community aids to hill farmers, investment in infrastructure projects such as roads, communications and ports, incentives to encourage firms to invest in the area, improved marketing structures, such as coops and modernisation of agricultural techniques could all help, according to the committee.

But with parts of the region suffering double the national average of unemployment, jobs remain a priority. Other sectors such as tourism, forestry and fisheries, are in desperate need of development, if young people are to find employment in Scotland's increasingly elderly society, say the MEPs.

Integrated development programmes, on the lines of those proposed for Mediterranean regions by Commission Vice-President Lorenzo Natali in February, are therefore what the committee has in mind. Their implementation could be the first step towards a European Rural Development Fund, says Mr Provan. The Parliament's Environment Committee has backed the Provan Report, but emphasised the need for aid in sectors other than agriculture, including heavy industry, crafts, forestry, fisheries and tourism. It also welcomed environmental provisions to protect the natural beauty of the Highlands and Islands, included in integrated development plans.

Easy on the gas

Natural gas consumption in Europe dropped by 6 per cent last year, resulting in an 8 per cent fall in domestic production and an unprecedented 2 per cent drop in imports from three countries, according to Eurostat.

The Netherlands, Europe's largest producer, cut production by 13.9 per cent, followed by the Federal Republic of Germany, which reduced its output by 12.8 per cent in response to falling demand.

Europe, which depends on gas for about 18 per cent of its energy needs, is about 71 per cent self-sufficient and relies on three main supplier

countries for its imports. 46.6 per cent come from Norway, 40 per cent from the Soviet Union and 13.2 per cent from Algeria.

In 1982, Algerian imports were up by 5 per cent on the previous year, while imports from Norway and the USSR both fell by 3 per cent and 2 per cent respectively.



Taxes on tourists?

Growing protectionism in tourism is worrying the national tourist organisations of the Ten, says the British Tourist Authority.

In a statement issued after meetings in Brussels with Georgios Contogeorgis, the commissioner for tourism, BTA said that a working group of the national tourism organisations in the Community is concerned about the fact that the governments of certain member states are imposing financial restrictions on the free movement of travellers.

Ireland levies a departure tax on all travellers, says BTA, and Denmark taxes passengers on packaged air tours. Greece and Italy have imposed currency restrictions on their own nationals travelling abroad.

Outside the European Community, the United States and Australia impose departure taxes, and a similar levy has been considered by the Japanese government.

The working group met in Brussels to discuss its fifth report on 'The economic significance of tourism in the European Community'.

The report shows that EEC citizens now spend two-and-a-half times as much on international travel each year as north Americans. Total tourist expenditure by Community residents within and without the Community in 1981 amounted to \$113 billion, says BTA, more than 7 per cent of total private consumer spending in that year.

The Community reported total intra-EEC tourist earnings during 1981 of \$102 billion, an \$11 billion



deficit on internal EC tourism, and the working group is now asking if enough is being done by EEC countries to encourage travel to and within the Community.

The group wants more promotion of travel between Community countries, with particular regard to the numbers employed in the industry, more than 4½ million people directly employed in tourism in Community countries in 1981.

BTA says that it is 'encouraging that the experts are convinced of tourism's good growth prospects in the EEC, but competition between European countries is - and will continue to be - fierce.

Dumping at sea

Moves are afoot in the European Parliament to restart debate on the dumping of low-grade radioactive wastes at sea - a common practice and longtime bone of contention between industry, governments and environmentalists.

In September of last year, the Parliament adopted a resolution tabled by German Socialist MEP Beate Weber, asking the European Commission to prepare a directive aimed at preventing dumping of radioactive materials at sea. Belgian Socialist MEP Karel Van Miert has now been pressing Environment Commissioner Karl-Heinz Narjes for details of Commission action to date, with particular reference to the Oslo and London Conventions, which are designed to limit dumping and to which the European Community has observer status.

The Oslo Convention, covering the North Atlantic, was signed in 1972 and is aimed at preventing marine pollution caused by dumping from ships and planes. Although it makes no mention of radioactive waste specifically, it distinguishes between 'prohibited' substances and substances which can be dumped in limited quantities. All Community member states with the exception of Greece, Italy and Luxembourg have ratified the agreement.

The London Convention is a good deal more specific and bans the dumping of high level radioactive wastes at sea. Low level wastes require a special permit arranged through agreement with the other contracting parties. All the Community member states have signed, but Belgium, Italy and Luxembourg have yet to ratify.

At the last consultative meeting of

the Convention in February, contracting states failed to agree on a reduction in low level dumping, largely because of British opposition. The United Kingdom dumps large quantities of waste in the Atlantic, about 800 kms south-west of Lands End, at depths of up to 4000 metres.

Last year the European Commission recommended that under Article 37 of the Euratom Treaty, Community member states should provide details of any new sites where they intended to dump radioactive materials. Copies of the notification would also go to other concerned international bodies. Article 37 of the Euratom Treaty and the basic safety standards against the dangers arising from ionizing radiation are currently the only constraints on dumping radioactive wastes at sea, according to the Commission.

Howell calls for the end of road haulage curbs

David Howell, Secretary of State for Transport, has suggested complete abolition of quantitative restriction on road haulage between member states of the European Community.

His call was made during a meeting on 25 February in Brussels. Reporting on the meeting in the House of Commons, Mr Howell said:

'In setting out the UK's views, I emphasised the importance of balanced transport policies within which each mode could make its full contribution to meeting transport needs, on the basis of fair competition. I stressed the need for a new and sustained initiative towards liberalising road transport, reducing transport costs and removing unnecessary barriers to trade.

'Ideally, there should be complete abolition of quantitative restrictions on road haulage between member states, and at the very least substantial and frequent increases in the number of Community road haulage permits.'

The Council should rapidly complete agreement on important proposals to improve the organisation at frontiers where inefficiencies are currently costing industry hundreds of millions of pounds a year, said Mr Howell. Higher priority needed to be given to the current review of EEC drivers' hours legislation, where the current over-rigidity of the rules hampered the

efficiency and flexibility of our transporters. There was considerable support from other member states for easing restrictions on international road transport, which he expected the Commission to take into account in putting forward proposals for revision of the quota system.

11 per cent are now jobless in Europe

There are now an estimated 12.3 million registered unemployed in the nine European Community states excluding Greece - about 11.1 per cent of the workforce,

according to figures published by Eurostat.

Since the end of December, the number of people without jobs has increased by nearly half a million or 4.2 per cent. The increase has been particularly marked in the Federal Republic of Germany and Denmark, but the number of jobless has remained relatively stable in France and Belgium.

Unemployment is now 15 per cent higher than in January 1982. In the Netherlands it is up by 31 per cent, in the Federal Republic of Germany and in Ireland by 28 per cent, in Luxembourg by 22 per cent and in Italy by 15 per cent. Lowest increases were recorded in Denmark and France with 3.4 per cent and 4.7 per cent respectively.

Prospects for the future are, however, looking a bit more promising with a recent small but widespread improvement in the expectations of Community consumers, industrialists and investors.



Yes, we eat less bananas

To a banana buff, heaven can be anything from a banana nestling in an ice cream sundae to green puree bananas eaten as a vegetable, washed down with a glass of banana beer.

The banana, nature's convenience food, has won a unique place for itself, competing with home-grown apples, oranges and pears on supermarket shelves in the northern hemisphere. The South currently sells about seven million tonnes of bananas to the countries of the industrialised North every year, for an estimated one and three quarter billion US dollars.

Although consumption in the United States has been rising steadily over the past decade, in Europe and Japan it has fallen drastically. Japanese imports dropped from over a million tonnes in 1972 to

708,000 tonnes in 1981 and Community imports fell 11.5 per cent from 2,105,000 tonnes in 1973 to 1,862,000 in 1981.

Europeans are eating fewer bananas mainly because they're becoming more expensive. Rising wages in producer countries, higher costs and a stronger American dollar, mean that in Community member states prices have risen rapidly. In the Federal Republic of Germany, Europe's biggest banana importer, prices rose by 50 per cent between 1978 and 1981 and in the European Community as a whole, annual per capita consumption of bananas dropped from 8.17 kg in 1973 to 7.12 kg last year.

The French, with 8.65 kg per head, currently eat more bananas than anyone else in Europe, followed by the Germans, the Irish, the Belgians and Luxembourgers, the Dutch, the British, the Italians and the Danes (4.94 kg per head), in that order.

Falling consumption means that producer countries in the Third World will be hit hard. Europe's imports mainly come from 14 traditional suppliers, the largest of which is Costa Rica, with almost 300,000 tonnes in 1981. About a third of our bananas come from France's overseas departments and 9 associated African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) states. The remaining two-thirds are imported from 8 or 9 other countries in South and Central America, including Panama, Colombia, Ecuador, Honduras and the Windward Isles, as well as South-East Asia.



'Leaving the Baptistry, Lausanne'
by M. Maris, from the Haags
Gemeentemuseum.

Going Dutch at the Royal Academy

The work of the Dutch 17th-century landscape painters – Ruisdael, Hobbema, van Goyen and their contemporaries – is probably better known in Britain than in any country outside

Holland, since it was eagerly collected at the time and has been ever since.

Less well-known here are the painters of the Hague School, a group who flourished in the last decades of the 19th century and who re-interpreted their great native tradition in modern terms. A loan exhibition of work by members of the School is now on view at the Royal Academy, sponsored by Unilever and drawing on examples from private collections.

The Hague artists are credited with helping to lay the foundations for some of the most important developments in 20th-century painting. Drawing upon the earlier romantic landscape tradition and the landscape paintings of their French near-contemporaries of the Barbizon school, they sought to combine an objective record of the external world with their personal responses to specific aspects of nature. Thus, whilst in their choice of subject matter – windswept heaths, sparkling polderlands, windmills, squally seas – they can be seen as part of the 19th-century realist movement, their predilection for magical, silver-grey tonalities produced paintings in which the careful record of nature is overlaid with personal sentiment and suffused with nostalgia.

Younger artists from Holland and abroad were attracted to the masters of the Hague School. Van Gogh trained under Anton Mauve before moving to France, and Piet Mondriaan learnt of their art through his uncle's association with the School. In the later works of Van Gogh, some of whose early Hague period paintings and drawings can be seen in this exhibition, the choice of subject matter, compositional organisation of landscape, and the regard for painting directly from nature, all reveal a debt to the School.

A plea for children of the Fourth World

In a memorandum prepared and presented by the Fourth World Committee to the European Parliament at the end of last year, MEPs were urged to take action on behalf of those in the Community who are least able to help themselves – the very poor.

The memorandum drew attention to the plight of those whom it described as being at the bottom of the social scale – not least the children in Europe's worst-hit areas.

The sphere of vocational training, it said, is inseparable from that of education. The rigid separation between these two systems does considerable harm to young people belonging to the sub-proletariat. All too often they are left out of both systems, which together provide preparation for working life.

Rejected by school because the education system rarely takes their situation into account, and does not understand them or their milieu, they are refused admittance to vocational training, on the grounds that their performance at school has not been good enough. It is worth noting that one of the conclusions of the European programme of pilot schemes and studies to combat poverty re-

lated specifically to the measures urgently needed in the education field, the memorandum added. It went on:

'It is now freely admitted that in all the countries of the European Community, poor school-leaving qualifications are a major cause for concern: 15-20 per cent of children fail their school-leaving examinations. In France, 250,000 children leave school without any kind of certificate, or any training, or in fact anything at all – many of these children are unable to read or write. In the Netherlands, every year some 40,000 young people leave school without any qualifications. It is recognised that these children come mainly from poor families; and a study has shown that these young people no longer feel motivated at school, and have more health problems than other children.

'In many of the studies conducted over the last twenty years or so, no account is taken of the fact that very poor children opt out of the system long before the end of their school careers. We have seen that, as a result of the increase in the number of children attending school, and in the period of compulsory schooling – as well as the new aspirations

which a wide cross-section of society now has for its children – less tolerance is shown towards slower learners.

'Parallel educational structures are set up for pupils regarded as too slow, because their family and social background has not helped them develop from early childhood. Already, at the primary school stage, these structures cut them off from the other children. Never before have so many children been labelled retarded, backward, abnormal, and excluded from ordinary classes, where they would hold the others up.'

In one town with a number of sub-proletarian areas, the Fourth World Committee recorded the following figures. Out of 132 children aged 6 to 11, nearly half (45 per cent) were in special classes. Out of 70 children aged 12 to 16, 73 per cent were in special classes.

The Council of Europe's reports on 'Preparation for Life' state that, in many countries, 5 per cent of children are put in special classes.

In practice, says the Committee, these children never return to the ordinary system. Worse still, even those who make good progress in these special classes have no hope of becoming apprenticed and learning a trade.

These facts are confirmed by a European study on special education. In the parallel classes, despite the undeniable devotion shown by many teachers, the know-how and actual resources needed to prepare these children for working life – and even in some instances to enable them to learn to read, write and do sums – are lacking. E

New life for Lascaux

After twenty years the great Hall of Bulls can be visited again – in a facsimile that is startlingly true to the now-inaccessible original

Since 1963 the world's most valuable and famous prehistoric 'art gallery', the painted cave at Lascaux, in the Dordogne, has been closed to the public, for fear that human breath, sweat and germs might destroy the works altogether.

Now, after years of patient trial and error, ways have been found of reproducing the main body of the Lascaux paintings – the famous Hall of Bulls – in exact facsimile. At last, the general public can see something of the power and beauty of the original, with no risk to the cave itself.

The task of doing justice to the artists of Lascaux has involved complex modern processes, from advanced photographic techniques to the skills of highly trained restorers. Basically, the original images have been transferred from colour photographic images on to surfaces which exactly reproduce the shapes and contours of walls inside the cave. This called for a specially made gelatinous film, only a few microns thick, which retains the shape of the surface on to which it is laid, in full relief. The photographic 'information' shows no distortion, and no variation in colour from the original.

The team made use of a series of detailed photographs taken inside the cave by a pair of stereoscopic photogrammetric cameras and an electronic flash. This took a long time, owing to the authorities' insistence that no one may spend longer in the cave than two hours in six. Tests have shown that a human presence for longer than that time has measurable effects on the delicately-balanced environment which, almost miraculously, has helped to preserve the paintings in pristine condition for more than 20,000 years.

To ensure that the wall surfaces were exactly duplicated, the team called in a company from Lyons which specialised in making theatrical sets. Twenty-six modular moulds were built, each consisting of a frame of five plywood uprights and seven horizontal cross-members, spaced twenty-five centimeters apart. The frames were then filled with ex-

panded polystyrene blocks reproducing the general structure of the cave wall.

Each block was then modelled and sculpted in the finest detail to match the original surface. A coat of latex was applied to protect the polystyrene, and a mixture of polyester resin and glass fibre sprayed on, forming a hard, fireproof layer some five millimetres thick. The structure, on its wooden frame, could now be separated from the polystyrene blocks and set in place.

To achieve the appearance of the deposits of limestone and calcite which give the original paintings their glazed effect, a coat of yellow ochre and red, mixed with sand and resin, was added. The twenty-six modules were then screwed on to a platform representing the sloping cave floor. Once the transfer operation was completed, all that remained to be done was to

touch-up any imperfections along the joints between the modules and the photographic surfaces. Finally, the colours of the painted walls were blended into the neighbouring surfaces.

For additional realism, the air in this three-dimensional facsimile of the Hall of Bulls is kept at the chilly level of the real cave, and the lighting conveys the dim level at which the paintings would have been seen by the original visitors to the cave, with their crude lamps of burning fat.

It adds up to a huge investment in time, effort and money. But it brings within reach of modern times the mysterious, often disturbing, magic of a time when our forefathers – modern beings, in terms of sensibility and imagination – inhabited a world in which Man and his fellow creatures lived as one. **E**



Advanced photographic techniques, coupled with artists' skills, have enabled the 20,000-year-old images to be duplicated in a man-made cave.



'The air is kept at the chilly level of the real cave'

Need we fear the arrival of 1984?

We are just a few months away from the date set by George Orwell for his vision of the terrible future which could await us.

Orwell – you might agree – was perhaps the most realistic and clear-sighted of recent writers about politics. But when he wrote 'Nineteen Eighty-Four' in the mid-Forties he found himself able to contemplate the near future only with dread. The outlook he depicted is one of unrelieved horror and despair.

It is true that Orwell in that book is not saying: 'This is how it *will* be', but rather 'This is how it *might* be – if our luck is out, and if we make the wrong decisions now and fail to defend our freedoms.' Well, how *do* we stand as we find ourselves on the threshold of 1984? Is the Orwellian nightmare coming true in a general sense? Or are particular aspects of his vision being realized? Have we something still to learn from what Orwell imagined?

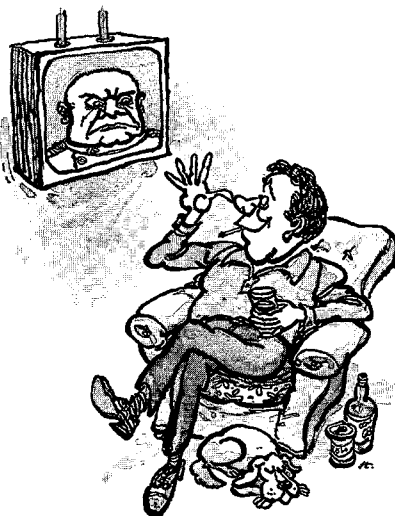
In 'Nineteen Eighty-Four' – just as in the real 1983 – television is everywhere. In the home, the pub, the working-place it is always in evidence, and usually claiming attention. It is the dominant instrument of information and of culture in this new society. So far, Orwell's picture is almost weirdly accurate. It is nevertheless a picture in negative. Television in 'Nineteen Eighty-Four' is above all an instrument of surveillance and control, by which the totalitarian 'Party' exercises total dominance over the citizens: 'Big Brother is watching you'.

But, as Professor Tom Stonier has pointed out in a recent fascinating book, the reverse is actually true of television as we know it. Television for us is a device by which the people watch the rulers and, often, catch them out. Rulers subject to the scrutiny of television in our system have little chance of growing into Big Brother, even if they wished to. Instead of being an instrument of totalitarian control, it has become an instrument of democratic accountability.

Television is one device of surveillance in Orwell's book which has been turned in the opposite direction to that which he feared. One cannot, unfortunately, be as cheerful about other forms of surveillance described in the book, which have also been developed in real life and which do threaten an unwarranted intrusion into the privacy of individuals. All that apparatus of surveillance, which runs from telephone taps to the com-

'Orwell's picture is almost weirdly accurate – but it is a picture in negative'

The grim prospect foretold in George Orwell's famous novel need not deter us from making the best of a technology-dominated future, says Commissioner RICHARD BURKE



puterised storing of credit card transactions, needs to be strictly controlled by legislation. I believe, however, that the will exists to do this, and it should be done.

The book is still one of the most brilliant pieces of futurology we have; and there are lessons we can draw from it. One of these lessons, I suggest, is that it is more normal to regard the future with dread than with hope. Another, that new technology does open frightening possibilities of state control and the destruction of individual freedom – possibilities that are already being realised in certain Communist states and, tragically, in a number of Third World countries also.

Again, it suggests that, on the contrary, the new technologies, if rigorously safeguarded, can enhance individual freedom by improving communication between governments and electorates – and hence the accountability of governments. The impact of these new technologies in the economic sphere could be as dramatically beneficial as in politics – provided, again, that they are rightly applied. Orwell's 'proles' lived a material life of dingy discomfort because the all-powerful Party wanted it that way. But in reality the new technologies provide us with the possibility of unprecedented material welfare for everyone – if we exploit them wisely.

The first lesson I draw from Orwell has to do with our instinctive fear of the future. This is a widespread phenomenon at the present time.

A minority of people – usually scientists or certain kind of confident economist – manage to look on the future with determined optimism. They are sometimes so cheerful as to be quite scary. They depict a world of such intense material satisfaction, peace and plenty as to be almost beyond human ken.

The rest of us, meanwhile, tend to live in mood of doubt, if not of depression. Part of our instinctive fear of the future is an instinctive distrust of science and scientists. If we read the famous Churchill sentence warning of 'a new dark age, rendered more sinister and perhaps more protracted, by the lights of perverted science', we fancy we know what he is getting at. We know that science has brought us the nuclear bomb, and is ever ready to refine further its achievements in the area.

And, finally, those of us of a certain age and with a certain educational background are often so devoid of anything resembling a scientific imagination that, even with goodwill we have enormous difficulty in fathoming what the scientists are up to. So our fear, our distrust of the future, is compounded by ignorance, by a kind of functional illiteracy in the face of the scientific mind.

My own optimistic guess is that we can cope with the difficult transition we are facing. On the way we shall see the death or decline of many traditional activities, and the growth of new ones – most of which we cannot fully imagine at this stage. These will probably lie in the service sector rather than in any new industrial undertakings.

With computer terminals in the home there may be no need for certain workers ever to go to the workplace, if they choose not to. They may work at home, in their own time, on an assignment basis. This decentralisation of the workplace should in time lead to the decongestion of the cities, even perhaps the revival of village life.

I am convinced that the new technology can be of priceless benefit, can liberate mankind from its age-old material miseries. What we do with that new freedom is, of course, the business of a future generation. But the decision as to whether it will be a benign technology working for democratic freedom and social decency, is in our hands. We find ourselves plagued by present difficulties which make it hard to believe in any dramatic improvement in our circumstances. We are plagued also by confusion about the new technology, its scope and its social impact, and by a general layman's fear of the scientific realm. Fifty years ago, when President Roosevelt said: 'We have nothing to fear but fear itself', he touched a theme which exactly fits our situation now.

□ Abridged from an address to a conference on 'Industrialisation: the Individual and the Community', held at Limerick on 18 April

Letters

No real dialogue?

George Debonne's admission to Bob Taylor (Jan/Feb issue) that there is no real dialogue between the ETUC and the European Employer's Federation, especially over the vital matter of unemployment in the European Community, is a sad reflection of our times.

The jobless in the European Community are turning to each other in their local communities for mutual support and help and to seek out solutions for themselves and for society. Self-help groups and activity centres for the unemployed are a significant innovative phenomenon.

There is a growing awareness among the unemployed that there may never again be enough traditional employment for everyone who needs it, even if job-sharing and early retirement are applied on a wide scale and if there is much-needed expenditure on socio-economic infrastructure.

The work ethic is changing, and a growth area of wealth creation lies in the informal economy, recognised by the Commission but seemingly ignored by the Council of Ministers.

The principle of a 'minimum' or 'social' wage for everyone is needed, to enable individuals to live and to develop alternative work and income producing structures where paid employment is no longer the sole option. Unfortunately, state social security

systems such as those in the UK inhibit such development, by maintaining people at a state-determined subsistence level and penalise their earning potential.

The social partners in the EC must surely recognise that our greatest asset is a human one, and that we must build our future with and for our people.

John Appleyard
Teddington, Middlesex

Liverpool study

We were pleased to see, in your January/February issue, an account of the Community-funded study of problems in Liverpool's outer areas.

You neglected to tell your readers that the study contract was awarded to CES Ltd, an independent non-profit making company, who undertook the study in collaboration with Knowsley and Merseyside Councils.

CES has published a concise version of the final report and findings of the study, as CES Paper 14, 'Kirkby: an outer estate', by the Kirkby Study Team.

T. A. Broadbent
CAS Ltd, London WC1

We apologise for not making clear the origins of our article. The paper concerned is available from CES, 5 Tavistock Place, London WC1, price £7.50.

Turkish tongues

In the article regarding the linguistic minorities in Europe, it is stated that 'the Turks of Thrace, because of a reciprocal agreement with Turkey regarding the Greek

minority in that country, have the benefit of scholastic and religious rights.'

May I respectfully point out that this statement is not totally accurate, in so far as the freedom of the Turkish minority has been systematically withdrawn, to the extent whereby the Turks are not allowed the freedom of the right embodied in the said agreement.

Miss M. Salaheddin,
British Turkish Committee,
Muswell Road, London N10.

Anti-rape protest

It was interesting to read in your article in '10 Years in Europe' that oil seed rape has been successfully grown in Britain since 1973.

Were the wider ecological implications of introducing this plant ever considered? Bee-keepers all over England and Wales have been affected by this introduction. Bee behaviour, honey granulation, extracting and storage are all presenting substantial problems to even the most experienced bee-keeper.

The lure of the rape plant nectar is such that bees fly well out of their usual two-mile area to collect it. Some bee-keepers – though usually only those with time to spare for the frequent attention they need – are placing their hives directly in the fields of rape. This helps the farmer with pollination, and provides the bee-keeper with a vast amount of white, almost flavour-less honey, that granulates within days. It is proving a very mixed blessing.

Mary E. Marrow
Bromborough, Wirral

Same car, different price – the consumer strikes back

The Commission's natural ally in its struggle to create a single unified market in Europe is the consumer. The European Bureau of Consumer Unions (EBCU) not only energetically supports Commission action aimed at freeing the circulation of goods and removing a variety of concealed trade barriers – it also acts on its own initiative, and is prepared to go to court on behalf of the European consumer.

The most striking example of this has been the recent joint action undertaken by the Commission and the EBCU in the car industry, to confirm and defend the right of Community citizens to buy a car in the EEC country of their choice – and not just in the country where they live.

This right is not just theoretical – car prices vary widely between different member states. Some differences derive from different tax rates, such as VAT. Pending a harmonisation of the tax system, every Community citizen has to pay the taxes of the country in which he or she lives. But there are other important

price differences, which have nothing to do with taxes.

In June 1981 the EBCU took a survey of the prices of 25 cars made by 18 different firms, before and after tax. It showed that the same Volkswagen Golf cost the equivalent of 5912 ECU in the Federal Republic of Germany; 9712 ECU in the United Kingdom; and 13,926 ECU in Denmark. (Tax rates of 219 per cent in Denmark were so high that price differences set by firms there paled into insignificance.) But, more importantly, pre-tax prices also varied. A price index showed Britain to be the most expensive country, rating 100. France rated 72, the Federal Republic of Germany 70, and Belgium and the Netherlands 66. The survey showed that British consumers would be better off buying their cars on the Continent, bringing them back to Britain, then paying UK taxes on them.

The EBCU publicised their findings, and 42,000 British consumers promptly went out and bought cars on the

Continent, some of which had actually been made in Britain.

The EBCU then discovered the real extent of administrative and other trade barriers that effectively limit the consumers right to choose. It put together 'substantial proofs' of what it saw as an illegal attitude on the part of manufacturers and distributors, designed to hinder normal distribution and distort sales. These included long delays on deliveries, refusals to sell right-hand drive vehicles on the Continent, refusals to provide after-sale guarantees or servicing, and so on.

In June 1982 the EBCU lodged a formal complaint with the Commission, together with letters from consumers. It implicated several firms, including British Leyland, Volkswagen, BMW, Ford, Honda and Toyota.

In the case of Ford the Commission has already intervened, forcing them to sell right-hand drive cars on the Continent as well as in Britain.

Almost half of the beaches in England and Wales tested for cleanliness were too dirty to meet basic EEC standards, says a report.

Beaches at Morecambe, Lytham St Anne's, Ilfracombe, Ramsgate and Bridlington are among those that fail the EEC test, according to the 1983 Golden List of Beaches published by the coastal Anti-Pollution League.

At least 13 of the most popular English and Welsh beaches are said to be polluted by sewage.

Of 158 beaches checked by the league 74 failed the EEC requirements.

Glamorgan is said to have the highest concentration of clean beaches.

—Daily Mirror

European companies operating in South Africa are in many cases failing to apply the EEC Code of Conduct on the treatment of black workers, EEC foreign ministers declared yesterday.

Ministers said that the results achieved since the Code was adopted in September, 1979, 'do not yet fully meet the guidelines set. Further progress is needed'.

Far from calling for sanctions against firms flouting the Code, foreign ministers said yesterday that European companies should 'continue their efforts' to fulfil its obligations.

—Guardian

Glue-sniffers may soon come unstuck. Euro MP Roland Boyes is urging moves to make glue so evil-smelling that addicts wouldn't want it anywhere near their noses.

—Star

Madame Danielle De March, a French communist member of the European Parliament, has urged the Common Market to make it compulsory for all dogs in EEC countries to be tattooed with an identity number.

In Britain, the RSPCA, which picks up around 10,000 pets a year, welcomed the scheme, which would help them trace the owners.

—Daily Mail

Britain is the only country in the Common Market that still allows school beatings. The Republic of Ireland was the last to abolish them, in February 1982.

—Sunday Times

In future all MEPs will have to declare whether they have a financial interest before speaking on any subject coming up for discussion in the European Parliament or on one of its committees.

A resolution to this effect adopted in March, will also require MEPs to make detailed declarations of their professional activities and list any other relevant functions for which they receive remuneration.

The resolution was welcomed by all speakers in the Parliament's debate.

—EP News

Member states which devalued in the March 21st currency realignment still have to make corresponding downward adjustments to their 'green' currencies in which farm prices are set. This will enable them to give their farmers a further price rise on top of the figure finally agreed for the EEC-wide increases.

—Economist

A German Euro-MP says Germans are 'deeply offended by war films that show them as barbaric.'

And Horst Seefeld isn't too keen on seeing Italians portrayed as bottom-pinchers, Irishmen as drunks and Englishmen as snooty.

He is asking the EEC Commission to stamp out screen caricatures. 'It can build up mistrust between countries,' he said.

—Daily Mail

The National Hairdressers Federation is writing to the Education Department to express its concern about part-time courses.

'Britain is the only EEC country which permits non-professionals to set themselves up as hairdressers', the Federation says.

About fifty complaints a week are received by the Hairdressing Council, set up in 1964, which maintains a voluntary register of about 15,000 hairdressers.

—Daily Express

The Republic of Ireland's dramatic appearance as an industrial nation since the 1950s is a European — and quite possibly a world — phenomenon. It happened because of a deliberate, intensive strategy by the Irish government.

The expansion, which was virtually unchecked until recession bit in the late 1970s, raced ahead of the country's ability to understand and control industrial pollution. A strategy for handling toxic wastes is beginning to emerge, because of EEC directives, but a quarter of the wastes produced by the Republic cannot be accounted for. Some 5000 out of an estimated 20 000 tonnes of waste 'disappears' every year. The figures are from the government's Institute for Industrial Research and Standards (IIRS), which is working on a confidential study to find the missing waste.

—New Scientist

It is the European Parliament which has forced the Commission to take such drastic measures, by cutting the budget allocations to the Commission's 200 or so consultative committees by almost half. Additional appropriations could, however, be granted: this will depend on the findings of an inquiry carried out by the Court of Auditors.

Of course, the European Parliament is quite right to monitor the use of the finances in the Community's coffers. That there have been abuses in the management of certain consultative committees is possible, not to say probable. But unfortunately all the committees are being tarred with the same brush.

—BEUC News

WHAT'S IN THE PAPERS

The Common Market yesterday abandoned its cautious forecasts for the European economy and agreed with many businessmen that the long-awaited upturn may have finally arrived.

In what it described as a significant improvement over previous months, the Commission said industrial confidence was now widespread and pronounced.

Leading indicators of economic activity and higher expectations among the business community meant prospects for a sustained upturn after years of recession were now markedly better.

'The recent fall in interest rates, declining oil prices, reduced stock levels and lower inflationary expectations are all factors which now favour economic recovery,' it said.

—Daily Telegraph

Spy planes and computers are being used by the Common Market in a crackdown on Italy's fiddling farmers. For the country's olive growers have collected £30 million in EEC grants — on trees that don't exist.

But now Euro bosses are determined to put the squeeze on the olive oil fraud. And no expense has been spared.

1,700 staff have been taken on to track down frauds. And they have been supplied with more than 100 mobile units to travel round the country doing on-the-spot checks.

Defending the cost of the operation, one source said: 'It's the only way. Some of these farmers are as crooked as the Tower of Pisa.'

—Star

On Tuesday £12,000 in damages was awarded by the European Court at Strasbourg to two Scottish families who won their case against corporal punishment in schools.

Now the court has ruled that Britain acted illegally by restricting the rights of prisoners to free correspondence with the outside world.

The judgment is largely academic as the complaints were made 10 years ago by six prisoners and one prison visitor who said that letters were being interfered with.

Now the rules governing correspondence have been "substantially modified," the British Government told the court.

The judgment is also a bit late to satisfy one of the complainants. Reuben Silver, who has since died.

—Daily Express