

Opera Mundi **EUROPE**

A WEEKLY REPORT ON THE ECONOMY OF THE COMMON MARKET

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Foreign Affairs Minister of the Netherlands

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OPERA MUNDI EUROPE

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

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

SWITZERLAND

54 Rue Vermont GENEVA
TEL: 33 7693

ITALY

72 Corso di Porta Romana MILAN
TEL: 540.301 - 540.309

BENELUX

4 Boulevard Anspach BRUSSELS
TEL: 18-01-93

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COMMENT

AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH DR. JOSEPH LUNS

Foreign Minister of the Netherlands

From Our Correspondent, France Barbey

There has already been much discussion as to the origins and consequences of the social upheaval which has just swept across France. It must however, be realised that this new consciousness concerns not just France, but the whole of Europe. Europeans outside France cannot afford to turn a blind eye to the present elections in France, especially given what has gone before, for these elections cannot but have a significant influence on the future political and economic orientation of Europe. In the face of these new developments it was thought worthwhile to re-appraise the European situation. Mr. Luns, the Dutch Foreign minister, has kindly agreed to help us in this task.

* * *

OME: France is at present going through more or less a short period of convalescence, and soon the French economy will have to bear the heavy burden of General de Gaulle's programme of reform. In your opinion what will be the consequences of the French crisis on Europe?

Luns: The prophet's role is not an easy one, but I do not think I would be far from the truth if I spoke of a definite rise in the cost of living, a certain detente in economic activity, which has in any case begun, and repercussions in neighbouring countries, especially in the other Common Market countries. Nor am I excluding the possibility that the people of other countries will also make similar claims to those of the French people. All too often in these cases the people make the mistake of demanding too much and find themselves forced in the end to accept reforms offering much less than they had hoped for. The cost of living will rise in France so much that I wonder whether those who receive salary increases will really benefit in the end. There will certainly be repercussions, but the final outcome will depend on the level at which French productivity settles. Experts now think that France, which has hoped for a 5% increase in its gross national product, will have to be content with a 2 or 3% increase. This does not bode well for the future.

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OME: As a result of the French crisis the franc has been under serious pressure. With this fact in mind, do you think that France should join with the British and Americans in recognising the pressing need for a custombuilt solution to the problem of international currency exchange?

Luns: I make no pretence of being an expert in financial matters. Nevertheless, it can still be said, speaking objectively, that the franc is in a better position than the dollar and certainly in a better position than sterling. The level of the French reserves is impressive: more than \$5,000 million in gold before this crisis. When confidence builds up again I am sure that France will again be able to maintain the franc as a firm currency.

*

OME: With the background of the recent events in France, do you think that she will change for European policy?

Luns: We are still in the dark here, so it is difficult to make any forecasts. We must first see how the elections turn out. As regards foreign policy I cannot say what effects recent events will have on the French government. The possibility that France will branch out into a new policy cannot be ruled out; on the other hand we have no categorical proof that she will. From what I have gathered from the first pronouncements by the new Foreign Affairs Minister, M. M. Debre, the policy will follow the same broad lines as that propounded by his predecessor, M. Couve de Murville.

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OME: Do you consider that the membership of Britain is essential to the competitiveness of Europe on the international market and to her ability to be heard in international affairs?

Luns: There are two parts to your question. As regards international competition, I think it would be a good thing for Britain to be a member of the Community. Politically speaking, I feel that it is essential. The Six must not remain isolated in their little club: Europe must extend its borders above all to Britain. I would like to make this clear - from a political standpoint I feel that British membership is essential, from the economic standpoint it is desirable.

*

OME: Is British membership necessary to the internal stability of the Community?

Luns: No, it is not "necessary". There are even those who find the prospect dangerous, but I do not see it as such. The Dutch government is of the opinion that British membership is desirable for the internal stability of the Community, but not necessarily essential.

*

OME: Certain Europeans feel that the economic union of the EEC should lead to political union. The facts however do not seem to bear out this conclusion. Need we go on perpetuating this theory?

Luns: You are quite right. I used to belong to this camp myself. Ten or fifteen years ago, we thought that economic union would lead almost automatically to political integration. Now we have come to realise that this is not the case; it is possible to co-operate very closely on the economic plane and still maintain a quite separate foreign policy. France is a good example of this. In addition, if you want to co-operate and integrate on the political plane, there must first be economic integration. It all depends really on political good will. If this good will is lacking then you can still co-operate on the economic level. On the other hand, if political good will boosts political integration, then it is essential to have some sort of economic integration as a foundation on which to build. I hope I have made myself clear.

*

OME: You have conceded an important role to the Benelux countries in the present crisis. Do you think that the Benelux countries can play a significant part in the Community's political power game?

Luns: Certainly. The Benelux Plan of last January is still on the table for a start. But with the Belgian government crisis, the elections in Italy and the French crisis, we have been unable to make much progress. The Dutch hope that this plan can be implemented effectively. I believe that the Benelux countries will be able to play a very effective role in the political development of the Common Market, and of Europe. The power of these three countries, if it is all directed towards the same goal, is greater than the sum of the individual national powers.

*

OME: What future can you see for a Europe which finds itself in a deadlock such as this one?

Luns: It cannot be denied that this crisis has discouraged a lot of people. However, I feel that as soon as there is a small change, as soon as the wind begins to blow a little in the right direction, the great European ship will turn again to face its goal. We must not therefore lose hope or confidence; we must keep that goal well in sight. I believe that this crisis, like others in the past, will be overcome before very long.

THE WEEK IN THE COMMUNITY

June 24 - June 30, 1968

THE COMMON MARKET

Integration and Expansion - the Keynotes of M. Jean Rey's July 1 Speech

To mark the completion of the customs union on July 1, M. Jean Rey gave a press conference on Monday morning in which he outlined the achievements of the Community to date and his hopes for the future. In a speech tinged with a not inconsiderable amount of optimism given the recent "crisis" within the Community, he called "all the young and creative forces of Europe to union, action and hope". "Europe", he said, "is not simply a system of tariff barriers. Europe does not belong merely to the industrialists, the farmers and the technocrats. Europe does not consist merely of 180 million people grouped around the Community. Europe is not just the preserve of governments, parliaments and administrators. It belongs to the people, the workers, to the young, to man himself. Much however remains to be done".

This was all most inspiring, and a praiseworthy ideal to keep in mind, but practical measures had to be thought out so that these aims might be achieved. In the economic field the Six should take steps to make the transition from the customs union to an economic union, "characterised by an economic policy conceived and implemented on a scale covering the whole continent." The Commission feels that it is particularly urgent to formulate three common policies, one for fiscal, one for monetary and one for scientific matters. In the purely political field M. Rey hoped that the member countries would return again to the spirit of the Rome Treaty, endeavouring to develop real federal institutions. They should invite other countries to join the political nucleus of the Six. "The founders of the Community never envisaged that it would be closed to other countries", he said.

The measures which he proposed took the form of a five-year programme to re-launch the drive towards the political and economic integration of Europe. To start with, the fusion of the three European treaties ought to pave the way to new levels of political union. The Commission is planning to submit proposals on this matter to the national governments this very month. Next, the antiquated system of the right to veto must be done away with. The Commission should be endowed with powers which will enable it to administer the Community from Brussels, unhampered by national vetoes which in any case sprang from the Luxembourg Agreement of 1966 (forced by France) which the Commission had never accepted. Parallel to this increase in supranational power on the part of the Commission, the powers of the European Parliament should also be increased so as to ensure that the European people should play a greater part in the life of the Community, preferably by means of direct elections.

The Commission should then give the Council full rein so that it can develop the necessary economic, fiscal, monetary, social and other policies which will enable the Community to make rapid progress towards full economic union. The main aims of these policies should be achieved within the space of five years.

The Six must again make an effort towards enlarging the Community and towards the unification of Europe. The Commission has noted that the serious economic and social crisis which has struck several of the European countries, both inside and outside the Community, bears witness to the fact that European countries have become increasingly interdependent. The moment has come to take advantage of this solidarity and to develop its potential.

M. Rey then called on "the great economic, social and intellectual forces of Europe" to play a greater part in the building of the new Europe. The Commission would ask the Economic and Social Committee to undertake a thorough-going examination of the whole situation within the Community in the autumn (i.e. after the summer recess). There would also have to be three meetings of the employers and the workers, the agricultural organisations and the student and youth organisations. The Commission would take great care to look into current student problems, such as the question of their mode of instruction, student exchanges and the university system in general.

Then M. Rey came to speak of the French situation and its relevance to the Community he was unexpectedly lenient and moderate in his approach, compared with previous statements put out by the Commission. He called on member countries not to retaliate against the measures taken by France to protect her economy and her balance of payments, which already has been very sorely tested. Nobody believed that these measures would fundamentally prejudice the working of the Community, he said. France's most recent protective moves were akin to those taken by Britain in 1964, and as was the case with Britain then, the real aim is to limit the damage. If 1) the measures are reduced in extent as far as is possible, 2) they are limited in time and 3) other countries put up with them without retaliating, they will give the greatest effect and yet cause the least damage to the working of the customs union. M. Rey praised France for "the courageous and meritorious way" in which she had shown restraint in her counter measures, the import restrictions affecting only 20% of France's total imports, leaving 80% still free.

Dr. Mansholt Demurs

July 1 also gave Sicco Mansholt an opportunity to speak on matters of importance regarding the building of a coherent European community. On the day the customs union came into force, Dr. Mansholt spoke in a somewhat deprecating terms concerning the European Council of Ministers. Dr. Mansholt, who is the Vice-Chairman of the Commission, felt that ministers tended to serve their countries' own narrow national interests instead of furthering the more worthy aims of the European Community. As long as the national representatives at the seat of European power insisted on perpetuating the old national divisions,

Europe as an integrated economic, if not political community, could not become a reality. This key issue could determine the whole future of Europe.

Dr. Mansholt opined that the only sphere where the Foreign Ministers had really been acting as "Europeans" rather than nationals was in regard to the Kennedy Round agreements on tariff cuts. As for the application of Britain and the other candidate countries to the Community, the Council had done little or nothing, largely on account of one national will. He felt it unlikely that one country would alter its attitude, so this negative approach would probably prevail in the Council of Ministers for some time to come. "Especially after the enormous victory of the Gaullists on Sunday, there is a serious doubt as to the Council's preparedness to think in a European way."

* * *

FRANCE

A Damper on the Customs Union

Monday of this week should have been a milestone in the integration of the Six, but the day the industrial tariff barrier fell was marred by the action taken by one of its most powerful members, France. That General de Gaulle has little use for the idea of Europe, except when it suits his own purposes, is well-known, but even with the seriousness of the situation facing France, there is a strong case for arguing that his government has violated the principles and procedures of the Rome Treaty through the manner in which the decision to introduce export aids and import protection for French industry has been taken. However, all the objections from states within and outside the Community, as well as those formulated by the EEC and other international trading organisations, will not put Paris out unduly. The return to power of the orthodox Gaullists at the weekend in such numbers that they do not even require the help of the Giscardiens to govern, offers General de Gaulle an opportunity to press ahead with a similar foreign policy, at the same time as carrying out the reforms which he has promised. But the French government will have to take rapid and constructive measures, if the internal situation is not to worsen again during the autumn and winter, and to do so it may well need to have at least the help and consent of its partners inside the Six, as well as outside.

The measures decided upon by France, which have now been formulated in the Journal Officiel, include import quotas for cars (115% of imports from all countries during the same period in 1967 - in force until November 1) whilst commercial vehicles will be limited to 110% of imports during the same period last year. Other quotas will be imposed on textiles, and are based on imports for the whole of last year, and trade during the first half of this year, and should expire on December 31. Imports of domestic appliances are limited to 110% of imports from all countries as between July 1 and December 31, 1967, and should expire at the end of this year.

The French government will also keep a close watch on a certain number of other products - without imposing controls for the time being - to prevent excessive increases in imports which might upset the French market. These include electronic components, machine-tools, colorants, industrial rubber, laminated panels and certain textile products.

It also seems as if Paris wants to impose quotas on steel imports, but because steel is governed by the ECSC Treaty, which has much sharper teeth than the Rome Treaty the French position is rather weaker. The Council of Ministers dealing with steel problems - since the merger of the executives - has to be consulted, and under the terms of the Treaty, action can be taken by the ECSC executive to remedy the situation. So far the French steel import quotas have not yet been published in the Journal Officiel, and some observers are wondering whether the French are using the proposal as a bargaining point which they will be quite prepared to withdraw. The latest indications are that there will be a Council meeting on Friday July 5 to discuss this question of steel import quotas.

Other steps taken by the French government include a cut in export credit interest rates from 3 to 2 % until January 1, 1969 and an easing and broadening of the "economic risk guarantee" for exports, which will mainly affect capital goods, to cover the part played in manufacturing costs by higher wage costs.

The general reaction from the other members of the EEC and GATT has been a muted and disgruntled acceptance that the measures are after all better than having the franc devalued since, with the present weakness of the international monetary situation, there would probably have been a widespread change in currency parity rates. The fear is that encouragement will have been given to protectionist lobbies in many countries, and especially in the United States, where the government may put into effect the act allowing it to impose countervailing duties. It can be argued that it is better for France to take preventive measures now to stave off a possibly disruptive situation, rather than have to introduce controls and export aids in the midst of a crisis within the next few months. But a number of observers have commented that the size of the French gold and currency reserves - despite their loss since the crisis of between \$1,500 and \$2,000 million - is such that more use of them should be made to soften the aftermath. The French government has indicated that it is willing to use its reserves, but the scope of its intentions are not yet clear.

Amongst France's partners in the EEC, some of the strongest protests have come from Italy, which has chairmanship of Council meetings during the next six months. Italian industry, whose sales of refrigerators have been making considerable inroads into the French market, and which expected a 30% rise in electrical domestic appliance exports to France will be hard hit. Italian car sales had been expected to rise by two-fifths, but since French imports are limited to 115% of last year's figure from all countries, this cannot be achieved. Textiles are another sector which is likely to be seriously affected by the French moves. The general line taken by the Italian press is that General de Gaulle is trying to make the rest of Europe bear the burden of the recent crisis in France. Dutch businessmen are far from happy

with themselves, but in West Germany, which is France's largest trading partner, reactions are more sympathetic.

After long hours of discussion, the Commission last Friday reached agreement over the reply it should make to France. But the attitude taken by the Brussels executive seems at times rather inconsistent. Its reply is in six main points. Firstly, the Commission "appreciates at its full value the confirmation of the French Government's determination to respect the July 1 deadline, and is conscious of the efforts made to limit the safeguard measures." It also stated that it has received further details on the proposed controls for textiles. The Commission then turned to the question of steel imports, and pointed out that these depended on the Treaty of Paris, and in particular Articles 37 and 67. It said that it hoped a meeting of the Council - now due for Friday - could take place as soon as possible, in accordance with the Treaty. Thirdly it stated that it was aware of the difficulties caused by recent events, and understands that the measures are intended only as safeguards. But judgement is reserved as to the scope and duration of the measures decided upon, which in the Commission's view should be limited to what is strictly necessary. Furthermore consultations should take place between member states. Fourthly, the Commission has informed Paris that it has begun a detailed examination of the French situation, and has decided to call a meeting of the Monetary Committee under Article 108 of the Rome Treaty to see whether "mutual assistance" - which Paris has not yet actually asked for - should be made available. The need for France to consult as soon as possible with other countries affected by her measures constitutes the fifth point. In particular this refers to GATT and the Kennedy Round tariff cuts due to come into effect on July 1. Since the Commission's statement there has been a preliminary meeting of GATT, and it would appear that a number of countries, headed by the United States and Switzerland, intend to take a firm line. Finally the Commission says it is willing to do all it can to help France overcome her difficulties, but points out "that the respect of Community procedures remains the sole guarantee of solidarity amongst the Six and appears as the indispensable condition for the preservation of a member State confronted with difficulties".

This last statement appears to differ in emphasis from another put out by Brussels, and which caused some surprise in France by its apparently harder line: "The Commission doubts whether the French Government is able to take on its own the batch of safeguard measures announced, and considers that it is in any case necessary to return without delay to Community procedures." A clearer picture of the official attitude of the Five will emerge after the Council meeting, which will be held to discuss the measures, and which is expected for the second half of this month. One aspect of the discussion is whether the French measures will be treated as a separate issue or used as a bargaining counter. The Six have once again to overcome a problem which may well weaken their strength if a satisfactory solution is not worked out quickly. The Gaullist government has shown its power and will to ignore even basic Community procedures, and has thereby created a risk of other countries acting unilaterally to protect themselves. But one should perhaps accept the statement by M. Couve de Murville that the measures are only temporary, for if France is to succeed, her industries and business life must be open to competition.

* * *

AGRICULTURE

Stumbling Over the Deadline

On Friday, June 28, the EEC agricultural ministers concluded the last of their meetings before the Community's free trade deadline fell, and by virtue of keeping strictly to technical fundamentals succeeded in achieving at least token adherence to this deadline, with something like 92 - 93% of all produce from the Six now free from internal community trade restrictions. Those items that nevertheless continue outside the customs union are, for the most part, minor commodities: tobacco, wine, fish, hops, lamb, honey, seed, coffee and offal. The meeting produced agreement on a common system for preserved fruit and vegetables, an approved base price for pork (up 2% from Dm 294 to 300 per 100 kilos) and provisions for the oil-seeds market. First and foremost, however, was of course the settlement of the beef and dairy market arrangements, inasmuch as the ministers agreed to endorse the scheme arrived at on May 29, and bring the legislation into effect on July 29. The intervening four weeks will be devoted to the elaboration of the details of the marketing arrangements by the Commission. Only a few minor points will have to be overlooked (bottled milk etc), and these will continue under national arrangements for the time being e.g. with Belgium continuing to offer quality bonuses and France and Germany subsidising exports to Italy. Moreover, because the meeting was held last week, it means, at least by the letter of EEC law, that the two overall regulations for beef and dairy products will be dated June 28, within the customs union deadline. The ministers agreed to meet again twice in July, and the first Council session will take place on July 15 - 16, under the chairmanship of Italy, which now takes over this task from France, for the second six months of the year.

Because the ministers steered clear of political matters during the meeting, they were able to avoid the difficulties that many had foreseen, and for instance no attempt was made to link the agricultural question with France's request for safeguards on industrial goods after her recent crisis. For their part, the Germans chose not to use the occasion to start pressing for better farm finance terms, as they have undertaken to do under pressure from farmers at home. We may now expect the Federal Republic to postpone its campaign for a more favourable rating in the FEOGA contributions percentage breakdown until the next meeting on the financing of the CAP, which will probably take place early next year.

But the Six have a long way still to go on farm policy. July 1 means relatively little, other than serving as a landmark, to remind the Six of the enormity of the task that remains. Pricing policy has still to be revised in the light of the need to maintain a balance between the Six's various production patterns, and this can only be done step by step, year by year. Moreover, to be valid such a policy must needs be complemented by an agricultural restructuring policy, a draft scheme for which is currently being produced by the Commission, and which could be revealed by the end of July, but more likely not until the autumn. The Commission will probably be at pains to get the debate on this question linked with that of farm finance itself, the renewal of regulations for which must be complete by the end of 1969. Thus once more farm policy looks like being the most vital question in Community affairs in the coming year.

French Farming After the Crisis

In the wage negotiations at the end of May between the French government and the unions, considerable changes were made to the agricultural as well as to the industrial wage scale. Up to then there had been two minimum wage scales, one for industrial workers (SMIG - minimum guaranteed industrial wage) and another for agricultural workers (SMAG). In the so-called "Grenelle agreement", taking its name from the street in which the ministry of social affairs is located, the two were amalgamated into a single scale. This represents a very considerable increase for agricultural workers, whose scale, previously well below the industrial scale, has now been aligned with it. According to the farmers' union there are thousands of small farmers who earn less than Fr 600 a month, though presumably these are mostly self-employed. Consequently the increase in the minimum wage to Fr 3 per hour, which represents an increase of 35.1 per cent in industrial wage scales, amounts to an increase of 56.2 per cent for agricultural workers, the previous minimum having been Fr 1.92 per hour. In addition, the previous regional grading has been abolished, that is to say that there will be no regional rates lower than the minimum. Agricultural workers will also benefit from a general consolidated wage increase of 7 per cent which will be increased to 10 per cent from October 1. It was agreed that a shorter working week would be progressively introduced with the objective of a 40 hour week before the end of the Vth Plan in 1970. It is estimated that these increases will affect some 180,000 employed in agriculture and in the co-operatives. Scales for food and lodging will also be revised as soon as possible.

These wage increases are obviously going to have a very considerable effect on the economic position of the agricultural industry; nor is it only the larger farms with employed workers who are going to feel the pinch. The small and medium men who are largely self-employed with members of their families also working are clearly not going to accept a revenue which gives them a return below the minimum scale. The minister of agriculture has admitted that "other ways" must be found to maintain farmers' livelihoods, since the Common Market precludes any unilateral increase in prices. The French farmers' union (FNSEA) has formulated an eight-point programme giving the broad lines of what it considers essential. The programme includes parity of earnings with industry, a guaranteed income no lower than the minimum wage scale, increases in producer prices, further social action by the government, tax reductions for rural areas and financial aid for livestock farming and investment plans. Compensation is also demanded for growers, mostly of potatoes and other vegetables, who suffered losses owing to the crisis and the transport strikes. The government has already announced that it is ready to make offers to the growers along these lines, but it is naturally wary not to set a precedent which might then be exploited by other sectors of the economy.

Although representatives of the agricultural employers were ready to make wage concessions, they strongly resisted any extension of trade union influence in the industry. They were finally forced to accept a commission composed of their own and the workers' representatives and officials from the ministry of agriculture who would investigate the

whole field of union activity in agriculture. They also agreed to regional consultative committees composed of both sides of the industry to deal with conditions for workers on small farms where a full union organisation would be inappropriate.

The prime minister recently announced the measures which the government would take to maintain agricultural incomes; these follow the eight point programme closely. The regional chambers of agriculture had estimated the additional cost to agriculture of the wage increases to be some Fr 1,400 million and the new measures should be close to providing aid from public funds to equalise this amount.

1. Small farmers will be given large rebates on their contributions to health insurance, up to a maximum of 85 per cent.
2. There will be a supplement to the retirement pension for farmers for a period of three years.
3. Special pension payments to farmers who give up their farms in the interests of restructuring holdings will be scaled up.
4. Rebates to farmers on certain taxes will be increased; this will apply particularly to some wine growers who have had to face disproportionately heavy tax increases as a result of the introduction of the added value tax.
5. The ministry of agriculture's investment budget will be increased; an additional Fr 60 m. in grants and credits will be found for rural roads and electrification, land consolidation and the activities of SAFER, the agency which is responsible for buying up land for consolidation purposes. A further Fr 50 m. will be found for credits for investment in the food and agricultural industries. Finally the increased water rate will be used for rural water schemes.
6. Credit will be made available to certain farmers and growers who suffered loss because of the crisis and the strikes.
7. A sum of Fr 500,000 will be provided immediately to finance an egg support buying scheme and the relevant organisations will be empowered to impose a levy.
8. Money will be provided through the marketing fund - FORMA - for the financing of the withdrawal of surplus new potatoes from the market and to enable the Brittany fruit and vegetable growers to set up a similar scheme for artichokes. From June 20 an export subsidy on exports of cherries and peaches to non-EEC countries will be granted amounting to 15 centimes per kilogram. Finally FORMA will be given an additional Fr 1,200 million for this year over and above the original Fr 1,500 million under the 1968 finance act.
9. Lastly the government has accepted the principle of a minimum income for small self-employed farmers. No announcement was made about how this was to be put into practice beyond the statement that they would be asked in return to undertake, for instance, to put their land at the disposal of the agencies in charge of restructuring when they retired.

Certain steps would be taken in the immediate future to help small livestock farmers, possibly in the form of a reduction in the charges laid on them under current schemes for improving the national livestock herd.

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LEGAL MATTERS

The Use and Abuse of Patents Law

The European Court of Justice was recently asked for the first time, by the Hague Court of Appeal, to deliberate on a case where a company has been accused of using the national patents law of a Community country as a means of preventing competing imports into that country. The instance was of an American pharmaceuticals company, which as long ago as 1958 had brought proceedings against three Dutch firms that were alleged to have imported quantities of an Italian pharmaceutical product, the Dutch patent rights for which were held by the U.S. concern.

In resorting to the Communities' Court of Justice, the Dutch Court was seeking advice as to whether a manufacturer who calls in national patent laws is liable to action under Articles 85 and 86 of the Rome Treaty (rules of competition - see OME Nos 359-376), in that he contrives to restrict trade and alter the pattern of competition. The Dutch court also wanted to know whether the issue would be altered in any way if the holder of the patent was selling the product at a higher price than the importer of the rival product would have been asking, i.e. using national law to obviate dangerous competition from elsewhere in the Community. An important contributory factor in the case was that Italian patent law does not protect drugs or pharmaceutical manufacturing processes.

The European Court in fact found no way in which the principle of national patents contravenes that of free competition in the Community, nor did it concede that fixing a higher selling price for a patented product on a national market than that which would be asked for a rival, non-patented competing item, which is kept out of the market by law, was of necessity an abuse. In all its findings, the Community Court adheres strictly to the principles of the Treaty, and thus declares that national patent laws, though open at times to abuse, as regards the Community's rules of competition, can only be questioned in their application to specific cases, and not per se. Thus in the test case in question, the Court, in its Statement of Grounds for its ruling, relates national patent law to Article 85 of the Treaty in the following manner:

"The patent protecting an invention, considered on its own, independent of any agreement of which such patent may be the object, arises from the legal status granted by a State to products fulfilling certain criteria; it does not therefore have the features of an agreement or a concerted practice required by Article 85 (I);

On the other hand, the provisions of this Article could conceivably apply if the employment of one or more patents, concerted between enterprises, were to have the effect of creating a situation liable to fall within the ambit of the notions of agreements between enterprises, decisions by associations of enterprises or concerted practices within the meaning of Article 85 (1)."

With regard to Article 86, the Court comments:

"Since patent law exists at present only in domestic legislation, its application can come within the scope of Community law only if such application would contribute to a dominant position the improper use of which would be liable to impair trade between the Member States."

* * *

E.C.S.C

Latest Investment Loans

At their last meeting, the EEC Council of Ministers endorsed the Commission's request to grant the following investment loans to Community enterprises:

- \$139,000 to the "Borsig A.G." Company, Berlin, with a view to facilitating the financing of an extension to a factory at Gladbeck (Ruhr);
- \$125,000 to the "Spanplattenwerk Münsterland GmbH & Co KG" Company, Dorsten (North Rhine/Westphalia), with a view to facilitating the financing of an extension to a factory producing wood chipboard.
- \$3,000,000 to the "Ruhrzink GmbH" Company, Datteln (Ruhr), with a view to facilitating the financing of the building of a zinc electrolysis factory;
- \$1,250,000 to the "Rheinisches Zinkwalzwerk GmbH & Co KG" Company, Datteln (Ruhr), with a view to facilitating the financing of the building of a zinc rolling works;
- \$55,220 maximum to the "N.V. Bouwbedrijf Noordland" Company, 's-Gravenzande, with a view to facilitating the financing of the building of workshops for the production of structural components for horticultural glasshouses at Roermond (Limburg, Netherlands);
- \$860,836 to the "O.N.A.T.R.A." Company, Marseilles, with a view to facilitating the financing of the opening of a new plant at Saint-Avoid (Moselle);
- \$5,000,000 to the "Kleber-Colombes S.A." Company, Colombes (Hauts-de-Seine), with a view to facilitating the financing of the building of a tyre factory at Toul (Meurthe et Moselle).

* * *

July 4, 1968

EUROFLASH - HEADLINES

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ADVERTISING

** The Swiss agency JEAN REIWALD SA, Basle, has opened a branch in Paris unde M. Jean Duby. The parent company's original name was Werbeagentur Jean Reiwald and it has Sf 200, 000 capital.

AEROSPACE

** STE DES AVIONS MARCEL DASSAULT Sarl, St-Cloud, Hauts-de-Seine (see No 445) a member of the MARCEL DASSAULT aerospace group, has formed a subsidiary called DASSAULT INTERNATIONAL Sarl, Vaucresson, Hauts-de-Seine (capital F 1.1 m.). This will sell all types of aerospace equipment outside France and is managed by M. Jean - Claude Vallieres, president of Ste des Avions Marcel Dassault, as well as of another subsidiary Breguet Aviation SA, Paris (see No 455).

AUTOMOBILES

** The Milan car firm ALFA ROMEO SpA (a member of the State IRI group through the holding company Finmeccanica - see No 466) has formed a second North American subsidiary (see Nos 420, 396) in Canada. Based in Toronto, ALFA ROMEO CANADA LTD will be responsible for co-ordinating local concessionaires. The Italian firm has long had a New York sales subsidiary, Alfa Romeo Inc.

In South America, Alfa Romeo recently extended its interests by forming APSA in Asuncion, Paraguay, by signing an agreement with Automotora Basso, Montevideo, Uruguay and by raising its stake in the Brazilain Fabrica Nacional De Motores, Rio de Janeiro. Within the EEC, its most recent move has been the formation of an Amsterdam sales subsidiary, Alfa Romeo Nederland NV (see No 455); it has direct interests in the other four states.

BUILDING & CIVIL ENGINEERING

** The Milan group MONTECATINI EDISON SpA has raised the capital of one of its French subsidiaries (see especially No 455) STE INDUSTRIELLE D'AMBES SA, Paris, to F 5 million, so as to back its expansion. Changed into SILICALCITE DE FRANCE SA (building materials). Signor Enrico Barsighelli will shortly be appointed as president.

** Four Dutch civil engineering firms have linked on an equal basis to form a zinc assemblies firm called ZINK-CON MIJ. TOT UITVOERING VAN MODERNE ZINK-CONSTRUCTIES NV, Sliedrecht (authorised capital Fl 10m. - 40% paid-up) headed by Mr. W. Drooger, Zwijndrecht.

The four founders are 1) D. BLANKEVOORT & ZOON NV, Bloemendaal, which also has an 84% Belgian subsidiary, Mebuco-Mechanical Business Co SA, Londerzeel, in association with its Brussels affiliate, Hydraulic Excavation-Hydex SA; 2) NV BESTUURSMIJ. BOS & KALIS, Sliedrecht, which since 1964 has an almost wholly-owned Sliedrecht subsidiary Aannemingsmij.

Land & Marine NV (authorised capital Fl 250,000); 3) HOLLANDSCH AANNEMERSBEDRIJF ZANENVERSTOEP NV, The Hague, and 4) VAN HATTUM & BLANKEVOORT NV, Beverwijk, (see No.465), the licensee of the British firm Unipark Ltd (joint subsidiary of William Moss & Sons Ltd and Head Wrighton & Co Ltd, through its subsidiary F.C. Constructions Co Ltd) for the construction in the Netherlands of multi-storey car parks.

CHEMICALS

** The New York group GAF CORP. (formerly General Aniline and Film Corp - see No 451) has extended its EEC interests with the formation in Milan of GAF (ITALY) Srl. With Sig G. Mava as director, this has Lire 600,000 capital, and will deal in chemical products and sensitised materials.

Gaf Corp recently changed the names of several Common Market subsidiaries making or distributing its projectors, transparencies and viewers (trademarks Viewmaster, Gaf Sawyer's and Pana Vue). Thus the Belgian Sawyer's Europe NV, St-Nicholas has become GAF (Belgium) NV, the French Sawyer's (France) Sarl has become GAF (France), and its Cologne and Delft sales companies have taken the names of GAF Deutschland GmbH and GAF (Nederland) NV.

** GEWERKSCHAFT KERAMISCHE, Siershalm (a 50% affiliate of the Essen engineering and chemical group TH. GOLDSCHMIDT AG - see No 446) has formed a wholly-owned Milan sales subsidiary called KERACHEMIE ITALIANA Srl (capital Lire 8m.). Headed by Herren E. Hedrich and W. Aschermann, this specialises in anti-acids, anti-corrosives, chemical scouring plants plastic and ceramic coatings.

The Essen group also has a direct Milan subsidiary called Tego Italiana (formed in late 1966 - see No 418) to sell chemical, plastic and metal-chemical products.

** Formed in the Netherlands in October 1963 with a capital of Fl 10 million, AAGRUNOL VERENIGDE BEDRIJVEN NV, Groningen, is about to be taken over by the chemicals and textiles group, A.K.U. - ALLGEMENE KUNSTZIJDE UNIE NV, Arnhem (see No 456). A.K.U. (1967 consolidated turnover Fl 30 m.) specialises in chemical products for agriculture and heads several companies in the Netherlands, including Alv Wiersum Chemie NV, Aagrulon Chemische Fabrieken NV and Kunststoffen-Maatschappij NV, Groningen and one in West Germany; Deutsche Wiersum GmbH, Hamburg.

In the sulphur sector, the AKU group has decided to increase its co-operation with its main subsidiary, the German company GLANZSTOFF AG, Wuppertal. This deal will consist of a manufacturing agreement with the carbon disulphide concern, Carbosulf Chemische Werke GmbH, Köln-Weidenpesch, (see No 279). With a capital of Dm 4.5 million this company is controlled by Glanzstoff and by Dr. Jacob Chemische Fabrik GmbH, Bad Kreuznach (owned by the H.R. Jakob family), 66 and 33% respectively.

****** The American CROMPTON & KNOWLES CORP, Worcester, Massachusetts (textile and plastics processing machinery, colorants etc. - see No 357) has carried out two new European operations with the aim of diversifying its interests.

1. in Belgium, it has gained control of ETS COENE PERE & FILS SA, Schaerbeek-Brussels (70 on payroll) which make food extracts, essential oils, essences and colorants for cosmetics and food industries.

2. in the Netherlands, it has gained control of NV ESSENCEFABRIEK GRUNO, Weesp (capital Fl 500,000 - 40 employees) which makes flavourings and colorants for food-stuffs concentrated fruit juices, additives for the canning industry and essential oils. Both the Belgian and Dutch firms were linked by cross-shareholdings and close co-operation agreements.

The American group already has a wholly-owned Paris subsidiary Crompton & Knowles International Sarl (formerly Crompton & Knowles Nebiolo Sarl) since it acquired in 1966 the 50% shareholding held by its Italian partner Nebiolo SpA, Turin. This sells textile machinery and is directly controlled by the group with a 50% stake now held by its Quebec subsidiary Crompton & Knowles International Ltd, Westmont.

****** The Italian chemical products sales company TRIMETAL SpA, Genoa (capital Lire 4.8m - headed by Mr. C.W. Frombos) has opened two new branches in Rome and Milan. It was formed in late 1966 as the exclusive representative of the Deventer firm Noury Baker NV (see No 438) which has recently become J.T. BAKER CHEMICALS (Europa) NV, following its acquisition by American interests (see No 460).

Trimetal is also the Italian representative of the Antwerp trading firm SA Trading (see No 457) which with its Rotterdam subsidiary Van Beuningen & Co has been acquired by the British group based in Glasgow, Burmah Oil Co.Ltd.

****** The French specialist in mineral and organic chemical products, explosives, plastic cleansers, and electrolytic coatings NOBEL BOZEL SA, Puteaux Hauts-de-Seine (a member of the Ste Centrale de Dynamite SA - see No 459) has formed a 50% sales subsidiary in Madrid, NOBEL HISPANO FRANCE SA (capital Pts 4 m.) to sell mineral and chemical products.

Nobel Bozel's last move outside France was the taking of a 32% interest in the formation of Geonuclea Nobel Paso SA (see No 422), set up in Geneva to study and to exploit throughout the world (with the exception of the United States) the peaceful uses of atomic energy, in the mining sector in particular for displacement techniques in mining oil and gas and excavating underground storage reservoirs. Under the presidency of Mr. Howard Boyd, this company has a capital of Sf.5 million, the balance of which is held by the American firm, El Paso Natural Gas Co. (50%), the German firm, Dynamite Nobel AG, Troisdorf (a member of the Fr. Flick group) and the Belgian company, P.R.B. - Poundreries Reunies SA (a member of the Ste. Generale de Belgique) with 10% and 8% respectively.

** Continuing its policy of expanding in the Common Market countries (see No 456) the London group, ALBRIGHT & WILSON LTD.(see No 463) has formed one subsidiary in Benelux and another in France. Specialising in organic chemical products for perfumery, cosmetics, detergents etc., the former, ALBRIGHT & WILSON NV (Capital Fl.250,000), Rotterdam is directed by Mr. W. Van Prooijen, director of another company in the group, Midland Silicones-Nederland NV (see No 446). Soon after its formation, this company opened up a branch at Brussels under the direction of Mr. B. Breitbarth.

The second company, MARCHON FRANCE SA (capital F.1 m) Paris has M. A. Mouscadet as president, and has been given the job of running the factory (operational as from the beginning of 1969) which the British group is building at St Mihiel, Meuse (see No 453), on the lines laid down by the Marchon Products Ltd Division at Whitehaven, Cumberland and its subsidiary, Marchon Italia SpA, Castiglione delle Stiviere, Mantua.

CONSUMER DURABLES

** The West German electric and electronic domestic equipment producer GRUNDIGWERKE GmbH, Fürth (see No 438) has continued to expand its foreign interests and has acquired control of the Austrian radio and TV set producer MINERVA RADIO, W. WOHLBER & CO SPEZIALZEUGANG FUER RADIO - APPARATE & BESTANDTEILE, Vienna. Formed in 1924, this has some 500 persons on its payroll and until now was owned by Frau E. Rissel-Wohleber.

The move will not however affect the Vienna firm's role as the general agent for Elektrabregenz, Bregenz (owner by Herr Fritz Schindler) which has a television factory run on its behalf (see No 355).

COSMETICS

** The largest French champagne concern, MAISON MOET & CHANDON SA, Epernay, Marne (see No 420) has gained an interest of around 33% in the cosmetics and beauty preparations firm of PARFUMS CHRISTIAN DIOR Sarl, Paris (factory at Rueil-Malmaison, Hauts-de-Seine) and in its New York subsidiary CHRISTIAN DIOR PERFUMES CORP. The shares were purchased from the textiles group BOUSSAC (see No 267) headed by M. Marcel Boussac, who, with MM. Christian Dior and Serge Hestler was the founder of the company. Boussac has an annual turnover of about F 80 million, two-thirds from export sales. The present move does not involve the sister company CHRISTIAN DIOR Sarl, the Paris fashion house (capital F 100 m.) which remains under the 100% control of Boussac.

Moet & Chandon, which in 1967 had a F 130 million turnover, formed links in March 1966 with the German wine-growing concern, Sektkellerei Karstens KG, Neustadt, Weinstrasse, within Vereinigte Deutsch-Französische Sektkellereien GmbH.

** SHISEIDO CO LTD, Tokyo and Osaka (soap, detergents, toiletries, tooth-paste, razor blades) intends to establish an Italian sales subsidiary called SHISEIDO COSMETIC ITALY SpA will concentrate on cosmetics and perfumes.

The Japanese company intends to spend some Lire 30 million as the initial investment in its new subsidiary, which is expected to have a turnover of Lire 150 million during its first financial year.

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

** The Japanese TAKARA CHUKOSHO CO LTD, Osaka (hairdressing, medical and surgical equipment) has formed a sales subsidiary in Düsseldorf under the name of TAKARA CO HANDELS GmbH, with Dm 120,000 capital and Herr Alfred van Ruysvelt (manager).

The parent company already has two Common Market interests: Takara Co Europe SA., Ixelles-Brussels, formed in 1958, and Ste Takara Cie Paris Sarl, formed more recently in Paris (see No 443).

** The Yugoslav electrical and electronics equipment firm AZ. RIUNITA ISKAR KRANJ, Kranj-Ljubljana has set up a Milan sales subsidiary called ISKRA ELETTRONICA ITALIA Srl (manager F. Valencie, Milan). The founder controls 51% of the capital (Lire 900,000) with the rest being held by Signor Ercole Staffico.

** The German firm, LINDE AG, Wiesbaden (see No 432) has set up a subsidiary in Austria, LINDE SCHWEISSTECHNIK LAMBACH GmbH, Lambach to use its welding techniques in that country. With a capital of Sch. 100,000 the company will be directed by Messrs. Reinhard Bammler and Heinz Sadjina.

The parent company (payroll of some 13,000) has three factories specialising in this type of work, at Essen-Dellwig, Frankfurt and Hanover - Herrenhausen.

** TECHNIC INTERNATIONAL LABORZUBEHOER VERTRIEBS GmbH has just been formed in Berlin with Dm 20,000 capital and Herr Lothar Schultz as manager to distribute laboratory equipment in West Germany on behalf of the American TECHNIC INTERNATIONAL INC., Bergenfield, New Jersey.

** E.F.G. KUESTER GmbH FABRIK FUER KRANKENHAUSEINRICHTUNGEN, Berlin (hot-air and high compression steriliser distillation plant etc) has gained control of a similar firm named RUD A. HARTMANN GROSS-APPARATE & SPEZIALMASCHINEN GmbH & Co, Berlin, (capital DM 510,000). The latter employs about 315 people for an annual turnover of nearly DM 14 million. It will now change its name to KUESTER-HARTMANN GmbH.

E.F.G. Küster GmbH (DM 500,000) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Erlangen firm Inak GmbH Industrielle Anlagen Fuer Krankenhauser, a member of the Berlin SIEMENS AG group (see No 464).

** The Dutch electrical group NV PHILIPS' GLOEILAMPENFABRIEKEN, Eindhoven (see No 465) has formed a property studies subsidiary called INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTEN & INGENIERSBUREAU "INTERARCO" NV (authorised capital Fl 500,000 - 8% paid-up) headed by Messrs J. Hollander and W.A. Meyjes. It has also carried out a re-organisation of its interests in Australia and United States:

1) Through PYE HOLDINGS LTD (directly controlled by the London subsidiary PHILIPS ELECTRONIC & ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIES LTD) it has carried out its plan to acquire a third of the non-voting shares in the Melbourne company ELECTRONIC INDUSTRIES (PTY) LTD (see No 454) - in which another subsidiary, Pye of Cambridge Ltd, already has a 45.6% stake;

2) Its affiliate NORTH AMERICAN PHILIPS' CO INC (through its subsidiary UNITED STATES PHILIPS' TRUST, New York) has acquired for some \$ 42.5 million, the New York music publishers CHAPPELL & CO INC, and its London associate CHAPPELL & CO LTD (see No 387). The latter also has numerous foreign interests including: Chappell & Co GmbH, Munich, Edizioni Chappell SpA, Milan and Chappell & Co (Holland) NV, Amsterdam, Chappell SA and Editions Sylvia SA, Paris (linked 90-10) in the Swiss firm Editions Chappell Sarl, Volketswill, Zurich, as well as in Toronto and in Sydney, Australia.

ELECTRONICS

** The British DECCA LTD group, which already has a sales subsidiary in Italy, Decca Navigator Italiana SpA, Rome (see No 357), has linked with B.P.D. - BOMBARDINI PARODI DELFINO SpA (see No 457) for the promotion in Italy of Decca radar and navigation systems. A joint subsidiary has been formed in Rome under the name of SICON-DECCA SpA (president Sig Manlio la Cascio), though this will not assume the task of selling marine navigation equipment, which remains the responsibility of the original subsidiary.

The British group has another indirect subsidiary in Italy (through Decca Holding Ltd, Vaduz), the records concern, Decca Dischi Italia SpA.

** The Geneva soft-ware concern CIE D'APPLICATIONS A LA PROGRAMMATION SA - C.A.P. EUROPE (see No 454) is about to form a subsidiary in Amsterdam under the name of COMPUTER ANALYSE & PROGRAMMING NV.

The Swiss concern, which plans soon to remove its headquarters to Luxembourg, was established in April 1967 as a joint subsidiary of the French CENTRE D'ANALYSE & DE PROGRAMMATION - C.A.P. SA, Paris, and the British COMPUTER ANALYSTS & PROGRAMMERS LTD, London. It already has branches or subsidiaries in Brussels, Madrid and Reading, Berks.

** CONTROL DATA CORP., Minneapolis, Minnesota (see No 468) has given a considerable boost to its Dutch manufacturing capacity with the acquisition of control by its subsidiary ELECTROFACT NV, Amersfoort (see No 447) over the family concern FABRIEK VAN MEETWERKTUIGEN DR. M. DE WIT NV, Hengelo. Specialising in pneumatic, measuring and control equipment, this employs around 125 persons and is a licensee of the Finnish firm Valmetoy Kaivokatu-Helsinki (see No 322).

The American group already has a sales and maintenance subsidiary for the computers, Control Data (Holland) NV, Amsterdam, but it recently sold its 49% indirect stake in (through its Washington D.C. subsidiary C.E.I.R. Inc.) C.E.I.R. NV, The Hague to the London-based Scientific Control Systems Ltd (formerly C.E.I.R. Ltd) which thus acquired complete control.

** The Rotterdam shipbuilding firm, VEROLME VERENIGDE SCHEEPS-WERVEN NV (see No 420) has increased its coverage of West Germany by forming in Coesfeld a branch to its indirect subsidiary, VEROLME VACUUMTECHNIK AG, Eltville. With a capital of Dm 1.8 million, this vacuum technology firm is controlled directly by two holding companies in the group, Verolme Internationaal NV, The Hague, and Intervacu AG, Basle, which in 1962 bought out the interest belonging to its specialised Rotterdam subsidiary, Vakuümtechnik Nederland NV.

The Dutch group has another subsidiary in the country specialising in the covering and cladding of textiles with plastics, Verolme Beschichtungs & Kaschier GmbH of Fürth-Burgarrnbach, formed in June 1963 with a capital of Dm 20,000.

ENGINEERING & METAL

** Links having been mooted first early in 1967 (see No 393), the German heavy engineering group MAN-MASCHINENFABRIK AUGSBURG-NURNBERG AG, Augsburg, has now purchased a 25% holding in BUESSING AUTOMOBILWERKE AG, Brunswick, (see No 466). This move amplifies financially the existing manufacturing links between the two groups.

The Brunswick group was until now under the 75.3% control of SALZGITTER AG (see No 436). It has Dm 42 million capital, and specialises in heavy vehicles. Recently it formed a French sales subsidiary at Aubervilliers, named Blüssing France Sarl (capital F 300,000). Its other main foreign subsidiaries are: Blüssing Automobielen NV, Aalst, Eindhoven; Nordiske Karosserifabrik A/S, Svendborg, Denmark (63%), and Blüssing del Peru SA, Lima (61.6%). on its side, MAN is a member of the HANIEL group through Gutehoffnungshütte Aktienverein, Nuremberg, which in 1967 raised its stake from 68.84% to about 71% (see No 399).

** The Dutch transport and fuel transport group S.H.V. - STEENKOLEN - HANDELSVEREENIGING NV, Utrecht (see No 463) has gained control - through its subsidiary TRANSPORT - & HANDELMIJ. STEENKOLEN UTRECHT NV - of the gas central heating concern RINGVERWARMING NEDERLAND NV, Leeuwarden (see No 448). With some 150 on the payroll, this has a capital of Fl 200,000 but has been going through a difficult period for some time now. It will now concentrate solely on manufacturing, whilst sales will be promoted by SHV.

Ringverwarming Nederland has considerable foreign interests: a London subsidiary, Ringheating Ltd, another in Antwerp, Ringheating Belgium NV, directly controlled by another subsidiary Europa Ringverwarming NV, Leeuwarden, with 20% held by its British representative, Scarbush Ltd, London and a recently established West German office called "Ringheizung", Krefeld.

** Talks are taking place in France between SAULNIER DUVAL SA, Paris, and Nantes, Loire Atlantique (see No 386) and CIE DE PONT-A-MOUSSON SA, Nancy (see No 462) with the aim of the former acquiring the 38.8% held by the Nancy group (through its direct 52% subsidiary Ste. Financiere Bayard SA - see No 414) in CHAFFOTEAUX & MAURY SA, Paris (see No 402). This move will enable the "Gas" interests of Saulnier Duval ("Vesugaz" and "Vesuvius" water and bath-heaters) to merge with those of Chaffoteaux & Maury (factory at Ste-Brieux) which supplies around 50% of the French market.

** The American manufacturer of machine-tools LA SALLE MACHINE TOOL CO, La Salle, Illinois, having formed a Milan sales subsidiary called LA SALLE MACHINE TOOL EUROPA SpA (capital Lire 1 m. - president Mr. Robert I. Sattler - see No 465), has had this immediately take control of STA COMMERCIALE STERZI Srl, Milan, and change its name to LA SALLE MACHINE TOOL ITALIA SpA (capital Lire 490 m.) with Mr. Sattler as president.

** The Italian engineering concern BONDIOLI & PAVESI, Suzzara, Mantua, has backed the formation of a new French company called CONSTRUCTIONS MECANQUES BONDIOLI & PAVESI FRANCE Sarl, Montgeron, Essone to make transmission equipment. With a capital of F 20,000 the new concern has Signor Edi Bondioli as manager.

** HOVAL ITALIANA SpA, Zoppola-Pordenone, Udine (see No 296), which makes heating and air-conditioning equipment, has extended its sales network by opening a Milan branch in addition to its branch in Turin.

The firm (president Signor G. Ispelt - capital Lire 150 m.) was formed in 1964 as the result of a 40-60 link-up between the Italian firm Ceramica Scala SpA, Pordenone (controlled by the Locatelli family) and the Swiss Hoval group (see No 464) through its affiliate G. Herzog & Co, Feldmeilen, Zurich (since changed to Hoval Herzog AG) directly controlled by the Liechtenstein subsidiary Hoval Holding AG, Vaduz.

** COLTRON INDUSTRIES INC., Charlotte, North Carolina, which has had a subsidiary in the United Kingdom since 1966, COLTRON INDUSTRIES (UK) LTD, Manchester, has formed a sales company in France called COLTRON EUROPE Sarl, Asnieres, Hauts-de-Seine. With a capital of F 20,000 the new firm's managing director is M. J. Saporta (an associate with 26% of the equity).

** INDUSTRIAL TURNKEY INTERNATIONAL NV, The Hague, has just been formed to supply plant and materials for the chemical and shipbuilding industries on a turnkey basis. A similar firm called Turnkey-Holland NV, Amsterdam was recently formed by fourteen Dutch firms (see No 454).

The new venture is headed by Mr J.C. Diels and its main founders are 1) the Hilversum investment company MARINGSON HOLDING MIJ. NV (see No 462); 2) the Hertogeobosch bank FIRMA F. VAN LANSCHOT (see No 463); 3) BANK VOOR HANDEL & SCHEEPVAART NV, Rotterdam (a member of the Dutch-Swiss group Thyssen-Bornemisza - see No 450), and 4) the Rotterdam heavy engineering group RIJN-SCHELDE MACHINEFABRIEKEN & SCHEEPSWERVEN NV, Rotterdam, (see No 451).

** The German agricultural machinery concern MASCHINENFABRIK BERNARD KRONE GmbH, Spell lb., Salzbergen, (factories at head-office and Werlte - capital Dm 2 m.) has formed a French sales subsidiary under the name BERNARD KRONE FRANCE Sarl, Paris, (capital F 200,000 - manager M. Lucien Bertrandon). The German firm was until now represented in France by ETS GUSTIN FILS SA, Deville, Ardennes..

** The Italian metal sundries concern A. Agrati SpA, Veduggio Con Colzano, Milan, has made a co-operation agreement with the Belgian USINES L. DEHOUSSE SA, Hermalle-sous-Argenteau, Liege. Further to the agreement, the 50-50 joint subsidiary has been formed on the premises of the Belgian partner under the name of AGRATI BELGIUM SA (capital Bf lm.) to make high tensile bolts.....

** Four Britons, Messrs Frank and Adrian Bowden, Melville Yates and Victor Walker have backed the formation in Düsseldorf of the engineering and metal trading concern "LAHNSWAHR" METALLIERZEUGNISSE GmbH (Dm 20,000). Mr Walker is chairman of the permanent and electro-magnetics concern BRIMAG LTD, Solihull, Warwicks., which is linked with Industrial Vibrators Ltd, Solihull.

** FELIX BOETTCHER -FRANCE Sarl has just been formed at Blanc-Mesnil, Seine-St-Denis, with F 200,000 capital as a sales subsidiary to the German printing cylinders concern FELIX BOETTCHER DRUCKWALZENFABRIKEN oHG, Köln, Braunsfeld. The parent company has 600 people on its payroll and has workshops in Berlin, Frankfurt, Hamburg, Hanover, Munich and Stuttgart.

** The Swedish hardware group AUG. STENMAN A/B, Eskilstuna, has formed a West German sales subsidiary, DEUTSCHE STENMAN GmbH, Heilgenhaus, with Dm 20,000 capital and Herren Gerardus Gulinck and Erich Gréferath as managers.

The parent company is a member of the British metal group, GUEST, KEEN & NETTLEFOLDS LTD, Smethwick, Staffs., (see No 459) and is also represented in the Netherlands (Stenman Holland NV, Veenendaal - see No 355) and Denmark (Ruko A/S Copenhagen). In West Germany G.K.N. is a direct shareholder of the precision engineering concern Uni-Cardan AG, Lohmar, Rheinland (see No 454).

** The Paris company FEREMBAL SA (see No 403) has taken over one of its subsidiaries, in which it already had an 86% interest, ETC VINATIE SA, Bordeaux and as a result has raised its capital to F 21.36 million. Ferembal is the joint Paris subsidiary of Cie des Forges & Acieries de LA MARINE, DE FIRMINY & SAINT-ETIENNE SA (see No 462) and SIDELOR SA (see No 459).

Vinatie (capital F 2.7 m.) has gross assets estimated to be worth F 12.75 million, including manufacturing and sales establishments at Carpentras, Cavaillon and Salon-de-Provence.

** BENTONE FRANCE SA (capital F 120,000) has been formed at Margency, Val d'Oise with M. G. de Broglie as president to distribute in France boilers made by the Danish firm H. ANDERSON MACKLIN FABRIK A/S as well as oil and gas cookers made in Sweden by BENTONE-VERKEN A/B, Ljungby.

The latter has a large foreign sales structure, including several subsidiaries bearing its name in EFTA: in Zurich, Oslo, London and Glasgow, and in Charlottenlund, Denmark.

** An association agreement has been signed in the air-conditioning sector between HEIMFRIED GmbH, Oberhausen (see No 243) and JOSEF HAMACHER KG, Cologne; and has resulted in an 80-20 Cologne subsidiary, HAMACHER GmbH (capital Dm 1.1 m.).

Heimfried is the wholly-owned subsidiary of Deutsche Babcock & Wilcox Dampfkessel-Werke AG, Oberhausen (a member of the London group Babcock & Wilcox Ltd - see No 464). With a capital of Dm 20 million, it has a number of foreign shareholdings, held directly and through its Swiss subsidiary Heimfried Beteiligungs AG, Zurich; Precismeca SA, Saverne, Bas-Rhin; Transalpine Handels AG, Basle. The main foreign interest of Hamacher is Hamacher Climatisation Sprl (capital Bf 50,000) formed in January 1967, (see No 395) based at Woluwe-St-Lambert, Brussels.

FINANCE

** THE INTERNATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE CO SA (see No 455), the Luxembourg subsidiary of the Panama financial group I.O.S. - INVESTORS OVERSEAS SERVICES LTD (see No 466) has decided to establish a Dutch insurance company called NV DE INTERNATIONALE VERZEKERING MIJ. Until now the group's Dutch interests were represented by IOS (HOLLAND) NV, Amsterdam, which was financially independent of the group and linked solely by contract.

IOS also intends to form a West German investment subsidiary in which it will have a stake of around 50%, and whose purpose will be to acquire shares in limited companies. Its recent moves include the formation in London of IOS Financial Holdings Ltd, which will make investments and act as a merchant bank throughout the world with the exception of North America. The latter is headed by Mr. Barry H. Sterling, who is also president of the Overseas Development Bank SA, Geneva (see No 356), the group's main bank.

** COMMERZBANK AG, Düsseldorf, (see No 458) has a seat on the board of the newly-formed investment fund THE NEW YORK OFFSHORE FUND NV, Curacao (capital \$ 2 m.). Shares will be issued by the BANQUE INTERNATIONALE A LUXEMBOURG SA (see No 354). The other backers of the fund are S.G. WARBURG & CO LTD, London (see No 454), SCHWEIZERISCHE KREDITANSTALT AG, Zurich (see No 364) and the Curacao establishments, NEDERLANDSCHE HANDELS-MIJ. and TRUSTKANTOOR CURACAO NV.

The latter's former parent company Nederlandsche Handelsmij NV, Amsterdam, merged in 1964 with De Twentsche Bank NV, Amsterdam, to form Algemene Bank Nederland NV (see No 440).

** DRESDNER BANK AG, Frankfurt (see No 460), whose capital has recently been raised from Dm 315 to Dm 360 million has decided to form a specialised stock dealing Boston subsidiary with the aim of strengthening its activities in the US market. New York has not been chosen, as the bank is already represented there, and in any case foreigners are not allowed to set up as exchange agents.

** The Belgian agence de change DEWAAY, CORTVRIENDT, VAN CAMPENHOUT & CIE Scs (see No 439) has followed the recent trend for mergers in this sector (see Nos 454, 462) by absorbing ARTHUR A. ELIOT Snc, Brussels, and changing its own name to Dewaay, Cortvriendt, Eliot, Van Campenhout & Cie.

Dewaay, Cortvriendt, Van Campenhout has been linked since late in 1966 (see No 388) with the BANQUE LAMBERT group (through Cie Lambert Pour l'Industrie & La Finance SA, Brussels - see No 461) in a joint financial subsidiary - Dewaay, Cortvriendt International SA (capital Bf 50 m.) in which the Banque Lambert group holds a 20% interest.

FOOD & DRINK

** The Italian wine and spirits trading concern VINEXPORT DI MARIO TODESCA & CO Sas, Egna, Bolzano, has set up a subsidiary in West Germany - VINEXPORT WEINVERTRIEB FUER DEUTSCHLAND GmbH, Augsburg, (capital Dm 20,000 - manager Herr Arno Pausch.).

** FUERSTLICH FUERSTEMBERISCHE BRAUEREI KG, Donauerschingen, which has a production capacity of 400,000 hectolitres, has extended this by gaining control of a similar company in Gottmadingen, A. BILGER SOEHNE GmbH (see No 245). The latter is a family concern of Dm 4.5 million capital and is capable of producing 220,000 litres of beer a year. It has two holding companies in Switzerland: A. BILGO GmbH and SECURINVEST, both in Zug.

Fürstlich Fürstemberische Braueri has Dm 3.2 million share capital and uses the "Fürstenberg Bräu" trade-mark.

** The American GRAPETTE INTERNATIONAL INC., Camden, Arkansas, has taken 10% in backing the formation in Brussels of GRAPETTE EUROPE SA to make, sell, import and export drinks and allied raw materials. This has Bf 50,000 capital, and is otherwise the result of a 30-60 link-up between American interests represented by Mr and Mrs May of Camden and Italian/Venezuelan investors, in particular Sig and Signora Gattamorta-Freddi and Sr Baena.

FOOTWEAR

** Messrs Joseph Scapa, New York and A.M. Mitchell, London have been appointed the directors of the newly formed London company SELPI (LONDON) LTD. (capital £100) which has been formed to import from Italy leather and shoes supplied by S.E.L.P.I. SpA, Milan and Florence. With Signor E. Marinoni as president, the latter was formed at the end of 1966 by Mr. Scapa (majority shareholder) with an authorised capital of Lire 50 million.

GLASS

** An agreement has been made in Belgium between GLAVERBEL SA, Watermael-Boitsfort (see No 465) and one of its shareholders, VERRERIES DES HAMENDES L. LAMBERT SA, Jumet (see No 360) by which the latter's factory at Jumet has been made over to Glaverbel. The factory will now be filled out with equipment for the manufacture of a new type of safety glass "V.H.R." which has been developed by Glaverbel.

Glaverbel has some seven factories in Belgium (five plate glass factories, a mirror factory and a moulded glass works) as well as one in the Netherlands at Tiel and one in Italy at Trieste. It has a number of manufacturing interests in Spain, the United States, Brazil and the Argentine. The company is controlled by the groups Boel, B.S.N. -Boussois Souchon Neuvesel SA (directly and through Mecaniver SA), Glaceries de Saint-Roch SA (through Sopaverre SA) and Verreries de Mariemont SA (directly and through its 50% subsidiary Verreries des Hamendes).

HOVERCRAFT

** The French company, BERTIN & CIE SA, Plaisir, Yvelines (see No 455) which has taken out patents on its Aerotraine, Naviplane, Terraplane and air cushion designs, is planning to set up a subsidiary in Canada.

Under M. Jean Bertin, Bertin is affiliated to the Paris group, RIVAUD & CIE SCS (through Ste Industrielle & Financiere de l'Artois SA - see No 402) and to TURBOMECA SA, Bordes, Basses Pyrenees (see No 458). It has interests in S.E.D.A.M. - Ste d'Etudes & de Developpement des Aeroglisseurs Marins SA, Paris and in Ste de l'Aerotraine SA, as well as controlling Ste d'Application de Procedes Electriques & Mecaniques-Sapelem SA, Plaisir, Yvelines, the manufacturer and distributor of suction cups. Recently, the company played a part in the formation of a group which is to look into the transportation problems involved in moving large numbers of people within conurbations. The group includes Ste de l'Aerotraine, L'Automatisme & Technique SA (see No 265) and the Cie Generale d'Automatisme - C.G.A.Sarl, Nozoy, Essonne, a subsidiary of C.I.T.E.C. - Cie pour l'Information & Les Techniques Electroniques de Controle SA (a 50-50 holding company owned by C.G.E. - Cie Generale d'Electricite SA and C.S.F. - Cie Generale de Telegraphie Sans Fil SA - see No 435).

OIL, GAS & PETROCHEMICALS

** The off-shore drilling concern NEDERLANDSE ZEEBOORMIJ. (SEDNETH-SEA DRILLING NETHERLANDS NV - see No 382) has set up a British office in Lowestoft, Suffolk under Mr. William G. Cox.

The founder (authorised capital Fl. 5 m.) is a 25% affiliate of the American firm South Eastern Drilling Inc., Dallas, Texas (see No 346) which established it in early 1966 with the remainder held by NV Nederlandse Aanneming mij. Van Werken Buitengaats. The latter (capital Fl 15 m.) was itself formed in 1966 to represent the interests of five Dutch firms within Sedneth: These are NV Baggermij. Bos & Kalis, Sliedrecht, Van Hattum & Blankevoort NV, Beverwijk., Hollandsche Beton Mij. NV, The Hague., Baggermij, Drik Verstoep NV, The Hague., and Kon. Mij. Tot Uitvoeren Van Openbare Werken Adriaan Volker NV, Sliedrecht.

** The Italian State oil group E.N.I. has formed a Paris subsidiary to take advantage of the French decision in February to allow unlimited imports of diesel oil, lubricants, greasing oils and additives as well as to limit fuel imports to a 70,000 ton p.a. quota.

The new company is called STE AGIP FRANCAISE SA (capital F 100,000) and it is directly controlled by AGIP SpA, Milan (see No 441) one of the group's holding companies. Its president is Signor G. Bartolotta, Milan and its directors are Sigs. F. Coffrini and A. Pireli (both from Rome).

OPTICAL AND PHOTOGRAPHIC

** The Italian spectacles concern FRATELLI LOZZA SpA, Calalzo di Cadore, Belluno (capital Lire 90 m.) has formed a sales subsidiary in Munich. The new concern, LOZZA GmbH (capital Dm 20,000) is managed by Sig. Fernando Jovenitti and its supervisory council includes Messrs Roberto and Mario Lozza and Walter Skampy a lawyer.

** CROWN OPTICAL Srl, Milan (see No 275) is to be put into liquidation and the move will be carried out by Herr Franz K.Otth. President of the Milan company was Mr. C. Brown, New York who runs the optical, electrical equipment and domestic appliances group CHARLES BROWN & CO INC, New York (see No 389). It was formed during 1963 with a capital of Lire 900,000 to act as the Italian representative for the American group and its Swiss agent, CBC - Charles Brown & Co. International Corp AG, Zurich (see No 333). The latter is headed by the Zurich investment company CBC Holding formed by Mr. Brown in late 1966.

PAPER & PACKAGING

** The talks which have been going on in France since April with the aim of strengthening the country's paper industry, should shortly result in the announcement of the formation of a group making 100,000 tons p.a. of high-quality and special papers. ARJOMARI SA, Paris will take over and absorb the five companies belonging to the Prioux family as well as those owned by M. Dufournier: PAPETERIES PRIOUX (GLATRON BASCHET & CIE) Sca, Paris and its subsidiaries PAPETERIES DE COURVOL -L'ORGUEILLEUX SA, Paris (factory at Courvol-L'Orgueilleux, Nièvre) and PAPETERIES REUNIES DU ROUSSILLON & DU VALDOR SA, Paris; DUFOURNIER & CIE (PAPETERIES DE BESSE) Sarl, Besse-sur-Braye, Sarthe and STE PRIOUX & MUNIER Sarl, Besse-sur-Braye.

** The American forestry and paper group WEYERHAEUSER CO, Tacoma, Washington (see No 452) has made its Milan branch into a sales subsidiary called WEYERHAEUSER ITALIA Srl (see No 436). With Mr. Jay Wallenstrom as president, the new concern (capital Lire 990,000) is directly controlled by the Tacoma subsidiary, Weyerhaeuser International Inc.

Apart from this branch, which was established in August 1967 by the group's Caracas subsidiary, there was also another subsidiary in Palermo, Weyerhaeuser Siciliana SpA (see No 430) which it was recently decided to close down.

PLASTICS

** TEDECO NV, Deventer (see No 402) has opened a Brussels branch under M. Rodolphe A.J. Westerkamp. The Deventer firm was formed in January 1967 (capital Fl 10 m.) by the American company ILLINOIS TOOL WORKS INC., Chicago and the Dutch THOMASSEN & DRIJVER-VERBLIFA NV, Deventer. It makes moulded plastic beakers, and forms the basis for the co-operation agreement decided upon during 1966 between its two founders (see No 382) in the plastics processing sphere. There is a West German sister company called, Tedeca-Verpackung GmbH, Harksheide, Hamburg.

** The French plastics processing concern GROSFILLEX FRERES, FANTASIA, ARBAN Sarl, Arbent, Ain has opened a Swiss branch at Lancy under M. J.P. Vermont-Petit-Outhenin. The founder (capital F 2.04 m.) has had a West German subsidiary since February of this year, Grossfillex GmbH (see No 455) and since 1965 has another in Belgium, Grosfillex SA, Forest-Brussels and in Italy, Grosfillex SpA, Turin.

** FERPLEX - SA DE FABRICATION, D'EMBALLAGE RATIONNELS EN PLASTIQUE EXPANSE, Bordeaux (capital F 100,000 - 25% paid-up) has just been formed to manufacture and sell plastic packaging materials. It is the result of a link-up between Belgian interests represented by its director M. Paul-Jean Boever (33%), Edmond Werotte (30%) and French interests, M. and Mme. Pierre Soullier (35%).

PRINTING & PUBLISHING

** The Dutch printing and publishing group DRUKKERIJ & UITGEVERIJ v/h C. DE BOER JR. NV, Hilversum (see No 405) has gained control of the Bussum firm, VAN DISHOECK, VAN HOLKEMA & WARENDORF NV. This was established as the result of the 1965 merger of Van Holkema & Warendorf NV, Amsterdam and Uitgeverij Mij. C.A. J. Van Dishoeck NV, Bussum, which is well-known for its monthly publications "Spiegel Historiae" and "De Vrouw and Haar Huis", published by its Bussum subsidiary, De Vrouw & Haar Huis NV (capital Fl 250,000). It also controls the Bussum publishing house Fibula Van Dishoeck NV, formed in December 1966 (authorised capital Fl 500,000).

The De Boer group (authorised capital Fl 13 m.) publishes some thirty periodicals. Its main subsidiaries and affiliates include: Uitgeverij v/h C. de Boer Jr. NV ("De Blauwe Wimpel" - monthly), which controls Kopierdierdrukkerij Debo NV, Hilversum, NV Mij Hollands Noorderkwartier (a one-third stake held in Nv Daagblad Voor Noor-Holland), D.B. Centen's Uitgeversmij. NV and Nederlands Uitgeverscentrum NV. In 1967, the last-named took part in the formation of Europaclub Voor Boeken & Grammofoonplaten NV, Amsterdam, along with the West German group C. Bertelsmann Verlag KG, Gutersloh and twenty-five other Dutch firms in the same sector. It was itself formed in 1965 by the group along with its subsidiaries: Uitgeverij. Paul Brand NV, Uitgeversmij W. De Haan NV and Uitgeverij F.G. Kroonder. The group's most recent moves include gaining control of the printers, NV Dukkerij Koch & Knuttel, Gouda, as well as of the publishers NV Uitgeversmij H. Van Der Marck & Zonen and its sister companies: Drukkerij H. Van Der Marck & Zonen C.V. and C.V. Uitgeversmij J. J. Romen & Zonen.

** A merger between two Amsterdam publishing houses NV DE VOLKSRANT and NV HET PAROOL has resulted in the formation of PERSCOMBINATIE NV, whose capital of Fl 10 million is controlled 40-60 by the respective parent companies of the two merged concerns, NV GEMEENSCHAPPELIJK BEZIT DAGBLADAANDELEN and STICHTING HET PAROOL.

The new group will have an annual turnover of around Fl 70 million and has some 1,600 persons on its payroll. However, editorial freedom will remain for the various dailies published by the two concerns (total circulation nearly 400,000 copies): "Het Parool", "Nieuw Utrechts Dagblad", "Het Rotterdamsch Parool" and "De Volksrant".

RUBBER

** The German manufacturer of "Optibelt" trapezoidal belting, HOEX-TERSCHE GUMMIFAEDENFABRIK EMIL ARNTZ KG, Höxter, Weser (see No 392) is planning to set up manufacturing facilities in Londonderry, Northern Ireland. With a capital of Dm 4 million, the German company has several subsidiaries abroad, including Visurgis France Sarl, Villeneuve-la-Garenne, Hauts-de-Seine, Optibelt NV, Eindhoven, Visurgis Belgium Sprl, Anderlecht-Brussels, Visurgis Italiana SpA, Turin, Visurgis AG, Zurich, Moktag AG, Molton, Aargau, Optibelt Handels GmbH, Vienna, Skandinaviska Visurgis A/B, Salna, Stockholm etc.

SERVICES

** The British organisation, planning and administration consultancy firm P. A. MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS SA, Paris (see No 403) has opened a direct branch in Milan. This new branch will be independent of the local firm, P.A. Management Consultants SpA (capital Lire 1m.) formed in 1962 and controlled since 1967 by another company within the group P. A. Management Consultants (Europe) SA of Paris (see No 386).

TEXTILES

** DEUTSCHE RHODIACETA AG, Freiburg, Breisgau (see No 463) intends to raise its capital from Dm 30 to 31.5 million with the aim of acquiring complete control of the textile firm ROTTWEILER KUNSTSEIDEFABRIK AG, Rottweil, Neckar, in which it has a shareholding of 76%. The Freiburg concern is a member of the Paris Rhone-Poulenc SA group, and it supplies between 60 and 65 % of the West German acetates market and 20 to 25% of the nylon market.

** The West German textile firm GOETZ AG, Ravensburg (see No 450) has taken an indirect interest in the formation of the Austrian sales company SAMITAL AG, Bornbirn (mainly lingerie - capital Sch 100,000) with Herr Roger Eischenberger as manager. The new concern is under the direct control of the Swiss, SAMITA AG, St-Gall (see No 445) which has a capital of Sf 500,000. This is in turn controlled by Genesco-Interstyle AG, St-Gall, which is the 50-50 subsidiary of the West German firm in association with the American textile group, Genesco Co Inc, Nashville, Tennessee.

Genesco-Interstyle already controls the Austrian shirt firm Eterna Herrenwäsche-fabrik GmbH, Linz, and it has numerous other subsidiaries and shareholdings in West Germany, France, Belgium, Portugal, Italy and the Netherlands.

** KORATRON TECHNIQUE ITALY SpA, Milan, which was formed in 1966 (see No 373) is to be wound up, and the move will be carried out by Sigs. F. Bellosio and F. Mossali. It was set up to market crease-resistant fabric patents of the American KORATRON INTERNATIONAL CORP (see No 396). With a capital of Lire 20 million and Signor Rivolta Livio as president, the Italian company was controlled by the Liechtenstein investment company KRIS SA, Mauren, itself controlled by KIC - Koratron Inter Corp SA, Basle, a subsidiary of the American firm.

** The West German family-owned textile group CHRISTIAN WIRTH - through its subsidiary FILZFABRIK FULDA GmbH & Co KG, Fulda, has acquired the majority of the Dm 3.15 capital of the felt and carpet manufacturer VEREINIGTE FILZFABRIKEN AG, Giengen, which has a turnover of around Dm 20 million.

In 1967 the Wirth group had a consolidated turnover of Dm 160 million, and it recently formed a Paris sales subsidiary, Dura-France, Sarl (see No 443).

** The German angora woollens firm, MEDIMA WERKE KARL SCHEURER KG, Maulberg (see No 318) has formed a sales subsidiary in Strasbourg, MEDIMA-FRANCE Sarl. The new company's capital is to be F 100,000 and the managing director Herr Wilhelm Spohn, Haningen.

The parent company formed a second subsidiary in Switzerland in 1965 called Medima AG, Rheinfelden, the first being also at Rheinfelden, Awoba GmbH, in which it was associated with Messrs Leo Dubler and Dietrich Scheurer (20 and 10% respectively).

** The German textile group, INDUSTRIEWERK SCHAEFFLER oHG, Herzogenaurach, (see No 385) has considerably increased its manufacturing facilities by taking a substantial holding in BAYERISCHE WOLLDECKEN-FABRIK BRUCKMUEHL AG, Bruckmühl. With a capital of Dm 4.75 million, the Bruckmühl firm has been affiliated by more than 25% to the Dresdner Bank AG, Frankfurt, and in 1967 its turnover reached Dm 13 million. In 1966, it dissolved its manufacturing subsidiary in Ireland, Combiners Ltd., Portumna (see No 337).

Industriewerke Schaeffler, a group owned by Messrs Georg and Wilhelm Schaeffler, itself owns two groups of firms, one in the mechanical engineering sector, roller and needle roller bearings etc and the other in the carpets and floorings sector. With a number of companies abroad, (France, Italy, Belgium, the United States etc) it has an annual turnover of more than Dm 200 million.

** The Dutch textile group TEXOPRINT NV, Helmond (see No 461) has decided to close down its Milan affiliate VLISCO ITALIANA SpA (see No 324) which was the representative for its former subsidiary Vlisco Textieldrukkerijen NV, Helmond (formerly NV P.F. Van Vlissingen & Co's Katoenfabriek - see No 431). The Milan firm which was set up in 1961, will be closed down by Signor G. Cerfaglia.

** NORTA WALLPAPERS (IRELAND) LTD, recently formed in the Republic of Ireland by the West German carpet manufacturer, NORDDEUTSCHE TAPETENFABRIK HOELSCHER & BREIMER oHG, Langenhagen (400 employees) has begun to build a factory at Ballyjamesduff, Cavan County, covering just 5,000 square yards, and 95% of production will be exported.

TRADE

** The American firm GOLD BOND STAMP CO, Minneapolis, Minnesota, has gained control in the Netherlands - through its British subsidiary GOLD BOND STAMP LTD, London and Nottingham - of the sales promotion and mail-order concern BOERS' VERZENHUIS NV, Tubbergen (see No 291) along with its subsidiaries BOERS' CONFECTIE-BEDRIJF NV, Tubbergen, formed in 1965 to make clothes and C. J. BOERS' WINKELBEDRIJVEN NV, Manderveen (branch stores).

The American group's world turnover is around \$ 200 million and it has interests in numerous countries: Japan, Canada, Trinidad, Spain etc.

** The Italian company CENTROPRODUCTS Srl, Milan, which specialises in the import-export trade with Yugoslavia has opened a branch in Madrid. This was established in 1956 and for the past two years has had a holiday department called "Yugotours". Since 1967 it has had a Paris representative.

** The Canadian property development company FIVE OAKS HOLDINGS LTD, Toronto, Ontario (backed by German capital) has acquired for \$ Can. 14.5 million the PEN SHOPPING CENTRE, St. Catharines, Ontario. This includes 100 shops and previously belonged to BRAMLEA CONSOLIDATED DEVELOPMENTS LTD, Toronto.

Five Oaks (see No 418) has amongst its shareholders: Bankhaus Friedrich Simon KGaA, Düsseldorf; Berliner Bank AG, Berlin; Martins & Weyhausen KG, Bremen; Vereinsbank in Hamburg, Hamburg; Bankhaus Hermann Lamp KG, Bielefeld; Nicolaï-Bank AG, Hanover; and Bankhaus Waldthausen, Düsseldorf.

TRANSPORT

** Talks between two Rhine transport companies SCHWEIZERISCHE REEDEREI AG, Basle (see No 367) and DAMCO SCHEEPVAART MIJ NV, Rotterdam (see No 437) should lead to both companies cooperating closely.

The Dutch firm is the 80-20 subsidiary of STOOMVAART MIJ. NEDERLAND NV, Hilversum (a member of the Nederlandsche Scheepvaart Unie NV, Amsterdam) and Wm. H. Müller & Co NV, Rotterdam (see No 435). In West Germany it controls Damco Schiffahrt & Spedition GmbH, Duisburg-Ruhrort, which has branches in Düsseldorf, Dortmund, Stuttgart, Frankfurt, Neuss, Mannheim, Cologne, Bremen and Hamburg. The Swiss concern also has considerable Common Market interests: Alpina Rheinkantor GmbH, Ludwigshafen; Alpina Schiffahrt & Spedition GmbH, Duisburg-Ruhrort; Navalsa SA, Strasbourg; Alpina Transports & Affretments SA, Antwerp.

** The British road transport and storage concern KEY WAREHOUSING & TRANSPORT CO LTD, Hull, has chosen the Antwerp transport company GRISAR & VELGE NV, Antwerp (see No 356) to act as its representative for the shipping service it operates between Hull and Antwerp.

The Hull firm is a subsidiary of Ellerman's Wilson Line Ltd, London, itself a member of the ELLERMAN LINES LTD group, London. The Antwerp firm took part in 1966 in the formation of Antwerp container packaging firm THE PALLETISING & PACKING CO-PALPACK NV, which is in the process of being taken over by Packing & Securing - Pasec NV, Antwerp (see No 457).

VARIOUS

** ADMIRAL COATED PRODUCTS INC., Moonarchie, New Jersey (decorative products) has now a Frankfurt sales subsidiary called ADMIRAL COATED PRODUCTS GmbH (capital Dm 60,000) with Mr. Martin J. Alexander as manager.

** MILTON BRADLEY CO, Springfield, Massachusetts (see No 301) intends to set up a subsidiary in the Netherlands at Ter Apel making its educational games. This will employ some thirty workers to begin with. At present some of the American firm's games are made under licence by HAUSEMANN & HOETTE NV, Amsterdam, whilst all those imported into the Netherlands are distributed by KAMLAG NV, Weesp.

The American firm makes educational equipment and furniture for schools etc., and with 1,300 persons on its payroll, has an annual turnover of around \$ 35 million. It has licensees in Britain (The Chad Valley Co Ltd, Birmingham) Italy, France, West Germany. Recently talks were begun with another American firm in the same sector, Playskool Manufacturing Co, Chicago, with the aim of merging.

** The newly-formed "FUTURO HEALTH SUPPORTS" VERTRIEBS GmbH DEUTSCHLAND, Bad Godesberg (capital Dm 20,000) is to sell orthopaedic goods made by JUNG PRODUCTS INC., Cincinnati, Ohio and by FRATELLI BORELLA Snc, Milan. Two partners in the latter will run the new venture.

** PHILIPS' GLOEIILAMPENFABRIKEN NV, Eindhoven (see this issue) has signed an agreement with THE METTOY CO LTD, London and Swansea, for the distribution as from July 1, 1968 of its "Philiform" plastic educational toys. These are now made in the Netherlands, but at a later date will be produced in Britain and sold by the sales network belonging to PLAYCRAFT TOYS LTD, a subsidiary of Mettoy.

Mettoy ("Corgi" and "Sunshine" toys, "Wembley" sports balls) also controls Novelty Games Ltd, Mettoy Playcraft (Sales) Ltd and N. & R. Green Ltd (75%). It already makes "Aurora" scale models, under licence from the Dutch firm of Aurora Plastics Nederland NV, Nijkerk.

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Lozza, Fratelli	N	Sidelor	J
		Silicalcite de France	B
M.A.N.	H	Stenman, Aug, A/B	J
Marine, Firminy, St.Etienne	J	Stoomvaart Mij Nederland	S
Maringson Holding	I		
Medima	R	Takara Chukosho	F
Mettoy	T	Technic International	F
Milton Bradley	T	Tedeco	O
Minerva Radio	E	Texoprint	R
Moet & Chandon	E	Thomassen & Drijver	O
Montecatini Edison	B	Thyssen - Bornemisza	I
		Trimetal	D
Nederlandsche Handelsmij	K	Trustikantoor Curacao	K
Nederlandse Zeeboormij	N	Turbomeca	M
New York Off-shore Fund	K		
Nobel Bozel	D	Van Dishoeck, van Holikema &	
Norta Wallpapers	R	Warendorf	P
		Van Hattum & Blankevoort	C
P.A. Management Consultants	Q	Van Lanschot	I
Pen Shopping Centre	S	Vereinigte Filzfabriken	Q
Philips NV	G, T	Verolme, Verenigde Scheepswerven	H

Vinatie, Ets	J
Vinexport di Mario Todesca	L
Vlisco Italiana	R
de Volkrant	P
Warburg, S.G.	K
Weyerhaeuser	O
Wirth, Christian	Q
de Wit, Dr. M	G
Zanen Verstoep	C

