

Europe

82

Nos. 1/2

January/February 1982



Aid for the West Country's water scheme



Into Europe with the Glasgow Citizens

On the rails: Newcastle's Euro-style Metro

**Down with industrial barriers, says Brussels. Strasbourg Notebook by David Harris MEP
Cease-fire in the wine war: a report from the front. Will Greenland vote to quit the EEC?**

A tough year ahead for those who hold fast to the European idea

With last month's issue, this magazine completed the first year of its existence. It was a year in which the Community came under severe political and economic strain. As the world recession deepened, so national anxieties brought pressure on Community policies, not all of which are seen as bringing equal benefits to all ten member states.


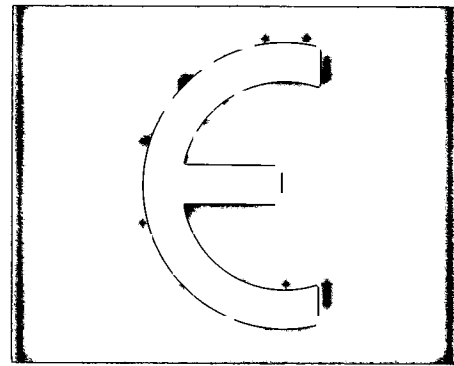
In that atmosphere, the need for a Community voice in the United Kingdom is obvious. EUROPE 81 – which this month becomes EUROPE 82 – has monitored the course of events, particularly as they affect Britain and the British people. It has reported on the ways in which membership of the European Community helps particular regions, and particular groups of individuals, most in need.

It has also offered space in its pages for Members of the European Parliament, of all parties; for prominent leaders in national life; and for others who are critical of the Community as it stands.

A year that began with the installation of a new President, Gaston Thorn, drew to a close with the European Community summit meeting in London, the climax of Britain's six-month tenure of the Council presidency. In between, we have reported on such topics as the steel closures; the energy crisis; the Anglo-French apple rumpus; the working of the EEC social and regional funds; the growth of British exports to Europe – and on topics less often in the headlines, but equally part of the European 'mix', such as sport, tourism, theatre and the arts.

The avowed intention of the Labour Party to take Britain out of the Community makes these efforts at informing and explaining more relevant than ever.

As we embark on 1982, the only certainty is that it will be tough for those who hold fast to the European idea. Our magazine – your magazine – looks forward to another very busy year.

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Going underground in Newcastle

On mainland Europe, the Metro concept of lightweight, rapid rail transit is not particularly novel. But in Britain, where the cheap fuel era of the 1950s and 1960s saw the complete demise of the tramcar and its cousin the trolleybus, public transport development polarised on either bus systems or the traditional 'heavy transit'

underground rail networks. Everywhere, that is, except in Newcastle, where in 1970 the Tyne Wear Land Use Plan recommended a halt to the then fashionable policy of headlong urban road development. Instead, it opted for a balanced approach, with the emphasis on public transport and an entirely new Metro system.

Geographically, Tyneside is divided by a deep gorge of the river Tyne, into which run several other steep densely-populated valleys. It is not, therefore, an easy environment in which to provide an efficient public transport service. Despite several bridges, the river in particular has been seen as both a physical and psychological barrier to north-south movement.

A major feature of the Metro proposal, therefore, was a new direct link between Newcastle on the northern bank and Gateshead to the south. Not unnaturally, there was considerable hostility to the Metro proposal from road transport interests. The recommendations were thoroughly tested against unrestricted road development and conventional rail and bus improvements, including the development of a network of busways.

In the event, Metro proved to be the most attractive option, particularly in view of the pressing need to increase mobility in Tyneside, in support of the industrial restructuring necessary to offset higher-than-average unemployment in the area, caused by the rapid decline of the traditional industries along the banks of the Tyne.

The training of the staff for Metro is the subject of a European social fund grant of £2.9 million, awarded in 1979 – 40 per cent of the total cost. This limit was originally expected to be reached last November. But, as the system will not now be fully operational until 1983, the Passenger Transport Executive has applied for an extension for a further year within the same overall financial limits.

Central government financial support amounting to some 70 per cent of the estimated total cost was secured in 1973, as was the necessary Act of Parliament to authorise construction of the Metro. Detailed planning then began in earnest – itself a quite daunting prospect, in view of the fact that Metro was not only the greatest single transport project in Britain at the time, but was also breaking entirely new ground in public transport policy.

But Tyne and Wear's passenger transport executive were determined to have the best. They embarked on an exhaustive study of light rapid transit systems around the world. As a result, when construction began in 1974, the PTE already had very clear objectives, both for the building of Metro and for its

ALAN WILLIAMS reports on Britain's largest single post-war investment in public transport – Tyne & Wear's continental-style Metro, which has had help from Europe to get it rolling

subsequent operation.

The heart of the new system is 4 miles of new underground route which burrows beneath the city of Newcastle from Jesmond in the north to Gateshead, on the other bank of the Tyne, in the south, and from existing ex-British Rail track at Manors in the east to a new underground terminus at St. James's in the west.

The two lines intersect at a new underground interchange station at Monument in the centre of the city and almost directly beneath the giant new Eldon Square shopping precinct.

The north-south route also serves British Rail's Newcastle central station, before briefly emerging from its subterranean environment to cross the Tyne on the new Queen Elizabeth bridge before plunging underground again beneath Gateshead.

It is this new section across the city which was opened last November and which, with the two northerly sections opened earlier, has subsequently enabled the entire recasting of all bus services on Tyneside. Very few bus services now traverse the city centre or cross the river, and most have now been re-routed to focus instead on either the bus/Metro interchanges at Regent Centre and Four Lane Ends in the north, or those at Gateshead and Heworth south of the river.

In all, over 150 bus services have been revised. It is anticipated that when the entire Metro system is operational in 1983, the total bus fleet will be some 15 per cent smaller than at present. Free car parking for 'park and ride' passengers is provided at all but the physically restricted Gateshead interchange, and there are facilities at all the interchanges for the

commuter to be dropped off or collected.

Metro services run every ten minutes throughout the day on each of the three Metroline services now in operation. They provide an impressive three-to-four minute interval service from Heworth across the city centre to South Gosforth. At peak periods this interval is further reduced by the provision of additional shuttle services between the Heworth and Regent Centre interchanges.

For the uninitiated, the most striking aspects of the Metro are the high quality of the cars and the new stations, and the very high degree of automation. The Metrocars – or 'supertrams' as they have been dubbed – quite literally represent the best of modern rapid transit practice. The specification given to the builders, Metro-Cammell of Birmingham, included the best elements of over a dozen transit systems worldwide.

Metro-Cammell quickly produced a full-size mock-up for evaluation. This was fol-

Completion of the cross-city section was a royal occasion – marked by a souvenir edition of the Newcastle Journal.



40 per cent of the cost of training the Metro staff – £2.9 million – has been met from the European Social Fund

lowed within months by an order for two prototype cars delivered to the Metro test track in 1975. While construction of the Metro progressed, these two prototypes clocked up over 100,000 miles of rigorous experimental running on the test track, evaluating not only the equipment on the trains but also the various proposed control systems.

Some of these were entirely new, and it is a tribute to the initial Metro-Cammell design that the 88 further cars now entering service are very little different from the originals.

Each Metrocar is a self-contained articulated vehicle, with two sections, carried on three bogies. The interior layout is specifically designed for short distance, high density passenger movement, with capacity for over 200 people per car under crushload conditions.

At present, trains are formed of either one or two articulated cars but all the stations, both underground and on the surface, have been designed to permit easy extension to cater for the operation of three cars working in multiple should developing traffic conditions demand. Each car is designed to be one-man operated from a half cab at either end. The four sets of double-sliding, plug-type doors on each side are controlled by the driver. Track-side television displays at each stopping point enable him to monitor passenger movement and to close doors at the appropriate moment without leaving his seat.

The two sections of Metro which remain to be completed are those from Tynemouth to St James's, due to open later this year, which will bring into use three further bus and Metro interchanges at North Shields, Wallsend and Byker. The final part of the system, from Heworth via a new interchange at Chichester to South Shields, due to open in 1983. This section is being aided by a 30 per cent grant from the European Regional Development Fund, towards the total £30 million cost of the civil engineering works, stations and general equipment of the lines.

Technology plays an important role. The various control systems are attracting almost as much interest as the Metro itself. Nerve centre of Metro is the control room at South Gosforth, from which all movements are monitored and all equipment is controlled. Trains normally signal themselves through the system, with coded train-mounted equipment being interrogated by trackside transponders. These in turn set up the appropriate routes and destination displays on stations,


The new Queen Elizabeth bridge carries the Metro across the Tyne.



and report progress to controllers, who normally only intervene in the operation of trains in case of emergency or equipment failure. But the secret of the success of the control system is the two-way continuous radio link between the controllers, the driver of each car, and key local supervisors and maintenance staff. This is coupled with extensive continuous closed circuit television surveillance of all the main underground and interchange stations, most of which are normally unmanned.

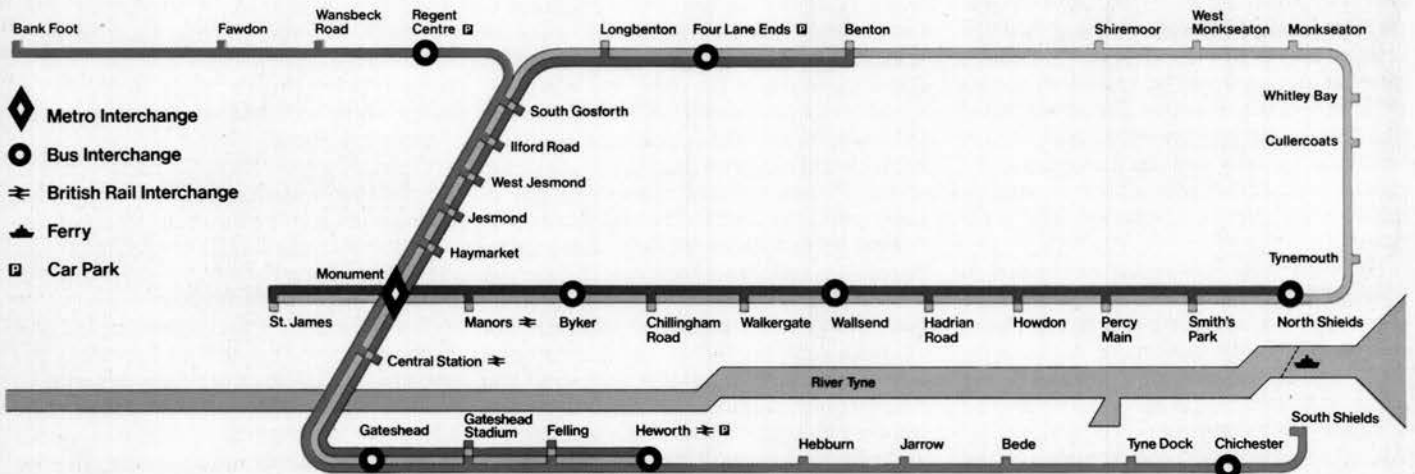
The correct functioning of all escalators and lifts is also monitored at South Gosforth, as is that of the 200 or so automatic ticket machines at the 41 stations on the system. As a result, staff can react immediately to almost any type of incident that may occur. The control system has been particularly successful in checking vandalism – the effect of a reproachful, disembodied controller’s voice on a would-be vandal caught by the unblinking eye of the closed-circuit TV camera is, one suspects, impressive.

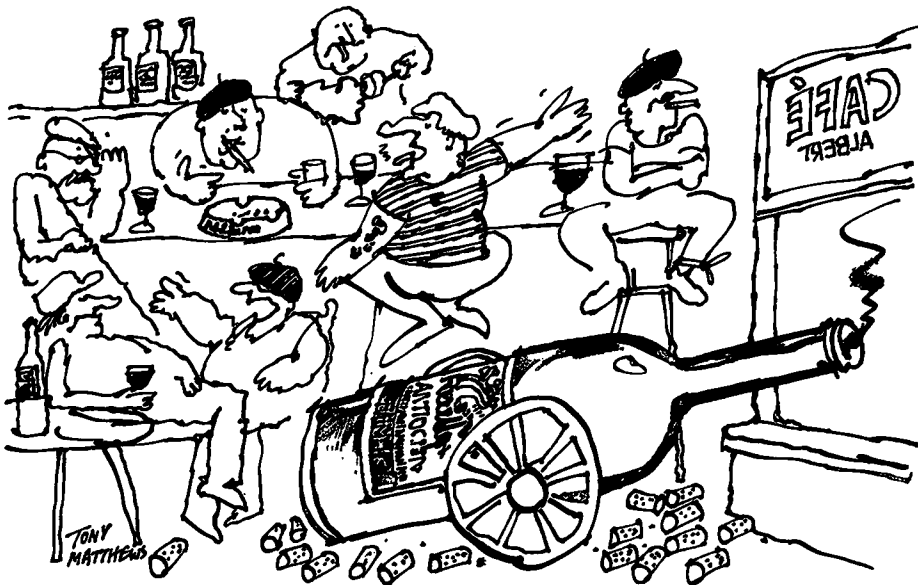
Total cost when the system is finally completed in 1983 is expected to be £280 million. That is almost four times as much as the original 1971 estimate of £72 million. But Tyne and Wear PTE claim that stringent cost-cutting exercises have kept escalation down to between 10 and 11 per cent. The remainder of the increase is attributable to inflation.

It remains to be seen whether the further projected extensions of Metro – particularly those to Newcastle Airport and Sunderland via Washington New Town – will be sanctioned in the present era of tight controls on public expenditure. But there can be little doubt that the integrated public transport system that Metro has brought to Tyneside is second to none in Britain – or that, at £5 million per operational kilometre, including rolling stock, it is one of the cheapest and most cost-effective modern systems in Europe. 



The pride of Tyneside – an up-to-the-minute municipal transport system to rival the best in Europe.





Cease-fire in the wine war

Last summer's ructions between French and Italian wine-growers have subsided. But the cost of keeping the peace could be heavy. Report by JOHN WYLES, Brussels correspondent of the Financial Times

As wine wars go, the one which first broke over the European Community in August was of a particularly good vintage.

French producers in the Midi took to the streets to give François Mitterrand's government its first nerve-jangling taste of civil disorder; cheap Italian imports were contaminated before they could be unloaded; and by the middle of the month the affair had ripened into a rich and fruity brew which caused much heartache for Italy and the European Commission and numbed all those concerned with maintaining the Community's free trade rules.

Seasoned wine war reporters claimed to have seen it coming, although some were surprised to be reporting acts of aggression comparable to the last major outbreak in 1960. France was generally pictured as the guilty aggressor, refusing to allow around 1 million hectolitres (one hectolitre equals 1,000 litres) through its customs posts on the flimsy, but probably legal, grounds that the

wine was not accompanied by the proper documentation.

Once France had taken this stand, it could not quickly respond, of course, to appeals from the Commission to open the floodgates and, toward the end of September, the Italian wine was still only dribbling through. Throughout the affair, Rome showed remarkable restraint, resisting domestic demands for reprisals and riding out popular allegations of weakness and defeatism.

While both Italy and the Commission were making the first moves towards action in the European Court of Justice, the search for a political solution continued. It was rewarded in mid-October by a Franco-Italian agreement that all of the wine held up at French customs posts would be released within two months.

Italy had been seeking release within four weeks, and the Government's readiness to compromise was seen as far too meek by critics who were anxious for reprisals. But the Italian handling of the crisis was admirably sensible and constructive. There was no real evidence, as RAI, the Italian state television network said in August, that Italy was a victim of the French political classes' feelings of superiority over their Italian neighbours.

First let us look at the facts. Languedoc-Roussillon and Provence-Côte D'Azur are areas of France which have long produced the basic *vin de table*, usually of relatively low alcoholic content. But it has the virtue of being very cheap, even if it does send you rushing to a mirror to make sure the enamel is still on your teeth. Some of this wine has no more alcoholic strength than 9 degrees; and in order to satisfy the demands for more muscu-

'The smoky bistros of the Midi came to resemble campaign headquarters'

larity from the northern French wine drinker, manufacturers have for years been blending it with a more full-bodied product from across the border in Italy.

This wine, for both blending and drinking, has for some time been entering France at such low prices that a furious reaction has been steadily fermenting among the producers of the Midi. The French elections last May and June arrested this for a time, for the angry producers believed they were pocketing some bankable assurances from politicians at the hustings.

But by June and July the smoky bistros of the Midi came more and more to resemble campaign headquarters, as the stream of Italian imports became a torrent and Paris made no move to close the floodgates. Finally, Italian wine lorries were overturned and burned, a ship's wine cargo was contaminated in the French port of Sète; and in a desperate response, the French Government 'discovered' that Italian import documents were inadequate. Some of them stated, for example, that the origin of a cargo was 'Sicily', which every-one knows is not a sovereign state and was not a strong enough clue for the French customs that the wine hailed from Italy.

The problem for the Community is that too much low-quality wine comes from Italy. Its wine production is the highest in the world - close to 80 million hectolitres - but domestic consumption is falling and is now around 55-57 million hectolitres. Now, the Community has long grown used to its wine lake at the bottom of its butter mountain (which for the moment has happily subsided). It has a special system to encourage producers of the low quality wines to sell their product to the Community for distillation into industrial alcohol.

The trouble is that the Italian government is rather slow at sending the cheque to the producer, who this year has been driven as never before to sell his wine into France at 30 per cent below French prices, so that he can have cash in hand and avoid paying interest charges at the bank.

Clearly, the problem needed drastic action. But the Commission's threat last September of prosecution at the European Court of Justice was not strong enough to open the tap for the Italian wine at French customs, nor did its plans to step up distillation to around 20 million hectolitres prove convincing to Paris. Everyone knows that, in the longer term, less low-quality wine must be produced and that, in the meantime, the surplus must be more effectively disposed of so that it does not overhang the market and so seriously depress prices.

The need for a solution is even more urgent in view of the prospective Spanish membership, which will bring with it a tidal wave of equally cheap but rather better quality wine. The Commission's new wine strategy which was put to member governments last October, tries to rationalise the current range of measures, some of them rather contradictory, for managing the wine market, and suggests various ways of reducing output. But the problem will not be easily dealt with, because consumption of 'plonk' is falling steadily, while output remains fairly static in France and is still rising in Italy.

The cost of maintaining peace after the present hostilities have lapsed into cease-fire could be substantial and prolonged. The wine-producing areas of both Italy and France are solidly agricultural, the occupation of *viticulteur* is agreeable and rarely arduous; and in the current recession there are few alternative jobs to go to. E

TUGENDHAT WARNS OF LABOUR'S 'DEADLY GAME'

Christopher Tugendhat, Vice-President of the Commission, received a Labour Party delegation led by Dame Judith Hart on 1 December. He welcomed the visit to the Common Market headquarters, and said he hoped it would help to improve the Labour Party's knowledge of Community and international affairs.

Mr Tugendhat outlined the Commission's proposals for providing a Community-wide basis for revitalising the economy, and described the Labour Party's official policy of withdrawal as irrelevant to Britain's real needs and self-destructive.

He criticised the official Labour Party statement as being vague, contradictory and naive. It failed to take account of the fact that the Community now represented the most important market for Britain's exports, accounting for 43 per cent in 1980. 'The Labour Party is playing a deadly game with British jobs even by toying with the idea of withdrawal,' Mr Tugendhat declared.

He also pointed out that jobs and incomes for workers in agriculture and related industries would be threatened by withdrawal from Europe. Labour Party estimates of the agricultural costs of going it alone, he said, were nonsense at present levels of employment and production on Britain's farms. The burden on the UK taxpayer would greatly exceed the net cost to the United Kingdom for its contributions to the EEC budget. E

The rising price of poverty

A summit meeting in Mexico last October to discuss the growing food crisis in developing countries ended with a plea for help from the industrialised world. On the response to that plea depends the fate of people in parts of the world where food production is now dangerously low.

Forty years ago Asia, Africa and Latin America were food exporters. Today these continents are all importers. Over the last ten years their foreign purchase of cereals has doubled, while the cost of these purchases has quadrupled.

While countries lucky enough to have oil or minerals have been able to meet requirements, those without – inevitably the poorest – often cannot, or find themselves in increasing debt. Twenty years ago it was estimated that 300 million people were suffering from malnutrition. Today there are probably 500 million, and the numbers are likely to increase as local wars, soil erosion, flood and drought continue to take their toll.

Meanwhile, as developing countries fail to feed themselves, plans to combat hunger become more urgent. The aim of quick industrialisation is now giving way, in some developing countries, to an understanding that, without a thriving countryside, such a policy creates appalling anomalies of poverty and waste. The emphasis is now much more on rural development and domestic food growing programmes.

The European Commission believes that the Community should be in the van in assisting particularly the least developed countries in forwarding such schemes, and has sent the Council of Ministers several proposals to this end. The Commission wants the Community to allocate £24 million as part of an exceptional programme to buy 230,000 tonnes of cereals

(or their equivalent) to assist the 31 poorest countries. About 125,000 to 150,000 tonnes would cover basic consumption needs of one million 'under-nourished' people for one year. The remaining 100,000 tonnes or so would be made available to the International Emergency Food Reserve. This, with other pledged contributions, would bring it up to around the 500,000 tonnes fixed in 1977 but not hitherto realised.

One of the major complaints of developing countries is that the rich northern markets fix the price of their cash crops, which nowhere near compensate for the hoist in the prices of food, oil and manufactured goods that they need to import. However hard they try, their economies face strangulation.

The Commission notes that, for several years, negotiations on the International Wheat Agreement have been at a standstill, and that little progress has been made in agreeing prices of other basic commodities. The International Monetary Fund has made provision for a 'food-window' to help the poorest and hungriest countries to cope with the burden of increased expenditure on cereals imports. But the conditions are pretty stringent, and it is too early to see if the experiment will work or need amendment.

Meanwhile, Community members themselves contribute to developing countries on a bilateral basis.

While the UK ranks fifth (0.52 per cent) in official aid as a percentage of GNP, it leads on total flows (2.82 per cent) when official and private contributions are taken into account. Although, compared with France and Germany, Britain provides less official cash aid, she leads them in the proportion that is given in the form of grant – 94.6 per cent, compared with France's 88.7 per cent and Germany's 58.9 per cent. E



A test for Yugoslavia — and for Europe



PEGGY CRANE reports on the economic dilemma facing the successors to Marshal Tito, and their disappointment that the European Community is not doing more to help

Since the death of President Tito in May 1980, Yugoslavia has received only minimal attention from the world's press. The rotating collective presidency that Tito left behind him has worked smoothly. And, apart from a few headlines in the spring of 1981, when unexpected riots broke out in Kosovo, little has been heard of what is happening in that country.

Yet today Yugoslavia is confronted with the same economic problems facing all developing countries, and its unique brand of decentralised socialism is being put to the test. Its leaders feel that the West, particularly the European Community, does not understand its problems, and that the latest trade and co-operation agreement with the community has fallen far short of expectations.

The sense of grievance is political as much as economic. As one of the leading non-aligned countries, Yugoslavia has determinedly trodden a middle path between Western and Eastern power blocs, aiming at good but not dependent relations with both. While maintaining her political distance from the Soviet Union she has loose associate status with Comecon. And, since 1970, Yugoslavia has had some form of trading agreement with the European Community.

Until recently, 70 per cent of her foreign trade was evenly divided between the two,

with a further 20 per cent accounted for by developing countries. But in the last two or three years, with a balance of trade deficit averaging £1.3 billion with the West, there has been a shift to the easier markets of Eastern Europe.

Yugoslavia depends on these countries, particularly the Soviet Union, for supplies of oil, gas and petrol. But for modern machinery and equipment she depends on the West. Some 96 per cent of imports from the Community are in this category. Without the hard currency to pay for them, the country faces increasing economic stagnation. It is the same situation of the 'negative multiplier' — export earnings failing to match import costs — that is strangling the economies of the Third World.

The implications for Yugoslavia could be far-reaching. Created as an entity after World War I, the country is a mixture of over 20 nationalities, each fiercely proud of its antecedents, language and customs. The Socialist Federal Republic consists of the six socialist republics of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Slovenia, with two autonomous provinces — Kosovo and Vojvodina — forming part of Serbia. While republics and provinces are represented in the two chambers of the Federal Parliament, the constitution allows them a very large degree of autonomy.

Yugoslav socialism is also based on a decentralisation of power and decision-making to self-managing associations of labour at the workplace or commune. So, without some strong magnet at the centre, there is always the danger of the component parts looking to their own self-interest rather than to the Federation as a whole.

It is the job of the League of Communists, whose members hold key positions in all the centres of power, to counteract such fissiparous tendencies, and while Tito was alive his very presence provided the country with a fixed and shining star. The system he be-

queathed to his successors — of a collective rotating presidency, whereby a representative of each republic and province holds the post of Federal President for one year — was the only practicable political solution. But there is still a sense of loss. Tito's portrait continues to look down from factory and office walls, whereas few Yugoslavs can name the current President — Sergej Kraigher, from Slovenia — or his ministerial colleagues.

In theory this anonymity at the centre should not matter: it is in line with Yugoslavia's unique brand of socialism, favouring minimum state intervention and decentralisation of power. But in practice the federal leaders confront considerable problems.

Inflation is running at nearly 40 per cent. In the last year or so, living standards have dropped by 1.6 per cent in real terms. In 1981, personal incomes will have increased by only 4.5 per cent, compared with 7 per cent in 1980. Imports are being reduced in an effort to halve a balance of payments deficit by \$2,000 million. The Yugoslav government expects to have to force cut-backs in consumption and non-productive investment which, according to Zvone Dragan, vice-president of the Federal Executive Council, could mean a change in the national 'mode of life,' even affecting some social rights.

In addition, rioting and demonstrations in Kosovo Province last April, resulting in death and injury in clashes with the police, highlighted not only the nationalist volatility of the Albanian population there, but also the comparative poverty and under-development of this region compared with the north. Slovenians, for instance, are six times richer on average per head than the people of Kosovo, while the province's gross national product is equivalent to only 28 per cent of the federal average.

Compared with the modern computerised shipyard in Rijeka, Croatia, the Kosovo industrial complex at Trepča has scarcely emerged from the 19th century. The difference between those countries — formerly under Turkish rule in the south, and those in the north that were not — remains startling.

Yugoslav hopes of improving this situation depend on the country's general economic performance. And this is where Yugoslavs feel rather bitter about what they consider a let-down by the West.

The issue centres on the cooperation agreement which Yugoslavia and the European Community signed in April 1980. Yugoslavia has had trading agreements with the European Community since 1970. But the 1980 agreement, negotiated and signed only a few months before President Tito's death, had political as well as economic implications for both sides. To the Community, it was a sign of Yugoslavia's continued non-alignment between the power blocs. To the Yugoslavs, it

'Without hard currency, the country faces increasing economic stagnation'

represented not only an escape from economic bondage to the Eastern bloc, but also a source of hard currency and imports of modern equipment and machinery that the economy sorely needs.

Briefly, under the agreement, 80 per cent of Yugoslav industrial products can enter the Community duty-free; but about 30 'sensitive' products – such as footwear, fertilisers, leather goods, semi-processed steel and furniture – are subject to tariff ceilings above which duty has to be paid. Textile exports are already limited by the Multi-Fibre Arrangement, which applies to all European Community textile suppliers from developing countries. But, in the agricultural sector, the agreement provides for tariff concessions on products of particular interest to Yugoslavia, such as morello cherries, slivovitch, wine, tobacco and baby beef.

It is treatment over 'baby beef' that has made Yugoslavs most angry, following the entry of Greece into the Community. Yugoslavs have seen their lucrative Greek market almost collapse and taken over by Community suppliers.

Under the agreement, Yugoslavia is allowed to export 34,600 tonnes of 'baby beef' – different from veal in that it is derived from two to three-year-old animals – annually to the

Community countries, of which Italy has been the main consumer. Largely at the instigation of France and Italy, however, the import levy imposed on Yugoslav 'baby beef' made it uncompetitive in the Community market. In an attempt to mend matters, the Council of Ministers has almost halved the import levy, The Yugoslavs, however, had hoped for a 75 per cent cut. The issue rumbles on, and remains a source of friction in Community – Yugoslav relations.

Part of Yugoslavia's problem is that, as a developing country, she is seeking to sell in the Community almost all the types of product of which the Community has more than it wants already. The prospect of Spain and Portugal joining the Community in a few years' time adds to the difficulties, not to mention the trade agreements with other developing Mediterranean countries, all seeking outlets in the EEC.

Suggestions that Yugoslavia might study more profitable and less competitive products for export, such as a particular type of corn or expansion of tobacco (which has contracted over the last few years), comes up against an agricultural system of 85 per cent privately-owned farmland with a maximum holding of 10 hectares (25 acres), and against a decentralised system of self-management units at all levels, from factory and commune up to Republic and Federal level, that makes change in economic direction from the centre extremely difficult.

Yugoslavs are understandably proud of their brand of socialism, based on the principle that every adult, whether at the workplace or in the commune, should have a say in how their country develops. But in practice they

will admit that the system is both expensive and time-consuming, and that it can lead to anomalies of low productivity and local and regional autarky not envisaged under the amended Constitution of 1974.

One example, relevant to the Community, is that, eighteen months after the European Investment Bank said it was willing to advance £124 million over five years for the development of projects concerned with industry, agriculture, energy, tourism and fishing, no proposals have been forthcoming. This delay is almost certainly due to the long process of consultation and decision required to reach agreement on republican, provincial and Federal interests.

Yugoslavs are aware of the problem. They admit that their system needs to become more efficient, and discussions are going on about how to make it so within the framework of their unique brand of Communist revolutionary pragmatism.

To a western observer it seems obvious that, provided there was no interference with Yugoslav political preferences and administration, the country would prefer to be more closely associated with the West. But for ideological and security reasons, as well as national pride, it has preferred to adopt a stance of non-alignment.

But it can never forget that, since Tsarist days, Russia has always wanted an outlet to the Mediterranean – and that, in certain circumstances, Macedonia would be a very fragile bulwark against a link-up between Bulgaria and Albania.

In this context the Community's relations with Yugoslavia have a significance that goes well beyond irritations over baby beef. ☐

WHAT'S IN THE PAPERS

The European Community is not exactly steaming ahead to new triumphs but it is certainly not falling apart. Of course it is not as integrated financially and economically as the US, but it has come a long way in 25 years; internal protectionism, though there is still too much of it, has been kept pretty well under control in the present recession.

The European Monetary System is working and could even grow in importance if the UK joins. The moves towards political co-operation may not be earth-shattering, but they are not negligible either.

– Financial Times

The new Common Market forecasts predict that the British economy will grow by only 1.4 per cent next year – lower than six of our nine partners.

But prices are expected to rise by 10.5 per cent, and unemployment by about 250,000.

– Star

EEC Governments have agreed on minimum safety standards to reduce the risk of industrial catastrophes such as those at Flixborough in 1974 and Seveso in Italy in 1976.

Environment Ministers of the Ten ended two years of squabbling and approved a Common Market directive imposing strict controls on firms using any of 178 toxic, explosive, or inflammable substances. The new regulations are expected to apply from mid-1983.

– Daily Telegraph

The membership of the Social Democratic Party is predominantly young, male and middle-class, with an almost total commitment to the European Community and a strong desire to curb the power of trade unions.

These are among the clearest findings of a detailed survey by Opinion Research Ltd for London Weekend Television's *Weekend World*.

– The Times

New EEC spokesman Mr Heffer wants Britain to quit the Common Market within a year of a Labour election victory. Last night he spelled out his two major targets – 'to get Britain out of the EEC and to get all nuclear weapons out of Britain'. Mr Heffer told a Crosby by-election meeting: 'Now I am the shadow over Europe.'

– Sun

The doctrinaire pledge not to allow a referendum is proving distinctly embarrassing to Labour. It was, after all, the Labour party which insisted on the 1975 referendum on EEC membership. It also makes the position of the decreasing band of pro-market Labour MPs virtually untenable.

Little wonder that Mr Foot is having second thoughts. This may explain his appointment of Mr Eric Heffer as Labour's spokesman on Europe. Mr Heffer was once a pro-marketeer, and although committed to British withdrawal he is more realistic about the EEC than many other Labour left-wingers.

– Economist

From the Gorbals into Europe — the story of the Citizens' Theatre

JAMES HOGAN reports on a Glasgow theatre group who aim to be a 'European-style company'

If the British are taking their time to become fully fledged Europeans, there is some comfort in the fact that one corner of Britain is a powerhouse of European ideas. The Glasgow Citizens' Theatre has been decidedly 'communaire' in its outlook for years. Well-known for giving the British premières of mainland European plays, including the first English versions of several Goldoni comedies, it won the distinction of being the first foreign company to play Goldoni in his native city at the 1981 Venice Festival.

Robert David MacDonald, the Glasgow Citizens' resident playwright and one of three co-directors, has translated four Goldoni pieces for the company. His other translations include Balzac's 'Vautrin', Buechner's 'Woyzeck' and an adaptation of Proust's 'Remembrance of Things Past'.

A recent revival of the Proust play at the Citizens' was highly acclaimed by critics. All twelve volumes of 'A la Recherche du Temps Perdu' were adapted into a single play, courageously called 'A Waste of Time'. But the critics found no cause to rise to the bait. In the programme, MacDonald describes the piece as dialogues after Marcel Proust, which reflects his approach to the piece — that of a writer and film director working on a film script. Sadly, the play is not likely to be seen again. MacDonald sees it as one of his 'auto-destruct' plays, which are written for the moment and, in his view, have no place in the future.

Macdonald began his adaptation at the end of Proust's novel, and worked backwards in time. But the first two chapters, dealing with the early story of Swann and Odette, move forwards. The result is an ingenious blending of forward and backward movement in the sequence of events, which converge at the same point at the end of the play.

MacDonald has extended the company's European range still further with his own original plays, all based exclusively on European historic or legendary figures. 'Chinchilla', a play about how theatre itself comes

into being, is based on Diaghilev and dancers from the Ballet Russe.

The author played the central role to considerable acclaim when the company took the play on tour to Amsterdam, The Hague and Hamburg last summer. Since its 1977 premiere the play has been broadcast twice in Britain and produced in New York. MacDonald's other 'European' plays are 'Camille', the 'De Sade Show', 'Don Juan', and 'Summit Conference', about a fictitious meeting between Eva Braun and Clara Petracchi.

Working in the Gorbals slum area of Glasgow, the company is determined to bring a picture of other worlds to its audience for the price of a packet of cigarettes. Every seat in the house is 75 pence. 'We don't want to keep on doing plays about life in the Gorbals,' MacDonald affirms. 'It is the duty of a theatre not necessarily to reflect the world around it but to bring other worlds, pleasant and unpleasant, to the audience. I think this applies in the regions, particularly, and even more so in the slums of Glasgow.'

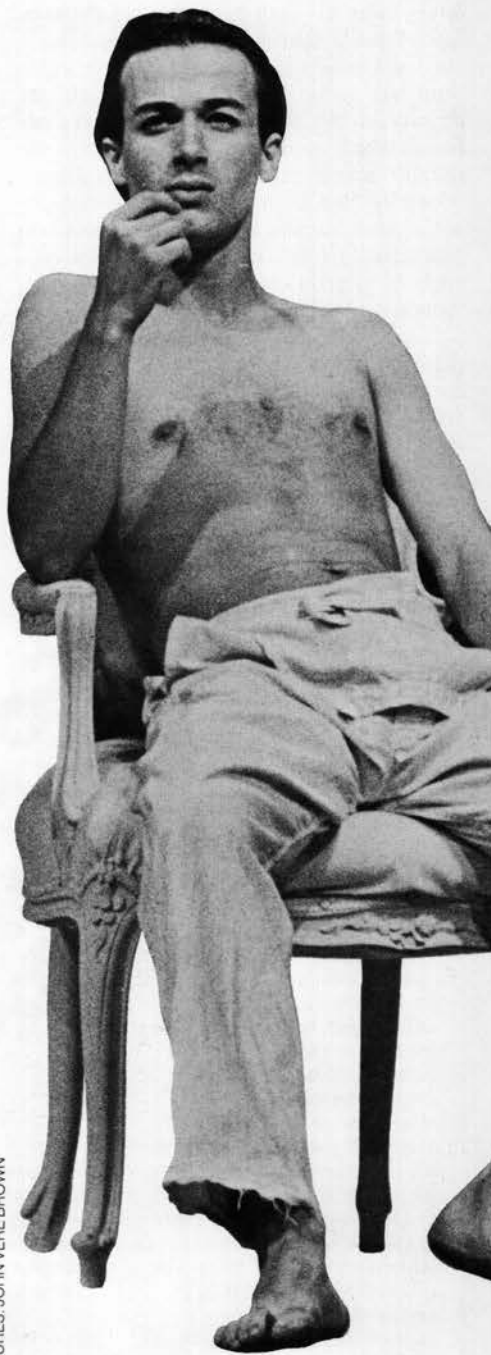
'A thorough-going democratic approach, and more than a dash of anarchy...'

The company's great selling authors are Brecht, Goldoni, Orton and Shakespeare. But since 1970 the company has also mounted productions of plays by Arrabal, Beaumarchais, Cocteau, Genet, Molière, Reinshagen and Weiss, among other continental writers. Casting draws on a pool of actors who have worked with the company since it was formed, all of whom are paid the same.

The company's policy on seat prices is unique in Britain. It is based on the acceptance that theatregoers already pay for subsidised theatre by paying taxes, and should therefore be charged as little as possible. There is no particular class of audience at the Citizens' but the low prices do ensure that the theatre is not forcibly made an entertainment for the middle and upper income brackets.

The Citizens' is the only British theatre company that compares with leading non-traditional European companies such as the Peter Stein company in Berlin, the Straehler company in Milan, and the Planchon company in Villeurbanne. Following the tradition built up in Europe by Brecht and Meyerhold,

Two of the Citizens' successes: the Brecht/Weill 'Threepenny Opera', directed and designed by Philip Prowse, and (below) Robert David MacDonald's 'Chinchilla'.



PICTURES: JOHN VEREBROWN

continued on page 12



and by Piscator – of whom MacDonald was a pupil – the company uses the text of a play as a starting point for a production rather than the end product.

The playwright becomes a colleague rather than a dictator. In this sense MacDonald and his fellow co-directors, Philip Prowse the designer and Giles Havergal, the company's 'intendant', have become hardened Europeans. All three direct plays. 'It is extremely important,' says MacDonald, 'not only to do work which shows audiences different worlds to their own but to present plays as a fully collaborative venture.'

With such a thoroughgoing democratic approach, and more than a dash of anarchy, the Citizens' Theatre is cut off from the mainstream of British tradition – mainly, says MacDonald, because of its view of the writer as not being the most important element in a production. 'We aim to be a European-style company, because we would like to be compared with those European companies we admire, like the Stein company. We regard the actor as one very important element and the audience as another. It's all a question of presenting interesting actors in interesting ways.'

'Exciting, sensual and provocative theatre'

The spectacular productions of MacDonald's own plays fit this most un-British approach perfectly. 'Don Juan', 'Camille' and 'Chinchilla' are all large-cast plays with striking costumes and sets by Prowse. 'Chinchilla', set on the Venice Lido in 1914, has been praised as 'exciting, sensual and provocative theatre' and as 'a beautifully sustained and extremely funny statement of aesthetic commitment'.

Critical press response to the company ranges from the rabidly aggressive to the rhapsodic, with not much in between. 'Anything which rouses some people to enthusiasm will inevitably rouse others to anger,' MacDonald admits. But what matters is that Citizens' Theatre has been called the most challenging, unusual and individual theatre in Britain, a 'hot-house of young acting talent with a record for visual splendour and artistic daring second to none'. All this has been achieved in little more than a decade, and by a company which is chronically under-funded.

MacDonald is now working on a new work for the company's next season. About the play itself he is saying little, except that it is bound to be a large collaborative venture. 'I love working with the Citizens' because I am not working alone. The more collaborators you have, the more universal the work becomes,' he stresses. 'It is all a matter of compromise, constraint and collaboration.'

He points out that Brecht, Molière, Giraudoux and Goldoni all wrote for their own theatres. Even those writers who were not lucky enough to have their own theatres were able to write to specifications demanded by existing companies with clear policies.

The Citizens' Theatre sees conceptual theatre as a very 'continental' notion which has not gained much acceptance in Britain outside of Glasgow. 'Here in Britain,' says MacDonald, 'directors do not take hold of the text and decide what the play is going to be about. In Europe they do.'

'I am not saying we want to be different just for the sake of being different. But I consider the European approach to be *admirably* different. The question is, how to make a text work for the company?'

'The author is a colleague, and that's all.'

'BAN THE BANGER' SHOCK HORROR SCARE

'If—you may say—the Common Market is simply a matter of common sense, what are all these lunacies that seem to pop up out of the bureaucratic machinery of Brussels, with the alarming unpredictability of Russian submarines in neutral territorial waters?'

I am not going to say this does not happen. But three things must be said. First, there is a tendency for 'Euro scandal' stories to be blown up out of all proportion. Of course, stories about dire threats to entrenched features of the British way of life, such as red telephone boxes, doorstep milk deliveries, road numbers, and even the British sausage, make better copy than progress towards a common fisheries policy or liberalising the insurance market.

Secondly, it is extraordinary how often you find that the 'Euro-scandal' in question has in fact nothing to do with the Community at all. The 'threat to British road numbers', for example, turned out to be a proposal by the UN Economic Commission for Europe—a body entirely unrelated to the Community, and whose proposal we do not intend to adopt anyway.

And the scare story about Brussels bureaucrats 'banning the British banger' turned out to be entirely a question of different national regulations in force in different countries: we too have our own import restrictions—there is no Community legislation, actual or planned, on this matter.

Then there are decisions, often very controversial ones, by the European Court of Human Rights, to which we do indeed belong. These are seized on as further evidence of Community interference, when in fact this organisation has nothing to do with the Community at all.

Thirdly, even when such stupidities do escape from some ivory tower in Brussels, it is noteworthy how few even reach the stage of formal commission proposals, let alone get adopted by the Council of Ministers. While they do make damaging headlines, they very rarely get anywhere near the statute book.

So, while I do not wish to spoil the fun of those who want to ridicule the idea of the harmonisation of sausage lengths or the size of the head on a pint of beer, it is equally wrong to think that this is actually what I and my European colleagues go to Brussels to achieve. It is even more wrong to be so confused by these 'Euro-myths' as to conclude that the community is a farce, or an irrelevance.'

Rt Hon Humphrey Atkins MP, UK representative at the Council of Ministers, in a speech to the Sheffield Chamber of Commerce on 25 November, 1981

EUROFORUM

OPINION

World hunger

Part of the world's population is starving. This has been established beyond any doubt. All of us have seen poignant and repulsive evidence of this tragedy on television and we cannot say we are not aware of it.

The European Parliament has woken up to the problem and some of the great names among world scientists have issued a solemn appeal for action.

The recent Cancun summit meeting between rich countries from the North and poor countries from the South also paid far more attention to hunger than to energy questions. Where does the Community stand? What line of action is it planning to take?

There is no denying that it is already doing a fair amount and I say this not out of complacency. More than 50 per cent of public aid to the developing world comes from the Community and its member states. Among Community expenditure, aid to the Third World ranks second (nine per cent of the total) though well behind agriculture. 20 per cent of these appropriations are for food aid, with a further 20 per cent allocated to rural development projects and in most cases to agricultural production.

But this is not enough. A bigger effort is required and the Ten made a commitment to such an effort during the recent Paris Conference on the least developed countries.

More funds must be invested in rural development but, in the short term, food aid must be stepped up. The Ten have just reached agreement on an emergency action, involving 230,000 tonnes of cereals at a total cost of nearly £23 million.

They also approved an action prog-

ramme which heralds a fundamentally different approach to the way the available funds are to be used. Given the relatively poor results of aid programmes, we cannot simply recommend increasing finance without a thorough overhaul of development and co-operation programmes.

A country like Upper Volta, which is among the poorest of the poor and whose administrative services are very limited, last year had to put up with 300 different groups of visiting internation-

'Let us be clear ... more money is still needed'

al experts. How can there be any hope for a coherent action among all those different aid programmes and a coherent policy on behalf of the receiving country?

Therefore at least in the food aid sector, a top priority area, there should be common and co-ordinated action by the Community and its member states, but also by other donor countries.

Once these have agreed to sit around the same table, the receiving countries can be requested in their turn to draw up a "food strategy" or global plan to work towards self sufficiency in the food sector. This is the only way to conclude a genuine "contract" for rural develop-

ment and food security, on the basis of mutual commitments.

But let us be clear: this should not be allowed to disguise the fact that more money is still needed.



Edgard Pisani
Member of the Commission

TALKING POINT

Enthusiasm for the building of a tunnel or some other link over or under the relatively narrow strip of water between France and Britain, which has been discussed on and off for the best part of two centuries, appears to be gathering pace.

Five years ago, the European Commission singled out the Chunnel as one of the missing links in the Community's transport infrastructure chain. At their recent summit meeting in London, the British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and French President François Mitterrand showed their common interest.

The British and French rail authorities both believe in the project and, in all, eight schemes based on rail and/or road tunnels or bridges across the Channel are competing for attention. Official working parties are considering these and the time for important decisions is rapidly approaching.

The construction project alone could create 100,000 jobs. But this would be only a beginning, once built, there would be jobs in the operation and maintenance of a tunnel - which seems the more likely option at the moment - as well as in the ancillary services that would be needed at either end. Tourism, not simply in the areas close to the tunnel, nor indeed just in the two countries most intimately involved, would receive a tremendous boost. The cheaper and simpler cross-Channel link a tunnel can offer would increase trade in both directions and give consumers a wider choice of goods at lower prices.

Community financial aid could be forthcoming for the right sort of project, but it would be better if it formed part of an overall plan to improve transport links throughout the Community.

THE MONTH IN EUROPE

Trade

How to sell more goods to China?

Ways in which the Community can boost its exports to China were high on the agenda when Community and Chinese trade officials met in Peking in November. This followed a fall in the Community's share of Chinese imports from 18 per cent in 1979 to an estimated 12 per cent this year.

The Chinese explained that this was due to readjustment policies which led to a cutback in capital investment goods, notably steel. However, the modernisation of 400,000 medium and small enterprises in China presents new opportunities for European exporters and prospects look particularly bright in the agro-industry, energy sector, port development and light industry.

Trade is currently running at around the same pace as last year when the Community sold \$1.7 billion worth of goods to China and imported almost \$1.9 billion worth.

Davignon rejects US steel action

Industry Commissioner, Etienne Davignon has reacted strongly to the American Department of Commerce's intention to take legal action against certain categories of steel imported from France and Belgium.

The Americans consider the products are being subsidised and sold below the officially recommended price in the United States. They want to impose countervailing duties to prevent the steel from undercutting American producers.

But, on hearing the news, Viscount Davignon, warned the American authorities they were embarking 'on a dangerous and contestable path'.

He admitted Community steel exports to the United States had increased in recent months, but pointed out they still accounted for less than 5

per cent of the total US market and were not at the root of the problems facing US steel manufacturers.

Davignon urges closer links with Japan

Industry Commissioner, Etienne Davignon has called for a much closer relationship between Japan and the European Community as a way of ending the escalating trade war.

In particular, he warned Tokyo of the dangers of concentrating exports in certain key sectors of the European economy already under heavy attack and of erecting obstacles to imports from the Community.

In his speech made in Tokyo to a symposium jointly sponsored by the Japanese Government and the European Commission, Viscount Davignon urged that Community-Japanese relations be placed on the same footing as those between the Community and the United States.

The Commissioner's remarks came shortly before the publication of Japanese Finance Ministry figures showing that the Community's trade deficit with Japan in the first 10 months of the year was \$8.8 billion. In the same period for 1980, the deficit was \$7.5 billion.

External relations

Ecevit jailing brings protests from Commission

The European Commission has complained to the Turkish Government at the four month prison sentence meted out to former Turkish Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit.

When the decision was announced in early November, European Commission Vice-President Lorenzo Natali summoned Turkey's ambassador in Brussels, Cenap Keskin, to complain.

Mr Natali warned that the arrest raised serious doubts over the country's return to democratic government, which the Commission considers is of fundamental importance in its relations with Turkey, a country that one day hopes to join the Community.

More significantly, the Commission has announced that it will take the latest political developments in Turkey into account when it comes to consider the latest proposed round of Community aid, worth £342 million.

Roumania seeks closer links

The Roumanian government has told the European Commission that it would like to develop its links with the Community to cover more than just trade matters as at present.

The request was made when the two sides met in Brussels in November, to discuss developments of the trade agreement they signed in Bucharest in July 1980.

The Community is prepared to listen favourably to the Roumanian's request for a wider cooperation agreement, but it has asked them to first spell out their aims in greater detail.

At the same meeting, it agreed to end quota restrictions on 12 categories of imports from Roumania and to raise the ceilings for a wide range of other products.

For its part, Roumania has been asked to relax its 'buy back' rules, whereby Community exporters have to purchase Roumanian goods rather than be paid in Western currency.

Prospect

Bonn, Rome look to closer cooperation

Concern that the internal conflicts between the Ten over common policies at a time of rising unemployment and inflation will turn the people of Europe away from the Community ideal has

Helping 'quake victims

A £16 million low-interest loan is being made by the European Investment Bank to the Italian government to improve drinking water supplies and sewage systems in areas hit by last year's earthquake. The loan was signed following talks on general Community investment in the Mezzogiorno, between the Minister for the Mezzogiorno, and European officials.

More for Steel?

The European Commission is proposing that the European Coal and Steel Community should have a budget this year of £153 million. The bulk of the funds, which are derived from a levy on production, would be used to encourage readaptation schemes and to finance research and interest subsidies on loans.

THE NEWS IN BRIEF

Helping refugees

Food and financial aid totalling £12.5 million for Palestinian refugees has been proposed by the European Commission for the next three years. The aid, which would be handled by the United Nations, must be approved by the Council of Ministers.

For membership

Greenland's only member of the European Parliament, Fynn Linge, told a press conference in Strasbourg recently that he hopes next month's referendum on continued Community membership will result in a vote for staying in. He underlined the serious economic problems which would face Greenland if Community subsidies were no longer available to the islanders.

Legal precedent

The European Commission has fined a French firm, CCI, £2,850 for supplying it with false information in an examination of whether the firm's distribution agreement with a Japanese company is in breach of the Community's fair trading laws. The decision to impose the fine is of particular legal interest because it gives a clear interpretation of the provisions applicable in such a case and makes it clear to firms the risks involved in supplying incorrect information.

prompted a new initiative for European Union.

The plan, which was discussed by Community Heads of State and Government at their recent London summit, was outlined to the European parliament in Strasbourg by its two authors, the German Foreign Minister, Hans-Dietrich Genscher and his Italian counterpart, Emilio Colombo.

Mr Genscher told MEPs that the initiative proposed expanding European Political Cooperation (foreign policy cooperation) and the integration of this foreign policy and foreign trade policy into a 'coherent and comprehensive' European policy.

It also recommended strengthening the European parliament's treaty powers and involving MEPs more closely in European policy making.

The initiative also calls on the Council of Ministers to revert to the practice of taking decisions by majority vote in a bid to streamline the decision-making process.

Mr Colombo said that the most urgent need was to 'find a way of strengthening Europe's political will' so as to respond more promptly to present economic and social difficulties.

He called for an extension of European cooperation to security matters, echoing too Mr Genscher's desire to see combined European action against international crime and terrorism.

Third World

Emergency aid package agreed

European plans to launch a wide-ranging plan of action to combat hunger in the Third World received the formal go-ahead, in November from the Ten's Ministers for Development Cooperation.

As a first step in their efforts to fight hunger and promote agricultural development in the developing countries, the Ministers agreed to give £23 million in emergency aid for the purchase of some 100,000 tonnes of cereals by the least developed countries.

The second phase of the plan of action is more ambitious. It will focus on the implementation by the Third World nations of cohesive national food strategies, including efforts to improve credit facilities for farmers, pricing policies and distribution networks.

The Community has suggested that an international 'task force' including certain least developed states who are prepared to implement such food strategies and Community Member States, should be set up to coordinate external aid.

The Ministers also undertook their first-ever formal evaluation of the Community's development efforts in the Third World. They agreed that agricultural development of the Third World should be given top priority.

They also agreed on ways to streamline emergency aid operations.

European Council Ten closer to agreement on reform plans

Community Heads of State and Government ended two days of intensive talks at their London Summit meeting at the end of November nearer to agreement on changes to existing Community policies, but still unable to spell these out in detail.

In a bid to reach a settlement as soon as possible, they handed the negotiations over to Foreign Ministers with instructions to press for an accord by the end of the year.

Four main issues remained unresolved and these lie at the heart of any reform programme. Three of them concern the common agricultural policy.

The Foreign Ministers were asked to devise measures to prevent the cost of price guarantees for dairy products from becoming too great a burden on the Community budget.

They were also entrusted with the task of working out a policy for Mediterranean products and setting guidelines for the annual increases in agricultural expenditure.

The fourth challenge facing Ministers was to establish a mechanism to ensure that no country's contribution to the Community budget is out of line with its respective wealth.

The Foreign Ministers met in London in December. Further progress was made though a complete settlement eluded them. The Commission has now been asked to make further proposals.

There is now full agreement on a wide range of policies that the Community should follow once the out-



standing agricultural and budgetary problems have been settled.

These include projects to tackle unemployment, help poorer regions encourage energy saving and develop transport links. The Heads of Government also agreed to increase the Community's special lending instrument for energy and infrastructure investment by £570 million to £1.7 billion.

In their final statement, the EEC leaders repeated their support for Spanish and Portuguese membership of the Community and welcomed the Italo-German scheme for European Union (see below).

On the eve of the Geneva disarmament talks, they stressed the need to keep the channels of East/West communication open between governments at all times and pledged their support for efforts to rebuild the Polish economy.

They had harsh words to say about the continued Russian presence in Afghanistan, terming it 'flagrant defiance of international opinion' and 'immensely damaging to international trust and confidence.'

The Law

IBM case to continue

The European Commission has won the first round of its fight against the American computer multinational, IBM, for alleged violation of the Community's competition rules.

The Commission in December 1980 claimed that the company was abusing its dominant position for the supply of the central processing unit and software for IBM 360 and 370 computer systems by applying certain sales practices which operated to the detriment of competitors offering products compatible with these systems.

IBM's first line of defence was to attack the Commission on procedural grounds. It argued that the legal approach was full of flaws.

The objection was taken to the Euro-

pean Court of Justice, which in November ruled that an annulment appeal could not be directed against the opening of a case, since it would prejudice the substantive issues involved.

IBM has now submitted a written reply to the Commission's complaints. Oral hearings involving the two parties will have to take place before any decision is announced.

Reducing Barriers Cost of queues

Nearly £570 million may be wasted each year because of the time lorries have to wait while their papers are being examined at border posts within the Community, according to Commissioner Karl-Heinz Narjes.

Mr Narjes, who is responsible for the Internal Market, has committed himself to reducing red tape at frontiers.

He told the European Parliament during its November session that the estimated cost of keeping a lorry waiting was £12.94 per hour, and that the average wait was 18 minutes.

Research

Green light for joint projects

Research Ministers who met for the first time in two years in Brussels in November gave the go-ahead for two Community programmes to promote microelectronic technology and biomolecular engineering.

Under the first programme, £23 million of Community funds will be spent to meet up to half the cost of joint projects designed to boost the Community's microelectronic industry and enable to face up to American and Japanese competition.

A further £4.6 million will be spent on a research and training programme in the field of biomolecular engineering. Among the projects will be the development of cloning systems in agriculture and the improvement of methods for detecting contamination and for the assessment of possible risks associated with biomolecular engineering in industry and agriculture.

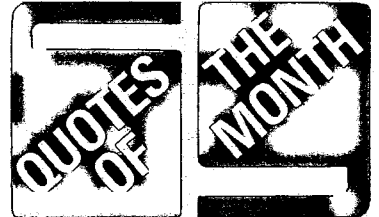
After the European Council meeting of Heads of State and Government in London, November 26-27:

'Our discussions have been very good and very constructive.' British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, who chaired the summit.

'It is regrettable and worrying that in this difficult period it has not been possible to show more spirit of compromise or solidarity.' Gaston Thorn, President of the European Commission.

'Europe wants to live and has to prove it by its consistency in the next few weeks.' French President François Mitterrand.

'I cannot assure the Greeks that it will be possible to take the measures necessary within the Community which would grant Greece the necessary special status.' Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou.



'There can be no question of discussing defence in the Community.' French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson quoted in "Newsweek" 30.11.1981.

'The most outrageous proposal is that the new European Act (on European Union) is not only to be submitted for the approval, let alone the legislation of the parliament and people of the member states. It is simply to be agreed, approved and implemented by the heads of government.' Peter Shore, British Labour Party's Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer.

'It would not be unrealistic right now to envisage 1984 as the date for the entry of Spain and Portugal to the Community, but only if the existing member states rapidly take the decision to conclude the negotiations in 1982, giving all of 1983 for ratification.'

Lorenzo Natali, Vice-president of the European Commission responsible for the enlargement negotiations.

Agriculture

Ten may sign sugar pact

The European Community is considering joining the International Sugar Agreement, designed to stabilise sugar prices when there is a surplus.

But first it is demanding that the ISA's rules be tightened up, in particular the provision which allows deliveries onto world markets to increase even when prices are depressed.

The Community's support for the ISA is seen by Third World sugar producers as the first test of its professed wish to improve North-South relations, as agreed at the Summit meeting in Mexico last October.

Energy

Ten prepared for crisis action

Community Governments have agreed on the emergency measures they will take if ever there is a sudden shortage in oil supplies.

In future, either the European Commission or a member country may call a meeting of Community Energy Ministers within five days of deciding on the need for action.

The policies they are likely to adopt include cooperation with oil companies to prevent a sudden increase in prices; encouragement of oil saving measures; and adjustment of supplies to help any country particularly badly hit by the oil shortage.

Nuclear farmer's share increases

Nuclear power stations accounted for 12.6 per cent of the European Community's electricity needs last year. This represented a two per cent increase over 1979 levels, and was a rate exceeded only by Sweden, Japan and Switzerland.

France and Belgium are to the fore among Community countries in using

nuclear power. Almost 25 per cent of their total national electric energy production comes from this source. The Federal Republic of Germany, which used to head the Community league table, has now lost that position because no new commissionings took place last year. Even so nuclear power meets 12 per cent of its needs.

A similar figure was supplied in the United Kingdom while the last two years have seen a considerable fall in the use of nuclear power in Italy.

Taxation

Deadlock on drinks duties

Community Governments have failed to settle the vexed question of the harmonisation of excise duties on alcoholic drinks. Now the whole problem has been handed over to the European Court of Justice.

Disagreement centred on whether the same rate of VAT should be levied on all alcoholic beverages and the ratio of tax to be applied to wine and beer.

The European Commission argues this should follow their respective alcoholic strengths and be roughly respectively 3:1 – a ratio the United Kingdom considers too low.

The Court's judgement will not be known before next year at the earliest. But Commissioner Christopher Tugendhat has already chided Ministers for allowing legal rather than political decisions to shape the European Community.

The Regions

Proposed Fund changes to aid poorest areas

The European Commission has proposed major changes to the operation of the Regional Fund in a bid to step up aid to the Community's least prosperous areas.

Instead of spreading its support among all 10 countries as at present, it wants to concentrate its efforts on regions with structural unemployment

and where per capita wealth is less than three quarters the Community average.

The whole of Ireland would meet these criteria as would Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the North of England. Other beneficiaries would be Southern Italy, Greece (except for Athens and Thessalonika), Greenland and the French overseas departments.

The Commission also intends to allocate as much as 20 per cent of its total regional money to the 'non-quota' section of the Fund. Under the present system 95 per cent of the Fund is allocated to individual member states on a quota basis.

This beefed-up non-quota section would be used to encourage new industry in areas with high unemployment stemming from the closure of traditional activities like shipbuilding, coal mining and steel works in whatever member state they are found.

Employment

Chunnel could mean 100,000 jobs – Richard

Social Affairs Commissioner Ivor Richard, whose number one priority is to cut the Community's dole queue, has cited the Channel Tunnel as an example of how new jobs can be created.

He reckoned the projected Tunnel between Britain and France could provide 100,000 jobs. The Commissioner was speaking during a press conference in Brussels during which he called on the Ten's governments to develop public expenditure programmes in a bid to bring a halt to the Community's continuing unemployment level, now approaching 10 million.

Acknowledging the gloomy forecasts that the numbers out of work will continue to rise in the short and medium term, Mr Richard has demanded a new Community Social Guarantee for the 16-18 years group.

This would provide a guarantee of education, training or work experience as an alternative to unemployment. He also pressed for selective recruitment subsidies and public works schemes for the under 25 population, the handicapped and other long-term jobless.

EUROPE AND YOU

The three-dimensional Eurolobby game

The pressure groups and lobbyists surrounding national parliaments and ministries don't raise many eyebrows. They are to be expected because they're part of the national democratic process. It should therefore come as no surprise that in Brussels, home of the policy-forming European Commission and decision-taking Council of Ministers, a similar force should exist. And, of course, it does.

Eurolobbying is big business and a vital part of the Brussels scene. It is a force to be reckoned with in Community policy-making and its headline-grabbing policy setbacks.

Eurolobbying is somewhat like playing a three-dimensional chess game. To operate well, lobbyists need a good understanding of the intricacies of the Community system. They need to be active when Commission officials are doing the basic groundwork for new proposals. They need to present their views on the work of the working parties which help mould draft legislation and when a proposal comes up for endorsement by the 14-man Commission there is further scope for action.

Lobbies subsequently have to be mobilised at the consultative stage in the Economic and Social Committee, and the European Parliament. If success is still not forthcoming, the Eurolobbyists must turn to the working committees of the Council of Ministers and bring pressure to bear in national capitals to produce the desired results at the ambassador level discussions and ultimately the Council of Ministers.

Not as simple as mobilising a number of national MPs for a particular vote, Eurolobbying requires the patience, strategic planning and persistence worthy of Korchnoi or Karpov.

Brussels telephone directories are peppered with coded references to the pressure groups: CEPCEO, UNICE, CEFIC, ETUC, BEUC, COMITEXTIL, COPA. The list is considerable: upwards of 200 bureaux in Brussels alone with many more working out of national capitals. They range from major industrial umbrella groups such as UNICE – the Union of Industries of the European Community – to small sec-

toral interests such as the Union for Tropical Wood Trade.

Far from the cloak-and-dagger operation of the Washington political scene, much of the pressure group activity has been institutionalised. In the Community policy process, consultation has always been the order of the day and the lobbyists are broadly welcomed as first hand information sources.

At the formal level, the Economic and Social Committee was set up to provide a consultative forum for these interest groups. Made up of both sides of industry as well as representatives of national interest groups such as farmers, consumers and the professions, it provides official comment and feedback on Commission proposals. In most cases, special interest groups prefer to have their own listening posts in Brussels so that they can establish their own contacts and follow policy developments even before they reach formal bodies like the Economic and Social Committee.

One of the most powerful and effective groups is COPA, the Committee of Agricultural Organisations. Essentially an umbrella organisation for the national farming associations, it is the farm industry's frontline in pressing home its interests in the day to day operations of the Community's common agricultural policy.

Like many of the large established pressure groups, it performs a dual function. It is a first-base source of contact for the Commission to obtain information, opinions, and reactions to its policy work. Secondly, it represents the industry's case and tries to influence decisions. COPA nominates representatives from its member organisations to sit on the various consultative

committees dealing with particular agricultural markets and maintains very close contacts with the Commission's operational staff. It hopes these close contacts pay dividends in presenting the views of its members, particularly when the annual agricultural price review comes round.

The importance of agriculture in the Community budget and day to day operations has given it an elevated status in the Commission's eyes and regular meetings between COPA and the Commissioner for Agriculture have now almost become a tradition.

The main lobby representing consumers is BEUC – the European Union of Consumer Organisations. BEUC, in comparison to COPA, is few in numbers and low on resources. Nevertheless the Bureau is very active lobbying for lower consumer price increases and higher standards of quality and protection.

Working through the Consumers' Consultative Committee, it has a formal mechanism to comment on policies and ensure its views are represented. In addition it has a productive two-way relationship with the Commission's consumer protection service.

Trade Union forces are coordinated through the ETUC – European Trade Union Confederation – which cooperates on numerous consultative committees as well as providing input to the Commission's social affairs activities.

In terms of numbers and power the industrial pressure groups form the majority of lobbyists in Brussels. Represented on the one hand by the umbrella industrial organisation UNICE, many have found it useful to have their own people around the Berlaymont building to keep track of specific issues. Large transnational companies even find it worthwhile to have their own specialists keeping an eye on their interests and alerting them to issues of particular concern to them.

Ironically, however, as difficult as it is for the Community to reach agreement between the Ten on sectorial policies, it can be just as difficult for the industrial, trade union and consumer organisations to reach agreement among themselves; different countries have different traditions, different ways of working, different value systems and often different interests.

Transnational companies generally have a strong interest in pushing forward towards one large European market where they can apply economies of scale and incur the minimum costs in

red tape at national frontiers. Free movement of goods, removal of technical barriers to trade, enforcement of Community competition rules generally find their support. On the other hand, national concerns with a strong captive position in their home market are naturally less inclined to support further liberalisation and increased competition in their own home territory. Their interests may be best served by preserving the status quo.

With such evidently conflicting interests it is not surprising that the Eurolobbyists for particular sectors or products have proliferated in recent years. One result, has been that the

result of lobbying in conflicting directions has to some extent had a neutralising effect on the power of the lobby.

Some organisations can find it in their interests to go it alone. Some may even find it in their interests to seek the support of governments of other Community countries to further their cause. French cereal producers, for example, find their best allies are the Germans who have a greater commitment to higher wheat prices.

While the main target of the lobbyist activity is the Commission and the Council of Ministers, the European Parliament has become an increasingly important target. Though exercising

an essentially consultative role in the Community mechanism, the parliament since direct elections has developed more authority and is a useful medium for putting a case across to the Commission and getting media interest.

Composition of Parliamentary Committees therefore becomes highly important and the larger lobby groups have an interest in ensuring that the Euro-MPs most sympathetic to their cause are on the right Committees.

Ninety-five per cent of the activities of the lobbyists is gathering information from the Community institutions and supplying information to them.

A charter for all cultures

The European Parliament has taken up the cause of the tens of millions of people throughout the Community who use lesser-spoken languages such as Irish, Welsh, Breton, Basque, Frisian, etc. At its October 1981 session the Parliament adopted a resolution which spells out a bill of rights for such regional languages and cultures.

The resurgence of many of the Community's regional cultures has become an increasingly important political issue in recent years.

The Parliament calls on national and regional authorities to safeguard the rights of those who speak regional languages in particular in the areas of education, mass communications and public and social affairs, and recommends European Community aid for projects designed to support regional cultural development.

Central governments and local authorities are asked in particular to guarantee the teaching of regional languages and culture including local literature and history as part of the official curriculum in schools.

They are also called upon to promote the use of regional languages as a medium of instruction, especially where there is popular demand.

As regards the mass media, Parliament wants guaranteed access to local radio and television for regional languages. It also asks authorities to ensure that minority groups get the same sort of financial help for cultural events that majority groups receive.

The Charter supports the claim of

regional language groups that they should be allowed to use their own languages in dealings with officialdom and the courts.

Following legal problems in the UK regarding the use of Welsh-language labels on wine bottles, the Parliament wants the Commission to review any similar legislation that discriminates against regional languages.

Finally, it says that local authority boundaries should correspond as closely as possible with cultural regions.

The adoption of the Charter reflects a growing concern in Europe for regional cultures threatened with absorption into culturally and economically more dominant groups. The exclusive use of majority languages in administrative and commercial life means that ethnic minorities have to conform or suffer the consequences in terms of fewer job opportunities.

International bodies including the United Nations, the Council of Europe and the signatories of the Helsinki Accords have already made declarations of principle supporting minority linguistic rights. But in practice much remains to be done.

Most Community governments have already taken steps to aid their regional culture. Charters to promote Breton, Corsican and Alsatian cultures exist in France, and the new Socialist government in Paris is committed to doing more in the future.

As regards the United Kingdom, Welsh speakers are the envy of Europe because of the degree of official support they receive—they are shortly to have a TV channel of their own.

The Dutch facilitate the use of the Frisian language and the Danes have long allowed extensive cultural autonomy to the Faroese and the Greenlanders.

Italy recognises the existence of its various French, German, Serbo-Croat,

Greek and even Albanian-speaking minorities.

The Irish government for its part is committed to the revival of Irish.

No sooner was the European Parliament directly elected in 1979 than John Hume, leader of Northern Ireland's Social Democratic and Labour Party, and himself an Irish speaker, proposed a draft bill of rights for those who speak lesser-used languages.

Several other proposals along the same lines were put forward by other parliamentarians as well, reflecting the widespread interest in the question. The end result was the resolution drawn up by Italian Socialist Gaetano Arfe. Parliamentarians from almost every member state and representing every shade of political opinion took part in the debate.

German Christian Democrat Otto von Habsburg spoke for many in wanting a de-centralising Europe where minorities would no longer exist and where all groups and languages would be treated equally.

But French European Progressive Democrat Gerard Israel warned the parliament of the dangers of 'institutionalising' ethnic minorities to the point where they threatened to break up societies, nations, and eventually the European Community itself.

And British Conservatives attacked proposals to finance the promotion of minority languages with Community funds. They felt that minority languages should not be compulsory, and claimed that local authorities might misuse institutionalised regional languages to exclude certain groups from civil service jobs.

European Commissioner Ivor Richard's Welsh view that 'Cendl heb iaith, cendl heb galon' (a nation without its language is a nation without its soul) is one which is clearly shared by most Europeans.

Cheaper fares in the air

Air fares would be cheaper and travellers would be able to choose whether they wish to take advantage of inflight services such as food and drink if the European Commission's latest bid to break the European air cartel succeeds.

Under the Commission's proposals, those aspects of the present pricing structure which are advantageous to the passenger, such as being able to switch airlines during the course of a trip, would be kept.

But airlines would be obliged to be more competitive and governments would not be able to prevent airlines from setting their own prices, which means that fares would most likely be cut.

The Commission says that passengers should be free to choose whether they want to pay for other facilities associated with buying a ticket such as meals, drinks and seating.

Bid to make sprays safer

Chlorofluorocarbons are used in aerosols to make them spray. But they are believed to be putting the earth's ozone layer at serious risk. There is world-wide concern over the use of CFCs, as they are known, and the dangers they might present to mankind through their effect on the environment.

Measures against the use of CFCs in aerosol cans have already been taken in the Community. Now the European Commission is stepping up action against the use of CFCs and is proposing that their use in aerosols is not increased beyond 1981 levels which should, in any case, be 30 per cent lower than 1976 levels of use as a result of Community action. It is also proposing action intended to reduce the use of CFCs in foam plastics, refrigeration and solvents where it is thought to be on the increase.

Duty-freer

The Ten's Foreign Ministers have given Community citizens a New Year present in the form of increased duty-free allowances.

On top of allowances for luxury items like alcohol, perfume and tobacco, travellers entering the Community will now be

permitted to bring 45 ECU worth of other goods (1 ECU=approx. 57 pence). They will also be able to send goods worth up to 35 ECU from third countries.

The Council of Ministers also agreed to increase the value of goods that can be sent by post within the Community to 70 ECU. The limit for intra-Community travellers stays at 180 ecu.

In addition to these, travellers are permitted to carry 1.5 litres of spirits and four litres of wine. You are also allowed 300 cigarettes (or 75 cigars), 75 grammes of perfume, 700 grammes of coffee and 150 grammes of tea.

Young urge war on illiteracy

The European Youth Forum, which represents national youth organisations at Community level, has called on the European Commission to step up its campaign against illiteracy. The Forum, which met in Frankfurt in November, reckons that there are more than 10 million people in the Community over school age who do not know how to read or write.

Aid for orphans

The Paul Finet Foundation, named after a former President of the European Coal and Steel Community, has voted £42,750 to help orphans of workers killed in these industries with their education.

Easier travel

A host of countries have agreed to work with the Community to make international travel by bus or coach smoother.

Negotiations with Austria, Spain, Finland, Norway, Portugal, Switzerland, Sweden, Turkey and Yugoslavia are now complete and the agreement, once ratified will mean that Community citizens travelling by bus or coach to these countries will have to put up with fewer delays at frontiers. The new agreement covers occasional coach parties as well as shuttle and regular services.

Focus on food row: turkey for sausages

Gaston Thorn, President of the European Commission,

exchanged a 7 lb oven-ready French turkey for a packet of British sausages recently. The exchange took place in Strasbourg when he met Richard Balfe, a British member of the European Parliament.

Mr Balfe wanted to underline the message that the United Kingdom is unable to export raw sausages to other Community countries. But President Thorn told him that this was not the fault of the Community because all countries, including the UK, have tight hygiene regulations on the import of raw minced meat.

The European Commission is already trying to make it possible for member states to export sausages to one another. Salami, and some other 'Continental' sausages, can already be exported and imported because they are preserved by either cooking, drying, or salting. British sausages, the President explained, could probably be exported in a cooked form.

Mr Thorn gave Mr Balfe the bird to underline the fact that French turkeys cannot be imported into the United Kingdom because of a decision taken by the British Government in September. The Commission may soon decide to take the UK before the European Court for its ban.

Not enough protection, say consumers

The latest meeting of the Consumers Consultative Committee (CCC), which represents the consumer view to the European Commission and aims to influence the legislation it prepares, has cracked down on what it regards as Community lapses in protecting consumers.

It wants measures introduced to prevent fraud and human error in the processing of foodstuffs, especially in the light of the recent case of industrial oil which was sold as edible olive oil in Spain and which brought to light the absence of Community measures to provide protection against the import into the Community of doctored oils intended for human consumption.

The CCC also considers that national consumer policies can only be replaced by Community action where the Community draws up and implements an effective consumer protection

policy which is not currently the case as far as the CCC is concerned.

Neither does the European Commission get off lightly. While the CCC congratulates it on plans to reform the Community's farm policy, it criticises the lack of precision in the Commission's analysis of the system's faults.

Quieter skies in the offing

Flying in helicopters is fun but not so delightful for people living in the vicinity of helicopter landing and take-off pads and below their regular routes.

With more people using helicopters for commercial travel, the European Commission has proposed that they be subject to internationally agreed noise levels and wants Community member states to adopt the helicopter noise standards laid down by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) not later than 1982.

The Commission has also drawn up proposals to tighten up on legislation already in force.

Education on the move

Only one in 200 Community students in higher education study in member state other than their own and the European Commission would like to see more students taking advantage of courses on offer.

A student handbook, more widely distributed than any other Community document, aims at giving students Community-wide mobility in higher education.

The student handbook has just been published in its third edition and 56,000 copies are being distributed in all official Community languages. It plugs the information gap in that it contains all the information that students who want to study in another Community country might need to make a move—conditions of admission to higher education courses, application procedures, fees, language requirements, grants, social security and even accommodation.

EUROFORUM is prepared by the information services of the European Commission in Brussels. Editor: Peter Doyle.

STRASBOURG NOTEBOOK

DAVID HARRIS, MEP for Cornwall and Plymouth



Saltash is thinking of going to bed at the end of another quiet Sunday when I start travelling to Strasbourg. Hardly anyone is about as my wife drives me down Fore Street from our old Cornish farmhouse just outside the town, then across the Tamar Bridge and into Plymouth.

Two seemingly deserted sleeper coaches are parked at platform eight. With luck, I will be asleep when

they are shunted on to the train which has wound its way up from Penzance, in the far west of my constituency.

In 2½ years, it has all become a familiar routine – off the sleeper before 7.30 next morning at Paddington; underground to Heathrow; breakfast in Terminal Two; no colleagues in sight for quite a while, and then they arrive in a trickle which quickly builds up into the payload for the ancient Caravelle; take off; the usual cold, packaged lunch; and the coach journey the other end to the Parliament for the start of the week's sitting.

The week itself is just as broken up, but with the plenary as a connecting thread. It seems that something different is happening on the hour, almost every hour – votes in the House, a meeting of some interest group or other in an upstairs committee room, French lesson, telephone call home (my wife is also my secretary) to see what is in the day's post, working lunch (that takes two hours), question time, Group meeting.

This punctuated existence is one reason why, apart from peak times like that set aside for voting, there are relatively few Members in the Chamber for most of the day. The Parliament is trying to do too much, and the new individual offices have also lured MEPs away from the centre of the place.

If – perish the thought – the time and motion men were called in to do a study, they would probably find that the most time-consuming single activity in the Palais de l'Europe is walking. Certainly, with all the different meetings, there is always a ready-made excuse not to get down to other work, like writing an article or doing some serious reading, during the plenary week. Also, the long working day – most of us are in by 8.30 in the morning and do not leave until after 8.30 in the evening – whips past.

So does the whole week. Come Friday afternoon when the 'full-timers' – funny how it is nearly always the same people – arrive back at Heathrow with our cases of dirty shirts and still unread committee reports, there is a definite start-of-weekend atmosphere about the party.

Goodness knows why. Ahead is the week's correspondence to be cleared and the usual round of constituency engagements to be carried out before, perhaps, the Sunday night sleeper routine again for a Monday committee meeting in Brussels.

One of the attractive features of the Parliament is its openness. After nearly 20 years at Westminster as a lobby correspondent, I like the contrast with the Commons. What is absolutely

appropriate for the one with its long traditions would be pretentious for the other given its newness and its markedly different characteristics.

So, to my mind, it is natural that the television cameras are in the hemicycle. Nor does it worry me that anyone who wants to buttonhole an MEP can come right to the doors of the Chamber, and that there are no hallowed lobbies where MEPs can have the collective privacy of a London club.

Indeed, the area outside the hemicycle at the top of the main stairs is like a political market place. It is nothing to see an Italian Communist being interviewed under the glare of portable TV lights just a few feet away from the Centre-Right spokesmen on the Political Affairs Committee as they piece together the latest compromise motion on this or that. And all around is a constant criss-crossing of MEPs, attendants, researchers, staff, secretariat, lobbyists – yes, lobbyists – journalists and visitors.

One evening I looked around and saw turbaned Afghan guerrillas who were being paraded by my colleague, Lord Bethell (I'm told that every now and then they would get out their prayer mats – the tribesmen, not Nick Bethell – and put their faith in something other than the European Parliament); Father Paul Symonds, the splendid Jesuit who takes an ecumenical interest in us; Winnie Ewing's Shetland fishermen; a pro-EEC leader in the Greenland referendum; a party of local government officers from Britain; and the resident representative of the CBI. As the News of the World poster said; 'All human life is there.'

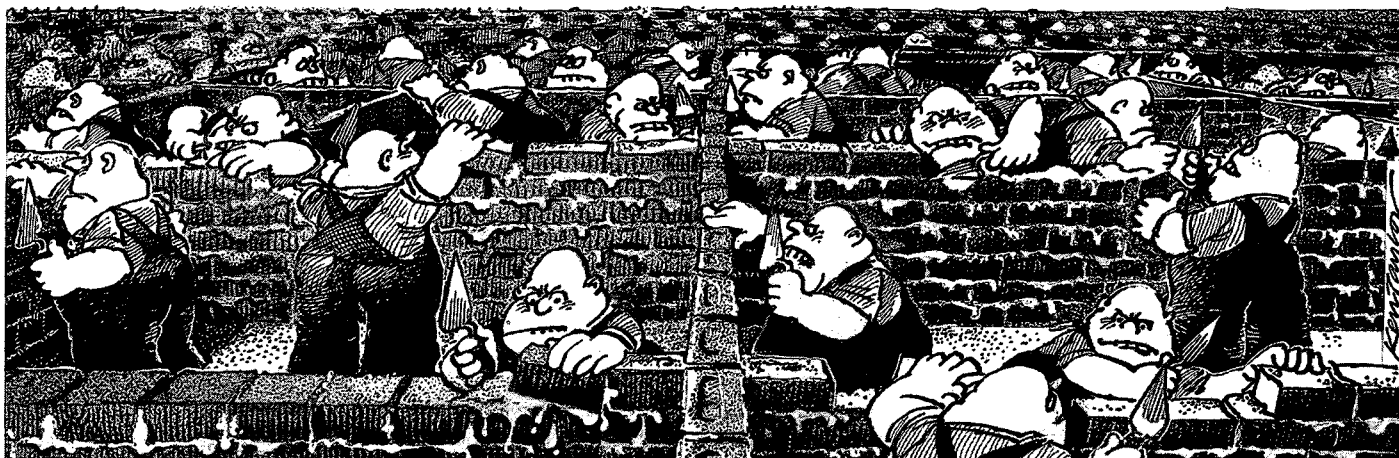
'After nearly 20 years at Westminster as a lobby correspondent, I like the contrast with the Commons'

But should we be so hospitable to wandering statesmen who want to use the Parliament as an international platform? My neighbour in seat number 186, Lord Harmer-Nicholls, who, after a quarter of a century's experience in the Commons, knows a thing or two about Parliaments, doesn't think so. What is more, he said as much while the Foreign Ministers of Germany and Italy were kept waiting to do a bit of freelance lobbying for their joint initiative on European unity.

I don't quite go along with his view that only MEPs, commissioners and the current ministerial spokesmen of the Council should be allowed to speak. Personally, I believe that the Parliament took a big step forward when the late President Sadat made a major speech from the rostrum, and I hope that the Pope comes to Strasbourg before too long.

Yes, perhaps these special events should not be classified as a formal sitting. And, possibly, we need some device, like a motion to suspend part of the rules, to show that we are making an exception. But above all, we must be highly selective.

This is happening, and some heads of government of non-member states have already been given a polite No to their requests to address the Parliament. That's good. We can afford to be choosy.



Wanted: an end to industrial barriers

When the Common Market was set up in 1958, European industry was given a unified framework in which to develop. Despite some initial scepticism among states which had been recent enemies, the giant leap in the dark – and the undoubted change in the old order of things – turned out to be the springboard for an unprecedented boom.

But times have changed. The world at large is in recession. In the increasingly competitive world of the Eighties, the need for a different approach is both necessary and difficult.

The growth of a public sector in all western countries is one aspect. Industry in the United States, which – like Europe – enjoys the advantages of a continental-scale market, can now count on large public contracts. In Japan, the strategy of the main industrial groups is worked out within a planning framework based on consensus between government and industry.

Economic 'interventionism' in Europe, however, carries the ever-present risk of fragmenting the common market through protectionism. There are historical, geographical and political reasons why European industrial development lacks control. As each new member joins, so further shuffles, adjustments and accommodations have to be made. So Europe, unable to make the collective changes that would enable it to act in concert, appears to be permanently on the defensive in the face of American and Japanese commercial strategy.

That the Commission of the EEC is fully conscious of the Community's present industrial shortcomings is borne out by two documents published last October* containing

A Community strategy to develop Europe's industry and A policy for industrial innovation, COM (81) 620 and 639.

RON BARRY looks at two reports from Brussels that examine the need for an integrated approach to getting Europe's sluggish economy moving

proposals which are intended to breathe new life into European industry – supposing that governments, industry and unions have the courage to give them support. As the reports make clear, it is essential that the Community should once again take the lead in world trade, and the answer must lie in growth. As things stand, the Community's share of world exports in manufactured goods is declining, while the USA's share remains steady and Japan's is on the increase.

A major problem facing European industry is that improvement in productivity has slowed down, due mainly to inadequate industrial investment. As a result, competitiveness in Europe, as measured by unit labour costs, declined in relative terms between 1960 and 1980. Calculations by the US Department of Labour show that unit labour costs increased in the seven largest Community countries by an average of 8.7 per cent per year, compared with 7.4 per cent in Japan and a mere 3.9 per cent in the US. Such loss of competitiveness has meant a loss of potential employment. Over the last decade, the number of jobs in Europe increased by 2 million, compared with 5 million in Japan and 19 million in the United States, the Commission says.

European industry cannot be modernised – and thereby made more competitive – without growth; but the Community must first decide

which component of demand is most likely to encourage the renewal of its industrial base – export demand or domestic; consumption or investment?

In the past, the EEC's growth was largely export-led, expanding apace with world trade. Over recent years world trade has been slowing down, and it is unlikely that we shall again see the like of the Sixties boom. More importantly, should the economic situation improve radically, Community industry as a whole might not be in the best position to take advantage of an upturn in world demand.

Compared with its principal competitors, the Community is handicapped on the international markets by the fact that decisions on financial support, and other measures to assist individual companies, are taken within a national framework rather than a Community one. The EEC as such has virtually no instrument, at present, for promoting either exports or external investments, despite the fact that the question of a common commercial policy features under Article 113 of the Rome Treaty. Any weaknesses caused by such dispersal of effort may need to be identified with a view to tightening up co-ordination of national policies within a Community framework.

So what of the prospect originally offered to us – of an internal common market which was to be the EEC's greatest asset? In the 1960s, the reduction in national levels of protection by the abolition of customs duties was offset for trading companies by a European preference, in the form of the Common Customs Tariff. This benefit has since declined as the CCT duties have fallen. Also, owing to the increasing relative importance of non-tariff barriers to trade, maintained or introduced by some member states, market unity is not all that it should be.

As a result, companies that venture into the Community market by setting up organisations on a European scale do not find the crock of gold they expected, where economies of

scale would compensate for the drawbacks of moving out of their immediate sphere of operation. Furthermore, a company organised on a Community-wide scale may be treated with suspicion by governments reluctant to afford it the benefit of their internal industrial policy instruments – financing, research and development aid, public contracts, norms and standards. So what ought to be a considerable asset in a Common Market turns out to be a handicap. If the internal market is to be unified and meaningful, then the Community must be in a position to grant such companies concrete advantages, it says.

Proposals along such lines have already been made by the Commission, to help ensure an internal market. Among them is reciprocal notification in advance by national governments of proposed rules and regulations which might create barriers to intra-Community trade. Technical norms and standards, fixed at a national level, can deter companies from laying down production lines from the outset, and even prevent small and medium-sized concerns from supplying nearby markets.

Rather than trying to harmonise them after they have been set, it would make more sense, and provide a more unified market, if they were simultaneously set for the Community as a whole, thereby giving member producers preferential access to the Community market. The promotion of norms and standards on this basis may turn out to be an important plus for European firms competing in sectors where they are in a relatively strong position.

'Larger parts of internal economic activity are being walled off'

Company law and taxation systems in the member states should likewise be framed to encourage the creation of European industrial entities, and to facilitate their activity in the Common Market. There should be non-discriminatory access for all European companies to research projects carried out jointly in member states. And the Commission itself must ensure that Article 7 of the Rome Treaty is respected, in that no discrimination by member states based on company nationality is allowed.

However, the weakest link in the construction and maintenance of the internal market is public purchase and ownership, representing some 10 per cent of GDP, along with all the trade which is influenced by member states, either directly or indirectly, through institutions dependent on them, means that larger and larger parts of internal economic activity are being walled-off, with contracts being placed within essentially national boundaries. In fact, public authorities are often in the position of being dominant buyers, so stifling possible innovation through new technolo-

gies rather than promoting them.

Public ownership is also becoming an increasingly powerful element of national industrial strategy and as such presents a threat to the unity of the Market. This will worsen unless the growth of the public sector in member states is accompanied by the opening up of public contracts. This is not easy. Governments are reluctant to use their own taxpayers' money to make purchases abroad, and nationalised industries – particularly where they have special supply rights – are jealous of their captive markets, which are an important factor in their profitability.

The disadvantages of restricting public purchasing – especially in advanced technology, where the home market is in most cases small – are becoming obvious. The opening-up of such contracts might be more easily achieved if the powers of public authorities and national agencies were integrated into a European body that could develop a supply policy or an agreement between national public authorities. The European iron and steel industry offers a hopeful precedent. Under the terms of the ECSC Treaty, agreements are reached despite the fact that a large part of the industry is nationalised whilst the remainder is in private hands.

There is one strategic area where similar steps could be taken: telecommunications. For reasons of efficiency and cost, new products and services must be seen from the outset in a European perspective. Progress has already been made in this direction with industrial data banks, which could provide a pattern for the future.

With the help of the national telecommunications authorities, the Community has introduced the Euronet system, which enables any user with access to a suitable terminal linked to the telephone network to interrogate data banks. The tariff for the service is based not on distance but on time – whether the user calls from Milan, Copenhagen or Belfast, he pays the same price. Euronet could serve as the support for a new Community initiative for a system providing information – both to governments and to individual firms – on Community markets.

As the October 1981 documents admit, it is very difficult to identify the root causes of the EEC's poor industrial performance. It is all too easy to mistake effects for causes, and thus come up with the wrong diagnosis. But one major factor is lack of information, leading to a lack of confidence, and so to widespread absence of belief among populations at large.

Many of the individuals in those populations are, or aspire to be, entrepreneurs – people, as the Commission's report to the Council points out, whose security and confidence are decisive factors in generating wealth. 'It is important for the Community to be seen by economic operators as the guarantor of coherence and continuity,' the document concludes, 'in the evolution of their political, economic and social environment.' That means clear and precise communications, on clear and precise policies. ■

Lessons after school

Surveys of European school systems, undertaken as part of the Council of Europe's 'Preparation for Life' project, have revealed important differences in both attitude and aims. YVES DEFORGE suggests that these call for new assessments, not just of educational methods but of society itself

European school systems have very similar structures. They are all based on compulsory schooling, long-term general secondary education, long-term technical secondary education, short-term vocational training, and preoccupational training prior to leaving school.

However, two significant differences are evident. The first relates to the number of pupils in the various streams of education. In some countries 60 per cent of pupils have opted for long-term general secondary education, whereas in other countries only 10 per cent have done so. This seems to imply institutional responses to varying social demands.

The countries with 60 per cent, the Mediterranean countries, feel that only studies which lead to university are worthwhile; whereas the countries with 10 per cent have a social tradition and an economic structure which prompts 50 per cent of their young people to opt for vocational training.

The second difference relates to the purpose assigned to technical and vocational training. In some countries, such training is seen as leading on to continuing education. In other countries, great faith is placed in basic training and in the ability of the school system to provide solid and thorough instruction, even if the period of training has to be prolonged. Above all, technical and vocational training are conceived as being preparation for life, not simply training for its own sake.

There is now a general trend in Europe towards the gradual elimination of status difference between general education and technical and vocational training. This trend is highlighted by the merger of teaching staff units, and in some cases of schools. It does, ▶

however, deepen the difference between pupils remaining at school and pupils leaving at the end of compulsory schooling.

The most striking phenomenon of scholastic guidance is, without doubt, the vitality of non-institutionalised guidance *vis-à-vis* institutionalised guidance. For example, the ideology of economic expansion, which in the social system has corresponded with an ideology of progress, has given way to an understandable disenchantment, as reflected in the lack of interest in school on the part of a great many young people.

In the 1960s, education as an article of consumption which was in very high demand created an ideology that led to the rapid expansion of secondary education, university education, and lifelong learning. This trend is now in reverse.

Paralleling these developments are those in the education systems themselves, which after a period of liberalism and innovation are returning to authority and classicism, partly by a natural process of evolution and partly as the result of pressure exerted both by society (parents in particular) and by the economy (financial constraints caused by the recession).

'Early school-leavers become a risk-group'

The sources of non-institutionalised scholastic guidance are, without doubt, the media, parents, friends, and the community. Pupils draw from these sources ideas for careers which are perhaps more realistic than those proposed to them by teachers and careers officers. The persistence with which non-institutionalised guidance continues to function has led education authorities in a number of countries to decide to institutionalise it, by tapping the community potential and the media ('careers education') and by increasing contacts with the economic system through visits to firms and on-the-job practical training periods.

All this might appear to conform with the typical demands arising in societies in which democracy and industrialisation are joined together. Nevertheless, there are problems. The most troublesome is the marginal group of young people who leave the school system at the end of compulsory schooling. Well prepared for life, and encouraged to benefit from the opportunities of continuing training, they could go on to acquire the skills needed to earn their own living without further schooling.

Unfortunately, perhaps because they come from disadvantaged social backgrounds, or because the school system has not devoted enough attention to them, or because (with their parents) they do not constitute a pressure group capable of pushing their own interests, they become in fact a 'risk group'

immediately after they leave school, with little or no prospect of employment.

We would do well to consider seriously this scholastic 'misguidance'. Is there really nothing we can do to help those who, as in the 19th century, remain the intellectually and socially disinherited?

We know that all young people, at the present time, are threatened by unemployment, regardless of their school-leaving level, their career choice, or the nature and quality of their education. No institutional orientation or scholastic guidance can do much about

this, for we are confronted today with a situation which goes beyond the limits of what can be demanded of any school system.

This situation calls for attention over and beyond educational policy. It is a reflection on society itself.

□ This article is edited and condensed from the September 1981 issue of the bulletin of the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training, Berlin.

SMALL, WELL-RUN BUSINESSES ARE EUROPE'S BEST HOPE FOR CREATING NEW JOBS

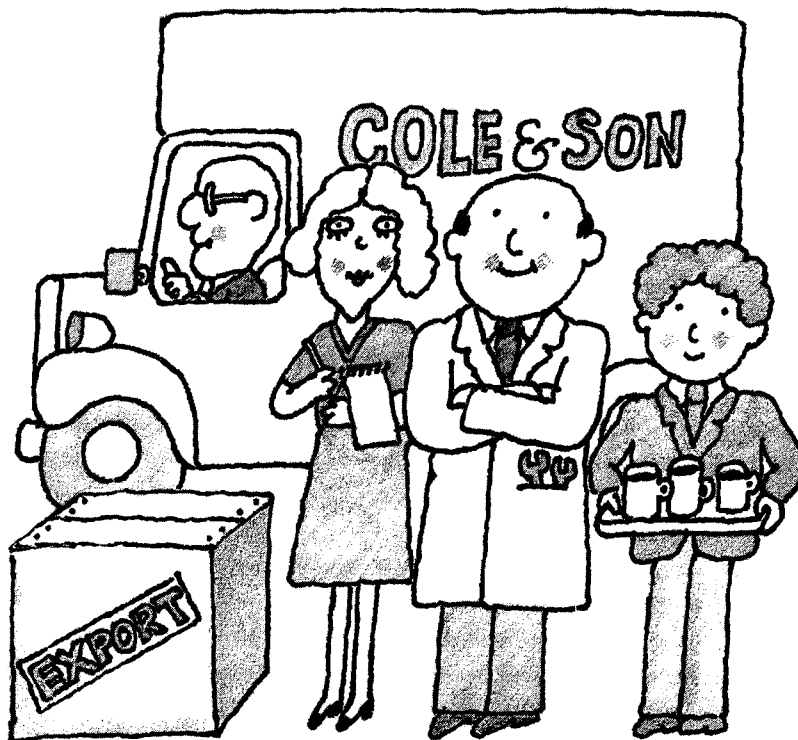
new technologies and on the enterprise of small and medium-sized companies. This, it maintains, could provide the impetus for creating new jobs.

But its fear is that, because of the general economic recession, many workers will lack the skills and training to enable them to take full advantage of a more hopeful era. So in suggesting guide-lines for job creation, the Commission stresses the need for national governments to take a new look at their educational and vocational training systems, some of which are geared to traditions that are outdated in the 1980s.

In submitting its proposals, the Commission has made clear that the only hope of combating unemployment lies in profitable investment and structural change in favour of enterprises with a potential for growth. Though these enterprises in themselves may not actually be a source of many jobs, their success will have a ripple effect on the overall level of demand.

Experience of the last decade has shown that jobs in uncompetitive industries are in-

As the old year ended, one of the main problems for the Council of Ministers, and for the European Commission, was how to combat unemployment, particularly among young people. The Commission has proposed the rejuvenation of industry. It aims at the development of industries based on the



secure and increasingly costly to maintain, both financially and in more general economic terms. But profitable investment, in the Commission's view, relies on moderation in the growth of incomes, greater flexibility in wage structures, and in the relationships between wages and social security benefits.

It is sceptical about proposals for shorter working hours and job-sharing as a means of combating unemployment. It warns that, unless carefully monitored, such moves can increase industrial and commercial unit costs and reduce competitiveness.

Western Europe already lags behind Japan and the United States in the productivity league. One result has been that whereas, in the last ten years, the US has been able to generate 19 million jobs and Japan five million, in the European Community only two million new jobs have been created in the same period.

If this situation is to change, society must adopt new attitudes. At the same time, leads must be taken at the workplace through strategies arrived at by proper consultation between managers and workforce.

At its November meeting the standing committee on employment authorised the Commission to carry its initial work in analysing existing legislation and collective agreements, with a view to involving workers in decision-making.

The Council has already adopted a resolution endorsing the principle of 'alternance', similar to UK sandwich courses, as a method of combining work and training. The system could be extended so that, within five years, every young person under the age of 18 was guaranteed education, training or work experience as an alternative to unemployment.

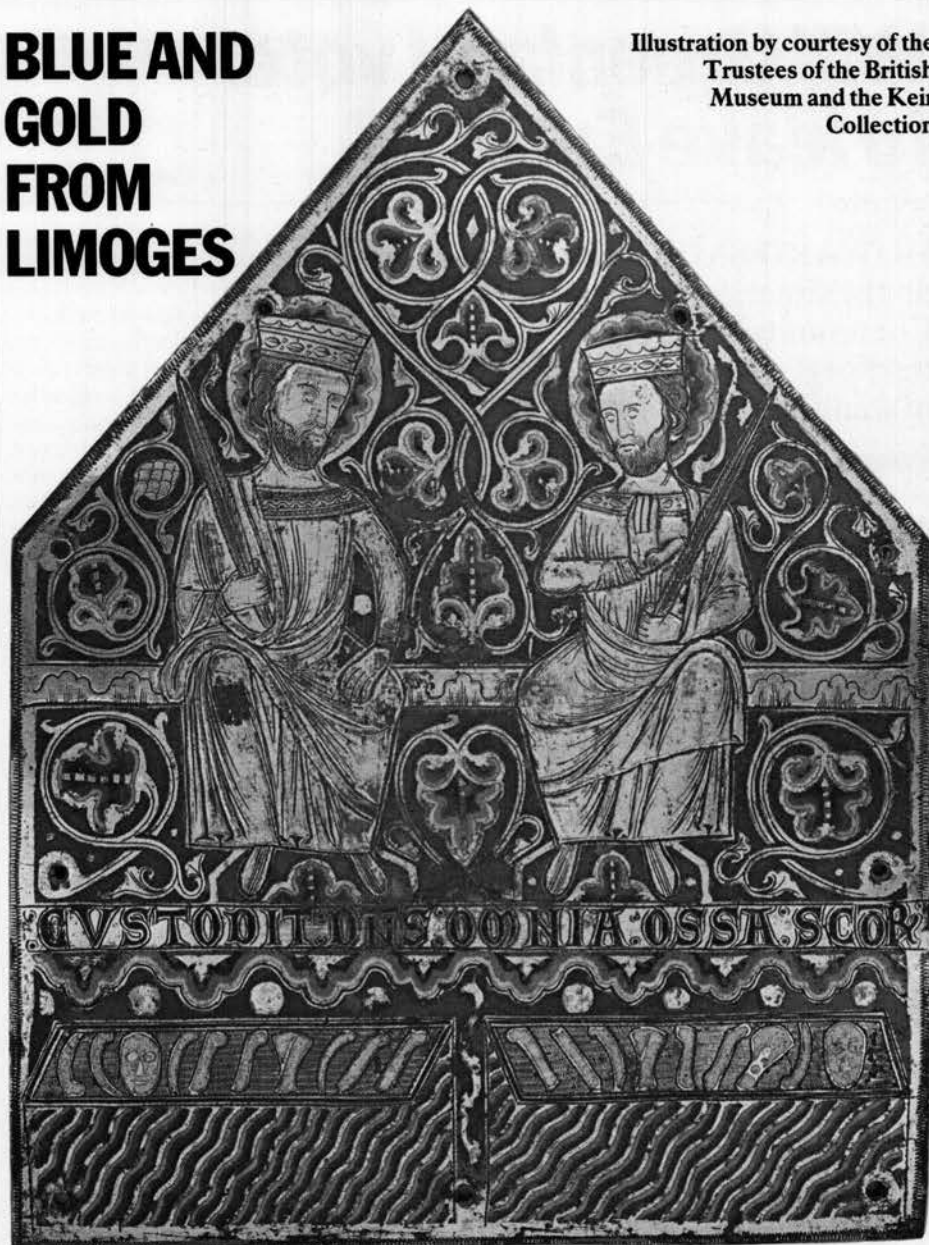
This will not be of much help, however, if there are no jobs to go to afterwards. The Commission foresees a need to give positive help to 19 to 25 year olds in finding employment – and here the Community can help through better use of the Regional and Social Funds. Selective recruitment subsidies, assistance to national schemes designed to create employment, and self-help training facilities for those wanting to set up their own enterprises – all these could be aided.

Small and medium sized companies or co-operatives are seen as the real instruments of job creation in the future. In its plans for the rejuvenation of industry the Commission has proposed that all Community countries should adopt measures giving smaller firms easier access to investment finance. The Community is already helping in this way through global loans from the European Investment Bank designed to assist the small business. The Regional Fund is also being adapted to the same purpose.

But jobs cannot be created in a vacuum. They depend on a coherent government industrial and commercial strategy, geared to new thinking and positive action. If national suspicions can be overcome, wider use of the internal common market and the Community dimension will also play an important part. **E**

BLUE AND GOLD FROM LIMOGES

Illustration by courtesy of the Trustees of the British Museum and the Keir Collection



Some place-names have become famous for being identified with a distinctive form of art – Meissen for porcelain, Murano for glass, Bayeux for the celebrated tapestry. But why Limoges for enamels?

Nobody seems to know. Perhaps the earliest enamellers were born in the town, or the coloured glasses used by the craftsmen came from there. It is assumed, though not proven, that Limoges was the centre for what became a much-sought-after product that spread all over Europe. The earliest pieces date from about 1180, and the following three centuries saw Limoges enamel established among the finest work of the Middle Ages.

There is a particularly choice collection in the British Museum, where a small but important exhibition, 'Medieval Limoges', is currently on display – a selection of pieces from the Keir collection. It includes a wide range of objects, from crozier heads, jewellery and crucifixes to book-covers, belt clasps and candlesticks.

All show the unequalled skill of Limoges craftsmen and artists in their repertoire of ornamental colours and designs. They used nearly pure copper, not casting the metal but working it with small hammers, punches, chisels and stamps. Enamel glasses were fired into the surface at high temperatures until they fused, and the areas of copper left unworked were gilded. The resulting gold and blue, worked to a high degree of finish and detail, is typical of Limoges work of the medieval period.

Some of the examples show human figures in animated, if stylised, attitudes. An exceptionally rare piece is a figure fashioned 'in the round', an exquisite statuette. But perhaps the most intriguing object is a Virgin and Child Enthroned, of about 1225, with each figure wearing a crown. By the 14th century it was known as the Virgin de las Batallas, because it was carried into action as a battle standard. Some damage to the coronets suggests that it has, in more senses than one, been in the wars.

DENIS THOMAS

Will Greenland vote to leave Europe?

HOWARD SMITH sums up the situation in the Community's largest territory, which shows signs of wanting to go it alone

On 22 February the people of Greenland will be voting in a referendum on whether or not to withdraw from the European Community. If they do decide on withdrawal, it will be the second occasion on which they have said No to Europe. In an earlier referendum, back in 1972, they voted against – but were brought in anyway as part of Denmark.

Frankly, it is hard to see what this vast territory, fifty times larger than Denmark, has in common with the rest of the European Community. The bulk of it lies north of the Arctic Circle. Its 50,000 inhabitants are mostly of Eskimo origin and have few cultural links with Europe. There is as yet little industry, and the majority of the working population is involved, directly or indirectly, in the fishing industry. The capital, Nuuk (formerly Godthaab), is as far from Brussels as Cairo. Greenland's territory is larger than the rest of the Community put together.

The referendum does not mean that Greenland will be choosing whether or not to break all ties with the European Community. It is rather a question of a possible change in the status of Greenland's relationship with the EEC. As the Landsstyre (Greenland government) put it recently, Greenland wants to remain closely associated with Denmark and Europe, 'but finds it necessary to withdraw from the EEC in order to preserve its identity'.

There is little question of Greenland being able to survive totally on its own, at least not in the immediate future. But the Greenland government feels that by withdrawing from the EEC it would be able 'to assume greater economic responsibility for the development of Greenland'.

That is not to say that attempts have not been made already to foster economic growth there. There has been substantial financial aid from both Brussels – in the region of £15 million a year – and from Copenhagen, which puts around £90 million a year into the Greenland economy in an endeavour to bring living standards more into line with those in the industrialised Danish economy.

Much of that money has gone towards developing the fishing industry. In the nine

years since Greenland became a part of the EEC, funds from Brussels worth over £1.3 million have gone towards fisheries projects.

Like Iceland, its north Atlantic neighbour, Greenland is heavily dependent on its exports of fish and fish products. These account for about 55 per cent of total export earnings, and about three-quarters of Greenland fish is sold in the rest of the EEC. In 1979 these sales were worth over £25 million. But unlike Iceland, Greenland has had its 200-mile zone only since June 1980.

That trend was initiated in the early Seventies by Iceland, which now has full control over its essential fisheries resources and permits only limited fishing by foreign vessels in its zone. Greenland, on the other hand, has seen the waters around its coastline heavily fished by boats from as far away as Portugal, Germany and the Soviet Union.

The economy, it is argued, would get a vital shot in the arm if Greenland were able to take

'There is little question of Greenland being able to survive totally on its own'

more fish in those waters, which include some of the world's richest shrimping grounds, and if it were able to sell fishing rights to other countries also. But the matter is not as simple as that. First, there is the formidable task of policing the vast area of water inside the 200-mile zone to prevent illegal fishing. Second is the question of EEC import duties – at present Greenland's fish exports to the rest of the EEC are not subject to import duties when they arrive in continental EEC countries, but that would not necessarily be so if Greenland were outside the Community.

Greenlanders point out that the present overseas colonies and territories which they wish to join enjoy duty-free access for their fish exports to the EEC. But the Danish member of the European Commission, Poul Dalsager, during a recent visit to Greenland, told the Landsting (Greenland parliament) that 'the current exemption from duty for fish products from the OCT is accepted by the Community only because the areas concerned export few fish products to the Community. Greenland's fish exports, on the other hand, are large. It must therefore be expected that any desire for an OCT association will be met with a demand for revising the agreement on this point.'

This statement should not be seen as a threat of economic punishment if Greenland does withdraw – its exports would almost certainly not be subjected to the full import tariff. There are other financially unquantifiable reasons for keeping the Greenland economy buoyant – again like Iceland, it has a geographical location of strategic importance in NATO philosophy. There is concern in north America that an independent Greenland might authorise the presence of Soviet factory fishing vessels, which in the past have been known to be equipped with sophisticated spying equipment.

At the same time, EEC interests are keen to develop Greenland's considerable mineral potential – coal, uranium, lead, zinc, marble, nickel, graphite, molybdenum, iron, chromium, cryolite, copper, beryllium, zirconium, thorium and tungsten. Present mineral exports account for about 35 per cent of export earnings, but many Greenlanders feel that more balanced development will be achieved if they have full control over mineral deposits.

As one Danish government publication puts it, 'a boomtown is a doomed town'. Development of mineral deposits could also bring the novelty of full-time employment – being icebound for a good part of the year, employment in fisheries is seasonal, which hampers smooth economic development.

Iceland, too, is looking on with interest – it is thought that, with an independent Greenland, a kind of north Atlantic fisheries organisation could be set up, comprising Iceland, Norway, Greenland and the Faroes, all with a heavy interest in the fishing economy. But Iceland has so far kept diplomatic silence, regarding the referendum as an internal matter for Greenland and the EEC to settle.

It has been argued that Greenland would do well to stay in the Community, where it should be able to profit from the projected higher spending on the Regional Development and Social Funds. But for Finn Lynge, the Greenlanders' sole member of the European Parliament and a representative of the Socialist Siumut party, it is not purely a question of economic loss or gain – the cultural, social and geographical distance from the rest of the EEC are all major factors to be taken into account.

However, any post-withdrawal decline in growth might not be warmly welcomed, since it would represent a reversal of postwar trends which have largely helped overcome previously high incidence of tuberculosis, measles and infant mortality prevalent in earlier generations.

At present it is impossible to say what the economic impact of withdrawal might be – the European Commission has said that withdrawal terms cannot be discussed until after the referendum. That, however, is not to be seen as an ultimatum. On the one hand, the Commission is anxious to avoid setting any precedent on terms for withdrawal from the Community. On the other hand, there is a desire not to interfere in the democratic process represented by the referendum. E

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Exploiting the West Country's liquid assets

ROY STEMMAN, in a second report from the South West, finds that European funds are helping local authorities to beat the water shortage

Though the South West is surrounded by water – it has 660 miles of coastline – it is one of the first areas to run dry in a drought. With its below-average rainfall and hot sunny days, it seems to its inhabitants that only a matter of weeks elapse before they are banned from watering their gardens and cleaning their cars.

Residents of the South West who had to queue at stand-pipes for their water during the severe drought in 1974 may never suffer such a shortage again. A regional water resources strategy, drawn up in the mid-70s, will ensure that the West Country's water requirements are met during even the hottest summers.

It involves building three large and two small reservoirs, with grant and loan aid from the EEC running into millions of pounds. But, whereas this particular scheme will be of benefit to the inhabitants of the region alone (and tourists on holiday in the area), other West Country-based, Community-backed projects concerned with natural resources could be beneficial internationally.

The South West's water problems stem from the fact that traditionally its supply has been obtained directly from rivers and streams. In dry summers, when these natural running water supplies dropped in volume, there were precious few reservoirs with stored water on which the authorities could draw. Water rationing was the only answer.

Reorganisation of water supplied in the region, with the formation of the South West Water Authority in April 1974, paved the way to solving the problem. But the solution is an expensive one.

The first major reservoir in the scheme to be completed is the Wimbleball project on the River Haddeo, a tributary of the River Exe.



Situated on the edge of Exmoor National Park, seven miles east of Dulverton, it is a joint project between the South West Water Authority and the Wessex Water Authority.

Wimbleball can supply the South West with close on 13 million gallons of water a day, releasing it into the River Exe for the Tiverton, Exeter and South West Devon areas. A further 10 million gallons a day can be drawn from the reservoir by Wessex for the people of Taunton, Yeovil and Bridgwater.

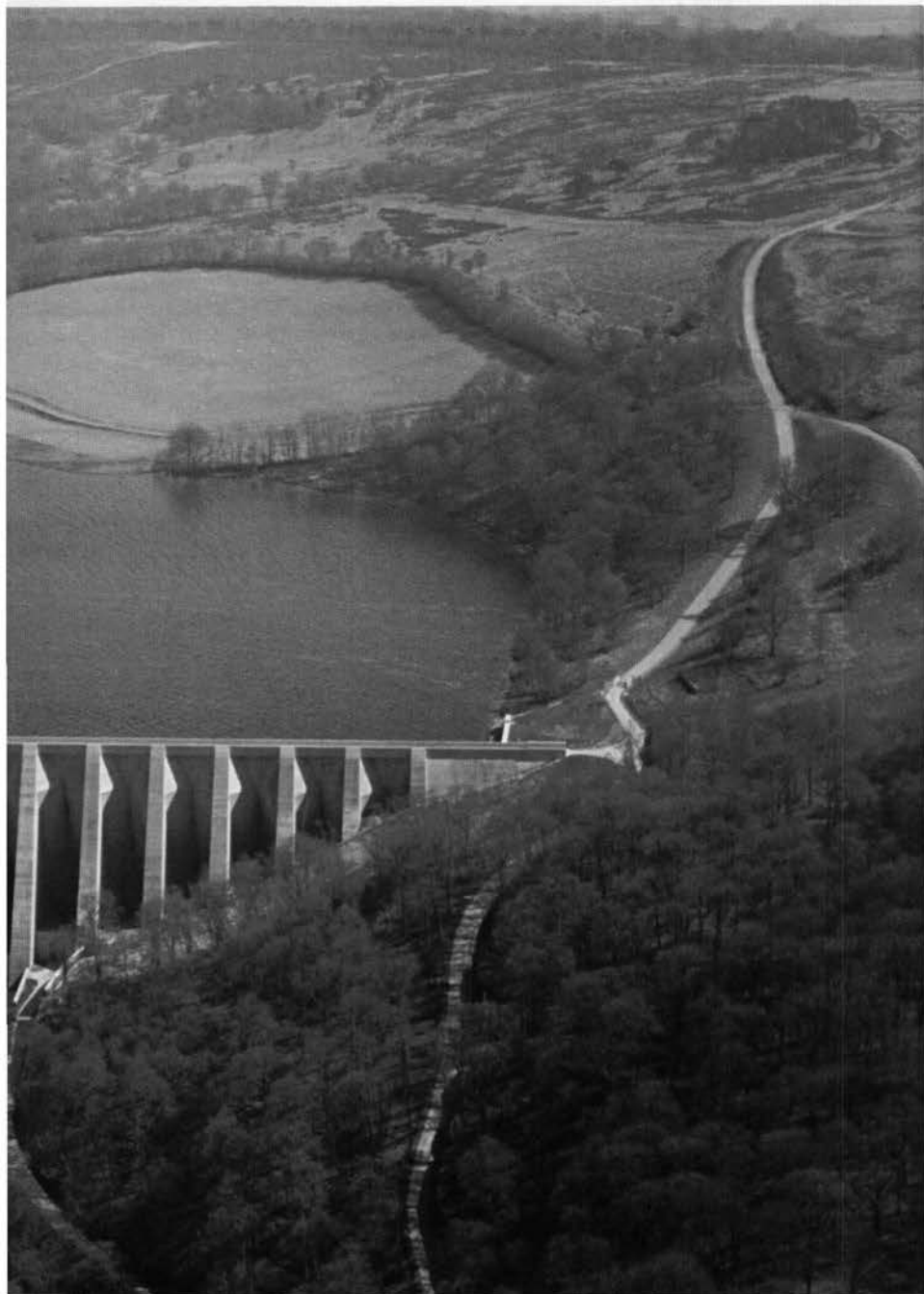
Quite apart from its importance as an immense store of water, Wimbleball is also a very attractive leisure centre, offering sailing, riding and bird watching facilities to visitors.

An even bigger reservoir – with a 6,395 million gallon capacity – is now under construction at Colliford on Bodmin Moor, two miles north of the village of St Neot. Work

The Wimbleball dam, on the edge of Exmoor, is part of a scheme backed with European grants. It serves a much-visited area where the small streams (right) often dry up in summer.

began in March 1981, and a dam is now under construction to hold back the waters of the St Neot to form a three-mile long lake.

When it is completed, at the end of 1983, Colliford will be by far the largest reservoir in Cornwall and capable of supplying 24 million gallons of water a day to the area. It will do so by feeding water into the St Neot, and on to the River Fowey, where it can be abstracted at the enlarged Restormel water treatment works at Lostwithiel. Treated water will then be pumped to a high-level reservoir at Foxpark, and will gravitate through the main to



SOUTH WEST WATER AUTHORITY

augment local sources of water, as far as St Erth, close to St Ives.

Colliford will also supply water direct to the North Cornwall holiday area, and to the south eastern part of the county, through two more treatment works.

Because of its vital importance to the area, Colliford is benefiting from European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) grants. It has already received close on £780,000 but, because it is classified as a large project, grant approvals are given on a year-to-year basis, on the submission of the latest estimates. The South West Authority can expect to receive £4,334,800 grant aid from the ERDF on the whole scheme if the approvals continue through to completion.

The third large reservoir in the scheme will be at Roadford on the River Wolf, a tributary of the River Tamar, to meet the future demands of Plymouth and parts of South West Devon and North Devon. Roadford is the biggest of all, with an 8,120 million gallon capacity. But the proposal, which was the subject of a public inquiry in 1978, is still awaiting a final decision from the Secretary of State for the Environment.

ERDF approved grants for water supply and resources projects in the South West (including Colliford) total more than £9½ million, with an additional £732,700 approved for a main drainage scheme in the Camborne/Redruth area.

In addition, the South West Water Authority has been able to obtain low-interest loans from the European Investment Bank for its plan. Over £18 million has been loaned for water supply projects, a third of it going to Colliford, and a further £7 million for sewage treatment schemes.

When the entire scheme has been implemented, by the mid-1980s, the people of the South West can expect a constant, reliable source of water. The region's water authority will be able to put away its standpipes, because the water resources programme will meet the future needs of its population to the year 2011.

Water is also playing an important part in another scheme in the South West designed to conserve our natural resources. It is still in the experimental stage, and it remains to be seen whether the project has real commercial possibilities. But the time may well come when the Earth's surface is dotted with energy-saving power stations based on research now being conducted in a quarry near Penrith, Cornwall.

The idea is simple. Below the Earth's surface, the rock gets warmer and warmer the deeper you go. So, if you can drill deep enough, why not pour cold water down one hole and bring it up – much hotter – through another? That is precisely what they intend to do, in a much more sophisticated way, in the Cornish experiment.

The scientists at the Camborne School of Mines, Cornwall, are using a £7.2 million grant from the UK Government and the EEC (the European contribution is £1.2 million) to



WEST COUNTRY TOURIST BOARD

study the reservoir engineering aspects of 'hot dry rock' geothermal energy. There is only one other experiment of this kind being conducted, and that is at Los Alamos, New Mexico, USA. All other geothermal projects are utilising natural reservoirs of hot water.

On the day I visited Rosemanowes Quarry, drilling had just finished on the first well. Because the programme was ahead of schedule they had decided to go even deeper than originally planned – to 7,070 feet. The well's diameter decreases from 17½ inches at the top of the hole to half that size at the bottom, and it follows a curved trajectory, so that at its deepest point it is at a 30° angle to the vertical.

A second well-hole of the same dimensions is now being drilled alongside it, to the same depth of one-and-a-third miles. Achieving this is quite a feat, since the engineers concerned are having to drill through granite – a much harder substance than the rock encountered in UK oil industry drilling. But that is deliberate, because of granite's special properties.

When both holes are ready, they will be inter-connected by natural fractures in the rock. These will be increased dramatically by a combination of hydraulic and explosive techniques, creating two million square metres of fracture surface. Water will then be injected into one of the wells, at pressure, so that it passes through the fractured granite and returns to the surface through the second well.

Quite apart from its fracture qualities, granite also has high thermal conductivity and a high radioactive content; so radioactive decay in the rock makes it even hotter than it would be at that depth. It is expected that water fed through the fractured granite at 20°C will return to the surface at a temperature of 80°C.

Results of the experiments will start coming through in the middle of 1982, and the funding of the project will run out a year later. It is hoped that, by then, it will have demonstrated that economic exploitation of hot, dry rock can be achieved. The next step would be to sink even more money into a much deeper stratum of rock, for a repeat performance that would pass water through granite at a depth of 3¾ miles, returning it to the surface as steam.

However, it is unlikely that a dry rock reservoir could be created at that depth without three or four bore holes, and this would require a research and development programme lasting some seven years. And, because of the lack of suitable equipment to drill at such depth, the team would probably have to develop its own hardware.

The rewards for perfecting the technique would be enormous. A power station sited above a geothermal reservoir would be able to convert the limitless heat rising to the surface into electricity. What is more, say the experts, extraction systems that can exploit hot, dry and impermeable rocks could ensure that over 80 per cent of the Earth's surface was suitable for such development. It will be at least ten years, however, before a high-temperature generating plant could become operational.

The quarry in Cornwall has become the European test centre for techniques and equipment developed throughout the Community. Teams from Germany and France are expected to make major contributions to the programme.

Three local school-leavers have also been involved in the project, through the Manpower Services Commission's Youth Opportunities Programme, which is greatly assisted by EEC money from the Social Fund.

Another promising research project in the South West is aimed at waste management. Manufacturing industry uses a huge amount of power to make tin cans, plastics, glass, fibrous materials, and a multitude of other packaging substances which we, as consumers, promptly throw away. Some 30 million tons of household refuse is collected each year, and industry throws away a similar amount, according to Victor Lawson, managing director of a Bristol firm of waste management consultants.

Helping local industry to track down Community aid schemes

The company has received an £80,000 grant from the EEC towards research on a pioneer waste re-processing plant which is currently operating in Avonmouth. The idea is that we could conserve energy resources by extracting from our rubbish bins those materials which can be re-used, with a minimum amount of energy and processing, to be introduced to us, the consumers, in a new guise further down the chain.

Mr Lawson and his colleagues have been working on the plant for eight years, gradually developing it so that it can separate materials and process them. 'We are trying to produce prime products,' he told me. Chipboard and cattle feed are among the items we may be able to 'salvage' from our domestic and industrial dustbins before too long, and the plant now under development could well turn our rubbish into many other useful products.

Richard Cottrell, MEP for Bristol, helped Victor Lawson through his 'Blue Chip' advisory service, which helps local industries and businessmen in tracking down Community loans and grants. It was an enterprise in which he had a special interest, because he was already committed to another energy-saving project in the city.

A plan for an integrated transport system for Bristol has received a lot of backing in the area. The scheme, known as the Avon Metro rapid transport system, appeals not only because it offers quick travel across the city, using existing and disused railway tracks, but also because it would provide car travellers with an alternative means of transport that would save fuel.

In the great energy drought that lies ahead,

says Richard Cottrell, such a scheme may well prove crucial. European cities, he adds, have not made the mistakes of America, where public transport was neglected in favour of private cars.

There is another natural resource which is often overlooked – the human one. But it has not escaped the attention of the Dartington Institute of Community Studies, near Totnes, Devon. It was set up in October 1980 as a joint initiative between Dartington Hall Trustees and the Institute of Community Studies, prompted by growing concern about national and world trends which are leading to unemployment, lack of social and economic opportunity, and a decline in the ability of individuals and communities to decide the pattern of their lives.

The Institute believes that these problems cannot be solved by governments and international agencies alone, and that people and communities must be actively involved. It has launched the Devon Energy Project, to make people aware of ways in which they can save cost on energy and create energy – and local employment as a result – within the county. Two seminars on the subject – financed by the Community – have been held at Dartington to clarify which of many practical schemes are worth pursuing.

Energy-saving projects include a small hydro-electric plant for the hamlet of Beenleigh and a wind power device. Energy saving is being pursued by Michael Dower, Institute director, on a personal level – one of a group in the parish of Rattery who have formed a firewood syndicate.

The Institute's main function is to conduct research, mainly for government bodies. It has just embarked on a study of the potential for integrated rural development of less-favoured areas in South West England.

An EEC grant of £130,000 has been granted to the study and the rest of the funding is from government and other sources. 'One aspect we will be looking at,' says DART's research director, Peter Downing, 'is the series of conflicts which arise between the need for development and the need to preserve local amenities. There are two National Parks in the area, and part of the region is designated an area of outstanding beauty. You can't slap a chemical works in the middle of that.'

The study will concentrate on Dartmoor, Exmoor and Bodmin Moor, with the aim of helping the region's inhabitants in those areas to see how their social and economic needs can best be met. Its final report will pay particular attention to the current policies and programmes – local, national and Community-wide – which affect the area and whether they appear to be related to the inhabitants' needs and aspirations.

The Institute will also make recommendations for multi-purpose management of the South West's land and economy. Although designed to lend a helping hand to the people of Devon and Cornwall, the research and the recommendations may well be applicable to other less-favoured areas.

Letters

Just in case the article in the October issue of Europe 81 is filed away for future reference, may I correct some errors in the reference to ourselves?

Ten years ago our labour force was 9,500, not 25,000. The present labour force is 7,000. Our cranes are not the largest in the world – one in Kockums of Sweden can lift 1500 tonnes and is 155 metres high. And the ship shown in the photograph is a bulk carrier, not an oil tanker.

I hope you will accept this letter as being written in a spirit of helpfulness rather than criticism of your excellent publication.

Alan Hedgley
Public Affairs Manager
Harland & Wolff Ltd, Belfast

□ We are sorry that our contributor's sources let him down on these points, and are grateful to Mr Hedgley for pointing them out.

Barren habitats

I have much enjoyed reading your magazine, which has articles of relevance to environmental education. For example, in

the October 1981 issue there was an excellent one on environmental mapping in Europe.

However, I respectfully suggest that you should not fall into the trap of other magazines that want to provide information about development programmes, with a presumption that what existed before was of no value.

Your heading to Peggy Crane's report – 'efforts to turn barren bush into wheatfields' – is a case in point. The bush is far from barren: it is a very complex habitat, supporting hundreds of species. Indeed, the developers should try to understand the eco-system they are replacing, because it could provide lessons about how to use it sensibly.

The only barren environments are those made by man himself.

J. D. Baines
Director, Council for
Environmental Education,
University of Reading

'Positive initiatives'

As a management consultant I believe it is particularly important to be aware of what is going on in the Communities, both from the point of view of advising clients and of developing my own practice.

Information about the Commission is

circulated in a piecemeal fashion – at least in the UK – and the only publication I have found which gives an over-view of the positive initiatives being taken is your own.

W. Milner
Spencer House, Northampton

Price of pollution

The photograph you used to introduce the article on the Community's fight against pollution says it all – poisoned chimney-smoke belching out across a graveyard.

The article says that environmental research projects between 1980 and 1983 will cost the EEC 'more than 43 million EUA', with a similar amount for climatology. How much is this in real money?

Muriel Marks
Leaves Green, Kent

□ 43 million EUA (European Units of Account) is roughly £24,500,000.

The other side

Both your October and November issues helped to show the other side of life in Northern Ireland. The world only sees the violent side of life in the Province, never the normal, day-to-day life that exists here, as in the rest of the United Kingdom.

James Annett Jnr,
Newtownards, Co Down

BOOK SHELF

Culture and Society in Contemporary Europe. Edited by Stanley Hoffman and Paschalis Kitromilides. George Allen & Unwin, £18.00. Paperback £7.95.

Both editors of this casebook are members of the Centre for European Studies, Harvard University. Stanley Hoffman, in a foreword, writes that although European political and social experiments have spread – 'for better or worse' – all over the globe, European culture has also been intensely parochial. The reader, he adds, will find in the essays included here many traces of intellectual bad conscience. He goes on:

'Between a past that weighs like the lid of a coffin, and the temptation of escape either into the frayed utopias of total change or into the constraining disciplines of specialized scholarship, European culture today often presents the spectacle of a disarray and an empty rage that sometimes contrasts with the social scene, as in France, England, or Germany, or reflects

the turbulence of society, as in Italy. Only in Eastern Europe is there still a focus for anger and protest – even if these risk being as futile as the clamours and gestures in which West European intellectuals often indulge under the glaring lights of the media.'

The False Promise of Codetermination
By Alfred L. Thimm. Lexington Books, £16.50.

This is an examination of 'representative democracy', or worker participation as it is nowadays called, as experienced in Western Europe, especially Germany, over the past 30 years, including research at the University of Munich and case studies supplied by Volkswagen, BASF and Siemens. The author seeks to show that these practices and legislative arrangements are deeply rooted in a country's history and cannot be exported; that the situation changes with political and economic conditions; and that the issues have nothing to do with industrial democracy, which he calls 'an elusive and much-abused term'.

The European Studies Syllabus: an EEC guide for students. Eric Liggett, University of Glasgow, £2.85.

This brochure sets out to bring together the various strategies for teaching European Studies, and is primarily a teaching

guide. The author calls it 'a standing resource rather than a once-for-all easy read'.

A Guide to the Official Publications of the European Communities. By John Jeffries. Mansell. £15.

A second edition, bringing the record up to date as at the end of 1979. Mechanised information retrieval is covered as well as a number of publications in the area of law.

The Finances of Europe. By Daniel Strasser. Commission of the European Communities, £7.00 (paperback).

This is a revised and enlarged edition of a work originally written by Dr Strasser, who is Director-General for Budgets in the European Commission, in 1975. In an introduction, Christopher Tugendhat describes its range and scope as including the budget procedure, the rules of the Council of Ministers, the European Parliament, and the Court of Auditors. The principal focus is on the main budget of the EEC and on that of the European Coal and Steel Community. However, other aspects of the Community's finances, including the work of the European Investment Bank, are also dealt with – subjects which remain central to the function and operation of the Community as a whole.

THAT WAS THE YEAR THAT WAS...

☐ Copies of most of these issues are available on request.

