

Europe 84

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**Famine in Africa:
EEC aid on the way**



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EUROFORUM is inset after page 12. Cover: Oxfam's new energy biscuit offers relief for some of these small victims of the famine in Ethiopia. (Press Association Photo)

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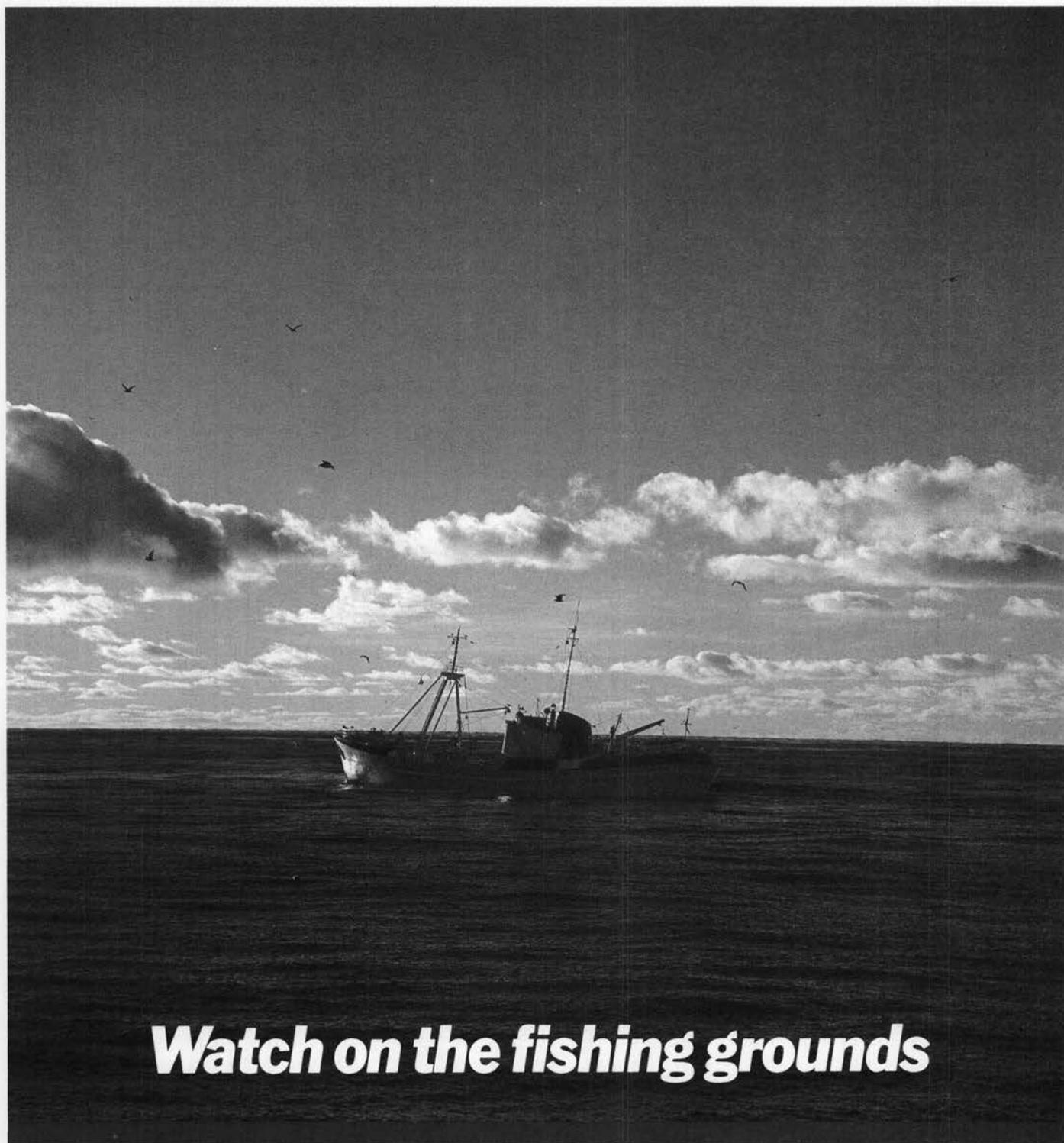
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Watch on the fishing grounds

RAY DEAN

Last month's widely publicised encounter between an Irish gunboat and a Spanish trawler was a sharp reminder of the role played by fisheries protection vessels in patrolling the Community's fishing grounds. It ended with the intruder sinking off Land's End, and the rescue of its crew by a German ship and a Royal Air Force helicopter.

Though this was the most dramatic incident to be reported so far, it was only the latest of many involving illegal fishing by non-members of the European Community. Indi-

ROY STEMMAN meets two of the men who make up the Community's team of sea-going inspectors – the eyes and ears of the common fisheries policy

vidual member states are responsible for protecting their waters and for making sure that

the fisheries policy is being observed – by fellow-members and non-members alike. But monitoring the fishing grounds is not left to individual member states alone: the Commission has a small but effective watch of its own, manned by officers from various Community countries.

To find out how this 'watch-dog' force operates I went to Edinburgh shortly after the Irish Sea incident, to meet two members of the team: Patrick McGarvey, a 38-year-old Irishman, and Jos Lohuis, 29, from Holland. Both had lately been out with a Scottish fisheries

'Our job is to report what we see and hear – we have no power of arrest'

protection vessel, observing it in action off the west coast and the Shetlands. They were in Edinburgh for discussions with the Scottish Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

'Our job is to report what we see and hear,' Jos told me. 'We have no power to arrest.' Patrick added: 'Before working for the Commission we were all fisheries officers in our own national departments – three from the UK, two each from Holland, Germany, Denmark and France, and one each from Belgium and Ireland.' They work in pairs, he explained, with English as the common language.

pairs, he explained, with English as the common language.

They have now been operating for just over a year. For the first nine months the team concentrated on looking at the way Common Market members collected their catch statistics, which have to be fed through to Brussels by computer once a month. In order to conserve fish stocks the Community sets, for many important fish stocks, Total Allowable Catches, which are distributed in quotas to each member state. For the common fisheries policy to work it is essential that these quotas are not exceeded. However, unless each member state keeps accurate records of all catches that are landed, it is impossible for the true quota situation to be assessed. Similarly, it is essential that the statistics sent to Brussels are genuine.

Part of the work is checking the records at the fish markets and carrying out spot checks, to satisfy themselves that the figures provided are a true reflection of the catches. They have to announce their intention to carry out an inspection in advance, and must be accompanied at all times by an inspector of the country being visited.

It would be more effective, perhaps, if they could arrive unannounced. But these experienced officers know exactly what to look for. A word with the auctioneer, a rapid check through the day's records, and then a visual assessment of the catches in the market, enable them very quickly to satisfy themselves that all is well, or that there is something which they should report to Brussels.

'The work is equally divided between land and sea investigations'

Having got to grips with the ways each member state collects and collates fish statistics, the fisheries inspectors then began a



On the German fishing vessel 'Seefalke': German fishery officer H. Brüning, centre, with EEC inspectors Geertsma, Netherlands (left) and Patrick McGarvey, Ireland.

series of sea missions, during which they joined the vessels used by each nation to patrol its territorial waters. Today, their work is equally divided between land and sea investigations.

Grappling with the different systems used by member states, not to mention the language problems and being away from home for a week or two at a time, can make it an arduous job. But Patrick and Jos were both very enthusiastic about their work.

After all, they knew what to expect when they applied for the job. One of its attractions was the chance to travel and gain more experience of European fishing. Patrick has already been on missions to Holland, Germany, Denmark, Ireland, Belgium and Scotland. Jos has been to Denmark, Ireland, Belgium and Scotland. They are on loan to the EEC from their national departments for a maximum of five years.

Both are married men, and Patrick has moved his wife and two daughters to Brussels. That is quite an upheaval, particularly for the girls, who were being taught in Gaelic at their school in Donegal, north-west Ireland, and are now studying at the English School in Brussels. But Patrick is sure that the experience will be very beneficial for them. His own

knowledge of Gaelic, incidentally, has been useful at times: he has been able to listen to a discussion in his native tongue between a skipper and a crewman who thought he spoke only English. They soon knew better when he joined in the conversation.

Jos and his wife still live in Holland and, except when he is overseas on missions, he returns home each weekend. As well as his own language he speaks English and German.

It may sound a glamorous life; but not all the fisheries protection vessels were designed to carry observers. The EEC men have to make do with whatever accommodation is available. Sometimes they could be on a minesweeper enjoying a good measure of comfort. On other missions their accommodation is no more than a makeshift hammock in cramped quarters. 'But when you are tired you can sleep anywhere,' they say philosophically.

They are usually at sea for a week to 10 days at a time, and accompany the national inspectors who intercept and board fishing vessels for routine inspections. 'During our mission to the Shetlands and west coast of Scotland we did 10 boardings in five days,' Jos told me. 'We then came off at Lerwick to see how they were recording their catches.'

'When you are tired you can sleep anywhere...'

The vessels boarded were not all from member states – they included Norwegian trawlers. In the Shetland Box fishing ground, vessels over a certain length (whether Common Market ships or from other countries) have to be licensed. So the fisheries protection vessels check that they are authorised to fish in the area, as well as making sure they are complying with other European Community regulations.

That includes measuring the vessel's nets to see if they are of an acceptable mesh size – in other words, big enough to allow small fish through. The fish are also measured, for the same reason. The total catch is then assessed, thus conserving the stock.

All this will soon be made much easier, when a new Community log book is introduced. Member states will have three months to introduce the scheme, after which all fishing vessels will have to keep up-to-date and detailed records of their activities ready for inspection at any time.

'They will have to record where they are fishing, any protected species they catch, the type of fishing gear being used, and the mesh size,' Patrick told me. 'They will also need to record whether they have transhipped their catch or landed it ashore, and the size of that catch.'

So future boarding missions will be able to check that everything is in order immediately by viewing the ship's log and comparing it with the catch on board. The Commission will also be able to build up a picture of the fishing situation, and know whether quotas are near to being exhausted, more quickly and accurately than at present.

If they come across vessels which are failing

'Movements of non-EEC states' vessels are closely monitored'

to keep proper records it will not be the EEC team which prosecutes, but the national inspectors whom they are accompanying. 'We are not concerned with individuals, but countries,' Jos emphasises.

Non-member states' vessels which fish in Community waters also have to give information about their catches and observe quota restrictions. Their movements are closely monitored by the national fisheries protection forces, and they have to report by radio when they enter and leave fishing grounds.

Patrick, Jos and their colleagues are the EEC's eyes and ears on the high seas. They look for instances where the common fisheries policy is being ignored or incorrectly applied, and report it. But their work goes beyond that. Spending ten days at sea with different na-



Duties include spot checks on dockside fish markets. Below: Jos Lohuis, from Holland, aboard the Danish fishery protection vessel 'Havornen'.



tions' protection vessels, and meeting trawlermen at work or in the fish markets, gives them a unique insight into a complex but vitally important area of activity. They learn what fishermen, and others connected with the trade, like and dislike about the fisheries policy and the way it is administered, and hear other people's suggestions about ways it could be improved.

They make no comment, of course; but it

does not fall on deaf ears. At the end of each mission they return to Brussels and prepare a detailed report. 'We include anything and everything we have seen and heard,' Jos told me. They have the impression that the information and suggestions they have provided have been useful. That's an impression which the Commission's Directorate-General for Fisheries in Brussels was very ready to confirm.

Wanted – a policy that combines competition and fair trading

Foreigners seem to take the EEC more seriously than the natives: no fewer than 126 countries have appointed ambassadors to the Community. The United States and Japan hold regular high-level consultations with the EEC; while many developing countries, including China, India and Brazil, have concluded bilateral agreements with it.

The Community plays an active part in a number of international organisations, notably Gatt, the Geneva-based body which sets the ground rules for international trade. It is an important participant in all major international trade negotiations, and has played a major role in the North-South dialogue, alongside the individual member states.

It is easy to see why the EEC is taken seriously abroad. From the very beginning it has been, first and foremost, a trading entity. Even today the only two major 'common' policies relate to foreign trade on the one hand, and agriculture on the other. And both these common policies profoundly effect third countries.

It is the common agricultural policy which is the better known. While the very letters CAP have become something of a political slogan, the term 'common commercial policy' has remained a bit of Eurojargon. But the Community's continued existence as a separate entity is linked to the common commercial policy, without which it would lose its *raison d'être*.

To understand the importance of the common commercial policy it is necessary to go back to the founding of the EEC. The immediate aim of the six countries that drew up the Treaty of Rome was the establishment of a single, unified market. The creation of this 'common' market quite obviously required the elimination of all obstacles to trade between the Six.

To begin with, the tariff wall between them had to be torn down – or rather moved so that it encircled them. This meant that national trade policies had to be gradually replaced by a common policy. As tariffs between member states were dismantled a common external tariff was introduced. The customs duty on cars, for example, was now the same, whether they were imported through Antwerp or Hamburg. And once the duty had been paid, they were entitled to circulate freely within the Community.

The common external tariff was the first instrument of the common commercial policy, and remains its cornerstone. However, others have been added since then. Two very important instruments were adopted in 1979 to deal with dumping and Government subsidised exports.

The EEC is committed to adopting a new

Moves towards a common commercial policy are extensions of the causes which originally gave birth to the European Community, writes MALCOLM SUBHAN

instrument, aimed at protecting its producers against unfair trading practices attributable to third countries. The need for such an instrument was expressed by the Community's leaders at their June 1982 summit. They wanted the EEC to be in a position to act with as much speed and efficiency as its trading partners, especially the US, in defending its legitimate trade interests. In March, 1983, the European Commission submitted to the Council a draft regulation which would allow the EEC to reply quickly to illicit trade practices, with a view to removing the injury and ensuring the full exercise of the Community's rights.

Just what are these unfair practices? The Community has defined them rather broadly as practices incompatible with international law or generally accepted rules, but has refused to list them. The regulation will cover all products but services are excluded from its scope. Individual firms will be able to go directly to the Commission with their complaints and, perhaps most important of all, a decision will have to be taken within 10 months at most of a complaint being filed.

The EEC's move to defend itself against unfair trading practices inevitably led to accusations of protectionism. But such charges have been levelled against the Community ever since it was founded. Because the common external tariff represented the arithmetical average of the national tariffs it means that tariffs rose in some member states (and fell in others). This, together with the assumption that a customs union results in trade diversion, gave rise to fears of an inward-looking Community.

The fears were greatly exaggerated in 1958 – as they are today. This is clear from trade statistics. As one would expect, trade between member states has expanded considerably. Intra-Community imports, as a share of total imports, rose from 33 per cent in 1958 to 49 per cent in 1982.

'The EEC is not alone in seeking to protect its farmers'

The situation admittedly is very different regards agricultural products. In a situation where EEC prices can be twice as high world prices, free trade in agricultural products would probably lead to the collapse of Community farm incomes. Hence import duties which range from 30 to 100 per cent. But the EEC is not alone in seeking to protect its farmers. The US does as much, although with different instruments, and so do Japan, Sweden and Switzerland. Even so, the much bigger Community market is more open to imports than most.

This is not to say the EEC has failed to act on occasion to limit imports in order to safeguard domestic manufacturers in such industries as textiles, footwear, shipbuilding and steel. These are the very industries which have shed large numbers of workers and, in some cases, to the limits of what can be demanded of the labour force. The EEC nevertheless has tried to combine import relief with adjustment measures (most notably in steel and textiles).

The Community also maintains import quotas, especially on a relatively wide range of products from Eastern Europe and other state trading countries. As quotas are perhaps the most effective way of restricting imports, it is not surprising that the member states should have insisted on keeping control over them as long as possible. However, most bilateral quotas have been brought within the scope of the common commercial policy, so that the decision whether or not to maintain them must be taken at the Community level.

How far has the EEC used its anti-dumping and anti-subsidy legislation to curb imports? During the three years from 1980 to 1982 when world trade was being held back by a recession, the EEC initiated 131 investigations. Half of them involved East Europe and other state trading countries and another 21 the US. However, as regards imports from 15 countries (out of a total of 32) only one investigation was actually held.

The fact that 88 investigations ended with the exporters giving a price undertaking suggests that they were initiated on the basis of sound evidence. It should be pointed out that more than 40 per cent of the investigations each of the three years concerned exports of chemicals and allied products. In 1980 a large number of investigations covered products in the mechanical engineering sector; in 1982 there was a swing to iron and steel products and other metals.

It is clear that, despite the heavy strain imposed on it by a decade of economic crisis marked by very low growth rates and record levels of unemployment, the EEC remains committed to an open, multilateral trading system. It has brought down the level of the common external tariff to the point where,

many cases, the protective element is negligible. At the same time the EEC has used its other trade policy instruments responsibly.

This is a major political and economic achievement. According to a senior Community official those who accuse the EEC of not doing enough to defend its domestic industry – or of being too protectionist – are using it as a scapegoat for their own incompetence. His remarks suggest that should the recession continue and protectionist forces gain ground, member states may be tempted to circumvent the common commercial policy in order to pursue national solutions.

The impact of high technology on world trade is likely to be even more profound. Developments in telecommunications, for example, are changing ways in which trade is conducted and have given added significance to information flows between economic partners. At the same time high technology industries have presented the major trading nations with new problems.

These industries require large-scale investments in products which have a high rate of obsolescence but no market share when the product is first launched. How is the domestic manufacturer to protect his heavy investment in the early stages? Faced with this problem the EEC recently took measures to restrict imports of compact discs from Japan, in order to give European firms time to develop a market for their own product.

The common commercial policy must take into account developments within the Community also. Internal measures, regarding standards or subsidies, for example, affect industrial policy and competition policy respectively. And both can affect the Community's external trade – as can employment or environmental policies. This means that efforts to harmonise these various policies, and to move towards common policies in these areas, will affect the common commercial policy – and *vice versa*.

If the common commercial policy is not to be eroded the member states will have to extend the Community's areas of competence. The problem has already arisen as regards international trade in services. One reason for the EEC's reluctance to accede to the American request that the next round of trade negotiations focus on services stems in part from the fact that the question of competence has not yet been decided. It is far from certain at present that the European Commission would act on behalf of all the member states in any future negotiations on services. But moves to deal with services at the national level can only weaken the common policy.

Finally, the Community has yet to tackle the issue of export policies. For obvious reasons the common commercial policy has focused, from the very beginning, on imports, and the existing instruments all deal with this aspect of the Community's external trade. While the EEC has taken a common stand on the question of export credits, each of the member states clearly wants a free hand on export markets. ■



EUROPE'S RESPONSE TO THE CRISIS IN AFRICA

A massive emergency food aid action plan, on a scale rarely seen in Europe, is being launched by the European Commission to help Ethiopia and other drought-stricken African countries cope with famine. A total of 60 million ECUs (£36 million) is being set aside for the operation, Edgard Pisani, European Commissioner for Development, told the press on 30 October.

This will go to some nine African countries in the Sahel region. But Ethiopia, where drought has wreaked havoc, and where the death-toll from starvation is rising by the day, will receive the largest share.

Although the plan is still being drawn up, the aim is that exceptional aid of 32 million ECUs, half of which will go direct to Ethiopia, will be used to purchase 100,000 tonnes of cereals from neighbouring African countries. A special internal transport and airlift operation is also being mounted to get the cereals to the affected areas as quickly as is physically possible. The funds will also be used to buy emergency medical supplies and basic essentials for the people in need.

A second allocation, of 25 million ECUs, will be used to buy the same amount of cereals from EEC graineries and to transport it to the countries concerned. This aid, which is provided from the EEC's own 1984 food aid programme, will be channelled over the next few months to those countries whose harvests are insufficient to cover their needs. And an additional 3 million ECUs will be granted solely to Ethiopia

from the Lomé Convention funds, to meet other emergency needs in the country.

This aid is in addition to emergency food aid sent by the EEC to Ethiopia in July, and again in October this year, and to the special package for the African Sahel countries agreed by the European Commission as far back as April. In all, a total of 120 million ECUs, over and above normal EEC aid, will have been sent in 1984 to help the drought-stricken countries of Africa through their crisis.

As Mr Pisani said, famine in Africa is an all-too-familiar problem. The horror of the Ethiopian situation has been brought to the public eye, and the response has been overwhelming. The problem now is one of organising transport, coordinating aid donors, and trying to ensure that the food and supplies get to the people in time.

But, as pointed out by the chairman of the European Parliament's Development Committee, Katerina Focke, short-term measures are not enough. The Commission agrees; and, in meetings between representatives of member states and the Commission, plans are being made not only to find ways to increase aid to the needy, but also to coordinate on-the-spot operations and organise longer-term food security measures.

Mr Pisani warned that next year has to be considered, and the years following, so that plans are made to ensure that the Ethiopian tragedy, and the food problems in Africa in general, never occur again.



High-tech firms are the new Monarchs of the Glen

Helped by a good start and some successful marketing, Scotland has become one of Europe's strongest centres for electronics. 'Silicon Glen', as it is now readily dubbed, has tried to emulate the success of electronics growth in California.

It has not managed the same entrepreneurial spontaneity, and quite a bit of government encouragement has been necessary in the form of grants. But the gamble has paid off.

The backbone of the industry is the group of big US companies such as IBM, Honeywell, NCR and Burroughs, which set up in Scotland after the war, and others which have joined them to use Scotland as a base to sell to Europe.

Between them the foreign firms – largely US and Japanese companies – account for 90 per cent of the 40,000 people employed in what has become one of the most important growth sectors for Scotland after North Sea oil.

Eleven of the top 20 US electronic companies now have factories in Scotland, and are part of an industry with over 200 companies.

Scotland, which receives a bigger share of EEC aid than any other part of the United Kingdom, is also the 'largest chip shop in Europe', thanks to investment from the United States and Japan in 'Silicon Glen'

Electronics has done much to counterbalance the devastation caused by the decline of traditional heavy industries such as steel and engineering, which have been the lifeblood of Scotland for the past century. Some £500 million has been invested in this new industry in the past five years. A strong legacy in electro-mechanical industries has crumbled with the advent of new technology. But these sectors have provided an extensive pool of skilled labour, on which the new technology industries could draw.

In jargon, the economic planners believe

that electronics in Scotland has reached 'critical mass' – it has now achieved a momentum of its own. The indicator for this has been the proliferation of companies moving into the region to service the larger companies, a sub-culture which would only appear if the industry showed some staying power.

Research by the Scottish Development Agency (SDA), a semi-official industrial promotion body whose encouragement of electronics lies behind much of the success of the industry, has shown that Scotland has the highest volume concentration of wafer fabrication in Europe, producing 78 per cent of UK output and 21 per cent of European capacity for integrated circuits.

Scotland manufactures more semiconductor per head of population than any other country in the world, says the SDA. Five million people produce five silicon chips per head per week, compared with three in the United States and 3.5 in Japan.

Scotland is becoming Europe's largest production centre for micro-and personal computers, according to the SDA. 'This volume of semiconductor production, together with the

'Electronics in Scotland has now achieved a momentum of its own'

fact that we manufacture over a million personal computers a year, must make Scotland the largest "chip shop" in Europe,' according to Alistair Macpherson, head of the SDA electronics division.

Competition has been intense among European countries to bring in US investment; but the Commission puts limits on the lures offered in the form of grants. For the Scots, the object was not to encourage purely manufacturing bases – the 'doll's-eye' factories, as assembly-only plants are known here – but rather industries which could relate to the research facilities of Scotland's eight universities.

The promoters also wanted new companies which would use and be of use to the growth of home-spun Scottish firms to encourage managerial decision-making in Scotland. The Scots are very conscious of the powerful eroding influence of the strong economic centre in the southeast of England.

A study by Ray Oakey of the University of Newcastle provided some encouragement, showing that the proportion of small firms with full-time research and development activities is higher in Scotland than in San Francisco's Bay Area, including Silicon Valley.

Other parts of Britain have expressed considerable envy at the success of 'Locate In Scotland' which combines the industrial promotion activities of the SDA with the grant-giving capability of the Scottish Office, which operates four offices in the United States and one in Brussels. The Scottish establishment has recently lobbied against any possible move by central government to integrate the functions of 'Locate In Scotland' with other British promotional activities abroad.

Much of the thrust of industrial promotion will continue to be related to semi-conductors and personal computers. The service companies that have grown up around General Instrument, Motorola, Hughes Microelectronics and Burr Brown include component suppliers and specialty-equipment manufacturers. These, along with a proliferation of software houses, offer the best opportunities to Scottish businessmen trying to start out on their own.

The service sector itself has attracted new 'inward investment' such as the Japanese Shin-Etsu company, which is planning to produce silicon for the industry from a factory in Livingston, west of Edinburgh, and SCI, the Alabama-based electronics company, which plans to produce electronics subsystems and employ up to 500 people in south-west Scotland.

Berkeley Glasslab, a Californian electronics company, plans to invest £500,000 in a factory near Glasgow to produce quartz products used in wafer fabrication.



Making it in 'Silicon Glen': Mitsubishi (left) and National Semiconductor.

'New foreign and domestic start-up schemes have been brought together'

A successful aspect of industrial promotion has been to bring together new foreign and domestic start-up schemes with venture capital interests in Britain. A recent example of this has been Integrated Power Semiconductors, a US group which is raising £15 million, most of it through British financial institutions, to build its new plant in Livingston. Mr Wood, who formed the company, said at the launching that, although the US market was still the biggest, 'we needed an EEC base, because we wanted to tackle the European market first.'

Without denying the health of electronics in Scotland, there are some drawbacks which are not likely to be easily overcome. The first of these is the inherent problem of depending on a large number of foreign-owned companies to foster the right kind of economic growth. The type of management installed at

many of the larger US companies is, with one or two notable exceptions, not empowered to seek new product development through liaison with local research facilities.

Senior management at these companies will usually contract out some assembly and bring in local services, but will not make decisions which would take the company in new directions.

The second fundamental weakness is the distance from markets. Interaction with the customer is lacking in Scotland, because the customer could be anywhere in Europe. Only a fraction of the electronics equipment manufactured in Scotland is used there.

A third problem has been the relatively slow application, by the existing industry in Scotland, of the vast array of electronics produced in the country. The North Sea oil sector has been notably slow on the uptake, with oilmen reluctant to risk hundreds of thousands of dollars of 'down-time' on an oil rig because of new equipment failure.

Here again some gentle government pressure has been necessary – but not too much, the planners hope, to frighten away the foreign businessman.

MARK MEREDITH



Helping women get back to it all

Threshold has given me a wider horizon. All the women here want something different, and we're all finding it.'

So says Jo Howard, a lively woman of 33, the mother of two boys aged 7 and 5. Twice a week in school term time, she joins her fellow students at the Ashford Adult Education Centre in Kent on 'Threshold', a new training scheme funded by Kent County Council and the European Social Fund.

The European Social Fund has provided a grant of £32,320 over the next two years, while the County Council's unemployment fund is contributing £48,480.

The training scheme is run in two centres, Ashford and Rochester, and at both there are child-care facilities for the under-fives. The scheme offers training for women over the age of 25, who may not have worked since having a family, or who may have been able to find only dead-end jobs, to improve their job prospects by helping them to identify their skills and develop confidence in themselves.

Most of the training schemes for women supported by the ESF are aimed at providing very specific training, for example, in new technology. The 'Threshold' scheme is based on the understanding that women who have missed their chances at school may not know what kind of work they want to do. It is

MORAG ALEXANDER visits a training scheme in Kent designed to train women – including those who have had families – in the skills and attitudes required on re-entering today's employment market

designed to help women find their own strengths and weaknesses, and to train them in a range of skills that they can use in their new careers.

The first students began in September with *taking stock*, a two-day course that helps them to recognise their existing, probably unrecognised, skills. They share experiences and explore the areas they want to develop. Then they choose from a range of modular courses, lasting a term or half a term, including *job-search* (job-hunting, application forms and letters, being interviewed); *wordpower* (improving writing skills and speaking with confidence); *maths anxiety* (tackling practical maths from pay slips to book-keeping); *man-*

aging (organising time, simple administration, coping with the demands of home and work); *face-to-face* (dealing with the public, reception, sales and caring skills); and *work choices* (finding out what different jobs involve and which suit individual students).

Because the scheme wants to respond to the needs of students, additional courses that the women themselves want to do are offered. In Ashford, for example, the women have asked for courses on computing and on starting a business. Students who complete 100 hours of the scheme will gain a certificate, and can also get help from the project's tutors with study for other qualifications.

Project organiser Anna Reisenberger has considerable experience in running training courses for women returners. 'The adult education service has a very good background in counselling and in women's study courses,' she says. 'We know that a lot of women returners fall by the wayside when they go to technical colleges, because they are taught in a manner that's geared to school leavers and to people who have made up their minds what they want to do. And they don't get the support they need.'

She stresses the importance of support. All the tutors have children of their own; they understand the problems women face when



Project organiser Anna Reisenberger, above, hopes some women will train for what are usually regarded as men's jobs.



PICTURES BY BEN JOHNSON

they want to return to work. And the students get support and encouragement from each other. 'They thought they were alone,' Anna says. 'Now they say meeting other women in the same situation has been an eye-opener. They're realising that there are possibilities, even with the present unemployment, if they have the confidence.'

Building self-confidence is one of the first tasks for women who have spent years undervaluing themselves. Ginny Ross is 38, the mother of two teenage sons. She has worked in a variety of dead-end jobs in her time, but now knows she could do something more challenging. 'When I used to apply for jobs,' she says, 'I couldn't fill in the bits of the forms where they asked for qualifications because I didn't have any. I felt worthless. Taking stock helped me to value the experience I've built up, managing a home and family and in the jobs I've done. And the wordpower course has helped me to say what I mean about my experience.'

Ann Lee agrees that building confidence is an essential first step. Ann, a former actress, is 47, mother of a grown-up daughter. She has discovered that she is good at putting things over clearly. 'I didn't know that before,' she says, 'and it has given me a real boost.' She would like to be a hotel receptionist, and she

thinks the maths course will be helpful to her, and through the scheme she has also taken on a computer course.

Anna Reisenberger hopes that some of the students, armed with confidence in their own abilities, may choose to take up training for jobs that are generally considered to be men's jobs. 'Men's jobs are better paid,' she says, 'and these women have been trapped in low-paid jobs. They want jobs with better pay, because they need the money. Some of them are single parents; a quarter of them have husbands who are unemployed - since the Chatham Dockyard closed, unemployment in the Medway Towns has reached 16 per cent.'

Jill Payne, 28, is a single parent. While she attends the 'Threshold' courses, 4-year-old Joanna enjoys herself at the Ashford centre play group. Jill wants a job with a man's wage. 'The money is the most important thing,' she says. 'Before coming here, I didn't realise how much scope there was - there's more scope than you think. Talking to the others has helped me to assess the options.'

Tricia Boakes, also 28 and a single parent, takes her 4-year-old daughter, Danielle, to the play group, while 6-year-old Gemma goes to school. She hopes to build on her experience

'The EEC sees that women's skills are not being utilised'

Child-care is one of the benefits at both the centres part-funded by the European Social Fund.

with, and liking for, figure work, and she wants to take further training. She now thinks she will be able to present herself more positively to prospective employers: 'I've recognised that I have qualities - tolerance, being able to cope, perseverance.'

Once the students have recognised what they have to offer, when they have learned new skills and how to present themselves to employers, they will take a realistic look at the work choices open to them. They will try to match their own skills with specific jobs, and identify what further training they need. They will examine growth areas such as leisure and new technology as well as the local job market generally. Course tutors have already contacted local employers, many of whom have offered placements so that students can try their hands at different jobs.

Jo Howard has already made up her mind what she wants. 'I want to learn to design and make jewellery. I have always been interested in art and crafts, but I was persuaded to do secretarial work when I left school. When you're older, it's hard to know what jobs are available and what basic training you need. This scheme has made me realise what I need to do.' She has given up her part-time job as a bingo caller to concentrate on her 'Threshold' courses, and on studying for an art O-level, ▶

'Building confidence is one of the first tasks for women who have spent years undervaluing themselves'

which the project is funding.

The first 'Threshold' students have taken to the scheme with so much enthusiasm and commitment that it is easy to forget that they all have other responsibilities – most have children at home, and some have part-time jobs. Learning how to balance responsibilities at home and at work, time management, developing support systems are all subjects that they discuss on the course.

Among the training materials used on the course is a film about coping with stress. The students watched as Mike, the garage man, got more and more bogged down with his unpredictable boss, the demands of customers wanting their cars repaired *now*, an uncooperative workshop manager, and his wife, a working mother (seen at home ironing) who had no intention of cancelling the holiday they'd worked for on the whim of Mike's boss.

'What should Mike do?' asked Anna. Ann thought people should always try to talk about it. 'It always helps,' she said. Barbara Foad, one of the course tutors, agreed. She talked about the value of building a support group of people who could listen and help with the children in times of stress. Jo said Mike's wife needed to join the 'Threshold' course to learn about time management: 'You shouldn't iron tea-towels when you're a working mum!' Ann put her fellow students straight on that: 'When you're acting, they give you something easy to iron, like tea-towels, so that you can concentrate on your lines without worrying about doing the fiddly bits on shirt collars.'

For the first students, the scheme is already a success. In the two years it will run, it will train 100 women. Minimal publicity has already resulted in 150 applications for places. The experience could provide a blueprint for other local authorities who want to give appropriate training to women returners. 'We're very grateful for the European dimension,' says Anna Reisenberger. 'I honestly feel that the EEC sees that women's skills are not being utilised. We hope to learn a lot from this project that could be useful for other areas of the Community.'

And she has advice for local authorities that want to apply to the ESF for support. 'Be innovative. Read the regulations thoroughly and tailor your proposals to fit. Get the backing you'll need from the local authority. And try to get the support of your local Euro-MPs (the 'Threshold' application had the backing of Ben Patterson, MEP for West Kent, and C. M. Jackson, MEP for East Kent).

The scheme has got off to a good start. It is good for the women of Ashford and Rochester. And it is good for the European ideal. 



Role playing for job interviews is part of the course.

MORE TIME OFF FOR HAVING BABIES?

The principle of a working woman's right to maternity leave is now well established in Britain, although the statutory entitlement (11 weeks before the expected date of confinement, plus a further 29 weeks after the birth) is thought by many to be inadequate.

The right to leave and to return to work was a considerable breakthrough when it was established in 1975; but underlying this was the assumption that children are solely the mother's responsibility. Yet a report published last year by the Equal Opportunities Commission found overwhelming support for paternity leave on the birth of a child. So the European Commission's draft directive on parental leave, and leave for family reasons, is timely, and responds to the growing understanding of the need for both parents to take an active part in family life.

The draft directive proposes that both parents should be entitled to at least three months full-time, or six months part-time, leave following maternity leave, to enable them to take sole or principal care of a child under two (under five in the case of a handicapped child), with additional parental leave

for single parents and parents of a handicapped child. It would also enable all workers to take time off for family reasons such as the illness of a spouse or child, the death of a near relative, or the wedding of a child, again with additional leave for single parents and parents of handicapped children.

The draft directive is at present being scrutinised by the House of Lords Committee on the European Communities, which will report early in 1985. The Select Committee also has before it a submission from the EOC which describes the EEC's proposals as 'soundly conceived' and commends their support for the father's role in child care.

The EOC has, however, suggested a number of amendments, mainly to meet the needs of workers caring for elderly and handicapped people: for example, parental leave for a family with a handicapped child should be longer to allow time for diagnosis.

The draft directive, if approved, would reinforce the aims of the Equal Treatment Directive by establishing the right – and the opportunity – for men *and* women to have time off work to care for children.

EUROFORUM

Has history reserved a place for the new 'Spaak Committee'?

'The European Council decided to set up an ad hoc Committee consisting of personal representatives of the heads of state and of government, on the lines of the Spaak Committee. The committee's function will be to make suggestions for the improvement of the operation of European co-operation in both the Community field and that of political, or any other, co-operation.'

After having read this last point of the final communiqué of the Fontainebleau European Council on the evening of 26 June, a relaxed and communicative President Mitterrand hastened to explain that, in this way, all political structures would be dealt with by one committee, mirroring what, not long ago, was called, the Spaak Committee.

This comprises leading figures, whether they be officials or not, designated by each head of state or government, who will meet outside any procedural framework. Mr Mitterrand underlined the point. 'Professionals,' he said, 'people with detailed knowledge of Europe's problems, and European journalists, know what this means – a system that has succeeded, and which must succeed, in making the substance become reality.'

To what substance was he referring? Without going into detail, President Mitterrand noted that it concerned the ideas he himself had set out in his speech before the European Parliament on 24 May (when he gave France's explicit support for the draft Treaty of Union adopted by the Parliament). 'The Community's structures have to be injected with new vitality,' he said.

Specialists, and people in the know, may well remember; but how many peo-

'The Community's structures must be injected with a new vitality' – President Mitterrand

ple nowadays know when and why the Spaak Committee was set up, and what its role was? Some knowledge of its history may help understanding of the link with the new initiative and what the initiative may achieve.

To do this we must turn the clock back 30 years. Following the failure of the projects for a Political Community and a Defence Community in autumn 1954, a handful of eminent politicians set about organising what was to become the first 'relaunching of Europe'. There were Adenauer, Pinay, Martino, Bech, and above all Spaak, the Belgian foreign affairs minister – plus, of course, in the thick of it all, Jean Monnet (who was getting ready to abandon the presidency of the ECSC High Authority so as to be in a better position to do battle).

Spaak, who acted as go-between, put forward an initial, cautious proposal: 'enlarge the ECSC's scope'. But this would have meant risking a further setback to gain very little. They had to

go much further, said Beyan, the dynamic Dutch foreign affairs minister. There had to be an end to sectoral activities, what they had to do was draw up an overall plan leading 'by way of a customs union, to European economic union for those who want it'.

We are in spring 1954. The 'European conspiracy' (about which only vague rumours filtered into the outside world) was making progress. Beyan's ideas were the basis of the memorandum produced at the end of April by the three Benelux countries and accepted by the three other partners as a basis for discussions. Invitations were sent out, and the six ministers of the ECSC High Authority met in Messina, Sicily, June 1955.

Messina has become the symbol of the existence of a European political will, and of its triumph. What happened? Firstly, the Six became aware that they did indeed have the will to go further, much further, and 'embark on a new phase in European cooperation'. The three texts on the table at Messina (from the Benelux, Germany and Italy) were both similar and complementary. They recognised that the goal they were aiming for was political union, but that they had to start by economic integration, notably 'by the gradual merger of national economies'.

The text which came out of the Messina meeting largely incorporates these ideas. The text is in two parts. The first part sets out, in four chapters, the objectives to be achieved in the fields of transport, energy (including nuclear energy) and social policy, the key objective being 'the establishment of a common market'. The second part sets out procedures. This was crucial.

The ministers meeting in Messina knew that traditional negotiating methods could easily make the enterprise founder. To avoid any undermining of their political will, they decided to leave the beaten track. Of course, 'one or more conferences will be convened to draw up the treaties or make the necessary arrangements'; but the task of preparing the ground for this conference was entrusted to 'a committee of government delegates, assisted by experts, and chaired by a leading political figure responsible for coordinating the work.' The chairman was directed to present an overall report to the foreign affairs ministers.

Who was the leading political figure chosen for this task? Well, it was Paul-Henri Spaak. He himself says in his memoirs: 'It was not I who should have been chosen.' But he admits: 'I was passionately keen to implement what we had planned.'

This is how the Spaak Committee came into being. But Spaak was not

head of the Belgian delegation. He stood both outside and above the committee—he was its head. He took overall responsibility for giving it impetus and coordinating the work. He was responsible for ensuring success. He was flanked by: Carl Friedrich Ophüls, Ambassador (Germany), Baron Snoy et d'Oppuers, general secretary from the ministry of economic affairs (Belgium); Félix Gaillard, former minister, member of parliament (France); Ludovico Benvenuti, former minister, member of parliament (Italy); Lambert Schaus, Ambassador (Luxembourg); Gerard M. Verrijn Stuart, professor (Netherlands).

Politicians, government officials and experts, but all masters of their art. The effectiveness of the formula quickly became apparent. After a few initial hiccups, Spaak took the driving seat in autumn 1955, working full-time with the six heads of the delegations, intensive and exciting work, which was carried out in Brussels in the greatest secrecy.

By early spring, the outlines sketched out at Messina had already become a true draft with all the major options mapped out. The drafting was entrusted to Pierre Uri and von der Groeben (working on the Côte d'Azur).

This was the famous Spaak Report, which was submitted to the foreign affairs ministers who, meeting in Venice on 29-30 May 1956, took it as the basis of the two treaties establishing the European Economic Community and Eurotom.

The task of the Spaak Committee was thus accomplished on that day in Venice. But the organisation of the conference of plenipotentiaries responsible for negotiating and adopting the texts was also entrusted to Spaak, by means of a somewhat unusual procedure. The Val-Duchesse Conference, which began work on 1 July 1956, concluded with the signing of the Treaties of Rome on 25 March 1957. The 'Spaak spirit', which gave priority to political objectives based on the belief that there are no insuperable technical difficulties, and the Spaak method, which consisted in making pragmatic use of the technical skills of experts and diplomats to make headway rather than create obstacles, had won a memorable victory for Europe.

For the record, it should be remembered that the United Kingdom was invited to participate in the work of the Committee, and was indeed represented by Mr Bretherton of the Board of Trade, sitting as an observer.

However, Spaak recalled, the British attitude changed from one of fairly scornful scepticism to one of mounting alarm. This is why, in December 1955, the United Kingdom withdrew its representative, stating that it 'could not join the project that had been drawn up'.

That is the brief outline of the history of the Spaak Committee, one of the high points of the history of European unification.

Everyone will be able to judge whether, and in what way, the new Spaak Committee draws inspiration from its illustrious predecessor in concept and in deed. In 1955, the leaders of six countries together found the political will to carry out a concrete project. They entrusted the destiny of this project to one among their number, a leader whose commitment to Europe was tried and tested: a man filled with a great ideal but who also had a firm grip on reality. Their aim was economic unification but with political unification as the final goal.

The question now is whether the Spaak Committee Mark 2 helps us 'embark on a new phase'. Will it, too, go down in the annals of the history of Europe?

EMANUELE GAZZO

How it feels to be young, gifted, and unemployed

'Graduates without jobs are the lucky ones. They are not unemployable. They are unemployed only because they hope for a career as self-fulfilling, and self-indulgent, as their three years at university.'

I have heard this admonition very frequently. It is somewhat true. When graduates emerge from their very pleasant academic world they are highly articulate, well-informed, numerate, literate, able to argue. In short, they are extremely capable. The only problem for these extremely capable people is that there are thousands of other equally capable people all in search of jobs where they can put their excellent educations to use.

With rising unemployment figures tolling in their ears, students know that there are not so many thousands of jobs available. They therefore work very hard — a good degree is better than a mere pass. They therefore play very

SARAH FOOT, 23, with a degree in History, passes on some hard-won experience in the struggle to get a job

hard — would-be barristers debate, aspiring journalists create magazines, future company chairmen administer societies. Students launch themselves on to the job-marketing scene with most impressive CVs, backed up with a beautifully handwritten letter sent with the obligatory first-class stamp.

Some become permanent fixtures in the careers office. Thorough research is essential. Filling out application forms can take hours. 'What do you regard as your greatest achievement?' 'What event has had the most impact on your life?' 'Describe yourself in one word.'

'How do you see yourself in ten years time?'

The competition is keen. Any illusions about the high calibre of your abilities are rapidly shattered once you start to receive rejection letters — sent with a second-class stamp.

When it comes to graduate unemployment I know what I am talking about. Fifteen months ago I left university without a job and went home. Now, my parents are very fond of me; but I think they would rather just have seen me at an occasional Sunday lunch than at every breakfast, lunch and dinner.

After that somewhat selfish, independent university existence, it is not easy returning to family life. It is lonely, too. All your friends are scattered around the country. You are no longer entitled to a student's financial privileges. You don't have the money to pay visits.

I was the careers advisor's nightmare — the typical arts graduate who didn't know what she wanted to do. A university 'Gradscope' computer test did not help. Apparently, nursing, piloting an aeroplane, and antique dealing are among the ten careers I am most suited to. This made systematic career planning particularly difficult.

Determined not to be too narrow-minded about the job hunting, I did investigate all possibilities. I felt I wrote letters to everybody and everything. I applied to a whole range of graduate trainee schemes, but I wasn't what any company was searching for. Those interviewers are very good at their work. You can't fool them, and in the long run it would be stupid to try. If you are unsuited to the job, you would probably be unhappy in it anyway.

Nonetheless, once you are in possession of a fat file of letters thanking you very much for your interest, but wishing you every success in your search for a career with someone else, it can become difficult convincing yourself that you would not be happy in that job and that it really was not the sort of thing you wanted.

Continually boosting your own morale is rather wearing. I did receive letters saying I was too well qualified; but more often they regretted my 'lack of experience'. This is the job hunter's 'Catch 22'. You know full well that statistics have shown that, the longer you are out of work, the harder it becomes to find that first job. But how on earth do you gain this necessary experience?

I was fortunate. By the time I was beginning to wonder whether there was any job I was capable of executing – to say that unemployment is demoralising is an understatement – I embarked on a series of temporary jobs, and eventually ended up in Strasbourg.

I speak from experience when I recommend spending time and a fortune in writing to everybody. My Euro-MP, Lord O'Hagan, was one of the very many people to receive a copy of my CV. I had forgotten I had ever written to him. Months later I was therefore surprised to learn that he had found me a short-term job in Strasbourg town hall's public relations department. This was a new experience. Not only did it give me an unusual insight into the workings of French local government

'Many European students don't seem to start a proper job until their late 20s'

and life at the European Parliament, but in Strasbourg I also discovered the five-month training schemes run at the Commission headquarters in Brussels.

Not many people know about these 'stages', even less how to acquire one. I literally went to Brussels and knocked on office doors. The confrontational approach to job-hunting can work, but



'Any illusions about the high calibre of your abilities are rapidly shattered'

you must have your act well prepared. When I arrived at the Commission I was asked to sit down and keep talking.

If you can't find work, and particularly if you are not that sure of what you want anyway, it is worthwhile taking different jobs or going abroad. (You do not need a big bank balance: cheap travel and accommodation are available.) You have to be careful not to appear as a latter-day hippie who is swanning around abroad; but you can learn of opportunities that you did not know existed. It is also reassuring to discover what a large number of other European students are in your position. Many don't seem to start a 'proper' job until their late twenties.

Graduates are the lucky ones. I know I am only judging by my own and friends' experience; but, ultimately, graduates can find interesting work.

What is more, it is easier for graduates to lead a life on the dole—with only four hours' planned tuition a week at university, I was used to an unstructured day.

I also heard a great deal about the beneficial effects of unemployment upon my character. I don't know about that, but certainly, I will never be unsympathetic towards anyone else who has no job. Unemployment is grim. Even if you are one of the most fortunate of the unemployed, you can waste a great deal of time worrying how long it will take for your reformed character to enjoy a little more job security.

A bad summer for employment

Unemployment in the Community rose by 0.1 per cent in August to 11 per cent. A total of 12.4 million people were unemployed, the highest summer total yet. These figures exclude Greece.

When seasonal factors are taken into account, the level of unemployment is shown to be rising, in contrast to last summer, when some stabilising was thought to be apparent. However, only in France and Ireland were levels rising markedly. Germany, Luxembourg and the UK were almost steady.

Compared to the same time last year, the absolute figure has risen by 6.2 per cent. In France and Ireland the rises have been 16 per cent and 11 per cent respectively.

The trend of higher increases among the young unemployed continues. Most member states showed marked rises in unemployed people under 25 years. In Belgium, the worst case, the figure was 11 per cent compared to July.

For the Community (of nine) the estimated proportion of young people under 25 who are unemployed rose from 38.8 per cent to 39.3 per cent.

Action to beat drug addiction

The countries of the Community need to cooperate on health problems, according to the Commission.

A new communication is the latest stage in moves towards a Common Health Policy, started in 1978 by a Council of health ministers and continued by the June summit at Fontainebleau.

In the area of health, three specific problems are identified which might benefit from common action.

Drug addiction can be fought by increased cooperation between the customs services of member states to restrict the supply of illicit drugs. At the same time, demand can be limited by preventive education aimed at professionals, parents and children. The aim would be to create a climate of non-drug use.

A similar aim is sought in relation to cigarette smoking. The non-smoker, it is hoped, would become the social norm.

The benefits of common action on infectious diseases are obvious. More effective measures could be taken for isolation, prevention and treatment.

Dealing with dangerous cargoes

The implications of the accident involving the freighter *Mont-Louis* off the Belgian coast continue to cause concern.

The *Mont-Louis*, carrying drums of nuclear waste, was in collision with another boat, and sank.

The accident has caused the Parliament to examine the provisions for protecting against and dealing with such events. In a resolution, adopted on 13 September, it demanded proposals from the Commission to regulate the transport of dangerous substances and wastes, 'as a matter of priority'.

National measures, according to the resolution, are inadequate, and member states are urged to comply with minimum conditions for such transports, including the fixing of special routes, and the provision of information to alert and prepare all concerned.

The Commission is also called upon to ensure the ratification of existing agreements by member states, and the inclusion of all dangerous substances in these agreements. The North Sea conference at the end of October is pointed out as an appropriate forum for such an initiative.

In another September resolution, the Parliament points to the dangers of dioxin and concentrations of formaldehyde in the environment, and calls for a report from the Commission on action which might be taken to reduce dangers.

Cleaner petrol is on the way

A Community-wide super octane rating for lead-free petrol, and colour-coded leaded petrol, are the Commission's latest proposals in the drive towards the use of clean fuel.

With member governments already committed to the introduction of lead-free petrol by 1989, the Commission is now anxious to make the measures as uniform as possible, and ensure that the new 'cleaner' cars in future will not face technical problems in different member states, because of differing standards of lead-free petrol.

The plan therefore is to make a 'super' lead-free grade compulsory – a four-star equivalent with a rating of 85 degrees motor octane and 95 degrees research octane.

Moves to ease the paperwork

Life should become much simpler soon for a great many importers, thanks to a new Commission regulation which fills in the details of the Council's latest pronouncement on intra-Community trade.

From July 1985, a free Community set of documents will be available for the temporary importation of merchandise into a member state. A minimum of frontier formalities will be necessary, and delays will be cut.

The form will be valid for one year, and for an unlimited number of journeys. Flexible and simple to complete – especially by those unfamiliar with customs procedures – the new form will be a boon for small businesses.

The hope is that this will be an improvement on the old system, which not only entailed lengthy formalities but also the payment of a deposit on the imported goods.

What's the buzz on honey?

Beekeepers have been stung rather less than others by the recession – but stung nevertheless.

Production of honey in the Community amounts to about 40-50,000 tonnes per year. This production has remained steady for ten years, fluctuations in demand being met by imports, mainly from South America, China and Australia.

In 1981 a three-year plan was initiated to promote long-term growth in the sector. Aid was supplied to beekeeping associations in the member states.

Most of this money – at the rate of 1 ECU (60 pence) per hive per year – was spent on feed sugar, which had little effect on volume production or productivity.

The solution, according to the Commission, is to concentrate on structural measures. The more important of these would be information and training, marketing and protection of bees from disease.

Beekeepers agree that the new proposals will do much to improve the operation of the industry.

The proposed measures will only concern a selected group of producers, instead of applying to the whole sector as before. A swarm of applicants is expected.



The Economics of the Common Market: new edition. By Dennis Swann. Penguin Books, £4.95.

Updated version – the fifth since 1970 – of a thorough and lucid account of how the Community's economic policies are working out, with some critical comment along the way.

Consumer Law in the EEC. By Geoffrey Woodroffe. Sweet & Maxwell, £8.00 (soft covers)

Nine specialist papers from a seminar held in 1983, sponsored by the Commission under the aegis of the Consumer Law Group, covering advertising and marketing, consumer protection, competition law, and product liability.

The EEC and the Food Industries. Edited by A. Swinbank and Jim Burns. University of Reading, £7.50 post free (paperback)

Ten papers on Community policies affecting the food industry, from the Department of Agricultural Economics at Reading University.

The Common Fisheries Policy of the European Community. By Mark Wise. Methuen, £6.95 (paperback)

Well-researched discussion of the means, however imperfect, by which 'systems can be developed and conflicts contained'.

Competition Law: antitrust policy in the United Kingdom and the EEC. By Robert Merkin and Karen Williams. Sweet & Maxwell, £22.50 (paperback)

Aimed at law students and at undergraduates on economics courses, this substantial work claims to be the first to tackle competition policy from a legal standpoint.

Why can't we have a common market in home-buying?

Availability of finance to enable people to buy their own homes is one of the mainstays of property-owning democracies in Western Europe. It is also, during deflationary times such as the present, a means of maintaining the supply of good, new and renovated housing without burdening the public purse. Building societies in Britain, and their counterparts elsewhere in the Community, have increasingly contributed to national housing policies over the last decade, by making their resources available.

On 22 June 1984, Commission Vice-President Christopher Tugendhat announced to the European Community Mortgage Federation's annual general congress in Brussels the Commission's proposal for a draft directive on freedom of establishment and freedom of services for mortgage credit.

This proposal follows the First Council Directive of 12 December 1977, on the taking up and pursuit of the business of credit institutions, which was implemented in the United Kingdom, as far as building societies are concerned, by the Building Societies (Authorisation) Regulations 1981. These require that building societies should be authorised by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies (their supervisory authority) on fulfilment of certain conditions relating to 'own funds'. More importantly, Article 4 of the First Directive requires that the Chief Registrar may not refuse such authorisation on the sole ground that a credit institution is established in a legal form which is not allowed in the case of a mortgage credit institution (that is, building societies) carrying out similar activities in the United Kingdom.

In his speech, Mr Tugendhat said that the Commission's proposal on mortgage credit 'directly touches the ordinary people of the Community'. Two of the fundamental principles of the Community, he said, are that people should be able to move freely between member states and enjoy the benefits of the widest choice of financial services. 'The liberalisation of mortgage credit,' he added, 'is an essential element here. We must ensure that the work now being initiated to relaunch the Community includes it.'

The mortgage credit institutions of the Community operate in several ways. Some take deposits from the public in the form of savings. These include the building societies in the United Kingdom and Ireland, the *caisses d'épargne* in France and Belgium, and the German *Bausparkassen*. Others issue mortgage bonds on the capital markets. These are principally the German *Hypothekenbanken* and public banks, the Danish mortgage credit institutions, and the National Mortgage Bank of Greece. Every Community country, moreover, has commercial banks which, to a

J. ALAN CUMMING argues the case for building societies and home-loan schemes being allowed to operate across European Community frontiers

greater or lesser degree, provide housing finance.

The Commission places great importance on cooperation between the supervisory authorities of the member states to achieve liberalisation. This will, of course, require a degree of political will, as the supervisory authorities of each member state must be on the side of Community mortgage credit institutions as they strive to achieve a common market.

Why do building societies and their Community partners support a common market in mortgage credit?

There can be little doubt that, by increasingly operating nationally, rather than regionally or locally, the building societies have improved their services to their members. What might appear axiomatic – that such a phenomenon would apply with equal validity if there were a Community-wide housing finance market – is not accepted in all quarters.

It is said, for example, that the national housing finance markets throughout the Community are saturated. The figures for the percentage of households in each of the member states which are owner-occupied are: Greece 72 per cent; Ireland 66 per cent; Belgium/Luxembourg 62 per cent; United Kingdom 60 per cent; Italy 57 per cent; Denmark 52 per cent; France 47 per cent; Netherlands 44 per cent; Federal German Republic 37 per cent.

In the case of the United Kingdom, which has the fourth highest level of owner-occupation in the Community, it is generally agreed that the level could rise to between 80 per cent and 85 per cent before saturation point is reached. And, of course, there is always a natural form of turnover constantly

'It is the Commission's aim to make the wide range of financing techniques available throughout the Community'

going on in housing markets: people move up from small to larger residencies, young persons enter the housing market, the old leave it. In all the Community countries there remains a demand for housing finance, diminishing gradually in the longer term.

The problem of exchange risk is also raised. A mortgage credit institution based in the home country would, in lending in the host country, be involved in an unacceptably high currency exchange risk, given the long-term nature of a normal housing loan. The alternative would be to place the risk on the borrower, which is equally unacceptable. Denomination of loans in European Currency Units would be one way of solving this potential problem – the Italian Government has recently passed legislation allowing the *Credito Fondario*, Italy's largest single mortgage credit institution, to make loans in ECUs.

There are three feasible methods. The first is directly across frontiers: building society loans would be 'portable' should a borrower go to live elsewhere in the Community. Secondly, building societies may establish themselves in another member state, taking deposits there in the host country's currency, and loaning in the same currency. Thirdly, building societies may acquire a stake or share in a counterpart institution elsewhere in the Community.

The second and third methods would both go some way to avoiding the currency exchange risk problem. But only the second method would actually lead to a liberalisation of the Community's housing finance market by increasing the number of available financing techniques – and it is this solution that the building societies favour.

The problem of subsidies such as tax relief on mortgage loan repayments remains. Currently, there are as many forms of such benefits as there are forms of housing finance techniques. The solution would be difficult; but a mortgage credit institution establishing itself in a host country would have to accept that country's tax regime, relying on the supervisory authority to avoid discrimination.

We in the building society movement believe there is a demand for a common market in mortgage credit. Given the necessary legislation to abolish the obstacles, some of which I have referred to, mortgage credit institutions could, slowly and surely, export their techniques, as the banks and insurance companies have been doing for many years. The freeing of the vast resources involved can only ultimately, benefit the Community as a whole.

□ J. Alan Cumming is Chief General Manager of the Woolwich Equitable Building Society and President of the European Community Mortgage Federation.

The booty in the book prize business

Autumn is the season for literary prizes – and nowadays they lie on the ground almost as thick as autumn leaves. In France, the great country for such things, there are about 1,500 of them. In Germany, no self-respecting city is without one. In Britain, every year sees more being established, for children's books or travel books or cookery books.

No doubt they all have their origin in a late 19th-century ethos, where encouragement of effort and merit went hand in hand with the ambitions of pressure groups and cliques. But in the late 20th century they are still bowling along, stronger than ever, with louder and louder fanfares, and the public often buying the books of the top prizewinners in large quantities.

In Britain, it must be admitted, the only prize of which that can be said is one of the newest, the Booker McConnell Prize for fiction. Booker McConnell are a big trading conglomerate, and one curious side of their business is that they buy up or manage the rights of best-selling authors, like Agatha Christie. The authors or their heirs receive a substantial agreed income, and Booker McConnell makes what profits it can by exploiting the copyrights.

So far, both parties have seemed happy with the arrangement, and it inspired Booker McConnell to found this prize in 1969. They have always wanted it to be the biggest British prize, financially – this year's winner, Anita Brookner, got £15,000 tax free – and they hoped it would achieve something of the popular impact of the Prix Goncourt in France.

After a slow start, it is now well on the way to doing that. Bookmakers offer odds on the six novels shortlisted; and for several years the dinner at which the prize is given has been televised. It is almost like a Miss World contest now, with no-one – not even the short-

'The prize dinner is almost like a Miss World contest'

listed authors – knowing who has won till the chairman of the jury gets up from the dinner-table and makes the announcement. Winner and losers are seen gasping on the screen.

Not quite appropriate to literature, some people might think! But authors and publishers alike seem willing to go along with the fun and the embarrassment, for one main reason: namely, that again and again the hardback sales of the winner have shot up from 5,000 to 50,000 – not to mention subsequent paperback sales.



DERWENT MAY looks at the growing number of prizes on offer to authors in Europe whose publishers go for cash as well as culture

The other British book prizes do not get the same attention or have the same effect; but several of them are well worth having, both for the money and the distinction, with the winner's name joining an impressive list of previous successful authors. Book businessmen are particularly inclined to put up money for book prizes, and W.H. Smith and Son are the founders of a literary award named after them which has been going now for 25 years. It has been given to many of the best British writers – not just novelists, but also biographers and poets. Unlike the Booker, this award is made at a discreet literary luncheon in the W.H. Smith boardroom; the cheque is for £4,000.

Another motive for founding a literary prize is to honour someone's memory. One of the earliest British prizes, the James Tait Black Prize, which began in 1920, was instituted by Mrs Black after her husband died. There are two awards, one for biography and one for fiction, and two Scots professors of English literature make the choice. John Buchan, Lytton Strachey and E.M. Forster were among the first recipients.

The award of the Duff Cooper Memorial Prize, founded in memory of that writer and diplomat in 1952, is a big social occasion: Madame Pol Roger, who knew Duff Cooper when he was British ambassador in Paris, provides the champagne; and figures from a bygone world of power mingle with young writers, like a scene in Proust or in one of Anthony Powell's novels. The winning book

is supposed to be one that Duff Cooper would have liked.

Other British prizes are the Somerse Maugham awards, endowed by Maugham himself to give writers under 35 a chance to travel; the Geoffrey Faber Prize, given by Faber and Faber, the publishers, in memory of their founder; the John Llewellyn Rhys Prize for writers under 30; and the oldest British literary prize, the Hawthornden founded in 1919, and given – rather oddly – to a book by an author under 41.

The newest big prize has been something of a problem: a romantic novelist, Betty Trask, author of novels like 'Love Has Wings', left £400,000 to endow a prize, now set at £12,500 annually, for a first novel of romantic or traditional character by an author under 35. How to reconcile Miss Trask's wishes with the honouring of good literature has given the trustees quite a headache.

France is the country where literary prizes make the greatest impact. The most famous of them all, the Prix Goncourt, is worth only 50 francs – but the winning novel sells anything from 100,000 to half a million copies. The prize was instituted by Edmond Goncourt in 1904 in memory of his brother Jules, and has been a subject of controversy ever since. The average age of the jury at recent count was 67 – all of them famous French writers. But it is alleged that the jury members all root as hard as they can for books brought out by their own publishers.

In 1975 a disgruntled writer threw a Molotov cocktail into the flat of one of the judges, Françoise Mallet-Joris; two years later, an anonymous assailant threw a cream pastry into the face of another judge, Michel Tournier. Nevertheless, the public swarm to buy the winning book, which is announced at a luncheon in the restaurant Drouant in November.

The Prix Renaudot was established in 1925 to correct the errors of the Goncourt judges: the reward is only a lunch, but the winner can expect to sell 60,000 to 100,000 copies of his novel. The Prix Fémina is awarded by a jury of women, though not only to women. The prize is 5,000 francs, and the winner can usually expect to sell as many copies as the Prix Renaudot winner.

The other French prizes which produce large sales are the Interallié, which is given by preference to a novel by a journalist, and apart from the publicity offers no reward either in money or in kind; and the Médicis prize, first suggested by Jean Giraudoux, for a novel written in 'a new style or tone'. The Médicis winner usually does least well in sales of all the five main prizewinners, but he or she still achieves a figure of between 20,000 and 100,000, something that would make most English novelists rub their eyes in amazement.

The best-known German prize is the Friedenspreis des Deutschen Buchhandels, or Peace Prize of the German book trade. It is an international award, presented every year in the Pauluskirche at Frankfurt at the time of the Frankfurt Book Fair.

It is given to a work of high literary or artistic quality that serves the cause of peace – this year, it has just been won by Octavio Paz.

Frankfurt is also the home of the Goethe Prize, founded in 1927 and won by, among others, Sigmund Freud and Thomas Mann. The city of Darmstadt awards the most important German-language prize, the Georg Buchner award.

Similarly, celebrating their own famous men, Hamburg gives the Lessing Prize,

'The Prix Goncourt is worth only 50 francs – but...'

Lübeck the Thomas Mann Prize, and Düsseldorf the Heinrich Heine Prize.

Italy has two main prizes. The older and more famous is the Viareggio Prize, founded in 1929; but also highly regarded is the Strega Prize for a novel, founded in 1947 by the Strega liqueur firm. (Alcohol has also a regular link with book prizes – another British prize is given by Whitbread breweries.)

In other European Community countries, the literary academies are a fertile source of

awards (as, indeed, is their senior member, the Académie Française): the Irish Academy; the Royal Danish Academy of Science and Letters; and in Belgium the Royal Academies of both French and Flemish Language and Literature.

Will one ever read all the prizewinners? No. But is to good to know that, all across Europe, there are literary juries permanently at work. Venal or incompetent some of them may be. But their very existence is a sign of continuing homage by the European peoples to the imaginative, the thoughtful and the beautiful.

Derwent May, himself a novelist and literary editor of *The Listener*, served on the Booker Prize panel in 1978.

Are all local authorities getting their fair shares

Why do some local authorities receive their fair share of EEC aid, while others, though just as eligible, find applying for a Brussels grant a singularly unrewarding experience? Are the latter stumped by the complexities of the application forms? Do they fail to get past the British government? And are they stonewalled by a supposedly unsympathetic bureaucracy in Brussels?

Recent research* suggests that, with careful planning, the right sort of lobbying, and a little experience behind them, local authorities should find applying for EEC aid well worth the effort. More local authorities than ever before are aware of the types of aid available to them. With every year that passes, they are becoming more adept at extracting money from Brussels. The prospects are that inner city projects, tourist amenities, landfill sites and coastal protection schemes will be increasingly eligible for aid in the future.

It should hearten local authorities further to learn that, once an application reaches Brussels after British government vetting, it is unlikely to meet any major obstacles before it is approved. Grant payments, moreover, are said to be made to Britain more promptly than to other member states. And as central government funding stagnates, or even decreases, local authorities will find that EEC aid will constitute an ever-growing slice of their revenue.

Apart from the agricultural price support system, there are three types of financial help available from the EEC: grants, loans, and a pot-pourri of small allocations for research and development, culture, environmental protection, transport, poverty and unforeseeable disasters.

By far the largest and the best known to local authorities is the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). Together with

LYN JULIUS reviews a new study of how local authorities are finding their way through the systems to the benefits available from Community resources

the European Social Fund (ESF), the ERDF provides the lion's share of Community grant aid to local authorities in priority areas of the UK: over £100 million in 1982. Other sources of Community funding are negligible by comparison.

Community aid in general may be secondary to central government aid, but it is not insubstantial: £1000 million of the ERDF alone has funded infrastructure and industrial projects in the UK since the fund's creation in 1975.

It can only be good news to local authorities that the ERDF is growing year by year, and that there are plans to double its size within five years. This means there is less competition among infrastructure projects – themselves fewer and farther between – and applications for aid coming before the Department of the Environment have a better chance of getting through to the Commission.

Research shows, too, that the myth of the unhelpful Brussels bureaucrat is dead. Local authorities can expect a positive and co-operative attitude from Commission officials, as exemplified by the 'notable and gratifying' way they receive local authority delegates from the UK.

Commission officials have also more discretion than is generally supposed in interpreting guidelines and improving the prospects of attracting aid. After all, they are anxious to see

the fund's resources fully used. They also decide which areas merit fund aid.

A questionnaire, which drew a 60 per cent response rate from UK counties and (less encouragingly) a 30 per cent response from districts when conducted in 1982, concludes that the lack of awareness among local authorities has declined over the last few years. The most enlightened respondents were Welsh assisted area counties, which on average, were awarded £400,000 grants. English and Scottish local authorities were getting an average of £200,000.

The least aware were English non-assisted-area districts, although English assisted-area districts conceded they could be better informed. The view of others could be summed up by this quote from a metropolitan district: 'The EEC is a remote and shadowy spectre, irrelevant to our situation... EEC aid procedures are virtually unknown here.'

Like parents advising school leavers on how to get a job, the questionnaire designers have a number of useful suggestions for authorities wishing to glean more community aid. They should consider applying under more instruments – loans from the European Investment Bank, for instance, and under a wider range of measures within each instrument, such as the EIB's new Community instrument for borrowing and lending. If you are applying for a ERDF grant, think about applying for research study grants; consider pilot schemes under the European Social Fund; or housing under the European Coal and Steel Community fund.

But the experience of many local authorities is, by and large, a positive one. It is perhaps best summed up by one Welsh authority: 'Substantial assistance from the EEC is available, but it does not come easy and applications have got to be put together with a great deal of trouble and care.'

In other words, you get out what you put in.

**Local Authority Access to EEC Aid – Edited by John Glasson. Published by Oxford Polytechnic Department of Town Planning, Headington, Oxford. Working Paper No. 80, price £1.95 plus 50p postage.*

Curtain up on Swansea's new-look theatre

The story of the theatre in the 20th century, particularly outside London, has been one of decline from an Edwardian heyday. The forerunner of the cinema, the bioscope, which was originally included in music-hall programmes as a novelty, was the starting point. In the Twenties and early Thirties, theatres by the score were rapidly converted into cinemas. These in turn became, just as swiftly, bingo halls; or were subjected to other indignities such as conversion to furniture warehouses, timber stores and bargain bazaars; or were simply knocked down, and lost for ever.

A recent visit to Swansea, in South Wales, suggested that its main surviving theatre, from one aspect at least, appears about to join the list. The art deco lettering proclaiming 'Grand Theatre' along its main Singleton Street side looks more of a boast, or a sigh for the days when it was opened by Adelina Patti in 1897, and when its stage was graced by Sir Henry Irving and Mrs Patrick Campbell.

Today, the light green stucco is scrofulous; the upper storeys look decrepit and neglected; the spray-guns of an unwelcome double-act by the name of Nobby and Ches give evidence that they were there, as also were supporters of Swansea City Football Club.

This entire depressing façade, with its cramped main entrance, makes it look as if the theatre is a suitable candidate for demolition. Indeed, so far as the façade is concerned, it is such a candidate, and demolished it is to be, at least partially. However, far from meaning final curtains for the Grand, this will be but part of a spectacular rebirth already in progress.

Thanks in large part to a £2¾ million grant from the EEC Regional Fund towards a £10 million scheme, the Grand Theatre, Swansea, will again live up to its name as part of an ambitious theatre complex. It is to become the biggest regional theatre of its kind in Great Britain.

Further along the street from the present main entrance is a tall, temporary hoarding, the gate of which bears the unlikely legend 'Stage Door'. Beyond are temporary dressing rooms in Portakabins, but also scaffolding and new brickwork: work is in progress providing new dressing rooms, which will shortly be ready. By this time the number of dressing rooms will have increased to 110 from the 25 available at present, which will mean that large companies such as the Welsh National Opera, with its big casts, will no longer have problems either with space or standards. (The original dressing rooms were not only inadequate, but described in a theatre consultant's report as 'squalid').

With the extra dressing rooms, scheduled

With the help of a grant from the Community's Regional Fund, a run-down theatre in the heart of Wales looks set to become the largest of its kind in Britain. JACK WATERMAN reports

for 1984/85, are also badly-needed musicians' changing rooms to parallel other big improvements for orchestras. In addition, this stage of the development, Phase Two, includes a new main entrance.

Phase One has now been complete for about a year. It consisted of the largest and most eye-catching feature of the entire redevelopment: the new Flytower, soaring 27 metres into the Swansea air, which is longer and half as broad again, and which local people

thought to be a new block of flats going up on the edge of the city centre. This imposing and handsome glass-clad tower, already in use, enables a revolutionary step forward for the Grand in its handling of scenery and effects and lighting, and gives a generous 32 metres of stage headroom.

With this new building, while keeping the original graceful Edwardian baroque auditorium in the shape of a horseshoe and seating 1000, the stage and wing space have been enlarged and a range of new stage traps put in. An impressive new lighting grid, with fully computerised control, has been installed, as well as a hydraulically-operated orchestra pit. All these Phase One improvements, as well as some dressing rooms – but notably the Flytower and allied improvements – have been made possible by the EEC grant towards the £3 to £4 million already spent.

The work has not progressed, however, without some local criticism. Audiences – oblivious, perhaps, to the technical improvements making for more ambitious and better shows – have been wondering when better bars, foyer and restaurant were coming. They are on the way, scheduled for 1985/86. But, as Mr Knight, the theatre's house manager pointed out as he showed me round, 'We had to decide on priorities. While some members of the public may think we have done things



One of the most famous singers of her day, Adelina Patti (left, in her costume as Juliet) opened the Grand Theatre in 1897. The 1980s version, right, will be a very different place.

the wrong way round, I'm sure we were right in improving the theatre's working capabilities and facilities first.'

Indeed, from the very first opening by Madame Patti, to which a marble plaque in the auditorium bears witness, the Grand has not lacked technical forethought. A contemporary report said the theatre was 'intended to bear favourable comparison with the best theatres in the kingdom', and possessed 'all the latest and best theatrical equipment including the innovative use of electricity to light the stage'.

The opening production was a Japanese opera, 'The Geisha', followed by a full programme of operas, melodramas and classics. A first pantomime, 'Robinson Crusoe', opened at the end of December, 1897. Transfers direct from the West End, complete with London casts, included the appearance of

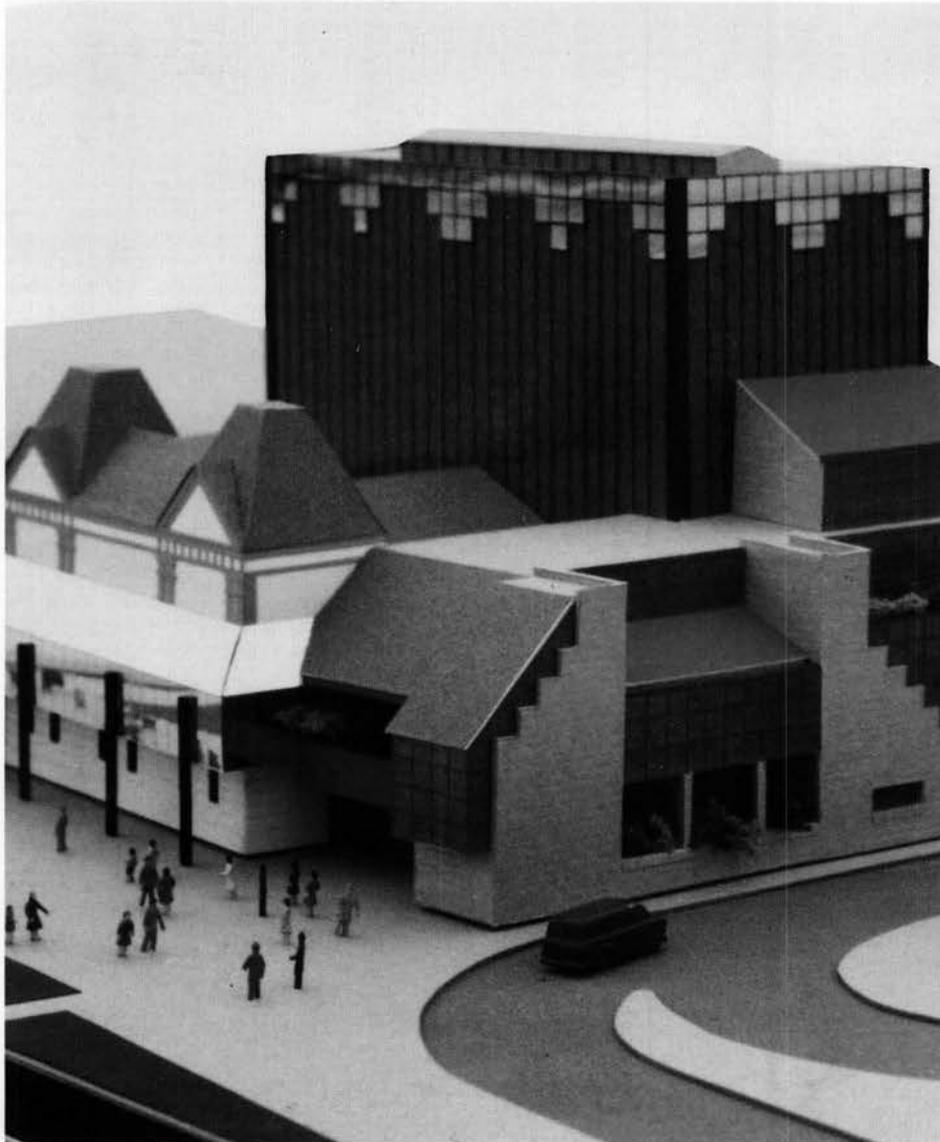
'Mrs Patrick Campbell had a fight with the stage manager...'

actors such as Forbes Robertson and Sir Henry Irving (whose autograph has been preserved, and will embellish a new No 1 Dressing Room). Following his appearance, the local press reported: 'Swansea and its vicinity were suffering on Thursday a bad attack of Irvingitis.'

Mrs Patrick Campbell came to the Grand to act in, and direct, both 'The Thirteenth Chair' and her famous 'The Second Mrs Tanqueray', during the production of which it was reported that (not for the first or last time) she lost her temper and had a fight with the stage manager.

The Grand thus became a centre for drama not only for Swansea, but for Wales. Its reputation attracted large audiences for many years. Unfortunately, after its innovative beginning, little was subsequently done to keep facilities up to date as requirements changed; and, as happened to theatres all over the country, it went downhill. In 1969 it was bought by Swansea City Council, who in 1980 commissioned a firm of theatre consultants to prepare a review of arts facilities in Swansea, with particular regard to the modernisation of the Grand Theatre.

Their review highlighted the problems: traffic noise from outside, cramped foyer and bar, squalid backstage conditions, and major touring companies threatening to drop Swansea from their tours. Redevelopment of the theatre was envisaged within a larger Arts Centre, and also as a centre for Swansea Festival and Fringe, known throughout Europe as a major festival of arts.



'New theatre workshops are scheduled – and there are plans for a 600 seat concert hall'

The decision was taken to go ahead. Work began in 1981, and the theatre was closed for some time while the first of the improvements, with the EEC playing a vital part in the funding, were begun.

Now, with the Grand back in action, the fruits of the redevelopment so far can be seen in a glance at the shows which have run recently, or are about to be put on.

The biggest productions staged by companies run by the theatre's administrator, Paul Dayson, have been 'Cabaret' and 'Jesus Christ, Superstar'. The Welsh National Opera have performed 'La Boheme' among other operas. The London Contemporary Dance Theatre (first time in Swansea for several years, and entirely because of the new facilities) have paid a visit. So has the 'Paul Daniels Magic Show', and productions ranging from 'Children of a Lesser God' to 'The

Wind in the Willows'.

This month there is 'Oklahoma!' presented by Swansea's amateur Abbey Players, 'The Magic of D'Oyly Carte', performed by former D'Oyly Carte artists, and 'No No Nanette'. Next month features a one-night show by the favourite Welsh comedian, Max Boyce; and the pantomime tradition continues with 'Cinderella'.

After the completion of the new bars, restaurant and foyer, new theatre workshops are scheduled for 1986/87. There are long-term plans for a smaller, 500-seat theatre, and a 600-seat concert hall.

Already, enough has been achieved to demonstrate that EEC money has been well spent. The Grand's administrator may justly claim that 'Swansea is the cultural capital of Wales. In terms of arts in the Principality, we are second to none.'

Immigrants on labour market

In April 1984 immigrant workers accounted for about 13 per cent of the registered unemployed in the Federal Republic of Germany, France and Belgium. In the Netherlands and Denmark they accounted for 8 per cent and 4 per cent respectively.

The figures, published by 'Eurostat' in August, show that unemployment amongst foreign workers increased everywhere except in the Federal Republic of Germany and Denmark.

More than 50 per cent of unemployed foreign workers in Belgium, and 49 per cent in Luxembourg, came from other member states. In the Federal Republic of Germany about a quarter of them were Community nationals, and in the Netherlands about 18 per cent.

In the Federal Republic, non-Community workers accounted for at least 40 per cent of the total, compared to about 35 per cent in the Netherlands and 30 per cent in Denmark.

Effluent by pipeline?

The European Commission is examining a request for funding for a feasibility study into a pipeline to carry industrial effluent along the Rhine to a reprocessing plant in the Netherlands.

If the project goes ahead, it would run contrary to the Community policy of treating industrial waste at source wherever possible. That is why the Commission will make sure that this principle is being observed before it decides whether to contribute towards the cost of the study concerned.

If it is, the arrangements proposed will provide a second means of treating any waste that remains.

More curbs on unfair trading

The Ten's Foreign Ministers have agreed to give the European Commission new powers to combat unfair trading practices by third countries.

The measures will allow the Commission to react faster and more effectively against countries that attempt to dump their goods on European markets at below cost price, or illegally subsidise their exports to Europe, at the expense of European industry.

The new legislation will bring European legislation into line with the American system, which provides the US administration with a set timetable in which to respond to abuses of international trade rules.

The Commission will have 60 days to complete its preliminary investigation of any complaint, and up to seven months to publish a complete report on its findings.

But it will not be able to take any action against other trading powers without the approval of the Council of Ministers, and it will continue to operate within existing rules laid down by the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT).



How do you like your egg?

When you next crack open your breakfast egg, be ready for a mouthful of furazolidone, nicarbazin, nitrofurantoin, chloramphenicol and perchloroethylene.

The names are not likely to mean anything to you unless you happen to be a vet, because they are all drugs that are fed to chickens. But what's good for the chicken is not necessarily good for the egg, or the person who's eating it, according to Ger-

man Socialist MEP Dieter Rogalla. Several of the substances are dangerous, he says, and at least two of them - furazolidone and nicarbazin - are believed to be carcinogenic.

At the moment, most member states have national controls on the manufacture and supply of medicated feed, and in most countries it has to be prescribed by a vet. Similarly, under an EEC directive dating from September 1981, medicated feed can only be prepared in authorised premises, throughout all ten member states.

But, according to Agriculture Commissioner Poul Dalsager, as yet no Europe-wide controls exist either on the manufacture or the supply of the medicated feed. A European Commission proposal to create a single, universally applicable set of rules in the sector, submitted in January 1982, is still waiting for approval by the Council of Ministers, he says.

Protecting children from 'slave labour'

A German TV exposé of the use of child labour amongst immigrant children in the Federal Republic of Germany has brought calls from the European Commission for tougher supervision of existing legislation.

Social Affairs Commissioner Ivor Richard says that rules already exist in member states governing the employment of minors for manual work, but concedes that the economic recession may have encouraged employers to break the law.

Italian Socialist MEP Carlo Ripa di Meana, who has called for legislation to protect minors from what he calls 'this odious practice', claims that, in addition to being exploitative, it is also damaging to Community prestige, particularly in the developing countries from which many of the immigrants come.

German law currently permits the employment of minors aged over 15 who have completed their compulsory education. Other regulations exist laying down the maximum number of hours, the minimum number of breaks and rest periods, night shifts, Sunday working and medical supervision.

Similar legislation exists in most other member states. But, as Mr Ripa di Meana points out, it is dif-

ficult to enforce owing to the limited number of staff available.

The European Commission says that, in addition to 'stringent supervision', the answer probably lies to a great extent in economic and social measures to combat poverty, improve job opportunities, raise living standards and extend and expand education systems to benefit the most underprivileged sections of society.



Trade battle on the ski slopes

Trade relations with the US took a tumble last year when the US cut back on imports of EEC special steels. The Ten retaliated by limiting imports of a number of US products - including, oddly enough, skis. Dutch MEP Willem Vergeer has asked for an explanation from External Affairs Commissioner Wilhelm Haferkamp.

The US steel industry has been hard hit by the recession, and regards Community exports as partially responsible for its plight. Last year the US government yielded to industry demands, and limited imports of special steels.

In March the Ten retaliated by imposing an additional tariff on a number of chemical products and cutting back on imports of certain sporting goods - essentially skis and sports clothing.

Given the volume and composition of Community imports from the US, Europe was not able to retaliate in the steel sector, says Mr Haferkamp. 'Compensatory' measures were therefore taken in the sports sector - which is an acceptable procedure under international trade rules.

The decision will also have positive effects, he says. European ski production is flourishing, and the controls will not hurt retailers or reduce European ski exports to the US. The measures will simply make American skis less competitive in Europe, he claims.

Cycle chain dumping threat

The Commission is to investigate allegations that bicycle chains from the Soviet Union and China are being dumped on European markets at below cost price.

The German group that lodged the complaint on behalf of other EEC bicycle chain-makers says that Soviet and Chinese chains undercut those made in Europe by 20 to 50 per cent.

The Sino-Soviet share of the market as a whole rose 25 per cent to 11.5 per cent between 1982 and 1983. In the worst affected countries – the Federal Republic of Germany, France and the Netherlands – their market share rose to 20 per cent it is claimed.

If the EEC bases its anti-dumping investigation on a comparison with Japan's export prices, as the German group wants, Soviet and Chinese imports could face heavy tariff barriers. Direct comparisons are not possible, because neither country is a market economy.

Food parcels for Europe's yachtsmen

The Tour de France Yacht Race has been won by 'Europe', an 11-metre yacht skippered by Philippe Hanin and crewed by 32 young amateur sailors from several Community countries.

The 25-stage race, which began at Dunkirk in early July, ended at Menton, in the South of France, on 15 August.

'Europe', which was 'baptised' outside the European Parliament in Brussels in June, beat 31 other entrants with an overall sailing time of 271 hours, 43 minutes and 18 seconds, nearly two hours ahead of the runner-up, 'Genie Militaire'.

The yacht was entered in the race by the 'Sail for Europe' Association, a non-profit making organisation set up in 1976. Its last yacht, 'Treaty of Rome', was also skippered by Philippe Hanin and competed in the 1977-78 Whitbread Round the World Race. Several other former members of that crew also took part in the Tour de France, adding invaluable experience to the team's performance.

Additional support came from

French agricultural cooperatives, who kept up the crew's spirits with food parcels and cases of wine to see them through the race.

In a telegram to the crew following their victory, Commission Vice-President Etienne Davignon congratulated them on their performance, and said that they had helped to forge a new Community spirit. European Parliament President Pierre Pflimlin also cabled his congratulations, describing their victory as 'brilliant' and 'an example to Europe's youth'.



Going for a quiet drive

By 1989 the noise of traffic in Europe should be half as deafening as today, following the adoption of an EEC directive lowering noise limits for cars by three decibels (db) and for commercial vehicles by 2-3 decibels.

The new limits will be compulsory for new vehicles by 1985 and for all vehicles by 1989.

Currently, permissible noise levels are 80 db for cars, and 85 db for commercial vehicles over 3.5 tonnes. According to EEC officials, a reduction of 3 db will halve the level of noise pollution. The decision will primarily affect the motor industry, which will have to halve the noise given out by the engines it builds.

The directive will make the Community a world leader in the fight against noise pollution from traffic.

A draft directive, recently submitted to the Council of Ministers by the Commission, also calls for a two-stage reduction in permissible noise levels for motorcycles. The proposal says that noise emissions from motorbikes should be reduced by between 1-6 db, according to their engine capacity.

Three types of bike would replace the existing five classifications, and the reductions would take effect in 1986 and 1995 respectively. Bikes under 80cc would be reduced to 77 db in October 1986, and to 75 db in October 1995. In the 80-175cc

category levels would be cut to 80 db and 78 db over the same period. Above 175cc would be restricted to 82 db and 80 db respectively.

Permitted noise levels currently range from 78 db for bikes under 80cc to 86 db for bikes over 500cc. EEC officials estimate that the changes will be reflected in price increases of between 2-10 per cent, according to the size of the bike.

The Commission has also asked member states to impose tougher controls on motorcycles generally. These include penalising noisy braking, unnecessary use of the horn, and the removal of silencers.

Andorra to stay outside the Twelve

Enlargement of the Community to include Spain and Portugal will not affect the status of Andorra, according to Enlargement Commissioner Lorenzo Natali.

The tiny Pyrenean principality, only 465 square kilometres in size, will remain a non-EEC state perched in the mountains between France and Spain.

Although no Andorran delegation has attended the enlargement negotiations, Commission officials plan to look into issues affecting the principality, and consultations are planned.

Car-makers' streamline agreement

European car manufacturers and component suppliers have agreed to create a common electronic communications system that will eliminate the paperwork involved in day-to-day commercial transactions.

The project, codenamed 'Odette' (organisation for Data Exchange through Tele-transmission in Europe), is the first Europe-wide attempt at 'paperless communication' in an industry. According to American estimates based on a similar experiment in the US, it could save up to £384 per vehicle in production costs.

Nine countries – Belgium, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom – are participating in the scheme, following a British initiative.

'We have to compete or we go under,' says Alan Shepherd, of the UK Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, who is secretary of 'Odette'. Sub-groups are already working in all nine countries on building the message formats needed for data transmission. A pilot operation may start up early next year, he says.

Ultimately, the 'paperless' system could involve requests for quotations, purchase orders, schedule releases, advance shipping advices, invoices and remittance advices, say the organisers. They have already enlisted an American group to advise them on US developments in the field, and hope to get additional funding for the pilot project from the European Community.



Defence against X-rays to be stepped up

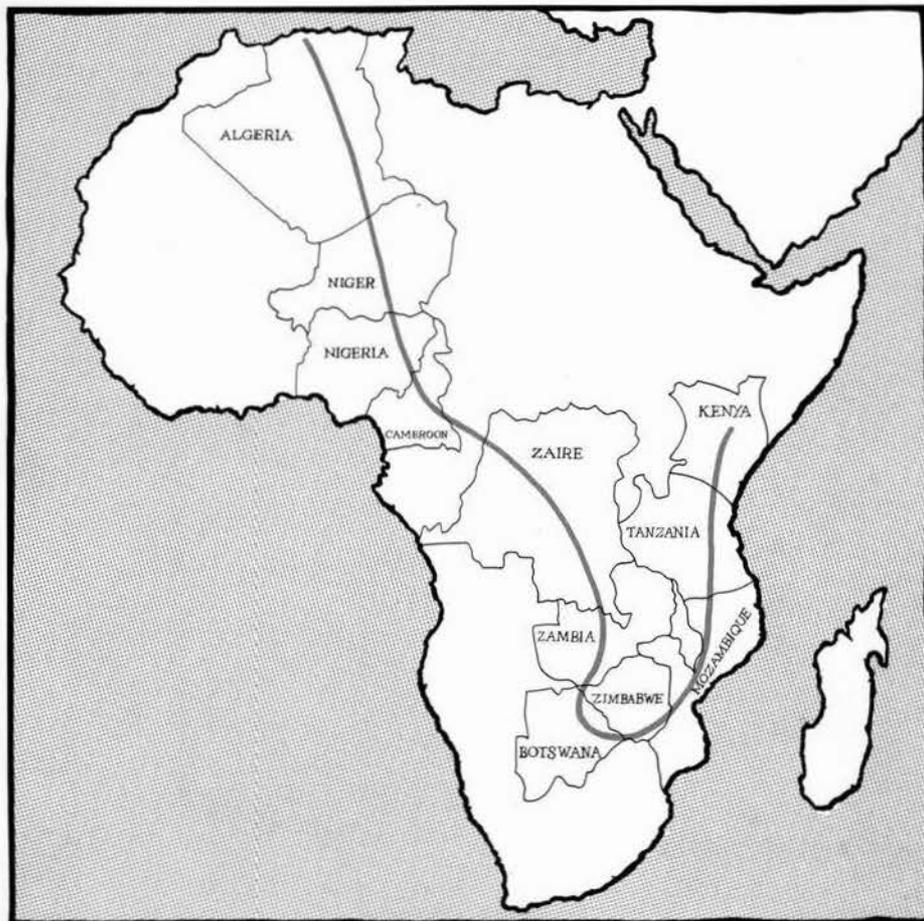
In September the Council of Ministers adopted two directives designed to protect patients, hospital personnel and workers exposed to X-rays.

Currently, the use of X-rays – the main source of non-natural radiation – is increasing in Europe at a rate of 10 per cent a year. Scientists have been warning of the dangers of their excessive use for several years.

The new directives are aimed at reducing the use of X-ray equipment, without reducing the quality of medical care. 'Medical uses must be justified and used with optimal effect,' say the texts.

In addition to protecting patients, the directives are concerned with specialised training for people using X-ray equipment and strict supervision of the materials used.

The directives are also designed to protect the general public and workers who come into contact with radioactive materials.



Young Europeans setting off on the Africa trail

In the spring of 1984 a new youth organisation was registered under German law. The English name is Educational Experience in Europe; and the statutes define the aim of the organisation as 'the promotion of the political, intellectual and emotional awareness of young people between the ages of 18 and 25 to the needs of Europe and the European Community'. In particular, our scheme aims to strengthen, at all levels of society, a stronger international consciousness, mutual understanding and a spirit of tolerance among our young citizens.

In practice these aims are being carried out through projects ranging from reciprocal work-experience schemes within the countries of the European Community and youth exchange, involving work with the disabled and the handicapped as well as the unemployed, to expeditions of young Community citizens to explore and work in the countries of the third world.

The most exciting new project, however, is our proposed Young Europe African Expedition, which will take place in 1985, as our own contribution to the International Year of

PETER WILLEY describes a new venture which aims to bring young Europeans face to face with Africa and the Africans

Youth. The expedition will consist of about 50 Community members of both sexes, between the ages of 19 and 25. Every member must have a knowledge of English, and preferably French in addition, as these will be the two main languages on our route. French is a 'must' for the British members, plus a preference for German as well.

We will be away for six months, during which time we plan to visit Algeria, Niger, Nigeria, Cameroon, Zaire, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Tanzania and Kenya.

In some of these countries the expedition will split into small groups and carry out projects in co-operation with Red Cross societies, Wildlife Trusts and other national

and international agencies working on building sites (schools, hospitals etc), agricultural and irrigation projects and schemes connected with natural history, wild life, art and culture, historical research.

The concept of the expedition has had a very friendly reception from African countries, and a great deal of detailed planning has been going on for many months now. Charles Mayhew leaves for a reconnaissance tour of projects in East Africa in mid-November, and I will travel to the francophone countries of the West after the New Year. We are, however, still wrestling with the problems of funding and sponsorship, and hope that international business will be generous in offering us the loan or gift of vehicles, supplies and equipment.

Selection of personnel, briefing and initial training will then be our next priority – it is very important that the expedition should spend at least a week together, getting to know each other and practising the skills which will be required as a team before we can set off. We hope that all this can be completed by the spring of 1985.

The total cost for each member of the expedition will be about £3,500. Although the

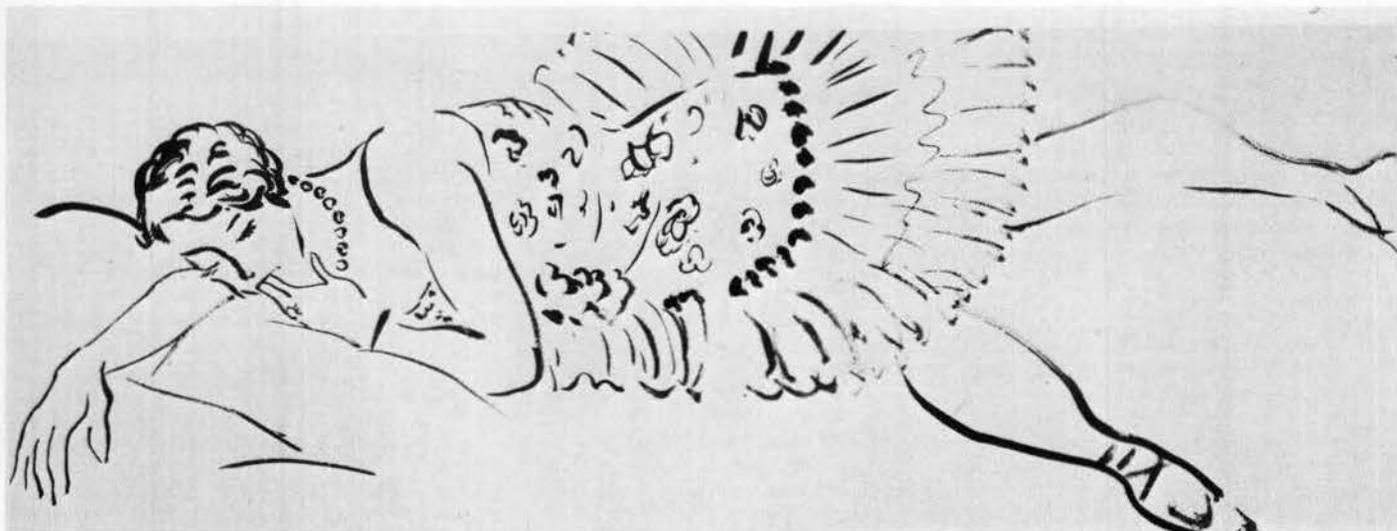
'This is the first such European expedition ever – and as such it is something of an historic event'

expedition intends to meet much of this amount by general appeal, successful candidates will have to raise some of the necessary money themselves.

This enterprise will certainly give much to those who take part; but we believe deeply that the expedition will achieve far more – it will enable a team of young Europeans to travel, work and live together on another Continent, all participating in a task of education for peace, understanding and development.

The most important part of the enterprise, however, is what happens when we have all returned to our respective homes. So many projects do not make the impact they should, because the follow-up is inadequate or neglected. We intend that this exciting venture shall be used to develop a greater understanding on the Continent of Europe and in Britain, for Africa, as seen through the eyes of intelligent and committed Europeans and a greater appreciation of what young people can achieve.

The reverse should be equally true. Africans will see that young Europeans are not spoilt, arrogant or prejudiced about race or colour. On the contrary, we are prepared to look objectively, listen to the points of view of others, and help work for the better future which is in the interests of us all. 



In Matisse's private garden

Henri Matisse, one of the unchallenged masters of colour, is almost equally renowned as a draughtsman. His apparently easy line, he said once, is the result of sheer hard work, the end product of preliminary studies made in other, less rigorous media. 'Only when I feel drained by the effort,' he added, 'can I clear my mind and give free rein to my pen.'

The result, as the important Matisse exhibition now showing at the Hayward Gallery, London, reveals, is – again in the artist's own words – to 'gain possession' of his subject, liberating its inherent grace and character.

These are qualities which the Arts Council, in choosing from among the thousands of drawings made in his long career, kept particularly in mind. They cover every phase – from Cubism, with its inner structure and disciplined economy, through the neo-classicism of the mid-30s, when his work came closest to that of Picasso, to the lissom abstractions of his last years.

Towards the end, as John Golding remarks in the exhibition catalogue, Matisse's draughtsmanship overtook his achievement as a colourist. He was aware of this: in a letter to Bonnard he reveals that he was seeking an equivalent, in colour, of the drawings he was then working on (this was in the 1940s). The exhibition is skilfully arranged so that the visitor is drawn into this developing drama. It culminates in a group of the last works, dated 1952, in which Matisse introduces paper cut-outs in a series of blue nudes – a technique which enabled him, as he explained, to 'draw directly into colour'.

The drawings are complemented by examples of all 69 of Matisse's sculptures. These, nearly all from the first half of his life, enhance the drawings with their chunky handling and tightly-controlled energy – three-dimensional versions of Matisse's lifelong subject, the female nude. Matisse would have liked, he said, to do without models altogether. He knew perfectly well what a human body looks

like. But for him a model was 'a door I have to break down so as to get into the garden in which I am so alone and so happy.' An hour at the Hayward is an hour shared with Matisse in that blissful place.

DENIS THOMAS



Top: *Dancer Resting*, 1927.
Right: *The Plumed Hat*, 1919.
Below: *Reclining Nude*, 1937,
from the Baltimore Museum
of Art.



QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE

Mrs Winifred Ewing, United Kingdom:

In view of the fact that butter is used in the manufacture of high quality soups by a firm in Scotland (Baxters of Speyside Ltd), will the Commission take steps to amend the regulations governing the sale of butter at reduced prices to bakeries and ice cream manufacturers, in order to enable soup manufacturers to benefit from similar concessions?

Answer by Mr Poul Dalsager on behalf of the Commission:

In connection with the price decisions for the new marketing year, the Council extended the list of users, who may qualify for aid for the purchase of butter, to include manufacturers of foodstuffs other than pastry products and ice-cream.

The Commission staff are looking into the question of the effectiveness of subsidising various categories of food products. In the light of this study the Commission will add suitable products to the list of those qualifying for aid, having regard to the additional quantities of butter likely to be disposed of and the actual cost of disposal.

Luc Beyer de Ryke, Belgium:

Following the immense success of the first Spacelab mission, can the Commission indicate whether it intends to deploy new resources, in collaboration with the various member states, with a view to setting up a space programme for the 1990s?

Answer by Mr Etienne Davignon on behalf of the Commission:

The present responsibility for the elaboration of a European Space Policy and its implementation is vested in the European Space Agency. The Commission works in active and positive collaboration with the European Space Agency, notably in the field of technological cooperation in the framework established by the Versailles summit, and welcomes with interest the initiative of Mr Mitterrand at the Fontainebleau summit concerning a space station.

Research in space activities has been identified as an area of interest within the overall Community R and D strategy. Within this framework, the Commission is currently studying ways and means of doing this.

Willy Vernimmen, Belgium:

What is preventing the Commission from introducing a total ban on the use of hormones of any kind unless it has been proved beyond any doubt that they are absolutely harmless when administered in unspecified quantities and under any conditions and at any time whatsoever?

Answer by Mr Poul Dalsager on behalf of the Commission:

The Commission has made extensive studies and engaged in widespread consultations on the ques-

tion of use of hormones for fattening purposes. This work is now finished and the Commission has recently submitted a proposal to the Council so that there may be a rapid solution to this problem.

The Commission agrees that only substances which will present no harmful effects to the health of the consumers should be authorised for fattening purposes. The Community scientists, asked to study the toxicology of these substances, found that some important data on the toxicology of trenbolone and zeranol was still missing. In consequence the Commission cannot endorse their approval for use in the Community and sees no other alternative but that they be banned as long as they are not shown to be safe.

The Commission has always maintained that strict controls are necessary to ensure that legal provisions are respected. It remains essential to have common rules adopted for controls. The Commission has included provision for controls at all levels: at factories and pharmacies, farms and abattoirs.



William Newton Dunn, United Kingdom:

Is it correct that breeding and production of fishing-bait maggots is illegal in some member states, in particular Belgium and France? If so, is this compatible with imports of fishing-bait maggots into those member countries where production is banned from other member states where production is permitted?

Answer by Mr Karl-Heinz Narjes on behalf of the Commission:

The Commission does not have any information on national rules regulating the breeding and production of fishing-bait maggots.

Whilst a member state is perfectly entitled to prohibit the breeding and

production of fishing-bait maggots within its territory, opposition to imports of such maggots from member states in which production is permitted could be justified only in accordance with the case-law of the Court of Justice on Articles 30-36 EEC.

Mrs Anne-Marie Lizin, Belgium:

Can the Commission provide a detailed breakdown of the budget resources allocated for the 'Euroshow', state what was the running time of the song sequences and of the sequences on European history, and state how many original artistic works have been created, e.g. songs about Europe, as a result of this show?

Answer by Lorenzo Natali on behalf of the Commission:

The Commission contributed around half a million ECUs from the 1983 and 1984 budgets to the production costs of the Euroshow. Total costs were about one million ECUs and the balance was met by the producers and the ZDF. The effectiveness of a television broadcast is measured not by the running

funded under the ESPRIT pilot programme last year include projects which centred or touched on data protection and privacy? If so what did the Commission learn from these projects with regard to ensuring data protection and privacy in connection with the new information technologies?

Answer by Mr Etienne Davignon on behalf of the Commission:

The Commission is concerned by this problem, which is part of the first part of the multi-annual programme for data-processing (for which the Council has yet to take decision on the proposed 1984-8 extension). A study entitled 'Security and Confidentiality of Data' has already been undertaken, and the results are being discussed with specialists in this field.

Pino Romualdi and Giorgio Almirante, Italy:

Following the earthquake which devastated the Umbria region on 2 April 1984, causing extensive destruction as well as making 5,000 people homeless, can the Commission say what steps have been taken to ensure that the people affected are able to obtain Community aid as soon as possible?

Answer by Gaston Thorn on behalf of the Commission:

On 8 May the Commission decided to grant 900,000 ECUs against Article 690 of the budget in aid to the inhabitants of the Umbria region most seriously affected by the earthquake which hit the area on 29 April. In line with normal procedure, Parliament was informed that such aid had been granted on the day of the Commission decision.

The aid was made available immediately to the authorities concerned and a support team from the Commission went to the area in the middle of May to determine with local authorities how the aid should be allocated.

Ben Patterson, United Kingdom:

Does the Commission consider the coach drivers who are also required to conduct a guided tour by commentary over microphone while driving their coach constitute hazard on the roads, particularly when driving through heavy traffic in cities, where concentration vital?

Answer by Mr Giorgio Contogeorgis on behalf of the Commission:

The Commission agrees that the practice of coach drivers giving commentaries while driving potentially dangerous. Before considering the need to take measure Community level, the Commission will seek information from member states on whether this practice commonly occurs or is prohibited.

time of its various parts but by the impact of the production as a whole. The show was designed not to encourage the creation of works of art, such as 'songs about Europe', but to reach sections of public opinion not accessible to traditional Community information media, in the run-up to the European elections.

Mrs Hanna Walz, Germany:

Does the Commission agree with the view stated by the German Bundestag's research and technology committee in its report on the ESPRIT programme that 'data protection sometimes falls considerably short of actual developments in the field of information and communications technology'? Did the projects

Inflation in the Community at a new low

Inflation in the European Community fell to an average 6.9 per cent for the year ending August – its lowest level since the end of 1972, and a record low for the enlarged, ten-member Community.

Between July and August the consumer price index for the Community as a whole rose by only 0.4 per cent, according to a report published by Eurostat, the Community's Statistical Office. The only significant increase was in Britain, where a rise in mortgage interest rates pushed up the index by 0.9 per cent. In seven other member states prices increased by between 0.1 per cent and 0.5 per cent.

In the Federal Republic of Germany and Greece, seasonal effects of a fall in the price of fruit and vegetables and the summer sales actually caused the index to fall by 0.2 per cent and 0.5 per cent respectively.

All the member states with the exception of Italy and Greece now have annual inflation rates of less than 10 per cent. Eurostat figures for August show rates of 10.5 per cent for Italy and 18.9 per cent for Greece.

In the Federal Republic of Germany inflation was just 1.7 per cent. The Netherlands recorded 2.7 per cent, the United Kingdom and Luxembourg 4.9 per cent, Belgium 5.7 per cent, Denmark 6.5 per cent, France 7.4 per cent and Ireland 7.9 per cent. In Spain and Portugal, which plan to join the Community in 1986, inflation for the year ending July was 12.8 per cent and 32.9 per cent respectively.

Other industrialised countries recorded rates slightly below the Community average. For the year ending July, the United States registered a 4.1 per cent increase, Canada 4.3 per cent and Japan 2.6 per cent. Japanese figures for August were down to 1.9 per cent.



A last look round the highly successful Liverpool International Garden Festival, shortly before it closed. George Scott, head of the Commission's London Office, was guest of honour, representing the European Community, on a specially designated Europe Day, at which the flag of the Community was raised over the festival for the first time. The Commission contributed the award for 'Excellence of Landscape Construction' in the International Theme Gardens Section, which was won by the West German garden. The picture shows (foreground) George Scott flanked (on his left) by Lord Aberconway, Commissioner-General of the festival, and Andrew Pearce, MEP for Cheshire West, accompanied by diplomats from Community countries represented in the area set aside for national gardens.

Letters

Protecting young children

Your *Euroforum* article on child abuse (September issue) will be of interest to many professionals, not least social workers. However, a description of services operated by different agencies in Community countries, such as provided in the article, goes only part of the way towards understanding the phenomenon.

In the UK at least, and possibly other countries as well, there is no reliable evidence as to the effectiveness of measures of social protection – protection in the most literal sense – for those they are intended for. Even more worrying is the possibility that such therapeutic measures as may be possible with individuals and families could be undermined by conditions determined by economic policy, such as unemployment, poverty and inadequate housing.

Perhaps the European Commission, and ultimately national governments, could devote a small fraction of their economic budgets to appraising the international consequences of those economic policies for children at risk of abuse.

Paul Dolan
Secretary, Liaison Committee for Social
Workers in the European Community,
Birmingham

In your article in *Euroforum* on child abuse, in which you so rightly place an emphasis on the importance of early detection of cases at risk and prevention, you correctly identify the role of the social services where such identification has taken place.

May I ask you to draw to the attention of readers the role of the health visitors in the United Kingdom, who regularly visit families for the promotion of health and the prevention of ill health, before crises occur, and is ideally placed to act as the prime agent in early detection and prevention?

(Miss) R L Sharman
English National Board for Nursing,
Midwifery and Health Visiting, Tottenham
Court Road, London W1

Missing out

If, as claimed by Mr R. C. Prockter (Letters, September issue), Britain has been 'particularly successful' in reducing inflation without participating in the European Monetary System exchange rate mechanism, how much more successful one wonders, could she not have been in all kinds of ways, such as keeping unemployment and interest rates down to the level of EMS?

W. Grey
Finchley, London N3

Where the UK Government restricts imports from another EEC country for the purpose of benefiting its own producers, individual producers in that country who suffer loss as a result may claim damages for breach of statutory duty, and have a cause of action for misfeasance in public office if the Minister concerned knew his powers and would cause them injury.

Mr Justice Mann so held when giving judgement for Bourgoin SA, a French turkey-producing company, and others, on a preliminary issue as to whether their statement of claim against the UK Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, disclosed any cause of action.

— Financial Times

A further British contribution of 3,000 tonnes of cereal provided from the Overseas Development Administration is being shipped to Ethiopia this week.

Britain has provided £1.5 million since early 1983 in cash grants and food aid to British and international agencies there and contributed £2.2 million to EEC aid.

Ethiopia is also receiving much of £30 million being sent by Britain this year to meet crop failures in Africa and the British Disasters Emergency Committee organisations have raised £8.6 million for Ethiopia.

— Sunday Telegraph

Scottish manufacturers have received some encouraging news about their export performance from recent studies. Export volume is rising again and Scottish workers are more productive on goods for foreign markets than the average UK worker.

During the 1981-1983 survey period, Scotland still had only 8.2 per cent of UK manufacturing employment but increased its share of exports to 9.6 per cent.

The EEC remained the most important market for Scottish manufactured exports, absorbing just under 40 per cent of Scottish exports.

— Financial Times

The Common Market's Dover sole quota is putting Britain's fishermen out of business.

And the Euro bureaucrats have also had a go at King Edward potatoes, Cox's apples and fresh milk. What is the Common Market trying to do—starve us?

— Letter in the Daily Star

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds is delighted by the decision of Humberside County Council to pull out from a proposed scheme to dump colliery waste on the 887 acres at an estimated cost of £332 million. Under the plan, Yorkshire would have got rid of its waste and the estuary would have got new industrial land.

The Nature Conservancy Council intends to declare Pyewipe as a site of special scientific interest. The mudflats are already recognised as of international importance by the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, they were designated under the EEC wild birds directive as a special protection area.

— Guardian

According to Jo Parry Jones, who runs the Falconry Centre at Newent, Gloucestershire, West Germany has become the clearing house for smuggled birds of prey in Europe. 'It's a trade in all directions,' he says, 'with birds coming from Britain, Iceland and Scandinavia as well as the USA.'

Diplomatic pouches, suitcases with false bottoms and light aircraft are all used by the smugglers. Some smugglers even strap the eggs to their bodies. 'Nowadays you can steal a peregrine's egg in Scotland and fly to America where it can be incubated, reared and sold for a fat profit,' says Richard Porter, head of the species protection department of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

— Sunday Times

A notorious assault on European wine imports which has long had the common market threatening retaliation was carried out with a corkscrew instead of a bottle-smasher.

European imports, mainly from France and Italy, now take more than 25 per cent of the American wine market. This growing share, valued at some \$800m, clearly has a lot to do with the expensive dollar and a wine glut in Europe, which depresses prices.

— Economist

Labour Euro-MPs brought chaos to the European Parliament yesterday with a noisy demonstration on behalf of striking miners.

Pierre Pflimlin, President of the European Parliament, was unable to make himself heard above the uproar and ordered the Chamber to be cleared. The session was adjourned for half an hour.

— Daily Mail

Angry French trawlermen last weekend fired at two Milford Haven-registered ships with the decidedly un-British names of Boga and Sasoeta. The two vessels, which were fishing south of the Irish coast, are due to arrive in Spain this morning to unload their catch.

— Observer

Libyan leader Colonel Gaddafi is suing Italy over damages he says it caused during its occupation of his country from 1911 to 1940. One claim is for damage to the desert—caused by 2,000 miles of tarmac road.

— Daily Mirror

The European Community countries gave limited support to Britain in the UN General Assembly debate on the Falklands crisis by abstaining or an Argentine draft resolution calling for negotiations on sovereignty.

The vote of 89-9, with 54 abstentions, was similar to last year when 87 countries voted for the Argentine position.

Earlier there had been speculation that the EEC countries would abandon the British view by backing Argentina.

— Guard

WHAT'S IN THE PAPERS

Nearly 5,000 dairy farmers in England and Wales want to leave the industry because of the Common Market's imposition of milk quotas, the Ministry of Agriculture said yesterday.

Common Market farm ministers want to cut milk production to 1981 levels, and for Britain that means a drop in production of more than 6 per cent, or one million tonnes.

For many farmers the cut is even greater because they have been encouraged to increase herd size over the past few years.

— The Times

Four thousand tons of prime British beef is being stacked each week in cold stores—much to the anger of butchers.

Meat is being stripped from the bones and frozen into blocks so that more can be crammed into packed warehouses. This will end up as mince and manufactured meat products.

The frozen stocks are part of the 500,000 ton European meat mountain that has been diverted from the shops to prevent prices from falling.

— Sunday Express

Foreign students who try to claim supplementary benefit to finance their holidays in Britain are liable to be sent back home next summer.

Mr Alan Clark, Employment Under-Secretary, yesterday announced a Government crackdown on foreign scroungers, said mostly to be Italian students who have successfully collected up to £80 a week in social security payments while holidaying in Britain by claiming to be looking for work.

— Daily Telegraph

The Greek border police still require all 'foreign' passengers landing at Greek airports to present landing cards, including nationals of other member states.

Having successfully achieved the abolition of this requirement in all other Community countries, the Commission has asked the Greek Government to do the same. The Commission states that the 'procedure is following its course'.

— Kangaroo News