Opera Mundi EUROPE

A WEEKLY REPORT ON THE ECONOMY OF THE COMMON MARKET

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THE WEEK IN THE COMMUNITY

September 22 - September 28, 1969

GERMANY

Brandt Nearly Home

Although the West German elections are now over at long last, there is still likely to be uncertainty over major policy matters during the months ahead. It now looks as if the Social Democrats of Willy Brandt and Karl Schiller are near forming a coalition government with the Free Democrats of Walter Scheel. The likelihood of the Christian Democrats forming the opposition party in the Bundestag after twenty years in power will no doubt encourage them to use all the means at their disposal to win over the FPD. The proposal for a three-party coalition government, made by Chancellor Kiesinger, apart from being an unattractive idea for both of the other parties, would also mean that there would be no viable opposition party in the Bundestag.

The advent of a Social Democrat government in Bonn in alliance with a left of centre FPD will have an important influence on the development of the European political scene. Although in practice its approach to problems may not be all that different from the outgoing government, the underlying principles, especially in foreign affairs, should produce new orientations in German policy if the government is allowed to survive for a sufficient length of time. With regard to the question of British entry, both the SPD and the FPD would welcome this, especially with a Labour government in power. This factor should be borne in mind when considering the probable date of the forthcoming British general elections. If Mr. Wilson feels that negotiations can start with a reasonable chance of success at some time during the next nine months, then he may well delay the date of the general election, for the existence of a Social Democrat government in Germany should help to assuage some of the more virulent doubts in the Labour Party as to the political nature of the EEC member countries.

The relative smallness of an SPD/FPD majority over the CDU/CSU is not a real drawback to the formation of such a coalition government. Last week in an interview with an Italian paper, Herr Brandt said that a majority of between 13 and 30 seats would be sufficient for this purpose, which indicates that the actual figure of 12 is high enough, especially when one takes into account various parliamentary measures which can be used to boost this figure.

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Going for a Swim

Last week's decision by the outgoing Bonn government to close the foreign exchange markets, although regarded as slightly premature in some quarters, was hardly unexpected. But when on Monday, it announced that the DM would be allowed to float and find its own rate against the dollar, albeit for a temporary period this seemed to indicate that the long awaited revaluation of the German mark is now reasonably near, despite disavowals. Present evidence suggests that the new rate will be fixed in about three weeks time, when the DM will be formally revalued upwards, and in this context the new government should officially take over on October 21. The size of the revaluation is uncertain, and when it does take place it may well be larger than some observers expected, if a decision to abolish the import subsidies and export taxes is taken at the same time. Dr. Schiller will no doubt feel vindicated, but the overall economic competitiveness of West Germany will suffer to some extent. Although increased imports should help to limit price rises at home, the recent unrest amongst workers in Germany, and the wage increases which have been accepted by employers may limit the actual amount of the revaluation.

The introduction of the floating mark, only two months after the devaluation of the franc is a further blow to the Common Market's agricultural policy. Some change in the value in the mark had been expected in Brussels, but now three weeks will have to pass before its new value is firmly fixed. The German government has already held talks with the EEC Commission and the permanent representatives of the Six in Brussels. Furthermore Bonn has announced that import taxes, fixed weekly on the basis of the difference between the old official DM rate and an average of the new floating rate will be applied to EEC farm produce imports in order to protect German farmers. It has asked the Commission to approve this step, and it seems that it will have to do so. The Dutch, and some of the other EEC countries, also want a special meeting of the EEC Ministerial Council to discuss the new situation, similar to that after the franc devaluation, even though some German sources maintain this is not necessary as there has been no formal revaluation.

The implications of the German move for the future of the CAP are unmistakable. It means that within a two month period, the two leading EEC states have unilaterally changed their parity rates and imposed special measures in the agricultural sphere, thus upsetting the elaborately established structure of the common pricing system, and this will have a considerable influence during the negotiations for the renewal of the farm finance regulation.

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AGRICULTURE

The Italians' Beef

Italy has come into the news twice in the past week with regard to its fears for the national beef market. In the first place, the Italian farmers' association has expressed its misgivings about the Agricultural Council meeting on September 15, and the signs that agreement would soon be reached on the question of slaughtering premiums as an incentive to EEC dairy farmers to switch to beef production. What is feared is that such measures might have the unsought-for side effect of jeopardising the cattle sector in those member states, such as Italy, where it is weakest. Countries where diary production is already high and dairying generally a fairly efficient farming sector are in the best position to cope with any such measure, whereas those where dairy herding is very much a dubious activity already might find themselves facing the situation where large numbers of farmers would accept the premiums as an easy, once-for-all solution to their financial problems: kill off, and get out. The association is criticising the unfairness of the measure, and the fact that it would militate against the weaker dairying countries: the implication is that production would cease altogether, rather than switch from creamery products to meat, but in fact one suspects that here we have the sort of protest that will have to go unheeded if rationalisation on the lines proposed by Mansholt is to go ahead.

A day or so later, Mr. Grlikov, the vice-president of the Yugoslav Federal Executive Council, returned home from an official visit to Paris with what looked like assurances from French leaders that they were going to relax their position over opening up the EEC market to larger amounts of Yugoslav imports (see No 527), and specifically imports of beef to Italy, which last year took half of the country's EEC exports, and 14% of all its goods sold abroad. Even this, however, was 4% down on the 1967 figure, with the value of Italian imports reduced over the year from $ 225 million to $ 177 million. Mr. Grlikov maintained that MM. Pompidou and Chaban-Delmas have indicated that France will no longer block trade negotiations with Belgrade on the grounds that any agreement would constitute a breach of the C.E.T., and so leave the way open for other third countries, such as Argentina, to put the pressure on for more favourable trading arrangements. He said, "Paris is to submit a constructive proposal to the Six on the question of Yugoslav exports. We have received assurances that the proposals will meet our satisfaction". It remains to be seen, however, how far the Six are willing to go in opening up the Italian beef market to Yugoslav imports.

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Common Organisation of the Flax and Hemp Markets

The Commission has approved a proposal for a regulation to establish a common organisation of the market for flax and hemp.

Flax is grown in France, Belgium and the Netherlands. It is a declining industry: only about 700 retteries are still operating, compared with 3,000 ten years ago. At present, production in the member countries is given government support, and the Commission now proposes that this support be put on a Community basis. Similar proposals have been made for hemp, which is grown in Italy and France.

The Commission's proposals for Community support are modelled on the current arrangements for flax in the member countries, i.e. payment of a fixed sum (say, $ 100) per hectare cultivated. Financial assistance for storage would also be possible. Imports of flax and hemp outside the Community would remain unrestricted.

Together with a regulated market for linseed, on the pattern of the arrangements for rapeseed, the annual cost of the flax and hemp organisation would be $ 15 million.

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O.E.C.D.

Italian Capital Outflow Curb Urged

In its latest review of the Italian economy, the OECD states that during the past three years this has grown at a relatively high rate, although price increases have been moderate. Even so the rate of growth has not been sufficient to make reasonably full use of resources, nor provide adequate employment for all those leaving the land. In addition economic expansion has continued to depend significantly on a sizeable current external surplus, entailing a transfer of real resources abroad, largely to advanced industrial countries with considerably higher levels of income than Italy.

The interruption of the expansionary trend in 1967 and 1968 led to Government measures to restore the situation during the autumn of 1968, but even before these had begun to bite, the pace of economic activity rose appreciably in the latter part of the year, helped by the persistent strength of exports, a housebuilding boom and considerable restocking. In early 1969 there were further signs of a strengthening of expansionary trends: exports soared to record levels, while private consumption and productive investment also showed signs of acceleration. The coming months are likely to see continued rapid expansion, and if these prospects are confirmed, real GNP could rise by 7% over the next twelve months, although this could still leave significant slack in the economy.

Manpower reserves are ample and it seems unlikely that such a rate of expansion will lead to any generalized pressure on plant capacity. However, there is some risk of acceleration in price increases, not so much because of general demand pressure but rather due to possible cost-push elements. Wage increases in industry lagged behind the rise in output last year, but have tended to accelerate in recent months. Wage contracts come up for renewal in the near future, and if the present social climate were to be maintained with the possible large and sudden increases, there could be noticeable pressure on costs as a result.

The report states that taking into account the probable trend of world trade and allowing for a rather rapid increase in Italian imports, the current external surplus should diminish, but is likely to remain substantial next year. Indeed it seems probable that an acceleration of growth over several years will be required to bring the surplus down to a moderate size, as stipulated in the official balance of payments aims, although possible changes in the rather cyclical position of Italy with regard to her main export markets could produce temporary and sharp fluctuations of the current account.

The problem of the outflow of capital from Italy, which is "undesirable and may in the long term be unsustainable" is dealt with by the report. It says that the reasons for this situation, include differences between Italian interest rates and those abroad, as well as institutional deficiencies in the domestic capital market, and differences between fiscal legislation and other OECD countries. But given the present situation of the economy and the vast development needs of large areas of the country, this is "undesirable". It seems doubtful whether the restrictions imposed earlier this year to remedy the situation will have much effect on either the balance of payments or the finance of domestic investments, and they should be considered as temporary expedients. So long as interest rate differentials remain high, and domestic confidence factors are not particularly favourable, some considerable outflow of capital is likely to persist. Looking beyond the immediate difficulties it seems, says the report, important to correct as soon as possible the institutional and fiscal factors contributing to the outflow. Such action, together with the desirable reduction of the current surplus, would conduce to a more satisfactory structure of the Italian balance of payments.

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ENERGY

Economic and Social Committee Backs Commission

The Commission's draft proposals for the formulation of the C.E.P. - Common Energy Policy (see No 525) are now to be discussed by the Council in the latter half of November, but in the meantime the Economic and Social Committee (embracing delegates from industry, government and the unions) has given its blessing to the document.

Its only proviso is that further elucidation of certain of its ideas be offered by the Commission: on the basic premise, that there are dangerous discrepancies between the various energy sectors and the various member states, and on the broad lines of the Commission's conclusions, it is in complete agreement. Much of the E & S Committee's comment therefore necessarily takes the form of written "approving nods" to such objectives as assured supplies at optimal prices, long-term stability rather than short-term crash programmes, giving competition free rein in setting the pattern of the market, resorting to intervention only in specific cases, where the harmonious running of the sector demands it, and so on. What the Committee did stress was the present impracticability of setting about any sort of C.E.P. while the Six are still working under three separate treaties, and it is of prime importance that these be harmonised and merged as soon as possible.

The Committee also expressed its findings on the Commission's ill-starred report on nuclear energy policy, which again coincided with those of the Executive. Coordination or concertation were not the answer, for research work by the Six must not be merely harmonised but designed to result in commercial applications, and this entails a certain amount of pure research. The idea of using the Joint Research Centre for some non-nuclear activities, in order to ensure full exploitation of the abilities of its personnel was approved, as this would contribute to the formulation of a valid common policy in the science and technology sphere. Equally, the Committee endorsed the view that the establishment of a common nuclear market and the realisation of real cooperation between the nuclear industries of the Six were nowhere near achievement yet.

To the Commission's proposals, the Committee added its opinion that the idea of setting up a development aid fund for the nuclear industry in the Six was all very well, but that this should be split into two sections: the first should have the function of a guarantee fund, and the second part should be the development fund as such. The Committee agreed with the scientific and technical committee that it was right for the Commission to pursue with all urgency the establishment of the Community's own nuclear fuel isotopic separation plant.

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E.C.S.C.

Consultative Committee Studies Situation

The Consultative Committee of the ECSC has in hand the examination of the Community coal and steel markets and the state of the economy in relation to these two sectors. There was no questioning the fact that the steel market has reached a very tense situation, but the producers' spokesmen on the Committee did not agree that the Commission's latest fringe measures to alleviate the situation, in the form of suspended duties on certain types of steel in short supply, would solve the problem (see No 531). As far as coal was concerned, the meeting agreed that the stabilisation of Community production, coupled with continuing efforts to reduce pithead stocks, has now reached a point where it could safely be said that structural or contingency stock formation has ceased. Indeed, demand for solid fuels is so consistent, and so well bolstered by the healthy condition of most industrial sectors, especially steel, that a certain increase in imports of coal products from third countries will be needed. It would not be true to say that the situation that has arisen in some member states in the coke sector, however, is one of shortage as such. This is what the Commission maintains, and it is soon to forward its new proposals for aid for coking coal and furnace coke destined for consumption by the ECSC steel industry. The new proposals, like existing arrangements, are designed to ensure that Community coalpits can offer their coking fines to the steel industry at world prices. The Commission has in mind two types of aid: one form for producers, and the other to cover part of the transport expenses incurred when fuel has to be transferred from producers to consumers some distance removed within the Community.

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BRITAIN AND EUROPE

EEC Entry: Fighting Words from Wilson

So Mr Wilson has relented and now feels that it is possible to prepare new estimates of the cost of joining the Common Market for Britain. In his speech on Tuesday of this week to the Labour Party conference he said that instructions had been sent "weeks ago" to this effect. Yet on June 22, the Foreign Secretary, Mr Michael Stewart, in trying to ward off attacks from anti-marketeers who were calling for revised estimates, said "it would be doing a disservice to try and give a detailed calculation of the effects of all the factors that would be operating on the balance of payments in the first few years after our entry". Obviously Mr Wilson was trying to defuse the efforts of the anti-EEC entry lobby before the main debate on the subject on Thursday, and it may well be that the new estimates and assessments will make it clearer than before that the long-term cost of staying out would be distinctly difficult to bear.

As the Prime Minister made clear a lot of water has flowed under the bridge since Britain's application was made in 1967, and "that before any decision can be taken Parliament and the people have to be given the full facts". This would mean publishing these revised estimates, probably later this winter. However, Mr Wilson seemed to assume that these would not alter the need to start talks, for if "the Six are ready for negotiations we are ready. If in these negotiations we achieve terms satisfactory for Britain on the lines we have outlined, then the negotiations will succeed."

Stressing Britain's apparent new found economic strength, the Prime Minister went on "But unlike the situation in 1961 we no longer face the challenge of Europe cap-in-hand. Europe needs us just as much, and many would say more, than we need Europe. It is the oommon interest of all of us to achieve economic unity. But if this cannot be achieved we can stand on our own feet - at a heavy price for Britain, no doubt, but at a heavier price for Europe and at a devastating price for Europe's influence in the world."

Earlier in his speech Mr Wilson attacked the Leader of the Opposition for his remarks in Sheffield last Wednesday, when he had said that he did not think anything would happen quickly about Britain joining the EEC, as the Six had problems of their own to resolve. Mr Heath stressed that the British people should be given every scrap of information and although saying that "Europe ought to be able to assert its own voice in world affairs" he did not believe that this meant a federal system. Replying to those who feared a loss of sovereignty or independence, Mr Heath made it quite clear that neither the Germans, Dutch or French had lost their independence, "but what appals me is the attitude of those who believe that we are unable to hold our own if we work in partnership with other people." Mr Heath wanted to know who would be responsible for £3,000 millions' worth of debt and said that this would have to be worked out.

The attitudes taken by both British party leaders reflects the need to satisfy the various sections of opinion in Europe and Britain. With the possibility of a general election in the near future, both parties will discuss Europe in terms which are aimed at satisfying as many voters as possible. This will however cause both parties to appear somewhat lukewarm and they will have to act with a great deal of care if the doubts about "perfidious Albion" and Britain adopting a Gaullist stance if she joins the Community are not to be revived or given fresh credence.

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TECHNOLOGY

EED To Back Videotape Recorders

The Luxembourg investment company, European Enterprises Development (see Euroflash, No 519), which was formed with multi-national backing to sponsor companies pioneering new technologies, is to subscribe to an Sf 3.2 million loan being floated by the Lausanne publishing group Editions Rencontre (see No 509), the purpose of which is to fund its expansion into the audio-visual systems and TV films sector. In particular, this will carry it into the realm of EVRs - electronic videotape recordings. E.E.D. will eventually acquire a minority holding in the Swiss firm, and immediately the move will include the seconding to the board of Rencontre of M. Jean Gueroult, director general of E.E.D.

As far as Rencontre itself is concerned, the issue will entail the raising of its capital to Sf 16.88 million, although it was only recently that this was doubled from Sf 8 million, when the Canadian Musexport Ltd, which has a branch in Geneva, became a minority shareholder (after converting an Sf 1.2 million convertible loan contracted in 1967). The Italian group Arnoldo Mondadori Editore also has a minority stake. Rencontre's immediate plan is to form a new company, which will have two main objectives in its terms of reference: production of scientific, educational and cultural TV films, and marketing the cassettes and teleplayers that constitute the stock-in-trade of the EVR system - properly, Electronic Video Recording and Reproduction - the exploitation of which was taken in hand with the formation of the study consortium, EVR Partnership, wherein the Swiss group is linked with CIBA AG, Basel; the Columbia Broadcasting System, New York, and I.C.I.

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AEROSPACE

Panther Shapes Up

The leading West German aerospace group Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm GmbH, Ottobrunn, has raised its stake in the multi-national Panavia Aircraft GmbH, Munich (capital Dm 120,000) from 33.3% to 50% following the withdrawal of the Dutch group NV Kon Ned Fliegtuigenfabriek Fokker, Amsterdam. The latter had a 16.6% stake, but had to withdraw as the Dutch government no longer considers that on a price-performance basis the MRCA or Panther (swing-wing attack and reconnaissance aircraft) to be built by Panavia is suitable for its needs.

The British Aircraft Corporation keeps its 33.3% interest in Panavia, while Fiat of Turin also continues to hold its original 16.6% stake. The MRCA, with around 1,200 on order for the West German, British and Italian airforces, is due to come into service around 1975-1976. It will be powered by a Rolls-Royce engine, the RB-199, which is related to the RB 211 used in the Lockheed Tristar airbus. Rolls-Royce has design leadership with a 32% stake, with Motoren & Turbinen Union, West Germany, having 52% and the aero-engine division of Fiat a 16% share.

The Electronique Marcel Dassault division of the Dassault Aerospace group has now opened a London office under Messrs Andrew Jones, G.V. Baker and J. Tye. It has been suggested that a reconnaissance and attack radar system developed by the French firm could be used in the Panther, a move which could save considerable R & D costs. A decision to use this system would be in line with current thinking in the Ministry of Technology, whereby British firms should try and cooperate to a greater extent with their French counterparts to prevent outright US domination of the European market for avionic equipment and systems.

VIEWPOINT

Current Trends in the Yugoslav Economy

by Albert Masnata, Lausanne

It is perhaps the change in atmosphere that most strikes an outsider returning to Yugoslavia after an absence of some years. The country has certainly not veered away from the socialist system in running its economy, any more than it has departed from the single-party system in politics, but for all that the reforms instituted by the seventh Congress of the League of Yugoslav Communists, and written into the constitution in 1963 have had the most momentous effects both within and outside the country, especially since the back-up measures brought in in 1965. One can discern the original essence of Yugoslav Socialism both in doctrinal principles and in its more practical manifestations. It is for the most part a Marxist form, at times indeed drawing upon Lenin as well, but the theoretical and practical conclusions to which it conduces are no longer identifiable with those observed in the Soviet Union.

One proposition, therefore, is that since the social revolution has been accomplished and the economic regime changed, historical materialism no longer necessarily precludes the recognition of the rights of the individual before society, that is, his total subjugation to it. Such a theoretical turn has led logically to the system of self-administering companies, which is diametrically opposed to bureaucratic socialism, wherein the capitalist employer is replaced by the State.

Under the present Yugoslav system, each undertaking or "economic organisation" as it is called, as it were runs itself through the agency of workers from all levels. Since 1965 especially, this means that economic and commercial reality comes first within companies; not that their social function is forgotten, nor for that matter their obligations to the socialist State, which is pursuing its decentralised planning policy. Indeed, it would be difficult for such an omission to occur, since all companies receive their initial injection of capital, directly or indirectly, from the State. This done, however, they have subsequently to seek working capital or the funding of new investments primarily from the banks, which again are "autonomous", and equally must do all they can to enhance their own self-financing capabilities.

Over and above all this, however, we have the fact that the exigencies of a competitive market are now at work again, and that this radical factor colours both domestic and foreign transactions, chiefly by influencing prices. These are now determined by competition, and no longer by the State, which has dropped back into a supervisory role, apart from its function as the authority for establishing norms for basic products. This is the context within which "economic organisations" running their own affairs have to keep their finances on an even keel: good administration is the key not only to profitability, but also and especially to the level of pay that they can guarantee for their workers, and the amounts of social benefits they can offer to them, over and above social security from the State. It follows that there can be wide fluctuations in the share of the "net social product" accruing to workers between one company or one sector and another, a fact which of course has economic and sociological repercussions.

Not that Yugoslavia is fostering any return to a liberal economy, for it is still an article of faith that "planning is the linchpin of social work in socialism". Such planning may no longer be centralised along Soviet lines, what with the executive power delegated to the six Federated Republics on the one hand, and the amount of initiative left in the hands of companies on the other, but it is nevertheless essential. This is why the Federal State, the Federated Republics and even local communities invest in ventures that could not get started without their assistance, or move in and take under arbitrary control, during emergency periods, companies that are suffering difficulties. The chief means of public intervention are monetary policy and credit, which are supervised and ordered by the "People's Bank", the Narodna Banka F.N.R.J., second to which comes foreign exchange appropriations and control of external trade.

The reforms written into the constitution in 1963 were fulfilled two years later when measures were taken to position the country more squarely on the international economic circuit. The first of the measures, dubbed a "surgical" one, took the shape of monetary reform, setting up a system of payments with other countries, albeit a controlled system, but for all that more akin to operations based on a convertible currency. Multiple exchange rates were replaced by the single parity of 12.5 new Dinars against the dollar, which equated to a 65% devaluation of the national currency. As far as trade policy was concerned, customs duties were dropped on average from 23% to 11%. Subsequently, in 1967, quota restrictions on foreign trade were relaxed considerably: over 40% of imports have now been freed from quantitative limitation, while a certain amount of other merchandise is subject only to a blanket quota system. Furthermore, the centralised trading organisations, which but lately had external trade as their own special oyster, have now lost their monopoly, and now all undertakings are more or less free to transact foreign business, such that external trade is as it were blossoming spontaneously.

Of course, the short-term effect of relaxing the foreign payments system has been to throw the trade balance into deficit, and this constitutes a potential danger for the balance of payments, so that the National Bank, which holds the strings on both credit and currency, is having to maintain strict vigilance. The way chosen of preventing any deficit in the balance of trade was to suppress direct export rebates, and institute an aid system, the basis of which is the granting of sums of foreign currency to companies for purposes of purchasing import goods, only where these are offset by corresponding takings of foreign currency by these firms against their exports. This approach has proved especially effective in arrangements made with foreign investors forming associations with nationals, or setting up mixed companies.

Foreign investments are in fact one of the new factors brought into play that has enabled Yugoslavia to cull out its rightful place on the world trading scene, on both the commercial and the financial markets. In mixed-nationality companies, most of the capital has to be Yugoslav, but guarantees are given - and indeed these were reinforced recently - to the effect that profits accruing to the foreign investor may be transferred in cash. This provision has been brought in mainly to attract fresh techniques and to boost productivity, the level of which still leaves something to be desired. One need hardly point out that by improving the quality and quantity of industrial products, in particular those deriving from home-produced raw materials, the potential volume of exportable goods rises accordingly. Exports at present account for something like 20% of the national income, but the rate of growth anticipated should bring this up to 30 - 35%.

The linking of Yugoslav and foreign interests does not stop at home, moreover, but can now be traced to companies based on foreign soil both in the East and the West, and active in both manufacturing and trading. At the beginning of this year, there were something like 300 such companies operating both in and outside Yugoslavia, 80% of which were joint enterprises with capitalist interests in the West. We have a rather different picture when it comes to trade with the developing countries and with Comecon members. In the latter case especially, Yugoslavia enjoys a surplus trading position, but settlement of accounts presents a headache: efforts are therefore in hand to get the principle of settlements in convertible currency accepted.

A vital factor in Yugoslavia's balance of payments situation is tourism, the development of which is pursued with avidity. Also an important element in the pattern of Yugoslav "invisibles" is the fact that there are 400,000 nationals working in Western states. Pay sent home by these, plus income from such services as transport, bank credit and so on are all important counterweights to the deficit in the balance of trade with convertible-currency countries.

A point that should be made is that, once the worst of the aftermath of war had been overcome, and even before the reforms were brought in that so radically altered the Soviet system that was originally adopted, Yugoslavia had, for better or for worse, launched herself into economic development. The reforms came only as boosters, albeit vital ones. As far as basic structures are concerned, we should note two major facts: the much increased role of industry, as against agriculture, in the formation of the national income, and a much improved standard of living.

Indicative of this is that fact that in 1948 the proportion of the active population engaged in agriculture was about 70%, whereas at the present time this has fallen to less than 50%, thus effectively raising the share of the processing industries in the production of national income from 15% to 36%. The natural result has been an appreciable rise in living standards: witness rises in per capita consumption of electricity, footwear, sugar, domestic appliances etc. Before the war, an average Yugoslav would have to work 562 hours to raise the cash to buy a radio set - it now takes him only 95; similarly, to purchase a pair of shoes, 17 hours' work is now sufficient, compared with 44 thirty years ago.

Another sign is the marked increase in personal and institutional savings that has been recorded in the past two decades, although here we have still a long way to go, despite the impulse provided by new economic measures, the effects of which can be traced back to the early sixties. Private savings in fact seem to increase at a rate proportionately higher than that recorded for company savings, although the latter are essential to the self-financing about which we hear so much. Rates of interest paid to depositors are in fact very high, as are those applied to trade credit (8-12%).

A prime target for those picking holes in the running of the economy is the the banks, which the critics claim fail adequately to mobilise potential resources amongst the people and inside some companies, and so contribute less than they should to industrial growth through providing sufficient credit. The fact is that the National Bank, which is thus the main source of credit, refuses to jeopardise the stability of the dinar by inflationary measures. This still leaves us with the Federal State, the Federated Republics and local communities, but as investors they have had their wings clipped, both in principle and in fact. Moreover, it falls to these public institutions to use up much of their potential for financing the economy on production that is both unprofitable and indispensable, in particular the industrialisation of under-developed areas.

This of course is a vital function in a federal nation that takes in elements of widely varying degrees of development, and these institutions have - perhaps to an unwarranted extent - to take upon themselves the financial burden of companies in difficulty. With such financial worries as these present, it is hardly surprising that World Bank advances, IMF credits and even loans from private banks should be so welcome, for they can be accepted in the same way as foreign capital invested in manufacturing companies.

The self-administrating system for companies, coupled with the play of the market, and open to the influence of factors both domestic and external, can hardly fail to have its concommitant problems. This is why tensions are set up when the financial results of various companies become disparate, and why there are resultant effects on workers' incomes. It also explains why price trends influence both the profitability of companies, and the standard of living and savings potential. Yugoslavia is not spared the vicissitudes of a fluctuating economy, in fact, any more than is the Soviet Union, despite the fact that it still adheres to the Collectivist system and to centralised planning. But all this is perfectly normal. The acid test is whether in the long run the ordering of the economy and the mechanisms introduced into its running will ensure steady expansion. Its growth curve may have some alarming kinks in it, but there seems little doubt that, all things being equal, Yugoslavia has evolved a system that is providing it with a better growth record than the Comecon countries can boast.

This relative superiority and Yugoslav foreign trade policy are certainly not unconnected. Unlike most of the socialist states, Yugoslavia imports not only capital goods, but large quantities of manufactured consumer goods. Also, it exports much agricultural produce, and this indeed is the life-blood of its external trade, but in addition, it is making every effort to push up exports of industrial goods, especially to convertible currency markets. It we take 1968, the last year for which we have complete figures, we find that the convertible currency countries took some $692 million worth of merchandise, or 55% of all Yugoslav exports. Conversely, they pumped something like $1,129 million of goods into the country, or 64.6% of all its imports. This gave a deficit of $437 million, which in fact seems to have been covered by invisibles. Such a balance is obviously unstable, since invisibles consist essentially of tourism (about 30%), and the repatriated income of migrant workers (also 30%). Against this knowledge, it is only natural that Yugoslavs should be much concerned about their trade with Western Europe (and indeed with Japan). Trade with the U.S.A. in fact tends to stay almost in balance.

The EEC comes top of the list for volume of trade transacted by Yugoslavia with the convertible currency nations: with 28% of its exports destined for the Six, and 39% of imports originating in the Common Market (see No 527). It is Yugoslavia's firm intent somehow to close the gap, which was $348 million in 1968, by sales of farm produce (livestock, beef, maize, tobacco and fruit, especially), which is perhaps anything but the easiest way of going about settling the problem. EFTA comes second on the list of trade deficit partners, accounting for 12.7% of the country's exports, and 14.1% of its imports. Exports last year to the Free Trade Area amounted to $159.7 million, giving a deficit in the trade balance of some $92.3 million. Here however, we should bear in mind that we have a global figure: the deficit is worse with some countries like Austria and Switzerland, while there are other members of EFTA with which it enjoys almost balanced trade, and with invisibles included the occasional surplus.

Not only because of changes within, but also through the evidence of its participation in such international organisms as G.A.T.T. and the I.M.F., Yugoslavia can clearly be identified as a socialist country that, by reshaping its monetary system and modifying its external terms of trade, is seeking ever fuller involvement in international trade ordered by the principles of multilateralism. Its first objective is to establish bridgeheads in the industrialised countries. Its ability to do so is undermined by its refusal to depart from the fundamental principles of collectivist socialism, even though these take very different forms from those obtaining in fellow communist states. Hence the imbalances and paradoxes that have beset the country: the present approach is for the State, in one guise or another, to intervene and direct wherever the free play of competition between self-administrating companies does not field the anticipated results. When it comes to external trade and investments, there are persistant deficits to contend with, and these could in the long run militate in favour of a return to more stringent government action, both at home and abroad.

This begs the question: would it not behove the countries of the West to think more earnestly about the problems Yugoslavia faces in externalising her economy? A fair number of individual companies from these countries have already pondered this point, and translated their conclusions into influxes of capital and know-how, leaven that will enable Yugoslavia to develop home production for both the domestic and external markets. A whole stream of potential helpers has now examined Yugoslavia, and amongst the latest comers last June was a delegation of French industrialists, bankers and traders, who assessed for themselves how the problems might be overcome through private initiative.

The need for such moves on the part of the private sector cannot be disputed, but this should not prevent the governments themselves in Western countries from owning the fact that it falls to the proper authorities to play their part in fostering the development of a far more balanced trade pattern than has been achieved to date. It is in fact right that, because she forms part of Europe, Yugoslavia should be refused those advantages that have been, or are about to be accorded to developing countries overseas. More to the point, Yugoslavia belongs to the Eastern half of Europe, the very area that the West is finding it so hard to edge from old bilateral trading habits into multilateral arrangements. The Yugoslav system is that of socialism opened up to the outside world, and the West would do well to help ensure the success of the economic experiment in Yugoslavia.

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ADVERTISING

** The British group HAMILL TOMS LTD, Cheltenham, Glos (mainly capital goods manufacturers' accounts - see No 524) has set up a Belgian agency under the name HAMILL TOMS SA, with Bf 1 million capital, Sidney B. Hamill as president, and MM R.Soyeur and J. Martlew as directors. The parent company recently acquired a direct interest at St-Gilles, Brussels, with the formation of the promotion subsidiary Hamill Toms Public Relations SA (capital Bf 500,000) and it has long held a major stake in the Plus SA, Ixelles agency (see No 420).

AUTOMOBILES

** The Munich B.M.W. group - BAYERISCHE MOTOREN WERKE AG (see No 474) has formed a car-renting concern in Munich named B.M.W. AUTOVERMIETUNG GmbH, the Dm 1.5 million capital of which it shares 50-50 with its own main (40% app.) shareholder, Herr Herbert Quandt. B.M.W. produces over 110,000 vehicles a year, and last year turned over Dm 1,030 million consolidated.

BUILDING AND CIVIL ENGINEERING

** The Dutch mortgage company FRIESCH-GRONINGSCHE HYPOTHEEKBANK NV, Groningen (see No 531) has sponsored and given one-third backing to the formation of a building and property administration concern named G.B.F. BOUW- & EXPLOITATIE-MIJ NV, Rijswijk (authorised capital Fl 1.5m - 20% paid up). In the venture, it is linked with its civil engineering offshoot, GEBAM AANEMINGMIJ NV, an indirect subsidiary through Gemeenschappelijk Eigendom Mij Tot Exploitatie Van Woom- & Winkelhuisen NV, The Hague, also holding one-third of the equity, and with a number of other Dutch investors, their stakes being handled directly by Mr A. Buys Sr of Voorburg.

** The Rome cement group CEMENTIR - CEMENTERIE DEL TIRENNO SpA (see No 524), a member of the public I.R.I. group - ISTITUTO PER LA RICOSTRUZIONE INDUSTRIALE SpA, Rome, has sold its stake in the Spanish CEMENTOS DEL MAR SA, Alcanar, Tarragona (see No 353) to the Valencia group VALENCIANA DE CEMENTOS PORTLAND SA.

** COGETOM Sarl has just been formed in Paris for property deals with F 100,000 capital and M. Louis Berliat as manager. The venture has the backing of six French companies, with the largest stake, of 20%, held by the Paris CIME group - CONSORTIUM IMMOBILIER EUROPEEN. Stakes of 17.5% each are held by BANQUE DE L'UNION PARISIENNE C.F.C.B. SA, Paris (see No 530); BANQUE WORMS & CIE SA, Paris (see Transport and No 518); BANQUE COMMERCIALE DE PARIS SA (see No 503); and the CIE FINANCIERE DE L'UNION EUROPEENNE SA, holding company of the group Banque de l'Union Europeenne Industrielle & Financiere SA (see No 508). A 10% holding is retained by the STE D'ETUDES DE LA TOUR MAINE-MONTPARNASSE SA, Paris (see No 385).

CHEMICALS

** The CELANESE CORP, New York (see No 524) has sold its 50% stake in the Dutch petrochemical company KONAM NV, Hengelo (see No 388) to its partner in this 50-50 venture, KON ZOUT-ORGANON, Arnhem (see No 530 and "Paper and Packaging"). This move has been ma de as the result of the latter's merger with the AKU NV group of Arnhem, which has a major subsidiary in the United States, the AMERICAN ENKA CORP, Ashville, North Carolina (see No 323), as Celanese might have run into trouble from American trust laws.

Konam was formed in 1964 and has a capital of Fl 126 million. It will continue to use Celanese licences, and controls important manufacturing facilities in Rotterdam's Europort (methanol - 70,000 tpa capacity; acetic acid - 45,000 tpa capacity; butanol - 30,000 tpa capacity; formaldehyde - 25,000 tpa capacity). Its output of butanol is destined for its 80% subsidiary Frankonam, in which its partners are Ste de Produits Chimiques Courrieres-Kuhlmann SA, Paris (see No 388), itself a 50-50 subsidiary of Ugine-Kuhlmann SA (see No 531) and Houilleres Du Bassin & Du Pas-de-Calàis SA, Douai (part of the Charbonnages de France state group - see No 508).

Kon. Zout-Organon has also gained control of the American salt group International Salt Co, Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania (interests in the USA and the Dutch Antilles) as the result of a takeover bid.

** STE DES PEINTURES H. LAPPARTIENT-STEREN SA, Neuilly, Hauts-de-Seine (see No 503) and the American CARBOLINE CO, St. Louis, Missouri (see No 499) have extended their association (see No 459), covering France and the Netherlands, to Spain, with their joint backing of the new CARBOLINE-LAPPARTIENT IBERICA SA, Madrid, which will produce some 3,000 tons p.a. of anti-corrosion coatings. They are joined in the venture by the local concern LITOLUX SA.

The Dutch and American companies are also linked share-for-share with the Dutch NV Vernis- & Verffabriek v/h Vettewinkel & Zonen, Amsterdam (see No 529), which was recently taken over by the Uithoorn holding company International Coating Materials (ICM) NV, in the Amsterdam concern Carboline Holland NV, which is headed by M. Jacques Lappartient. He also manages the Neuilly subsidiary of the St Louis company, Carboline Europa Sarl, the special anti-corrosive products of which are produced under licence by Lappartient-Steren in its Lorient plant.

** NOURY-MELLE NV has been formed at Deventer with Fl 30,000 capital (20% paid up), as the joint subsidiary planned in January 1968 as the vehicle for the pooling of citric acid production by KON INDUSTRIEELE MIJ v/h NOURY & VAN DER LANDE NV, Deventer (see Nos 446 and 492) and the French MELLE-BEZONS SA, Paris (see No 466). The former is the majority partner, with a stake of about two-thirds.

Noury & Van Der Lande is a member of the Arnhem group KON ZOUT-ORGANON NV (see No 530), itself now concentrating with the AKU-GLANZSTOFF group, which company will remain thereafter, under the new style, A.K.Z.O.. Melle-Bezons is a subsidiary of PRODUITS CHIMIQUES PECHINEY-ST-GOBAIN SA, Neuilly, Hauts-de-Seine (see No 528).

** The Dutch concern TECHVERO-HOLLAND NV, Amersfoort has made into a subsidiary called VULKOPRIN-HOLLAND NV (capital Fl 250,000) the branch it had in Amersfoort bearing the same name. This was engaged in importing and exporting and selling "Vulkollan" equipment (conveyor belts) made under licence from the West German group, Farbenfabriken Bayer AG, Leverkusen (see No 527).

** The German detergents and other chemical products firm W. KRONWITTER oHG, Günburg, Donau, has formed a Strasbourg sales subsidiary named W.K. FRANCE, with F 20,000 capital. This is managed by Herr Wolfram and Fraulein Liselotte Kronwitter, who also direct the Swiss Kronwitter AG, Zug, formed in July of last year with Sf 50,000 capital.

** The Paris L'AIR LIQUIDE SA group (see No 518) has expanded its range of production in the Netherlands, hitherto based mainly on special gases, argon, welding equipment etc, by having its Rotterdam subsidiary L'AIR LIQUIDE NEDERLAND NV (capital Fl 300,000) take over two companies in Alblasserdam, NV ZUURSTOFFABRIEK DE ALBIAS and NV DE GRAAFSTROOM, ACETYLEEN-DISSOUS-FABRIEK, which between them employ about 100 people in the production and distribution of oxygen, acetylene and nitrogen.

** The Belgian LOVANYL Pvba, Antwerp, headed by M. Gerrit Jan Lovink, has made its Haarlem machinery and chemical products trading branch (chiefly sanitation and disinfection applications) a subsidiary named LOVANYL (HOLLAND) NV, having Fl 100,000 capital, 35% paid up.

** The Müllheim concern BRENNTAG GmbH (see No 482), subsidiary of the HUGO STINNES AG group of that city (see No 527) has formed a 60% Milan subsidiary named SOCHITAL SpA, with Lire 40 million authorised capital and Herr Heinz Bohlen as president. It is directed by Sigs B. Tanzini and E. Rastelli, who run the Milan concern PERAS Sas, which holds the balance of the capital.

** STE NOUVELLE PETROLE & AFFRETEMENT, Paris member of the London HUNTING GROUP OF COS (see No 416), has formed INTERCONTINENTAL CHIMIE SA at its own offices with F 120,000 capital and M. Kreiss as president, to trade in and transport liquid and gas chemical products, its markets being Europe, Latin America, the United States and Japan.

** The American special ceramic products concern CERAMTEK LTD, Wilmington, Delaware, an associate of COMBUSTION ENGINEERING INC, Windsor, Connecticut and New York (see No 517), in particular through common directors, has formed a branch in Liege under Mr Maurice G. Alexander.

Combustion Engineering, which has widespread European interests, mainly through its RAMTITE division (refractories for heating, refrigeration and steelworks) and THE LUMMUS CO (plant for the oil, gas and chemical industries), recently joined the Swedish Uddeholm A/B, Uddeholm, each with a 25% stake, in form Uddcomb Sweden A/B, to produce and sell nuclear reactor parts and other special equipment, being linked in this venture with the Swedish State.

** FARBENFABRIKEN BAYER AG, Leverkusen (see No 518) has formed a sales subsidiary in Dublin under the name BAYER IRELAND LTD to ènsure the group's participation in the growing market for chemicals in the Republic. Bayer has until now had its Irish interests handled by the Dublin agent, JOHN McWADE & CO LTD.

** FABRIEK VAN CHEMISCHE PRODUKTEN VONDELINGENPLAAT NV, Rotterdam subsidiary of the Philadelphia group PENNSALT CORP (formerly the Pennsalt Chemicals Corp - see No 503) has taken over the metal surface treatments concern CORROSIE CHEMIE NV, The Hague. Vondelingenplaat, which produces colourants and chemical products for industry, distributes in West Germany through the subsidiary of its parent company, Pennsalt Chemicals GmbH, Lüdenscheid, and in France through the affiliate Produits Chimiques Pennsalt Landy SA, Chatou, Yvelines (formerly Matieres Colorantes du Landy SA, Paris).

** The West German company ROEHM & HAAS GmbH, Darmstadt (see No 493) which is already represented in France by Produits Chimiques De La Seine has taken a 33.4% stake in the formation of STE DE REPRESENTATION D'ADDITIFS & DE LUBRIFIANTS - SORAL SA (capital F 100,000) in association with M. Pierre Lechevallier (33.4%) and Jean-Claude Mercier (33.2%). With a capital of Dm 40 million (over 50% controlled by the Röhm family) the West German concern is expanding a wide range of products (plastics including "Plexiglas") textile and leather treatment products, detergents and pharmaceutical products.

CONSUMER GOODS

** The West German manufacturer of ladies' shoes B. & J. GABOR GmbH & CO KG, Rosenheim, has formed a subsidiary in Strasbourg called GABOR FRANCE Sarl (capital F 100,000). Owned by the Gabor family, the founder which has some 800 persons had a turnover of some Dm 40 million. Its foreign interests include a Swiss holding company, Gaby Schuh AG, Zug (capital Sf 100,000) and a sales company Gabor Vertriebs GmbH (Sf 200,000). There is also a subsidiary bearing its name in Austria.

** The American leather goods firm DOFAN HANDBAG CO INC, New York (no longer linked with its former parent company DOFAN SA, Paris - see No 402) has formed a Paris sales subsidiary called BERNELLE FRANCE Sarl (capital F 150,000). The manager of the new company is M. Bernard Grosz.

** The West German manufacturer of domestic applicances ROBERT KRUPS ELECTROGERAETE- & WAAGENFABRIEK oHG, Solingen-Wald (see No 503) has formed a Swiss subsidiary called KRUPS HANDELS AG, Lausen (capital Sf 100,000) with Herr Karl Körner as president. The founder's foreign network includes its affiliates and subsidiaries in Gennevilliers, Hauts-de-Seine; Schaerbeek-Brussels; Milan; and Limerick, Ireland.

DATA PROCESSING

** The American APPLIED MAGNETICS CORP, Goleta, California (magnetic heads for recording and memory systems, geophysical instruments etc - see No 413) has formed a sales and manufacturing subsidiary at Beerse in Belgium named APPLIED MAGNETICS BELGIUM NV. This has Bf 5 million capital, partly paid up in kind, and Messrs Harold R. Frank and Roger J. Paureys as joint presidents.

** The Luxembourg holding company C.A.P. EUROPE SA (see No 521), joint subsidiary of the associates, CENTRE D'ANALYSE & DE PROGRAMMATION SA, Paris, and COMPUTER ANALYSTS & PROGRAMMERS LTD, London, has now formally established its Brussels software subsidiary CAP EUROPE OPERATION SA, (capital Bf 200,000), the initial directors of which are MM. Ph. Dreyfus, A. d'Agapeyeff and B. Asscher.

** The Cologne NIXDORF COMPUTER AG group (office calculators - see No 531) has extended its interests to Switzerland by gaining control of BOG-BINGGELI & CIE AG, Berne, formed in March 1958. This has had its capital raised from Sf 300,000 to Sf 2.5 million and been renamed NIXDORF COMPUTER AG. There are branches in Basle, Lausanne and Zurich.

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

** The New York group WESTINGHOUSE ELECTRIC CO (see No 530), in order to organise and coordinate the business of the fifteen or so heavy electrical equipment subsidiaries and affiliates it operates in Europe (France - 4; West Germany - 2; Italy - 2; etc), has formed an administration subsidiary in The Hague under the name of WESTINGHOUSE ELECTRIC EUROPE NV, with Fl 10,000 capital.

This is under the direct control of WESTINGHOUSE WORLD CORP, Wilmington, Delaware, having M. Louis Armand of Paris as president, with Messrs E.M. Enschede and P.C. de Graauw of The Hague as directors.

** The French electrical equipment firm ETS LEGRAND SA, Limoges, Haute Vienne (see No 513) intends to absorb MITTON & CIE SA, Paris. This makes cabinets and metal units used with electric control equipment, and with some 200 employees had a 1968 turnover of F 10 million after tax.

** DAIMLER-BENZ AG, Stuttgart-Untertürkheim (see No 527) has purchased a holding in TECHNIQUES ELECTRIQUES JARRET SA, Paris (see No 407), as part of an industrial cooperation agreement with the same.

The French company was formed in 1967 for development work on electrically powered vehicles (capital F 8m), and its main shareholders are MM. Jean and Jacques Jarret, with stakes held by a number of industrial firms: La Telemecanique Electrique SA; Jeumont-Schneider SA, Ets Brissonneau & Lotz SA (2% each); Leroy-Somer SA, Ste de Pompes Guinard SA (1%), etc.

** The British group WESTINGHOUSE BRAKE & SIGNAL CO LTD (see No 460) which has had a Berlin sales subsidiary bearing its name since 1966, has now formed a 75% French subsidiary called WESTINGRED SA (capital F 100,000) in which the balance is held by SA D'ELECTROTECHNIQUE & D'ELECTRONIQUE, Nanterre, on whose premises the new concern will be based.

The President is Mr. P.J.H. Gunton and it will import and market electrical and electronic equipment using redressers, static alternators and semi-conductors for electrical equipment.

** NAAFEXCO SA, Hergiswil, Nidwalden (formed this year - capital Sf 50,000), which imports and trades in sound reproduction equipment, record players and musical instruments has now formed a subsidiary in Frankfurt. This is called NAAFEXCO MUSIKGERAETE GROSSHANDELS GmbH (capital Dm 20,000), whose manager is Herr Hans Meyerhoff, its own president.

** The British manufacturer of electrical floor smoothing, sanding and maintenance equipment COLOMBUS DIXON LTD, Wembley, Middlesex ("Col-Dix") has opened a Milan branch under M. Aristide Pasqua to its sales subsidiary COLOMBUS DIXON INTERNATIONAL LTD, Wembley.

ELECTRONICS

** The West German ministry of posts has sponsored the formation of a special company named DEUTSCHE DATEL GmbH, Munich, to supervise the modernising of postal systems and the application thereto of data processing techniques. This has Dm 3 million capital, shared equally between DEUTSCHE BUNDESPOST and the electrical and electronic groups SIEMENS AG, Berlin and Munich (see No 528) and AEG - TELEFUNKEN AG, Berlin (see No 529).

** The American electronics group MOTOROLA INC, Franklin Park, Illinois (see No 524) has formed an indirect Uccle-Brussels subsidiary named MOTOROLA MILITARY & AEROSPACE ELECTRONICS BELGIUM SA (capital Bf 250,000), directed by M. Harald H. Krause. This is directly controlled by the Wilmington subsidiary MOTOROLA INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CORP, the balance of the equity being split between six other Franklin Park members of the group, in particular Motorola Military & Aerospace Electronics Corp, Motorola Semiconductor Products Inc, and Motorola Instrumentation & Control Co.

** The American RAYTHEON CO, Lexington, Massachusetts, has opened a Brussels branch to its Lexington subsidiary RAYTHEON OVERSEAS LTD, and this will be run by M. Marcy M. Dupre.

The group recently dropped from 54% to 18% its holding in the Italian SELENIA INDUSTRIE ELETTRONICHE ASSOCIATE SpA, Rome and Naples, selling the difference to the I.R.I. holding company Finmeccanica SpA, which now has a 72% controlling tranche, with a 10% stake still in the hands of the Fiat SpA group (see No 507).

** The American VARIAN ASSOCIATES INC, Palo Alto, California (see No 522) has provided its Amsterdam subsidiary VARIAN BENELUX NV (formerly Varian Associates Holland NV, Haarlemmerveer) with a branch in Brussels, the initial directors of which are MM. J.P.G. Terneisse and H.V. Ghislain de Greef.

The group recently simplified its French business by having Varian SA absorb Varian Aerograph SA, Orsay, Essonne, and by selling its 49% stake in Thomson-Varian SA, Paris, to its partner in this venture, the Thomson-Houston Hotchkiss-Brandt SA group (see No 521).

** The Berlin electronics concern WAGNER DIGITAL-ELEKETRONIK GmbH, formed in 1963 by Herr Günter Wagner (capital Dm 500,000), and which turns over some Dm 8 million a year with about 250 on its payroll, has been taken over by the Frankfurt measuring and control equipment concern HARTMANN & BRAUN AG (see No 530), which has renamed it Hartmann & Braun Wagner-Elektronik GmbH.

Hartmann & Braun is itself a 35% affiliate of the AEG - TELEFUNKEN group, which plans in fact to raise this stake when an issue of convertible stock is made in the near future. H & B has two main German subsidiaries, Elima GmbH, Frankfurt, and Schoppe & Faeser GmbH, Minden, Westfalen. It recently negotiated the phased acquisition of 85% of the capital of Fer H. & B. Misure & Regolazioni SpA, subsidiary of its Milan agent Fabbriche Eletroniche Riunite SpA.

** The French group CIE DES COMPTEURS SA (see No 528) is to rationalise its interests in scientific instrumentation for physical and electronic measurements, through the merger of its affiliate NUCLEOMETRE SA (see No 447) with its 73.6% subsidiary S.A.I.P. - STE D'APPLICATIONS INDUSTRIELLES DE LA PHYSIQUE SA, Malakoff, Hauts-de-Seine (capital F 2.3 m - 1968 turnover F 12.6 m).

The latter makes instruments for the nuclear industry, data-processing equipment as well as that used for medical applications of radio-isotopes. Nucleometre is the subsidiary of S.A.I.P. as well as of Cie des Compteurs, and with a capital of F 1.4 million has an annual turnover exceeding F 5 million. It makes measuring instruments and level, density and thickness controls based on the radiation of artificial radio-isotopes. There is an American licensee, the Robertshaw Controls Co group, Richmond, Virginia.

** JEOLCO (EUROPE) SA, Paris (administration offices at Rueil-Malmaison), which coordinates the work of the agency network in Europe of the Japanese analytical and research equipment concern JAPAN ELECTRONIC OPTICS LABORATORY CO LTD, Tokyo (electron microscopes, spectrometers, magnetic resonators etc - see No 386) has opened a sales and technical consultancy branch in Milan under Mr. Tomanaga Masayùki.

The French firm, headed by Mr. Masami Fujishiro (capital F 1 m) is a subsidiary of the Tokyo group, which for a year has been represented on the British market by the London subsidiary Jeolco (UK) Ltd (capital £ 100,000).

ENGINEERING & METAL

** The American ANDERSON & VREELAND INC, Caldwell, New Jersey, has formed a 90% Amsterdam subsidiary to manufacture and trade in equipment for the printing industry called ANDERSON & VREELAND NV. With an authorised capital of Fl 500,000 (20% issued), the director of the new concern, Mr. Hans van der Horst, holds the remaining 10% stake.

** The Canadian agricultural, industrial and civil engineering plant and machinery group MASSEY-FERGUSON LTD, Toronto, Ontario (see No 527) has formed a new manufacturing and sales subsidiary in Rotterdam called MASSEY FERGUSON NEDERLAND NV. This has an authorised capital of Fl 15 million (20% issued) and is headed by Mr. Peter Ivor Lander. In the early part of this year the group formed a subsidiary in Brussels, Massey-Ferguson SA (capital Bf 100,000 - see No 501).

The Canadian group's most recent moves include the acquisition of Rheinstahl-Hanomag Cura SA, Rosario, Argentina (4,000 agricultural tractors p.a.), the subsidiary of the West German engineering group Rheinische Stahlwerke, Essen. It has also formed a manufacturing subsidiary in Turkey called Massey-Ferguson Sanay A.S. with a capacity of some 20,000 tractors p.a.

** The London company ADA (HALIFAX) LTD (see No 516), a member of the Dutch group PHILIP'S GLOEILAMPENFABRIEKEN NV, Eindhoven (see No 531) through its holding company PHILIPS ELECTRONICS & ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIES LTD, has paid £ 25,000 for a 30% interest in MSE HOLDINGS LTD, Crawley, Sussex.

The latter specialises in laboratory centrifuges through its subsidiaries MSE Precision Manufacturers Ltd, Mixing & Separating Equipment Ltd (both based in Crawley) and Measuring & Scientific Equipment Ltd, London, as well as centrifuges used for industrial purposes, especially in the metallurgical industry, through Machine Shop Equipment Ltd, London. There is also an American subsidiary, MSE Inc, controlled in association with Royal Worcester Ltd, Worcester, Worcs., and MSE Holdings is a 30% affiliate of CHARTERHOUSE GROUP LTD, London (see No 508), which previously had a 42% stake.

** The Milan concern FONDERIE & SMALTERI GENOVESI SpA (see No 302), which specialises in malleable iron in its factory at Spoleto and is affiliated to the Manifattura Ceramica Pozzi SpA, Milan (see No 529) and S.G.I. - STA GENERALE IMMOBILIARE SpA, Rome groups (see No 509), has made a 50-50 agreement with the steel group ACCIAIERIE & FERRIERE LOMBARDE FALCK SpA (see No 529) covering the sale of joints and seals, as well as accessories for piping, pipelines, and conduits.

This move will be backed by a new subsidiary in Milan called Raccordi SpA (capital Lire 10 m) with Sig Paolo Rebora as president and Sig Alessandro Peroni as managing director.

** STE DES HAUTS FOURNEAUX DE LA CHIERS SA, Longwy-Bas, Meurthe-et-Moselle, a member of the Brussels COFININDUS BRUFINA group (see No 530), is about to absorb two subsidiaries in which it has stakes of 73.03% and 61.9% respectively, and as a result of these moves it will raise its capital to F 115.5 million. The first is TREFILERIES & CABLERIES DE BOURG & DU HAVRE SA, Bourg-en-Bresse, Ain (capital F 24.6 m - see No 376). The other is ETS LEFORT SA (capital F 20.19 m) with production facilities at Montreuil Belfroy, Maine-et-Loire; Chassenneuil, Lot-et-Garonne; La Plaine-St-Denis, Saine-St-Denis; and Le Havre (see No 357).

** The French company FORGES & ATELIERS D'AUDINCOURT SA, Audincourt, Doubs (industrial plumbing, heating and air-conditioning equipment as well as boiler plant) has made a subsidiary of its former Brussels office. The new STE DE TUYAUTERIE BELGE-SOTUBE SA, Etterbeek-Brussels (president M. Paul Chauchat - capital Bf 1 m) will operate in the same sectors as its founder.

The French company is the wholly-owned subsidiary of Cie des Forges d'Audincourt & Dependances SA, Paris (see No 403) and there is also a Spanish subsidiary Tuberias Industriales y Caldereria-Ticsa SA, Madrid.

** The East German manufacturer of civil engineering equipment NOBAS FABRIKEN, Nordhausen (cranes and excavators), which until now was represented in the Netherlands by ROGAMATIC-BERKO NV (sister company Silomatic NV), has now switched to GEVEKE MOTOREN & GRONDVERZET NV, Amsterdam.

The latter is headed by the Amsterdam holding company GEVEKE & GROENPOL NV (see No 526), formed by the merger (see No 447) of the Amsterdam concerns Geveke Technische Ondernemingen NV (heavy engineering equipment dealers) and Groeneveld, Van der Poll & Co's Elektrotechnische Fabriek NV (manufacture and sale of electro-technical equipment), recently re-named Groeneveld, Van der Poll's Electrotechnische Ondernemingen NV. Through the latter company, the Amsterdam holding concern recently formed two electro-technical goods companies, each with a capital of Fl 1 million (25% issued) and both based in Amsterdam. These are Groenpol Industriele Verkoop NV (sales) and Groenpol Electrotechnische Fabriek NV (manufacturing).

** The West German civil engineering equipment concern MENCK & HAMBROCK GmbH, Altona, Hamburg (see No 487), a subsidiary of the American heavy engineering group KOEHRING CO, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, has appointed FRIED. KRUPP GmbH EISEN- & STAHLHANDEL, Essen (see No 527) as its representative for its rapid-action vibrating rams.

The Hamburg company was affiliated until December 1968 to the leading West German heavy engineering group Demag AG, Duisburg (see No 529), and the latter is now re-shaping its interests in the transport and materials-handling sector (turnover of Dm 175 m out of a group turnover of Dm 1,107 m), with the opening of a new plant in Britain at Banbury. Plants in Spain and Australia also started up recently.

** DEUTSCHE BABCOCK & WILCOX AG, Oberhausen (affiliated to the London group BABCOCK & WILCOX LTD - see No 527) and DEGUSSA AG, Frankfurt (see No 519) have made an agreement which will be based on the plant construction firm SCHILDE AG, Bad Hersfeld (see No 517), the 51.02% subsidiary of the Frankfurt company. Schilde will now take over an 84.5% subsidiary of Deutsche Babcock & Wilcox, Büttner-Werke AG, Krefeld (see No 473) along with its own wholly-owned subsidiary Maschinenfabrik Friedrich Haas GmbH & Co KG, Remscheid.

Once this move is completed, the two main shareholders in Schilde will be Degussa (stake reduced to around 25%) and Deutsche Babcock & Wilcox. Schilde, which is already well represented by subsidiaries bearing its name in Milan, Vienna, Madrid and London, will now have added to its foreign network companies formerly controlled by Büttner Werke. These include Cie Francaise Buttner SA, Paris; Büttner Werke AG, Vienna; Buttner Works Inc, New York, and Buttner Works Ltd, Montreal.

** The West German PAUL ISPHORDING METALLWERKE oHG, Attendorn (industrial plumbing, valves, metallic plastic seals) has acquired the 50% stake of the Spanish company ESTEBAN ORBEGOZO SA, Zumarraga, in ISPHORDING HISPANIA SA, Alsasua. As a result it has outright control of the latter and has raised the capital four-fold to Pts 40 million.

** The American manufacturer of agricultural machinery ORCHARD MACHINERY CORP, Yuba, California (see No 424) has formed a Milan sales subsidiary called OMITALIA SpA (capital Lire 1 m). This will be run by Sig Bruno Orlando (a 40% shareholder) with a 60% stake held by the American company's Luxembourg holding concern OMICENTER SA (see No 513). The latter was formed recently with a capital of $ 300,000 and is responsible for establishing the group's European sales network. Since 1967 it has been represented in Brussels by a subsidiary Orchard Machinery International - O.M.I. SA.

** An equal share link-up between two Japanese group MARUBENI IIDA CO LTD, Osaka (see No 514) and YUTANI HEAVY INDUSTRIES LTD, Tokyo (see No 493) and the French group POCLAIN SA, Plessis-Belleville, Oise (see No 524), has resulted in the formation in Tokyo of POCLAIN YUTANI HYDRAULICS LTD (capital Yen 50 m). This will run a factory making hydraulic equipment which should be in operation in 1971.

Yutani Heavy Industries and Poclain are already linked in Hong Kong within Far East Poclain Ltd (see No 406). For its part the Osaka group is already well established in the Common Market where it has subsidiaries under its own name in Paris, Düsseldorf, Rotterdam, Milan and Brussels.

** The West German manufacturer of industrial plumbing and welding equipment EISENBAU ALBERT ZIEFLE KG, Kehl, has formed a French sales subsidiary called INTERJOINT Sarl, Strasbourg, whose manager is M. Erwin Ziefle. The founder is a family concern and has around 250 employees. In 1968 turnover amounted to Dm 9 million.

** MM H. Jamon and Heintz Koerver are the managers of CIE INDUSTRIELLE & TECHNIQUE D'ECHANGEURS DE CHALEUR Sarl, Bonneville, Eure-et-Loir (see No 510 - tubular exchangers). This has just been formed with a capital of F 600,000 by the West German company KOERVER & LERSCH oHG, Krefeld (49%) and the French C.M.P. - CONSTRUCTIONS METALLIQUES DE PROVENCE SA, Levallois-Perret, Hauts-de-Seine (through its subsidiary STE FINANCIERE DES CONSTRUCTIONS METALLIQUES DE PROVENCE SA, Arles - 46%). The new company will take over the business of CITEC - CONSTRUCTIONS & INSTALLATIONS TECHNIQUES Sarl, Paris and Bonneval, a subsidiary of the Belgian EMPAIN group through Ste Parisienne pour l'Industrie Electrique SA (see No 528), which had an interest of over 88%. The Paris company SEQUIPEC SA, (see No 523 - services for the chemical, gas and petroleum industries) has a 5% stake in the new company. It is already linked 50-50 with the C.M.P. group (through the Luxembourg holding company Chaudronneries Holding SA, formed in January 1969 with M.M.J. Vintejoux as president) in the Dutch company supplying equipment for the chemical and petrochemical industries, NV Mij. voor Petrochemische Uitrusting "Petrumij", The Hague.

Its main shareholders are: 1) Lebon Industrie SA (part of the Lebon & Cie SA group) through its subsidiaries Electro-Entreprise SA, Paris (see No 402) and Comsip Automation SA, Montesson, Yvelines (see No 441), each with a 15% stake; 2) also with 15% each, Citec SA and Wanner Isofi Isolation SA, Levallois-Perret (a member of the Cie de Saint-Gobain SA group).

** The American group GULF & WESTERN INDUSTRIES INC, New York (see No 529) has formed an indirect subsidiary called COMPRESSEURS B.K. SA, St-Gilles-Brussels (capital Bf 200,000). With Mr. Kalman Tamas as managing director, and controlled by the Amsterdam subsidiary GULF & WESTERN INTERNATIONAL NV, this will take over the assets of a company bearing the same name in St-Gilles, which specialised in distributing pneumatic equipment, compressors and civil engineering equipment.

** The American group UNIVERSAL OIL PRODUCTS CO, Des Plaines, Illinois (see No 528) has raised the capital of its subsidiary U.O.P. BOSTROM BELGIUM SA, Nivelles, from Bf 2.5 to Bf 20 million and re-named it U.O.P. TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT SA. As a result it will now take in the manufacture of vehicle and transportation equipment in general.

The group has a Brussels subsidiary manufacturing, processing and selling raw materials, aromatic chemical products and essential oils called UOP Fragrances SA (formerly UOP Fragrances Benelux SA). Its most recent moves in Europe include the opening in Switzerland at Lugano, Ticino, of a branch to its subsidiary UOP International Inc, Delaware, Illinois, as well as the formation in Rotterdam through its subsidiary Procon Inc of a company carrying out plant construction for the chemical, oil and petrochemical industries called Procon Nederland NV (see No 528). It has also gained control of the West German manufacturer of impregnated papers and tissues, plates and metal parts for the electronics industry, Blisterfeld & Stolting, Radevormwald (see No 526), which has since been re-named UOP Blisterfeld & Stolting GmbH.

** The French state-controlled oil group ERAP - ENTREPRISES DE RECHERCHES & D'ACTIVITES PETROLIERES (see No 531) has strengthened its indirect Belgian interests (see No 475) in the air-conditioning and heating sectors by taking a 33.3% stake in CIE GENERALE DE CHAUFFE SA, Etterbeek. The latter, which is managed by M. Jacques Dewailly, has had its capital raised to Bf 6 million and is a 66% interest of the French company CIE GENERALE DE CHAUFFE SA, St-Andre-lez-Lille, Nord (see No 499), itself a 40% stake of the CIE GENERALE DES EAUX SA group (see No 527). Its new shareholder is ELF BELGIQUE SA, Anderlecht (see No 446), itself controlled by Elf Union SA, Paris (part of the Erap group) and a 7.9% affiliate of the S.A.B. - Ste Belge de l'Azote & des Produits Chimiques du Marly SA group, Renory-Ougree (see No 526).

** The French group CIE DE PONT-A-MOUSSON SA, Nancy (see No 530) is continuing the re-organisation of its interests and has had its Paris subsidiary SPAMCO - STE DE PARTICIPATIONS POUR LA METALLURGIE & LA CONSTRUCTION SA (capital raised to F 109.7 m in return for assets valued at F 36.6 m) merge with and take over SPIMBA - STE DE PARTICIPATIONS INDUSTRIELLES POUR LA METALLURGIE & LE BATIMENT SA (capital F 32 m - see No 502).

Spamco (president M. Robert Murard) is a holding company and was formed on the same basis as the newly-established Sidelor Mosellane SA (capital F 263.16 m) by the recent re-organisation of Union-Siderurgique de Lorraine-Sidelor SA (see No 517), which made over its 37.37% stake in de Wendel Sidelor SA to Spamco, and to Pont-a-Mousson its other assets. These included a 52.42% stake in Trefilunion SA, Paris (see No 477), 9.22% in Ciments Portland de Rombas & d'Hagondange SA, Paris (see No 391) and 47.91% in Actuma SA, Paris (see No 333). For its part Spimba had interests in these last named companies of 6.30%, 49.21% and 25.92%. Sidelor, which has now been dissolved, became a holding company in January 1969 after having made over its manufacturing assets along with those of Ste Mosellane de Siderurgie - S.M.S. (see No 517) and de Wendel & Cie SA (see No 527) in de Wendel-Sidelor.

** The U.S. BANKNOTE CORP, New York and Philadelphia (formerly Lanston Industries Inc - see No 496) has strengthened its indirect Italian interests and thus strengthened the position of its affiliate WAHLT SpA, Cernusco Sul Navigo, Milan, which is managed by Sig Donato Cattaneo. This was formed in late 1968 by Nebitype SpA, Milan (formerly Cograf SpA) and makes textile machinery. It has now gained control of the branch in Florence of its Milan counter part COMUT - COSTRUZIONE MACCHINE UTENSILI & MACCHINE MAGLIERA SpA and has raised its own capital four-fold to Lire 200 million.

** The Dutch metal and engineering group NV BILLITON MIJ (see No 531) has formed a London subsidiary called BILLITON-ENTHOVEN METALS LTD (capital £ 100,000) to take over the sales assets of its existing subsidiary H.J. ENTHOVEN & SONS LTD (lead refining and non-ferrous metals - see No 516).

** The Dutch company MACHINEFABRIEK REINEVELD NV, Delft (see No 375) intends to acquire the manufacturer of laundry equipment N.A. SPRONK & ZONEN'S MACHINEFABRIEK NV, Rotterdam (125 employees), which also has a Belgian subsidiary, SPRONK & ZONEN'S MACHINEFABRIEK BELGIE NV, Hamme a.d. Durne.

Reineveld (500 employees - authorised capital Fl 10m) makes large-scale laundry equipment and industrial washing plant, as well as centrifuges and processing equipment for the chemical, food and mining industries, water purification and pumping plant. It has a West German subsidiary, Deutsche Reineveld Schleuder- & Zentrifugen - Vertriebs GmbH, Gruiten, which was formerly in Dortmund.

** The West German metal group HOESCH AG, Dortmund (see No 528) and FRIED. KRUPP HUETTENWERKE AG, Bochum (a 75.04% subsidiary of the FRIED. KRUPP GmbH, Essen group - see No 525) have signed an agreement covering their future activities in the vacuum processes sector. A 50-50 subsidiary has now been formed in Dortmund called VACMETAL-GESELLSCHAFT FUR VAKUUM-METALLURGIE mbH and the managers are Herren Horst Kutscher and Adolf Sickbert.

** The American manufacturer of equipment and machinery for processing cardboard, paper and plastics, UNIVERSAL CORRUGATED BOX MACHINERY CORP, Cranford, New Jersey, has backed the formation in West Germany of UNIVERSAL CORRUGATED BOX MACHINERY GmbH, Ober-Roden (capital Dm 396,000), whose managers are Herren Kurt Weickenmeier and Friedrich Schreeker.

The American company (president Mr. Theodore Ley) is already represented in continental Europe by a Dutch manufacturing subsidiary Universal Corrugated Box Machinery Corp (Holland) NV, Almelo, which has some 150 employees and since 1966 sales have been the responsibility of Universal Corrugated Box Machinery Export Corp, Zug (capital Sf 50,000).

** The Dutch company NV MASCHINENFABRIEK REMONT, Utrecht (formed in September 1962 - capital Fl 500,000) has closed the branch it has had in West Germany since 1964 at Neuss, Rhineland (see No 287). This assembled and distributed its founder's machinery, tools and other equipment.

** The West German machine-tool and automatic lathes concern WERKZEUGMASCHINENFABRIK GILDEMEISTER & CO AG, Bielefeld (see No 278) has gained control of the Italian I.M.I.S. - INDUSTRIE MECCANICHE ITALO-SVIZZERE SpA, Bergamo, which has since been re-named GILDEMEISTER ITALIANA SpA.

The West German company (capital Dm 5m) had a 1968 turnover of Dm 52 million and there are some 1,500 employees. There is a branch in Paris and it is linked 50-50 in West Germany with the American company de Vlieg Machine Co, Royal Oak, Michigan, in Gildemeister - de Vlieg Systemwerkzeuge GmbH (capital Dm 500,000).

** The Dutch U.L.C. - GROEP NV, Utrecht (electrical heating, plumbing and sanitary installations - see No 454) has formed an almost wholly-owned Brussels subsidiary called U.L.C. BELGIUM NV (capital Bf 4.5m), whose president is M. Antonie Oostveen. Token shareholdings are held by its Utrecht subsidiaries U.L.C. International NV; U.L.C. Loodgieterswerken NV; U.L.C. Verwarming NV; and Bouwmij Ternatestraat NV.

In 1968 the Utrecht group took part along with J.P.A. Nelissen Groep NV, Haarlem (whose managing director, Mr. Johannes P.A. Nelissen, also has a token shareholding in the Brussels company) and twelve other Dutch concerns in forming Turnkey-Holland NV, Amsterdam, to produce complete factories for export.

FINANCE

** BANK OF LONDON & SOUTH AMERICA - BOLSA LTD, London, BANQUE BORDIER & CIE, Geneva, PROMOFINA SA, Geneva, BANQUE WORMS & CIE SA (see Transport), BANQUE DE GESTION PRIVEE ANC. BANQUE MEYER SA, Paris, CREDIT DU NORD SA, Lille, and SVENSKA HANDELSBANKEN A/B, Stockholm have appointed BANQUE INTERNATIONALE A LUXEMBOURG SA (see No 527) to form H.H. INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT CO SA, Luxembourg (capital $20,000 - 20% issued).

All of these banks recently linked to form an investment company in Curacao called Haussmann Holding NV (see No 518).

** The British financial advisors and consultants MURRAY JOHNSTONE & CO, Glasgow (see No 501) have backed the formation in Luxembourg of HOPE STREET FUND SA (capital $4m) which will acquire shareholdings in other countries. The founders are three Glasgow investment companies linked to the MIDLAND BANK LTD (see No 508) through its subsidiary CLYDESDALE BANK LTD. These are THE CLYDESDALE INVESTMENT CO LTD; THE CALEDONIAN TRUST CO LTD; and THE GLENMURRAY INVESTMENT TRUST LTD.

For its part Midland Bank has recently formed through its London subsidiary Forward Trust Ltd (see No 292) a wholly-owned leasing subsidiary called Forward Leasing Ltd (capital £5m).

** The recently formed Luxembourg investment company LUXTRUST SA (see No 515) whose directors include Messrs John Ch. Sorrell, director of High Income Trust Ltd, London, and John W.B. Wimble, director of the London companies Jessel Securities Ltd and Constellation Investments Ltd, has formed a subsidiary called LUXREAL HOLDING CO SA. With a capital of $5,000 this repurchases shareholders' certificates.

** The Paris DINERS CLUB DE FRANCE SA (see No 498), an affiliate of the New York group DINERS CLUB INC (see No 512) has appointed BANQUE DE L'INDOCHINE SA (see No 530) as its representative for its credit card in New Caledonia and in French Polynesia. Diners Club de France has M. Yves Gautier as president, and with a capital of F 3.5 million is linked by commercial pacts with some 18 French banks.

Its New York parent company has a number of "Diners Club" affiliates run through the subsidiary Diners Club International Ltd, whose president is Mr Gwynn Robinson. This includes a company in Brussels in association with Banque de Bruxelles SA (see No 525) and another in Rome in association with Banca Nazionale del Lavoro SpA (see No 485).

** The Amsterdam group ALGEMENE BANK NEDERLAND NV (see No 529) has gained control of the investment fund management concern NV HOLLANDSCHE BELEGGING & BEHEERMIJ, Amsterdam. The funds managed by the latter include "Beleggingsfonds voor Medici", "ABN - Amsterdamsche Belegging Mij", "Converto" and "Goldmines", and were valued at Fl 270 million at the end of 1968. The company has half a dozen subsidiaries and affiliates including Mij voor Kapitaalgoederen NV (property investment and management) and Nederlandsche Bedrijfsbank NV, Amsterdam, which in turn has an interest in NV Curacaose Administratie & Beheer Mij.

** The indirect interests of the Paris bank group STE GENERALE SA in the credit sector will be rationalised when its subsidiary STE D'ETUDES & DE GESTION INTERNATIONALES - S.E.G.I. SA, Paris (see No 527) raises its own funds to over F 14 million following its merger with STE COMMERCIALE & INDUSTRIELLE BORDELAISE - S.C.I.B. SA, Bordeaux (capital F 5m - gross assets F 39.4m). S.C.I.B. is affiliated to Credit Chimique SA (see No 490) and to Groupe des Assurances Nationales - G.A.N. SA (see No 507). Its president is M. Paul Blanc and there is a branch in Lyons which will take over various services run by S.E.G.I., which in turn has branches in Rouen, Bordeaux, Lilles and Strasbourg. As a result of this move S.E.G.I.'s capital will be raised to F 11.5 million, this being controlled by Ste Alsacienne & Lorraine de Valeurs & D'Entreprises (S.A.L.V.E.) SA, Paris, a member of the Ste Generale group through its subsidiary Ste Generale Alsacienne de Banque SA, Strasbourg.

** The Luxembourg holding company EUROSYNDICAT SA (see No 489), which was established by several European banks including Credit Commercial de France SA, Paris, Berliner Handelsgesselschaft, Frankfurt, Pierson Heldring & Pierson, Amsterdam, and Cie Lambert pour l'Industrie & la Finance SA, along with its parent company Banque Lambert Scs, Brussels, has now formed a new investment company. Called ITALUNION SA (capital $10,000- working capital $100,000) this will manage an investment fund in which half the portfolio will be made up of Italian securities.

The other founders are: 1)BANCA PROVINCIALE LOMBARDA SpA, Bergamo (see No 471), a shareholder sincer earlier this year in Rhoninter - Ste Rhodanienne d'Investissements Internationaux SA; 2)BANQUE LAMBERT (see No 531) and its subsidiaries Soges SA (see No 511) and Banque Lambert Luxembourg SA; 3) FINTER BANK ZURICH AG, Zurich and Lugano (see No 350).

** EURODEAL LTD has been formed in London to promote international securities by HAMBROS BANK LTD, London (see No 529), BANKHAUS SAL. OPPENHEIM JR., Cologne (see No 529) and WESTERN AMERICAN BANK (EUROPE) LTD (see No 518). The latter was formed in late 1967 by the London bank in association with Wells Fargo Bank, San Francisco, Security First National Bank, Los Angeles, and the National Bank of Detroit, Michigan. The new Eurodeal, which is headed by Mr C.E.A. Hambro, has already opened an office in Zurich.

** Sig Ertote Galliani heads two new Milan investment companies called SOCAMEUR ITALIANA SpA and COMPARFIN ITALITANA SpA, each with an authorised capital of Lire 300 million. These have been formed by the Luxembourg companies SOCAMEUR SA and COMPARFIN SA, which were themselves established in March 1969 with a capital of Lux F 1 million as the result of moves by BANQUE INTERNATIONAL A LUXEMBOURG SA.

** The Brussels insurance group CAISSE NATIONALE BELGE D'ASSURANCES - ASSUBEL SA (see this issue) has made over its shareholding in S.A. CONTINENTAL D'EPARGNE & D'HYPOTHEQUES CONTIDEPO SA, Etterbeek-Bruxelles (see No 369 - also affiliated to the Antwerp group Plouvier & Cie NV - see No 512) to the new company ASSUBEL E.G. - STE D'ETUDE & DE GESTION ASSUBEL SA (president M. Le Clercq - capital Bf 75m) which also takes control of another subsidiary, Caisse Nationale Belge d'Assurances - Risques Divers (Assubel) SA, Brussels.

FOOD & DRINK

** The Dutch E.J. VAN GELDER NV, Wormerveer, has formed an almost wholly-owned subsidiary in Antwerp to trade in, process and handle food products. Called JOS. JANSSENS NV (capital Bf 1m), the board is made up of Messrs P. de Jong Pz., F. van Deth and P. de Jong Pz. Jr., all from Bloemendaal, Netherlands.

** The French pasta group LUSTUCRU SA, which is a 70% interest of the holding company RIVOIRE & CARRET-LUSTUCRU SA, Marseilles (see No 487), has rationalised its interests by merging two subsidiaries, DEKA SA, Strasbourg, Bas-Rhin, and SCHEURER FRERES SA, Colmar, Haut-Rhin, within the new GENERALE ALSACIENNE DE PATES ALIMENTAIRES (G.A.P.A.L.) ETS DEKA & SCHEURER REUNIS SA, Strasbourg. This has a capital of F 720,000 and the president is M. Robert Cartier Millon, and it will manufacture pasta and starch products.

** Two Dutch food wholesalers, both members of the VIVO voluntary chain (see No 409) have agreed to merge with the name of VIVO-UNIGRO NV, and the board will be headed by Messrs J. Alers, G.J. Elberg, L. Katz and F.J.N. Voest. The companies involved are ALHAMO NV, Schiedam, and UNIGRO NV, Utrecht and Veenendaal, who together have an annual turnover of around Fl 100 million with some 250 employees. At the end of 1968 Vivo had 1,740 members in the Netherlands with an annual retail turnover of Fl 510 million, as well as 13 wholesalers. Two of the latter, NV HANDELMIJ v/h P.J. VAN DE LUSTGRAAF, Leerdam, and ARNHEMSE GROSSIERS COMBINATIE VIVO NV, Arnhem, have already decided to merge.

** The West German dairy and poultry products firm MOLKERIE ZENTRALE SUDWEST GmbH, Karlsruhe (headed by Herr Oskar Grunacher) has extended its interests to France by linking with an economic interest-group (GIE). This has been formed in Strasbourg with the name of MZ SUDWEST ALSACE and is headed by M. Georges Schultz.

** The expansion to the Netherlands of the interests of the Swiss group NESTLE ALIMENTANA SA, Vevey, Vaud (see No 522) will involve Fl 15 million being invested in the construction of a potato processing plant on behalf of its subsidiary NESTLE KONINKLIJKE HOLLANDIA NV, Vlaardingen.

The group's most recent foreign moves include the acquisition of control in France of Fromageries Grosjean SA, Lons-le-Saulnier, Jura, as well as of three dairy firms in the Meuse, Fromageries Roustang SA, Loisey (capital F 2.7m), Fromagerie de la Blanche Cote A. Jaillon & Cie (Fro Blanc) SA, Pagny-la-Blanche-Cote (capital F 1.55m) and Sepam - Ste d'Etudes, de Participation & de Marques SA, Loisey (capital F 50,000).

** The rationalisation of the interests of the Belgian group DESCLEE FRERES & CIE SA, Tournai (see No 517) has resulted in the closure of its subsidiary - through CIE OCCIDENTALE DE PARTICIPATIONS & DE GESTION - STE V. & E. CARBONNELLE FRERES SA, Kain-lez-Tournai, and MM. Robert and Victor Carbonnelle have been put in charge of this operation. V. & E. Carbonnelle, which distilled high quality and industrial alcohols, has made over some of its assets to Ste Carbonnelle & Cie SA, Kain, a direct subsidiary of Desclee, which has received all its property and manufacturing assets and in return raised its capital to Bf 26 million. Cie Occidentale de Participations & de Gestion has acquired its portfolio of shares and thus raised its own capital to Bf 637.26 million.

INSURANCE

** The Dutch insurance brokers MAKELAARS-KANTOOR J.F. ROUW NV, Terneuzen (capital Fl 40,000), which is headed by Mr Jan Francois Rouw, has formed a Belgian property subsidary in Duinbergen.

** The West German insurance group AACHENER & MUENCHENER FEUER VERSICHERUNGS-GESELLSCHAFT, Aachen (see No 526), which operates in Bavaria under the name of MUENCHENER & AACHENER MOBILIAR-FEUER-VERSICHERUNGS-GESELLSCHAFT, has opened a branch in Brussels under M. J. Wautier. This will operate in the fire and divers risks sectors and is based on the premises of CAISSE NATIONALE BELGE D'ASSURANCES - ASSUBEL SA (see No 483 and this issue), with which it is linked through cooperation agreements for major risks.

The German group also has a branch on the premises of its Italian partner Cia di Assicurazioni di Milano SpA (see No 516). In the other Common Market countries it has agreements with NV Nederlandsche Lloyd, Amsterdam (see No 520), Le Foyer SA, Luxembourg, and Le Languedoc SA, Paris.

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OIL, GAS AND PETROCHEMICALS

** ROYAL DUTCH SHELL, Rotterdam (see No 528) and NEDERLANDSE STAATSMIJNEN NV (see No 524) have agreed in principle to build a refinery near Urmond and Born with an annual intake capacity of 3.7 million tons of crude. This is due to start operations in 1973 and will cost around Fl 350 million, of which each partner will provide Fl 50 million with the remainder being covered by a market loan. Two-thirds of the refinery's output will be sold by the Heerlen group and the remainder by Shell. As the result of a branch-line to Venlo it will also be linked to the pipeline operated by Rotterdam-Rijn Pijpleiding Mij. NV (see No 522), in which Shell is a 40% shareholder.

PAPER AND PACKAGING

** The Dutch KON. ZOUT-ORGANON NV, Arnhem (see No 531 and Chemicals) intends to diversify its interests in the paper industry by gaining control of the Swedish group LILIA EDETS PAPPERBRUKS A/B, Lilla Edet (see No 328), which makes high quality papers, paper tissues and packaging accessories.

The latter is known for its "Edet" and "Sos" brands and employs around 1,100 persons for a turnover of Kr 130 million. There are production facilities in Sweden, the Netherlands (Tilburg) and Denmark (Skovlunds) run by subsidiaries. There are "Edet" sales subsidiaries in Amsterdam, Düsseldorf, London and Brussels.

** The French group LA CELLULOSE DU PIN SA, Paris (see No 461), which is a subsidiary of the CIE DE SAINT-GOBAIN SA, Neuilly-sur-Seine group (directly 51% and 5% through Produits Chimiques & Raffineries de Berre SA), and a 28.08% affiliate of PRICEL SA (a member of the GILLET group, Lyons - see No 523), is to embrace the merger of their paper interests with those of the PROGIL SA group, which is itself now being absorbed by RHONE POULENC SA, Paris (see No 526).

La Cellulose du Pin holds a 2.7% interest in Papeteries de Condat SA, Paris and Le Lardin, Dordogne (see No 475) and it will receive from Pricel and Progil their respective interests of 25.8% and 71.4% in Papeteries de Condat. For its part Saint-Gobain, which is merging with Cie de Pont-a-Mousson SA, Nancy (see No 523), will make over to La Cellulose du Pin, which has a 58.6% interest in Cartonneries de Champagne SA, the remaining shares needed for control of this.

La Cellulose du Pin will, however, remain under the control of Saint-Gobain, and it employs 7,000 persons in 7 production units and 26 paper pulp processing factories. During 1968 it had a turnover of F 555 million and as a result of these moves should increase its production by some 30%

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PHARMACEUTICALS

** As the result of an agreement between the Düsseldorf tea processing concern POMPADOUR TEEHANDELS GmbH (see No 525) and the Yugoslav SUMAPRODUKT, Sarajevo, the latter will supply the German company with the raw materials used for making lime tea infusions, which will then be sold in Yugoslavia under the "Pompadur Fixlinde" trade name.

Owned by Herren Johannes Nissle and Rolf Herbert Anders, the German concern has two main sister companies, Teekanne GmbH, Düsseldorf (tea processing and sales) and Teepack Spezialmaschinen GmbH & Co KG (manufacture of "Constanta" tea packaging machinery). Abroad there are also two Austrian sister companies, Teekanne GmbH, Salzburg (capital Sch 7 m) and Teina Handels GmbH, Salzburg, which was recently formed with a capital of Sch 100,000.

PLASTICS

** The Danish manufacturer of plastic goods used for medical and pharmaceutical purposes NUNC A/B, Roskilde, has formed a West German manufacturing and sales subsidiary called GERMANUNC MEDIZINPLASTIC GmbH, Pinneberg (capital Dm 150,000), with Herren Helmuth Ingvorsen and Albert Schoenemann as managers.

PRINTING AND PUBLISHING

** The Belgian interests of the Dutch group NV PHILIPS' GLOEILAMPENFABRIEKEN, Eindhoven, in the music publishing sector (see No 531) have been strengthened through the acquisition of a new Brussels affiliate EDITIONS MUSICALES CHAPPELL SA (capital Bf 1m), which is run by MM. G. Roquiere and H. Dom. The new company will publish, distribute and broadcast musical works. It is a 45% interest of SA CHAPPELL, Paris, and its affiliates (10% each) Editions Sylva Sarl and Rombalero Music Sarl, with the remainder being shared between "Chappell" companies in Zurich (32%), Munich, Amsterdam and Milan. The Dutch group gained indirect control of the Chappell & Co Inc group in the United States along with its London and Common Market affiliates during 1968 (see No 477).

** The Dutch publishing group G.B. GOOR ZONEN'S UITGEVERSMIJ. NV, The Hague, has strengthened its interests by taking over two Amsterdam concerns, MOUSSAULTS' UITGEVERIJ NV and UITGEVERIJ H.J. PARIS NV, which will remain independent units within the group. Goor Zonen's Uitgeversmij. recently gained control of a Belgian concern, Uitgeverij de Goudwink NV, Schelle, Antwerp (see No 528).

* * *

** Five German publishing groups, which together head around 30 concerns publishing literary and journalistic works, printing concerns and book clubs with over 1,700,000 members and together have an annual turnover exceeding Dm 250 million, have agreed to cooperate under a holding company. The groups already have a joint office in New York and a joint holding in the Dutch book lending concern Areopagus NV (see No 529), as well as being linked with the French Le Club Francais du Livre SA, Paris (see No 435) and the Spanish Discolibro SA. There are also subsidiaries in Austria and Switzerland.

The companies involved are: 1) HOLTZBRINCK, which is headed by Herr Georg von Holtzbrinck (see Nos 439, 475), in which the main company is Stuttgarter Hausbücherei GmbH with interests in the book clubs Deutscher Bücherbund KG, Stuttgart; Deutsche Hausbücherei GmbH, Hamburg, and Deutscher Büchclub GmbH, Stuttgart, the publishing houses S. Fischer Verlag GmbH, Frankfurt, and V. Goverts Verlag GmbH, Stuttgart, as well as a 50% stake held by Herr Holtzbrinck in the weekly "Christ und Welt" published by Christ & Welt Verlag GmbH, Stuttgart. Herr Holtzbrinck also intends to acquire a 47% stake in the daily paper "Saarbrücker Zeitung", which is published by Saarbrücker Zeitung Verlag & Druckerei GmbH, Saarbrucken.

2) the group headed by Herr Ernst LEONHARD, whose main interests are the book club Deutsche Buchgemeinschaft C.A. Koch's Verlag, Darmstadt and Zurich, but which also includes the printing concern Druck- & Büchbinderei-Werkstätten May & Co Nachf., Darmstadt; the publishing houses Tempel-Verlag GmbH, Darmstadt; Otto Hoffmanns Verlag, Darmstadt; A. Seydel & Co, Berlin, as well as Moderner Büch-Club GmbH and Deutsche Schallplatten-Gemeinschaft GmbH, both in Darmstadt.

3) DROEMERSCHE VERLAGANSTALT TH. KNAUR NACHF., Munich, literary works and dictionaries, owned by Herr Willy Droemer and which has a sister company in Zurich, Droemersche Verlaganstant AG.

4) the Düsseldorf company HANDELSBLATT GmbH ZEITUNGS- & ZEITSCHRIFTEN-VERLAG, Düsseldorf (see No 475), which publishes and daily economic newspaper "Handelsblatt", along with a number of specialised magazines. This is controlled by Herr Friedrich Vogel and since 1968 has had Holtzbrinck as a minority shareholder.

5) the ECON VERLAG GmbH group (see No 475), which publishes technical and literary works and is controlled by Herr Ernst Barth von Wehrenalp and in which the owner of Handelsblatt, M. Vogel, also has a 25% interest. Its main subsidiaries are Claasen Verlag GmbH, Hamburg, and Marion von Schröder Verlag GmbH, Hamburg.

** The Paris publishing house DARGAUD SA EDITEUR has acquired from EDITIONS MONTSOURIS SA (see No 502) its publications "Echo de la Mode", "Rustica" and "Mon ouvrage madame". Montsouris is a 10% affiliate of Cie Financiere de Suez SA (see No 530) with M. Pierre Beytout as president and it also publishes "Laines et Aiguilles", and "Lisette" in cooperation with Bayard Presse. It recently made over the exploitation of its sewing patterns to the Belgian company Femmes d'Aujourd'hui SA, Anderlecht, Brussels (a member of the Paris group Librairie Hachette SA - see No 518). The distribution of the patterns published by both firms is the responsibility of Edipac - Ste d'Editions & de Distribution de Patrons de Mode Sarl, Paris (see No 502).

Dargaud, which publishes "Asterix", "Tintin" and "Pilote" comics and magazines, has a stake in the Paris advertising agency Publiart SA, which in turn is responsible for running all the group's advertising. It also has a stake in Editions Dargaud Films SA, which is mainly concerned with the publication of "Asterix" strip cartoons.

** The British group JOHN WADDINGTON LTD, Leeds, has sold its interests in the Paris companies MIRO CO SA and CAPIEPA SA (see No 470) to the American group GENERAL MILLS INC, Minneapolis (see No 529), which has appointed to their boards Messrs George C. Gained (director of European operations) and John P. Eckert, vice-president in charge of operations in Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

In 1968 General Mills gained control of Parker Brothers Inc, Salem, Massachusetts, which makes business and educational games, for which Miro is the French licensee ("Monopoly").

** The London group LETRASET LTD (dry transfers used in industry and for printing - see No 498) has formed a Brussels sales subsidiary called LETRASET BELGIUM SA (capital Bf 500,000), whose first directors are MM. Raf Sanua, Roger Mattalon and Raymond Krockaert.

The founder already has a network of distributors in more than 75 countries and there are existing companies in the Common Market under its name in Frankfurt, Paris and Milan.

SERVICES

** ADIA GmbH, Hamburg, which is a subsidiary of the Swiss temporary staff concern ADIA INTERIM Sarl, Lausanne, headed by M. Henri Ferdinand Lavanchy (see No 516), has opened its tenth West German branch in Dortmund.

With an annual turnover of Sf 50 million, Adia Interim has several European subsidiaries, chiefly in St-Josse-ten-Noode, Brussels, and Lyons, and its European network of some 30 offices is coordinated by Adia International SA, Lausanne.

** The newly-formed Amsterdam company NV APPARATENEXPLOITATIE-MIJ. "FEEL FIT-MASSAGE BOY" (authorised capital Fl 25,000 - 20% issued) is a 60% interest of the Luxembourg investment company SIGMA HOLDING SA with 30% held by ARMOWIJ SA, Geneva, and 10% by Dutch interests represented through Mr. Kees Sneep, Overveen.

Similar massage equipment is used by companies in Britain, Belgium, Switzerland, Italy, Portugal and in France. In May 1967 Massage-Boy France SA was formed in Paris with M. Pierre Moos as its director and owner.

** BOYDEN INTERNATIONAL SA, Geneva, which specialises in providing top management executives for leading European and American concerns, has now established itself within the Common Market by forming a subsidiary under its own name in Brussels. This has a capital of Bf 1 million and its president is Mr. Sydney Boyden. The founder is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the New York company BOYDEN ASSOCIATES INC and there is an existing office in London.

** BUDGET AUTOVERMIETUNG DEUTSCHLAND GmbH has opened a new branch in Frankfurt in addition to those in Bonn-Bad Godesberg (2) and Cologne. The company is a member of the American BUDGET RENT-A-CAR INC group, Chicago (see No 487) through EXECUTIVE LEASING GmbH & CO KG, Frankfurt.

Budget Rent-A-Car is the fourth group in this sector in the United States and has an annual turnover of $ 50 million. It controls around 600 offices in twelve countries, and in October 1968 was acquired by the TRANSAMERICA CORP, San Francisco.

** The Paris company STE TRADUTEC SA (owned by MM. Bonnefous and Rajfus - capital F 100,000), which specialises in all types of translation and interpretation, has formed a wholly-owned New York subsidiary called TRANSLATION CORP OF AMERICA. This will be backed by six offices elsewhere in the United States as well as another in Montreal and one in Osaka.

SHIPBUILDING

** The French manufacturer of yachts (Sylphe, Arpege and Soling types, with or without engines) MICHEL DUFOUR SA, La Rochelle, has formed a sales subsidiary in Italy, MICHEL DUFOUR ITALIA SpA, Cinisello Balsamo (capital Lire 1 m). President of the new concern is M. M. Dufour, the founder's owner, and is managed by Sigs Farina Dionigi (majority shareholder in the new company) and G. Colnaghi.

TEXTILES

** The interests of the Milan textiles group GIOVANNI BASSETTI SpA (see No 510) in the spinning, texturisation and finishing of fibres and the manufacture of clothes for the ready-made clothing industry, have been strengthened by a new subsidiary called ALPATEX SpA. This has a capital of Lire 1 million and is 75% controlled by the Milan subsidiary COTONIFICIO DI CONEGLIANO SpA.

The Giovanni Bassetti group, which has a 25% direct interest in the new concern, is represented on the board by Sigs Giansandro Bassetti (president), A. Galmetti and P. Bassetti. During 1968 it had a turnover of Lire 19,450 million and it has two main production facilities at Rescaldina (weaving) and at Vimercate (clothing). It has an affiliate company Bassetti Sud SpA, Lora, Frosinone - which recently merged with Bassetti Conelco SpA (mens' shirts) - and sales subsidiaries in France, West Germany and Britain.

** The Austrian company CORDES & BRANDES GmbH, Dornbirn, Vorarlberg (cotton textiles) has formed a West German sales company called CORDES & BRANDES BAUMWOLLE KG, Bremen. The partners in the new concern are Frauen Lieselotte Brandes and Irene Cordes.

** The West German manufacturer of felt products, especially floor coverings, FILZFABRIK FULDA GmbH & CO KG, Fulda (see No 498) is in the process of establishing its own Austrian distribution network under FILZFABRIK FULDA VERTRIEBS GmbH, Vienna.

The German company, a member of the WIRTH group, has a Paris subsidiary called Feutre Fulda France Sarl (capital F 300,000).

** The re-organisation of the joint interests in the knitwear sector of the textiles groups FILATURES PROUVOST MASUREL & CIE LA LAINIERE DE ROUBAIX SA (see No 523) and ETS. L. DEVANLAY & RECOING Sarl, Troyes, Aube (see No 520) has strengthened the position of TRICOTAGE INDUSTRIEL MODERNE "TIMWEAR" SA, Paris, to whom they have made over their shareholdings at Troyes in ETS ANDRE GILLIER SA and STE INDUSTRIELLE DE BONNETERIE SA, which control STE COLROY SA, Paris and Troyes and S.A. DE TEINTURE & D'APPRETS - S.A.T.A. As a result Timwear has raised its capital to F 35.5 million.

Headed by MM. Jean and Pierre Levy, Devanly & Recoing held these shareholdings through its holding company Safat - Ste Financiere & Auxiliaire du Textile SA, Paris (see No 518), which also has a stake in Timwear.

** The Dutch manufacturer of ready-made clothing for men and children J. VAN KOLLEM'S HEEREN- & KINDERCONFECTIEBEDRIJF NV, Amsterdam, intends to extend its interests to Belgium. It has formed a subsidiary at Maldegem in Eastern Flanders called J. VAN KOLLEM'S HEREN- KLEDINGFABRIEKEN NV (capital Bf 200,000). This will operate a factory which when complete will employ around 250 persons.

With an authorised capital of Fl 500,000 (40% issued), J. Van Kollem's already has a subsidiary under its own name in Brussels. In the Netherlands it employs some 600 persons in its workshops in Beneden, Leeuwen, Wijk/Duurstede, Culembourg and Tiel.

TOURISM

** The Dutch manufacturer of caravans, tents and camping equipment AZET FABRIEKEN G. DEN HERTOG, Mijdrecht, has formed a Swiss subsidiary called DEN HERTOG AG, Schnüpfen. With a capital of Sf 50,000, the president is Mr. Marinus den Hertog.

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TRADE

** The STAR DIAMOND CO (BELGIUM) NV (see No 457), a subsidiary in Antwerp of the London group the STAR DIAMOND CO LTD has linked 50-50 with its counterpart INTERNATIONAL DIAMOND SALES Pvba, Antwerp to form a similar company to its two founders, engaged in cutting, shaping and selling cut and rough diamonds. Called .C.D. DIAMONDS NV (capital Bf 200,000), this has M. David Klagsburg as president and is ruh by M. Arnold Panken.

The London group already has numerous interests in Belgium, including the Antwerp companies, Glasol NV; Gemstar NV; Antwerp Industrial Diamond Co NV, in association with the New York Antwerp Industrial Diamond Co, and United Industrial Diamonds NV, which has itself a subsidiary under its own name in London.

** The Lebanese company T.T.C. THABET TRADING CORP, Beirut, has formed a Düsseldorf subsidiary called WALID A. KORAITEM GmbH (capital Dm 20,000) with Mr. Salim Kadpura, Beirut, as manager.

** The Paris investment company CIE DE CUIRS & PEAUX DE LUXE-EUROPOLUX SA, Paris intends to absorb its parent company GORDON CHOISY SA (capital F 2.6m). In return for assets valued at F 13.4 million, it will raise its capital to F 5.6 million.

Gordon Choisy specialises in tanning crocodile skins and it recently took part in the formation in the Congo-Kinshasa of the Ste Franco-Congolaise Du Reptile-FranconRep in association with the French leather goods firm Dofan SA (see this issue).

TRANSPORT

** NEWEXCO NV, Winschoten, engaged in international freight carriage between West Germany and the Netherlands, following the acquisition - shortly after its own formation in January 1967 - of Jonker Expedietebedrijven NV, Veendam, has now acquired control of another firm in the same sector, A.J. JOENEMAN & ZN INTERNATIONALE TRANSPORTEN NV, Sappemeer, thus raising its fleet of vehicles to 85 and its payrol to 150.

** The Belgian international transport concern EDMOND DEPAIRE NV, Antwerp (see No 321) has opened a branch in West Germany at Haaren b. Aachen under M. Charles Koch.

The founder has a capital of Bf 55 million, and it has interests in the Brussels companies, B.A.C. - Belgian Air Consolidations Sc and Transfribel-Transports Frigorifiques Belges SA.

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