

Economic world

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Chemical experts study Swiss installations

LEADING European chemical experts are to make a five-day tour of major installations in Switzerland next month.

The study tour – from October 11 to 15 – is being organised by the chemical industry committee of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

The study tour will start in Geneva on Monday, October 11, with a visit to the Du Pont de Nemours International Textile Laboratory in Meyrin. The Geneva office is the administrative and marketing co-ordination centre for Du Pont's activities in Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

It operates three major laboratories in Geneva, including the textile research laboratory at Meyrin, supporting the technical and marketing activities of the textile fibres department in Europe.

Tuesday morning, participants

will visit the dyestuffs department of Sandoz in Basle. The main activities of Sandoz are in dyestuffs, pharmaceuticals, agrochemicals, seeds and products for nutrition.

That afternoon the study tour will visit the agrochemical department of Ciba-Geigy, the largest chemical company in Switzerland. Their product range comprises dyestuffs and chemical intermediates, pharmaceuticals, agrochemicals, biotechnical products, plastics and additives and electrical apparatus.

On Wednesday, October 13, the group will tour the pharma-

ceutical department of Hoffmann-La Roche, whose products comprise pharmaceuticals, diagnostic chemicals, instruments, vitamins and fine chemicals, fragrances and aromas, cosmetics and plant protection agents.

The following day, participants will visit Hausmann Laboratories in St. Gallen, a relatively small but highly specialised company in the field of pharmaceutical specialities and infusion liquids.

The study tour will end on Friday, October 15 with a presentation and discussion of selected topics concerning the Swiss chemical industry at the head office of the Swiss Society of Chemical Industries, Zurich.

Tugendhat said it was also the first agreement to lay down substantive provisions for a services sector, eliminating practical barriers to setting up services business in another country.

"The community hopes that this agreement may pave the way for other agreements in the service field," he added.

The treaty would help promote the harmonisation of insurance law in Europe, a joint press communiqué said.

Bathe in peace

A SAFETY system for preventing baths from overflowing has been developed by a Swiss inventor. The overflow pipe of a bath can cope with only a fraction of the water pouring in, and damage caused by overflowing water can be considerable.

The new "flip-flap" device produced by this Swiss inventor consists of a plastic ball connected to the bathplug. When the level of water in the bath gets dangerously high and there is a risk of the water overflowing, the plug is automatically pulled out, resulting in the bath emptying normally.

Insurance pact

THE European Common Market and Switzerland have initialled a treaty allowing their insurance companies to set up business in the territory of the other.

The accord, the first of its kind signed by the European Community with a non-member state, covers non-life insurance.

Common Market budget commissioner Christopher

New Pirelli company

THE Italian holding concern, Pirelli SpA and Société Internationale Pirelli SA, the company's Swiss-based affiliate, have formed a new company in Switzerland to coordinate activities of the group.

The company, Pirelli Société Generale AS in Basle, will be owned 50-50 by the two parents.

The international tyre and rubber products group said the reorganisation would "create an equal level of interest for both

parent companies in all Pirelli operating units."

Pirelli controls operations in Italy and Europe, while Société Internationale oversees group activities in North and South America and Australia.

The Pirelli group had revenues equivalent to \$3.83 billion in 1981, converting the lira at its current rate. Of all group activity, 45 per cent was in cables, 42 per cent in tyres and the remaining 13 per cent in diversified products.

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Now a computer will assist these age old skills

Micro grant for Swiss confectioners

SWISS confectioners Burgers of Marlow have obtained a Department of Industry "Mapcon" grant under which Walter Freidl, the microcomputer consultant, is to provide the company with a feasibility study on microcomputer development.

The final system will give closer control over the use of raw materials and more accurate settings to improve process performance and reduce waste. The specially designed computer programs will provide more accurate management information for this specialised process.

This example of a traditional but forward thinking firm of master bakers and confectioners shows clearly how small and

medium sized firms can take advantage of this technology.

Said Mr Eric Burger, founder and director of the company: "We have for some time been interested in improving our production using the microcomputer. Mr Freidl is providing the consultative services we have been searching for and we shall be adjusting the system to our specialised continental baking methods in a rather unique manner."

Burgers of Marlow have built up their reputation for continental chocolates and fancy breads since the founding of the company by Mr Burger in 1942.

His two sons Bernard and Philip have joined the business.

Sulzer Bros contract

THE Bristol office of Sulzer Bros (UK) Ltd has recently been awarded a contract by Fairclough Building Ltd on behalf of the Home Office to provide a new boiler plant and associated work at Swansea prison.

The major part of the order is for the provision of steam boiler plant to a new boilerhouse to be built alongside the existing plant. Further new services will be provided to library and education accommodation in the prison.

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A SWISS firm of engineering consultants has been commissioned to build a telecommunications tower in Kuwait that is higher than the Eiffel Tower. The value of the contract totals \$300 million.

The tower, which is being built for the Kuwaiti General Post Office, will also house the national radio and television transmitters.

It will be 370m high. Its diameter at the base will be 21m, and at the top 1.5m.

Losinger wins dam contract

SWISS engineers Losinger have won a Sfr. 165 million contract for their share in the construction of the giant Manantali dam in Mali, the most important part in a giant development scheme for the Senegal river basin.

The harnessing of the upper waters will make it possible to irrigate vast tracts of land that have dried out in the three

Towering over the Eiffel

countries bordering on the river and to improve river navigation.

The scheme is financed by several countries by way of development aid. One hundred and fifty European specialists and 1,500 native workers and officials will cooperate on this project, which will take six years to complete.

Sulzer celebrates

THIS year sees the golden jubilee of the UK company of the Swiss-based Sulzer Group of companies.

Since its foundation 150 years ago Sulzer has been continuously in the forefront of engineering progress. Its plant is to be found in every part of the world,

and the product/service range includes heating, ventilating and air conditioning installations, refrigeration plant, pumping equipment, high pressure steam boilers (up to supercritical working pressure), diesel engines, gas turbines and high pressure compressors.

As an international company, Sulzer now has a world-wide involvement in engineering employing 35,000.

Science takes its place

TECHNORAMA - the Swiss Museum of Technology and Science - has opened its doors in Winterthur. The event had been eagerly awaited, because it seemed only right that Swit-

zerland, a typical example of an industrialised country, should possess its own museum of technology and science, if only to preserve its rich heritage of prototypes and unique appliances which have helped create the worldwide renown of Swiss industry.

Ultramodern in conception, and with an area of over 60,000 sq. ft. of exhibition space, the Winterthur Museum displays a large number of collections as well as demonstration appliances that visitors will be able to try out for themselves.

Technorama is divided into eight main sectors: energy, materials, textiles, automats, physics, chemicals, construction, home and hobbies. The 8,000 or so objects, machines, appliances and instruments on display, dating from 1800 to the present day, show the broad lines of technological development and demonstrate their economic and cultural significance for Switzerland as a whole, as well as their use in the various parts of the country.

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