

# Business Briefs

## Agriculture

### Polish Church to import farm equipment

Poland's Catholic Church has won government approval for a \$10 million, U.S.-funded program to help private-sector agriculture.

Reversing a position maintained during five years of previous negotiations with the Church, the Jaruzelski government granted a tax exemption and customs clearance in July that will allow a Church committee to import millions of dollars' worth of badly needed farm machinery and water-pumping equipment.

According to Church officials, senior Polish authorities also have indicated they could now permit the establishment of a formal, nonprofit foundation backed by the Church. The foundation would institutionalize the aid program and seek to perpetuate it with additional foreign donations as well as business activities inside Poland.

Joseph Cardinal Glomp had ordered the agricultural fund effort abandoned last September, saying five years of negotiations had showed the government unwilling to accept the initiative.

But since the Polish government delivered its bitter denunciations of the Pope at the close of his visit there, Church and state in Poland have appeared eager to move toward new agreements.

## Industry

### EC seeks to savage steel production again

The latest European Commission proposal to slash Europe steel capacities by 30 million tons is expected to be approved at a September Council of Ministers meeting, according to a senior Brussels source interviewed July 28.

"We have had crisis management for eight years," he stated. "We are making the proposal now because the crisis management is not justified anymore. 80,000 peo-

ple must go to unemployment."

The source privately admitted that the sharp downturn since 1985 in EC steel markets was significantly tied to the sharp decline in the dollar.

"The falling dollar, true, is forcing steel revenues to shrink. But we do not want to give this excuse to the steel producers. They must reduce. Is it not better for Europe to export cars than steel?"

## Auto

### Japanese outproduce U.S. . . . in U.S.

Japanese automobile plants in the United States are outproducing their American counterparts by 2 to 1, according to the July issue of *Automotive Industries*.

The national leaders were Honda's Marysville, Ohio plant and NUUMI, the General Motors-Toyota joint venture in Fremont, California, managed by Toyota.

One reason cited for the lower productivity in American companies, is that American companies have significantly more white-collar workers than their Japanese counterparts.

## Debt

### OAU members to limit foreign payments?

The Organization of African Unity will vote to limit member debt payments to 20% of export earnings, reports the London *Financial Times*.

The OAU's annual summit meeting in Addis Ababa, is reviewing a final draft resolution which reportedly will endorse the modified version of Peru's debt approach. The Garcia government there has limited debt payments to 10% of export earnings for more than two years now.

The OAU draft is considered a compromise, after a call by certain African countries for a complete moratorium on the re-

gion's \$200 billion in external debt.

African export earnings in the last several years fell from \$60 billion to \$44 billion in 1986, as commodity prices continued to drop on world markets.

## AIDS

### 'Guerrilla clinics' springing up in U.S.

"Guerrilla clinics" for AIDS victims, which provide experimental drugs not sanctioned by the Food and Drug Administration, have sprung up all across the United States, the Reuter News Agency reports.

There are at least 45 clinics in cities nationwide, and more than 5,000 AIDS patients receive free treatment with DNCB (dinitrochlorobenzene), one of the non-FDA-sanctioned experimental drugs. Another widely-used non-sanctioned drug is AL-721, which can be made at home with egg yolk or soy lecithin, and is distributed in New York City by the "People With AIDS Coalition."

In San Francisco, "Project Inform" provides AIDS victims with two experimental drugs, ribavirin and isoprinosene, obtained from Mexico.

A "hot line" run by the "DNCB Guerrilla Clinics" in San Francisco provides contacts for clinics in cities ranging from Great Falls, Montana, to Manchester, Vermont. All of this activity is technically illegal, as the FDA has approved only one drug, AZT, for use in the treatment of AIDS to date.

## Inflation

### Mexican food prices up 123% in one year

According to a monthly report prepared by the Bank of Mexico on food prices, some basic food items there rose by as much as 296.3% between June 1986 and June 1987. Altogether, food prices rose 123.1%, 36.5% more than in the previous year.