

# Business Briefs

## Technology

### Can't find CFC substitute

The refrigeration industry is frightened by its inability to come up with a substitute for banned chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), according to the February issue of the *Journal of the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers*, which is entirely dedicated to the nightmares companies are having in searching for a substitute.

Article after article describes how all the leading wonder chemicals that were supposed to replace CFCs have bit the dust. The Du Pont Co.'s HFC-134a, which everyone thought was a sure bet six months ago, has demonstrated the uncanny ability to destroy every lubricant known to man, and to corrode the innards of refrigerators and air conditioners very rapidly.

According to another article in the magazine, which has 50,000 subscribers, it takes a very long time to set up production lines, and unless a substitute that works is developed very soon, it will be impossible to meet the deadlines of the Montreal Protocol, which banned all production of CFCs by the year 2000.

## Science

### Teaching reform claims 'less is more'

The progress of Project 2061, the project of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) to flatten U.S. science education from kindergarten through twelfth grade, was reported at the annual meeting of the AAAS held in Washington, D.C. on Feb. 18. The director of the project, F. James Rutherford, began by mentioning that "President Bush, in his latest speech to the nation, made two important announcements: that Saddam Hussein's peace offer was a cruel hoax, and that Project 2061 is leading the way in the reform of science teaching."

Rutherford explained, "We are not trying

to fix up the existing system, but to design the next system. . . . It's not that we don't learn enough different things. The problem is that we don't learn enough of the right things well enough."

Project 2061 proposes to teach much less science, but to specify what shall be taught, and to make sure everyone "learns" it. Its slogan is, "Less is more."

Tom Sachse, Director of the Science Education Unit of the California Department of Education, reported progress in implementing the California version of Project 2061. In the California curriculum, the terminology used to describe the components of the cell will be limited to 10 terms. Sachse accused the traditional curriculum of trying to teach 100. Sachse explained that the California Science Framework, as it is called, includes the study of the physics of sound and magnetism, even though Project 2061 calls for their elimination.

Publishers have been given 30 months in which to bring textbooks into line with the framework, and have been threatened with "extirpation" if they don't.

## International Credit

### Italian economic weekly attacks Germany

In its Feb. 25 issue, the Italian economic weekly *Il Mondo* accused Germany of a "secret plan" to take over economic leadership in Europe by creating a larger deutschemark area with Austria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Sweden, and Norway. According to journalist Giuseppe Leuzzi, at the Davos World Economic Forum, Bundesbank president Otto Poehl presented a plan to substitute a D-mark based system for the present ECU system. Poehl defended the project of enlarging the European Community to 15 or 21 members as soon as possible, even though this might mean a slowdown of monetary integration.

Ex-U.S. ambassador to Bonn Richard Burt threatened in Davos that the U.S. wants "to know from Germany what she has done and is willing to do for the security of Europe,

within and outside Europe." *Il Mondo*, which has always been British in outlook, fretted that D-mark linked countries like Holland, Belgium, and Denmark, once super-Atlanticist, took a very weak stand on the Gulf war and are lining up with Germany.

## AIDS

### U.S. Census projects devastation of Africa

A new projection by an arm of the U.S. Census Bureau forecasts that AIDS will devastate sub-Saharan Africa by the year 2015. An *EIR* computer study in 1987 predicted that there would be at least 20 million AIDS cases in Africa by the 1990s, which at the time was ridiculed by the "experts." This census study, which was presented to the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) meeting in Washington, comes close to corroborating *EIR's* earlier forecast.

The study says that by the year 2015, the disease could double the death rate among women, wipe out up to a third of able-bodied men in some ethnic groups, and create some 16 million orphans, according to *Boston Globe* coverage. By 2015, the disease is projected to reduce life expectancy in urban areas of sub-Saharan Africa by 19 years, said officials at the AAAS meet.

The predictions are based upon a mathematical model projecting the spread of AIDS in Africa over the next 25 years.

## Biological Holocaust

### Peru's cholera epidemic becoming pandemic

According to French professor André Dodin, the cholera epidemic that is currently ravaging Peru will cross the Andes mountains in a matter of weeks and will reach the Brazilian coastline within a few months. Dodin is the head of the cholera laboratory of the prestigious Pasteur Institute of France, and is recognized as the

## Briefly

world's leading expert on cholera.

"It is the seventh great cholera pandemic, which began in 1936, and no one knows when it will end," said Dodin in an interview with the French news agency AFP. "I have been following the evolution of this epidemic for years, since it emerged in the Celebes Islands of Indonesia, and reached Peru 55 years later. The germ was transported by boat, by camel, by canoe, and by airplane.

"In 1974, when the cholera germ was first detected in the New Hebrides islands in the Pacific, I marked an arrow pointing toward Peru," explained the expert, who has been studying the disease since 1970. "Cholera took 16 years to cross the ocean."

Professor Dodin showed a detailed map of the disease's advance and means of propagation. His briefing emphasized that the pandemic is ravaging the poorest nations on Earth. It took little imagination to realize that Third World countries like Peru, which have been subjected for years to brutal austerity conditionalities by financial institutions like the International Monetary Fund, are the perfect breeding ground for cholera.

In the opinion of the French epidemiologist, the pandemic "is going to affect all of Latin America." The measures that have been adopted by the Latin American governments will limit the consequences of the epidemic, he said, "but they cannot stop it."

### Monetarism

#### Britain going to 'war' over free market

After the Gulf war, there will be a British-led war on Germany over the economic control of Europe, declared Dr. Alan Sked of the London School of Economics, in an essay headlined, "Cheap Excuses."

The article, published by the Bruges group, bashes the Germans for their pacifist conduct in the Persian Gulf crisis, calling the Bonn government's reference to constitutional bans on German forces fighting overseas a cheap excuse, something that "Hitler and Goebbels would have referred to as a big lie."

Sked attacks the idea of a unified Europe which would, under the dominance of the Germans, soon turn into an "inward-looking, bureaucratic, pacifist, protectionist bloc eager to appease the Soviet Union and alienate the United States."

Playing the role of extra in the Persian Gulf war already, Germany would orient toward signing another Rapallo accord with the Soviet Union, charged Sked, warning, "The free world will simply not remain free for very long if the American eagle is obliged to mate with a teutonic double-headed European ostrich."

Sked then announced the "second Gulf war" which would be waged after this war on Iraq: a war between those who allied with the British free-market view, and those who were led by the Germans over the final control of European affairs.

### Energy

#### Pressure France against Pakistani reactor

Washington has pressured France into holding back on an agreement to provide a 950-megawatt nuclear generating plant to Pakistan, in the first case of a Western country freezing nuclear technology exports to an Islamic country since the Persian Gulf war broke out, Britain's *Independent* newspaper reported.

The plant was promised to Pakistan during Benazir Bhutto's term as prime minister. Negotiations over the \$1.4 billion plant were suspended because France and other nations refused to provide soft loans. France has not yet canceled the deal, but reports in Islamabad say that France is expected to drag out the financial negotiations as long as possible in order to delay its implementation.

Washington is lobbying hard in other European nations to ensure that no nuclear technology reaches Pakistan or other developing nations it claims have a nuclear weapons capability. The U.S. denounced the French-Pakistani deal when it was first made. The agreement was for France to supply a nuclear power generating station, fuel, and training for Pakistani engineers.

● **FOUR IRAQI** officials and officers of the Banca Nazionale del Lavoro of Atlanta were indicted March 1 by a federal grand jury. The 347-count indictment charges BNL Atlanta's Christopher Drogal with making unsecured loans to Iraq. It is unknown whether the U.S. will apply the Thornburgh Doctrine. There is no extradition treaty with Iraq.

● **MANEKA GANDHI**, daughter-in-law of the late Indira Gandhi and now India's Environment Minister, told an Oxford, England audience that monetary aid "is used effectively for getting cheap imports from the Third World through over-exploitation of their natural resources and their cheap labor, and to export to them irrelevant goods."

● **CHINA** has leased 30 square kilometers on northern Hainan island in the South China Sea to Japan's Kumagai Gumi consortium, which plans to invest \$1.3 billion to build a coal terminal, telecommunications facilities, a power plant, waterworks, factory workshops and offices, and residences.

● **OIL DEVELOPMENT** potential in China's Xinjiang province is slight, despite studies showing some of the largest unexplored oil reserves in the world, according to an AP wire. The reason is the lack of transportation and the government's unwillingness to invest in exploration or permit foreign exploration. China may become a net importer of oil by the year 2000.

● **A U.S. FEDERAL** Appeals Court Feb. 21 ordered an embargo on the importation of tuna caught by Mexican fishermen, because they use nets that kill dolphins in excess of U.S.-set limits. The embargo comes right in the middle of negotiations over the proposed Mexico-U.S. Free Trade Agreement. The Mexican government expressed "surprise" at the action, and said such a unilateral action would do little to help dolphins.