



Notes and News

by Wood Kerne

TRENDS AND THINKING ABROAD

North America. George Weyerhaeuser, President of the giant Weyerhaeuser Company, has said that, given sufficient investment now, the U.S.A. and Canada could, by the turn of the century, hold a place in the world trade in forest products similar to that now held by the Persian Gulf in the oil trade. This was assuming that the other major untapped source, the U.S.S.R., would not decide to upgrade quickly the priority attached to the development of its timber resources and transportation system.

Mr. Weyerhaeuser predicted a doubling of the world demand for industrial wood by the year 2000, with a tripling of the demand for industrial paperboard. The biggest increase would be in North America, Japan and western Europe. He thought that North America could increase its exportable surplus by a factor of about seven.

U.S.S.R. A Soviet government planner has put forward a 25 year programme to develop the country's timber industry into a major exporting industry. There would be two aims: to attract Western investment and equipment to be paid for in forest produce, and as an alternative foreign exchange earner to oil, which needs to be conserved for domestic demand.

Sweden. A Swedish Commission studying the natural forest resources says that if cutting continues at its present level, a reduction of 20% will be necessary from 1980 if a sustained long term yield is to be achieved. But the Swedish Pulp and Paper Association argues that this takes no account of the effects of fertilisation, better silviculture and a higher degree of utilisation.

(Information from *World Wood*)

GERMAN FORESTS IN THE RED

Forests in West Germany are no longer as profitable as they used to be. This is ascribed to a trebling of forest upkeep costs since 1950, compared with a 1% per annum increase in the cost of wood. Natural disasters such as the 1972 storms have also contributed. Members will be interested to know that one exception is the municipal forest of Baden-Baden, which the Society visited during its 1956 Annual Study Tour. This forest of 7,500 ha costs 4 million DM per year to run. It employs thirteen officials, six skilled and 68 semi-skilled workers. Although half the woodland is less than forty years old, in 1973 the forest netted a profit of 224,000 DM.

(Information from *The German Tribune*, No. 698)

PLANTS BY HELICOPTER

In Scotland a helicopter has been used by a private forestry company to deliver plants to 200 ha of inaccessible planting sites in Porthshire. The helicopter carried 8,000 trees per load and cost £90 per hour of flying time. The total cost of the delivery operation was £425 compared with an estimated cost of £675 by land-based vehicle and walking.

