

From Abroad

FROM ENGLAND

Engineers Plan World Link

A project to set up a worldwide organization for professional engineers is underway in London. An inaugural conference is to take place in Paris in March 1968 with the support of UNESCO.

More than 60 professional engineering societies representing 26 countries, including Czechoslovakia, Hungary and the U.S.S.R., have expressed a wish to participate in the new organization, says the Council of Engineering Institutions in London. International organizations which are joining the conference are the Fédération Européenne d'Associations Nationales d'Ingénieurs, the Commonwealth Engineering Conference and the Unión Panamericana de Asociaciones de Ingenieros.

Main aims of the new organization will be to sponsor meetings for information exchange, to raise the status of the professional engineer and to establish recognized international standards in the field.

Infrared Television

An infrared television system that monitors temperature distribution on the outer wall of a furnace has been demonstrated at a glass fiber plant.

From this information, it may be possible to learn the condition of the inner wall, giving warning of a structural weakness more conveniently than by the conventional methods using pyrometers and contact thermometers.

The infrared television system includes a thermal-imaging camera and an oscilloscope. In the camera, the radiation from the furnace wall is focused on the plane of a Nipkow disk which, when rotated, scans the field of view. The radiation is then focused on a lead sulphide infrared detector. The camera can be used with a heat source ranging from 250 degrees to several thousand degrees F.; with a heat source at 400 degrees it is accurate to five degrees.

At St. Helens, England, the camera first examined the wall of a normal glass-producing furnace. The furnace port, being hotter than any other part, and the gradual decrease in temperature from the bottom of the furnace to the top could be clearly seen. As the wall was new, there was no significantly hotter area indicating deterioration. Near the port, however, the infrared television showed signs of a localized

hot channel between the brickwork that had not been discovered by any other method of examination.

F. C. Livingstone

FROM SWEDEN

Sulphur Dioxide Threatens Forests

The sulphur dioxide sent up by the industry of western Europe is raining down on south and west Sweden, killing the fish in some lakes and slowing the growth of the forests, says a report by Prof. Sven Brohult. If the situation is not improved, the economic effects on the important Swedish timber industry could become serious.

Sweden is especially prone to this threat because the moraine soils typical of the country have a poor resistance to acidity, which has been increasing steadily during this decade.

But Sweden cannot control its own destiny in this matter. The quality of Swedish rain is only partially determined in Sweden, and therefore Prof. Brohult argues that she must take the initiative to establish international control regulations.

The Swedes, however, cannot blame it all on other countries. The average sulphur content of the heavy oils in use by Swedish power stations and in apartment heating plants has a sulphur content of 2.5 percent, and so far there are no government plans to cut this down.

Brohult's report, though, could stimulate government action. It is pointed out that Japan is expected to introduce a limit of 1.7 percent sulphur in 1969 and 1.0 to 1.5 percent in 1972, while New Jersey is planning a 1.0 percent upper limit in old power stations and 0.3 percent in new ones. *H. J. Barnes*

FROM AUSTRALIA

Boeing Drains Brains

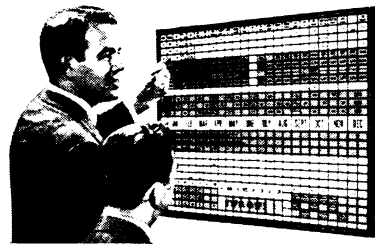
Representatives of the Boeing Aircraft Company have been recruiting engineers graduating at the end of this year from universities in both Australia and New Zealand.

The American company offers salaries more than double the local rates in Australia. The company's desire to recruit Australian engineers follows the shortage of graduate engineers in the United States and its expansion in Seattle.

A spokesman for one Australian university said it was the first time the school had known of an organization coming to Australia to recruit people to work in another country.

Boeing had in the past recruited in Britain and to a lesser extent on the Continent. *W. A. Scholes*

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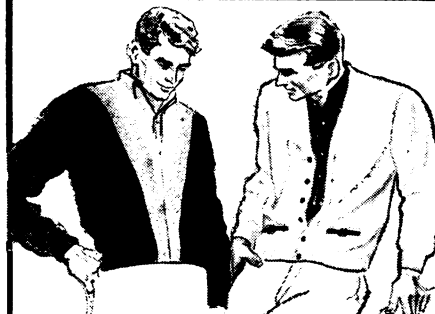
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