

# CORRESPONDENCE

M. CUSTOMS



New Zealand

W. Germany

the Declaration of Human Rights. And in spite of the blood that has watered our soil, the idea of European co-operation is still strong.

But history often develops more slowly than the demands of time. Although we are building up a European Common Market, we are citizens of the world and the demand of our time is for freer trade between all countries. We want good relations with the under-developed countries and so must neither shut them out, nor discriminate among them, but simply let them sell their goods to us.

As most of our exports go to Great Britain, Western Germany and France, and as most of our imports come from those countries, I think that my country, Denmark, has to join the E.C.M. But, I fear that the Common Market will then be closed to other parts of the world and a Byzantine Empire of administration will be built up.

Although the best way would be to abolish all customs duties, perhaps the Rome Treaty will eventually lead to free trade. If the detour proves to be a short cut, we must join.

However, in future, history may present a new demand for an open world. Then history and the idea of free trade will unite and nothing will be stronger.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER USSING OLSEN.

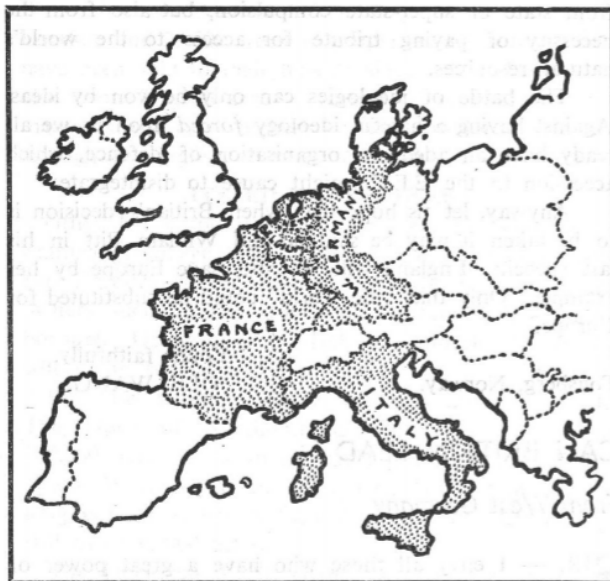
Denmark.

## ATTEMPTED SELF - SUFFICIENCY

From Norway

SIR, — The excuse for outside comment on Britain's joining the Common Market is that the question concerns us small fry inasmuch as we are supposed to follow in Britain's wake if she decides to put into the inner harbour of the Six.

It may be questioned whether the benefits supposed to be derived from participation in the E.E.C. with its 200 million inhabitants would not be more than offset by the obstructions that would arise between the 15 times as many in the rest of the world. The arguments for free trade and the international division of labour within the



Community hold good and to a higher degree for world-wide co-operation, the working towards which would be hampered by the attempted self-sufficiency of the E.E.C.

It should be borne in mind that the inner Six and their prospective further members, form, as a whole, a highly industrialised community for which it is essential to exchange its manufactures for the raw materials and foodstuffs from other parts of the world, where control previously exercised by the "inner circle" is lost or dwindling. If trade between the not yet industrialised areas and E.E.C. is obstructed by the latter's protective tariffs, there are others anxious to step in.

Other aspects of the E.E.C. have been overshadowed by the economic considerations. In view of the expected development into a federal union, would it not be wise to see what form this will take, before deciding one way or another? A "Bill of Rights" according to time-honoured English and American precedents might be necessary.

The main objection to the Rome Treaty is, however, that its draftsmen do not seem to have taken sufficiently into consideration the enormous progress of science and technology which, to quote from last year's Papal, Encyclica "increase the relationship between political communities and hence render their inter-dependence ever more profound and vital" so that all problems "present today supra-national and even world-wide dimensions." The Encyclica also speaks of the need to create a more human balance in world relations.

So far, the high-level conferences seem to centre only on the *instruments*, not on the *causes* of war. One of the most important of the latter are trade barriers. From behind the Iron Curtain there has been talk of peaceful co-existence, and of surpassing the West in productive capacity. Our belief in liberty makes us feel confident that a free system will eventually win. But by a free system of production is meant one that is free not only

from state or super-state compulsion, but also from the necessity of paying tribute for access to the world's natural resources.

The battle of ideologies can only be won by ideas. Against having a hateful ideology forced upon us we already have an adequate organisation of defence, which accession to the E.E.C. might cause to disintegrate.

Anyway, let us hope that when Britain's decision is to be taken it may be said, as did William Pitt in his last speech: "England will, I trust, save Europe by her example." Only that "the world" could be substituted for Europe.

Yours faithfully,  
OLE WANG.

Tonsberg, Norway.

## CAN BRITAIN LEAD ?

*From West Germany*

SIR, — I envy all those who have a great power of imagination. But when I read that by joining the E.E.C. Great Britain will lose her sovereignty or that Hallstein is a second Hitler or that food will become much dearer in Great Britain though world prices fall I am very glad to be a plain matter-of-fact man.

If the fears concerning the E.E.C., are justified, or even if — whether justified or not — they master the political thinking of Great Britain, you cannot join the E.E.C.

The E.E.C. can succeed only when its members trust their voluntary co-operation. If some of them join only in order to reach an easy and enormous economical advantage without favouring the general aims of the E.E.C., it is bound to fail.

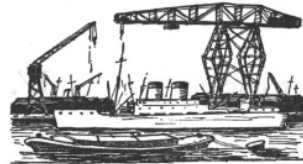
To me a German and a European, things look very different.

After the war the Germans saw that their national economy was much too small and much too dependent on the economies of their neighbours and of the Western world to be able to stand alone successfully. So we gladly accepted the Schumann scheme, a French scheme. And it was only the success of this French scheme that induced us and five other European nations to widen co-operation and eventually to make the Rome Treaty.

Certainly many people were doubtful at the beginning. They thought that the E.E.C. was merely the forming of an economic block with impenetrable outer tariff walls, but big enough to wage a full economic war against other economic blocks within the Western world, i.e. a protectionist area of the usual kind on a larger scale.

What has happened meanwhile? The trade barriers between the Six have been lowered and lowered. The E.E.C. people say that by 1970 the inner tariff walls will be completely abolished. And the outer wall is being lowered, too, though it may be mainly due to the initiative of America. And it is a fact that the German Federal Republic is the greatest buyer on the world market out-

side the Six. She simply cannot be interested in protective walls. She only desires that they should disappear in a way that allows her to adapt her agriculture to the sharp wind of competition that is the fruit of free trade. And there is no doubt that as far as we are concerned the outer walls can be completely broken down, when our adaptation is reached.



But what you fear most are political effects. And in this respect there is certainly a difference between Great Britain and the small German Federal Republic. We know our political situation. We know that we are a divided nation. We know that if we do not accept our integration into Western Europe, we have only the alternative of accepting a Communist yoke, which many of us know by experience. Our efforts are in the field of the economy. We are aware in the military and the political field we are of little importance and have no ambitions. Such articles as "Hallstein's Year of Destiny" are not based on facts but on resentment. It is nothing but anti-German propaganda.

But in one respect this anti-E.E.C.-propaganda is right. Great Britain need not join the E.E.C. There is the British Commonwealth. And if this demi-free trade area is enough for British industry and commerce — why should you join the E.E.C.? And why join the United Europe, if it becomes a reality? Great Britain can wait, even if the outer tariff walls of the E.E.C. are abolished.

But if Great Britain joins the E.E.C. she will help to accelerate the present development of free trade. And politically? The hegemony in United Western Europe will come into the hands of Great Britain. That is why Kennedy advised Great Britain to join and take the leadership.

Yours faithfully,  
ERICH ZINCKE.

Hanover

## CLOSED DOOR OF EUROPE

*From New Zealand*

SIR, — A gentleman was asked if he preferred turnip tops to spinach. His reply, "I don't prefer turnip tops to spinach, nor do I prefer spinach to turnip tops," about sums up my attitude to the European Common Market. No free-trader could be happy as international trade is today; nor could he be happy about the modifications the E.C.M. will bring.

In New Zealand much concern is expressed by our politicians and farmer organisations about the anticipated