

Industry News

EEC considers oil policy

The Common Market was circulating a proposal this spring to put a 10-year freeze on current oilseed and vegetable oil marketing regulations in Spain and Portugal as part of the transition of the two nations into the Common Market. Both nations presently have regulations designed to support domestically produced olive oil over other vegetable oils. The proposal predicts a "permanent surplus" of 230,000 tons of olive oil in the European community, which would mean a cost to the community of about \$1.7 billion to support olive oil producers, according to a U.S. Department of Agriculture report.

In discussions on expansion, the proposal reportedly suggests adjustments to community tariff structures. The USDA says this could become a method to try to end the current status of soybeans which may now enter the Common Market duty free. Past proposals to raise funds to support olive oil producers by levies on soybeans and vegetable oils have been opposed by the U.S. government.

The present Spanish and Portuguese regulations are not consistent with the General Agreement on Trades and Tariffs (GATT) between the U.S. and the Common Market.

On March 10, the European parliament approved a recommendation to impose a tax on all vegetable oils and fats, according to *Oil World*, a weekly newsletter from Germany. The recommendation is not likely to be approved by the Common Market's Council of Ministers, *Oil World* said.

Soviets buy margarine plants

The Soviet Union has placed a contract with A. Johnson & Co. of London to supply 11 complete margarine production plants, according to the British publication *Food*, which says the contract may be the largest single contract ever placed for margarine equipment. *Food* listed the contract value at £ 11 million.

The lines are to be built at Kiev, Tblisi, Gorki, Minsk, Novosibirsk and Perm, with the first line to become operational later this year and the final plant to be completed in 1985. Each line will produce up to 200 250-gram bricks of margarine per minute. Sunflower, soybean and palm oil are to be used as raw materials, with process operations, alarm functions and CIP controlled by microprocessor. The equipment, according to the magazine, also will be capable of producing shortening or other bakery products which could be packaged in 14-kilogram blocks.

Vandmoortele adds deodorizing line

Vandmoortele N.V. Oil Mills at Izegem, Belgium, has contracted with Extraction De Smet N.V. for a second deodorizing line for vegetable oils and fats, a De Smet Margarine Type Deodorizer. This MTD, identical to the first unit installed in 1981, will permit up to three product changeovers per hour with a mixing rate below 2%, and will be operated by computer.

World production by types of oils and fats (in 000 metric tons)

(Prepared by the Economics Department of Unilever PLC, England, for the 1983 meeting of the International Association of Seed Crushers. Data are from official statistics and Unilever estimates.)

	1979/80	1981/82	1982/83 Provisional
Liquid oils:			
Cottonseed	3,060	3,300	3,130
Groundnut	3,035	3,355	2,955
Soybean	14,090	14,200	15,270
Sunflower	5,610	5,170	5,550
Olive	1,560	1,420	1,860
Sesame	675	690	645
Rapeseed	3,305	4,155	4,605
Maize	630	685	700
Safflower	310	225	230
Other (a)	710	775	805
Total	32,985	33,975	35,750
Palm type oils:			
Coconut	2,900	2,910	2,895
Palm kernel	610	720	780
Palm oil	4,440	5,490	5,845
Other (b)	245	215	225
Total	8,195	9,335	9,745

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Industrial oils:			
Linseed	870	690	825
Castor bean	350	350	330
Tung	100	100	100
All other vegetable oils (c)	40	35	35
Total	1,360	1,175	1,290
Animal Fats:			
Butter (fat content) (d)	5,625	5,635	5,675
Lard	4,785	4,720	4,720
Tallow	6,385	6,225	6,210
Total	16,795	16,580	16,605
Marine oils:			
Whale (including sperm oil)	20	10	10
Fish	1,175	1,170	1,115
Total	1,195	1,180	1,125
World total	60,530	62,245	64,515

(a) Includes rice bran, mustard and other minor oils.

(b) Includes babassu kernel, shea and Illipe nut oils.

(c) Includes oiticica, mowarah, hempseed, perilla seed and other monor oils.

(d) Includes ghee.

Oxo alcohol plant

Unipar Quimica Limitada, a Brazilian chemical company, is scheduled to put on line an oxo alcohol plant in Sao Paulo in the first quarter of 1984. At the plant, Unipar will use

separators made by Monsanto Company to adjust the ratio of hydrogen to carbon monoxide feed gases and to purify hydrogen.

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