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George Wimpey & Co Limited



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Notice of annual general meeting

Notice is hereby given that the fifty-ninth annual general meeting of George Wimpey & Co Limited will be held at the Royal Garden Hotel, Kensington High Street, London W8 on Thursday 8 June 1978 at 12 noon for the following purposes:

- 1 To receive and consider the report of the directors and accounts for the year ended 31 December 1977 (Resolution 1).
- 2 To declare a dividend (Resolution 2).
- 3 To re-elect the following directors who retire in accordance with the company's Articles of Association:
Hon AL Hood (Resolution 3a)
LR Pincott (Resolution 3b).
- 4 To appoint Deloitte Haskins & Sells as auditors of the company (Resolution 4).

By order of the board

DM Penton,
Secretary
12 May 1978

Notes

- 1 A member entitled to attend and vote at this meeting may appoint a proxy to attend and vote instead of him. A proxy need not also be a member of the company.
- 2 This notice is being sent to all holders of shares and loan stock, but only ordinary shareholders are entitled to attend and vote at the meeting.
- 3 There are no contracts of service with directors that are required to be made available for inspection.
- 4 The company is not a close company under the provisions of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970.
- 5 For the purposes of computing capital gains tax, the market values of the company's share and loan capital on 6 April 1965 were:
ordinary shares (adjusted for subsequent splitting and capitalisation issues) 21 $\frac{3}{4}$ p
6% unsecured loan stock 1975/80 £92 $\frac{1}{2}$.

The year in brief

	£m	£m
	1977	1976
Turnover	752.5	652.4
Profit before taxation	51.4	44.5
Profit after taxation and minority interests	25.4	19.4
Dividend	1.8	1.6
Retained profits	23.7	17.9
Earnings per share	9.9p	7.6p

Financial calendar 1978

Annual general meeting 8 June 1978 12 noon.

Results Preliminary announcement of year end results – 27 April 1978.
Announcement of half year results – 28 September 1978.

Dividend Subject to approval by the annual general meeting an ordinary dividend will be payable on 8 June 1978 to ordinary shareholders whose names appear in the register or members at the close of business on 5 May 1978.

6% Unsecured loan stock 1975–80 Interest is payable on 14 April 1978 and 13 October 1978 to those stockholders whose names appear on the register at the close of business on 15 March 1978 and 15 September 1978 respectively.

Directors and officers

Chairman	RB Smith FIOB
Managing directors	DG Fitzgerald MA FICE D Wight
Directors	Sir Godfrey W Mitchell DRW Watts CBE BSc FICE ¹ RH Gane ¹ Hon AL Flood ¹ Sir Joseph Latham CBE FCA ¹ JH Oakley BSc FICE H Norris FCA D Macpherson BSc FICE CJ Chetwood FIOB R Cowan MA FCIS AM Coane BSc TT Candlish BSc FICE AW Nicol PJ Ward JC Chapman PhD FICE FRINA FISTructE AD McDowall FICE FIOB AR Grant FICE MAScE PEng JF Shearer CBE FCA ¹ SS Jardine BSc LR Pincott FCA ¹
Secretary	DM Penton MA FCIS
Auditors	Deloitte Haskins & Sells, chartered accountants 128 Queen Victoria Street London EC4P 4JX
Bankers	National Westminster Bank Limited 22 Kings Mall Ki Street London W6 0QD Lloyds Bank Limited 72 Lombard Street London EC3
Registrars and transfer office	Deloitte Haskins & Sells Bourne House 34 Beckenham Road Beckenham Kent BR3 4TU
Registered office	27 Hammersmith Grove London W6 7EN
Registration	London 156617

¹Non-executive directors

Chairman's statement

Recession in the UK construction industry persisted throughout 1977 and overseas there were serious economic problems in many countries and intense international competition. In these circumstances it was highly creditable to achieve substantial increases in turnover and profits.

The value of work done by the group (including amounts attributable to interests in associated companies) increased by £100m (15%) to £752m. Pre-tax profits increased by £6.9m (15%) to the record level of £51.4m. Net profit after tax attributable to group shareholders increased by £6.0m (31%) to £25.4m and earnings per ordinary share increased from 7.6p to 9.9p. These results could not have been obtained without outstanding and dedicated service by very many Wimpey people. We regret that in some cases we have been unable to provide adequate incentive because of government controls on incomes and that for some years dividend limitation has restricted the extent to which shareholders can share in the improved profits. We look forward to greater flexibility in both these important matters.

In the UK the volume of work available and profit margins were adversely affected by cuts in public expenditure and restricted capital investment by industrial and commercial firms. Nevertheless we increased turnover and it was significant that we achieved an increased share of the private housing market. This reflects the high reputation we have established in housebuilding and our ability to offer homes of the types and quality that the public wants and can afford.

Our continuing efforts to increase our involvement overseas were recognised in April last year when the company was granted the Queen's Award for Export Achievement. We congratulate and thank everyone involved both in recent years and in the early days when the foundations were laid for this success.

The difficulties and high cost of establishing effective and widespread operations overseas are not generally appreciated. Competition is severe. The task of finding, training and servicing large numbers of management and staff is formidable. Almost every country has its special problems for expatriates; many countries insist that their own citizens should be trained and employed. Legislation and operating controls and conditions change frequently.



Inspecting a model of Markborough's Meadowvale New Town, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Work on this site includes roads and services as well as the provision of a five hectare recreational lake.

There are complex problems of finance, taxation, remittances and exchange controls. Mammoth projects often involve substantial risks, expensive tendering costs and protracted negotiations. There is a growing need for substantial guarantees and bonds and although we receive significant support from the financial institutions, it can be frustrating to lose work to foreign competitors because of the aid they receive.

The growth of the overseas business required additional borrowings. Adverse influences in exchange rates on consolidation of the reserves and investments of overseas subsidiaries and branches, taken against reserves, amounted to £8.2m in 1977 (credit of £5.0m in 1976), the biggest amount relating to Canada. However, overseas profits (including the Wimpey share of associated companies) increased substantially.

Property Development

In my statement last year I referred to the significant increase in our property activities. Our interests in this field have now been brought together in Wimpey Property Holdings, a wholly owned subsidiary, and its activities are dealt with in the review of the year on page 37.

The utilisation of finance in property development is reflected both in the amount for investment properties included under fixed assets and (in respect of properties built for sale) in the amount of work in progress. The impact of new schemes on revenue is still relatively small, but the property values are appreciating.

Nationalisation

Last year we participated in a successful industry-wide campaign to thwart the introduction of legislation to extend the powers of local authority direct labour organisations. Unfortunately, the threat is still with us but in much more serious form, being one of the proposals contained in the policy document "Building Britain's Future - Labour's Policy on Construction". Among the recommendations accepted at the last Labour Party Conference is the establishment of a National Construction Corporation based on the acquisition of one or more major contractors. In my view the proposals are irrelevant to the needs of the industry and the nation. Let it not be overlooked that, ultimately, it is the public at large who will suffer in terms of higher costs and a less efficient construction industry. It is essential for us to ensure that the proposals are rejected. To this end we are participating in a joint committee formed by the Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors and the National Federation of Building Trades Employers to formulate a campaign of action which has been named CABIN (Campaign Against Building Industry Nationalisation).

Employees

It again gives me great pleasure to pay tribute to the sterling efforts and performance of our employees. During the year I had the opportunity of meeting our workpeople in a tour of the principal centres of operations in Canada and the USA together with visits to a number of offices and depots in the UK. As on previous occasions, I was greatly heartened by the dedication and effort which characterises our employees, especially those expatriates overseas who, in spite of often working in very arduous conditions, manage to produce a performance second to none.

Last year I expressed our deep concern at the Bullock Report on industrial democracy but it is now gratifying that the climate of opinion has moved against its recommendations. Hopefully employers will retain the flexibility to develop participation geared to the particular circumstances and structure of each organisation.

We have applied a great deal of effort in improving lines of communication and consultation with our employees and the results have been encouraging. In particular, the framework of elected consultative committees has been further developed and the introduction of local information bulletins at a number of locations to supplement our long-established house journal, Wimpey News, has been well received.

We are also continuing with our substantial training and management development efforts and currently have over 2,700 employees undergoing formal training. Although time consuming and costly, we strongly believe that these programmes are of vital importance to ensure the fullest utilisation of manpower resources within the organisation. Our commitment overseas has provided excellent opportunities for career advancement as well as highlighting new training needs.

Directors

It is with the deepest regret that I record the untimely death of Mr John Anderson. A director for nine years, he spent his whole career with Wimpey and played a key role in the growth of the group's operations in the mechanical, electrical and chemical engineering field.

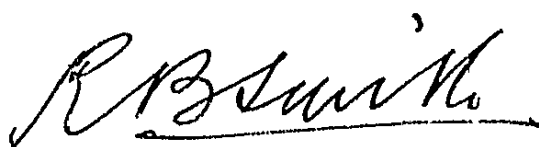
Mr LR Pincott was appointed a non-executive director with effect from 1 April 1978. Mr Pincott has enjoyed a long and distinguished career with Esso Petroleum Co where until 31 March 1978 he was a managing director. I am sure the company will benefit from his considerable experience. I shall propose his re-election and that of Mr AL Hood, who retires by rotation, with every confidence.

The Future

In the UK there are now signs of an increase in the level of enquiries but, even when full economic confidence is restored, we do not envisage that construction activity will return to the peaks achieved in the early 1970s. This means no relaxation in the present intense competition and continued pressure on margins.

However, with our established network of 19 regional offices, each of which is able to provide a comprehensive service in the construction field, we are geared for the awaited upturn in demand. The large number of established clients for whom we have undertaken a series of contracts indicates the confidence shown in our regional organisations. This pattern has been increasingly followed overseas and the steady growth of our activities in Canada and the South East Arabian Gulf is very much due to the pursuit of this policy. We will concentrate on increasing these activities as well as broadening the base of our operations in other areas.

Forecasting is, as always, notoriously difficult in our industry. But we have a record workload booked and there is every indication that, in 1978, private house sales in the UK will exceed the level of 1977. Both at home and overseas we have a strong and capable team and I am confident that together we shall have another good year.



Chairman

Report of the directors

The directors have pleasure in submitting their fifty-ninth report to the members together with a balance sheet as at 31 December 1977, and the group accounts for the year ended on that date.

Profits and dividends

The profits available to the shareholders amounting to £25,426,000 are shown in the consolidated profit and loss account on page 13. The directors recommend an ordinary dividend at the rate of 0.69035 pence per share amounting to £1,767,000, leaving retained profits of £23,659,000, which have been transferred to reserves.

Directors

- 1 The director to retire by rotation is the Hon AL Hood who, being eligible, offers himself for re-election.
- 2 There were no appointments to the board during 1977. Mr J Anderson died in office on 14 October 1977. Mr LR Pincott was appointed to the board with effect from 1 April 1978. He retires under Article 96 but, being eligible, offers himself for re-election.
- 3 Interests of the directors (including their wives and children who have not attained majority) in shares of the company are shown below. Except where indicated all the interests are held beneficially.

Ordinary shares	31 December 77	1 January 77
RB Smith	29,200	29,200
DG Fitzgerald	22,240	22,240
D Wight	3,840	3,840
Sir Godfrey W Mitchell	174,000	164,000
DRW Watts	58,000	58,000
RH Gane	36,000	42,000
AL Hood	504,000	516,000
(Trustee Interest Non-Beneficial)	233,764	267,764
Sir Joseph Latham	12,800	12,800
JH Oakley	4,000	4,000
H Norris	9,500	9,500
D Macpherson	9,600	9,600
CJ Chetwood	7,500	7,500
R Cowan	7,600	10,000
AM Coane	10,000	10,000
TT Candlish	4,000	4,000
AW Nicol	11,580	11,580
PJ Ward	6,500	6,500
JC Chapman	4,000	4,000
AD McDowall	11,000	11,000
AR Grant	4,000	4,000
JF Shearer	10,000	10,000
SS Jardine	10,000	10,000

No 6% unsecured loan stock was held by any of the directors.

No changes in the directors' interests in the company's shares occurred during the period from the date of the accounts to 12 April 1978. Mr LR Pincott had no interests in the company's shares both at the date of his appointment to the board and at 12 April 1978.

4 No director was materially interested during the year in any contract which was significant in relation to the business of the company.

Major shareholdings

There was a holding by Grove Charity Management Limited on 31 December 1977 of 127,750,000 ordinary shares which were still held at 12 April 1978. This holding represented 49.9% of the ordinary shares in issue at both dates. No other interests of 5% or more have been notified to the company.

Fixed assets

Apart from the acquisition of further investment properties, including Canadian interests, no significant changes have occurred in the group's fixed assets, other than the inclusion of assets of subsidiaries acquired during the year, as indicated on page 39, and additions in the course of business.

It is considered that the market value of the land and buildings owned and occupied by the company and its subsidiaries is substantially in excess of the book value but, in relation to the company's affairs as a whole, this difference is not significant. In relation to investment properties, the major part of these are acquisitions within recent years, and whilst it is considered that the current value is in excess of the book value, it is thought that the preparation of formal valuations is premature.

Principal activities

The business of the group is related to construction and is regarded by the directors as a single class of business. The activities include quarrying, supply of building materials, property interests and provision of supply vessels and other marine services in connection with the oil industry, all of which are ancillary to the group's principal activities.

Exports

The group does not engage in the business of exporting goods as such although materials and equipment are exported for the purpose of carrying out construction work overseas. The total of such work executed during the year, including the proportion relative to associated companies, was valued at £292m.

Employees and remuneration

The average number of persons employed by the group in the UK during 1977 was 26,000 and the aggregate remuneration for the year was £105m.

Charitable, educational and political contributions

Contributions for charitable and educational purposes made by the group amounted to £26,000. There were no political contributions.

Current cost accounting

As the Hyde Committee recommendations do not include guidance on the specific circumstances of long-term contract work, it is not felt practicable at this stage to prepare any statement relative to current cost concepts.

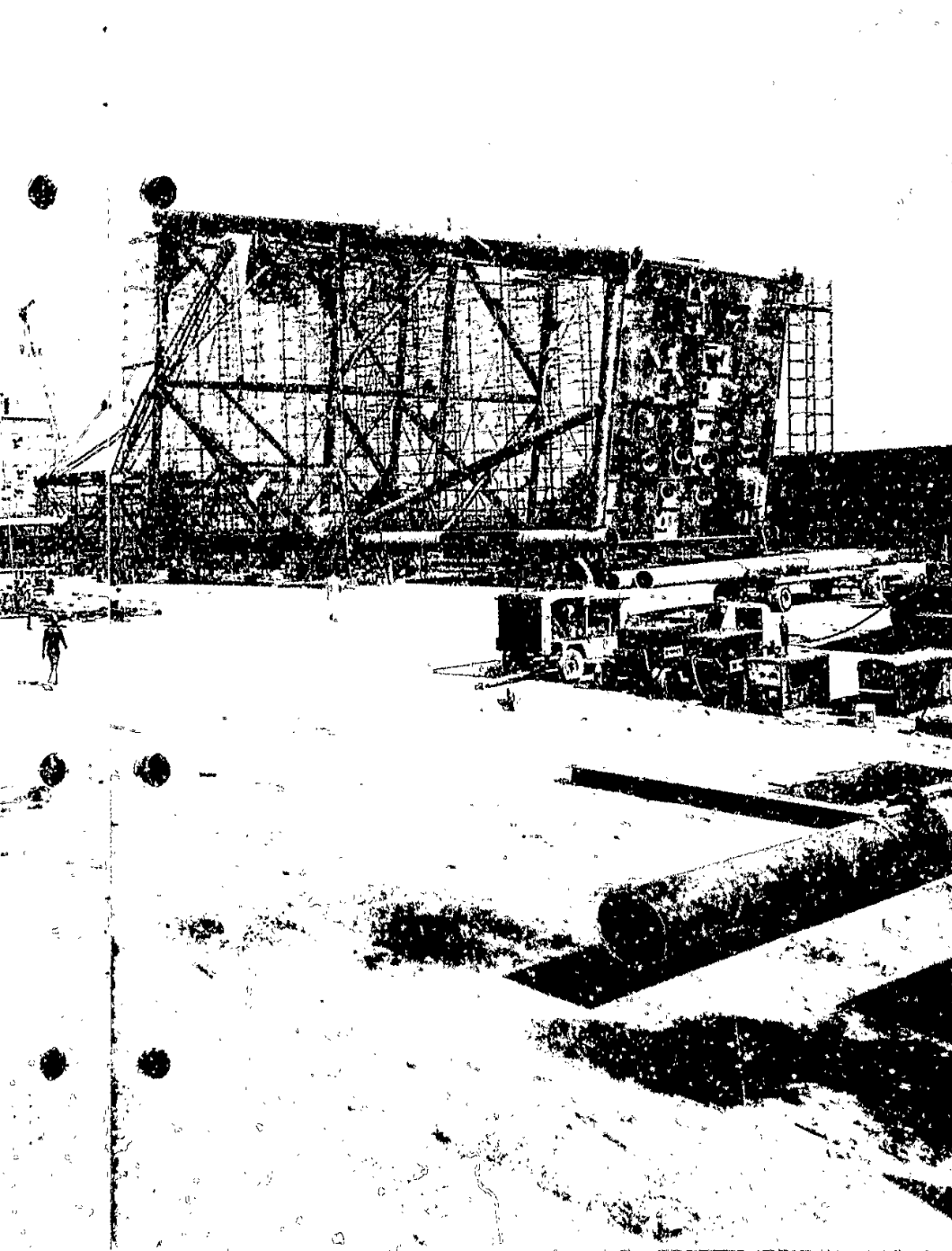
Audit Committee

An Audit Committee has been established consisting of four non-executive Directors: Sir Joseph Latham (Chairman), Hon AL Hood, Mr JF Shearer and Mr LR Pincott. The objects of the Committee are to review the effectiveness of financial controls, internal check and audit (external and internal), to consider major accounting issues and developments and to study the annual accounts and reports.

Auditors

A resolution for the appointment of Deloitte Haskins & Sells (formerly practising in the name of Deloitte & Co.) as auditors of the company will be proposed at the forthcoming annual general meeting in accordance with Section 14(1) of the Companies Act 1976.

By order of the board
DM Penton
Secretary
2 May 1978



Accounting policies

- 1 Basis of consolidation

The consolidated accounts prepared on the historical cost basis of accounting include the accounts of the parent company and all its subsidiaries made up to the end of the financial year, together with the group share of the results of associated companies.
- 2 Profit for the year

Profit for the year includes the results of contracts completed during the year and the profits attributable to contracts in progress at the year end, in both cases after deducting amounts brought into revenue in previous years and after making provisions for foreseeable losses to completion. This principle is extended to cover comprehensive housing estate developments where, because of the dependence on the sales of individual houses to realise the costs speculatively incurred on such ventures, the amount of house sales profit taken to revenue increases in relation to the number of houses of an estate in respect of which legal completions have taken place.
- 3 Turnover

Turnover comprises the total value of construction work executed during the year and includes expenditure of clients' funds and other sales as invoiced, less credit notes, but excludes Value Added Tax and inter-company trading.
- 4 Depreciation

Depreciation is provided in the accounts on the original cost of assets at the rates set out below:

 - Offices and depots occupied by the group:
 - Freehold buildings and long leaseholds – In equal instalments over 40 years
 - Short leaseholds – Over the period of the lease
 - Quarries – By reference to the minerals extracted
 - Plant and vessels – Over the expected life of the assets

No depreciation is provided on investment properties in the United Kingdom.
- 5 Research and development

Research and development expenditure other than capital expenditure on laboratory buildings and plant is charged to revenue in the year in which it is incurred.
- 6 Deferred taxation

Deferred taxation represents principally taxation at current rates on the excess of tax allowances on capital expenditure over the amounts provided for depreciation. Other timing differences include tax relief for the increase in value of trading stock, tax on profits less losses attributable to long-term contracts under transitional provisions and a deduction for Advance Corporation Tax on the recommended dividend. No provision has been made for such taxation as would arise on the distribution of profits by overseas subsidiaries and associated companies.
- 7 Regional Development Grants

Regional Development Grants have been deducted in arriving at the cost of fixed assets.
- 8 Associated companies

Associated companies are unlisted companies, other than subsidiaries, in which the group holding represents not less than 20% of the equity and in which the group actively participates in the management. The group share of profits less losses of associated companies has been brought into the accounts based on audited accounts made up to dates on or after 30 September 1977 or, where these were not available, unaudited management accounts or estimates up to 31 December 1977. The group share of associated companies' reserves other than the attributable share of profits less losses has not been brought into the consolidated balance sheet as it consists largely of property revaluation surpluses, whilst the group includes its own properties at cost rather than at revaluation figures. The group reserves consist entirely of realised surpluses, whether capital or revenue, and the exclusion of the associated companies' surpluses is therefore in accordance with the group accounting policy.
- 9 Work in progress and stocks

a) Work in progress
Until such time as the outcome of a contract or development can be foreseen with reasonable certainty, contract work in progress, land and developments in progress are valued at the lower of direct cost and net realisable value after deducting cash received or receivable on account. A proportion of profit is included in work in progress when contracts or developments have progressed to the point where a profitable outcome can prudently be foreseen.

b) Stocks
Stocks comprise materials and equipment and are included at the lower of cost and net realisable value.
- 10 Exchange rates

Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies have been converted into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the date of the balance sheet and trading profits have been converted into sterling at the average rate for the year. Differences arising on consolidation of the reserves, investments in and current accounts of overseas subsidiaries and branches are taken to reserve. All other differences are taken to profit and loss account.

Consolidated profit and loss account

for the year ended 31 December 1977

	Notes	1977 £000	1976 £000
Operating profit	1	48,849	41,628
Interest payable less receivable	2	5,362	(1,454)
		<u>43,487</u>	<u>43,082</u>
Share of profits less losses of associated companies	11a	7,878	1,411
Profit before taxation		<u>51,365</u>	<u>44,493</u>
Taxation	3	26,702	24,378
Profit after taxation	4	<u>24,663</u>	<u>20,115</u>
Attributable minority losses (profits)		763	(669)
		<u>25,426</u>	<u>19,446</u>
Recommended ordinary dividend	5	1,767	1,561
Transfer to retained profits		<u>£23,659</u>	<u>£17,885</u>
Parent company		13,666	14,086
Subsidiary companies		<u>5,623</u>	<u>4,492</u>
		19,289	18,578
Associated companies		4,370	(693)
		<u>£23,659</u>	<u>£17,885</u>
Earnings per ordinary share	8	9.9p	7.6p

Report of the auditors

to the members of George Wimpey & Co Limited

We have examined the accounts set out on pages 12 to 25 which have been prepared on the basis of the accounting policies set out on page 12.

In our opinion the accounts give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and, so far as concerns members of the holding company, of the group at 31 December 1977 and of the profit and source and application of funds for the year ended on that date and comply with the Companies Acts 1948 and 1967.

Deloitte Haskins & Sells

Chartered Accountants
London 2 May 1978

Consolidated balance sheet

as at 31 December 1977

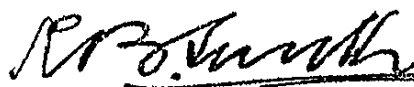
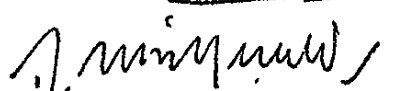
	Notes	1977 £000	1976 £000
Share capital	14		
Issued capital:			
George Wimpey & Co Limited		64,000	64,000
Reserves	15	<u>107,476</u> <u>171,476</u>	<u>92,138</u> <u>156,138</u>
Outside shareholders interests in subsidiaries		145	903
Loans	16	105,179	71,027
Deferred taxation		62,531	38,823
Current liabilities and provisions			
Taxation		12,628	20,883
Recommended ordinary dividend	5	1,767	1,561
Bank overdrafts (secured to the extent of £2,133,000. 1976, £14,495,000)		17,356	28,311
Creditors		<u>130,706</u>	<u>107,541</u>
		<u>162,457</u>	<u>158,296</u>
		<u>£501,788</u>	<u>£425,187</u>

	Notes	1977 £000	1976 £000
Fixed assets	9		
Cost		228,824	185,782
Less: Depreciation		<u>79,513</u>	<u>62,996</u>
		149,311	122,786
Investments	11	28,081	25,301
Current assets			
Work in progress and stocks	12	153,311	120,992
Debtors		148,286	109,243
Short term investments and deposits	13	2,513	3,505
Bank balances and cash		<u>20,286</u>	<u>43,360</u>
		324,396	277,100
		<u>£501,788</u>	<u>£425,187</u>

Balance sheet
as at 31 December 1977

	Notes	1977 £000	1976 £000
Share capital	14		
Issued capital		64,000	64,000
Reserves	15	<u>55,661</u>	<u>45,325</u>
		119,661	109,325
Loans	16	891	1,245
Deferred taxation		47,662	25,669
Current liabilities and provisions			
Taxation		3,801	14,579
Recommended ordinary dividend	5	1,767	1,561
Bank overdrafts		4,635	4,328
Creditors		<u>87,187</u>	<u>66,705</u>
		97,390	87,173
		<u>£265,604</u>	<u>£223,412</u>

	Notes	1977 £000	1976 £000
Fixed assets	9		
Cost		109,853	91,648
Less: Depreciation		<u>42,687</u>	<u>36,777</u>
		67,166	54,871
Subsidiary companies	10	57,363	39,833
Investments	11	7,584	5,485
Current assets			
Work in progress and stocks	12	60,380	41,874
Debtors		62,410	40,278
Short-term investments and deposits	13	2,511	3,505
Bank balances and cash		<u>8,190</u>	<u>37,566</u>
		133,491	123,223
		<u>£265,604</u>	<u>£223,412</u>



 Directors

Source and application of funds

for the year ended 31 December 1977

	1977	1976
£000	£000	£000
Sources		
Net group profit after taxation and minorities	25,426	19,446
Add:		
Taxation provision	26,702	24,378
Depreciation provision	20,216	17,222
	<u>72,344</u>	<u>61,046</u>
Attributable profits prior years (before taxation of £12,449,000 in 1976)	-	24,270
	<u>72,344</u>	<u>85,316</u>
Less: Profits retained in associated companies	<u>7,643</u>	<u>626</u>
Funds from operations	<u>64,701</u>	<u>84,690</u>
Add:		
Reduction in advances to associated companies	4,953	(2,563)
Surpluses arising on disposal of properties and investments	943	1,244
Medium and long term loans	29,368	28,876
Total funds provided	<u>99,965</u>	<u>112,247</u>
Applications		
Purchase of fixed assets	52,877	50,696
Less: Disposals	<u>11,196</u>	<u>12,895</u>
	<u>41,681</u>	<u>37,801</u>
Fixed assets of subsidiaries acquired	5,060	28,664
Cost of control of subsidiaries acquired	1,055	2,331
Investments	3,363	2,723
Exchange adjustments	8,213	(4,956)
Taxation paid	7,976	13,169
Dividends paid	<u>1,561</u>	<u>1,419</u>
	<u>68,909</u>	<u>81,151</u>
	<u>£31,056</u>	<u>£31,096</u>
Increase (decrease) in working capital		
Work in progress and stock	32,319	43,962
Debtors	39,043	66,392
Creditors	<u>(22,411)</u>	<u>(46,690)</u>
	<u>48,951</u>	<u>63,664</u>
Movement in net liquid funds:		
Overdrafts and short term loans	6,171	(23,910)
Cash and bank balances	<u>(24,066)</u>	<u>(8,658)</u>
	<u>(17,895)</u>	<u>(32,568)</u>
	<u>£31,056</u>	<u>£31,096</u>

Notes on the accounts

		1977	1976
		£000	£000
1 Operating profit	Operating profit is stated after charging:		
	Staff pension schemes:		
	Regular company contributions	2,783	2,515
	Special provision	1,000	-
	Depreciation	20,216	17,222
	Auditors' remuneration and expenses	220	173
	Hire of plant and equipment	12,545	8,617
	and after crediting:		
	Ground rents and fees receivable	447	440
	Other rental income, net	2,901	988
	Dividends received other than from associated companies:		
	Quoted	266	31
	Unquoted	22	18
2 Interest payable less receivable	Interest payable:		
	Bank loans	2,975	3,251
	Bank overdrafts	1,785	186
	Loans repayable within 5 years	2,267	2,151
	Long-term loans	2,442	1,310
		9,469	6,898
	Interest receivable	4,107	8,352
		<u>£5,362</u>	<u>(£1,454)</u>
3 Taxation	United Kingdom:		
	Corporation tax	(935)	6,248
	Credit for overseas tax	(456)	(651)
		<u>(1,391)</u>	<u>5,597</u>
	Deferred tax	20,120	14,176
	Tax attributable to dividends received	88	9
		<u>18,817</u>	<u>19,782</u>
	Overseas:		
	Current tax	2,702	2,261
	Deferred tax	1,461	1,266
		<u>22,980</u>	<u>23,309</u>
	Associated companies (note 11a)	3,273	1,319
		<u>26,253</u>	<u>24,628</u>
	Prior year adjustments:		
	United Kingdom corporation tax	(2,232)	(229)
	United Kingdom deferred tax	2,702	15
	Overseas taxes	(21)	(36)
		<u>£26,702</u>	<u>£24,378</u>

United Kingdom corporation tax has been provided at 52% on the profit of the year (1976 52%).

4 Profit after taxation

A profit of £15,643,000 (1976 £15,647,000) has been dealt with in the accounts of the parent company.

5 Ordinary dividend

The recommended dividend totalling £1,767,315 together with the imputed tax credit is the maximum permitted dividend and comprises the following:

	p. per share	1977	1976
1976 Supplemental	0.00938	24,011	-
1977	0.68097	1,743,304	1,560,809
	<u>0.69035</u>	<u>£1,767,315</u>	<u>£1,560,809</u>

The supplemental dividend for the year ended 31 December 1976 represents the additional dividend permissible as a result of the reduction of Advance Corporation Tax from 35% to 34%.

6 Turnover

The group
Associates

	1977	1976
	£000	£000
The group	638,005	574,103
Associates	114,469	78,298
	<u>£752,474</u>	<u>£652,401</u>

7 Emoluments of directors and employees

Directors' emoluments comprised:

Directors' fees	57	56
Directors' other emoluments including contributions to pension schemes	449	417
Past directors' pensions	10	7

The emoluments of the Chairman, excluding pension contributions were £43,285. In 1976 the emoluments of the Chairman and his predecessor totalled £40,422.

The number of directors (including 1 for part only of the year) and employees other than those working wholly or mainly overseas whose emoluments, excluding pension contributions, fell within the following scales was:

Scale of emoluments	Number of directors		Number of employees	
	1977	1976	1977	1976
£ 2,501 - 5,000	3	3		
£ 5,001 - 7,500	2	2		
£ 7,501 - 10,000	1	1		
£10,001 - 12,500	-	1	61	41
£12,501 - 15,000	-	-	28	12
£15,001 - 17,500	-	2	9	7
£17,501 - 20,000	2	-	5	1
£20,001 - 22,500	6	9	3	1
£22,501 - 25,000	4	1	-	-
£25,001 - 27,500	1	1	1	-
£27,501 - 30,000	2	1	-	-
£37,501 - 40,000	-	1	-	-
£42,501 - 45,000	1	-	-	-

9 Fixed assets

The calculation of earnings per share is based on a net of £25,420,000 (1976 £19,440,000) and on 256,000,000 ordinary shares in issue at 31 December 1977 and 31 December 1976

	Free-holds	Long lease-holds	Short lease-holds	Plant & vessels	Total
Group	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Cost 1 January 1977	41,938	15,528	3,845	124,471	185,782
Additions	17,948	5,357	1,466	31,562	56,333
Exchange adjustments	(1,002)	-	(66)	(2,388)	(3,456)
Assets of subsidiaries acquired	652	-	-	4,408	5,060
Disposals	(1,667)	(15)	(96)	(13,117)	(14,895)
Reclassification	(4,777)	4,777	-	-	-
Cost 31 December 1977	53,092	25,647	5,149	144,936	228,824
Depreciation provision	4,727	537	1,201	73,048	79,513
Net book value					
31 December 1977	£48,365	£25,110	£3,948	£71,888	£149,311
Net book value 31 December 1976	£37,775	£15,045	£3,249	£66,717	£122,786
Net book value of investment properties included above					
31 December 1977	£26,310	£15,629	-	-	£41,939
31 December 1976	£13,492	£13,544	-	-	£27,036

Parent company

Cost 1 January 1977	21,444	1,745	675	67,784	91,648
Additions	2,151	3,251	297	22,237	27,936
Exchange adjustments	(22)	-	(27)	(41)	(90)
Disposals	(27)	-	(4)	(9,467)	(9,498)
Reclassification	(4,777)	4,777	-	-	-
Inter group transfers	-	-	-	(143)	(143)
Cost 31 December 1977	18,769	9,773	941	80,370	109,853
Depreciation provision	2,991	474	713	38,509	42,687
Net Book value					
31 December 1977	£15,778	£9,299	£228	£41,861	£67,166
Net book value 31 December 1976	£18,249	£1,315	£431	£34,876	£54,871

10 Subsidiary companies

Investments in subsidiary companies, less amount written off:

Shares	15,780	14,983
Amounts due from subsidiary companies	63,505	48,179
	79,285	63,162
Less: Amounts due to subsidiary companies	21,922	23,329
	£57,363	£39,833

The company's principal active subsidiaries are shown on page 39.

		Group	Parent	Group	Parent
		1977	1977	1976	1976
		£000	£000	£000	£000
11 investments	Associated companies	23,524	7,461	22,006	5,302
	Other companies:				
	Quoted:				
	United Kingdom stock exchanges	3,574	—	1,504	—
	Other stock exchanges	676	—	831	—
	Unquoted	307	123	300	123
		<u>£28,081</u>	<u>£7,584</u>	<u>£25,301</u>	<u>£5,485</u>
	Market value of quoted investments	£6,993	—	£2,574	—

A list of investments in associated and other companies is shown on page 40.

a The amount appearing above in respect of associated companies comprises:

	Group	Parent	Group	Parent
	1977	1977	1976	1976
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Shares at cost	3,987	643	2,546	575
Provisions	—	(177)	—	(101)
Share of attributable profits less losses	3,539	—	(831)	—
Amounts due from associated companies	15,998	6,995	20,951	4,888
	<u>£23,524</u>	<u>£7,461</u>	<u>£22,666</u>	<u>£5,362</u>

The group share of profits less losses included above and in the group reserves in note 15 is made up as follows:

	1977	1976
	£000	£000
As at 1 January 1977 loss	(831)	(138)
Deficiencies of companies ceasing to be associated companies during the year	462	355
	<u>(369)</u>	<u>217</u>
Profit before tax:		
Trading	6,734	731
Property Investment	1,144	680
	<u>7,878</u>	<u>1,411</u>
Tax thereon (note 3)	3,273	1,319
	<u>4,605</u>	<u>92</u>
	<u>4,236</u>	<u>309</u>

Dividends received during the current year (excluding the notional income tax credit of £283,000. 1976 £199,000)

	697	1,140
Added to (deducted from) reserves	<u>£3,539</u>	<u>£(831)</u>

The share of profits less losses of associated companies, amounting to £7,878,000, as shown in the consolidated profit and loss account represents the group share of apportioned results for periods of twelve months ended at various dates between 30 September 1977 and 31 December 1977.

The group share of capital surpluses of associated companies which is not included in the above figures amounts to £25,000,000 (1976 £23,813,000). These are largely surpluses arising from directors' revaluations of properties completed and fully or substantially let, as shown in the capital reserves and directors' reports in the last available accounts of those companies.

- b The total group share of profits and reserves relative to the holdings in unquoted investments shown by accounts made up to various dates from 31 December 1976 to 30 September 1977 is as follows:

	1977	1976
	£000	£000
Net profits before taxation	899	655
Taxation	513	476
Net profits after taxation	386	179
Dividends paid attributable thereto	16	13
Total surpluses	370	166
Accumulated net surpluses brought forward	221	55
Accumulated net surpluses carried forward	591	221
Other reserves including amounts subsequently capitalised	18,205	18,216
Group share of post-acquisition surpluses	18,796	18,437
Group share of capital and pre-acquisition reserves	352	356
Total group share of capital and reserves	£19,148	£18,793
Group book values	£307	£300

The other reserves shown above are primarily in respect of revaluation surpluses which arise from directors' revaluations of properties completed and fully or substantially let, as shown by the last available accounts or directors' reports of those companies. Other properties are regarded by the directors of those companies as having a value in excess of the book value.

- c In stating the surpluses arising from directors' revaluations of properties and the market value of quoted investments, no account has been taken of taxation liabilities which might arise upon realisation.

Notes on the accounts continued

		Group	Parent	Group	Parent
		1977	company	1976	company
		£000	£000	£000	£000
12 Work in progress and stocks	Work in progress	1,154,114	927,922	912,069	732,486
	Less: Cash received and receivable	1,021,933	879,030	806,224	700,031
		132,181	48,892	105,845	32,455
	Stocks	21,130	11,488	15,147	9,419
		<u>£153,311</u>	<u>£60,380</u>	<u>£120,992</u>	<u>£41,874</u>
13 Short-term investments and deposits	Short-term investments and deposits include investments of the parent company quoted on a UK stock exchange amounting to £1,511,041 (1976 £1,005,000) which had a market value at 31 December 1977 of £1,582,900 (1976 £1,010,000).				
			1977		1976
			£000		£000
14 Share capital	Ordinary shares of 25p each, authorised issued and fully paid		64,000		64,000
		Group	Parent	Group	Parent
		1977	company	1976	company
		£000	£000	£000	£000
15 Reserves	General reserve				
	Balance at 1 January 1977	92,969	45,325	70,520	28,425
	Surpluses arising on disposal of properties and investments	943	57	1,244	—
	Cost of control of new subsidiaries	(1,055)	—	(2,331)	—
	Surplus (deficit) on exchange differences	(8,213)	(3,391)	4,956	2,812
	Surplus on redemption of loan stock	4	4	2	2
	Unappropriated balance of the year	19,289	13,666	18,578	14,086
		<u>103,937</u>	<u>55,661</u>	<u>92,969</u>	<u>45,325</u>
	Associated companies				
	Cumulative share of profits less losses (note 11a)	3,539	—	(831)	—
	Total reserves	<u>£107,476</u>	<u>£55,661</u>	<u>£92,138</u>	<u>£45,325</u>

Of the net balance of £103,937,000 (1976 £92,969,000) on the general reserve at 31 December 1977 £76,718,000 (1976 £63,805,000) is available for distribution.

As a result of a transaction entered into during 1976, the directors are hopeful that a tax benefit of approximately £18 million may become available. As a matter of prudence, no credit has been taken in these accounts.

16 Loans

	Group	Parent company	Group	Parent company
	1977	1977	1976	1976
	£000	£000	£000	£000
6% Unsecured loan stock 1975/80	375	375	416	416
Repayable within 1 year	7,746	260	2,962	188
Repayable within 2-5 years	13,526	26	18,471	306
Repayable after 5 years	34,135	-	26,066	-
Bank Loans	49,397	230	23,112	335
	<u>£105,179</u>	<u>£891</u>	<u>£71,027</u>	<u>£1,245</u>
Secured	69,277	121	56,083	216
Unsecured	35,902	770	14,944	1,029
	<u>£105,179</u>	<u>£891</u>	<u>£71,027</u>	<u>£1,245</u>

a Unsecured loan stock

During the year, £40,900 (1976 £8,500) of the 6% unsecured loan stock 1975/80 was purchased at market price and cancelled. The surplus of £4,486 (1976 £1,738) has been taken to reserve.

b Terms of loans

Loans repayable after 5 years are due for repayment at various dates from 1983 to 2014 and interest is payable thereon mainly at rates from 6% to 11% per annum.

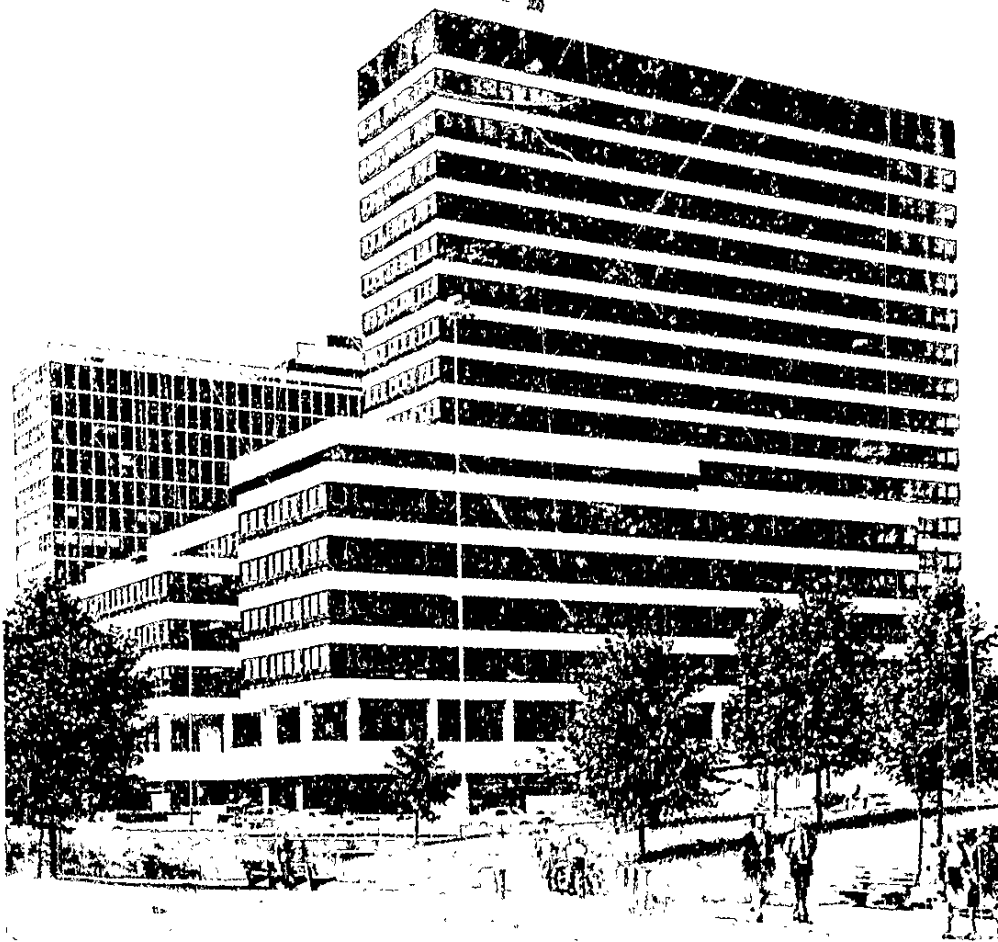
17 Capital commitments

	Group	Parent company	Group	Parent company
	1977	1977	1976	1976
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Estimated amount of capital expenditure contracted for but not provided in the accounts	20,754	5,989	9,880	8,993
Expenditure authorised but not contracted for	1,544	1,421	10,426	259

In arriving at these figures, Regional Development Grants have not been taken into account.

18 Contingent liabilities

Of the loans appearing in the consolidated balance sheet, the parent company has guaranteed borrowings by subsidiary companies amounting to £38 million (1976 £15 million). The parent company has also guaranteed part or all of the bank facilities of certain associated companies, of which £30 million (1976 £16 million) was outstanding at the balance sheet date. There are also contingent liabilities in respect of guarantees under building and other agreements entered into in the normal course of business.



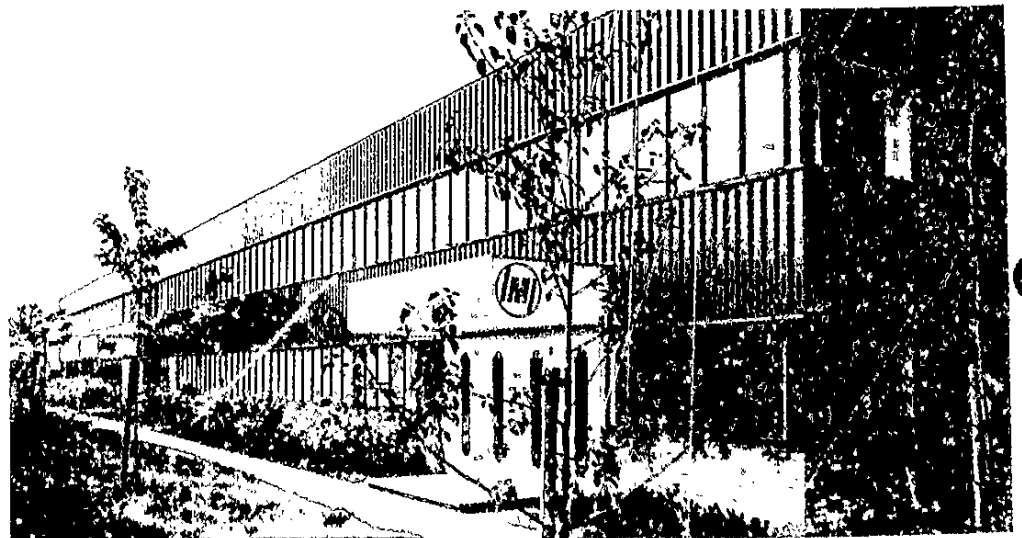
An impressive office block at Alconon Link, Basingstoke. The three linked blocks have full air-conditioning, nine high speed lifts and car parking on two levels.
Architects: Elsom Park & Roberts
Structural Engineers: Charles Nicholls & Lareel
Quantity Surveyors: Cyril Sweett & Partners



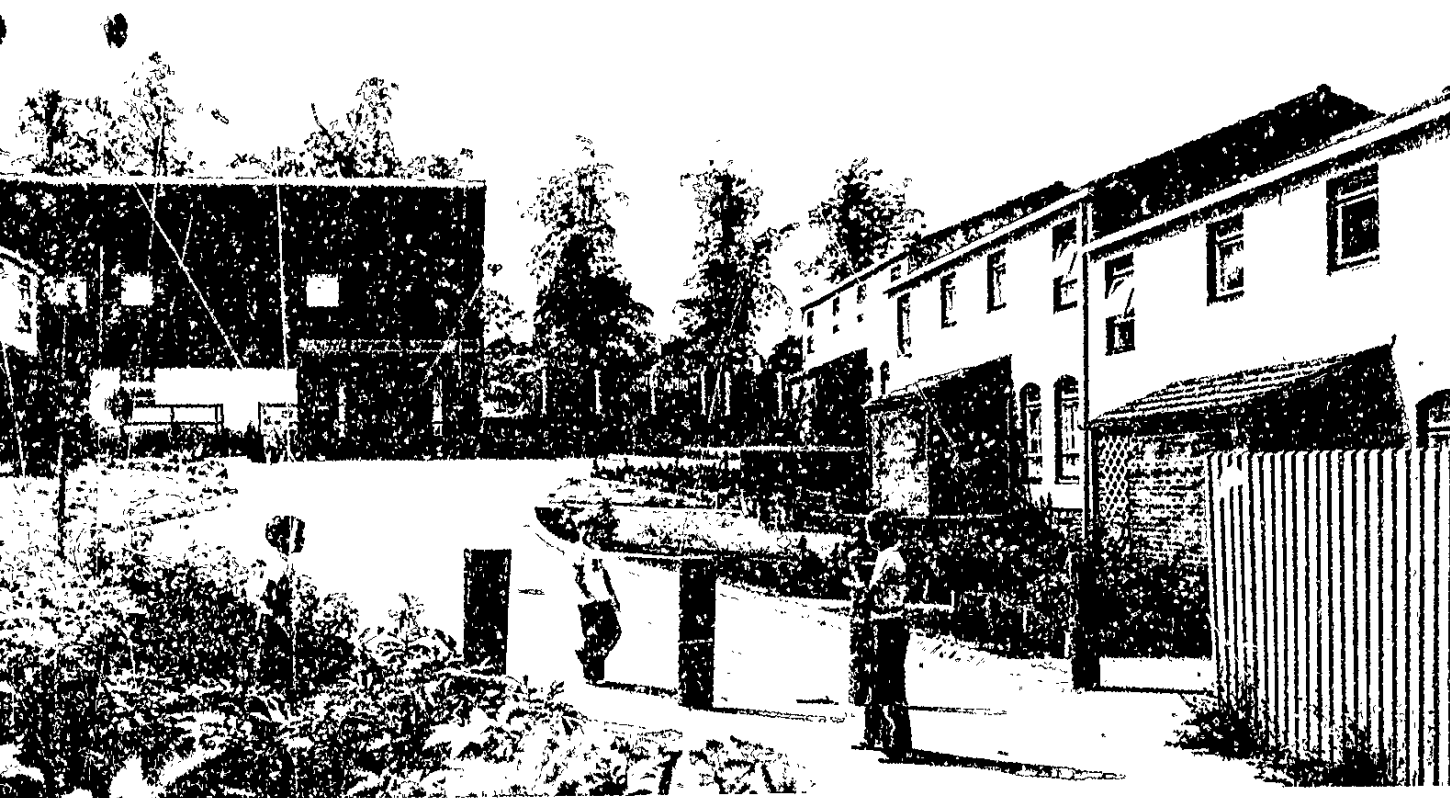
A private development of detached houses at The Fairways, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands.



Large office building, factory and warehouse at M40 & M10, for the British Gas Corporation, Basingstoke.
Architects: Elsom Park & Roberts
Structural Engineers: Charles Nicholls & Lareel
Quantity Surveyors: Cyril Sweett & Partners



Review of the year



Building and civil engineering – United Kingdom

The restrictions in the UK on public expenditure and lack of confidence in the industrial field caused intense competition. This is exemplified by the substantial and continuing downturn in our No-Fines housing for local authorities. 7,500 dwellings were handed over – 1,300 less than last year.

In joint venture with local authorities we built houses on council owned land and many of these properties were sold to purchasers nominated by housing departments. One such scheme was completed and seven further schemes are under construction.

We have maintained our position as the largest builder of private homes in the United Kingdom and, with bookings exceeding 10,000 units, our share of the reduced market was increased.

Satisfactory results were achieved on a number of contracts for commercial buildings, including a large office block at Basingstoke and another for Antony Gibbs & Sons, Bishopsgate. Work on the new police headquarters for the City of Liverpool was started.

Work carried out for subsidiary and associated companies tripled during the year; good progress was made on an impressive office project for Wimpey Property Holdings at Aldgate.

Notable completions in the industrial field were the Albion Sugar complex at Tilbury, factory extensions at Bathgate for British Leyland and the central pier at Gatwick for British Airports Authority.

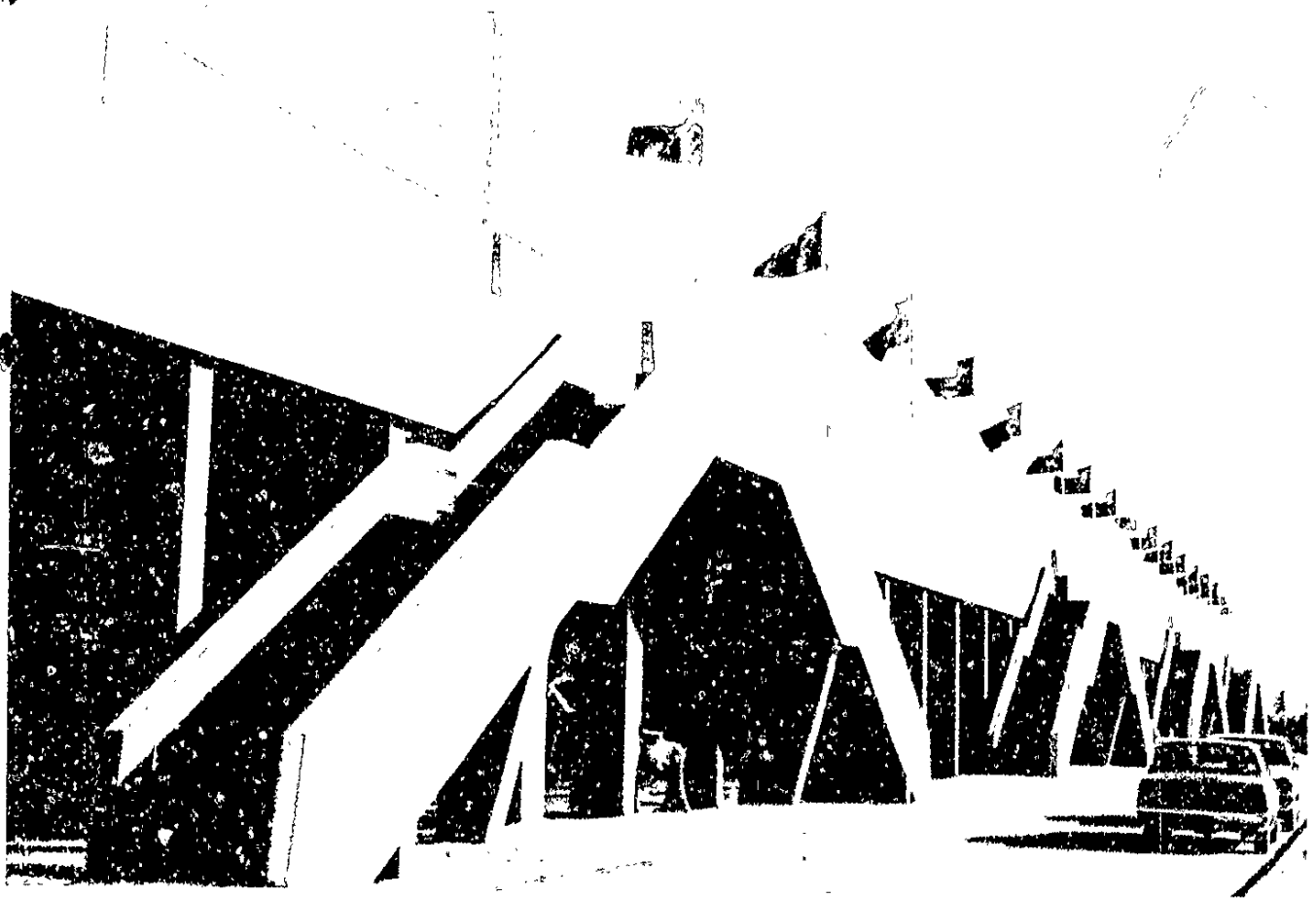
Good progress was maintained on the covered docks for Cammell Laird at Birkenhead, on two new contracts for British Leyland at Longbridge and a protein plant for ICI at Billingham.

An attractive No-Fines development at Hawkesley Farm, North Worcestershire comprises 183 two storey and 18 three storey houses. Client: Birmingham City Council City Architect: W G Reed MCD B Arch. RIBA MRTPI Consultants: James A Roberts and Associates Quantity Surveyors: Bellamy & Wareham in association with D Bergman FRICS City Building Finance Officer

The new office complex at Holey
St in Birmingham is dominated by
two 17 storey towers linked by a two
storey parking unit to a nine storey
building.
Client: Commercial Union Properties
Architects: The John Madin Design
Group
Structural Engineers: Roy Bolsover &
Associates
Quantity Surveyers: Lay & Partners



Production of opencast coal in 1977 continued at a satisfactory level and again reached over one million tonnes. This involved the removal of some 33 million m³ of overburden. During the year additional items of heavy plant were purchased to cater for an increased volume of work to be carried out in 1978.



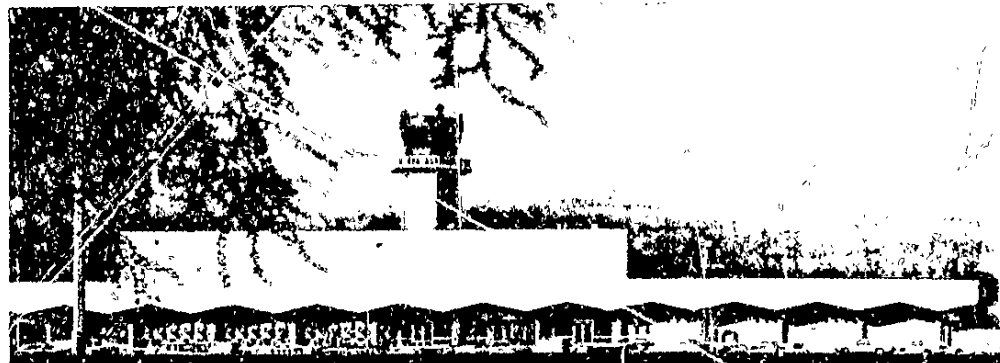
Building and civil engineering – Overseas

The Middle East continued to be our main area of activity. In the United Arab Emirates, Al-Futtaim Wimpey had several major works in progress including quarry operations for the construction of the new port and the infrastructure of a new industrial area at Jebel Ali in Dubai. The Hamriya Fishing Harbour and roadworks in Umm Al Qawain were handed over ahead of schedule. Our associate company British Smelter Constructions started work at Jebel Ali on an aluminium smelter together with power station and desalination plant.

In Oman several major projects were handed over during the year, including the National Day parade ground which was finished well ahead of programme. Our performance in the Sultanate has resulted in the award of a number of new contracts, and our support activities in oilfield exploration and development have been expanded. Satisfactory production was maintained at the Government quarries in Qatar and the first two production lines of a new sand processing plant commenced operations. In Bahrain work continued at Isa Town and a major office development was completed during the year. Opportunities in other Middle Eastern countries have been pursued and new offices opened in Egypt and the Yemen Arab Republic.

In Iran Wimpey-Laing obtained a substantial order for basic utilities and buildings for a project at Esfahan. At Bandar Abbas the dry docks, together with associated facilities for the Imperial Iranian Navy, were handed over and satisfactory progress maintained on additional works. Millbank Technical Services is main contractor for both these projects.

The National Day Parade Ground, Salalah, Southern Oman. The stands have a seating capacity of 30,000 and were constructed in only six and a half months in time for the 1977 Omani National Day celebrations which were attended by HM Su'tan Qaboos bin Said



Ste Madeleine senior secondary school, built for the Ministry of Education and Culture, The Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.
Architects: Watkins, Phillips, Bynoe & Partners
Structural Engineers: Consulting Engineers Partnership
Quantity Surveyors: Hart & Leonard

Laing Wimpey Alireza completed Phase 1 of the Abha airport in Saudi Arabia which was officially opened by the Minister of Defence and Aviation, HRH Prince Sultan Abdul Aziz, in November. Work continued on several other projects including Phase II of the Abha airport and quarrying operations. A large housing contract for the United States Corps of Engineers was also secured.

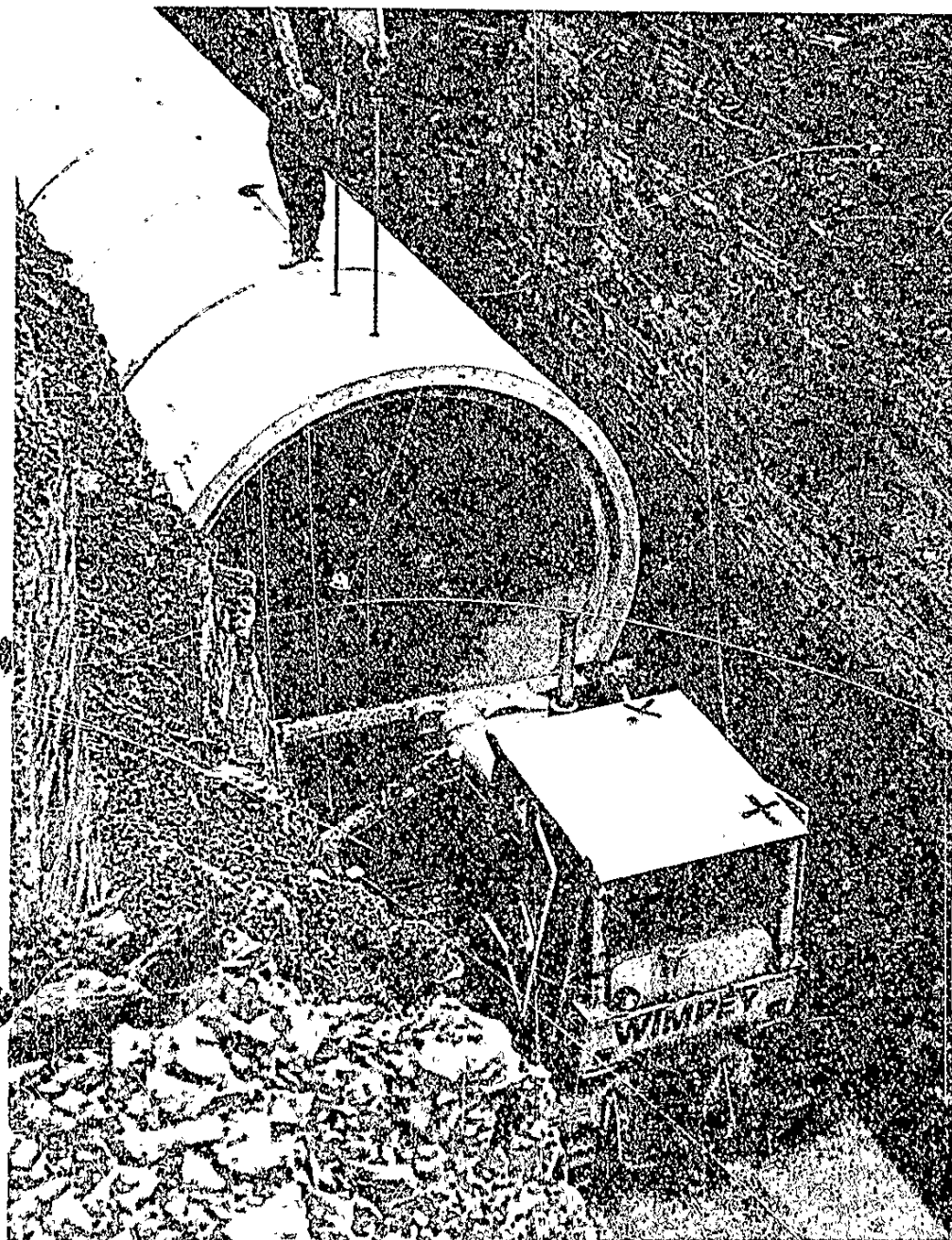
In Nigeria we completed the road complex for the Trades Fair in Lagos which was opened in November. Work was substantially completed on the teachers' training college at Pankshin and on a number of other projects in the Lagos area. Progress was maintained on the Jos-Bauchi road and asphalt surfacing carried out on many other roads, particularly in the south. Three new building contracts were obtained during the year; a vehicle plant for Steyr (Nigeria) at Bauchi, a military complex at Lokaja and terminal buildings and utility services for the new international airport at Port Harcourt. Negotiations continued for further substantial building and civil engineering contracts particularly for roadworks.

Our major contract with GKN for the rebuilding of six regional airports in Zaire was completed. The logistic difficulties of getting men, materials and especially plant to such widely scattered and remote sites presented a severe challenge which was accepted and overcome. We are now actively pursuing opportunities in other African countries.

Early in the new year a substantial interest was acquired in a Hong Kong based company which has a considerable land holding in the New Territories with planning consent for mixed development. Further east, the new coal power station in Korea was completed satisfactorily.

In Trinidad our local company made solid progress in a number of building and industrial projects and secured new contracts for the coming year.

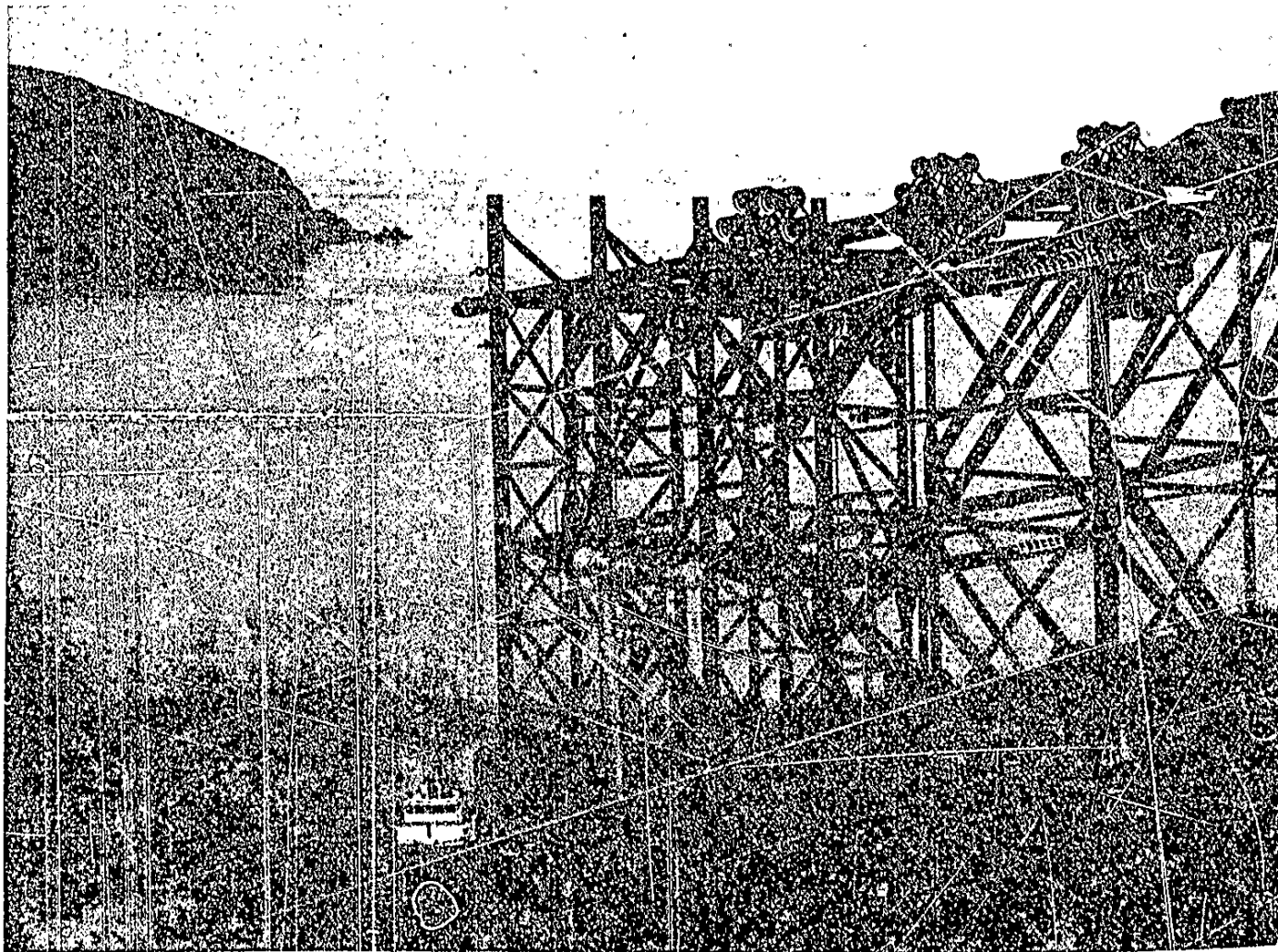
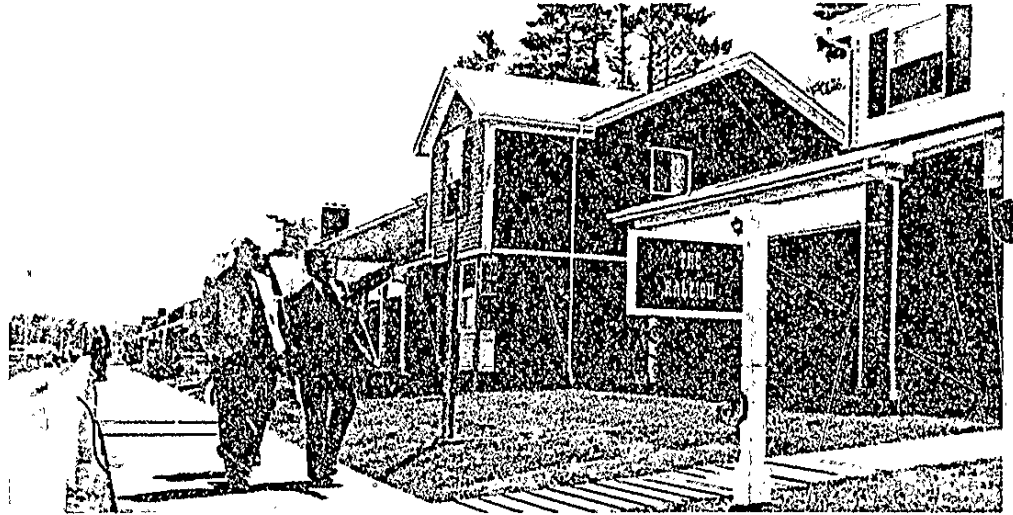
in Venezuela v... alised agreements for the provision of building technology and
 expect operati... t in 1978, whilst in Peru various projects are under considera-
 tion followi... mpletion of the Petroperu oil terminal at Bayovar.
 Turnover by... da increased substantially. A wide range of
 construction and... vities was undertaken in the Toronto region, South
 Western and South... o and in Alberta. A substantial property acquisition
 was made in Ontario and w... so entered the fields of ready-mixed concrete and
 asphalt manufacturing as well as that of mineral aggregate extraction. During the year
 work in USA continued on a civil engineering project in Florida. Residential activities
 were expanded in Ohio and the decision was taken to commence similar operations in
 Houston, Texas.



Installation of the outfall section of the eastern community trunk sewer for City of Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. The concrete sewer pipes are the largest ever manufactured and laid in Canada, each section weighing 27 tonnes and measuring 3.6m in diameter.

Steady progress continued to be made by Wimpey France in the development of private housing sites on the outskirts of Paris, where our designs are proving popular. In Spain we have formed a joint company with Beyre SA to build flats for sale near Madrid using our No-Fines technique.

R B Smith accompanied by I A Milroy, regional manager, private development, Toronto, inspecting 'The Raleigh' style house on a private development estate at Annapolis Subdivision, Oakville, Ontario, Canada. This is just one of 386 units built and sold on this site.



Offshore Engineering

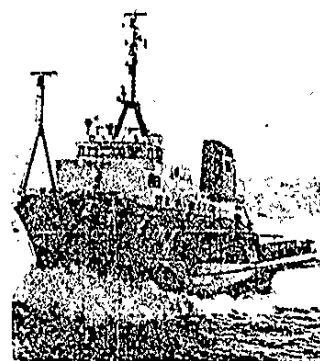
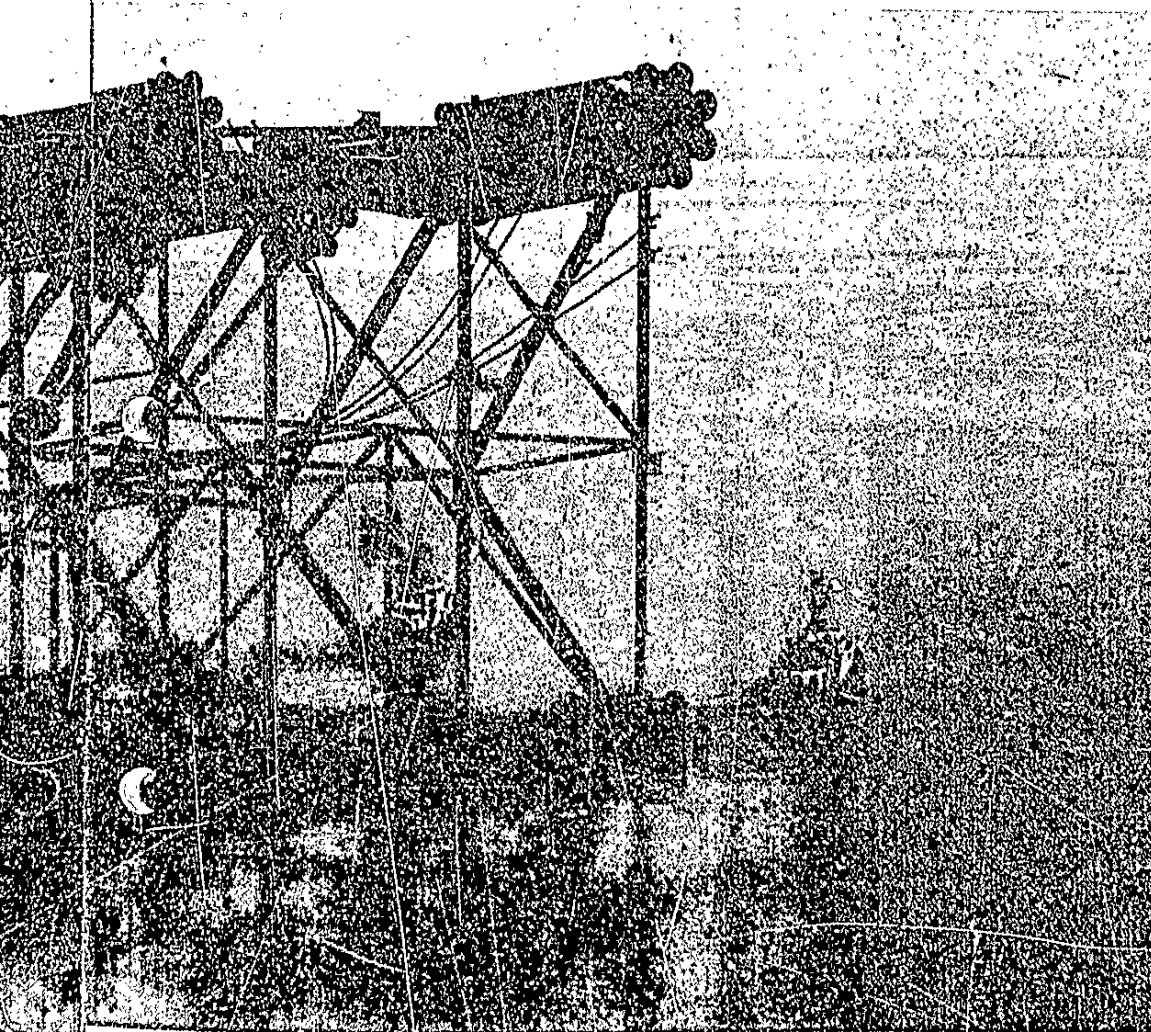
The third major oil production platform constructed at Nigg Bay by Brown & Root-Wimpey Highlands Fabricators was delivered on schedule in May to Chevron Petroleum (UK), operator of the Ninian Field. The contract for another platform for this field was finalised during the year and good progress made on design and fabrication.

A policy of diversification into new fields of steel fabrication was pursued, and the pipe rolling mill at Nigg Bay completed several projects of types not previously undertaken. Highlands Fabricators was also appointed project manager for the development of the Beatrice Field for the MESA Group.

Wimpey Marine's fleet of tug and supply vessels continued to be fully employed in the North Sea while the cargo and construction barges supported our own operations and provided a service to clients in the Caribbean, Arabian Gulf and UK waters. It also continued operating the harbour facility to receive all the materials for constructing the Sullom Voe oil terminal.

In Trinidad, two offshore drilling production platforms were under construction for Trinidad-Tesoro. In Venezuela we formed a company with Industrias Metalurgicas Van Dam to fabricate drilling platforms for increasing offshore oil and gas exploration.

In Bahrain, an associated company with Brown & Root maintained its share of the offshore oil construction market although keen competition affected the level of profits.



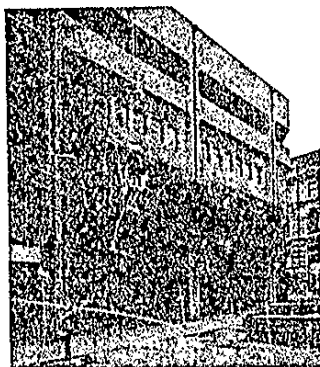
TSMV Wimpey Seatiger is a 8480 BHP tug/anchor handling/supply vessel designed to undertake support operations in the North Sea and world wide. Seatiger was built to the same specification as her sister ship Wimpey Seafox.

Float out of the 21,000 tonne Ninian Southern Platform which has since been successfully installed in the Ninian oilfield. This is the third major North Sea structure to be constructed at Nigg Bay, Scotland. Client: Chevron Petroleum (UK) Construction by Brown & Root - Wimpey Highlands Fabricators.

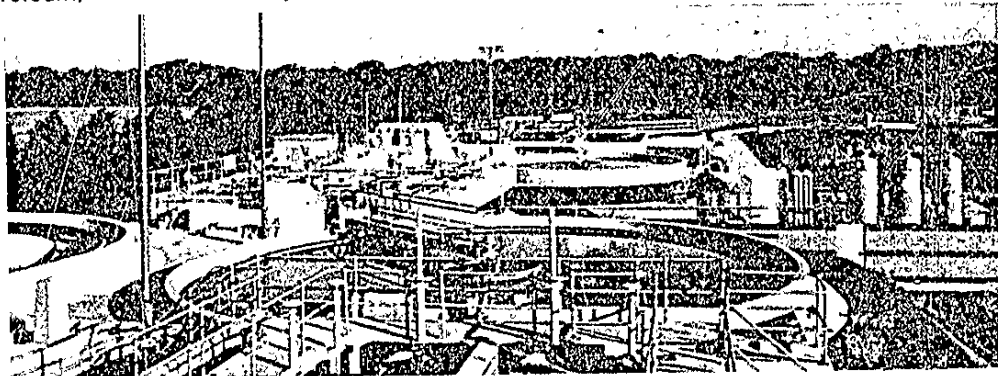
Mechanical, Electrical and Chemical Engineering

George Wimpey M E & C again contributed substantially to group turnover and the wide range of design, construction and management skills we offer, has secured a diverse workload at home and overseas; design engineering facilities were expanded to meet predicted demands from an increasing market.

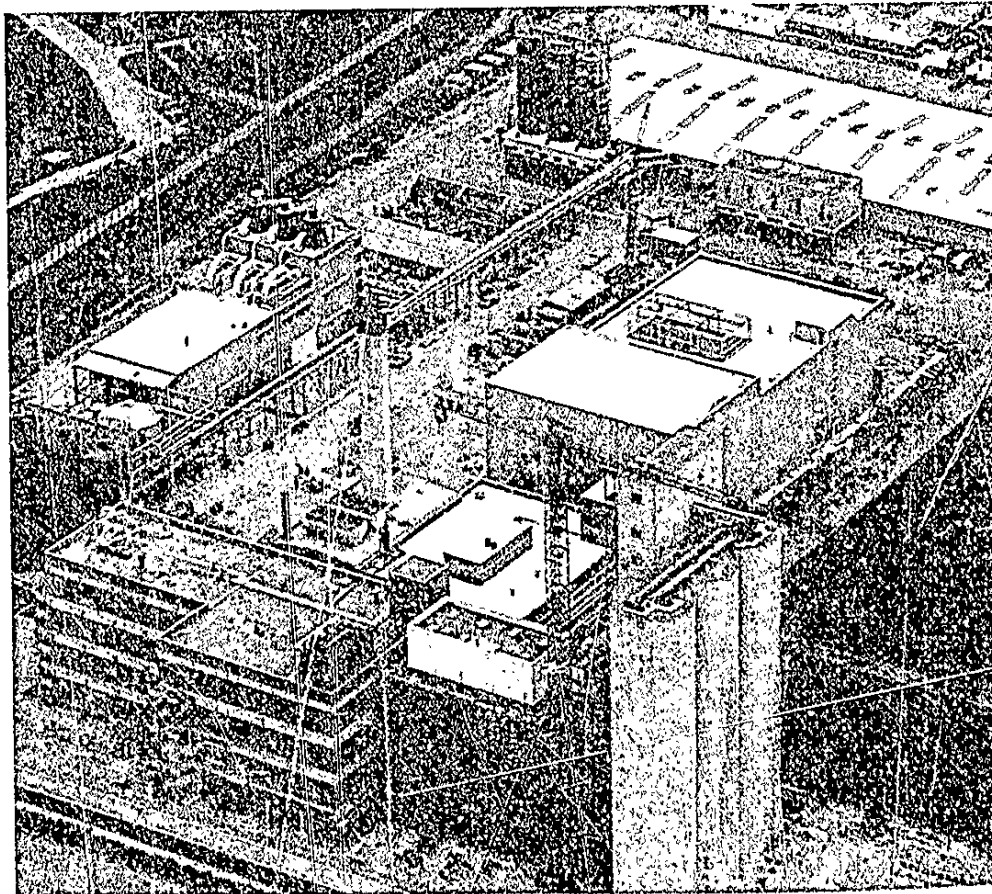
A large gas compressor station was completed in Scotland. Complex mechanical and electrical works were successfully carried out on two oil production platforms at Ardyne for the Shell-Esso consortium. Work proceeded in Scotland on a bentonite plant for Abbey Chemicals, at Grangemouth for British Petroleum and at Hull for BP Chemicals. A further contract was obtained from BP Chemicals for engineering, procurement and construction management at a PVC plant in South Wales, Foster Wheeler, acting for British Petroleum, awarded us a major mechanical construction



Above: Brightside was responsible for the design and installation of the air conditioning, with heat reclaim, heating and ventilation and a sprinkler fire protection system in the new store at Bradford for The Boots Company.
Architects: William Saunders & Partners, Nottingham.



Above right: The first Wimpey Unox system to be installed in the UK at Palmersford Recovery Works, Wimborne, Dorset. The system is an activated sludge process utilizing oxygen for the treatment of sewage and waste water.
Client: Wessex Water Authority, Avon & Dorset recovery division.

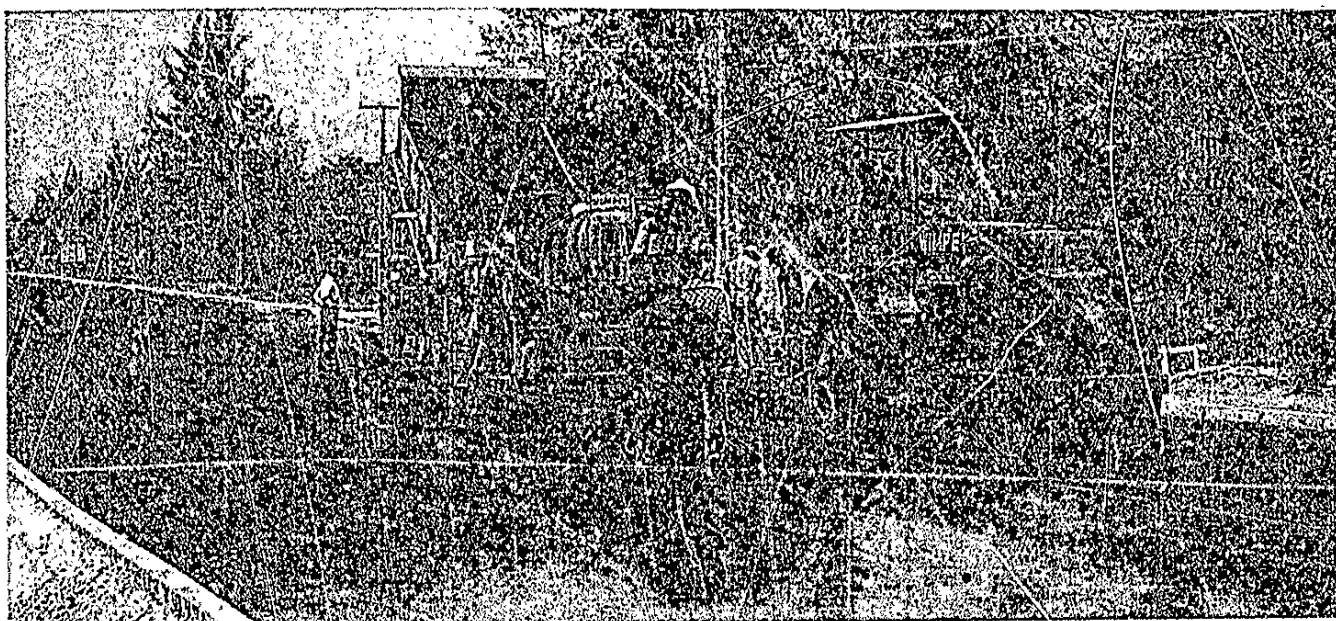


A highly automated starch derivatives and sweetener plant at Tilbury, Essex. Engineering, procurement and construction carried out by George Wimpey M E & C.

project for offsite facilities at the Sullom Voe oil terminal in the Shetland Isles.

Wimpey Unox (in which we increased our shareholding to 75%) demonstrated its lead in high technology effluent treatment by securing all three oxygenated sewage treatment contracts placed during 1977 by regional water authorities.

Workload overseas increased on a variety of projects for the metal, oil, chemical and food products manufacturing industries. In Saudi Arabia we continued to provide services to Aramco and took part in the design and construction of a reverse osmosis water treatment plant at Riyadh. Our joint company, Arabian Mechanical Engineering Company (AMEC), continued to expand. Substantial projects are also under way in Iran, Dubai and Bahrain. In conjunction with John Mowlem, work began on a sugar factory and infrastructure in Somalia.



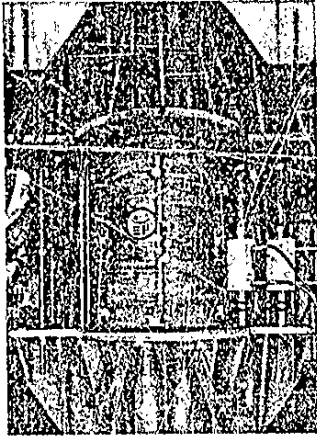
Asphalt and Quarrying

Despite the severe cutback in local authority expenditure in the United Kingdom Wimpey Asphalt again achieved an increase in turnover due in part to expansion overseas. We acquired Davidsons (Contractors), owners of quarry sites and manufacturers of brick and ready-mixed concrete, based in Aberdeen. The MacWilliam Group in the North of Scotland, Moore Brothers (Quarries) in Northern Ireland and Margam Slag, our associated company in South Wales, all maintained satisfactory performance. Overseas the contract to resurface the international airport at Abu Dhabi was completed and has been replaced by a major contract for strengthening the runways and taxiways at Doha in Qatar. Good results were achieved in Brunei and also in Bahrain where we laid high-quality mastic floors in the television studios. Operations on the asphalt core of the High Island Dam joint venture project in Hong Kong continued and elsewhere our work using asphalt for hydraulic purposes expanded.

George Wimpey Nigeria carrying out surfacing work on the Ikorodu Road, near Lagos.
Client: Petra Monk.

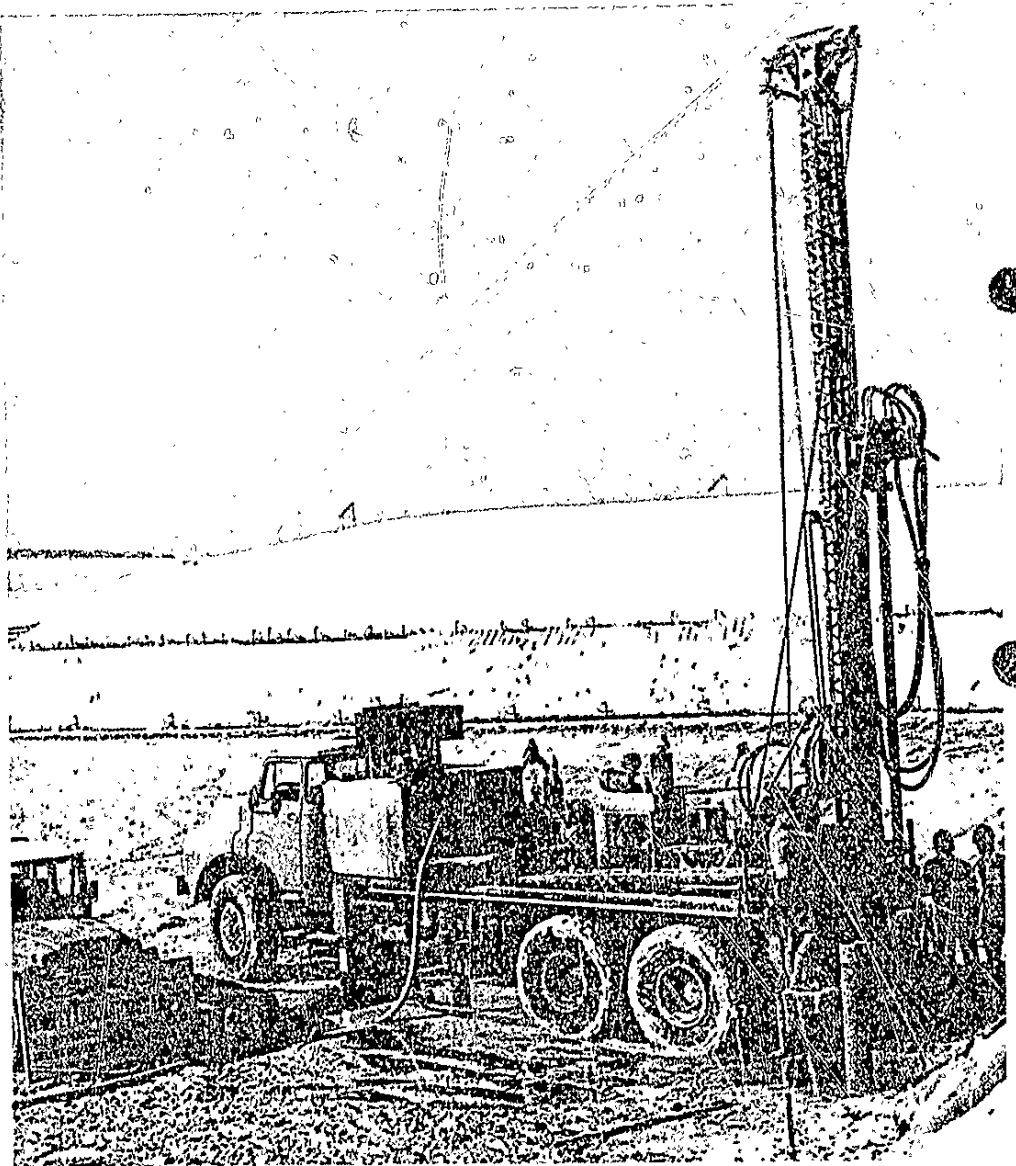
Laboratory Operations

In order to compensate for a reduced workload in the UK, a number of new activities were developed; these included water well drilling, drainage and dewatering work. Additionally the soils section undertook advisory work using more sophisticated soil



In the structures testing laboratory a bending test being carried out on a 760mm diameter tool joint. This is part of a riser pipe which carries oil from the sea bed to an oil production platform on the surface.

A rotary drilling rig, mounted on a six-wheel drive truck, is operated by Wimpey Laboratories, working on a major dewatering project in Dubai, UAE on behalf of British Smelter Constructions.



testing techniques. Thus a reasonable turnover was achieved and these new ventures increased the overall technical resources available to the company.

As well as other overseas projects, site investigations were undertaken for the Arab Potash Company in Jordan, port works in Saudi Arabia, a power station in Kuwait and a naval base in Iran.

Major contracts in the United Kingdom, which involved specialist construction techniques making a significant contribution to the laboratories' turnover, included dam curtain grouting at Dinorwic in North Wales and mine infilling for the new Pilkington float glass works at St Helens.

The hydrographic and geophysical sections continued to carry out a number of surveys in the Middle East where a laboratory was established in Dubai.

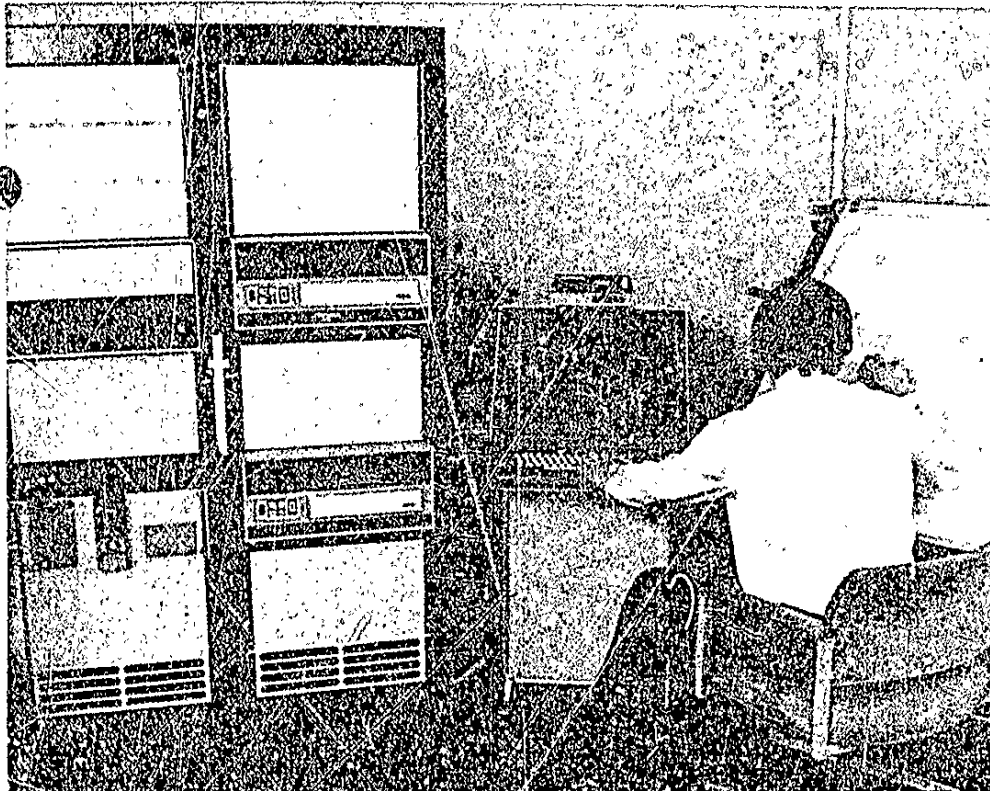
The dynamically positioned vessel MV Wimpey Sealab made a valuable contribution to the development of Brazil's offshore oil exploration programme. More than 100 boreholes totalling nearly 10,000 metres of drilling were carried out as part of an extensive site investigation for Petrobras, the national oil company of Brazil.

Laboratory Services

With the rapidly changing requirements and materials in the building and civil engineering industries, the laboratory's expertise has proved to be of increasing importance in the support of Wimpey activities. The scope of these services, including quality control, have continued to develop as a result of undertaking investigations and advisory contracts for outside organisations including Aramco in Saudi Arabia, Petroven in Venezuela, the Hong Kong Government, and the Government of Nova Scotia.

Technical Services

Our technical departments, which include a wide range of building, civil engineering and scientific disciplines, continued to support our diverse operations throughout the world. They provided a comprehensive and flexible professional service that is frequently used by our clients and consultants.



A computer-aided design work station with main processor, is just one of many developments introduced by George Wimpey M E & C to improve quality of design and reduce costs.

Research and Development

Research projects are in progress both for external clients and in support of our own business, including energy conservation, asphalt applications and the design of buildings subject to seismic conditions.

Property Development

The company's property interests in Europe have now been consolidated in Wimpey Property Holdings (formerly known as Hamme Investments).

The interests fall into three main groups; the investments built up over a period of years, the developments in the UK and the developments of Ariel (Wimpey 50%) in Holland and Germany. The investments include a 50% holding in Euston Centre Properties, a 10¼% holding in Oldham Estate Company and investment properties of Wingate Investments acquired in 1976.

There are 29 current developments in the UK (five of which were started during 1977) including two large office blocks at the Wingate Centre in London.

Ariel owns three properties completed, let and self-financed in Holland, with satisfactory yields and capital appreciation. Construction started on three developments during 1977 and at the end of the year, there were in hand three office developments in Holland and six office or shop developments in Germany; these schemes are financed by local borrowings by Ariel, partly guaranteed by the company.



This attractive property in the centre of Amsterdam was purchased by Ariel in 1977 and partially refurbished. Leases have been completed with the University of Amsterdam, Delta Lloyd (a subsidiary of Commercial Union) and a number of other tenants.



An artist's impression of the new headquarters for IPC Business Press being developed by Wimpey Property Holdings now under construction at Sutton, Surrey. The premises occupying approximately 25250m² will accommodate some 1500 staff in a modern air-conditioned environment. Architects Brower, Smith & Brower.

Subsidiary companies

The company's principal active subsidiaries, of which all are wholly owned except as indicated, are as follows:

United Kingdom

Alex Robertson & Co Ltd^{1,2}
 Annandale Tiles (Highlands) Ltd^{1,2}
 Approach House (Putney) Ltd (68.8%)¹
 Ariel Developments (Brierley Hill) Ltd^{1,4}
 Ariel Developments (Carrs Lane) Ltd^{1,4}
 The Brightside Mechanical and Electrical Services Group Ltd
 Chiswick Park Developments Ltd¹
 D A Monteith (Holdings) Ltd (75%)²
 Davidsons (Contractors) Ltd^{1,2,4}
 Eyam Quarries Ltd¹
 George MacWilliam & Son (Contractors) Ltd^{1,2}
 George MacWilliam & Son (Macrete) Ltd^{1,2}
 George Wimpey International Ltd
 George Wimpey ME&C Ltd
 Glenthorne Insurance Brokers Ltd
 Headley Properties Ltd (80%)^{1,4}
 Hi-Fab Ltd^{1,2}
 James Gatheral (Plumbers' Merchants) Ltd (75%)^{1,2}
 Madden Bros (Toomebridge) Ltd^{1,2}
 Monteith Building Services Ltd (75%)^{1,2}
 Monteith Travel Services Ltd (75%)^{1,2}
 Moore Brothers (Quarries) Ltd^{1,2}
 Radiant Tube Systems Ltd¹
 Research Models & Equipment Ltd (75%)¹
 Second Hamme Investments Ltd
 The Lothians Quarry Co Ltd^{1,2}
 The Pure Asphalt Co (Bolton) Ltd¹
 Walter Kirkland (Steel) Ltd (75%)^{1,2}
 Waxlow Properties Ltd¹
 W F Pettifer (Well Drilling) Ltd¹
 Wingrove Developments Ltd¹
 Wimpey Asphalt Ltd
 Wimpey Finance Ltd
 Wimpey Gulf Holdings Ltd
 Wimpey Laboratories Ltd
 Wimpey Marine Ltd
 Wimpey Property Holdings Ltd
 Wimpey Unox Ltd (75%)⁴
 Wingate Investments Ltd¹
 W W Hall Ltd

Australia

Wimpey Developments (Australia) (Pty) Ltd¹

Canada

George Wimpey Canada Ltd
 H J McFarland Construction Company Ltd^{1,2}
 Wimpey Alberta Ltd¹
 Wimpey Developments Ltd¹
 Wimpey Homes Ltd¹
 Wimpey Western Ltd¹

France

Wimpey France SA

Jersey CI

George Wimpey (Overseas) Ltd

Nigeria

George Wimpey & Co (Nigeria) Ltd (60%)

Panama

Gulf Marine Contractors SA¹
 Wimpey Offshore Construction Company Inc¹

South Africa

Wimpey Homes (Pty) Ltd¹

Trinidad

George Wimpey (Caribbean) Ltd

United States of America

Wimpey Developments Inc¹

¹Shares held by other subsidiaries

²Registered in Scotland

³Incorporated in Northern Ireland

⁴Became a subsidiary during the year

Investments

Holdings of a material nature in unquoted associated companies representing not less than 20% of the equity are as detailed below. Except where indicated the country of incorporation is the United Kingdom.

		% owned
Held by parent company		
Beyre y Wimpey SA	Spain	50
British Smelter Constructions Ltd		50
Brown & Root-Wimpey Ltd		50
Brown & Root-Wimpey Highlands Fabricators Ltd		50
Esfahan Construction Ltd		50
Margam Slag Co Ltd		50
Millbank Technical Services Ordnance Ltd (equity share 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ %)		24
OMISCO Ltd		50
Wimpey-Brown & Root (Nigeria) Ltd	Nigeria	30
Wimpey Laing Bandar Abbas Ltd		50
Wimpey Laing Ltd		50
Wimpey Laing Iran Ltd		50
Wimpey Laing SSK	Iran	50
Held by subsidiary companies		
Al Futtaim-Wimpey (Pte) Ltd	UAE	50
Arabian Mechanical Engineering Company Ltd	Saudi Arabia	49
Ariel Holdings BV	Holland	50
Ariel International BV	Holland	50
Brown & Root-Wimpey Middle East SA	Bahrain	40
Central Land Investments (Surrey) Ltd		30
Chantiers Modernes-Wimpey Asphalt SA	France	50
Chemin Construction Company SSK	Iran	50
Chiltern Street Investments Ltd		22
City Centre London Ltd	Canada	45
Craigielea Investments Ltd		33 $\frac{1}{3}$
Euston Centre Properties Ltd		50
Haymarket Developments Ltd		20
Haysmith Investments Ltd		20
Hong Lok Yuen Estates Ltd	Hong Kong	40
Laing Wimpey Alireza Ltd	Saudi Arabia	33 $\frac{1}{3}$
LW Properties Ltd		50
Paternoster Developments Ltd		20
Shaftward Investments Ltd		33 $\frac{1}{3}$
Wimpey Laboratories Iran SSK	Iran	49

Holdings of a material nature in other companies representing not less than 10% of the equity are as follows:

Held by parent company		
Conder International Ltd	ordinary, unquoted	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
Held by subsidiary companies		
The Oldham Estate Company Ltd	ordinary, unquoted	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
Hoveringham Group Ltd	restricted voting ordinary, quoted	23 $\frac{1}{2}$
	ordinary, quoted	1 $\frac{3}{4}$
John Mowlem & Co Ltd	ordinary, quoted	10 $\frac{3}{4}$

UK regional and area offices

Head office

Hammersmith Grove, London W6 7EN
Telephone: 01-748 2000
Telegrams & Cables: Wimpeyco London W6
Telex: UK 25666 Overseas 22436

Aberdeen

District manager: DR Barclay
Braehead Way, Bridge of Don
Aberdeen AB2 8RR
Telephone: 0224 703751

Birmingham

Regional director: JMA Berney
Chester Road, Birmingham B35 7AH
Telephone: 021-747 4800

Bristol

Regional director: DFG Loudoun
Stockwood Road, Brislington, Bristol BS4 5LT
Telephone: 0272 778333

Cardiff

Regional director: RO Evans
382 Newport Road, Cardiff CF3 7YU
Telephone: 0222 494301

Edinburgh

Regional director: AP Goudie
Barrington Grove, Edinburgh EH4 6BT
Telephone: 031-336 1721

Glasgow

Regional director: DL Needham
Kirkintilloch Road, Bishopbriggs
Glasgow G64 2PS
Telephone: 041-772 3222

Hull

Area manager: CA Weston
73 Lambwath Road, Hull HU8 0EZ
Telephone: 0482 794248

Leeds

Regional director: TA McIntosh
Gelderd Road, Leeds LS12 6DE
Telephone: 0532 636343

Liverpool

Regional director: JA Dwyer
Bridle Road, Bootle, Merseyside L30 4UQ
Telephone: 051-525 6341

London

Regional director: JLW Foot
Chiswick Green House, Acton Lane
London W4 5HF
Telephone: 01-995 7733

Luton

Regional director: K Waddington
250 Toddington Road, Luton, Beds LU4 9EE
Telephone: 0582 55922

Maidstone

Regional manager: D McGrath
Forstal Road, Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent
Telephone: 0622 77131

Manchester

Regional director: JG Charlesworth
629 Eccles New Road, Salford, Lancs M5 2BD
Telephone: 061-736 4321

Middlesbrough

Regional director: G Robertson
Cargo Fleet Lane, Middlesbrough
Cleveland TS3 8DE
Telephone: 0642-218421

Newcastle upon Tyne

Regional director: GB Weston
Orchard House, Fenwick Terrace
Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 2LD
Telephone: 0632 812321

Nottingham

Regional director: T Graham
Beechdale Road, Aspley, Nottingham NG8 3EX
Telephone: 0602 291171

Plymouth

Area manager: CS Gill
Valley Road, Plympton, Plymouth
Devon PL7 3RQ
Telephone: 0752 336551

Southampton

Regional director: PD Whitehouse
High Street, West End, Southampton SO3 3JJ
Telephone: 04218 6711

Witham

Regional manager: J Murray
Crittall Road, Witham, Essex CM8 3AF
Telephone: 0376 512721

Principal UK subsidiaries

The Brightside Mechanical & Electrical Services Group Limited

Managing director: HH Prichard
Chester Road, Birmingham B35 7AH
Telephone: 021-748 7070
Directors: D Wight, HH Prichard, H Norris
WA Simpson, DE Austin, W Blagg, JA Davis

DA Monteith (Holdings) Limited

Chairman and managing director: DA Monteith
10 Lynedoch Place, Glasgow G3 6BL
Telephone: 041-332 9777
Directors: DA Monteith, D Wight, H Norris
JS Robertson, CE Adams, Lord Glenkinglas PC

George MacWilliam & Son (Contractors) Limited

Managing director: AA Tait
Great North Road, Muir of Ord
Ross-shire IV6 7UB
Telephone: 046-382 344
Directors: FG Earner, AA Tait, D Wight
SS Jardine, I Robertson, T Sutherland

George Wimpey International Limited

Chairman and managing director: DG Fitzgerald
Hammersmith Grove, London W6 7EN
Telephone: 01-748 2000
Directors: DG Fitzgerald, KJ Barry, RH Gane, JH Oakley
CJ Chetwood, TT Candlish, PJ Ward, AD McDowall
SS Jardine, FH Archer, WA Simpson, RB Ferris
RC Hattersley, LCT Sallabank, DRL Hankinson, NH Searle

George Wimpey ME&C Limited

Managing director: WA Simpson
Flyover House, Great West Road, Brentford
Middlesex TW8 9AR
Telephone: 01-560 3100
Directors: TT Candlish, WA Simpson, IL Connell
DG Fitzgerald, DRW Watts, H Norris, JC Chapman
RF Flint, D Fraser, GW Spall, PJ Grey

Glenthorne Insurance Brokers Limited

Director: RJA Zeale
Chiswick Green House, Acton Lane
London W4 5HF
Telephone: 01-995 7733
Directors: H Norris, D Wight, R Cowan, PJ Ward
RJA Zeale

Moore Brothers (Quarries) Limited

Director: WGV Puxley
Green Road Quarries, Ballyclare, Co Antrim
N Ireland
Telephone: 023-831 2295
Directors: SS Jardine, NR Rutherford, D Wight
CE Adams, WGV Puxley

Wimpey Asphalt Limited

Managing director: SS Jardine
Gunnersbury House, 626 Chiswick High Road
London W4 5RZ
Telephone: 01-995 1400
Directors: D Wight, SS Jardine, NR Rutherford
H Norris, FG Earner, CE Adams, PC Leaver, AC Tyler
JB White, NV Finnie

Wimpey Laboratories Limited

Managing director: NH Searle
Beaconsfield Road, Hayes, Middlesex UB4 0LS
Telephone: 01-573 7744
Directors: JC Chapman, NH Searle, RH Gane
JH Oakley, A Broadhead, LJ Murdock, AC Scott
S Rodin, TK Hsieh

Wimpey Marine Limited

Managing director: R Butcher
Marine Base, South Denes Road
Great Yarmouth, Norfolk NR30 3QQ
Telephone: 0493 58151
Directors: JH Oakley, R Butcher, H Norris
JC Chapman, TT Candlish, A Broadhead

Wimpey Property Holdings Limited

Managing director: CB Smith
Hammersmith Grove, London W6 7EN
Telephone: 01-846 2652
Directors: Sir Joseph Latham, CB Smith, H Norris
PJ Ward, DRL Hankinson, AA Grimwade

WW Hall Limited

Chairman: HW Hall
Elgar Road, Reading RG2 0BU
Telephone: 0734 85353
Directors: HW Hall, RW Hall, JD Aitken, H Norris
AM Coane, CE Adams, DA Monteith, DH Heppell

Principal overseas offices

Australia: George Wimpey & Co Limited

Manager: BG Granger
197 Coward Street, Mascot 2020
New South Wales (PO Box 124 Mascot)
Telephone: 667 0371

Bahrain: George Wimpey & Co Limited

Manager: J Nicholson
Mina Sulman, Manama
(PO Box 588 Bahrain)
Telephone: 714911

Canada: George Wimpey Canada Limited

President: AR Grant
North Queen Street, Toronto Ontario M8Z2C9
Telephone: 233 5811
Directors: RH Gane, AR Grant, DG Fitzgerald
AW Nicol, AJ MacIntosh, JJ Barnicke, CF Bennell
WM Moran, RW Chapman

Dubai: Wimpey Offshore Construction Company Inc

Director: RB Ferris
Fuad Abbas Building, Banyas Street, Deira
United Arab Emirates (PO Box 1811)
Telephone: 220186

Dubai: Al Futtaim-Wimpey (Pte) Limited

Managing director: DA Macrae
PO Box 1811, Dubai, United Arab Emirates
Telephone: 220131
Directors: Majid Al Futtaim, RB Ferris, DA Macrae
DG Fitzgerald, RC Foster, A Moneim, A Azim, C Bean
Safy El Din Hamoudah, AW Brownlie

Egypt: George Wimpey & Co Limited

Manager: G. Baty-Symes
44 Nehru Street, Heliopolis, Cairo
Telephone: 863 527

France: Wimpey France SA

Président directeur général: K Lovelock
68 Avenue Charles de Gaulle
92200 Neuilly sur Seine
Telephone: Paris 745 22 05/758 14 22
Directors: D. Wight, K Lovelock, H Norris,
D Macpherson

Iran: Wimpey Laing Iran Limited

Managing director: CB Bousfield
PO Box 33-443, Tehran
Telephone: 628839, 629228
Directors: DG Fitzgerald, CB Bousfield, AD McDowall
JM Watt, KTW Beavon, A Tasker, SDP Morton

Nigeria: George Wimpey & Co (Nigeria) Limited

Deputy chairman: FH Archer
Sumbo Jibowu Street, South West Ikoyi, Lagos
PO Box 2049
Telephone: 27406
Directors: JH Oakley, FH Archer, PF Cook
CJ Chetwood, TT Candlish, SS Jardine, TK Audifferen
Lady Kofo Ademola, AA Egunjobi

Oman: George Wimpey & Co Limited

Manager: W Hollands
Ruwi, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman (PO Box 4436)
Telephone: Mutrah 702355

Peru: George Wimpey & Co Limited

Manager: JR Sutton
Avenida Nicolas De Pierola 742
Edificio International Of 708, Lima
(Apartado 10186)
Telephone: 312188

Qatar: Wimpey Offshore Construction Company Inc

Manager: P Grady
PO Box 2133, Doha
Telephone: Doha 25420

Saudi Arabia: Laing Wimpey Alireza Limited

Managing director: KJ Gilder
PO Box 2797, Riyadh
Telephone: 65995
Directors: DG Fitzgerald, KJ Gilder, J Mason
KS Bowden, JM Watt, WD Hewetson, R Pawsey
BM Sanderson, Sheikh Ahmed YZ Alireza
Sheikh Mahmoud YZ Alireza
Sheikh Mohamed YZ Alireza

Saudi Arabia: Arabian Mechanical Engineering Company Limited

Manager: G Beaton
PO Box 354, Dharan Airport, Dharan
Telephone: Alkobar 41066
Directors: H Norris, N Urmossy, WA Simpson, Teymour
Alireza, A Weijburg, JHN Gibson, JA Craig

Singapore: George Wimpey (Far East) Private Limited

24th Floor, Room 2411
International Plaza
10 Anson Road, Singapore 2

South Africa: Wimpey Homes (Pty) Limited

Director: TW Chapple
Argon House, 87 Juta Street, Braamfontein
Johannesburg (PO Box 23272 Joubert Park 2044)
Telephone: 39-5869
Directors: D Wight, AM Coane, TW Chapple
BMC Stubbs

Spain: Beyre y Wimpey SA

Director: R Hatfield
Orense 20, Madrid 20
Telephone: 455-58-44
Directors: D Macpherson, G. Rodrigues, R Hatfield
G Redondo, JA Gordo, H Maloney

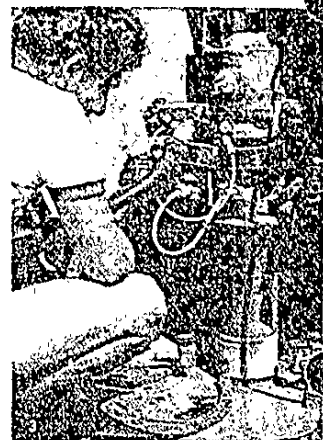
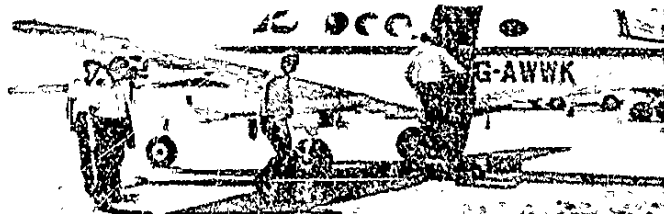
Trinidad and Tobago: George Wimpey (Caribbean) Limited

Manager: GV Lassetter
Southern Main Road, Couva
Telephone: 65 62321
Directors: H Norris, K McInnes, LN Blache-Fraser
DSC Hannays

Venezuela: George Wimpey & Co Limited

Manager: KA Baker
Edificio Exa, Piso 10 Oficina 14
Avenida Libertador, Chacao, Caracas
(Apartado 62498)
Telephone: 32-59-34

Wimpey at work



1 Whisky Kilo, owned by our Dubai office, preparing to take off from Salalah in the Sultanate of Oman.

2 Awaiting radio message from control tower at Abu Dhabi airport before equipment can be moved on to site during the resurfacing contract.

3 An engineer taking a core sample on site at Abu Dhabi airport.

4 Steel fabrication at Port Harcourt depot, Nigeria.

5 A sample of Wimpey No-Fines being demonstrated to a government official in Dubai, UAE.

6 Workers arriving by ferry at Kindu, Zaire.

7 Fixing external shutter fittings to a three storey No-Fines structure prior to pouring.

8 Wimpey Nigeria on a maintenance contract at Port Harcourt oil refinery.

9 R B Smith meets a scraper operator during a tour of Highway 404 contract in Toronto, Canada.

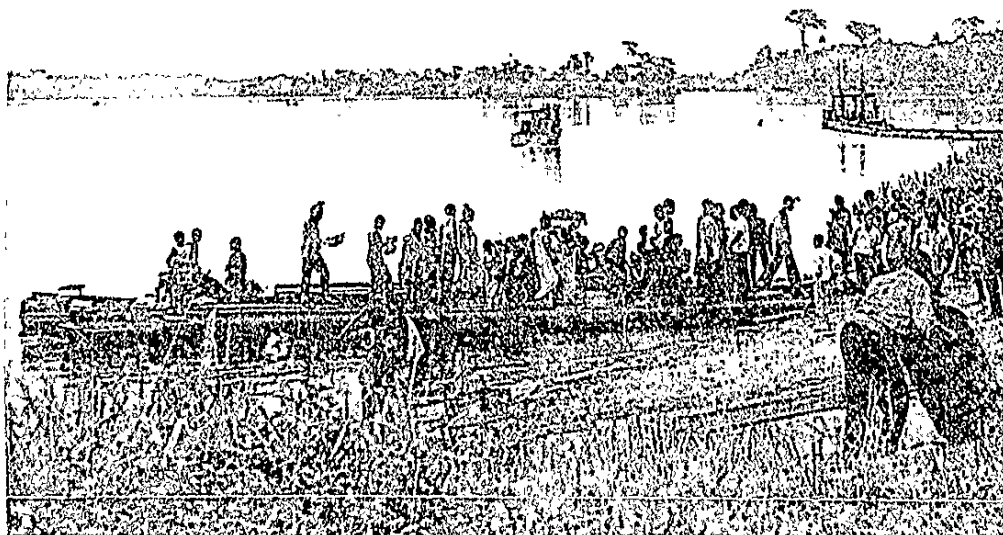
10 Site meeting in Zaire between project manager, consulting engineer and airport commandant.

11 Working on a tubular in the pipe mill at Highlands Fabricators' yard, Nigg, Scotland.

12 Nigerian student learns the arts of surveying equipment.

13 A surveyor working on site at Goodrich Bay, Trinidad.

14 Al Futtaim-Wimpey carrying out a road surfacing contract in Dubai, UAE. Design by Harrison Graphics Printed by Harrison & Sons (London) Ltd.



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Printed by
Harrison & Sons (London) Ltd

