Malmö maritime college

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The NEDLLOYD COLOMBO one of the vessels operating on the Far East-South Africa "Safari" service, has been installed with a microcomputer to help with onboard administration. The computer is programmed with six functions to assist the 17777TEU containership's crew carry out such duties as wages administration, dangerous cargo administration, spare parts control, maintenance planning, voyage control and ship's performance.

The Texas Instruments BS200 computer relieves the crew of many administrative burdens, such as inventory control decisions about repairs and dry-docking. Furthermore, it also carries out cost estimates. The NEDLLOYD COLOMBO is the first of six fully cellular containerships being built for Nedlloyd Lines in Japan and Holland, and also the last of the series of four container ships designed for the Safari service.

Economy by sail
A sail-equipped cargo carrier is to be built by Nippon Kokan, (NKK), in association with the Japan Marine Machinery Development Association (JMMDA). The new 2100dwt sail motor ship, to be completed late March 1983, will be used to carry steel products for NKK Japanese coastal areas, and will be operated by Fuyo Kaiun, an NKK-affiliated Japanese shipping company.

The cargo carrier follows the first two NKK-designed sail tankers which are already in service SHIN AIKOU MARU and sister ship AIKOU MARU. The ship is designed to consume 40 to 50 per cent less fuel than conventional ships of the same class by using sails and other energy-saving systems.

Hard times
Net income of the US container and trailer lessor Flexi-Van for the first 9 months of 1982 amounted to US$22.5m, compared to US$9.2m for the same period of the previous year.

According to L Robin, president and chief executive, although these figures represent an increase of 150 per cent, the continued softness in the container and trailer leasing market is

Y DIGEST

for Intermodal Equipment, the UK said it was also at the ailing with two other areas, and Tridon, for sizable contracts.

verland of Portland, Oregon, began moving as a non point (OCP) direct by rail from its container terminal, 6 facility last year and it now berth dock and a new yard with self-rail transfer expansion... and fifty new high line "rail height" units, by British Speedlink service at works of British Rail the first of which are going by ICI to alkalised chemicals for car components, an investment of 1m at one of Speedlink's new general merchanisation terminals aimed at easing loading by equipment. This is means of the unimade access to roof 4 doors, which curve forming part of the building along the length of the vans. gauged at 75m, 24.00awk to 1000mm stood on the floor for double-tiering overall weight and iders permit. the speed is 80mph to a payload and payloads under 24
defence, believes, is the rate at which the is investing in new such so in fact, that he expects the 6000 BR wagons already in Speedlink service, Railfreight's new product for truckload business, to be matched by those of customer and private hire firms by 1986.

This generally optimistic air is also demonstrated by the way in which Speedlink is back to pre- strike levels of volume, and has won new traffic since the strikes of this summer — mostly notably in the transport of grain, cement and brick.

The expected improvement on 1981, itself a ltmone increase over 1980's figures, comes in spite of last year's wagon fleet reduction of 26 per cent. The reasons for this are said to be the use of more modern wagons as well as greater wagon ownership by BR's major customers.

Other examples cited of BR's improved cost effectiveness are the 43 per cent reduction of marshalling yards, a halving of the wagon fleet between 1977 and 1981, and the high rate of investment in private sidings and railheads.

MALMÖ MARITIME COLLEGE
A project to establish a world maritime university has now been launched in Malmo, Sweden. An agreement was signed in October by Nils Yngvesson of the Municipality of Malmo and C P Snvastava, secretary general of the Indian Ocean, extending the City of Malmo will provide facilities for the university.

PANAMA CANAL ALTERNATIVE?
The details of a feasibility study into construction of a sea level alternative to the Panama Canal were finalised in Washington DC last month. Participating in the project are Canada, the Netherlands, Japan, Panama, the USA, and West Germany. The cost of constructing such a canal is currently estimated at £11.5 billion and it would take 10 years to complete.

FUEL SAVING
Three more OCL containerships are to be fitted with more economical diesel engines in place of their present steam turbine power units. The move is in line with OCL's practice of the past three years, in which the company has re-engined seven of its turbine ships so as to reduce their fuel consumption and extend their working life. These three vessels are on the Australia/New Zealand service.

The contract was awarded to three Japanese companies—Ishikawajima-Harima Heavy Industries (IHI), Mitsubishi Corporation, and Mitsubishi Engineering & Shipbuilding. It is expected that the alterations will be completed within the four months of delivery of the first vessel, which will be in May 1983. To maintain the service to its customers, OCL are introducing two ships from other routes.

Decision maker
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Up and down
The Sea Containers Group has announced a sharp drop in its net income, down to US$8.8m for the third quarter of 1982 compared to US$13.7m for the same period of last year.

But nine months figures for the year are up by 7 per cent from US$31.4m to US$33.5m. James B Sherwood, president of the two companies, Sea Containers Ltd and SeaCo Inc, blamed the world recession for the decline in the container and ship leasing business but gave some cheer when he said, "our guarded view is that the worst of the recession is behind us... we are assuming that the combination of lowered interest rates, low inflation and reduced energy costs will ensure economic recovery in 1983".

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