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CAPTIVE COUNTRIES

SHIPPING AND TRADE NEWS.

SOURCE TRIESTE: Italian Chamber of Commerce newspaper "Il Traffico," No.8, April 20 1956.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: Current period.

EVALUATION COMMENT: Attention Economic Editors.

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A canal connecting the Elbe and the Baltic Sea is being planned in East Germany. The canal will run parallel to the one between the Elbe and LÜBECK and will end near WISMAR. This new outlet will shift overseas ship traffic from the ports of HAMBURG and LÜBECK to WISMAR as well as to ports controlled by East German administration.

Big Krupp-Onassis Financial Agreement.

According to rumors, the industrialist Alfred KRUPP and the shipowner Aristotele ONASSIS, together with Alex WENNERHRENN of Sweden, would organize a financial group with a capital of one billion dollars. The newspaper "Salzburger Nachrichten" says that this financial collaboration between the three industrialists aims at making business deals with Eastern bloc countries and setting up concerns for the exploitation of atomic energy.

West Interested in Tourism to Czechoslovakia.

Representatives of British, American, French, German and other travel agencies are visiting Czechoslovakia to sound out the possibilities of increasing tourist traffic to that country. In various Western countries there is a definite interest in touristic sojourns in Czechoslovak health resorts.

Mechanical Industry Fair in BRNO (Czechoslovakia.)

In view of the success of the 1955 BRNO Fair, the Czechoslovak authorities have again decided to organize a mechanical industry Fair at BRNO this year. The Fair will open in September and will occupy an area of 6,000 square meters.

(More)

Italian Economic Delegation to China.

During the month of May 1956 an Italian economic mission will go to China to improve trade relations between the two countries. It seems that the Italian Government intends to make concrete agreements with China as France, Great Britain, Belgium, Denmark and Egypt have done.

Soviet Lumber for Europe.

In the current year sales of Soviet lumber will be increased. Up to the middle of March, the USSR offered to the countries of Western Europe 1.3 million cubic meters, corresponding to 4/5 of the total lumber exported in 1955. Belgian importers received from 1 to five per cent discount in comparison with last year.

End.