



Research Paper

## **Bulk Materials Transportation in Western Europe in the 1980s**

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A quiet revolution is taking place in bulk materials handling and transportation more particularly in the development of modern port facilities and in methods for coping with growing social and environmental pressures. The demand for an efficient flow of freight traffic is an important factor in the development of sea-going freighters, inland navigation craft, harbours, freight handling systems, railways and pipeline networks. This being so, it is necessary to consider whether available transportation routes and facilities will be adequate to handle the increasing volume of traffic in the next few decades. The rise and fall of industrial nations will depend on how efficiently they plan comprehensive transportation networks in good time to ensure continuing and uninterrupted flow of goods and materials.

With the ever increasing world population, there is a corresponding increase in the magnitude of food, raw materials and energy supply problems which can be solved only by the development of new raw material resources and by bringing barren and hitherto uncultivated land under cultivation. To this end, new transportation routes and facilities will have to be planned, and port installations of adequate capacity developed. These problems, with which more particularly the industrialized nations are faced, world population is currently increasing at a rate of 80 million per year, so that it will be approximately doubled by the year 2015.

can be effectively dealt with only by a major effort on the part of all nations By the year 2000 Africa alone will have about four times as many people to feed as now live in the Common Market countries.