

from Common Market countries and South East Asia.

In addition the government,

**Lord Marcus Sieff... major customer**

aid. The immediate priority is to pay off part of Ata's debt, which now stands at about \$20m.

# Making life easier for farmers

**Jerusalem Post Reporter**

Among the many exhibitors whose products aroused widespread interest among foreign experts at the recent Agritech 1983 fair in Tel Aviv were Naan Mechanical Works and Makhteshim-Agan.

Naan, specialising in sprinklers and drip irrigation systems, is one of the largest plants of its kind in Israel.

Owned and operated by Kibbutz Naan, the works was founded in 1930 near Rehovot and now exports to 70 countries world-wide.

Because the Naan technicians are also farmers, they have a special understanding of the needs of different types of crops. They are also able to test all new equipment developed in Kibbutz Naan's own fields and orchards.

The ready availability of its own test area has contributed to the wide range of Naan's sprinklers. The company has developed 50 different models suitable for all climates, crops, soil conditions and water resources.

In addition to full and part circle sprinklers, Naan has special purpose models, such as low-angle sprinklers for orchards; anti-frost sprinklers; hot-house sprinklers which are suspended from the ceiling in an upside down position; small sprayers and giant water guns.

The variety of its sprinklers and accessories has facilitated irrigation in stretches of Israel which only a diehard optimist could have visualized as farmland.

Because water is so precious in Israel, all companies involved in the

design and manufacture of irrigation equipment are forever seeking innovative ways in which to cut down on water waste. In this context, Naan has come up with the Anti-Splashback sprinkler, which confines irrigation to a pre-determined sector of the circle, without any splash behind the sprinkler.

Among the most popular Naan products in Israel, is the Naan Tif Drip System, wherein, unlike other drip systems, the drippers are contained inside the pipes. In less sophisticated systems, the drippers protrude from the pipes and frequently fall off or are knocked off.

Naan's export sales are handled by Peleg Export. Peleg markets most of the export oriented irrigation equipment produced in Israel, and in this capacity supplies all irrigation needs from complete systems to individual components.

Turning crop protection problems into harvest-time profits is the business of Makhteshim-Agan, exporters of over 100 agricultural products to more than 60 countries. Makhteshim-Agan, among the

world's leading manufacturers of crop protection chemicals, produces a diversified product line including ready-to-use formulations and technical grade materials available for local formulation by overseas customers.

Makhteshim-Agan's teams of research scientists and field advisors are always searching for new and safer agricultural chemical compounds, adapting them to the myriad combinations of climate and terrain throughout the world, and aiding local farmers to apply them effectively and economically.

These new advances are incorporated into a constantly developing production programme handled by Makhteshim-Agan's recently expanded manufacturing complex. In addition to the company's line of agricultural chemicals — insecticides, fungicides, herbicides, plant growth regulators, fruit coating waxes, defoliant and desiccants — Makhteshim-Agan also manufactures an extensive range of industrial chemicals, fire retardant additives and phosgene derivatives.

## Fibronics goes over-the-counter in U.S.

**Post Finance Reporter**

TEL AVIV. — Fibronics International Ltd., a Delaware company whose production and research and development are carried out in Israel, was recently registered for trading over-the-counter in the U.S.

Fibronics specializes in the

production of fiberoptic cable and related products for the communications industry, especially in the computer field.

The company anticipates sales of approximately \$4 million in its current fiscal year. Fibronics is a member of the Elron electronics group of companies.

## Arab funds stay secret, U.S. court rules

WASHINGTON (AP). — The U.S. Supreme Court ruled last week that the government is allowed to conceal the amounts of U.S. bank deposits and treasury bills held by three Arab nations.

The justices, without comment, left intact a ruling that the information, sought by the American Jewish Congress, may be withheld for foreign policy reasons.

In 1981, the AJC requested, under the Freedom of Information Act, data on U.S. investments held by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the

United Arab Emirates.

After the Treasury Department denied the request, the group filed a suit accusing the government of bowing "to demands from mideast members of OPEC (the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries) that it conceal...information about the nature and size of OPEC investments" here.

It said the government was using national security as a pretext for "hiding the extent of Arab financial power and influence in this country."

## Israel Shipyards short of work

**By YA'ACOV FRIEDLER**

**Jerusalem Post Reporter**

HAIFA. — The three committees representing all 920 employees of Israel Shipyards last week called on the government and the public to intervene to save the yard "from the management."

The committees — of the workers, administrative staff and engineers — warned that they would use every measure at their disposal to save the yard. They said, too, that they would resist manage-

ment plans to fire 200 workers.

The committees charged that since founding general manager Yisrael Libertowsky had been thrown out two years ago, the yard had been brought to its knees, with no work in hand.

The shipyards, founded 24 years ago, are government owned and have built navy missile boats as well as civilian vessels. The yard recently ran out of work and its staff is virtually idle, with no new hard orders yet in sight.

## New chairman of Ampal is appointed

TEL AVIV. — Efraim Reiner, chairman of the board of directors of Bank Hapoalim, has also been appointed chairman of Ampal (investments), it was announced.

Reiner will hold both positions at the same time, and at Ampal he will concentrate his activities in the field of investments.

The outgoing head of Ampal,

Ya'acov Levinson, who some time ago announced his intention to resign, will remain at his present post for some time, "breaking in" his replacement.

Levinson has not announced his future plans, but Hapoalim circles believe that he will either engage in other business activities, or "devote himself to writing and studies."