

LONDON – When world leaders assemble here for next month's economic summit with their delegations and a press corps of 3000, the physical communications problems that often arise at summits should at least have been solved. Videotex, that British invention that links modified colour TVs to computers, will be used to relay to the press important and immediate information about events as they are happening at Lancaster House, where the heads of Government and their foreign secretaries will meet, and other buildings in and around London.

A messaging service and conference information, including alterations to the timetable, will be available through a total of around 100 videotex terminals, courtesy of Rediffusion Computers which is installing three of its R2830 Telecentres in the Connaught Rooms in Great Queen Street, the press centre for the three days of the Summit (June 7-9).

Incoming communications to journalists based at the press centre will be routed to a central switchboard and input into the videotex system along with written messages and telexes. Videotex TVs will also be



Rediffusion Computers and British Telecom engineers are pictured at the company's Crawley headquarters, where they worked together last month on a two-week project emulating Rediffusion's videotex systems in British Telecom's Monarch electronic telep exchange which will be installed at the Connaught Rooms during this month's London Economic Summit.

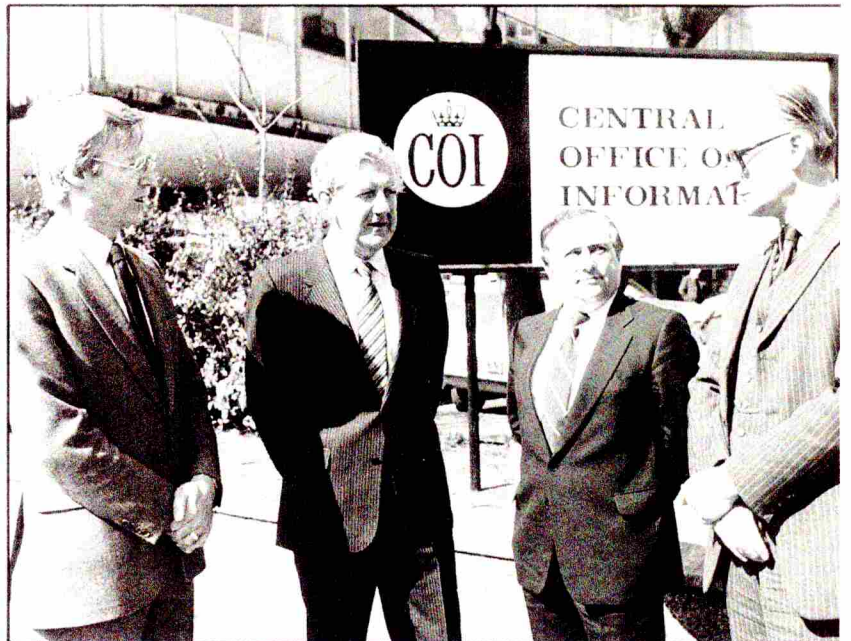
Officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Central Office of Information are pictured visiting Rediffusion Computers' Crawley headquarters last month, to see how Rediffusion's videotex systems and British Telecom's Monarch electronic telephone exchange were running during a two-week period, before the equipment is installed at the Connaught Rooms for the London Economic Summit.

# VIDEOTEX REACHES SUMMIT

made available to broadcasting organisations, the Foreign Press Association and to hotels and other buildings associated with the Summit conference.

Rediffusion is cooperating closely with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Central Office of Information which will be responsible for the information content of the round-the-clock service. The Crawley-based company pioneered the private videotex market and is an experienced hand when it comes to videotex conference management systems, having provided the services to annual conferences run by the American Bankers Association of London and the British Insurance Brokers Association.

The London Economic Summit is seen by the British government as an opportunity to showcase British electronic technology that is revolutionising present-day communications and Mike Aldrich, Rediffusion Computers' managing director readily attests that its videotex systems have never before been 'centre-stage to this extent'.



The team responsible for keeping an up-to-the-minute supply of information on tap to journalists from around the world during this month's London Economic Summit includes both the Central Office of Information, providers of the content, and Rediffusion Computers, who are installing the British-invented videotex hardware and software that will make the information available at the press of a button from any of up to 100 TV-style terminals.

From left, they include Adam Leys, director of the COI's Radio, Videotex and Photograph Services Division; Donald Grant, COI Director-General; Michael Aldrich, managing director of Rediffusion Computers Ltd; and Sir John Barran, head of videotex services at the COI.

The Central Office of Information Videotex project team, who have been responsible for creating the information database and entering the file of accredited delegates who will be attending the London Economic Summit 1984

Pictured at the COI's Hercules Road offices are (l to r) Maureen Talbot, Randolph Hart and Geoff Rigby



Sir John Barran, head of videotex services at the Central Office of Information (right) and Michael Alrich, managing director of Rediffusion Computers, check a sample videotex screen of the type that will be used as an electronic news and message service for journalists covering this month's London Economic Summit

Rediffusion Computers is supplying up to 100 TV-style videotex terminals to the Economic Summit press centre and to hotels and other associated buildings for use throughout the conference. They will be available to access news of developments or timetable amendments as they happen and to receive messages and telexes intended for individual journalists at any time night or day

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