

Vid tapes Seen Aiding Casablanca Intl Thrust

By ADAM WHITE

NEW YORK—Casablanca's commitment to videocassettes as a new medium of exposure for its acts (Billboard, May 27) will aid the label improve its international business, says president Neil Bogart.

Admitting that "my dreams have only been half-realized overseas," he holds that the availability of such video support material may be exactly what the company's artists need to break them in foreign territories.

The success of several of Casablanca's hottest properties, including Kiss and Parliament, is linked to their visual appeal. Bogart agrees that many countries "have probably not seen enough of them" to make them happen there, saleswise.

Global acceptance of Kiss, for example, does not match U.S. levels, though the combo is a major attraction in Japan and some European territories.

The half-hour television show about the making of "Thank God It's Friday" is being made available overseas, as will probably films of upcoming concerts by Donna Summer, Parliament and Angel.

Bogart believes foreign disk sales of "TGIF" will shape up at around 40% of the 3 to 5 million units he expects to sell domestically.

Casablanca's foreign licensing deals prevented some of its acts being included in the movie soundtrack package, among them Roberta Kelly, Village People and Giorgio Moroder.

"We couldn't clear rights on

everything," observes the executive, "but even if they're not on the records, their music is in the picture."

Bogart intends to travel to Europe later this year, and hopes to be able to spend more than a fleeting visit in talking with label licensees and representatives. "Success abroad has become something of an obsession with me. I've got a story to tell, and I want to tell it universally."

As previously reported, Casablanca has opened a London base under ex-Pye executive Robin Taylor, to coordinate U.K. and Continental business. Bogart believes that operations in Italy, Germany and France will follow.

"The fact that we are connected with so many important European producers shows that we care about those territories, both as product sources and as markets in their own right," he declares.

"And now we're able to offer them more than before," he continues, alluding to the label's investment in motion pictures beyond "TGIF."

Two key Casablanca-connected producers, Jacques Morali and Alec Costandinos, are set for a new movie project, due to start filming in France this fall. Each will pen half the score, though Bogart points out that the picture "is not actually a musical."

Another Casablanca producer/artist, Moroder, has recently finished scoring Casablanca's latest film package, "Midnight Express," just bowing at the Cannes film festival.



GOLDEN FLOYD—As a follow-up to Pink Floyd Week, held throughout Greece by Emial and backed by massive promotion, group member Dave Gilmour flew to Athens to collect a gold disk for sales of 50,000 of "Wish You Were Here," the first rock album to hit that figure in the Greek market. From left, Theodore Sarantis, Emial international repertoire manager; Gilmour, Basil Toubakarlis, Emial managing director.

Phonogram Firms Stance In Japanese Jazz Market

TOKYO—As part of an ongoing campaign to increase its share of Japan's jazz market, Nippon Phonogram has signed up another jazz label, Who's Who, a U.S.-based record company run by Lionel Hampton.

This brings to 16 the number of jazz labels under Phonogram's wing, now to be divided into three branches.

One branch will focus on production activities in Japan and overseas on the East Wind, Frasco and Philips labels; another will deal with new overseas recording sources from the SteepleChase, Enja, IAI, Mercury, Buddah and Who's Who labels; and the third branch will feature big names in jazz of the fifties and sixties from the Emarey, Lime-light, Fontana and Chess labels.

Masahiko Asakura, general manager of international pop marketing, says of the company's aims:

"We want to handle more labels and try to offer the old jazz favorites at the middle price of 2,000 yen (about \$8.90). We've already built up a worldwide network for our East Wind label and now we want to make people more aware of the high quality of Japan's jazz musicians."

Dutch Rights To Stax Label Go To Negrarm

AMSTERDAM—Negrarm here has gained distribution rights for U.S. soul label Stax and the local company will now pump a lot of promotion into the product.

First releases in Holland are Johnny Taylor's "best of" album "Chronicle," including "I Believe In You, You Believe In Me"; "Off The Wall," by Fat Larry's Band; "Sunshine," by the Emotions; and Albert King's "The Pinch."

From The Music Capitals Of The World

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Broadcasting, conducted by Vasil Stefanov, with pianist Milena Mollova as soloist. . . . The Composers' Union of Romania has initiated a light music and jazz competition, open to both professionals and amateurs.

Constanta, a Black Sea harbor resort, hosted the fourth Opera and Ballet Music Festival, linked this year with the lyric theater's 20th anniversary there. Local artists took part, along with foreign visitors, including Lela Stamos (Greece), Iulia Forgacs (Hungary), Roza Mitova and Kiril Kristiev (Bulgaria), Josef Kolesinski and Krystyna Kujawska (Poland) and the conductors Byron Collossis (Greece) and Mieczyslaw Dondajewski (Poland).

Imported albums from the Dum-Dum company in India recently include "Love For Sale," Boney M; "Midnight Cafe," Smokie; "Rock 'n' Roll Music," Beatles; "Dark Side Of The Moon," Pink Floyd. . . . Young Romanian composers of light music Cornel Fugaru and Dan Stefanica won prizes at a composition contest in Poland.

New releases in the various collections of Electrecord: Hans Eckart Schlandt "Plays Bach on the Organ Of The Black Church in Brasov," part of the "Historic Organs of Romania" series; "Maria Tanase-Five;" "Banatul," from the "Folklore Ensembles" series; and "Ana Talmaceanu-Dinescu and Serban Tassian" in the "Romanian Lyric Stage Performers" series.

Imports on display in local stores: "1946-56 Polish Jazz—Postwar Dance Bands Volume 1;" "Hits Of BBC And Alaska Records—1;" "Locomotiv G.T. In Warsaw" (all from Muza, Poland); "Isabel Parra," from Balkanton, Bulgaria; "Ray Conniff In Moscow" and "Nani Bregvadze" (both from Melodiya, Russia); "Slawa Przybylska," from Pronit, Poland; "Helena Bleharova" and "Marcela Laverova & Trend" (both from Opus, Czechoslovakia); and "Intaria," by Katie Kovacs, from Pepita, Hungary.

Big success here for records produced by United Artists on radio here, notably by Crystal Gayle, Billie Jo Spears, Kenny Rogers, various soundtracks and the Electric Light Orchestra. . . . Romanian hits on the charts here: "Cintec de Hoapte," by Nicu Alifantis; "Vine Cintind," by Mihai Constantinescu; and "Hai Acasa," by Gil Dobra; and international hits: "Don't Let Me Be Misunderstood," by Santa Esmeralda; "Moonchild," Rory Gallagher; "How Deep Is Your Love," Bee Gees.

Electrecord has put out an EP of the old hits of Claude Romano, pen-name of musicologist George Sharcea, including the famed "lonel, lonelule," and performed by Cornel Constantiniu and Angela Ciocina.

OCTAVIAN URSULESCU

MEXICO CITY

B.B. King spread plenty of soul for the Mexican public during his recent swing through the country. He played to excellent houses when he appeared at the Guanajuato VI Cervantino Festival May 3-4, Teatro Degollado, Guadalajara on May 5, at the Morelia Casa De La Cuttera May 6, the Sala Netzahualcoyotl (Autonomous National

University of Mexico/UNAM) May 7. The singer topped it off with a special two-day performance at the National Auditorium May 8-9.

Luis Ladron De Guevara took over as promotion and publicity director for RCA May 2. It was a post vacated two months ago by Jose Martin Del Campo, who moved up as sales director of the label. . . . Sergio and Estebal, riding on the success of their latest Nusart single, "Des Arbolitos," opened a major nitery engagement at the Stelaris of the Fiesta Palace May 10 thru May 20.

Cepillin currently starring in his first major motion picture, "Lolo," also being the first for Televisa. The Mexico-Spain co-production also toplines Ignacio Lopez Tarzo. . . . Diego Verdaguez's entry for Melody, "El Pasadicos," exceptionally strong in first month on the market.

Heavy airplay and sales being racked up by Juan Gabriel's Ariola single, "Aunque Te Enamoras" and Linda Ronstadt's "Lago Azul" ("Blue Bayou") for Gamma. Latter company reports her Spanish-language version is outdistancing the English version by a three-to-one ratio. . . . Two new signings for the GAS roster: Gilberto Valenzuela, winner of the 1976 National OTI song fest, and King Clave. Former was with RCA, while latter had recent affiliations with Orfeon and Melody.

Estele Nunez came out with her biggest hit in three years for RCA, "No Se Compra, No Se Vende," by Lolita De La Colina. . . . Peerless' femme group, Los Potranquitas Del Norte, back from a tour of Central and South America. . . . Musical tracks for Doug Henning's "Magic Show" were recorded at the SACM 24-track stu-

dio. It was the second successive week (early May) U.S. artists utilized the new facility. Roy Clark was the first, for a CBS special, aired May 18.

MARV FISHER

STOCKHOLM

U.K. group the Tom Robinson Band, successful here two months ago, already back for concerts, linked with its EMI album "Power In The Darkness." . . . Bob Dylan's only Scandinavian concert (July 11), at the 10,000-seater Scandinavium in Gothenburg, sold out in one day and now he has agreed to fit in another show the following day.

"Saturday Night Fever" mania spreading here, the film topping the box-office chart and the album with sales around the 100,000 mark. . . . As a "Fever" follow-up, Electra re-releasing the John Travolta RCA album "Can't Let You Go." . . . Buddah now represented here by Electra, with 25 albums coming out soon.

EMI releasing the new Darts album "Every-one Plays Darts" here on the Magnet label, following the success of the first LP, which hit the 50,000 unit mark. . . . Iggy Pop starting his European tour in Scandinavia coinciding with the release of his live album "TV Eye."

After just one concert, U.K. band the Strangers cancelled the rest of its Swedish tour, claiming the members were threatened by rockers. On the band's previous visit, last fall, it also called off the schedule. Its new album "Black And White" (UA) includes the track "Sweden (All Is Quiet On The Eastern Front)."

Baccara with its album "Baccara" has topped the Swedish sales chart on three separate occasions since its release in November last year. Still in the Top 10, the album has so far sold more than 300,000 copies in Sweden alone. . . . Henry Winkler, alias "The Fonz," is to promote his movie "Heroes," with Polydor releasing the MCA soundtrack album. In the chart is the U.K. compilation on "Fonzie Favorites" on Warwick. The "Happy Days" tv series returns to Swedish screens in September.

High advance orders on the Bonnie Tyler album "Natural Force," including her number one single "It's A Heartache," and the singer visits Sweden later this year for concerts and tv. . . . The Glen Studio here has installed a Necam computerized mix-down system.

Electra releasing six locally-produced albums which will be jointly marketed. . . . Artists currently touring Sweden include Blue Oyster Cult, Smokie, Genesis and David Bowie.

LEIF SCHULMAN

PARIS

Europe No. 1 claims to be first radio station to broadcast a regular punk program, aired at 1 a.m. for an hour, called "Pogo" and produced by Alain Mainval (age 25), most of the records being imports from the U.S. and U.K. . . . U.S.-born Christine Mastrogiovanni named European co-ordinator for A&M, working with Russ Curry, European marketing manager.

Polydor has re-edited the first four albums by (Continued on page 71)

BIEM & CISAC

Meet Explores Intl Data Distribution

LONDON — The Mechanical Copyright Protection Society here hosted, for the first time, annual meetings of the BIEM and CISAC technical committee, with some 80 delegates representing 41 societies from 29 countries, including Russia and Australia.

For economy reasons, the secretariats of BIEM and CISAC have recently merged, though there has been increasing cooperation over the years between the two to rationalize and standardize information exchanges.

Technical matters at the meetings in Brighton, Sussex, fell into two main areas: exchange of copyright information, and the comput-

erization needed to deal with collection and distribution of copyright royalties and fees.

Particularly stressed this year were aspects of basic formats of royalty distribution information to be included on computer magnetic tapes, plus the establishment of a basic international index of musical works' titles to ease identification and royalty payment.

Other subjects covered ranged from the control of mechanical rights in the U.K., treatment of musical arrangements, an international dramatic works index card, and the updating of the international glossary of basic terms in general use in the copyright field.

Romanian Festival Scores

By OCTAVIAN URSULESCU

BUCHAREST—This year's Sibiu National Jazz Festival, the 8th in the series, broke all previous records with 19 groups and 214 musicians taking part.

Particularly successful were modern-slanted groups, notably: Gramophon, Experimental QII, the Marius Popp Quintet, Adrian Edescu-Radu Goldis Quartet, Ethos, the Johnny Raducanu Group, the Radio-Television Big Band, and the Army Ensemble of Cluj-Napoca big band.

Well received, too, were Sibiu-

based bands the Vocal Jazz Quartet and the Radu Ghizasan Quintet. A particularly promising debut was that of Ion Baci Jr., a schoolboy aged 18, and the son of the noted conductor of the Iasi Philharmonic Orchestra.

Included in the festival was a special tribute to George Gershwin, plus seminars on various jazz topics. It is planned to make next year's event a more international festival, with a special jazz section set up at the Theater and Music Assn.