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AMONG the three Redifon data entry installations in Hungary, is one located at Mum Szanti, which is part of a joint computer service bureau for Hungarian ministries and government agencies. This service bureau is known as the Hungarian Central Computing Agency (CCA) and operates two Honeywell 6600 mainframes together with a number of key-to-disk systems and numerous on-line Hungarian manufactured terminals.

Mum Szanti, itself also operates an ICL 1905 and a RIAD 20 computer, which together with the Redifon systems are primarily used in the work of the Ministry of Labour. The configuration consists of a central processor with 10 terminals supported by 10MB of disk storage, one serial printer, and a punch card reader. Contract value £72,000. The system is used for a variety of data entry tasks in preparing clean input for the ICL and RIAD machines.

The system is also used considerably for data processing, for it has been found that sometimes the size of the problem allows Mum Szanti to solve it on the Redifon system much faster and with more flexibility than with any other computer on hand. For instance, one application is the annual School Census, which requires the initial entry of over 6 million characters for sorting and analysis by the Redifon system and for the final print-out of results for the Minister's own desk. Other similar types of applications include stock control, the monitoring of work in progress projects, and statistical tasks. The latter involves National Wage Returns and a Survey of Higher Managers salaries in Hungary.

The fact that the Redifon system is equipped with both 7-track and 9-track magnetic tape units has also enabled Mum Szanti to offer extensive facilities in the conversion and exchange of magnetic tapes for use on such systems as IBM, ICL, Honeywell, RIAD, Siemens etc. with in-built editing and standard tape formats.

Mum Szanti also specialises in providing management training courses, and, in this respect, has developed a model information system on the Redifon system to teach the impact of computers in decision making processes. Among other management information systems is an information retrieval system for the Minister of Labour. This enables the Minister to access specific articles on labour matters, which have appeared in the

Hungarian press over the previous twelve months, by means of key words, which, in turn, cause the display of short annotations of those articles for selection. Information for the first six months is stored on the Redifon disk, and is actually accessed through a Redifon terminal connected by telephone line to the Redifon system at Mum Szanti. Older information, if required, is then accessed by the system through an on-line link to one of the Honeywell 6600 systems at the Central Computing Agency using IBM 2780 Remote Job Entry terminal emulator on the two respective systems.

The entire retrieval system can be appreciated from the schematic below.

It will be seen that the Redifon system controls the two data transmission links. The sequence is quite simple, for once the enquiry relates to information



Budapest — Fisherman's Bastion and Matthias Church.

more than six months old, a batch of data in 80 character card formats, being the enquiry, is transmitted to the Honeywell by the Redifon system in the form of a GRTS control card, JCL cards, program cards and/or data cards, JCL closing cards and the final GRTS

card. All this is automatically generated under a Standard Job by the system. In practice, the routine has been proven as fast, simple and accurate, for whilst data up to six months old can be accessed in real-time using the Redifon disk the delay in obtaining older information in "remote batch processing" mode has not been found excessive, especially whilst the first part is being assimilated in detail. If required, it is, of course, a simple matter to cause the selected information from both sources to be printed out on the Redifon system.

Mum Szanti is obviously a well-experienced Redifon user, and typifies the use to which a Redifon system is stretched in Eastern Europe. This especially applies where the user has no mainframe, or where it is of second generation type. It is not surprising, therefore, to record that the Computer Manager at Mum Szanti recently received a Ministerial award, and the Redifon installation was acknowledged as being amongst the most cost-effective computer installation of any type in Hungary.

Program and application developments continue all the time, and now that Mum Szanti has just obtained the latest version of Redifon R801 software, which will enable it to process work in real-time mode, and it is about to take delivery of multi-keystation printers, it will not be long before another chapter will be written to show that the original concept of "just replacing punch cards for data entry" has been shattered once more.

Well done Mum Szanti, we salute you!

