DIRECTORS' REPORT

The Directors present their report and the accounts for the year ended 31 March 1996.

Results and Dividends

The Company, which operates as a finance company within the THORN EMI plc Group, made a profit of £29,597,000 during the year (1995 profit:£20,621,000). The Directors do not recommend payment of a dividend.

Directors and their Interests

The Directors during the year were as follows:

Mrs P L Foster Back S P Duffy S G Young

No Director had any interest in the shares of the Company at any time during the year.

The interests of the Directors in the share capital of THORN EMI plc, the ultimate parent undertaking, at the year end were as follows:

| | Ordinary Shares | | Options* | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|---------|----------|-------------------|--------------------|---------|
| | 1/4/95 | 31/3/96 | 1/4/95 | Granted During | Exercised the Year | 31/3/96 |
| Mrs P L Foster Back | - | _ | 14,495 | 5,000 | - | 19,495 |
| S P Duffy | 3,024 | 3,038 | 165,542 | 29,301 | - | 194,843 |
| S G Young | 1,444 | 1,444 | 67,556 | 5,750 | - | 73,306 |

^{*} Options over Ordinary Shares are granted under Savings-Related and Executive Share Option Schemes and the Senior Executive Incentive Plan.



Directors' Report Continued

Directors' and Officers' Liability Insurance

The ultimate parent undertaking, THORN EMI plc, has maintained insurance to cover Directors' and Officers' liability as permitted by Section 310(3) of the Companies Act 1985.

Auditors

Ernst & Young have expressed their willingness to continue in office as auditors.

A resolution proposing their re-appointment will be submitted to the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

By Order of the Board.

M R Cox Secretary

Date:

30/7/96

Registered Office 4 Tenterden Street London W1A 2AY

STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES IN RESPECT OF THE ACCOUNTS

Company law requires the Directors to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company and of the profit or loss for that period. In preparing those accounts, the Directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts; and
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Company will continue in business.

The Directors confirm that the accounts comply with the above requirements.

The Directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Company and enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Companies Act 1985. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

REPORT OF THE AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF THORN EMI FINANCE PLC

We have audited the accounts on pages 5 to 11 which have been prepared under the historical cost convention and on the basis of the accounting policies set out on page 7.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF DIRECTORS AND AUDITORS

As described on page 3, the Company's Directors are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. It is our responsibility to form an independent opinion, based on our audit, on those accounts and to report our opinion to you.

BASIS OF OPINION

We conducted our audit in accordance with Auditing Standards issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the accounts. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the Directors in the preparation of the accounts, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Company's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the accounts are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud, other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the accounts.

OPINION

In our opinion the accounts give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company as at 31 March 1996 and of the profit of the Company for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985.

Ernst & Young Frist & Young

Chartered Accountants

Registered Auditor

London

15 August 1996

THORN EMI FINANCE PLC '

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 1996

| i . | Notes | 1996 £000 | 1995 £000 |
|--|-------|--------------|--------------|
| Administrative expenses | | (356) | (521) |
| Other operating income | 2 | 21,097 | 7,908 |
| Other operating expenses | 3 | (16,852) | (3,348) |
| OPERATING PROFIT/(LOSS) | | 3,889 | 4,039 |
| Interest receivable | 4 | 166,136 | 84,137 |
| Interest payable | 5 | (140,418) | (67,555) |
| | | 25,718 | 16,582 |
| PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE TAXATION | | 29,607 | 20,621 |
| Taxation | 6 | (10) | - |
| PROFIT FOR THE YEAR | | 29,597 | 20,621 |
| | | | |

STATEMENT OF RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES

There are no recognised gains or losses in the period other than the retained profits of £29,597,000 (1995 profit: £20,621,000).

BALANCE SHEET - 31 MARCH 1996

| | Notes | 1996 £000 | 1995 |
|--|----------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| CURRENT ASSETS | | £000 | £000 |
| Debtors: amounts falling due within one year Debtors: amounts falling due after more than one yea Cash at bank and in hand | 8 r 8 | 1,573,886 99,894 56 | 1,645,369 367,196 351 |
| | | 1,673,836 | 2,012,916 |
| CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR | | | |
| Bank loans and overdrafts Creditors and accruals | 9 | (160,114) (1,197,107) | ` ' ' |
| | | (1,357,221) | (1,299,447) |
| NET CURRENT ASSETS | | 316,615 | 713,469 |
| CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR | | | |
| Amounts owed to fellow subsidiary undertakings Bank loans | 10 | (1,633) (149,673) | (356,708) (221,049) |
| | | (151,306) | (577,757) |
| | | 165,309 | 135,712 |
| CAPITAL AND RESERVES | | | |
| Called up share capital Profit and loss account | 11 12 | 83,936 81,373 | 83,936 51,776 |
| Physe Foster Back, | | 165,309 | 135,712 |
|) Director(s) | | 30/ | 7/96 |

S.G. YOUNG

- 6 -

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Accounting

The accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable accounting standards.

Currency Translation

Transactions denominated in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate of exchange ruling at the dates of the transactions. Unhedged monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at year-end rates. The resulting exchange differences are dealt with in the determination of profit for the financial year. Hedged monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the hedged rates.

Cashflow

In accordance with FRS 1, a cashflow statement is not required because the parent undertaking has included a consolidated cashflow statement in its group accounts.

| 2. | OTHER OPERATING INCOME | 1996 £000 | 1995 £000 |
|----|--|--------------|--------------|
| | Exchange profit on foreign currency balances | 21,097 | 7,908 |
| | | | |
| 3. | OTHER OPERATING EXPENSES | 1996 £000 | 1995 £000 |
| | Exchange loss on foreign currency balances | 16,852 | 3,348 |

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

| 4. | INTEREST RECEIVABLE | 1996 | 1995 |
|----|---|-------------|--------|
| | | £000 | £000 |
| | Interest receivable on: | | |
| | Bank deposits | 41,724 | 16,535 |
| | Loans to parent undertaking | 51,389 | 20,289 |
| | Loans to fellow subsidiary undertakings | 73,023 | 47,313 |
| | | 166,136 | 84,137 |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| 5. | INTEREST PAYABLE | 1996 | 1995 |
| | | £000 | £000 |
| | Interest payable on: | | |
| | Bank loans and overdrafts repayable within five years | 61,717 | 28,670 |
| | Bank loans repayable after five years | - | 8 |
| | Loans from fellow subsidiary undertakings | 61,535 | 38,311 |
| | Loans from parent undertaking | 17,166 | 566 |
| | | | |
| | | 140,418 | 67,555 |
| | • | | |

6. TAX ON PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES

The Company is primarily liable for UK corporation tax on its profits. However, no provision has been made in these accounts for either current or deferred taxation, as an undertaking has been received from its ultimate parent undertaking, THORN EMI plc, that the latter will assume all liability for any such taxation as long as the Company remains a subsidiary. In view of the undertaking received, no disclosure is made in the accounts of any potential liability to taxation. The £10,000 tax charge in the profit and loss account relates to overseas withholding tax, which is not covered by the above indemnity.

7. DIRECTORS' EMOLUMENTS

No Director received any remuneration during the year in respect of his/her services to the Company.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

| 8. | DEBTORS | 1996 £000 | 1995 £000 |
|----|---|-----------------|--------------|
| | Amounts falling due within one year: | 2000 | |
| | Amounts owed by parent undertaking | 595,557 | 780,429 |
| | Amounts owed by fellow subsidiary undertakings | 965,129 | 854,813 |
| | Interest owed by parent undertaking | 2,320 | 2,397 |
| | Interest owed by fellow subsidiary undertakings | 4,780 | 2,318 |
| | Taxation Other data are | 75 | |
| | Other debtors | 6,025 | 5,412 |
| | | 1,573,886 | 1,645,369 |
| | Amounts falling due after more than one year: | | |
| | Amounts owed by parent undertaking | 94,481 | 8,555 |
| | Amounts owed by fellow subsidiary undertakings | 5,413 | 358,641 |
| | | e tter é | |
| | | 99,894 | 367,196 |
| | • | | |
| 9. | CREDITORS AND ACCRUALS | 1996 | 1995 |
| | | £000 | £000 |
| | Amounts falling due within one year: | | |
| | Amounts owed to parent undertaking | 2,620 | 161,512 |
| | Amounts owed to fellow subsidiary undertakings | 1,186,280 | 985,846 |
| | Interest owed to fellow subsidiary undertakings | 4,372 | 3,219 |
| | Other creditors and accruals | 3,835 | 1,163 |
| | | 1,197,107 | 1,151,740 |
| | | | |
| | | | |

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

| 10. BORROWINGS | 1996 | 1995 |
|---|---------|-------------|
| Maturity analysis of long-term borrowings: | £000 | £000 |
| Bank loans falling due after more than one year | | |
| are repayable as follows: | | |
| Between one and two years | 52,288 | - |
| Between two and five years | 97,385 | 174,753 |
| After five years (due 31 March 2002) | - | 46,296 |
| | | |
| | 149,673 | 221,049 |
| | | |
| | | |

11. SHARE CAPITAL

| | Authorised | | Allotted, o | - |
|--------------------|------------|------------|-------------|--------|
| | 1996 | 1995 | 1996 | 1995 |
| | No. | No. | £000 | £000 |
| Ordinary shares of | ı | | | |
| £1 each | 85,000,000 | 85,000,000 | 83,936 | 83,936 |
| | | | | |

12. RECONCILIATION OF MOVEMENT IN SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS AND MOVEMENTS ON RESERVES

| | Share <u>Capital</u> | Profit & Loss Reserve | <u>Total</u> |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| | £000 | £000 | £000 |
| At 1 April 1995 | 83,936 | 51,776 | 135,712 |
| Retained profits for the year | - | 29,597 | 29,597 |
| | | | |
| At 31 March 1996 | 83,936 | 81,373 | 165,309 |
| • | | | |

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

13. PARENT UNDERTAKING

The parent undertaking of the group of undertakings for which group accounts are drawn up and of which the Company is a member is THORN EMI plc, which is the ultimate parent undertaking registered in England and Wales. Copies of THORN EMI plc's accounts can be obtained from THORN EMI plc, 4 Tenterden Street, Hanover Square, London W1A 2AY, England.

14. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

The Company has provided a guarantee to its clearing banks in respect of borrowings of other THORN EMI plc UK Group companies. Such guarantee is limited to the amount of cash deposited by the Company with the banks. At 31 March 1996, £56,000 (1995: £351,000) was guaranteed.