

OFFICE OF FAIR TRADING**FAIR TRADING ACT 1973****REFERENCE TO THE MONOPOLIES AND MERGERS
COMMISSION****RAZORS AND RAZOR BLADES**

The Director General of Fair Trading, in exercise of his powers under Section 47(1), 49(2) and (3) and 50(1) of the Fair Trading Act 1973 ("the Act"), hereby refers to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission ("the Commission") the matter of the existence or possible existence of a monopoly situation in relation to the supply in the United Kingdom of razors and razor blades intended, in either case, for wet shaving use.

The Commission shall investigate and report on the questions whether a monopoly situation exists in relation to such supply, and if so:

- (a) by virtue of which provisions of Sections 6 to 8 of the Act that monopoly situation is to be taken to exist;
- (b) in favour of what person or persons that monopoly situation exists;
- (c) whether any action or omission on the part of that person or those persons in respect of the matter specified below operates or may be expected to operate against the public interest; the matter specified is the giving of assistance to and the provision of finance for Swedish Match NV in or in connection with the acquisition of the consumer products division of Stora Kopparbergs Bergslags AB, including all transactions or arrangements entered into or proposed in connection with such assistance or provision of finance.

The Commission shall report on this reference within a period of 6 months from the date hereof.

14th June 1990.

Gordon Borrie,
Director General of Fair Trading
(20 SI)