

NEW HOPE FOR SECRETARIES



Illustration: Ryu Tajiri

Help is on its way for export secretaries who never got beyond "Sehr geehrter Herr X." Dutch company Tron B.V. announces TransWord, a commercial correspondence translation program for PCs.

No parsing involved, just a modifiable multilingual database plus look-up dictionary incorporating 600 plus standard business-speak "modules" (sentences and sentence strings) with gaps for variable details like names and figures. TransWord also includes a user-friendly shorthand function to call up predefined words and phrases with just one key. If this works, the only post-editing required should be adding the address and date.

Languages on offer: English, German, French, Italian, Spanish and Dutch, of which the basic package offers a combination of any two. Languages three to six can be added as desired. TransWord also incorporates a communication function, activating direct connection to electronic mail networks. To be shipped as from mid-January 1988. Basic price: \$499; plus \$120 for each additional language.