FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE ROOTES GROUP WW VETIRLING

MOSS TO DRIVE SUNBEAM-TALBOT IN "MONTE" RALLY COMPETING FOR FIRST TIME MEMBER OF OFFICIAL SUNBEAM-TALBOT TEAM

Stirling Moss, who at 22 years of age is Britain's youngest-ever champion driver, is to join the official Rootes Group Sunbeam-Talbot team for the 1952 Monte Carlo Rally.

The Rally, 2,000-miles in length, starts on 22 January. It is considered the most gruelling of all European international competitions of its kind, and the 1952 tests will be more difficult than in previous years.

It will be the first time that Stirling Moss, who lives at Tring, Herts., has competed in an international reliability trial and it is noteworthy that after testing a Sunbeam-Talbot '90' saloon car over 3,000 miles on Continental roads this month, Moss has selected a similar car for his initial appearance in the Rally. He will be out to break the French supremacy in this event - a British driver has not won for 21 years.

All British drivers are selected by the R.A.C.

His co-drivers will be John Cooper, of the "Autocar", and Desmond Scannell, Secretary of the B. R. B. C., and the trio will start out from Monte Carlo itself.

Leaving from Glasgow are the other two official Sunbeam-Talbot entries. Norman Garrad, of Coventry, captain of the team, and chairman of the British Monte Carlo Rally Competitors' Club, will be competing in his 15th Rally. His co-drivers will be John A. Cutts, of Coventry, and Douglas H. Perring, of Wimbledon, S.W.20. The other Sunbeam-Talbot will be driven by George Hartwell, of Bournemouth, with J.N. Pearman and W.R. Chipperton, both of Coventry. Hartwell secured a first award in last week's 1,200-mile Daily Express National Motor Rally in the class for special and supercharged closed cars of any capacity.

Sunbeam-Talbot's Women's Team.

The official Sunbeam-Talbot women's team competing in the Coupe des Dames section of the Rally will be: Mrs. E.M. Wisdom, of Peel Street, Kensington, W.8., Miss Sheila Van Damm, of London, W.1., and Angmering-on-Sea, Sussex, and Mrs. Nancy Mitchell, of High Wycombe, Bucks. This team is also starting from Glasgow. Mrs. Mitchell was placed second and Miss Van Damm third in the women's section of the National Motor Rally.

Of the 80 British cars entered for the Rally, 21 are Rootes Group cars -13 Sunbeam-Talbot, five Hillman Minx and three Humber. Starting points of the Rally include Glasgow, Lisbon, Munich, Oslo, Palermo, Stockholm and Monte Carlo.

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Issued by:

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14th November, 1951.

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