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ΑΝΑΚΟΙΝΩΣΗ ΓΙΑ ΤΟΝ ΤΥΠΟ · INFORMAZIONE ALLA STAMPA · MEDEDELING AAN DE PERS**

Brussels, 16 May 1986

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**COMMUNITY/U.S. DISPUTE : U.S. UNILATERALLY IMPOSES QUOTAS ON  
SOME EUROPEAN PRODUCTS**

**"The Community will take equal measures" says Mr DE CLERCQ.**

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On learning of the American announcement that import quotas would be imposed on certain European products from 19 May, Mr. DE CLERCQ, currently in Strasbourg, stated :

"I deplore the decision by the President of the United States. It is getting us into a pointless escalation of trade measures which the Community has not provoked. This is particularly regrettable coming just when we are trying to reach agreement to start a new round of trade talks aimed at liberalizing international trade.

The unilateral American action is clearly contrary to the rules of GATT. This is not the way to settle our problems. The Community has done its very utmost to avoid confrontation and convince its American partners that unilateral action would be harmful.

We have not been listened to. As I said at every meeting with the American side, and as the Council of Ministers confirmed in its statement of 21 April 1986, the Community has no option but to reply with equal measures. The Commission will be making a proposal to that effect to the Council very shortly.

Notwithstanding this disappointing development, the Commission remains convinced that negotiation in accordance with the rules of GATT is the only sensible way to deal with our dispute".