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Brussels, 30 December 1986

**DISPUTE BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY
and the UNITED STATES OVER ENLARGEMENT**

44.2(103)

Statement by Mr Willy de Clercq,
Member of the Commission with special responsibility
for external relations and trade policy:

"We have a month in which to avoid the worst"

It was with regret that I learned of the retaliatory measures against certain products from the Community which were announced by the US Government in the dispute over the consequences of enlargement. These involve a considerable increase (to 200 %) in customs tariffs on certain vegetables (carrots, chicory, olives), gin brandy, lower quality white wines, certain cheeses and tinned ham. According to the American authorities the Community can expect to lose around \$ 400 million in export trade.

I regret that, as in the case of previous trade disputes with the United States, we have had to resort to retaliatory measures and counter-measures. For its part, the Community is prepared to retaliate when the American measures come into force. The Council decided on 16 June this year to take similar measures for corn gluten feed, wheat and rice.

I note, however, that the measures announced by the American authorities will only enter into force towards the end of January. We therefore have a month in which to avoid the worst and to reach by negotiation a solution that is politically acceptable and economically justifiable. We have up to now entered into negotiations in good faith. We will continue to do so, in the hope that our American partners will be as determined as ourselves to find a solution to a problem which is harmful to us both.