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**TRADE BILL VETO IS A GOOD THING, SAYS MR DE CLERCQ**

Mr De Clercq considers President Reagan's veto of the US Trade Bill "a good thing". Even in its final form, said Mr De Clercq, the Bill was still protectionist and would have set off a chain reaction amongst the United States' trading partners. International trade as a whole would have been the main loser. Although the bill was not vetoed primarily for international trade reasons, Mr De Clercq was glad to see that President Reagan himself felt that some of its sections were still protectionist. "Our efforts", he concluded, "have not been in vain."

The Community would continue to watch developments and make its views known so as to avoid protectionist measures being included in any future trade legislation.

The main international trading partners must set an example and work together to keep markets open and reinforce the multilateral trade system. The Uruguay Round trade negotiations, concluded Mr De Clercq, were the ideal forum for such a task.