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POLICY STATEMENTS

12/86 TRANSATLANTIC TRADE DISPUTES: EC ENLARGEMENT

Sir Oliver Wright, the British Ambassador,
speaking to the Executive Forum of the World
Affairs Center of Hartford, Connecticut on
April 7, 1986

The British Ambassador, Sir Oliver Wright, speaking in Hartford Connecticut on April 7, drew attention to the strength and depth of the transatlantic relationship but also to various trade disputes involving conflicts of interest, most recently over the accession of Spain and Portugal to the European Community.

Sir Oliver referred to US claims that the trade effects of Spanish and Portuguese accession could affect up to \$1 billion worth of US agricultural exports - mainly soybeans and feed grain - and to the US President's package of proposed counter-measures to be taken if the European Community failed to withdraw, or provide immediate compensation for, the alleged unfair trade restrictions.

Sir Oliver said:

"Despite US political support for enlargement there is a strong American suspicion that the EC expects the United States to pick up the bill. This is not so. The existing member states - particularly Britain, Germany and France - are paying, and will continue to pay, heavily for the widening of the Community to encompass Spain and Portugal: but we think it is worth it. We think it is worth it to strengthen democracy and both countries: they have made, over the past 10 years or so, a wonderful transition from dictatorship to democracy; and membership of the Community, a family of 10 other West European democracies will encourage the democratic tendencies in both countries. The strengthening of democracy in Europe is also an American interest. Moreover, does anyone doubt that Spain's decision in the recent referendum to remain in NATO was a consequence of Spain's admission to the Community. That too is an American interest".

Sir Oliver said that the Community does not deny that enlargement will lead to changes in previous trade patterns. He went on:

/But...

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