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A JOINT STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
AND OF THE AMERICAN CONGRESS AT THE CLOSE OF A TWO-DAY
MEETING ON UNITED STATES - EUROPEAN RELATIONS,
WASHINGTON, D. C., MAY 30-31, 1972

441.2(103)

Members of the United States Congress and a delegation of the European Parliament today concluded a series of discussions on United States - European relations in Washington, D. C. The meetings were a result of an invitation by members of the United States Congress to the members of the Parliament of the European Community in response to visits made in January of this year by members of Congress to European Community institutions in Brussels and Luxembourg.

Discussions covered aid and development, trade agricultural, and monetary issues as well as political-security questions. The role of the respective legislatures today and their potential as improved instruments of popular participation within systems of government on both sides of the Atlantic has been stressed.

The meetings explored the origins of differences as well as of common interests existing between the United States and the European Community.

The American participants were aware that the European Parliament is the institution of popular representation of the European Community.

The European participants realized that a reservoir of goodwill exists in the American Congress encouraging the growth of a strong, integrated Europe even if that unity may challenge present-day concepts of national or regional interests on specific issues.

Out of these discussions emerged a common conviction about future relations between the United States and the European Community:

the need for parliamentarians, as elected representatives, to develop with each other a more substantive view of shared U.S.-European problems;

the importance of regular meetings to allow thorough and detailed exposure of European-American relations in all aspects.

Both U. S. and European parliamentarians expressed a common conviction that a renewed understanding of the role of elected assemblies was imperative. They reaffirmed the constant need to safeguard human liberties through the balance of executive powers by popularly-elected representatives.

Finally, both parties declared that the relationship between the United States and the European Community in the years to come is of crucial importance and that parliamentarians on both sides of the Atlantic must give full support to continuing efforts to improve this relationship.