

COMMISSION
OF THE
EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

THE SPOKESMAN'S GROUP

Brussels

22 September 1975

MV/mon

PRIORITY - P 1

Given to the telex at: 12h30

441.2(103)

Note BIO (75) 278 to the National Offices
c.c. to the Members of the Group and to the Directors General of DG III and X

Subject: Community steel exports to the United States

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The Spokesman made the following statement to the press at midday today:

- "1. The Commission has taken note of the petitions filed with the United States Treasury on 18 September, calling for countervailing duties to be imposed on Community steel exports to the United States.
2. The United States Administration have informed the Commission that an investigation is to be initiated and that a preliminary determination must be reached within six months on the question of whether Community steel products receive a bounty or grant which would require the imposition of countervailing duties.
3. The Commission note that this case is not an isolated one. Countervailing duties against Community cheese exports were threatened earlier this year; a countervailing investigation is currently taking place into Community exports of canned ham; and Community exports of motorcars to the United States are the subject of a separate investigation into allegations of dumping and injury. Investigations into other products are also imminent. Over one-fifth of the Community's traditional exports to the United States are now liable to be affected in one way or another.
4. The Commission are concerned at the general drift of these developments. As regards the steel case, where the petitioners are complaining against the remission of value added tax on exports, the Commission recall that such remission of indirect taxes is expressly permitted by the GATT. In this case, as in the others, the Commission look to the United States Administration to respect its international obligations and to exercise its general responsibility, with other members of the international community, to control the forces of protectionism."

*Incorrect -
Treasury -
undecided -
Community,
is correctly
reflected by
U.S. Mission*

Regards

