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COMMON MARKET VICE PRESIDENT CALLS FOR
IMMEDIATE MEETINGS ON EUROPEAN FISHERIES POLICY

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WASHINGTON, D.C., May 23 -- Dr. Sicco Mansholt, vice president of the European Economic Community Commission, has called for immediate conferences between the EEC and Great Britain, Norway and Denmark on a common fisheries policy. These conferences would be independent of negotiations for their membership in the European Community.

Speaking last weekend in Vlaardingen, a Dutch fishing port near Rotterdam, Dr. Mansholt declared that a common fisheries policy "would be in the interest of all the countries on the North Sea." He said that the EEC Commission, in cooperation with the governments of the six Common Market members, intended to hold a preliminary conference this autumn on fisheries.

Dr. Mansholt said that entry into the Common Market of Great Britain, Denmark and Norway would be of greater importance to the fisheries industry than drafting of a common fisheries policy within the Six -- a matter which the European Community has not yet undertaken. He pointed out that Great Britain, Norway and Denmark produce some 3.2 million tons of fish per year, compared to 1.9 by the European Community countries (Belgium, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands). It would be impossible, he said, for the Community countries to formulate a meaningful fisheries policy without prior consultation with Great Britain, Norway and Denmark, which fish the same North Sea waters.

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