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HALLSTEIN URGES COMMON MARKET SPEED-UP

WASHINGTON, D.C., February 5 -- Walter Hallstein, President of the Commission of the European Economic Community (Common Market), has taken the position that the economic integration of the six member countries can and should be accelerated, it was reported from Brussels today.

President Hallstein made his statement before the European Parliament's Committee on Political Affairs in Strasbourg February 2 when he said that a speed-up in the Common Market timetable would also accelerate trade liberalization throughout Western Europe. He said that the deadlines laid down by the Treaty of Rome, which call for transition to a full common market within 12 to 15 years from January 1, 1958, had never been scientifically calculated but were simply the results of compromise.

The President said that acceleration of the Common Market's schedule to abolish trade barriers would not tend to divide the Six from other European countries. He mentioned that spokesmen for the European Free Trade Association (the Outer Seven) which has geared its tariff reductions to the Common Market timetable had themselves mentioned the possibility of a speed-up.

The position of the EEC executive is that faster trade liberalization within the Six could be achieved without modifying the Treaty. The first four-year transition period, scheduled to end December 31, 1961, would not necessarily be shortened. But the remaining eight-to-eleven-year period might be reduced to four.