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239 Southern Building, Washington 5, D.C.
telephone NATIONAL 9-5070

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COMMON MARKET · EURATOM · COAL & STEEL COMMUNITY

TRADE INCREASES 16 PER CENT

IN COMMON MARKET COUNTRIES

But Exports to U. S. Show 6 Per Cent

Decline, Statistical Office Reports

WASHINGTON, D.C., Dec. 15 -- The value of trade between the six countries of the European Common Market rose to \$8.6 billion during the first nine months of this year, an increase of 16 per cent over the corresponding period for 1960, according to latest figures released from Brussels. At the same time, imports and exports between the Community and the rest of the world balanced at \$15 billion, a 5 per cent increase in each case. Common Market imports from the United Kingdom, however, went up 13 per cent.

The Statistical Office of the European Communities, in its Bulletin No. 11 for 1961, reports that the main factors in the increased intra-Community trade were sales by Germany (up 23 per cent), France (up 21 per cent) and Italy (up 18 per cent) and purchases by the Netherlands (up 24 per cent) and Italy (up 19 per cent). The monthly trade figures within the EEC reveal an upward trend, fairly steadily maintained since the beginning of 1961, almost parallel to that recorded for the same period of 1960.

Common Market exports to the United States in the first nine months of this year dropped 6 per cent below what they had been in the same period in 1960.

Community countries enjoying the greatest increases in exports to non-member countries were the German Federal Republic (up 10 per cent) and Italy (up 9 per cent). Benelux exports declined 3 per cent. Exports of capital goods expanded by 16 per cent, as compared with an increase of 4 per cent for other manufactured products.

The increase in imports in 1961 over 1960 is attributed almost entirely to increased purchases of manufactured goods (up 15 per cent) and especially capital goods (up 30 per cent). Imports of foodstuffs and raw materials rose only 1 per cent.

Imports into the Community from the associated countries (most of them in Africa) went up by 8 per cent, reaching a value of \$1.3 billion, while exports fell by 8 per cent.

An appreciable deficit in the Community's trade balance which developed during the first half of 1961 was entirely offset in the third quarter by an export surplus of more than \$3 billion.