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GREECE AND COMMON MARKET SIGN

ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT TODAY

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 9 -- The recently negotiated Agreement for Association between Greece and the European Economic Community (Common Market) will be signed by representatives of both sides at a formal ceremony in Athens today. Greece is the first European nation outside the Six to link its economy with that of the Common Market.

The Agreement is based on a customs union with special provisions to allow Greece to become a full member of the Community at a later date. In addition to eliminating tariff and quota restrictions between Greece and the Six, the Agreement also calls for the eventual free movement of persons, capital and services, and harmonized rules of competition, transport and general economic policy. Greece will adopt the same common external tariff as the Common Market.

Today's ceremony comes less than a month after the Community Council of Ministers, meeting in Brussels June 12, gave its unanimous approval to the Agreement. Negotiations, begun in the fall of 1959, were concluded on March 30 of this year. The Agreement will now be submitted to the European Parliament for consultation and to the parliaments of the governments concerned for ratification.

Signing will take place at noon today in the Hall of Trophies in the Palace of the Greek Parliament, followed by an address by Vice President of the Greek Council of Ministers Panayiotis Canellopoulos and an official visit on the part of the Community delegates and the ambassadors of the Six to Prime Minister Constantine Caramanlis. The Prime Minister and Mrs. Caramanlis will be hosts at a formal dinner this evening at which Mr. Caramanlis will deliver a major speech.

Prime Minister Caramanlis has previously gone on record as a strong advocate of increasing European integration. "This event," he said after the successful conclusion of the negotiations, "is of the greatest importance because it shows the political will of the six member states of the European Economic Community to move forward on the road toward European unity and to solve the economic problems of Greece as a European country in process of development and with a long tradition linking it to Western Europe."

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