

**news release****communiqué****EUROPEAN COMMUNITY APPEALS TO CANADA
TO MAINTAIN SUPPLIES OF NUCLEAR FUEL**

The European Community's Energy Commissioner, Guido Brunner, has appealed to Canada and the United States, on which the Community depends for much of its nuclear fuel, to maintain supplies and fulfil contracts.

At a press conference in Brussels on February 3, Mr. Brunner recalled that in December 1974 the Community set itself the task of reducing dependence on imported fuel, mainly oil, from 63% in 1973 to 50% by 1985. Some progress has been made but the latest figures reveal that the target is out of reach. In 1985, according to a present forecast, the Community will still have to look outside for 55% of its continuously growing energy needs.

Development of its own resources remains the best hope for the Community. Neither coal nor gas can fill the energy gap. Other possible sources such as water, geothermal, solar, wind, wave and tidal, can make only a modest contribution. Thus, a substantial nuclear power programme appears to be necessary.

However, increasing public concern over such matters as safety, security, and disposal of nuclear waste cannot be ignored. But the price of delay is clear: more dependence on suppliers outside the Community, extra balance-of-payments' burdens, low growth.

Mr. Brunner intends to prepare open hearings of recognized experts on atomic problems in order to involve public opinion in the nuclear debate. Meanwhile, the Commission will intensify Community research on nuclear safety and waste disposal.

As the Community depends on Canada and the United States for much of its nuclear fuel, Mr. Brunner appealed to

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the two countries to maintain supplies and fulfil contracts. The Commission shares the Americans' concern at the dangers of proliferation and misuse. Since 1958, the Community has enforced its own system of controls, which up to now have proved efficient. However, the Community will be sending a mission of Community experts to the U.S.A. for discussions, as soon as convenient to the American authorities, to be followed by a meeting between Mr. Brunner and the U.S. Energy Secretary, Mr. Schlesinger.

EURATOM LOANS: |

To finance nuclear power stations, the Commission plans to make about \$600 million available. The money would be raised on the capital market. Requests for these loans have already been received from Italy, France, the Federal Republic of Germany and the United Kingdom. The Commissioner hopes the Council of Ministers will take a positive decision on these loans soon.

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