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PRESS RELEASE

Bases of a policy for the free movement of workers in the Community.

The Advisory Committee for the free movement of workers and for employment, which is attached to the EEC Commission, met on 26 February 1965 under the chairmanship of Professor Levi Sandri, Vice-President of the Commission. It defined what in its opinion should be the bases of a policy for the free movement of workers in the Community.

The following are the guide lines it has proposed:

1. Freedom of movement should remain a fundamental right - a corollary of the principles of dignity and liberty - for all workers of the six countries and their families,
2. Movements of labour should not normally occur under economic duress: the right to move to another country should be one of the means whereby a worker may improve his living and working conditions and should thus, by the same token, contribute to his social betterment;
3. Measures relating to the free movement of workers should under no circumstances be considered in isolation; they must be fitted into a policy of balanced economic development, of which an essential component is an active employment policy pursued by the Member States and co-ordinated at Community level;
4. To remedy the unemployment still persisting in certain Community areas it is not sufficient to allow freedom of movement; everything must be done to create employment in the areas concerned;
5. Conditions for the elimination of difficulties in the way of complete freedom of movement must be created concurrently and progressively. This applies particularly to common vocational training policy, the rapid alignment of social legislation, and the harmonization of social policies in relation with the co-ordination of economic policies.

The Committee put forward these points mainly with an eye to the proposals which the Commission is required to submit to the Council by 31 December 1967 and which will determine the Community's ultimate free-movement policy.

With this in prospect, the Committee considered it important to press its view that optimum mobility of labour in the Community would certainly not be achieved if only free movement as such were ensured without steps being taken at the same time to implement a common vocational training policy, speed up the alignment of national legislation and harmonize social policies.

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