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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

EEC PLANS TO AID OILSEED GROWING IN ASSOCIATED AFRICAN STATES

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 3 -- The Commission of the European Economic Community in a memorandum submitted to the Council of Ministers has proposed to give financial aid to oilseed production in the African countries associated with the Community.

The aid is to be offered in connection with the Community's own oil- and fat-marketing arrangements slated for completion in July. Under the outlines set down in December 1963, price support operations in the Community's oilseed sector would draw from a duty levied on edible vegetable oils and from contributions by the Community's Common Agricultural Fund.

The support would affect the position of the 18 Associated Countries vis-a-vis the Community, however; thus the Commission has proposed to offer aid also to oilseed cultivation in Africa when the world market price falls below an agreed reference price. The difficulty was to find a source for these contributions, for the EEC's Common Agricultural Fund cannot legally meet expenses not incurred among the Common Market's six members. Therefore the Commission has proposed a special section in the Community's budget for this aid, which could reach \$2 million in the second half of 1967, \$13 million in 1968 and \$6½ million in the first half of 1969. France would contribute 32 per cent of the section's funds, Germany 31.2 per cent, Italy 20.3 per cent, the Netherlands 8.2 per cent, Belgium 8.1 per cent and Luxembourg 0.2 per cent.

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