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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COMMON MARKET SALUTES MARSHALL PLAN ON ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY

WASHINGTON, D.C., June 7, 1967 -- Walter Hallstein, President of the European Economic Community's Commission paid tribute to the Marshall Plan to assist Europe in reconstructing and to the General who launched it twenty years ago, it was announced today in Brussels.

The EEC Commission President did so in a message to Thorskil Kristensen, Secretary General of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the successor of the Organization for European Economic Cooperation. Dr. Hallstein's message read:

"On the occasion of ceremonies to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of General Marshall's speech, the Commission of the European Economic Community wants to take part in the homage paid to the great statesman whose initiative contributed so well to the reconstruction of Europe. My colleagues and I would also like again to express our high regard for the work accomplished by your organization and our hopes that it will continue its worthwhile work."

In the OEEC, representatives of the United States met with representatives of the European countries for periodic, mutual reviews of their recovery efforts. The U.S. Foreign Assistance Act of 1948 authorized this plan which General George C. Marshall had announced in his commencement address at Harvard on June 5, 1947. When Europe had recovered from the war, the OEEC became the OECD, adding economic development to its objectives and taking in new members.