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PRESS RELEASE

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**COMMON MARKET RULES CONTINENTAL CAN CO. IN VIOLATION OF COMMUNITY
ANTI-TRUST LAWS**

WASHINGTON, D.C., December 14 -- The Commission of the European Communities has ruled that Continental Can Co., New York, seriously restricted competition in the metal-can market by its 1970 acquisition of a Dutch packaging concern.

The decision announced yesterday in Brussels cited the acquisition as a violation of Article 86 of the Rome Treaty establishing the Common Market. The Commission ruled that Continental Can must end its infraction by July 1, 1972.

The Commission stated that Europemballage, Continental Can's European subsidiary, maintains a dominant position in Northern Europe for meat packaging, fish packaging, and bottle caps through its German subsidiary, Schmalbach-Lubeca-Werke AG. Continental Can then abused its dominant position by eliminating virtually all competition in these areas through the 1970 purchase of the Dutch packaging concern, Thomassen en Drijver-Verblifa N.V., the Commission said.

By acquiring a potential major competitor, Continental Can has restricted the choice of the consumer in a manner incompatible with Common Market rules of competition, the Commission ruled.

The Commission's decision can be appealed before the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg.

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