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THIRD ROUND OF UNITED STATES-COMMON MARKET TRADE TALKS TO BEGIN IN BRUSSELS

WASHINGTON, D.C., January 31 -- The third round of negotiations between the Commission of the European Communities and the United States on "short term" trade problems will take place Thursday, February 3, in Brussels.

Previous sessions were held in Brussels the week before Christmas and in mid-January without agreement having been reached between the two parties.

The Common Market's head negotiator in the talks is Theodorus Hijzen, the European Commission's Director General for Trade. William Eberle, President Nixon's special representative for trade negotiations, leads the American delegation.

The February 3rd negotiations will be preceded by a meeting in Brussels today of the European Community's Council of Ministers to decide whether to grant Commission negotiators a freer hand to deal with the American proposals.

The European negotiators had been given instructions earlier by the Council to seek "reciprocity and mutual benefit" in the negotiations.

The trade talks began following an American request to deal with specific problems between the two trading partners. The request was put forward as a condition for U.S. acceptance of the international monetary agreement reached in December, 1971.

Thus far, the negotiations have centered on "short-term" problems with

long-range issues reserved for future consideration. Talks have centered mainly around agricultural commodities. One aspect deals with the U.S. request for European stockpiling of feed grains to prevent European exports from affecting world market prices. Another American demand is that the Community freeze its price of corn, a major American export to the Community. In addition, the United States has sought increased access to the Community for U.S. citrus fruits and has asked that American interests be taken into account in the European Community's negotiations with a number of non-member European nations on the creation of a free-trade area between them.

The U.S. delegation in December first sought agreement on a wide-range of demands as a condition for seeking congressional approval of official devaluation of the dollar through an increase in the price the United States pays for gold. After the January negotiations, Ambassador Eberle said the Nixon Administration would hold up the gold revaluation bill until "indications of tangible progress" were made in the trade field.

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