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S O A M E S M E E T S N I X O N

Washington -- February 16 -- Christopher Soames, a Vice President of the Commission of the European Communities, met here today with President Richard M. Nixon for 30 minutes to discuss topics of mutual interest. Vice President Soames is responsible for the EC's external relations. Mr. Nixon absented himself from a cabinet meeting to meet Soames.

During his two-day visit here, Vice President Soames also met with (in chronological order) Peter M. Flanigan, Special Assistant to President Nixon; Walter J. Stoessel, Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs; William J. Casey, Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs; Willis C. Armstrong, Assistant Secretary of State for Economic Affairs; Kenneth Rush, Deputy Secretary of State; William P. Rogers, Secretary of State; George P. Schultz, Secretary of Treasury; Arthur F. Burns, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System; William D. Eberle, Special Representative for Trade Negotiations; Frederick B. Dent, Secretary of Commerce, and Herbert Stein, Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors. Vice President Soames also met informally with Congressmen and EC member states' ambassadors.

In this first visit to the United States as Commission member responsible for external relations, Vice President Soames was accompanied by Edmond Wellenstein, Director General for External Relations; Pierre Malve, a member of the EC Commission President's cabinet, and Adrian Fortescue, a member of Vice President Soames' cabinet.