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C O N G R E S S M E N V I S I T E U R O P E A N C O M M U N I T Y

WASHINGTON, DC -- May 1, 1973 -- Sixteen members of the US House of Representatives leave tomorrow on a "study mission" of the European Community. The third in a series of parliamentary exchanges between the US Congress and the European Parliament, the mission is co-chaired by Rep. Benjamin S. Rosenthal (D-N.Y.), chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe, and Rep. Donald M. Fraser (D-Minn.), chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on International Organizations and Movements.

At a Capitol Hill news conference yesterday announcing the trip, Rep. Rosenthal stressed the importance of Congress taking "a leading role in redefining US-European relations," and Rep. Fraser called the evolution of the European Community "one of the most important events of this century."

After three days of talks with EC Commission officials in Brussels, the Congressmen will travel to Strasbourg, France, for a plenary session of the European Parliament. There the Congressmen and European Parliament members will discuss such topics as the upcoming world trade talks, international monetary reform, the respective agricultural policies of the United States and the

Community, security issues, and "the role of political parties and parliaments in political control and decision-making." The Congressmen will then divide into two groups for trips to two EC capital cities -- Rome and Paris.

The first EC-US parliamentary exchange took place in January 1972 when US Congressmen traveled to Luxembourg, site of the European Parliament's Secretariat. In May 1972, a European Parliament delegation traveled to Washington.

The other Foreign Affairs Committee members participating in the third exchange are: Rep. John Buchanan (R-Ala.); Rep. J. Herbert Burke (R-Fla.); Rep. L. H. Fountain (D-NC); Rep. Peter H. B. Frelinghuysen (R-NJ), ranking minority member of the Europe Subcommittee; Rep. Tennyson Guyer (R-Ohio); Rep. Guy Vander Jagt (R-Mich.); Rep. Ogden R. Reid (D-NY); Rep. Lester L. Wolff (D-NY), and Rep. Gus Yatron (D-Pa).

Other Congressmen on the study mission are: Rep. Phillip Burton (D-Calif.), of the Education and Labor Committee and chairman of the Territorial and Insular Affairs Subcommittee of the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee; Rep. Sam Gibbons (D-Fla.), of the Ways and Means Committee; Rep. John Melcher (D-Mont.), of the Agriculture and Interior and Insular Affairs Committees; Rep. David R. Obey (D-Wis.), of the Appropriations Committee, and Rep. Henry S. Reuss (D-Wis.), of the Banking and Currency, Government Operations, and Joint Economic Committees.