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NEWS

BRITTAN PRESS STATEMENT FOLLOWING FIRST MEETING WITH KANTOR

Sir Leon Brittan, EC Commissioner for External Affairs, today welcomed the announcement that President Clinton would ask Congress for a renewal of the fast-track authority connected to passage of a Uruguay Round agreement. The announcement was made by United States Trade Representative Michael Kantor in a joint press conference with Sir Leon following their first meeting this morning.

Sir Leon said the announcement "breathed new life into the Uruguay Round talks" and that talks would begin again at the official level. The EC view remains that the Round should be concluded quickly to avoid a loss of momentum, and that an early agreement is vital for economic growth.

Sir Leon and USTR Kantor also discussed bilateral EC-US problems, notably steel and telecommunications.

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