

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY NEWS

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COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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EC MINISTERS URGE ISRAEL TO WITHDRAW

A resolution urging Israeli and Arab forces to return to the positions they held on October 22, in accordance with United Nations resolutions 339 and 340, was adopted by the nine Common Market Foreign Ministers in Brussels, November 5. The declaration, calling for the carrying out of United Nations Security Council resolutions that established various Arab-Israeli cease fire lines since 1967 said the return to October 22 lines would facilitate a solution to "other pressing problems concerning prisoners-of-war and the [captive] Egyptian third army."

Declaring that negotiations must take place within the UN framework, the Ministers called for a peace agreement based on the following points: the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, the need for Israel to end territorial occupation it has maintained since the 1967 war, respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and independence of every state in the area; and recognition that legitimate rights of the Palestinians must be taken into account in establishing a just and lasting peace.

ETUC CLAIMS OIL FIRMS EXACERBATE OIL SHORTAGE

European oil companies have been charged with taking advantage of the current oil crisis to create a premature shortage on the European oil market, in particular by cutting off supplies earmarked for domestic use. Making the allegation on October 25, the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) warned oil companies against the consequences of their actions which it said hinder the smooth operation of Community mechanisms for dealing with real supply problems. The ETUC called on the Commission and national governments to respond to this situation by taking emergency measures to protect consumer interests and ensure a regular supply of oil.

TALKS TERMED
"CONSTRUCTIVE
AND CANDID"

Talks between EC Commission Vice President Christopher Soames and US Administration officials during his visit to Washington, October 29-31, covered highly technical aspects of EC-US trade relations, General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) negotiations, energy, relations with developing countries, agriculture, and industrial policy. Soames' visit included meetings with Treasury Secretary George P. Shultz, Under Secretary of State William J. Casey, and Peter Flanigan, Assistant to the President for International Economic Affairs.

Describing the talks as "constructive and candid," during a joint press conference October 31, Soames and Casey said their purpose was to define differences of opinion between the Community and the United States in preparation for upcoming trade negotiations. The talks, the seventh in a series of regularly scheduled meetings between Commission and US officials, will continue in the coming months, Soames said.

Speaking before the Chambers of Commerce of the EC Member States in New York, October 30, Soames called for a new relationship between the United States and the Community "to take account of the increasing role which a unified Western Europe can and must and will play in the world." Soames went on to say that although the United States and Europe "had plenty to do" in the fields of international monetary reform, trade liberalization and aid to developing countries, other important questions such as the energy crisis and the world shortage of essential raw materials required greater US-EC attention and cooperation.

On October 31, Soames flew to Ottawa to meet with Canadian officials and to address a conference on EC-Canada relations organized by the Canadian Institute of International affairs.

PARLIAMENT
VISIT ENDS
WITH JOINT
COMMUNIQUE

A joint communiqué calling for joint US-EC cooperation on matters concerning agriculture, energy, multinational corporations, and development policies was issued by members of the European Parliament and of the US Congress at the conclusion of a three-day US-EC interparliamentary conference in Washington. A nineteen-member delegation, led by Pierre Cousté, visited Washington October 28-31 for meetings with leaders of Congress and the Administration. It was the fourth official exchange between representatives of Congress and the Parliament, the second this year.

The communiqué, drawn up during meetings between Parliamentarians and Congressmen, stressed the need for

- US-EC cooperation on farm production levels and related price questions
- proper regulation of multinational corporations through international agreement on taxation, standards of conduct, and control of mergers
- joint US-EC development of an energy policy, close cooperation in the event of a crisis, and avoiding competitive price out-bidding for energy imports
- continuing joint scrutiny of respective development aid policies.

EUROPE TO HAVE
MEDIUM-RANGE
MET FORECAST
FACILITY

A convention to establish a European Center for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts that will benefit the agricultural, building industry, transport, and other sectors affected by the weather, was signed by 19 countries on October 11. The convention, drawn up as part of European Cooperation in the Field of Scientific and Technical Research (COST), was signed by the nine EC Member States, Spain, Greece, Yugoslavia, Norway, Austria, Portugal, Switzerland, Finland, Sweden, and Turkey.

The primary functions of the Center will be to produce and perfect mathematical models for medium-range weather forecasting, and to prepare and transmit medium-range forecasts to national meteorological offices. The Center will also help train a research staff for numerical weather forecasting in Europe and will make available special computing capacities and a data bank to national meteorological offices.

COMMON
EDUCATION
POLICY
REPORT

"For a Common Education Policy," a report outlining the goals of a Community level policy and possible means for achieving them has been published by the Commission. Professor Henri Janne, former Belgian Minister of Education and currently head of the Institute of European Studies at the Free University of Brussels, prepared the report for the Commission which is drafting an action program for a common educational policy, to be sent to the Council of Ministers this year.

Janne's report suggested introducing a European dimension into education through certain Community-level actions such as eliminating nationalistic and offensive errors from history textbooks, using geography to transcend national frontiers, creating linguistic studies which highlight common structures of European languages, teaching European civics based on EC practices and institutions, and studying the creation of an EC level agency to produce didactic materials.

SOCIAL ACTION
PROGRAM PLANS
SENT TO COUNCIL

A Community Social Action Program, proposing a wide range of measures to achieve full and better employment, improvement in living and working conditions, and increased participation of labor and consumers as well as management in EC economic and social decisions, has been submitted to the Council of Ministers by the Commission. The program, requested by the Heads of State or Government at the October 1972 Paris Summit meeting, would begin its first stage during the period 1974-76.

The program includes a list of priorities which the Commission feels require action before April 1, 1974. It includes European Social Fund assistance for migrant workers, an action program for handicapped workers, full application of the principle of equal pay for equal work between men and women, establishing a European Social Foundation for the improvement of the environment and working conditions, universalizing the 40-hour work-week by 1975, and the 4-week annual paid vacation by 1976.

EC WINE
TRADE
GROWING

The Common Market's intra-Community wine trade has risen spectacularly, according to the Commission's Annual Report on Wine which also found an upward trend in the growing and drinking of the beverage. Additionally, quality wines are now being produced on a wider scale, the report said.

Member States imported 3.7 million gallons of wine from their partners in 1971-72, a 35 per cent increase over 1969-70. EC exports also went up: 1.2 million gallons were shipped to third countries in 1971-72, 25 per cent more than the year before. Imports, on the other hand, dropped by 16 per cent to 7 million gallons.

Although the Community's total estimated wine production (3.4 billion gallons) will be lower than in the previous year, the Commission said that the yield from new vineyards will boost production by about 1 per cent annually. Production will rise faster in Italy and Germany than in France and Luxembourg, the report said.

The increase in wine consumption, estimated at 0.6 per cent annually, the Commission believes, is not high enough to surpass the Community's wine production. Therefore, the Commission has proposed supplementing its earlier recommendations for a more selective Community Classification system by calling for faster replacement of inferior vine varieties. The Commission will follow its report with proposals for dropping mediocre wines, which upset market rates, from the system, and for remedying structural problems.

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FIRST CLASS