

European Community NEWS

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PARLIAMENT DELEGATION WILL VISIT WASHINGTON

A delegation from the European Parliament will visit Washington September 14-18 for meetings with members of Congress and the Administration. It will be the sixth official meeting between Congressmen and EC parliamentarians, the second this year. The meetings will include joint informal hearings with House members on multinational corporations and on the situation in Greece and the eastern Mediterranean.

Led by Pierre Bernard Couste, the EC delegation will also meet with White House and Cabinet officials, including presidential economic counselor Kenneth Rush (ambassador designate to Paris), and Deputy Secretary of State Robert S. Ingersoll.

The European Parliament is composed of 198 members who also belong to their national legislatures which nominated them to the Parliament. The Parliament is headquartered in Luxembourg while plenary sessions are held there and in Strasbourg, France.

SIMONET-FRIEDMAN DIALOGUE ON INFLATION

EC Commissioner Henri Simonet and American economist Milton Friedman engaged in a dialogue on solutions to inflation at a roundtable discussion on "Inflation in

Western Society," sponsored by the American Embassy in Brussels on September 8. Arguing against wage-price controls in favor of price indexation, Friedman said: "Only by having the Government spend less, slowing down the rate at which they print money, and using 'escalator clauses' to absorb the public pressure for price increases, can we expect to reduce inflation to a controllable level." Simonet disagreed with Friedman's strict economic approach, claiming that inflation was just as much a political problem. "Indexation is only an economic sedative," Simonet said. "What is needed is a long term effort between management and labor, covering all aspects of economic policy, not just the monetary side." Both agreed that the ability of the poor to cope with inflation must be improved either through special subsidies or tax exemptions.

MAVROS MEETS ORTOLI FOR EC-GREECE TALKS

The current status and future development of the Greek association with the European Community was reviewed in meetings between EC Commission President Francois-Xavier Ortoli and Greek ministers of foreign affairs and finance, George Mavros and Ionnes Pesmazoglou, respectively, in Brussels on September 9. Mavros said his Government would soon request a move to speed Greek integration into the Community, thus reopening the way to possible membership.

**MOVE TO COORDINATE
EC FARM RESEARCH**

A regulation to coordinate and stimulate national agricultural research activities throughout the European Community was adopted recently by the Council of Ministers. A standing Committee on Agricultural Research will be set up to advise the Commission on research trends, developments, and application of results. The committee, made up of member state and Commission representatives, is to be chaired by the Commission. The regulation also allows the Commission to propose specific programs to be jointly undertaken by national scientists and financed in part by the Community.

**SOAMES TOURS
SOUTH EAST ASIA**

Despite the European Community's temporary beef embargo, the Common Market remains committed to expanding world trade in agricultural products, Commission Vice President Christopher Soames told the Australian National Press Club in Canberra last week. Soames arrived in Australia September 4 on the first leg of a six-week official visit that will also take him to New Zealand, Singapore, Indonesia, and the Phillipines.

The Commissioner also told the Press Club he welcomed the Australian Government's call for international discussion of the medium and long-term prospects of the beef sector. During his visit to Indonesia, September 23-28, he will meet with the ministers of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN). ASEAN members are: Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand.

**EC MOUNTS EFFORT FOR
SAFE FARMING IN EUROPE**

Rapid mechanization of farms and the increasingly widespread use of pesticides and insecticides are a main cause of accidents or illnesses among the 12 million agricultural workers, according to a three year joint study made by a committee of European farmers, employers, and workers. The committee was set up by the Commission.

To emphasize the dangers in farming and the need for safety, the Community is working with the member states and relevant social organizations to organize an EC safety week in agriculture, September 15-22.

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