

# European Community NEWS

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## SOAMES TO WASHINGTON FOR US-EC CONSULTATION

EC Commission Vice President Christopher Soames will visit Washington December 5-6 for the second round of the regular twice-yearly talks with US officials. Soames is responsible for EC external affairs. He will discuss trade and other matters of common interest to the European Community and the United States with a US team headed by Deputy Secretary of State Robert S. Ingersoll, and will probably meet with Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger and Treasury Secretary William L. Simon. Soames will also have talks with US Administration officials and members of Congress.

En route to Washington, Soames will address the New York Council on Foreign Relations on December 4.

## EUROPEAN SCIENCE FOUNDATION OPENED

The European Science Foundation (ESF) held its opening session in Strasbourg November 18-19. Set up to promote scientific cooperation, it groups 45 scientific institutions from 15 European countries. The Commission originated the idea for the ESF in 1972. The Foundation will present and supervise the execution of scientific policy guidelines. ESF members are: EC member states (except Italy and Luxembourg), together with Austria, Portugal, Spain, Greece, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, and Yugoslavia.

## EC-YUGOSLAVIA: "CORDIAL" TALKS

EC Commission President Francois-Xavier Ortoli and Vice President Christopher Soames held cordial talks with Yugoslav Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Milos Minic in Brussels November 22. The trio reviewed the European Community's 1973 trade accord with Yugoslavia and decided to develop trade relations further. The Community will look into increasing its scientific and technological cooperation with Yugoslavia, especially in the steel and energy fields, and will study the problems of Yugoslav immigrant workers in EC countries.

Minic was repaying a recent visit to Belgrade by Soames. Ortoli accepted an invitation from Minic to make an official visit to Yugoslavia.

## MARKET DRIVE ON TAX FRAUD

The EC Commission has called for a drive against tax evasion and fiscal fraud, notably by holding companies and multinationals in Common Market countries. In a November 21 proposal to the Council of Ministers, the Commission urged setting up a permanent nine-nation working group to oversee the operation. Divergent national tax laws facilitate fraud and evasion, with multinationals transferring profits from one country to another or using non-EC countries for business deals, the Commission said.

### EIB LOAN TO HELP BUY NEW AIRBUSES

The air routes between the Common Market's major cities will be serviced by three new European Airbuses, leased to Air France. The European Investment Bank granted two 12-year loans totaling 15.5 million units of account (UA) to two special leasing companies to help buy the 281-seat planes. (One UA equals \$1.20635 at current rates). The leasing companies were set up by two groups of banks. The first is headed by the Credit Lyonnais, the second by the Societe Generale and Banque Nationale de Paris.

### EC MEMBERSHIP ALTERS BRITISH TRADE PATTERNS

Trade links between Britain and Canada are taking on a much wider scope within the European Community, now Canada's second largest trading partner, EC Commission Vice President Christopher Soames said in London November 18. Addressing the Canada-United Kingdom Chamber of Commerce, Soames said the percentage of Canadian exports which went to Britain had dropped from 17 per cent to 5 per cent in the last 20 years. The corresponding percentage for the Commonwealth dropped from 29 per cent to 11 per cent. Nearly half of Britain's

total exports went to the Commonwealth 20 years ago. Today, only 19 per cent go there, while over 50 per cent are purchased by Western Europe.

### PROGRESS IN EC-INDIA TEXTILE NEGOTIATIONS

Negotiations for a bilateral textiles agreement between India and the European Community opened November 22 in Brussels. A large measure of agreement was reached on the main features of the accord which will fit into the textile trade framework of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). Negotiations will resume December 13 and are expected to be completed by the end of the year.

### GERMANY'S MIGRANTS SEND EARNINGS HOMEWARD

West Germany's 2.5 million foreign workers sent nearly \$3.5 billion to their home countries last year, the German Bundesbank disclosed November 8. Turkey's 576,000 migrant workers sent home the most--over \$1 billion. Germany's 203,000 Spanish workers sent back the least--\$349 million. Yugoslav, Italian, and Greek migrants transferred \$905 million, \$555 million, and \$370 million respectively. The workers have also put over \$1.8 billion into German savings accounts.

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