

European Community NEWS

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CONFERENCE AGENDA PROPOSED BY EC NINE

The nine nations of the European Community, meeting this week in Paris with oil producing and consuming nations, have put forth a proposal for an agenda for the upcoming world energy conference this summer. The EC-proposed agenda -- representing the industrialized nations' point of view -- would cover

- oil markets
- production and security of petroleum supplies
- economic development in producing, consuming, and developing nations
- development of new energy resources
- financial problems related to oil-price increases.

The final agenda for the conference, as well as the participants, should be determined this week.

US SENATORS VISIT US BRUSSELS MISSION

The United States needs a viable European Community to help maintain an economically stable Western Europe, commented US Senators Hubert H. Humphrey (D-Minn.) and Hugh Scott (R-Penn.) on a recent trip to Brussels. Eight US Senators, lead by Humphrey, Scott and Jacob K. Javits (R-NY) were taking part in a tour

of five European capitals to discuss Atlantic alliance issues, focusing primarily on military and security matters. At a press conference at the US Mission to the European Communities March 23, the senators expressed their hope that the British people would vote to remain in the European Community in the coming June referendum.

BRANDT—US MUST AID EUROPEAN UNIFICATION

"It is especially now that the European Community needs support, not only from within itself but also from outside...The political and economic unification of Western Europe is hardly thinkable if the United States does not support the process." Former German Chancellor Willy Brandt, speaking at Vanderbilt University during a March visit to the United States, stressed that Europe and the United States have identical interests, though often taking different positions on issues. Brandt also spoke of the need for more democracy in the world -- "in the sense of individual and mutual responsibility"--and said that "Nobody...who is willing to stand up for freedom, justice, and equality...should be excluded from the construction of a socially sound Europe."

**US SUPPORTS UK
CABINET DECISION**

The United States "welcomes the British Cabinet's decision to recommend continued United Kingdom membership of the European Community," according to a US State Department spokesman Robert Funseth, speaking at a news conference in Washington on March 19. Funseth noted that the US position was "in keeping with our consistent support for closer cooperation in Europe" but that the decision to remain in the Community "is, of course, a matter for the British people."

**EC STEEL FORECAST
PROGRAM PUBLISHED**

A sharp fall in the price of steel has contributed to the deterioration of the steel market, according to the Community's 1975 forecast program for steel, published this month in Brussels. The program deals with steel production, consumption, and trade forecasts for this year. The Commission is studying the day-to-day developments in the steel market and is holding consultations so that measures to counter production decline can be adopted, if necessary.

**OECD PUBLISHES NEW
FIGURES ON INFLATION**

Inflation in Italy rose from 19.1 per cent to 23.3 per cent in the period from February 1974 to February 1975, according to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Prices in Britain rose by 19.8 per cent in the same period, after a 16 per cent rise the year before. Of the OECD's 24 member countries, Germany had the lowest inflation rate -- 5.8 per cent -- and Iceland the highest -- 53.7 per cent.

**COMMISSION AUTHORIZES
IVECO HOLDING COMPANY**

Fiat S.p.A. of Turin, Italy, and Kloeckner-Humboldt-Deutz (KHD) of Cologne, Germany, have been authorized to form a holding company by the EC Commission. The company, named the Industrial Vehicle Corporation (IVECO), will be located in the Netherlands. IVECO will control 22.29 per cent of the Community market in trucks and vehicles weighing more than six tons; 18 per cent of the Community tractor market, and 9.17 per cent of the Community market for buses. Germany's Daimler-Benz group has the largest market share in all three sectors.

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