

European Community NEWS

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FORD MEETS WITH ORTOLI AND SOAMES

Relations with developing countries and respective economic and financial policies were discussed in a 30-minute meeting between US President Gerald R. Ford, EC Commission President Francois-Xavier Ortoli, and Commission Vice President Christopher Soames at the US embassy in Brussels May 30. Ford and Ortoli expressed pleasure at the similarity of US and EC ideas on developing countries and agreed that the two should make concerted efforts to resolve the developing countries' problems. Ford was in Brussels for a meeting of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Council.

COMPETITION POLICY REVIEW PUBLISHED

Industrial concentration in the Community increased in 1974, and over half of the international operations were carried out between member state companies. This was a conclusion of the Commission's fourth annual report on competition policy. The report states that current EC competition policy is guided by the Community's desire to solve inflation, commodities difficulties, oil, and the widening disparities between sectors and regions. The report also covers the relation between Community and member state law, outlines state aid policies, and discusses sectoral aids, such as those for shipbuilding and textiles.

MONNET LAUDED BY US REPRESENTATIVES

A concurrent resolution honoring Jean Monnet, a founding father of the European Community, was introduced by three members of the US House of Representatives' Committee on International Relations May 22. Monnet retired from the Action Committee for the United States of Europe, which he founded 20 years ago, on May 9. The measure was introduced by Congressmen Paul Findley (R-Ill.), Donald M. Fraser (D-Minn.), and Benjamin S. Rosenthal (D-NY).

COMMISSION TACKLES YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

Soaring unemployment, especially among the young, occupied the European Community's Standing Committee on Employment at its seventh session, on June 3 in Brussels. A Commission document presented at the meeting suggested better preparation for young people about to enter the job market, more contact between schools, employers, and trade unions, and more practical vocational training as ways of alleviating unemployment among the young. In the last year, unemployment among 15-to-25 year olds has risen 49 per cent, while total unemployment for all age groups climbed only 32 per cent. Also discussed at the meeting were financial aid for structural changes in employment, the problem of illegal immigrants, and equal treatment for male and female workers.

EC AND CANADA REVIEW RELATIONS

Biannual EC-Canada consultations were held in Ottawa on May 21-22. The two delegations reviewed international economic problems, bilateral questions, their respective policies on the Third World and raw materials, and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) negotiations. The six-monthly consultations will be replaced by more official contacts when the Community and Canada have set up a planned EC-Canada Joint Committee.

SAFETY STANDARDS FOR AEROSOLS SET

A directive setting Community standards for aerosols, whatever their content, was approved by the Council on May 20. The standards regulate pressure, construction, obligatory instructions, tests, and controls for the aerosols. Standards for metal aerosols differ somewhat from those for glass or plastic ones. Aerosols conforming to Community standards will carry a special sign, an inverted epsilon, which will allow to be sold throughout the Community.

COMMISSION SPONSORS ELECTRONICS SYMPOSIUM

Representatives of 25 countries, including the United States, the Soviet Union, Romania, Hungary, Poland, Israel, and the nine EC member states, attended the "Second Ispra Nuclear Electronics Symposium" in Stresa, Italy, May 20-23. The conference was sponsored by the EC's Joint Research Center at the request of various scientific groups. The symposium's principal theme was the use of electronics for equipping nuclear installations and the extension of nuclear electronic techniques to areas such as ecology and biomedicine. In the nuclear field, the possibilities of more profitable use of electronic instruments for the control of fissile material were discussed.

EIB LOAN HELPS GUADELOUPE PORT

The French territory of Guadeloupe will enjoy improved port facilities, thanks to a Commission-sponsored European Investment Bank loan for 720,000 units of account, approximately \$768,600. The funds will be used to help finance construction of a cargo wharf at Pointe-a-Pitre to raise the port's handling capacity. Pointe-a-Pitre accommodates most of Guadeloupe's sea trade and receives all of its imports.

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