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**BRUNNER TALKS WITH SCHLESINGER
TO FOCUS ON INTERNATIONAL OIL PROBLEMS**

Guido Brunner, the European Community's Commissioner for energy, research and science, is to visit Washington at the beginning of next week for talks with James Schlesinger, the U.S. Secretary of Energy, and Mr. Frank Press, President Carter's science and technology adviser. He will hold a press conference at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, March 19, at the Washington Delegation, 2100 M Street, N.W., Suite 707 after his meetings with the American officials.

ENERGY PROBLEMS

Brunner's talks at the Department of Energy on Monday morning are expected to focus on renewed anxieties in both the United States and Western Europe about oil supplies in the wake of the continuing Iranian crisis. Both trade blocs, which are heavily dependent on Middle East oil, are deeply concerned about the impact of higher oil prices and supply shortages on their inflation and growth rates.

In this context Brunner is likely to discuss with Schlesinger his recent call for the convening of a conference of senior oil experts representing the United States, Japan, the European Community, as well as the oil producing countries. "I believe that such a conference would be useful because it would save us from surprises at the wrong moment such as we experienced with the last oil price rise in December," Brunner told an interviewer in Brussels recently.

"This increase happened at a time when there is a new economic impetus in Europe, when the United States is seriously trying to fight inflation, and when the dependence of the developing countries on oil imports is on the increase," he added. "A better system of communication could have meant that the interests of all would have been coordinated more carefully." The purpose of such a conference would be to enable participants to exchange the latest economic information and forestall price increases at the wrong time, he believes.

Brunner's visit to Washington follows one of the Community's regular summit gatherings of Heads of State and Government of the Nine. At their spring meeting in Paris at the beginning of this week, energy was one of the main topics on the agenda. The Community's leaders discussed a number of proposals tabled by the EC Commission which are designed to intensify energy conservation efforts, to develop new energy sources and to improve international cooperation in energy matters.

After the meeting, Roy Jenkins, President of the EC Commission said that, on energy " we have agreed on two specific new goals: the commitment, as proposed by the Commission, to limit oil imports by 1985 to last year's figure, in other words 470 million metric tons, and also to restrict our total consumption this year to 5 per cent less than originally foreseen. I hope also that the European Council will have given an impetus to the Energy Council to unblock a number of proposals before it," he added.

SCIENCE COOPERATION

On the science front, the Commissioner will want to develop further one of the main themes of last December's deliberations between Jenkins and U.S. President Jimmy Carter. The two leaders agreed then on the need for closer EC-U.S. cooperation in science and technology, particularly in the fields of nuclear fusion, the management of radioactive waste, the handling and control of fissile materials and standards for the use of toxic substances.

In addition to his talks with Schlesinger and Press, Brunner will also meet senior U.S. State Department officials responsible for economic, environmental and scientific affairs and sign a framework agreement between the Community and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The agreement envisages cooperation between the Community's Joint Research Centre (JRC) and the laboratories of the NRC in the field of research -- into nuclear security and reactor safety. He leaves Washington for London on Tuesday, March 20.

For further information on the substance of the press conference, please contact Mrs. Ella Krucoff, 862-9540.