european community PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO TO AIR PROGRAM ON EUROPEAN COMMUNITY'S FUTURE AND IMPLICATIONS FOR UNITED STATES

WASHINGTON -- March 2 -- In a series of national broadcasts beginning today on National Public Radio's (NPR) "Options," Belgian Prime Minister Leo Tindemans discusses the "Future of the European Community and its Implications for the United States."

Many of NPR's 185 member stations will feature the one-hour program. Check local listings for broadcast time in your community.

Also participating in the discussion will be Charles Wheeler, chief European correspondent for the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC); Henry Owen, head of foreign studies at the Brookings Institutions, and Philip H. Trezise, former head of the U. S. Delegation to the Paris-based Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

The program focuses on a report prepared by Tindemans at the request of the "European Council," as the thrice yearly summit meetings of the EC heads of state and government are known. The report studies the possibilities for the EC nine member countries to achieve "European Union," defined by Tindemans as an intermediary step toward the still distant goal of political unity for a United Europe, including common policies for defense, foreign relations, and economic and monetary policies.

The discussion covers the ways in which the European Community's development is affecting traditional relationships between the European nations and the United States. Tindemans stresses the special nature of those relationships and points out that they must be redefined. He goes on to discuss, with the others taking part, the nature of that redefinition as Europe acts more and more as a single unit whose interests often differ from, even conflict with, those of the United States.

NOTE: Transcripts of the broadcast may be obtained from the European Community Information Service, Washington.