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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EC-US TO OPEN "HIGH LEVEL" TALKS TOMORROW

WASHINGTON -- October 20 -- EC Commissioner Finn Olav Gundelach arrives in Washington tonight for the latest in a series of twice-yearly "high level consultations" between the European Community and the United States. Consultations will take place on October 21 - 22. The last similar consultations were in Brussels April 29 - 30.

Gundelach is EC Commissioner responsible for internal market and customs union. Currently, he is also responsible for EC external relations in the absence of EC Commission Vice President Christopher Soames who was prevented from attending.

US State Department participants in the consultations are: William D. Rogers, Under Secretary for Economic Affairs; Helmut Sonnenfeldt, Counselor; Arthur A. Hartman, Assistant Secretary for European Affairs; Julius Katz, Assistant Secretary for Economic and Business Affairs; James G. Lowenstein, Deputy Assistant Secretary for European Affairs; Anthony C. Albrecht, Director, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, European Communities and Atlantic Political-Economic Affairs, and European Affairs. Other US participants will be: Special Trade Representative Frederick B. Dent and his General Counsel Alan Wolff; Deputy Assistant Secretary of Treasury J. Robert Vastine; Assistant Secretary of Commerce Stanley Katz; Deputy Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Dale Sherwin; Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of Labor for International Affairs Herbert N. Blackman, and Robert Hormats, Senior Economist at the National Security Council.

Discussions will cover a broad range of topics, including developments in the Community, in the United States, and worldwide. In particular, participants will consider the progress in the multilateral trade talks now being held in Geneva, and possible achievements at the next ministerial meeting of the Conference on International Economic Cooperation (CIEC), the law of the sea, and bilateral trade issues.

Mr. Gundelach will be accompanied by the EC Commission's Director General for Agriculture Louis-Georges Rabot; Eamon Gallagher, Deputy Director General for External Relations; David Hannay, chief executive assistant to Vice President Soames; Leslie Fielding, director of the directorate in charge of relations with North America, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa; Eckehard Loerke, desk officer in charge of liaison with the United States and Canada, and other EC officials.

A joint news conference will be held Friday at noon in the State Department briefing room.