

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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January 23, 1976

BACKGROUND NOTE

No. 4/1976

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY APPOINTS COCHAIRMAN OF "NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE" COMMISSIONS

The European Communities Council of Ministers has appointed the cochairman of the two Commissions that the Community will head during the Paris Conference on International Economic Cooperation (CIEC).

Edmund Pierre Wellenstein, Director General for External Relations at the EC Commission, was named cochairman of the CIEC Development Commission. It was notable that an EC Commission official was chosen to preside over a body usually considered in the purview of member states.

Albert Dondelinger, Luxembourg's *Commissaire au Controle des Banques*, was named cochairman of the CIEC Financial Affairs Commission. A citizen of Luxembourg was chosen because Luxembourg holds the six-monthly rotating presidency of the Council of Ministers.

These two Commissions and the Raw Materials and Energy Commissions are the CIEC's main working groups. The Commissions will convene for the first time on February 11.

Wellenstein, born September 20, 1919, joined the European Coal and Steel Community's High Authority (since absorbed into the EC Commission) in 1953. He previously had served as advisor to the Dutch Queen's Cabinet and later as head of the German Section in the Foreign Office. In 1960, he became the High Authority's Secretary General, a position which he held until 1968 when he was appointed to his current post. In 1970-72, Wellenstein was head of the EC delegation for enlargement negotiations with the United Kingdom, Ireland, Denmark, and Norway and for negotiations with the members of the European Free Trade Association which did not join the Community (Iceland, Sweden, Portugal, Switzerland, Austria, Norway, and Finland). After concluding negotiations in 1973, Wellenstein again became Director General for External Relations. In that capacity, he has visited the United States many times and accompanied Commission Vice President Christopher Soames on his recent visit to China. Wellenstein was the first EC official to hold talks with Moscow.

Dondelinger was born March 22, 1934. He studied at the University of Louvain in Belgium where he was awarded the Doctorate of Laws. After working for a number of private banks, Dondelinger joined Luxembourg's *Commissariat au Controle des Banques*, and became *Commissaire* in 1966. In that capacity, Dondelinger is a member of the Community's Committee of Central Bank Governors and of its Monetary Committee.