

European BACKGROUND INFORMATION Community

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY INFORMATION SERVICE

2100 M Street NW, Washington DC 20037 Telephone (202) 872-8350

New York Office: 277 Park Avenue, New York NY 10017 Telephone (212) 371-3804

BACKGROUND NOTE

No. 15/1976

March 22, 1976

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY PROTESTS IMPORT RELIEF TO US SPECIALITY STEEL INDUSTRY

Citing failure to prove that imports were injuring the US specialty steel industry, the European Community today expressed regrets about President Gerald R. Ford's decision last week to grant import relief to the US speciality steel industry.

In an aide memoire delivered to the Department of State, the Community said that there was "no justification whatsoever" for US safeguard action against the Community. Worldwide recession, now receding, was the cause of difficulties in the US specialty steel industry, according to the Community.

The Community noted that if the US Government fails to conclude orderly marketing agreements with key suppliers, import quotas could be opened at overall levels comparable to those recommended by the US International Trade Commission. In that case, the Community said, it would exercise its rights under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).