

EUROPEAN BACKGROUND INFORMATION COMMUNITY

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY INFORMATION SERVICE

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

New York Office: 245 East 47th Street, New York NY 10017 Telephone (212) 371-3890

BACKGROUND NOTE

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JENKINS WILL RECIPROCATE MONDALE VISIT

Roy Jenkins, President of the European Commission, was one of three world leaders invited during US Vice President Mondale's swing through Europe and Japan -- which ends today -- to visit President Carter in Washington. Jenkins accepted and will probably make the trip in the late spring, prior to the next economic summit. Prime Ministers James Callaghan of Great Britain (EC Council President) and Takeo Fukada of Japan also were invited.

Mondale's choice of Brussels, where the Commission is headquartered, as a first stopping point "was not accidental," as he made clear to Jenkins. It was "a symbol of the high importance that the new American Administration attached to close cooperation with the institutions of the European Community," said Mondale.

Although Mondale's talks with Jenkins and other Commission members were by necessity exploratory, a number of substantive issues were raised. In a press statement after the meetings, Jenkins and Mondale outlined what was discussed:

- The world economic situation: Jenkins feels that the US administration's plans for the economy will have a stimulating effect, and he underlined the importance of American economic policy for the situation in Europe.
- International trade negotiations: Jenkins welcomed the American interest in these negotiations. The United States views its trade relations more and more in a multilateral context and attaches great importance to the substance and satisfactory conclusion of the negotiations. Jenkins also welcomed this.

- North/South dialogue: Both sides consider this a very important matter which should get moving again as soon as possible. Moreover, its success would help stimulate world economic recovery.
- Economic summit: The question of EC participation in the summit as an institution representing its nine member nations is a matter whose format and procedure is to be settled among the Europeans, Jenkins believes. Mondale, in any case, favors Community participation.
- Energy: This was discussed at length. Jenkins and other Commission members emphasized their interest in a new American energy policy, particularly because of the American influence on the oil market. The Commission expressed its concern over energy dependence.

In general, Jenkins stressed the importance of continuing the transatlantic dialogue, particularly between two institutions -- the new Commission and the new US administration -- which will be in office for the next four years.