

No. 15/1982
June 2, 1982

THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND
THE VERSAILLES SUMMIT

The European Community is being jointly represented at the 8th economic summit of Western industrialised countries, taking place at Versailles June 4 - 6, by the President of the EEC Council of Ministers, Prime Minister Wilfried Martens of Belgium and the President of the EEC Commission, Gaston Thorn.

The President of the EEC Commission has taken part at Western economic summits since 1976. For the first time at the Ottawa summit of 1981, the Commission President was invited to attend all sessions. In previous summits the Commission was represented only in "sessions at which items which were within the competence of the Community were discussed".

The Presidency of the Council of Ministers, which office rotates every six months, has at all previous summits been held by a large member state participating in the meeting in its own right. This year will be the first time that the President of the Council of Ministers comes from a country, Belgium, which is not a participant in Western economic summits.

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