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NEW E.C. COMMISSIONER, WILLY DE CLERCQ, TO MEET WITH U.S. OFFICIALS

Willy De Clercq, the European Community's new Commissioner for External Relations, will meet with U.S. Administration officials and will address the World Affairs Council during a March 20-23 visit to Washington.

Mr. De Clercq will review the E.C.-U.S. economic and political relationship with Malcolm Baldrige, Secretary of Commerce; John Block, Secretary of Agriculture; William Brock, U.S. Trade Representative, and Kenneth Dam, Deputy Secretary of State. He also plans to meet with members of Congress.

Mr. De Clercq will speak to the World Affairs Council on "World Trade and Protectionism in the 1980's" at 6 p.m. Thursday, March 21, in the Grand Ballroom of the Mayflower Hotel. Sir Roy Denman, Head of the E.C. Delegation in Washington, will moderate.

Before joining the E.C. Commission (the Community's executive body) in January, Mr. De Clercq, 57, was Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Foreign Trade in the Belgian government from 1981 to 1984. His previous ministerial positions include Minister of Finance (1974-77), Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance (1973-74) and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Budget (1966-68). He was a member of the European Parliament from 1979 to 1981, and President of the Flemish Liberal Party from 1971 to 1973 and 1977 to 1983.

Among the subjects that De Clercq will discuss with American officials are E.C.-U.S. trade and prospects for a new round of multilateral trade negotiations. The European Community and the United States, the world's largest trading partners, in 1984 conducted more than \$100 billion in trade with each other, according to U.S. Department of Commerce figures.