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THE E.C. READY TO COUNTER ANY U.S.
UNILATERAL ACTIONS ON STEEL

The European Community's Council of Ministers has noted the March 25-26 discussions with the United States government on the "consultation products" of the 1982 U.S.-E.C. Carbon and Alloy Steel Arrangement. These are steel products which are not subject to quantitative restrictions under the arrangement unless it can be clearly demonstrated that E.C. exports of these products jeopardize the restructuring efforts of the U.S. steel industry.

The Council of Ministers has directed the Commission immediately to study possible countermeasures in the event that the United States would act unilaterally in this matter.

Moreover, the Council made clear that further protectionist measures, on the part of the U.S., would not only risk causing a grave deterioration in E.C.-U.S. relations, but would also be in conflict with current efforts to launch a new round of multilateral trade negotiations.