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E.C. REACTS TO NEW JAPANESE TRADE MEASURES

In response to Japan's recently announced trade-liberalization measures, Willy De Clercq, Commissioner for External Relations, today issued the following statement on behalf of the E.C. Commission:

The Commission welcomes the new appeal by Prime Minister Nakasone to the Japanese people to be receptive to foreign products.

Details of the measures and proposals announced April 9 by the Japanese government were examined with care with a view to establishing their possible impact on the persistent trade imbalance between the Community and Japan.

An initial analysis shows that the measures taken and announced are modest in their scope and of an uncertain effect.

Consequently, the Commission is still waiting for concrete and far-reaching action on the part of the Japanese government.

Only an effective action of this sort, taken in the near future, could guarantee a successful new round of trade negotiations, as stated by the Community's Council of Ministers in its March 19 declaration.

In view of the importance given by the Japanese government to its bilateral trade problems with the United States, the Commission is seriously concerned by the apparent absence of a substantial response to the Community's demands.

The Commission will therefore continue its efforts to obtain an effective opening of the Japanese market to manufactured and processed goods.

To this end, it has proposed that the E.C.-Japan Trade Expansion Committee hold its next meeting in Tokyo no later than the end of May.

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COMPARISON OF IMPORTS OF MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS

E.C. AND JAPAN

	IMPORTS OF MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS IN BILLIONS OF DOLLARS		PERCENTAGE OF MANUFACTURES TO TOTAL IMPORTS	
	E.C.	JAPAN	E.C.	JAPAN
1963	10.2	6.7	30.3	24.4
1968	18.4	15.0	39.9	29.0
1973	41.1	9.9	39.5	25.8
1978	98.3	17.6	43.3	22.4
1980	150.8	26.1	40.2	18.7
1981	132.4	27.1	39.8	19.2
1982	127.7	26.4	41.2	20.2
1983	128.8	27.8	44.4	22.2
1984	97.1 (*)	32.5	42.9 (*)	23.8

(*) First 9 months of 1984

Source : General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, "International Trade"
(except 1963, 1968 : national statistics)