

1964(?)

THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

P R E S S R E L E A S E

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY • EUROPEAN COAL AND STEEL COMMUNITY • EUROPEAN ATOMIC ENERGY COMMUNITY

Information Service Washington Office: Suite 808, The Farragut Building, Washington DC, 20006 • Telephone: 296-5131, Area Code 202 • Cable: EUROCOM • Telex: WN-065

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**KENNEDY ROUND SHOULD AFFIRM COMMUNITY'S 'OPEN' NATURE,
HIGH AUTHORITY PRESIDENT DECLARES**

WASHINGTON, D.C., May 13 -- The Kennedy Round trade negotiation should affirm the 'open' nature of the European Community and result in shared benefits with the rest of the world, European Coal and Steel Community High Authority President Rinaldo Del Bo told the European Parliament yesterday in Strasbourg.

"The Kennedy Round should show the Community's desire that the well-being attained by the Community should not be reserved for itself but . . . all the peoples of the world should have access to it," President Del Bo declared. He also stressed the need to strengthen the European Parliament itself in increasing democratic control of the Community.

Here are highlights of President Del Bo's speech, made during the Parliament's yearly debate on the High Authority's annual report.

"The proposed merger of the three European Communities must not cause any interruption or . . . omission in the integration of the six member states. The merger not only affects the three executives and the Councils of Ministers but also the Treaties. It is therefore necessary to see what is still of value in them and what needs to be changed or completed.

"Some aspects covered by the ECSC Treaty, such as foreign trade policy in coal and steel products, would probably be dealt in a more complete way under a system akin to that of the Rome Treaty. The very real supranational power accorded to the High Authority under its Treaty is, however, an irreplaceable asset not only for economic integration but as a starting point and fundamental principle for political integration.

"If the forthcoming re-grouping is to constitute the first concrete phase in the creation of a Community system of government for Europe, then the dialogue between the national governments and the Community executives should find its source and direction in the supreme will of the European Parliament. With the support of the other two executives, the High Authority is concerned with defending the existing powers of the Parliament, notably its approval of the ECSC budget (which if it were to be lost must at least be compensated by an equivalent counterpart).

(MORE)

"However, it is even more important not only to defend the existing powers of the Parliament but to strengthen them. . . . Without this, the majority wish of the six countries to see that European integration has a satisfactory democratic structure will not be met."

Kennedy Round

"The Kennedy Round negotiation should show the Community's desire that the well-being attained by the Community should not be reserved for itself but that it should be diffused to the greatest extent possible and that all the peoples of the world should have access to it. It is also very important for the basic industries of the Community to be able to compare themselves with those of other countries. The Kennedy Round negotiations are of fundamental importance for this. The Coal and Steel Community lacks a common external tariff, however, despite the importance of this for a strong negotiating position. The High Authority is therefore trying hard to persuade the member governments to adopt a single tariff which would facilitate negotiations in view of the target which they have already accepted --- namely, a satisfactory harmonization of levels of protection and non-tariff obstacles to trade among the major steel producing countries of the world."

Energy Policy

"The protocol agreement (on energy policy) recently signed by the representatives of the member states is partly the result of the Parliament's insistence that the Community executives should resign their responsibility for drawing up proposals in this field if agreement is not reached by Spring. This is the first time that a timetable has been provided for implementing a common energy policy by linking it to the gradual establishment of the wider common market.

"The development of a common energy policy and the recognition that coal could be subsidized within the common market -- although these subsidies are meant for modernization and rationalization purposes and should thus in general be phased out -- would bring added stability to the coal mining industry. As a result the trade unions' demand for a European miner's code, bringing greater security to this hard and dangerous profession, is more than ever justified. It is only right that the workers who are so important to the safeguard and continuity of coal production should share the fruits of the protocol of agreement on energy policy."