

THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

1963?
P R E S S R E L E A S E

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

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION

COMMON MARKET SPOKESMAN DENIES DELAY BY EEC ON 'KENNEDY ROUND'

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WASHINGTON, October 10 --- The Spokesman of the Common Market Commission today denied recent press reports from Geneva, attributed to unidentified "high sources," which have said that the EEC was attempting to delay next year's "Kennedy Round" of GATT trade negotiations.

Excerpts from the Spokesman's remarks, made at a press briefing in Brussels:

"The preparations for the Kennedy Round are progressing slowly, but normally. Tangible progress has been achieved in the definition of disparities (among tariffs of various GATT members), as well as the rules under which to treat them. This point will be reconsidered November 11. At that time the Community believes it will be ready actively to discuss negotiating rules with respect to agriculture...

"The EEC will be ready to negotiate on the agreed date (for the beginning of the Kennedy Round)--May 4, 1964--and for its part sees no reason why the agreed date should be put into question...

"The United States is required to follow a very difficult and long procedure before the U. S. Tariff Commission which will last six months in all. The EEC regrets this but does not criticize it, given that individual countries or groups of countries have their own procedural difficulties.

"The EEC contests, in any case, any suggestion that it is responsible for a delay in the negotiating procedure. Its cooperation with the other delegations is functioning normally and amicably, and there is no reason to consider pessimistic statements being spread. To the contrary, the Commission is fully confident in the success of the negotiation."

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