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January, 1970

Biographical Note

THEODORUS C. HIJZEN

Deputy Director-General of the General Directorate  
for External Trade

Commission of the European Communities

Theodorus Hijzen was born in Rotterdam in 1914. He graduated from the University of Rotterdam and holds a doctorate in economics. He has been involved with the European Communities since their inception.

From 1940 to 1958, he was a member of the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs. He represented the Netherlands in the Coordinating Committee which prepared the meetings of the European Coal and Steel Community's Council of Ministers (1952-58).

He served as Deputy Chief of the Netherlands' delegation to the convention which negotiated the Rome Treaties, establishing the European Economic and the European Atomic Energy Communities (1955-57). When the EEC came into existence in 1958, he joined the staff of the EEC Commission's General Directorate for External Relations as Director for General Affairs and Multilateral Trade Policy. In 1964, he was named Special Representative of the Commission for the Kennedy Round negotiations in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) at Geneva. He was the Commission's principal negotiator in Geneva in the Kennedy Round from 1964 to the conclusion of the negotiations in 1967.

Following the merger of the Communities' three executives in July 1967, Mr. Hijzen became Deputy Director-General of the General Directorate for External Trade, the post which he presently occupies. In addition, he is responsible for the Communities' commercial policy with particular reference to multilateral and agricultural problems.

Mr. Hijzen is married, has four children, and lives in Brussels.

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*8 Dec 71. Appointed to OECD Working Party on Trade and Related Problems.*