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PRESS RELEASE

Second European Baccalauréat

Luxembourg, July 4, 1960: Thirty-two boys and girls aged seventeen or eighteen are awaiting the results of the second annual examination for the European leaving certificate (Baccalauréat européen)* which will be published here on July 8. The Baccalauréat européen examinations, which were held for the first time in June last year, are the first of their kind; they enable boys and girls who are successful to enter any university in the six member countries of the European Community, and also in Austria whose Government has recognized the baccalauréat.

This year, the written examinations started on June 26 and lasted for six days. The oral examination is being held on July 6. An international team of examiners is presided over by Professor Luigi Campidelli, Vice-Rector of the University of Florence.

Of the 32 participants 15 are boys and 17 are girls. By nationality, 4 are Belgian, 5 Dutch, 8 French, 10 German and 5 Italian. Thirteen will be taking the examination with the classics (Latin and Greek) as their main subjects, 8 with mathematics and 11 with modern studies.

(French or
German and
English)

The basic papers to be taken by all candidates will be in: the candidate's mother tongue, philosophy, mathematics, and modern languages. Classics pupils will take in addition papers in Latin and Greek, mathematics pupils will take papers in physics, and modern-study pupils will take papers in physics and an additional modern language.

The course of secondary study which the candidates have completed at the European School in Luxembourg was drawn up by committees of inspectors of the Education Ministries of the Community's six member countries.

* (American term: graduation certificate).

Each candidate undergoes the examinations either in his mother tongue or in the language of the teacher whose course he has been following. To pass the examination, the candidate must obtain an average of 60%. As a compromise between the French "baccalauréat" and the German "Abitur", the marks obtained in the final year of study will be taken into account for the final placing. Out of a total of 300 marks obtainable, 100 are given on the school record in the final year, 120 for the written examinations and 80 for the oral tests.

The whole of the examination, like the syllabus of the European School, is in fact a synthesis of the traditions and regulations of the six Community countries.

It will offer to the universities which may accept the successful candidates a guarantee that they have reached a standard equivalent to that which they would have had to reach in their own country. It will also ensure, through the composition of the Examining Board, the maintenance of high standards and strict impartiality.

The school has existed since 1953, when a small kindergarten and primary school were opened in a converted house, on the initiative of Community officials. The secondary school was opened in 1954.

In April 1957, the school was officially recognized by an intergovernmental agreement between the education authorities of the Community's six member countries.

Today the school numbers 825 pupils, who are taught by 60 teachers chosen by the six countries' education authorities. Of the pupils, 300 are in the secondary school, 400 in the primary school and 125 in the kindergarten.

The pupils at the school comprise not only the sons and daughters of European Community officials, although these are in a majority. The school covers in fact pretty well all the nationalities of children living in Luxembourg: from the children of Italian building workers exercising their trade in Luxembourg to the children of foreign diplomats accredited to the Luxembourg Government and the High Authority of the ECSC.