

AMBASSADE DE FRANCE

SERVICE DE PRESSE ET D'INFORMATION

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FRENCH AFFAIRS - No. 180

July 1, 1965

STATEMENT READ BY M. ALAIN PEYREFITTE

FRENCH MINISTER OF INFORMATION

AT THE CLOSE OF THE FRENCH COUNCIL OF MINISTERS' MEETING

HELD ON JULY 1, 1965

"Following the failure of the Brussels negotiations, the Council took note of and deplored the fact that the commitment made three and a half years ago to complete the financial regulation before June 30, 1965 had not been fulfilled.

"It noted that the European Economic Community thereby found itself in a crisis all the more serious in that it was in consideration of the financial regulations that the French Government had agreed, in January 1962, to pass to the second stage of the Treaty of Rome, and in that the decisions concerning a common grain price, adopted on December 15, 1964, had been taken on the basis of the formal and renewed assurances that the financial regulation would be completed, as agreed upon, before June 30, 1965.

"The Council also noted the general agreement concerning the schedule proposed by the French delegation that provided for the completion of the agricultural regulations, which are still pending, and the fixing of common prices. This schedule made it possible to envisage for July 1, 1967 the free circulation of agricultural products within the Community, the implementation of single prices and the establishment at the Common Market frontiers of uniform protection by means of levies.

"The Council recognized the fact that, while France's partners in the Common Market accepted this schedule, on the other hand new political and economic conditions raised on the occasion of these final negotiations had prevented agreement on the Community's financial responsibility.

"The emergence of this crisis is all the less justified in that the French delegation had made proposals with the aim that France assume a share

of the financial burdens, which were considered excessive by some of its partners, and had, on the other hand, agreed to completion of the customs union for industrial goods on July 1, 1967.

"In such circumstances the Government has decided, as far as it is concerned, to draw the legal, economic and political consequences of the situation which has thus just been created."