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WASHINGTON, April 12 -- President Walter Hallstein of the Commission of the European Economic Community declared today that he supports a trade partnership as proposed by United States President John F. Kennedy.

Speaking at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., President Hallstein said he envisions a "partnership of equals" working for the liberalization of world trade.

Referring to Europe's economic progress particularly since the establishment of the Common Market, Dr. Hallstein stated:

"The transformation that is being achieved in Europe opens up new possibilities with an importance reaching far beyond the boundaries of the Common Market. These possibilities have been given challenging form by a new American initiative on a scale comparable to that of the Marshall Plan initiative. I refer to President Kennedy's proposal that we create a partnership of "the two great common markets of the Atlantic."

The New Europe qualifies for a new trade partnership in terms of her "population, production and growth", Dr. Hallstein said. The "philosophical" basis for the partnership exists in "identical moral values, similar political institutions and a common peaceful intent," the speaker stated.

"The issue," Dr. Hallstein declared, "is whether we will actually grasp unprecedented opportunities for expanding world trade, raising living standards and reenforcing Western ties -- or whether we decide that the accommodations required on both sides are too demanding. If we decide we cannot be partners, there is a risk that the two dynamic Atlantic economies will drift apart, bickering instead of bargaining."

President Hallstein said the experience to date of the European Economic Community does not point to serious disturbances for the United States and the Community if they undertake a liberalization of trade. He said:

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"Before we launched into tariff dismantlement, there were grave fears of the consequences. Experience proved these fears to be groundless. Business came to realize that we were not tearing down safeguards but opening new opportunities."

The Commission President saluted the prospect of the United States being equipped for tariff negotiations with the so-called linear technique, as contrasted with the product-by-product method. Use of the linear technique, however, will not "automatically bring about the ideal liberalization of trade," Dr. Hallstein said. Application of the linear method may require "sophistication," he noted.

He emphasized as well the importance of staging tariff reductions and exploring means for economic coordination as economies come into closer competitive contact. He said: "The staging of drastic tariff reductions will be necessary." About economic coordination he observed, "It would seem logical to proceed to an examination of certain rules of fair play, found essential even within our Community where so many measures for economic harmonization exist."

Dr. Hallstein said he believes that a liberalization of world trade spurred by America and Europe would have a catalytic effect on Western growth. He said:

"It seems reasonable to assume that the European Economic Community will exceed the 50% growth goal set by OECD for the decade 1960-1970, and that the achievement would be all the more certain for the United States and the EEC if their economies were linked in the enterprise through a trade partnership."

President Hallstein said Atlantic partners could address themselves to a number of other questions pressing for solutions:

"Whether it is possible to come to some arrangement of world agricultural markets which would lead to the reduction of surpluses and an improvement of prices?; Whether some even more efficient coordination of development aid can be achieved?; and whether the industrialized nations can agree on policies that would help those developing nations so dependent on the sale of tropical products?"