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PRESS RELEASE

Dissolution of an international market-sharing agreement
for a cleansing product

A number of Dutch and Belgian firms have informed the EEC Commission that they have terminated a market-sharing agreement relating to a cleansing product.

Under the agreement, which had been notified to the Commission and has now been terminated, the parties to the agreement in one of the two Member States concerned were forbidden to sell their products either directly or indirectly on the domestic market of the members in the other Member State, and vice versa. In addition, the parties to the agreement had undertaken, on pain of penalties stipulated in the agreement, to prohibit any resale on the part of their buyers which might prejudice their division of the market.

After a preliminary examination of the agreement notified, the Commission informed the parties to the agreement that it considered that the conditions for the Treaty ban on restrictive agreements were fulfilled (Article 85(1)) and that special exemption from the ban under Art. 85(3) was not warranted.

The Commission's communication, which was based on Article 15(6) of Council Regulation No. 17, meant that fines could again be imposed on the firms concerned if they did not dissolve the agreement and if, after following the usual procedure, the Commission adopted a decision expressing the same conclusion as that of its communication. In reply, the firms concerned informed the Commission that they had dissolved the agreement.

In two other cases, regarding building materials and sanitary ware respectively, the firms concerned have, as already announced, also informed the Commission, in reply to similar communications, that the agreements to which objection had been made have been modified or dissolved (see IP(65)65 of 1 April 1965 and IP(65)136 of 9 July 1965, released by the Official Spokesman's Group).