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PRESS RELEASE

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EC-US HIGH LEVEL CONSULTATIONS

Washington, D.C. -- December 2 -- EC Commission Vice President Christopher Soames arrives in Washington December 4 for the twice-yearly "high level consultations" between the European Community and the United States. The last similar consultations were in Brussels last June.

Soames, who is responsible for EC external relations, has scheduled meetings with Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, US Treasury Secretary William L. Simon, and some members of Congress. Soames and aides will also hold the substantive talks, December 5 and 6, with a US team headed by Deputy Secretary of State Robert L. Ingersoll on a broad range of topics of mutual interest, including multilateral trade negotiations, bilateral commerce, energy, food, agricultural policy, and policies toward-developing nations. During his two-day visit, Soames will also see other Administration officials.

During a brief stopover in New York on December 4, the EC Vice President will address the Council on Foreign Relations. He departs for Europe December 7.

Soames, who will be accompanied by his wife Mary -- the late Winston S. Churchill's daughter -- will be a guest at a dinner given by British Ambassador Peter Ramsbotham, on December 6, in honor of the Churchill Centennial. Churchill was born November 30, 1874.

Soames will be accompanied at the talks by: Jens O. Krag, Head of the Commission's Delegation in the United States; Edmund Wellenstein, Director General for External Relations; Louis-George Rabot, Director General for Agriculture; Fernand Spaak, Director General for Energy; Theodorus Hijzen, Deputy Director General for External Relations; David Hannay, Chief Executive Assistant to Soames; Leslie Fielding, Director, Directorate General for External Relations; Jacques Alain de Sedouy, Chief Executive Assistant to Commissioner Claude Cheysson; Eckehard Loerke, Division Chief for United States and Canada, Directorate General for External Relations; Adrian Fortescue, Member of Soames' Cabinet; Curt Heidenreich, Deputy Head of the Commission's US Delegation, and Jean-Pierre Leng, Counselor to the Commission's US Delegation.