

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY NEWS

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US-EC CONSULTATIONS "EXCEPTIONALLY GOOD"

The atmosphere of the first round of the 1974 US-European Community bi-annual consultations in Brussels was "exceptionally good," according to Ambassador William Eberle and EC Commission Vice President Christopher Soames at a joint press conference June 7. The US and EC delegations, led by Soames and Eberle, met June 6-7 to discuss commercial, agricultural, and industrial problems, as well as relations with developing countries and the energy situation. Talks will continue at the expert level, on such topics as the world food conference and industrial policy.

URGENT ANTI-INFLATION PROPOSALS TO COUNCIL

The Council of Ministers was urged to take immediate action and adopt common EC positions to halt the European Community's skyrocketing inflation and growing balance of payments deficits in a June 6 communication from the Commission. Calling for a Common EC strategy against inflation, the Commission said the Council should instruct its economic policy coordination committee to study and draw up programs for improving the economic situation in each member state, based on Commission proposals.

The Communication said the Council should also adopt a common

position on payments deficits whereby the Commission would help less favored member states with either loans or special credits. The Commission proposed reorganizing the joint currency float through common monetary, interest rates, and capital movements policies.

NEW ENERGY STRATEGY PROPOSED TO COUNCIL

A new strategy for the European Community energy policy which would reduce Community dependence on imported energy resources by 20 per cent and save about \$50 billion for the period 1975-85 was proposed to the Council of Ministers by the Commission this month. The strategy would be carried out through harmonized EC and member state action. The objectives to be reached by 1985 would be to: keep energy consumption 10 per cent below pre-energy crisis forecasts; increase electricity use by 10 per cent to reach 35 per cent of total consumption; use nuclear energy for 50 per cent of electricity production; keep internal solid fuel (coal, lignite, peat) production at its present level; raise natural gas internal output and imports; and restrict oil consumption to specific uses such as auto fuel and as a raw material. The Commission estimates this strategy would require a net additional investment of about \$10 billion (at 1973 rates) for the 1975-85 period.

**EGYPT WANTS BROADER
TRADE ACCORD WITH EC**

Egypt is seeking negotiations to broaden the scope of its preferential trade agreement with the European Community and develop economic, technical, and financial cooperation. The request was made at the May 27-29 Cairo meeting of the EC-Egypt joint committee, set up to administer the current accord which went into force November 1, 1973. The Commission delegation agreed to relay Egypt's request to Brussels. The Committee reviewed the first stages of putting the current agreement into effect, reviewed the evolution of EC-Egypt commercial exchanges, and adopted methods for customs administration cooperation.

**COUNCIL DEFINES EC
EDUCATION PRIORITIES**

A priority list for EC-member state cooperation in the field of education was drawn up by the Council of Ministers during its June 6-7 meeting in Luxembourg. At a June 7 press conference, EC Commissioner Ralf Dahrendorf (responsible for science, research, and education) said the priority areas were: education of migrant workers' children, improved intra-communication among educational systems and upper level teaching institutions; mutual

recognition of diplomas; education statistics and documentation; teacher, student, and researcher mobility; improved language training, and equal educational opportunity for all. Dahrendorf said an education committee of Commission and member state representatives would be set up to assist in defining precise lines of action in these areas.

**EC TO HELP BRITISH
COAL WORKER AID EFFORT**

The European Community will help underwrite the cost of helping Britain's coal workers who were laid off or transferred due to the coal industry slowdown in that country last winter. A three-year convention, signed between the EC Commission and the British Government on June 6, provides for partial Commission reimbursement of government and National Coal Board funds spent to help those workers. The money will go toward wage guarantees for older workers or premature retirees; earning supplements for employees forced to transfer to lower paying jobs; lump sum payments to laid-off employees under the age of 40; and concessionary coal, traveling, transfer, and vocational training allowances.

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