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E.C. COMMISSION DEPLORES I.T.C. INJURY VOTE

The Commission of the European Communities regrets the International Trade Commission's (I.T.C.) June 12 decision that the American steel industry has been injured by imports of five categories of steel products.*

The E.C. Commission deplores the I.T.C.'s failure to take account of the arguments advanced by the European Community, thus maintaining the uncertainty that was created when Bethlehem Steel Corp. filed its trade complaint in January 1984. The E.C. Commission insists that steel imports are not the cause of the American steel industry's problems.

The E.C. Commission, the Community's executive body, points out that E.C. steel exports to the United States in 1983 were 27 percent lower than in 1982. Thus the Community has fully respected the terms of the U.S.-E.C. Carbon Steel Arrangement of October 1982 -- a fact which has been acknowledged by the U.S. Administration and the American steel industry. Under that arrangement, the Community agreed to limit its steel shipments to the U.S. for three years for 10 categories of steel.

The E.C. Commission will raise these arguments at the June 21 remedy hearing before the I.T.C. At that time, it will insist that the U.S. Administration not take any measures which do not comply with the terms of the 1982 arrangement.

* Semi-finished products, plate, sheet and strip, wire and wire products, and structurals (including sheet piling).