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Brussels,

Summary of the address by M. Jean Rey, President of the Commission
of the European Communities at the "colloquium" on 11 December 1969

Speaking on behalf of the Commission, M. Rey said he wished to outline for the Parliament the tasks the Commission intends to tackle in the coming months.

He welcomed the results of the Hague Conference and paid tribute to the Council of Ministers, which had got through an imposing amount of work before and after the Conference. He thought the results of the Conference excellent on those points which had been decided and he had reservations to make only on those problems which remained pending. As regards completion of the Communities, the Commission thought current events confirmed that it had been right in refusing to propose an extension of the transitional period.

M. Rey rapidly enumerated the results attained or in the course of attainment at the close of the year - the adoption of the regulation on the social security of migrant workers and of the regulation on the common commercial policy, the unblocking of several very important international negotiations (Austria, Yugoslavia, Spain, Israel) and, finally, the solution - after three years - of the Euratom crisis.

On the strengthening of the Community, M. Rey stated that the most spectacular result at the Hague had been the declaration on economic and monetary union.

In the months ahead the Commission would concentrate primarily on the following points: the adoption of the Barre plan for the co-ordination of economic and monetary policies and the preparation of the next stage; the adoption of the plans for reforming the structure of agriculture (Mansholt Plan); the definition of new guidelines for the Community's industrial policy; the new impetus to be given to research and technological policy; reform of the European Social Fund; regional policy; energy policy.

Regarding enlargement, M. Rey thought that we were on the eve of very far-reaching negotiations in which he expected that the Commission would play an essential part. He was glad that the Hague Conference had considered - contrary to the procedures in 1961/62 - that negotiations with non-member countries are not negotiations to be conducted by the member countries individually but, on the contrary, that they are Community negotiations.

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