

No. 32/1978

December 6, 1978

COMMISSION PRESIDENT ROY JENKINS TO MEET PRESIDENT CARTER

The Honorable Roy Jenkins, president of the European Community Commission and a principal initiator of the new European Monetary System, will pay an official visit to the United States next week, from December 14 through December 17.

He will meet with U.S. President Jimmy Carter on Thursday, December 14, and will also see Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, Special Trade Representative Robert Strauss and William Miller, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, during his two days in Washington. Jenkins will meet with Congressional leaders as well.

Jenkins' second visit to the United States as Commission president comes just a week after the European Council, the heads of state or government of the European Community nations, agreed to begin a European Monetary System on January 1 that will tie together the currencies of at least six Community nations. Jenkins had first suggested a revival of an attempt at European monetary union at a speech in Florence, Italy, in October 1977. German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing gave the idea immediate form by co-authoring a plan to create a zone of monetary stability in Europe to aid trade among Community nations and to relieve some pressures on the U.S. dollar. The European Monetary System is seen as an important first step toward monetary union and an eventual common currency for the European Community.

The topics Jenkins is expected to discuss with U.S. officials include the European Monetary System, the multilateral trade negotiations now in their final stages in Geneva, the planned enlargement of the Community to include Greece, Spain and Portugal, and the direct elections to the European Parliament, scheduled for June 1979.

On Thursday, President Jenkins will be interviewed on the prestigious public television evening news show, the McNeil-Lehrer Report, and he will speak on Friday at a National Press Club luncheon.

After a private visit to New York on Saturday, President Jenkins will fly to Ann Arbor, Michigan where he will be presented an honorary degree from the University of Michigan. He will return to Europe on Sunday.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS -- DECEMBER, 1978

(All events are in Brussels unless otherwise noted)

December	4 - 5	European Council
December	5	Council on the Budget
December	11 - 15	European Parliament (Luxembourg)
December	12	EEC/Tunisia
December	18	Council on Economics and Finance
December	18 - 19	Council on Agriculture
December	18 - 19	Council on Environment
December	19	Council on Foreign Affairs
December	21	Council on Energy
December	21	EEC/ACP Ministers (African, Caribbean & Pacific countries)