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COMMON MARKET STUDIES DEVELOPMENT
OF ITS LAGGING ECONOMIC AREAS

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 8 -- Common Market experts, continuing a study of regional development in the six member states of the European Community, have just ended a three-section meeting in Brussels.

This is the second meeting of the experts, who, following a recent Community conference on regional economies, were divided into three committees to study methods of developing the regions in the Community where the local economy is lagging.

At the meeting just concluded, Committee No. 1 heard reports by French, Dutch, and Italian members on regional policy in their countries. At its next meeting the committee will hear reports from Belgium, the Federal Republic of Germany, and Luxembourg.

Committee No. 2, which is considering the problems of regions already industrialized but possessing obsolescent economic structures, heard preliminary reports from the Belgian, French, German, and Italian members. The committee agreed to separate such regions into three categories: regions suffering from general economic and social aging; regions where certain important activities show signs of decline; and regions whose structures and infrastructures are ill-adapted because the traditional pattern of trade has broken down.

Committee No. 3, which is studying the effectiveness of various aids to regional development, discussed preferential financial arrangements, regional infrastructures, and problems involved in adapting public administration facilities and procedures to regional needs.