

# EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

## INFORMATION SERVICE

220 Southern Building, Washington 5, D.C.  
telephone NAtional 8-5070

C O M M O N M A R K E T • E U R A T O M • C O A L & S T E E L C O M M U N I T Y

April 6, 1960

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### COMMON MARKET CONCLUDES TRADE TALKS WITH MALAGASY REPUBLIC

WASHINGTON, D.C., APRIL 6 -- High officials of the European Economic Community (Common Market) yesterday concluded two days of trade discussions with representatives of the Republic of Malagasy, it was announced in Brussels where the meetings took place. The conference, first of its kind with Malagasy since the Island of Madagascar became an autonomous republic, was primarily concerned with imports of island products into the Common Market, stabilization of prices of raw materials, and the question of private investments and guarantees offered to foreign capital.

The Malagasy delegation was headed by Louis Rakotomalala, Minister for Relations with Member States of the Community. Ranking Common Market Commissioners at a luncheon session were Giuseppe Petrilli and Hans von der Groeben. Robert Lemaigen, Commissioner responsible for relations with the overseas countries and territories of the Common Market, was at the time on a trip through Western Africa.

Commissioner von der Groeben underlined the importance of the visit of the Malagasy representatives to Brussels, pointing out that the Commission is most interested in the problems of trade and investment in the Republic and the general future relations between Madagascar and the European Economic Community.

Mr. Rakotomalala told the Commissioners: "Our first visit as free people is made to the European Economic Community because we have deliberately chosen for ourselves a direct relationship with the French Community and with the European Community."

The meetings were reported to have inspired a particularly cordial exchange of views between the Malagasy delegation and high officials of the Common Market.

#####