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COMMON MARKET APPROVES NEW AID GRANTS

WASHINGTON, D.C., March 18 -- The European Economic Community (the Common Market) approved initial grants totaling \$4.6 million for development projects in the Ivory Coast, Mali and Upper Volta Republics.

The aid will be granted under the \$581 million EEC development fund to advance non-European countries associated with the EEC nations -- Belgium, France, the German Federal Republic, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. The EEC has to date committed approximately \$126 million to overseas development projects.

The Ivory Coast Republic will receive \$1,620,000 to build three new residential areas in Abidjan, its important rail-and-port center. Abidjan's population, now 200,000, tripled in 10 years. The EEC grant will provide housing, roads and municipal services for about 30,000 citizens.

A grant of \$1,488,000 will be used by the Mali Republic to set up 50 seasonal agricultural schools throughout its territory. Mali already has a force of agricultural experts and advanced technicians but needs to expand this force to carry improved farm methods to village levels. The seasonal schools will train young farmers who will in turn serve as village instructors.

Eight water-conserving earth dams will be constructed in the Upper Volta Republic with a grant of \$1,473,000. The dams will provide better water supplies for inhabitants and livestock and generally spur rural development. The Republic also will employ more technicians and sponsor development studies with the aid of money.