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LATEST EEC ANNUAL REPORT AFFIRMS PROGRESS  
TOWARD ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL INTEGRATION

WASHINGTON, June 9 -- The Commission of the European Economic Community said in its Fourth General Report, just issued in Brussels, that another year of experience confirms the Community's effectiveness in bringing about the economic and political integration of Europe in the broader framework of Western cooperation.

The Commission said: "The possibilities offered by the Treaty (the Treaty of Rome which established the Community) and actions to be undertaken in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and in the GATT are of a nature permitting a constructive solution of European commercial problems." In this connection the Commission reaffirmed its policy of the "open door" for European states wishing to become members of the Community.

In the political field, the Commission said another year of experience has proved Community institutions stable, efficient and contributing to greater political solidarity among the member states. The EEC was founded in 1958 for the political and economic integration of France, Germany, Italy, and the Benelux nations.

The Commission's observations are contained in the introduction to the 274-page report, which covers the period from May 16, 1960, to April 30, 1961.

The Executive of the Community singled out as important economic events in the past year the continued expansion of intra-Community trade, the accelerated reduction of intra-Community trade barriers, the signing of an agreement that will associate Greece with the Community, and the entry into the GATT of the Community as the spokesman for the six member states.

The Commission added that important steps have been taken toward establishing Community-wide policy for anti-trust matters, transportation, and the uses of various forms of energy. The Executive reiterated the significance of its mid-1960 proposals for a common agricultural policy. However, because of the existing divergent "national" systems of agriculture, the Commission said the increase of intra-Community trade in farm products inevitably will trail the increases of trade in the industrial sector.

NOTE: Summaries of the EEC's Fourth General Report will be available from the European Community Information Service office in Washington by June 12.