



*European Communities
Commission
Press Release*

*20 Kensington Palace Gardens
London W8 4QQ
Telephone: 01-727 8090*

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Weekly Timetable of Community Activities - No ¹⁵~~14~~/74

BRITISH MINISTERS FOR EUROPE

Busy Timetable Ahead

Ministers of the new British Government plan to attend an increasing number of meetings in Europe during the next month, on matters ranging from consultation with the United States in foreign affairs to education.

Nearly all the dates and plans ahead must, however, be regarded as provisional because of the coming French Presidential election and the possibility of British Ministers suddenly changing schedules if there is unforeseen Parliamentary business, such as a three-line whip.

The first notable meeting after Easter is that of the political directors (the d'Avignon Committee) in Bonn on Thursday and Friday, April 18 and 19.

Foreign and Finance Ministers

This is followed by a special informal meeting of the Nine, at the level of foreign ministers, at Schlossgymnich, just outside Bonn, on the Saturday and Sunday, April 20 and 21. It is understood that the French Foreign Minister, M. Jobert, who was to have been in Japan, will attend together with the British Foreign Secretary and other Community foreign ministers. A feature of the gathering is that the Ministers plan to meet without officials.

Again immediately after this meeting, on Monday and Tuesday April 22 and 23, there will be an informal meeting of Finance Ministers of the Community in The Hague. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Healey, expects to attend.

On Monday and Tuesday, May 13 and 14, foreign ministers of the Nine meet as the political committee in Bonn. This meeting would follow the special meeting at Schlossgymnich on April 20 and 21.

There is a Council of Finance Ministers provisionally scheduled for Monday, May 20, and a routine Council of Agricultural Ministers is set down for that day and the next day, Tuesday, May 21. A Council of Ministers in research has been provisionally scheduled for May 31. It is possible that there will be a Ministerial meeting on the environment at the end of this month or early in May, but no date has yet been suggested.

FLASHBACK

After the memorial service for President Pompidou in Paris a large number of world statesmen held diplomatic discussions during which European questions featured prominently. President Nixon's participation appeared to succeed in lightening the recent heavy atmosphere between the Community and the United States.

On Wednesday evening, April 10, the Foreign Secretary, Mr Callaghan, was making one of his first public speeches since taking office, at the annual dinner of the Diplomatic and Commonwealth Writers Association of Britain.

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