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December 2, 1977

A Weekly Summary of Past and Future Events

European Council

December 5 + 6 Brussels

The principal themes at this meeting will be:

- the economic situation: employment, growth, inflation;
- problems unsolved by the Council of Ministers, such as the issue of budgetary payments in the European unit of account and the associated issue of Article 131 of the Treaty;
- the size of the Regional Development Fund and associated policy questions;
- trade and sectoral problems;
- steel and shipbuilding;
- direct elections to the European Parliament;
- questions of international policy;
- the Tindemans Report;
- Mediterranean policy.

Next Council Meetings

Brussels	December 5 + 6	Fisheries
	December 7	Budget
	December 12	Environment
	December 12 + 13	Agriculture
	December 13	Health
	December 13	Energy
	December 19	Finance
	December 19 + 20	Foreign Affairs
	December 20 + 21	Transport

Other Events

Strasbourg December 12 - 16 European Parliament (Strasbourg)

Provisional Dates Further Ahead

Finance Council January 16, February 20
Foreign Affairs Council January 17, February 7

Agriculture Council January 23+24, February 13+14,

February 27+28

European Parliament January 16 - 20 (Luxembourg)

February 13 - 17 (Strasbourg)

President Carter will visit the Commission, Brussels: January 6

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FLASHBACK

TEXTILES: The official report of the Commission's special representative for the international textile negotiations will be established during next week and sent to the Council of Ministers for information. The Commission will draw policy conclusions from the negotiations, probably with a first examination on December 7, and will adopt a communication to the Council, probably on December 14, for a final Council decision foreseen on December 19-20. Broadly the negotiations are regarded by the Commission as successful. This office will publish a detailed report when definitive information becomes available.

AGRICULTURE: The Commission held a first reading of proposals for farm prices to be fixed next year. Practically every member of the Commission stressed that it will be necessary for several years to follow a cautious policy, credible both to producers and consumers.

NUCLEAR ENERGY: The first round of public nuclear discussions took place during the week. At the end a leading Belgian critic of nuclear energy said this was the first time environmentalists had had the opportunity to discuss on an equal footing problems with spokesmen of the nuclear industry and its supporters.

DEVELOPMENT: The Council of Ministers agreed that the Community contribution towards a special action programme to meet the immediate needs of low-income countries should be 385 million dollars out of a total of 1000 million dollars. The Community money will be paid into a special account of the International Development Association (IDA) with the World Bank. The bulk of the Community's contribution will go to countries with a GNP per capita of not more than 280 dollars.