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EUROPEAN COMMUNITY INFORMATION SERVICE

2100 M Street Northwest, Suite 707, Washington D.C. 20037 • Telephone: (202) 296-5131
New York Office: 155 E. 44th Street, New York, N.Y. 10017 • Telephone: (212) MU 2-0458

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COMMON MARKET MOURNS PAUL-HENRI SPAAK

The Commission of the European Communities issued the following statement today in Brussels on the death of Paul-Henri Spaak.

The Commission of the European Communities is deeply moved by the death of Paul-Henri Spaak. Europe has lost a founding father. Paul-Henri Spaak was one of those who developed the ideology of European unity after World War II. As both a Belgian and a "European" politician, he worked steadfastly to achieve his ideas in the years following The Hague Congress of 1948. He was the first President of the European Coal and Steel Community's parliamentary Assembly, and an eloquent spokesman therein for the political potential of the Paris Treaty. He was responsible for the European revival which led to the signing of the Rome Treaties [creating the European Economic Community and the European Atomic Energy Community]. He was one of the Community's most lucid and efficient protagonists. Although he had retired from political life, he remained a faithful, influential, militant European to the end.

European unity loses a precursor, but inherits what he had to teach. The Commission of the European Communities commends him to all who work for the ideal of a continental Community.

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