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PRESS RELEASE

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EUROPEAN COMMUNITY TO SUSPEND NEGOTIATIONS WITH SPAIN

The Spokesman for the Commission of the European Communities made the following statement to the press today at noon Brussels time. The text quoted is an unofficial translation from the French.

"The Commission met this morning and reviewed the situation resulting from the recent events in Spain.

"The Commission considers that, under the present circumstances, negotiations [to strengthen the existing links between the Community and Spain] cannot be continued.

"Consequently, the Commission has presented its position to the (EC) Council so that the Council may adopt the same stance. The result of this Community position would be the suspension of negotiations between the Community and Spain.

"The Commission has already made the necessary contacts with the Committee of Permanent Representatives" [the nine EC member countries' ambassadors to the European Communities].