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EUROPEAN COMMUNITY COMMISSION ON BRITISH IMPORT CONTROLS

The Commission of the European Community issued a statement today at 6 p.m. Brussels time after Chancellor of the Exchequer Denis Healey had announced to the House of Commons Britain's plans to impose selective import restrictions. The statement follows in unofficial translation from the French:

"The Commission has heard a report by Mr. Gundelach [Finn Olav Gundelach, acting EC Commissioner for external affairs] on information given by the British Government concerning the selective import controls that it planned to announce and put into effect on December 17.

"While recognizing the very limited nature of these controls, the Commission confirmed the viewpoint that Mr. Gundelach had conveyed to the British Government on December 16:

1- The Commission considers the introduction of these restraints inopportune in view of the current international economic situation, where there is still the danger that even limited import controls could start a chain reaction.

2- The Commission has serious doubts about the justification for the urgent and unilateral procedure used by the British Government.

"The Commission has decided to continue studying these measures at its meeting on December 22 in order to seek the most suitable Community measures to deal with the situation."