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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## COMMON MARKET TO RECONSIDER ASSOCIATION WITH GREECE

WASHINGTON, D.C., April 16, 1970 -- The Commission of the European Communities today issued a statement condemning the violation of human rights in Greece and announcing that it would have to reconsider its Association Agreement with Greece.

The Commission said that it was following the developments in Greece with a growing uneasiness intensified by the recent trials in Athens and the arrest of respected public figures.

These events in Greece do not indicate a return to the normal democratic life that the European public has been expecting with increasing impatience, the Commission said.

Repeated violations of human and civil rights have led the Commission to reconsider the functioning of the Community's Association Agreement with Greece, which has been beset with difficulties.

The Agreement is intended to lead to full Community membership for Greece. Since the coup d'etat on April 21, 1967, only those provisions of the Agreement and decisions of the Community-Greece Association Council entailing clearly defined obligations have been applied, principally in the area of customs arrangements and trade.

There has been a minimum of meetings at ambassadorial level, and no ministerial meetings have been taking place. As Greece has no parliament, the joint parliamentary association committee between Greece and the Six has not been able to function.

The Commission said that it particularly deplored the situation in Greece because, now more than ever before, the full participation of the Greek people was desirable in the efforts for European integration.

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