

## **EUROPEAN COMMUNITY INFORMATION SERVICE**

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## GREAT BRITAIN ACCEPTED INTO COMMON MARKET

WASHINGTON, D.C., June 23 -- Great Britain was accepted into the Common Market today following the resolution of the size of its monetary contribution and to what extent the flow of New Zealand dairy imports could remain undisturbed.

At 5 o'clock this morning, in Luxembourg the champagne was uncorked to commemorate the historic occasion climaxing a decade of British attempts to gain entry into the European Community.

Great Britain's chief negotiator, Geoffrey Rippon, had been involved in intensive negotiations with representatives of the Six since the beginning of May. But today's decision only seemed assured after French President Georges Pompidou and British Prime Minister Edward Heath met earlier this month and dispelled the cloud hanging over Anglo-French relations as a result of Charles DeGaulle's two vetos of Britain's past applications for European Community membership.

The question of Britain's entry into the Common Market must now be taken up by the English Parliament which is expected to vote on the issue in the fall.

The final "package" agreement settling the main outstanding issues between Britain and the Common Market consists of the following:

- 1. New Zealand Dairy Products. The Common Market will guarantee outlets for 71 per cent (milk equivalent) of New Zealand's dairy exports to Great Britain (80 per cent of the present market for butter, 20 per cent for cheese) until the end of 1977, at which time the guarantees will be abolished. After three years, in 1975, the butter situation will be reexamined to consider any progress towards a world agreement on dairy products and also New Zealand's progress towards the diversification of its economy.
- 2. <u>Budget Contribution</u>. Britain's contribution to the Community budget is to reach 19.19 per cent (based on its percentage share of the total

gross product of the enlarged Common Market). In 1973 Britain will pay 8.64 per cent of the Community's total budget (about \$220 million). This amount will increase uniformly until 1977. Britain's contributions to the Community budget will be a maximum of 10.85 per cent in 1974; 13.34 per cent in 1975; 16.02 per cent in 1976, and 18.92 per cent in 1977.

To avoid a sudden jump at the end of the transition period (1977) to Britain's full share of 19.19 per cent, there will be a further two years during which Britain's full contribution can be accompanied by a supplementary corrective.

- 3. <u>Hill Farming</u>. Following a British statement on the particularly delicate problem of this sector, the Community agreed that special measures might be needed to solve this problem, particularly maintenance of reasonable revenues for hill farmers.
- 4. <u>Common Fisheries Policy</u>. The negotiators recognized the need to reconsider certain features of the common fisheries policy regulation adopted on October 20, 1970, in order to allow a breach in the Community principle of completely free access by all member states to all fishing grounds of the Community. For a limited period, national territorial boundaries may be retained. There will be a special meeting in mid-July to deal with the fishing rights issue.
- 5. Interim Period. In order to involve the candidate countries -- Britain, Denmark, Ireland, and Norway -- in the work of the Community during the period between the signing of the treaties and their entry into force on January 1, 1973, the negotiators agreed that common procedures will be put into effect so that decisions made by Community institutions will take into account the interests of the candidate countries. Consultation will take place prior to adoption of any relevant decisions. Similarly, such a procedure will apply to candidate countries' decisions that may affect their obligations to the Community.

Other issues decided during the past six weeks of negotiations include:

- -- In industry, Britain will abolish all tariffs with the Six and become part of the industrial common market in four and a half years.

  Tariffs will be reduced in five steps during this time with a final 20 per cent cut on July 1, 1977.
- -- For agriculture, Britain will have a five-year transition to adjust to the Common Market's agricultural policy, with the system of Community

preference going into force immediately. British prices will be raised to the levels set by the common agricultural policy in six steps starting in 1973 and ending in 1977.

- -- The British have pledged to gradually run down its balances of pound sterling.
- -- Britain will enter the common market in coal and steel during a five-year transition period.
- -- Britain will become part of the atomic energy common market (Euratom) after a one-year transition period.

Even if the British Parliament votes affirmatively for Community membership, England's entry must still be ratified under the Treaty of Accession by the national legislatures of the Six.

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