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PRESS RELEASE

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(Correction of Oct. 14 Release)

JOINT GERMAN-AMERICAN INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH PROJECT SUBJECT
TO ANTI-TRUST REVIEW

WASHINGTON, D.C., Oct. 12 -- An American company and a German firm have submitted a proposal for joint research and development to the European Community Commission to determine whether their plans comply with Common Market anti-trust laws.

Colgate Palmolive of New York and Henkel of Dusseldorf, West Germany, seek to cooperate in the research and development of laundry soaps and detergents. They plan to establish in Switzerland a joint research company which, after reviewing and synthesizing past research, will continue to develop commercially marketable products.

Their proposal appeared to receive a favorable response from the Commission, although official action cannot be taken until interested third parties have had an opportunity to express their views on the proposed agreement.

If officially approved, the agreement would make the results of the research including patents and technical knowledge equally available to both partners.

The Rome Treaty establishing the Common Market prohibits agreements between enterprises which would prevent, restrict, or distort competition

in the Community and lists specific examples of prohibited agreements. When an agreement, however, is likely to improve the production or distribution of goods or promote technical and economic progress, it may be exempted from the prohibitions laid down by the Treaty.

Other cooperation agreements which have received tentative Commission approval until third parties' comments are received include:

- a reciprocal supply and specialization agreement in the field of servo-control systems concluded between the Paris company "Société d'Optique, Précision Electronique and Mécanique" (SOPELEM) and "Alngen und Co." in Dusseldorf, West Germany.
- an agreement on sales abroad of canned vegetables manufactured by five companies in Northern France grouped together under the name "Société Anonyme de Fabricants de Conserves Alimentaires," (SAFCO) at La Gorgue, France.
- a cooperation and rationalization agreement between the "Wild Paris" Company of Rueil-Malmaison and "E. Leitz-France" of Kremlin-Bicetre, France, for the marketing of optical microscopes and their accessories manufactured by their respective parent companies.

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