



**European
community**

PRESS RELEASE

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY INFORMATION SERVICE

2100 M Street Northwest, Suite 707, Washington D.C. 20037 • Telephone: (202) 296-5131

November 15, 1971

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**PRELIMINARY TALKS CONCLUDED ON AN AGREEMENT FOR INSPECTION
ARRANGEMENTS UNDER NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY**

WASHINGTON, D.C., November 15 -- The Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), an agency of the United Nations, have concluded preliminary discussions on arrangements for verification by the IAEA of Euratom nuclear material inspection systems.

Delegates from the Community and the IAEA expressed satisfaction at the constructive atmosphere surrounding the negotiations which took place in Vienna, Austria November 9 to 11. It was agreed to resume formal discussions in December.

The talks are aimed at reaching an agreement under Article Three of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty on an international inspection system to assure the peaceful use of nuclear materials in the European Community. Article Three relates to the implementation of inspection systems to protect against diversion of nuclear materials for military purposes.

The Community has its own system whereby its safeguards and control agency has authority to check any nuclear facilities within the Six. The IAEA seeks an inspection procedure whereby UN inspectors would have the job of checking Community nuclear supplies. A compromise -- in which the Euratom safeguard system would continue, subject to UN verification -- is the basic arrangement being sought by the Community.

Helmut Sigrist, the European Community Commission's director general for external relations, headed the EC delegation comprised of Commission officials and representatives of the five member states that have signed the non-proliferation treaty (France is the non-signatory). His counterpart for the IAEA was David Fischer, the agency's director of foreign affairs.

###