

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY NEWS

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EC WELCOMES 16 US SCIENTISTS

Sixteen American government scientists were guests of the European Commission May 16-21. The group included representatives of the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) and the National Science Foundation (NSF). The purpose of the visit, arranged by NSF director Guyford Stever and EC Commissioner Ralf Dahrendorf, was to exchange information about publicly funded EC and US research programs.

The American guests, led by NSF Energy Research director Paul F. Donovan, visited the Community's joint research centers at Ispra, Italy, and Karlsruhe, Germany, and the Institute for Plasma Physics at Garching, Germany. They held working meetings in Brussels, under Dahrendorf's chairmanship, with EC experts in the fields of research, energy, industrial and technological affairs, environmental protection, and external relations.

Topics included solar, hydrogen, coal, and geothermal energy, controlled thermonuclear fusion, atomic reactor safety, and planning for future energy needs.

BENTINCK PRIZE OFFERED FOR EUROPEAN UNITY WRITINGS

The Adolph Bentinck Prize, awarded for written works contributing to the cause of European Unity is now open for applicants. The 15,000 French franc prize (about \$3,110.) was first awarded in 1973 to Professor Karl Kaiser for his book "Europe and the United States." Further information may be obtained from the Secretariat of the Adolph Bentinck Prize, 35 Avenue Victor Hugo, 75116 Paris, France. Eligible works must be submitted before July 1, to the Bentinck Prize jury, at this same address.

ETUC WELCOMES NEW PORTUGUESE DEMOCRACY

Portugal's new government was welcomed by the executive committee of the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) May 10 in Brussels. The committee expects the new leadership to end Portugal's colonial system abroad, and ensure trade union liberties within Portugal. ETUC will help create a democratic and united trade union in Portugal with hopes that it will join the ranks of European unionism. A delegation representing the Portuguese trade unions was invited to attend the next ETUC Congress, in Copenhagen, Denmark May 23-25.

**SCHMIDT, GISCARD D'ESTAING
SEEN TO HELP EUROPEAN CAUSE**

France and Germany's new heads of government, Valery Giscard D'Estaing and Helmut Schmidt, respectively will, in the eyes of some observers, add momentum to the move toward European unity and help strengthen US-European relations. Giscard d'Estaing was elected May 19 to succeed the late President Georges Pompidou; Schmidt became German Chancellor on May 16, after the resignation of Willy Brandt. Brandt is expected to continue his efforts for "European union."

**EC LOAN FOR HOUSING
COAL AND STEEL WORKERS**

Housing for 185 workers in the Belgian coal and steel industry will be built with the help of a \$1.4 million loan in European Community funds, recently approved by the EC Commission. The 12 year loan, granted at 5.5 per cent, will be channeled through the European Coal and Steel Community to the General Bank of Savings and Pensions at Brussels.

**EC NEEDS PUBLIC SUPPORT,
COMMISSIONER TELLS PRESS**

"To grasp the true nature and dimension of (Europe's) problems... the Commission and the other Community institutions require the support of public opinion and "constructive vigilance of the press," EC Commission Vice President Carlo Scarascia Mugnozza told the Twelfth Congress of the International Federation of Journalists in Luxembourg on May 13. Scarascia Mugnozza is responsible for EC environment, transport, consumer, and information policy.

Noting that interest in European affairs is "widespread rather than profound," he pointed to the need for arousing public interest

in the Community. He called for "constructive vigilance" in the press which would "whet the appetite" of news consumers and induce them to take part in discussions on EC problems. Scarascia Mugnozza acknowledged the duty of the press to criticize: "All the European institutions have a great need for your critical vigilance." However, he added, such vigilance "must be aimed at creating public interest in the subject of your criticism."

**NORTH JUTLAND GETS
EIB LOAN FOR DRY DOCK**

A new dry dock capable of accommodating large ships will be built in Frederikshavn, Denmark, with the help of a 2.1 million unit of account (UA) loan from the European Investment Bank (EIB). (One UA equals \$1.20635 at current rates.) The 15 year loan was granted to Denmark's leading ship repair company, Frederikshavn Vaerft A/S.

Since Denmark joined the Common Market, the EIB has lent UA 17.7 million for projects in that country.

**EC STUDYING HEALTH
HAZARDS OF ASBESTOS**

The Commission is studying levels of asbestos in the air and water and their potential health hazards but is unable to develop substitute products for asbestos in brake linings, it said May 17 in answer to a written question from the European Parliament. Asbestos used in auto brake linings may be harmful as it is released into the air as a fine dust when the brakes are applied. The Commission explained that the EC environment program only provides for research on anti-pollution technical measures in the iron and steel industry. It plans to award research contracts into the effects of asbestos on human health.

EDF AID FOR AFRICAN PROJECTS GET APPROVAL

Eight European Development Fund (EDF) projects totaling 25.9 million units of account (UA) were approved by the Commission on May 13. (One UA equals \$1.20635 at current rates.) The Republic of Mali will receive UA 4.1 million to improve drinking water supplies. The Islamic Republic of Mauritania was granted UA 4.9 million to enlarge its National Hospital at Nouakchott. UA 3.2 million was approved for construction of a technical school in Ouagadougou, Upper Volta. The Republic of Niger will receive UA 2.8 million in peanut seeds to relaunch peanut production. UA 317,000 will help finance studies on developing the Malagasy Republic's Ankaizina region. Finally, the EDF will provide UA 630,000 for improving the Moundou-Koutou road in the Republic of Chad.

EDF aid to six of these projects is non-reimbursable. Aid to the other two will be loaned on special terms. These projects bring EDF aid to a total of UA 710 million since the fund began in 1971.

COMMISSION PROPOSES NEW PREFERENCES FOR LDC'S

Following a request from Britain, Denmark, and the Netherlands, the Commission has recommended to the Council of Ministers the extension of the Community's generalized tariff preferences system to 18 products, mainly agricultural, as a measure to help less developed countries (LDC's). If approved, the measure will take effect September 1, 1974.

The proposal would lower or eliminate tariffs on certain meats, crustaceans, fruit, sponges, spices, vegetable oils, homogenized soups, tobacco, and cigars. Loss in customs revenue would be "relatively low," the Commission says.

The Commission noted that 36 of the products for which the three countries requested an extension of preferences were already covered while others were already being imported duty-free by the three countries. Primary products do not normally qualify for generalized preferences, but some effort was needed to help LDC's. More could be done if other major economic powers were more generous with preferences, as requested by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the Commission declared.

The Commission said the proposal would cover 28.7 million units of account (UA) of EC imports from beneficiaries of generalized preferences, against a total of UA 70.7 million of non-Community imports. (One UA equals \$1.20635 at current rates.)

PROPOSALS TO TIGHTEN EC CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT

The potential for customs frauds in the European Community will be reduced if the Council of Ministers adopts the Commission's April 22 proposals to grant a six week lead time between official publication date of changes in EC customs rules and regulations and their entry into force. Such a measure would ensure correct enforcement of customs regulations and equal treatment for importers and exporters throughout the Community, the Commission said.

Calling on the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the Community and the Council of Ministers to give priority to all customs proposals, the Commission proposed that adapted measures only take effect on January 1 or July 1 of each year, without retroactivity. The Commission also proposed simplifications in the common customs tariff nomenclature, such as reducing the number of subheadings.

MORE EC HELP FOR PALESTINIANS PROPOSED

Palestinian refugees will be guaranteed continued educational assistance from the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) if the Council of Ministers adopts a Commission proposal to underwrite certain UNRWA 1974 operating costs with EC funds. The Community would incur the 6.5 million unit of account (UA) cost of running an UNRWA program to help educate refugees on a post-elementary level. (One UA equals \$1.20635 at current rates.) UNRWA appealed for EC assistance when put in serious financial straits by inflation. The Community has already agreed to provide UNRWA with UA 11.5 million for food aid to the refugees.

EIB LOAN FOR TURKISH COTTON TEXTILE MILL

The European Investment Bank granted a loan of about 2 million units of account (UA) for construction of a modern cotton textile mill in Western Turkey May 14. (One UA equals \$1.20635 at current rates.) The UA 15 million plant is being built by Kartaltepe Mensucat Fab-

rikasi AS to diversify the company's cotton production, with an annual output of 2,400 tons of cotton yarn and 14-20 million meters of cloth. The project is part of Turkey's Third Five-Year Plan for industrial modernization.

The EIB loan was appropriated through the Industrial Development Bank of Turkey under the EC-Turkey Frame Contract to provide financial assistance for private industrial projects in Turkey with UA 15 million in EC funds.

TOWARDS A EUROPEAN SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Academic and research council representatives of 14 European Countries met in Stockholm, Sweden, for the second conference on the creation of a European Science Foundation on May 3. The conferees decided to base the foundation in Strasbourg, France, agreed on its general principles of operation, and set up a foundation committee to draw up necessary documents for setting it up before the end of this year. The Commission's delegation to the conference was led by Ralf Dahrendorf, responsible for EC science, research, and education. The next conference will be held in Strasbourg in November.

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