

European Community NEWS

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EBERLE SEES GAINS IN ATLANTIC ALLIANCE

"The Atlantic Alliance may be much farther along the road of progress toward resolving some of the most important common economic issues than we dared hope even a month ago," Ambassador William D. Eberle told the American and Common Market Club June 7 in Brussels. Eberle said the successful outcome of the recent US-EC trade compensation negotiations under article XXIV-6 of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) shows that "potentially disruptive commercial disputes between nations can be resolved under multilateral rules." Noting the greatly expanded economic links between countries, Eberle said the world has "outgrown the scope" of the present GATT agreement, and new rules for greater international cooperation are needed. The challenge of the upcoming GATT negotiations, he continued, "is to recognize this high degree of interdependence among nations and still allow sovereign states to set their own priorities and make their own decisions."

ITALIAN AID SYSTEM REVISED FOR COMMISSION

The Italian Government has modified its proposed aid system for businesses forced to cut manpower, following Commission intervention. The Commission lifted previous objections to the system on June 4 after the Government agreed to: require

eligible businesses to draw up reorganization, restructuring, or reconversion plans; give priority to firms in the Mezzogiorno region and poor areas in North and Central Italy; prenotify the Commission on aid scheduled for other regions; and respect EC central region aid coordination principles.

ORTOLI-SCHMIDT TALKS HELD IN BONN

Francois-Xavier Ortoli, President of the Commission of the European Communities, met with West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt in Bonn June 11 to discuss current EC problems. The Ortoli-Schmidt talks centered mainly on the Community's economic situation.

EC AID FOR MIGRANT AND HANDICAPPED WORKERS

The European Community's Social Action Program got underway June 10 when the Council of Ministers adopted Commission proposals to aid handicapped and migrant workers and improve industrial safety. European Social Fund assistance is now available for member state programs to provide language and vocational training and improved reception facilities for EC migrants and their children. Non-EC migrants will also benefit from programs to assimilate them into the society of the host country. Commission proposals to set up an action program and make Social Fund assistance available for vocational rehabilitation of handicapped workers were also adopted.

EC PAPER MOUNTAIN TURNED INTO A PROFIT

The mountain of waste paper in the EC Commission's headquarters in Brussels grew from 115 tons in 1972 to 150 tons last year. The Commission sold this paper to a recycling firm for \$7,200, it said, answering a written question from the European Parliament.

COMMISSION PLANS EC POVERTY SEMINAR

A seminar on poverty in the European Community will be held in Brussels June 24-27. Member state government, service and private organization representatives as well as poverty research and social workers will attend the "Action on Poverty" seminar, organized by the EC Commission. Reports on the current situation in the member states and potential pilot projects will highlight seminar discussions. Granting EC assistance to member state poverty reduction efforts is one of the priority actions of the Social Action Program adopted by the Council of Ministers in January.

EC-MEXICO TALKS INTO SECOND STAGE

The second round of talks between the European Community and Mexico on the possibility of an EC-Mexico agreement were held in Brussels June 4-5.

NEW ANIMAL PROTECTION PROPOSAL SENT TO COUNCIL

The European Community should sign the European Convention on Animal Welfare in Intensive Rearing, the Commission said in a June 4 proposal to the Council of Ministers. The convention, dealing with animal feeding, care, and housing, is being drawn up by the Council of Europe.

DAHRENDORF ADDRESSES KALAMAZOO GRADUATION

The political, military, commercial, and financial irritations to the Atlantic Alliance of the past decade, "may well appear as the growing pains of a third phase of European American Relations, that of partnership in the full sense of the word," Ralf Dahrendorf said June 15 in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Dahrendorf, EC Commission member (responsible for science, research and education) gave the commencement address at Kalamazoo College after receiving an honorary Doctor of Laws degree. Warning against a return to bilateralism, Dahrendorf said: "It is the task of the United States and the European Community to use their common values in order to strengthen more general systems of rules...wherever such rules are defined," such as the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade negotiations, the International Monetary Fund, and the United Nations.

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