

European Community NEWS

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US OFFICIALS MEET WITH EC COMMISSION

EC Commission officials met with Under Secretary of State for European Affairs Arthur Hartman and State Department advisor Helmut Sonnenfeldt in Brussels October 29. The meeting was intended to reinforce the mechanisms of US-EC consultation on matters of mutual interest. Talks focused on the prospects of early passage of the US trade bill, enhanced energy cooperation, and aid to developing countries. Hartman and Sonnenfeldt met with Commission President Francois-Xavier Ortoli and Commissioners Christopher Soames, Henri Simonet, and Claude Cheysson. The two men were in Brussels to brief the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) on Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger's visit to the Soviet Union.

EFTA SALES TO US UP BUT STILL SMALL

European Free Trade Association's (EFTA) exports to the United States outpaced those to the European Community during January-June 1974, according to September EFTA statistics. EFTA's US exports went up 2 per cent while its EC exports dropped 1 per cent during that period. EFTA's trade with the Common Market is nearly 10 times that with the United States, however. About 52 per cent of EFTA's June imports (\$4.6 billion) came from the Community (\$2.4 billion). The United States accounted for nearly 7 per cent, or \$300 million. EFTA exported a total of \$3.9 mil-

lion in June, of which 46 per cent went to the Community (\$1.8 million) and nearly 6 per cent to the United States (\$225 million). EFTA members are: Iceland, Sweden, Finland, Portugal, Switzerland, Norway, and Austria.

BUTZ PREDICTS RECORD 1975 US GRAIN HARVEST

Europeans can expect a big jump in US grain exports next year as American farmers will be shooting for record harvests, US Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz said in a joint press conference with EC agricultural Commissioner, Petrus J. Lardinois in Brussels November 4. Butz commended the cooperative spirit of the European Community's voluntary decision to reduce feed grain consumption by 10 per cent in the wake of the diminished US 1974 harvest. En route to the Rome World Food Conference, Butz met with Lardinois for talks on the World grain and soybean market situation.

NEW EC PLAN TO SAVE BRITAIN'S SWEET TOOTH

Britain will be able to avoid a potential 600,000 ton sugar shortage this year through a new European Community plan to buy sugar on the international market and sell it to that country at the EC price, less than a third of the world price. The system, adopted by the Council of Ministers October 22, can be applied to any member state. The Council also decided to boost EC sugar output by 2 million tons to reach self sufficiency levels.

**EC NOW MORE FLEXIBLE
CALLAGHAN OBSERVES**

The European Community has become much more flexible in its approach to problems and has taken greater account of individual member country needs, British Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs James Callaghan told the House of Commons October 31. Callaghan spoke in the House debate on Queen Elizabeth's October 30 speech to Parliament. Noting "a greater sense of realism in the Community," he said the current world crisis, and new European leadership "together with the new French Government's efforts to get the Community to work more in the interests of all its members have produced a greater readiness to look at problems with fresh eyes."

**EC OPENS TRADE TALKS
WITH SRI LANKA, PAKISTAN**

The European Community opened negotiations for trade cooperation agreements with Pakistan and Sri Lanka November 4 and 5, respectively. Besides helping strengthen EC ties with these two countries, the Community favors the potential agreements as part of its overall endeavor to strengthen and develop relations with non-associated developing countries. The agreements would be designed to encourage and diversify EC trade with Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

**INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS
CONFERENCE A POSSIBILITY**

A four-party conference of private business leaders from the European Community, the United States, Japan, and the Arab world is tentatively scheduled to be held in Geneva next spring to discuss the world economic situation. Plans for the conference highlighted talks at the second annual meeting of US and European industrial and banking representatives, organized by the confederation of Industries of the European Community in Brussels October 30-31. The meeting was attended by representatives of the American Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Manufacturers, and their European counterparts.

**DIRECT ELECTION OF
PARLIAMENT PROPOSED**

A report calling for direct election of the European Parliament in May 1980 will be debated by the Parliament before the end of this year. The report by Dutch Socialist Party member Schelto Patijn calls for a streamlined 355-member parliament apportioned according to member state populations and the number of its representatives. Accordingly, Germany would hold the most seats (71) followed by Britain (67), Italy (66), France (65), Belgium (23), Denmark (17), the Netherlands (27), Ireland (13), and Luxembourg (6). Patijn picked the 1980 date to coincide with the attainment of European Union.

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