

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY NEWS

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COUSTE, SIMONET TO TO VISIT WASHINGTON

EC Commission Vice President Henri Simonet and European Parliament Vice President Pierre Bernard Couste will visit Washington next week to participate in the Center for Strategic and International Studies Quadrangular Conference on inflation, recession, the international financial structure, and alliance security. The conference will be held January 27-29. Simonet will deliver the keynote address at the opening session of the conference January 27. Couste will speak that afternoon. Couste will address the Alliance Francaise of Washington the evening of January 27. Simonet will leave Washington January 28. Couste departs the next day.

EC ANTI-POVERTY PROGRAM OUTLINED

A list of 20 pilot projects forming the basis of a European Community anti-poverty action program was recently proposed to the Council of Ministers by the Commission. The program calls for a variety of measures to help areas with low employment, poor housing, insufficient social services, and inadequate educational facilities. The Commission laid out four potential ways to carry out the program: regeneration of urban poverty pockets, helping poverty-prone classes of people, setting up new services such as day

care centers and foster homes, and improving existing social services.

EC OFFICIALS TO VISIT SOVIET UNION

The European Community's dialogue with Eastern Europe will move forward next month when a small delegation of high-level EC officials will go to Moscow for talks with Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (Comecon) Secretary General Nicolai Fedeyev. The EC delegation will be headed by Edmund Wellenstein, Director General of the Commission's external relations division. Comecon had invited Commission President Francois-Xavier Ortoli to Moscow last fall. The February 4-6 talks will center on making the necessary preparations for the Ortoli-Fedeyev talks.

COUNCIL DISCUSSES TRIPARTITE CONFERENCE

No more than five countries should represent each of the three groups of producer, consumer and developing nations in the upcoming tripartite oil conference, the Commission said in a communication to the Council of Ministers this month. In the preparatory stage of the conference, the Commission said, the industrialized consumer nations should achieve "satisfactory progress" in preparation of concerted energy saving programs, accelerated development of new energy resources, and financial solidarity. The Council has not yet decided on the form of EC representation at the conference.

**EC WILL CONTINUE
SUGAR IMPORT SUBSIDIES**

The European Community will subsidize the import of 200,000 tons of sugar to meet its continuing shortage and keep EC prices below the world market price, the Council of Ministers decided January 16. It will also hold 100,000 tons in reserve. The Community last year subsidized the import of 200,000 tons at about 315 units of account (UA) per ton. (One UA equals \$1.20635 at current rates. The Council also approved a Commission proposal to give EC aids for molasses-based sugar production.

**BRITAIN PREPARES
FOR REFERENDUM ON EC**

Preparations for a national referendum on continuing Britain's membership in the European Community are underway, Prime Minister Harold Wilson told the Newspaper Conference in London January 20. Wilson said the British Government was working to decide what form the ballot should take: whether Ministers should be allowed to state their views on the renegotiation terms; whether the ballot and count should be on a constituency, regional, or national basis; what campaign expenditure controls are needed, and how to present the issue to the people. The referendum is scheduled for no later than October 10.

**UA 10 MILLION EDF
GRANT GIVEN OKAY**

Upper Volta, Mali, and the Malagasy Republic will benefit from five European Development Fund grants totaling 10.5 million units of account (UA), approved by the Commission last month. (One UA equals \$1.20635 at current rates.) The Republic of Mali will receive UA 1.8 million to help build low cost homes for Malian administrative personnel. Upper Volta will get UA 763,000 to improve stockbreeding, and about UA 1 million to help build a high-grade engineering technicians school. The Malagasy Republic was allotted nearly UA 7 million to construct three bridges on the East Coast and rebuild one over the Fanambana River.

**STATE GRANT AWARDED
TO COLLEGE OF EUROPE**

The College of Europe, Bruges, Belgium, was awarded a \$10,000 grant by the US State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Exchanges January 14. Ambassador Joseph A. Greenwald, US representative to the Common Market, presented the award which will be used to help finance US professors holding the George C. Marshall chair of US-European Studies. This is the second State Department grant to the College which is Europe's oldest post-graduate institute of European studies.

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