

European Community NEWS

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COMMONS VOTES TO REMAIN IN COMMUNITY

The House of Commons voted 396 to 170 in favor of continued British membership in the European Community on April 9. The vote followed a three-day debate on the British Government's "White Paper," which argued the Government's case for staying in the Community. The White Paper detailed the results of the Community's March 10-11 Dublin meeting in which terms for continued British membership were "renegotiated." The British people themselves will now decide whether or not to remain in the Community in a referendum tentatively scheduled for June 5.

FRENCH-ITALIAN "WINE WAR" ENDS

French borders will be opened again to Italian wine exports French Agricultural Minister Christian Bonnet announced April 15 following a meeting of the EC Council of Ministers for Agriculture. Borders were closed March 28 under pressure from French wine producers after massive shipments of Italian wine into France. The reopening of the borders was made possible by Council agreements on

- supplementary lower-priced distillation operations to last 55 days
- French Government-authorized subsidies for the storage of some 1.5 million hectolitres of Italian wine bought by French merchants
- limitations on wine production after 1976.

AMERICAN, EUROPEAN LEGISLATORS MEET

Twelve members of the US House of Representatives, led by Benjamin S. Rosenthal (D-N.Y.) and Donald M. Fraser (D-Minn), arrived in Brussels April 11 for the seventh bi-annual series of meetings between American and European legislators.

The American delegation visited the EC Commission with Head of the U.S. Mission to the the European Communities Joseph A. Greenwald. They met with Commissioners Petrus J. Lardinois, Commission Vice President Christopher Soames and Commissioner Henri Simonet.

Following their brief two-day stopover in Brussels, the US congressmen traveled to Munich where, through April 16, they discuss current issues affecting US -- European Parliament.

The agenda focuses on the following points:

- political developments in Europe

- the possibilities for an international code of good conduct for multinationals
- consequences for the EC and the United States following political developments in Greece, Turkey, Portugal and Spain
- international monetary, trade, energy, and economic developments.

COMMUNITY AID GOES TO SOUTH VIETNAM

Food aid for South Vietnam, in the form of 600 tons of milk powder, valued at 460,000 units of account (UA), has been approved by the Council of Ministers. The milk powder will be distributed by the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF). The Council also approved 300,000 UA worth of financial aid for sugar, medicine, and air transport. (One UA equals \$1.20635 at current market rates.)

LOME TREATY SIGNED BY GUINEA / CONAKRY

The Republic of Guinea (Conakry) became the forty-fifth country to sign the EC's Lomé Convention with African, Caribbean, and Pacific countries on April 10. in Brussels.

The Lomé Convention links 46 developing countries to the Community in trade and aid agreements. The other participating countries signed the Convention last February 28 in Lomé, Togo.

US CURBS URANIUM EXPORTS TO EUROPE

The US Nuclear Regulatory Commission suspended the issuance of import and export licenses for nuclear materials on March 28, pending a policy review. This move is expected to delay nuclear energy projects provided for in supply contracts between the United States and the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) as well as the Community's recently-adopted Nuclear Energy Development Program, which is aimed at reducing the Community's oil imports. The Community depends on the United States for 100 per cent of its highly enriched uranium and for 60 per cent of its less enriched uranium. An aide-memoire on this matter has been sent by the Commission to the American Mission in Brussels.

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