

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY NEWS

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BRITAIN SAYS YES TO EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

Britons voted overwhelmingly to remain in the European Community in the United Kingdom's first referendum, June 5. About 63 per cent of the 40 million eligible voters turned out and cast 67.2 per cent of the ballots in favor of staying with the Community. The vote culminated a period of indecision and uncertainty about Britain's future in Europe that arose when Labor Prime Minister Harold Wilson pledged to renegotiate Britain's terms of entry into the Community and to let the people themselves decide whether or not to say in the Community.

The United States welcomed Britain's decision. "We consider their choice an important reaffirmation of European unity which we have consistently supported," said State Department spokesman Robert L. Funseth, in answer to a question at a June 6 State Department briefing.

NEW TYPE EC-CANADA AGREEMENT CONSIDERED

A new type of agreement for economic and commercial cooperation is on the boards for Canada and the European Community. Following the completion of exploratory talks, the Commission has urged the Council to open negotiations for such an accord. The agreement

would be nondiscriminatory and would establish a broad framework for economic and commercial cooperation with Canada, taking into account current economic relations between the two and their future potential. The new agreement would provide a structure for joint EC-Canada industrial ventures, information exchanges, and facilitation of contacts between industrial policy makers and industry. This would be the first such agreement between the Community and an advanced industrial nation. At present, the Community and Canada have no formal trade agreements, their trade relations being governed by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

EC, AUSTRIA INK SHIPPING ACCORD

The shipping of Community-bound goods from Greece and Turkey will be easier, following the signing of a treaty between the Community and Austria in Vienna June 11. Merchandise sent from Greece or Turkey is divided and temporarily put in storage in Austria before being sent on to Community destinations. The treaty simplifies the customs formalities involved in these shipments. The new accord replaces an administrative agreement, in force since 1962, which dealt exclusively with exchanges with Greece and which was limited to the Austrian cities of Salzburg and Kufstein.

**ADOLPH BENTINCK
PRIZE COMPETITION**

Entries are now being accepted for the Adolph Bentinck Prize, which rewards a work contributing to European unity. The prize is awarded by a jury on the merits of a work or of a person for services rendered to the European idea, the cause of peace, or the struggle against fanaticism. The competition is open to persons of all nationalities. Entries must be submitted by July 1 to: General Secretary, M. Robert Lange, 33 Rue Poissonniere, 75002 Paris, France. The prize, worth 15,000 French francs (about \$3,600) will be awarded in December in one of the European capitals. It was created in 1973 to commemorate the Dutch diplomat Adolph Bentinck.

**MEMBER STATE TAX
FIGURES PUBLISHED**

As is the United States, the nine EC member states are plagued with rising -- though disparate -- taxes. According to recent EC statistics, the real increase in revenue from combined taxes and social security payments between 1968 and 1973 ran as high as 56 per cent in Denmark and 52 per cent in Luxembourg. Figures were considerably lower in

Italy (19 per cent) and Britain (8 per cent). Taxes on income and wealth for those years averaged about 30-to-36 per cent in the nine member states, with a 58 per cent high in Denmark and an 18 per cent low in France, the report showed. Direct taxation was lightest in Italy and France, but those countries also paid the highest proportion of social security contributions -- 41 per cent and 38 per cent, respectively.

**EC-YUGOSLAV TIES
FURTHER BROADENED**

An official June 12-15 visit to Yugoslavia will give Commission President Francois-Xavier Ortoli and Yugoslavian officials a chance to examine relations between the two with a view to enlarging current cooperation efforts. The Community and Yugoslavia have been linked by a trade accord since September 1973. While in Yugoslavia, Ortoli will meet with President of the Executive Federal Council President Demal Bijedic; Vice President of the Executive Federal Council and Federal Secretary for Foreign Affairs Milos Minic, Executive Federal Council member Janko Smole, and Dr. Emil Ludviger, member of the Executive Federal Council and Federal Secretary for External Trade.

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