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UNEQUIVOCAL EC SUPPORT FOR THE  
US ON THE IRANIAN CRISIS

The Foreign Ministers' of the Nine meeting in Brussels on November 20 considered the latest developments in Iran. They expressed their deep concern at the fact that the Iranian authorities have not fulfilled their obligations under the Vienna Convention to give appropriate protection to both the staff and the premises of the American Embassy in Tehran.

They have already made this concern known to the Iranian authorities on several occasions through diplomatic channels.

At a meeting last week the ministers recalled that in 1976 the European Council expressly condemned any attempt to exert pressure on governments by the taking of hostages. They considered that, whatever nature of dispute between Iran and the United States, the continued holding of diplomatic personnel of the Embassy of a foreign state as hostages and the threat to put them on trial is a breach of international law and, as such, must be rejected by the Governments of the Nine and by the International Community.

The ministers reject this violation of international law and call upon the Iranian Government to release all the hostages.

Brussels, November 20, 1979