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## TOP E.C. AND U.S. OFFICIALS TO MEET DECEMBER 14

Top officials of the European Community and the United States will meet December 14 in Brussels to review issues of importance to the E.C.-U.S. political and economic relationship.

Gaston E. Thorn, President of the E.C. Commission, will head the European delegation. The U.S. delegation will include George P. Shultz, Secretary of State; John R. Block, Secretary of Agriculture; Malcolm Baldrige, Secretary of Commerce; and William E. Brock, U.S. Trade Representative.

Among the topics expected to be discussed are agriculture, steel, textiles, multilateral trade, enlargement of the Community to include Spain and Portugal, and the E.C. and U.S. economies.

Joint talks of this kind have taken place in Brussels every year since 1981. The E.C. and U.S. were then at odds over Community steel and agriculture exports, and officials on both sides stressed their desire to prevent the frictions from escalating.

At a press conference after the 1981 talks, then Secretary of State Alexander Haig said the high level of the U.S. delegation showed that President Reagan recognized and valued the economic and political interdependence of the E.C.-U.S. partnership.

The dispute over steel was defused in October 1982, when the E.C. agreed to limit shipments of 10 categories of steel to 5.46 percent of the U.S. market for three years.

The 1982 talks again focused on agriculture, and the two sides agreed to hold regular consultations in an effort to avoid an agricultural trade war. Discussion topics last year included E.C. proposals to stabilize imports of corn gluten feed and U.S. restrictions on specialty steel imports.

This year, friction over steel centers on pipes and tubes. The E.C. is contesting the recent U.S. unilateral decision to restrict imports of those products from the Community.