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**EC IMPOSES PROVISIONAL ANTI-DUMPING DUTY OF 20 PER CENT
ON ROLLING BEARINGS FROM JAPAN**

The Commission has decided to impose a provisional anti-dumping duty on ball bearings, tapered roller bearings and their parts originating in Japan and entering under heading C.C.T. (Common Customs Tariff) EX 84.62. The duty is at a rate of 20 per cent on the value declared for all imports from Japan. However, a lower rate of 10 per cent has been fixed for two firms, having regard to the margins of dumping provisionally determined. The existing normal customs duty is 9 per cent.

The measure was taken in application of the EC anti-dumping regulation. This regulation is a Community instrument designed to provide safeguards against injury to Community producers caused by unfair trading practices in accordance with the GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade). The imposition of a provisional anti-dumping duty in this case is therefore fully consistent with the Community's traditional open trading policy.

The decision follows an enquiry begun by the Commission on November 13, 1976, into complaints by European bearing manufacturers that dumping was taking place. The Commission's preliminary investigation has now shown that dumping has taken place, the margin of which varies considerably from transaction to transaction and in some cases exceeds 30 per cent.

The enquiry also revealed that imports into the Community increased from 5,500 metric tons in 1968 to 15,600 metric tons in 1974 and 19,000 metric tons in 1975. This trend continued in 1976. This increase in imports together with undercutting of prices had a depressive effect on Community sales of like products and led to a substantial increase in the market share held by Japanese exports.

The European production of bearings decreased by 10 per cent between 1974 and 1976 in the regions most affected. This has led to redundancies and short-time working for staff.

The Commission decision will remain in force for a maximum period of three months, during which the investigation will continue. The Council will then decide what definitive measures should be taken in the light of this investigation.