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PRESS RELEASE

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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT DELEGATION TO VISIT CONGRESS AND U.N.

A delegation of 21 members of the European Parliament, the political forum of the European Community, is to arrive in the United States Sunday, October 30, for a week of talks with members of the U.S. Congress, Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and other administration officials and, for the first time, with United Nations officials.

The delegation will be led by Mario Zagari, vice president of the European Parliament and an Italian Socialist who was for 20 years editor of a magazine called "The European Initiative." In addition to Zagari, the delegation includes two other parliamentarians from Italy, four from Germany, four from Britain, six from France, two from Ireland and two from Belgium. Conservative, Liberal, Socialist and Communist politicians are represented.

The visit of the current EP delegation is expected to be the last by appointed representatives of the European Parliament. Next year, in the world's first international elections, more than 175 million European voters are expected to elect directly 410 representatives to an enlarged European Parliament. The current 198 members of the European Parliament are nominated from and by the national parliaments of the nine European Community nations.

U.S. organizers of the visit are Representatives Donald M. Frazer (D-Minn.), Benjamin S. Rosenthal (D-N.Y.) and Paul Findley (R-Ill.), all members of the House International Relations Committee, and Sam Gibbons (D-Fla.), member of the House Ways and Means Committee.

A parliamentary exchange between European Parliament deputies and members of the U.S. Congress has taken place regularly since 1972, when a first group of legislators from the United States visited Luxembourg, the site of the European Parliament's Secretariat. In July this year, a group of 13 members of Congress met 21 European parliamentarians in London for a week of talks. Discussions on several topics broached there -- human rights, nuclear energy and the North/South dialogue -- will be resumed in meetings here.

The EP delegation's program will begin on Monday in New York, where meetings have been arranged with U.N. officials on human rights, the Mideast, Southern Africa and the North/South dialogue. An afternoon roundtable chaired by Belgian U.N. Ambassador Andre Ernemann will discuss coordination by EC member states at the United Nations.

On Tuesday, the delegation will meet U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim in the morning and fly to Washington in the afternoon.

Meetings with their counterparts on Capitol Hill will begin with a plenary session Wednesday at 8:30 a.m. in the Rayburn House Office Building. Topics to be covered are the European security conference at Belgrade and development through the so-called Wittveen facility of the International Monetary Fund. Working groups on human rights and nuclear energy will convene in the afternoon, after a reception given by Speaker of the House Thomas P. (Tip) O'Neill (D-Mass.) and a Congressional luncheon.

On Thursday, an EC-U.S. plenary session will discuss the development of international trade and the dangers of protectionism, the situation in the Middle East and the prospects for a Geneva Mideast conference.

The EP delegation is expected to meet with Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, National Security adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski, Agriculture Secretary Bob Bergland and other U.S. administration officials on Thursday and Friday.

The European Parliament delegation consists of:

Mario Zagari (Italy), Chairman of the Delegation, Vice President of the European Parliament, Member of the Socialist Group

Jochem van Aerssen (Federal Republic of Germany), Member of the Christian-Democratic Group

Gustave Ansart (France), Vice Chairman of the Communist and Allies Group

Pierre Bourdelles (France), Member of the Liberal and Democratic Group

Lord Bruce of Donington (Great Britain), Member of the Socialist Group

Pierre-Bernard Couste (France), Treasurer of the Group of European Progressive Democrats

Maurice Dewulf (Belgium), Member of the Christian-Democratic Group

Maurice Faure (France), Member of the Socialist Group and in 1958 French Minister of the Interior

Ernest Glinne (Belgium), Vice Chairman of the Socialist Group, Chairman of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs and from 1973-74 Belgian Minister of Employment and Labor.

Horst Haase (Federal Republic of Germany), Member of the Socialist Group

Michael Herbert (Ireland), Member of the Group of European Progressive Democrats

Roger Houdet (France), Member of the Liberal and Democratic Group, Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture