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PRESS RELEASE

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PRESIDENT CARTER VISITS EC COMMISSION

The visit today by U.S. President Jimmy Carter to the Commission of the European Communities, the first by an American president, reflects the excellent relations between the Commission and the Carter administration, Commission President Roy Jenkins told the press in Brussels this afternoon.

Carter spent nearly two hours at the headquarters of the Commission, which is the executive and administrative branch of the European Community, on the final day of his nine-day, seven-nation foreign tour.

U.S.-EC concerns in Japanese-EC-U.S. relations, on North-South issues and on European Community development were discussed first in an informal meeting between Jenkins, Vice President Francois-Xavier Ortoli and Wilhelm Haferkamp on the EC side and Carter, National Security adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski and Special Trade Representative Robert Strauss on the U.S. side.

The group agreed, Jenkins told the press today, that the triangular relationship of the United States, Japan and the European Community is crucial to the industrialized world, but that the EC-Japan side of the triangle should be reinforced. Mention was also made of the trade imbalance for both the U.S. and the EC with Japan.

On North-South issues, Jenkins said that both parties recognized the danger of losing the initiative toward development of a common fund after the adjournment of UNCTAD (UN Conference on Trade and Development). President Jenkins underlined the necessity of arriving at a common position on the Common Fund, which would allow the revival of negotiations with reasonable chances of success. Jenkins also pointed out that progress should be made on the transfer of resources, particularly on those involved with public development aid and the debt. Jenkins said the initiative must be recaptured rather than continuing to react to events.

On issues of Community development, President Jenkins said he analyzed for President Carter and the U.S. delegation those perspectives concerning direct elections (to be held either in the fall of 1978 or the spring of 1979), the enlargement of the Community and the moves toward economic and monetary union.

In a subsequent meeting with the full 13-member Commission, President Carter participated in substantive talks on multilateral trade negotiations, on energy and on the economy, Jenkins told the press today.

Both U.S. and EC officials said they were pleased at the progress already made toward meeting the mid-January deadline for progress in the MTN's, and hoped that the rhythm could be maintained through 1978. A large measure of accord exists between the two parties, Jenkins said in his press conference, and with good will on each side the last difficulties should be resolved.

Jenkins said two of the remaining problems were: 1. The United States gives priority to tariff reductions while the Community gives more stress to non-tariff barriers. 2. Agriculture.

Jenkins added, however, that it was most important that a trade package be balanced. Both sides agreed, he said, that if progress is not made in the trade negotiations a retreat to protectionist measures will be inevitable.

On energy, the U.S. and EC sides agreed that relations were closer now than they had been for six months, but it was still necessary to avoid misunderstandings. Both agreed on the necessity of conserving energy and on reducing oil imports, and also on keeping options open on nuclear matters. The Commission underlined its wish for continued supplies from the United States of enriched uranium, Jenkins said in his press conference.

On the economy, President Carter told the Commission that the dollar was fundamentally strong. In reply, Commission Vice President Ortoli expressed EC pleasure at the measures taken recently by American authorities to support the dollar. He also underlined the importance to Europe of U.S. maintenance of a permanent monetary stability.

President Jenkins told the Brussels press that he would pay a return visit to Washington later this year. Jenkins visited the U.S. capital in the spring of 1977.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS -- JANUARY 1978

(All events are in Brussels unless otherwise noted)

- Jan. 16 - 20 European Parliament (Luxembourg)
- Jan. 16 - 17 Fisheries Council
- Jan. 17 Foreign Affairs Council
- Jan. 23 - 24 Agriculture Council
- Jan. 24 - 26 Public hearings on nuclear energy (second session)

