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E.C. CELEBRATES 35TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF ITS "GREAT ADVENTURE"

On May 9, 1950, Robert Schuman put forward a bold plan for lifting Western Europe out of the devastation of World War II. Schuman, then Foreign Minister of France, proposed to pool European coal and steel industries as a first step toward a centuries-old ideal--a united Europe.

Out of that proposal grew an enduring economic and political union that has brought peace, stability and prosperity to Europe under the framework of the European Community. Within the Community's 10 member states, May 9 is Schuman Day, a day for commemorating the plan that gave birth to what Sir Roy Denman, Head of the E.C.'s Delegation to the United States, calls "one of the great adventures of the 20th Century."

Schuman Day 1985 will be a particularly happy occasion, Sir Roy said, because of the recent "milestone in the unification of Europe"--the breakthrough in negotiations to bring Spain and Portugal into the Community.

This breakthrough will increase the E.C.'s population to 320 million, expand its support of democratic values and open a new window on relations with Latin America, Sir Roy said.

"The enlargement of the Community to a family of 12 will complete an evolution that is very much in line with the long support the United States has given to a united Europe," he said. President Ronald Reagan will reaffirm that support on the day before Schuman Day--the 40th anniversary of the end of war in Europe--when he becomes the first American President to address the European Parliament, Sir Roy noted.

During the accession negotiations, the E.C. overcame major internal divisions involving agriculture, industrial tariffs and fishing, Sir Roy said. "The Community has shown that it can get together and achieve its major goals, despite clashes of national interests over horrendously complicated issues."

The Community has also recently resolved conflicts over the size of its budget and the British budget contribution, Sir Roy noted. "The Community can now concentrate on the challenges of completing the free internal market, creating better economic growth, reforming the Common Agricultural Policy and developing other programs," he said.

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"There is no need for any more hand-wringing about 'Europessimism.' Europe is alive and kicking."

Schuman Day is a time to reflect that unification of Europe has made another European civil war unthinkable and has created prosperity that has had beneficial effects on the entire world trading system, Sir Roy said.

The philosophy of the Schuman Declaration of 1950 was stated like this: "The contribution which an organized and living Europe can bring to civilization is indispensable to the maintenance of peaceful relations." Declaring that "the gathering of the nations of Europe requires the elimination of the age-old opposition of France and Germany," it proposed that Franco-German coal and steel production be placed under a common High Authority within an organization open to other European countries.

Belgium, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands accepted the French proposal, signing the European Coal and Steel Community Treaty in Paris on April 18, 1951. The Six moved further toward integration on March 25, 1957, when they signed treaties in Rome establishing the European Economic Community (E.E.C.) and the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom).

The E.E.C. treaty created a vast single market, in which goods, labor and capital move freely. The Euratom treaty established a framework for coordinating the development of the peaceful use of nuclear energy in Europe.

On January 1, 1973, Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom joined the European Community. Greece became the 10th member on January 1, 1981. Spain and Portugal will become members of the E.C. on January 1, 1986.

The Community is the world's largest trading unit and a longtime advocate of world trade liberalization. It is a strong political ally of the United States, as well as its best customer. Linked by the Lomé Convention to 66 African, Caribbean and Pacific states, it has been a leader in supporting development in Third World countries.

Over the years, the Community has developed policies on agriculture, industry, energy, fisheries, the environment, science and technology and antitrust law, among other issues. Member states are gradually coordinating their foreign policies.