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Wire Service Only

October 20, 1983

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EC STATEMENT ON THE GILMORE STEEL ANTI-DUMPING  
PETITION ON STEEL PLATES FROM BELGIUM AND GERMANY

The Commission of the European Communities regrets the U.S. Department of Commerce decision to initiate, on the basis of a petition by Gilmore Steel, an anti-dumping investigation on imports of hot-rolled carbon steel plate from Belgium and the Federal Republic of Germany, a decision which it considers unfounded. This petition was not made on behalf of the industry allegedly affected, as required by Article 5(1) of the Anti-Dumping Code of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). Furthermore, exports of the products concerned are covered by the 1982 EC/US Steel Arrangement, which was accepted by the great majority of US producers. This arrangement is effective in reducing steel imports from the EC and therefore injury to the US industry is excluded.

There is no doubt that the EC has respected all the provisions of the Arrangement. In fact, US imports of steel mill products from the EC the first 8 months of this year were 37.6% lower than during the same period in 1982. However, in the same period imports from other sources (excluding Japan) increased by 29.6%. Therefore, it is difficult to imagine that injury has been caused by imports from the EC.

The EC Commission has requested consultations with the US authorities and these consultations will take place within the next days. The Commission will ensure that this case is dealt with in strict conformity with the relevant international rules.

In addition, Vice President Etienne Davignon of the Commission has already contacted Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige to make the views of the Commission known to him.

The Commission intends to avail itself of all the rights which the international rules and agreements confer.

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