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EEC COMMISSION PRESIDENT HAILS AGREEMENT ON  
EXCEPTIONS LIST FOR KENNEDY ROUND NEGOTIATIONS

WASHINGTON, D.C., November 16 --- President Walter Hallstein of the Common Market Commission yesterday hailed the EEC agreement on the Kennedy Round exceptions list as a good beginning toward success of the trade negotiations.

President Hallstein's statement came during a German television interview.

(The EEC Council of Ministers agreed yesterday on a list of products for complete and partial exemption from negotiated Kennedy Round tariff cuts. The list comprises about 19 per cent of total EEC dutiable imports. The list was scheduled for presentation this afternoon to the Executive Secretary of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, Eric Wyndham White, along with those of the other principal industrial nations participating in the negotiations.)

Here is the translation of President Hallstein's remarks:

"In a negotiation, lasting nearly 24 hours with almost no interruption, a great battle took place and was won by the European Community.

"The battle concerned the world-wide negotiations on tariff reductions getting underway now in Geneva, which aim at nothing less than a possible 50 per cent reduction of all duties. The result of these reductions, if achieved, will give a new and powerful impulse to world trade.

"The discussions concerned primarily exceptions to these general reductions. For this purpose, the Commission drew up a deliberately short list in order to guarantee the greatest conceivable success of the Geneva negotiation. The governments of the member states would have wished to make additions to this list, which had they been approved, would have resulted in a list two and one-half times as long as the Commission's. In the negotiations, the proposed additions to our list were limited to about a one-third increase. This means that, of the Community imports subject to

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tariffs, 70 per cent would come under the general rule (of 50 per cent reduction), about 20 per cent would also be subject to tariff reduction but less than the general rule of 50 per cent, and only 10 per cent will be completely excluded.

"We owe this success in the first place to the feeling of common European interests and the will of the delegations of the six member states to reach an understanding. We also owe it to the patient and persistent conduct of the negotiations by the current President of the Council, the Secretary of State for European questions in the Federal German Ministry of Economics, Dr. Fritz Neef. He can only be congratulated on the occasion of his first great international success. In the Commission, which made an important contribution to these negotiations, the main credit goes to the excellent work of my Belgian colleague Jean Rey, whose competence, patience and persistency has won general admiration. He was assisted by the director general of our administration particularly responsible for these questions, Pierre Millet, a European civil servant of French nationality.

"We are delighted at this success. First, because of the success itself, and second, because we would like to interpret it as a good omen for the next great and difficult question that we must settle immediately -- the creation of a European price for cereals."

(The Kennedy Round trade negotiation began officially in Geneva on May 4, 1964, after 12 months of preparatory debate on the methods and scope of the negotiations. The current talks were made possible by Congressional passage of the Trade Expansion Act in 1962 which gave the United States Administration for the first time adequate powers to participate fully in major international tariff-cutting. The Act authorizes reciprocal tariff cuts of up to 50 per cent to be made on almost all dutiable products. All contracting parties to GATT, now numbering 70, will participate in the talks. However, the principal bargaining will involve the United States and the European Economic Community, the two parties having the major amount of trade at stake.)