

# THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

P R E S S R E L E A S E

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY • EUROPEAN COAL AND STEEL COMMUNITY • EUROPEAN ATOMIC ENERGY COMMUNITY

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## COMMON MARKET MAKES SCHEDULED REDUCTION IN INTERNAL DUTIES

WASHINGTON, D.C., December 31 -- In accordance with the provisions of the Treaty of Rome, a new 10-percent reduction in customs duties on trade within the Common Market will be made tomorrow (January 1).

Customs duties on trade in industrial products within the Community will be brought down to 30 percent of the base level of 1957.

Tomorrow, duties on most liberalized agricultural products will move to 50 percent of 1957 levels. For other agricultural products, the reduction will be to 45 percent of 1957 levels.

Tariff reductions that the EEC member states accord each other are also applied to imports into the Community from the Associated African States and Madagascar.

The EEC Commission has proposed to the six member states that all internal duties be abolished by the end of 1966. In the event that such a decision is taken, the customs union between the Six will come into effect on January 1, 1967 -- three years in advance of the date set for the end of the Community's transition period.

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