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AGRICULTURAL BACKGROUND NOTE

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EUROPEAN COMMUNITY CLEARS WAY FOR NEW FOOD AID CONVENTION

Today the European Community and its member states became members (subject to parliamentary approval) of the Wheat Trade Convention -- an arrangement for international cooperation on wheat -- and the Food Aid Convention -- a joint food aid scheme. Thus, the conventions can go into force on July 1.

These conventions were first negotiated in 1971 and have now been extended for an additional period of two years. The Community and its member states have committed themselves to maintaining the framework for international cooperation in wheat trade and to supply 1,287,000 tons of food grains and related products as food aid.