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## WHITE HOUSE PRESS GUIDANCE

President's Meeting with EC President Ortoli  
February 24, 1976

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President Ford and President of the Commission of European Communities Francois-Xavier Ortoli met this morning for a broad-ranging discussion of issues of mutual interest to the United States and the EC. Other participants in the meeting included President Ortoli's Chef de Cabinet Philippe de Margerie, the Head of the EC Delegation in Washington Fernand Spaak, Deputy Secretary of State Robert Ingersoll and Brent Scowcroft.

The President welcomed this opportunity to meet again with President Ortoli and to review economic developments in the United States and Europe since their meeting in Brussels last May. The two leaders expressed satisfaction with the improving economic picture on both sides of the Atlantic, paced by the strong recovery in the United States. They also discussed measures being taken to promote full economic recovery among all the industrialized democracies following the economic slowdown of 1974-75.

The two leaders discussed bilateral US-EC trade issues. President Ford took this occasion to reaffirm the United States' longstanding commitment to a policy of trade liberalization within the limits of our laws and the requirements of our domestic industry.

The two Presidents discussed various international issues, including the European Community's attention to developments in Southern Europe.

The President and President Ortoli agreed that relations between the United States and the EC are very good and noted with satisfaction their continuing useful bilateral dialog on political and economic issues of mutual interest. They discussed the prospects for greater European unity and, in this connection, the President reaffirmed American support for a vigorous and strong Europe working in friendship and harmony with the United States.

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Q: What specific trade issues were discussed? Did the ITC action on shoes come up?

A: do not know what specific trade issues were discussed or in how much detail.

Q: Did the two Presidents' discuss the Tindemans Report on European Union?

A: I understand that the report was discussed and that the President was interested in learning more about the European reaction to the report.

Q: Did the President offer any views on Tindemans' recommendations with respect to US-EC relations?

A: He did not. The President believes that it is for the European Community to determine the pace and nature of further progress toward unity as well as how it wishes to proceed on Prime Minister Tindemans' specific proposals.

Q: Has the President met with Ortoli before?

A: Yes, the President met with President Ortoli in Brussels last May.

Q: What exactly does Ortoli do -- in fact, what does the Commission do?

A: President Ortoli is the ranking official of the EC Commission, one of the principal EC institutions. Appointed by the national governments of the EC members, the Commission makes proposals it considers to be in the best interests of the Community. In brief, it initiates policy and then drafts the laws to carry it out. The Commission is also responsible for making certain that the member countries follow Community law. Policies initiated by the Commission are referred to the Council of Ministers, the Community's main decision-making body. Each of the 13 Commission members is responsible for one or more main Community activity, such as agriculture and foreign trade.

Q: What nationality is Ortoli and how long has he had this job?

A: President Ortoli is French and became President of the Commission in January, 1973. His term of office concludes at the end of this year.