

# Prosperity, Political Unity Predicted For Western Europe Under Common Market

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Under the European Common Market, Western Europe has risen to heights of unprecedented prosperity and looks ahead to political as well as economic unity. But formidable obstacles still lie in the way of final success. In the following dispatch, the first of three, UPI Foreign News Analyst Phil Newsom discusses progress of the Common Market up to now and the issues which will determine whether this bold attempt to reshape the map of Europe is to be miracle or mirage.)

By PHIL NEWSOM  
UPI Foreign News Analyst

In prosperous, busy Brussels, Christmas lights glow through the chill mists of early evening. In the streets, French Peugeot nudge German Volkswagens in holiday traffic that scarcely moves.

In Brussels' largest department store, Yvette Vandendorpe, a pretty Belgian housewife, and her little daughter, Karin, move slowly along packed aisles to admire Dutch furniture, German toys and a stuffed poodle made in Italy.

Brussels is the headquarters city of the six-nation Common Market. Its prosperity is an accurate reflection of an explosive phenomenon which has boosted

unprecedented heights the economics of Belgium, France, West Germany, Italy, The Netherlands and Luxembourg.

**May Be Mirage**

But beneath the smooth surface other currents are moving which will determine whether the European community ever is to be anything but a trading bloc and whether the dream of unity is to prove a mirage which disappears before the harsh realities of nationalism, ancient hatreds and the ambitions of individual men.

This correspondent, on the third trip to Europe this year to assess and report on progress of the Common Market, found these elements at work.

—The British government of Prime Minister Harold Macmillan, which has staked its future on British entry into the Common Market, has been negotiating with the six for more than a year without success. Meanwhile, British policy-making, both foreign and domestic, remains in a state of paralysis.

—President Charles de Gaulle of France, aiming at European leadership, is indifferent if not actively hostile to British membership. De Gaulle, instead, has proposed that France and West Germany should step up immediately their "organic cooperation" without waiting for European political unity as a whole

and without waiting for Britain. **Small Nation's Suspicious**

—The small nations, notably Belgium and The Netherlands, suspect De Gaulle's motives and are especially fearful of a Paris-Bonn axis which would reduce them to the rank of second-class citizens in the community. They feel that British membership is essential, if only as a modifying factor.

—A feeling among top Common Market leadership, although not shared by all, that Britain herself is negotiating from an unrealistic position and that, despite the consequences, British entry may be delayed for as long as five years or more.

Beyond the polite, cautious words at the negotiating table, the British are grimly determined to "negotiate and negotiate and negotiate," indefinitely.

But in private they frankly share the small nations' distrust of De Gaulle's projected Paris-Bonn axis and his good faith when it comes to permitting British entry.

Bitterly remarked one member of the British delegation: "I think that if we offered today to come in on their terms, they would think of something that we overlooked."

Other elements complicate the British government position.

**Interests of Commonwealth**

One is her attempt to protect the interests of the Commonwealth nations with whom she has traditional ties.

Another is an approaching British election which must be held at the latest in October, 1964. The Labor party has hardened its position against British entry except on specific and favorable terms.

In the House of Commons, Laborite Harold Wilson, a member of the party's "shadow cabinet," twitted Lord Privy Seal Edward Heath that more than a year of negotiations so far had netted not much more than free Common Market entry for kangaroo meat.

The charge was uncomfortably close to the truth.

Heath's task is made more formidable by stubborn refusal of the six to reopen their own hard-won agreement on agriculture which was reached at 5:20 a.m. last Jan. 14, after negotiators had stopped the clock and

two of them had suffered heart attacks.

A chief stumbling block and a good example is the question of wheat.

Within the Common Market, German support prices are the highest, French the lowest.

**British Supports Lowest**

British supports, following Britain's traditional cheap food policies, are the lowest of all.

By 1970, prices are scheduled to become uniform throughout the six, reducing high and un-economic German farm prices to a level still not determined but probably somewhere around the present French level.

For Britain it would raise con-

sumer prices an estimated 12 per cent.

Britain has agreed to meet the 1970 deadline but has asked for certain interim concessions to help ease the economic blow.

She also has sought some delay in the levy of duties on grains and other agricultural products from Commonwealth nations which now enter Britain duty-free, and for firm assur-

ances that Commonwealth exports will not be priced out of the Common Market by excessively high duties.

**Both Requests Refused**

On both requests she has met adamant refusal.

Britain's position is that she is fighting not only her own battle but for the United States and other grain-producing nations as well.

In this she has been joined by United States Secretary of Agriculture Orville L. Freeman who has described Common Market agriculture policies as "unreasonable and arbitrary" and has warned community officials that trade must be a two-way street.

It was a thinly veiled reference to a suspicion that the Common Market will become an inward-looking commercial club designed to exclude others rather than an outward-looking group trying to expand world trade.

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