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EEC: Looking back with pleasure - Looking ahead with concern

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EEC

Looking Back with Pleasure Looking Ahead with Concern

The EEC's official anniversary celebrations were not merely marginal to the summit meeting held in Rome on 29th and 30th May of this year. The statesmen assembled on the Capitol were able to look back with satisfaction at a development initiated 10 years ago, when the EEC Treaty was signed in Rome. Their achievements over one decade give them grounds for pride and satisfaction and it was not exaggerated for the Heads of State and Government to describe the results obtained hitherto as "an unparalleled co-operative success".

On 1st July, 1968, two years before expiry of the interim period provided for in the Treaty, the customs union will become effective and a common agricultural policy will be enforced. EEC is halfway along the road mapped out for it in the Treaty of Rome. The ideas and institutions of the Community are already too deeply rooted in the life of its member states for there to be any backward glances. But economic integration is not yet complete and one cannot help wondering how far it will be possible to fulfil the tasks ahead and, in particular, the economic desiderata of the EEC Treaty only when the political unification of Europe takes place.

Over the last 10 years any initial euphoria about political integration has died down. Member states now see EEC primarily as a sober, economic concern. Views about the manner and extent of political integration vary widely.

The EEC Treaty is not determined by a homogeneous concept, but is rather the result of a compromise negotiated by the governments. So whatever is economically reasonable and politically possible shows itself as standard of judgment for the European integration. It is possible that EEC's progress will also depend upon whether it is successful in creating a solid foundation for economic integration by means of increasing political unification. Considered in this light, the outlook from the Roman Capitol can be described not only as looking back with pleasure, but looking ahead with concern. *Wolfgang Reisener*

Political Integration

The concept of political integration is constantly being used in contradictory senses—most recently in the television interviews in connection with the negotiations in Rome. If, by political integration, we mean nothing more than politico-economical integration, as laid down in the original Rome agreements, then this is an integral part of the EEC, even though the Community has fallen considerably behind with politico-economical integration, although not with the removal of customs barriers. Customs unions and free trade zones are no longer sufficient since the autonomous trade cycle policy has replaced the automatic business cycle, the former being tailored to the re-