
**EEC—PORTUGUESE
TERRITORIES**

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Association Offered

The European Economic Community has indicated that Portugal's African colonies will be welcome to apply for association with the Common Market as they move towards independence.

M. Claude Cheysson, Commissioner for Development Aid, said he hoped **Mozambique** and **Guinea Bissau** would soon join the 44 developing countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific that are currently negotiating a new trade and aid convention with the Community (p. 3214A). Commission officials added that the same would obviously apply to **Angola** when it reached a similar stage in its own independence drive.

M. Cheysson stressed, however, that it would be up to the governments of the countries concerned to decide whether or not they wanted to participate in the new convention, due to be signed around the end of this year. Mozambique and Guinea Bissau could apply to participate in the negotiations before they were completed, M. Cheysson said. Alternatively, they could ask to join the new convention after it had been signed. (FT 10/9)