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## EDITORIAL

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For centuries speculations have been made about life on other planets. Recently a television newflash caught my eye. An English scientist claims to have discovered a new planet outside our Milky Way. Could some form of life possibly exist on it? And if it does, what would it make of a planet like ours if it had the opportunity to observe us at close range?

Would it be able to make heads or tails of human interactions and relationships which even for us remain confusing and barely definable? What would it make of the contradictions of daily life?

For years the European Community has been working on creating an internal market. The goal of total economic integration seems within reach, although differences become more evident as the deadline of December 31, 1992 approaches. In contrast to this unification, next-door neighbour Yugoslavia is in the midst of a separation. Another example is that the world superpowers have reached a consensus on the reduction of arms whilst other states are making clandestine attempts to increase their arms supplies without paying any attention to the rules and organizations of international law.

Contradictions seem to be a part of everyday life but in some important sectors of the international community differences should be set aside in order to achieve certain goals. A step in the right direction has been made in, for instance, the field of international environment protection by the planning of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, which will take place in 1992.

Hopefully this and other forms of cooperation will lead to a more direct communication between nations, also in other spheres. Whether this will be the case, remains to be seen.