

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

# Working Documents

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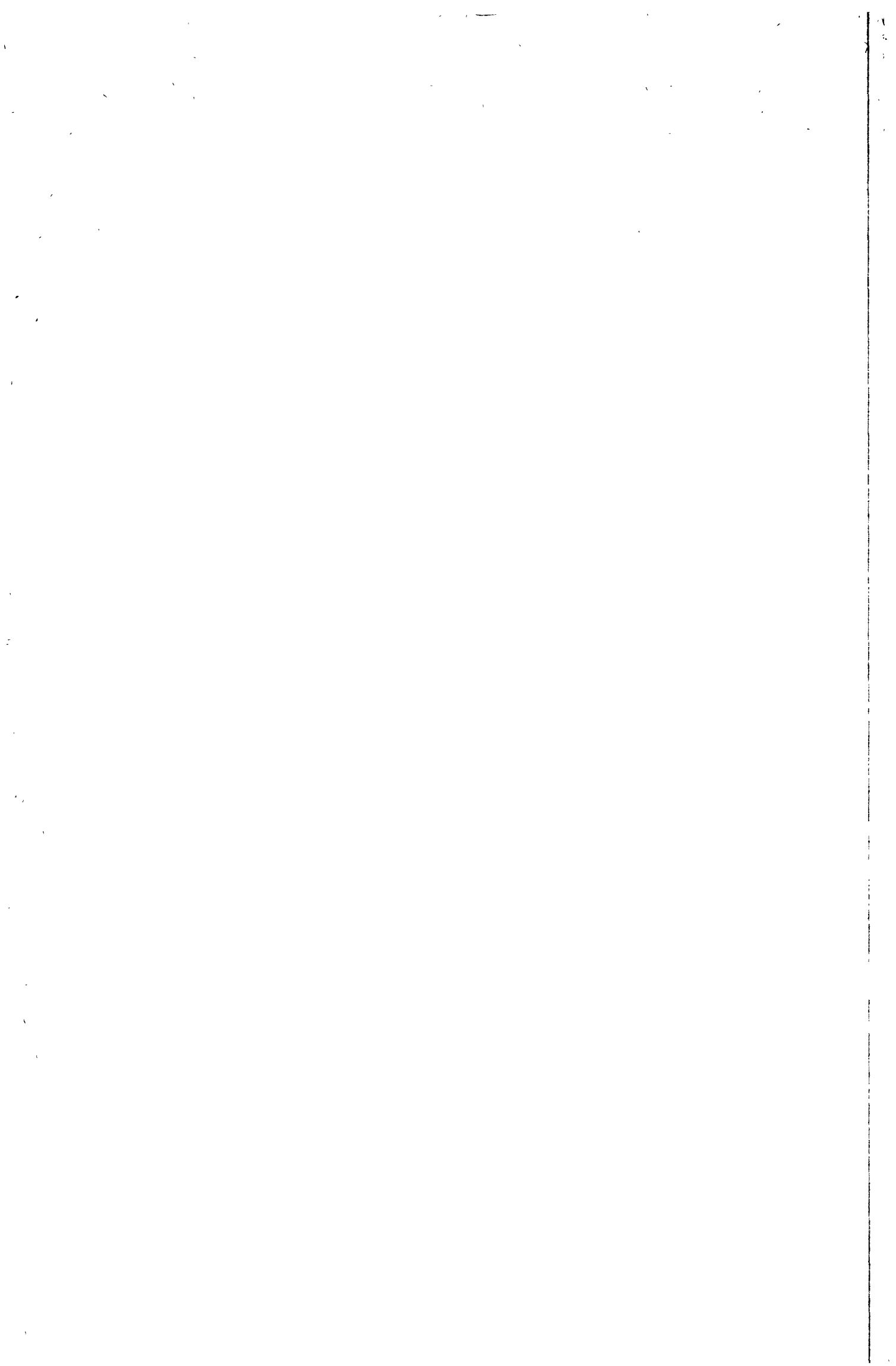
DOCUMENT 1-17/80

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr N. BLANEY, Mrs L. CASTELLINA  
and Mr COPPIETERS

pursuant to Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure

on the violation of human rights in the Community



The European Parliament,

- whereas the founders of the European Community were, in the words of the preamble to the Rome Treaty, 'resolved..... to preserve and strengthen peace and liberty',
- whereas the Coal and Steel Community was established, in the words of the preamble to the Paris Treaty, 'to create.... the basis for a broader and deeper community among peoples long divided by bloody conflicts',
- whereas the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission, in their Joint Declaration made on April 5 1977, stressed the prime importance they attach to the protection of fundamental rights, as derived in particular from the Constitutions of the Member States and the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms,
- whereas all Member States are signatories of the said Convention, and a proposal that the Community as such should adhere to it is under examination,
- whereas the European Parliament has always attached extreme importance to respect for fundamental human rights in all parts of the world, not least in the countries with which it is linked under the Lomé Convention
- whereas in 1969 the Community's institutional links with Greece were suspended because of the denial of human rights and liberties that resulted from the right-wing coup d'état in that country,
- whereas rapid moves are taking place towards considering the whole of the Community as a single 'judicial area',

1. Notes with dismay

- that the territory of the Six Counties of North-East Ireland, under the direct rule of the Government at Westminster, is subject to special legislation which provides for detention without trial, detention for up to seven days in isolation with relentless interrogation while denied access to legal advice, and for trial by special non-jury courts in which confessions extracted during such interrogation may be accepted as sole evidence for conviction;
- that in the past eight years the activities of the British armed forces and police authorities in the area have been conducted with such severity that under this special legislation some 20,000 persons have been detained for up to seven days and some 300,000 homes searched;
- that of these 20,000 persons detained for up to seven days, some 12,000



have been released without charge and without either explanation or compensation for being detained, often subject to severe ill-treatment and abuse;

- that some 360 persons convicted by these special non-jury courts (in many cases on no other evidence than confessions extracted during interrogation in isolation), who refuse to wear prison uniform on the grounds that they are special category prisoners, are, at present, stripped naked and denied all basic rights.
  - that these prisoners held in the H-Blocks of the prison at Long Kesh are provided only with a blanket and no other furniture than a mattress thrown on the floor, locked in their cells for 24 hours a day, allowed no exercise, no books, newspapers, video or television, permitted only one visit from screened relatives per month, (and then only if they consent to don prison garb), denied the right to write and send out letters and are alleged to be subjected to regular beatings and ill-treatment and denied access to legal or medical advice.
  - that the British authorities have refused to allow inspection of the H-Blocks by the International Red Cross, by Amnesty International or by public representatives (other than selected British M.P.'s)
2. Recalls that the European Court of Human Rights has already found Britain guilty of ill-treating Irish prisoners, but that no effort has been made by the British authorities to bring to justice or even remove from office those persons responsible for such ill-treatment
  3. Recalls that Amnesty International, as recently as October 1979, expressed anxiety to the British authorities about the ill-treatment of these prisoners
  4. Renews its condemnation of all infringements of fundamental human rights, wherever they may occur
  5. Expresses its deep concern at the denial of such rights to citizens of the European Community in the six counties as a result of the special legislation in force there, and the conditions of imprisonment
  6. Instructs its Legal Committee to conduct an enquiry into the denial of human rights in the six counties and to report back to the Parliament
  7. Instructs its President to notify the Commission, the Council and the Member States of this resolution, and of the desire of the Parliament to see full respect for fundamental human rights and liberties restored and respected throughout the Community.

