

•Brussels, 6 May 1993.

NOTE BIO (93) 122 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
cc. aux Membres du Service du Porte-Parole

441. 2 (10'3)

Fifth EC-US Transatlantic ministerial meeting

The fifth EC-US Transatlantic ministerial meeting will take place in Washington on May 7, 1993. President Delors will attend, with Sir Leon Brittan and Hans van den Broek.

From 1989 onwards, the effects on the geopolitical situation of the profound political and economic changes in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union made it desirable for the EC and the US to reinforce the EC-US relationship. As a consequence, dialogue in EC-US relations was extended beyond traditional trade issues areas. This extended dialogue found its public expression in the Transatlantic Declaration on EC-US relations of 23 November 1990.

The EC-US Transatlantic Declaration can be looked upon as a stock-taking of EC-US relations at a given point, but also as a foundation for further structural development of the EC-US relationship.

The Transatlantic Declaration also sets out an institutional framework for consultation in all fields of common interest, including bi-annual consultations :

- between the US President and the Presidents of the European Council and of the Commission,
- the EC Foreign Ministers, with the Commission, and the US Secretary of State,
- ad hoc consultations between the Presidency Foreign Minister or the Troika (the former, present and future Presidents of the EC Council and the Commission) and the US Secretary of State,
- the Commission and the US Government at Cabinet level.

In addition to the meetings under the Declaration, ad hoc bilateral meetings take place between the President of the Commission and the President of the United States, as well as other Ministerial contacts, for instance at Western Economic Summits and other multilateral meetings. Individual Commissioners have also established an intensive dialogue with their US counterparts.

The meeting will start at 10 am on Friday (Washington time) with a meeting between Messrs Clinton, Rasmussen and Delors. It will be followed by a plenary meeting and a working lunch, to which Sir Leon Brittan and Mr van den Broek will attend.

Around 2 pm a final statement will be issued at the White House. Messrs Rasmussen and Delors will hold a press conference at 2.30 pm at the National Press Center.

This will be the first institutionalised meeting between the EC and the Clinton administration (Jacques Delors met President Clinton on 19 March).

Three main topics will be on the agenda :

- the strengthening of transatlantic relations and EC-US cooperation,
- the world economic situation, and in particular the European Growth Initiative, the support for reforms in Russia, the preparation of the G-7 meeting in Tokyo and trade issues,
- the political situation, particularly in former Yugoslavia, Eastern Europe and the Middle East.

The US administration will be represented, apart from President Clinton, by Messrs Gore, Bentsen, Christopher, Aspin, Kantor, Lake and Rubin.

Amitiés,
Bruno Dethomas

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bruno Dethomas', with a stylized, wavy flourish extending to the right.

Bruxelles, le 10 mai 1993.

**NOTE BIO (93) 122 (suite 1 et fin) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
cc. aux Membres du Service du Porte-Parole**

Cinquième rencontre transatlantique, le 7 mai à Washington

La cinquième réunion transatlantique s'est déroulée le 7 mai à la Maison Blanche de 10h30' à 14h30'. Après un entretien à trois (président Bill Clinton, premier ministre danois Poul Rasmussen et Jacques Delors), une réunion plénière et un déjeuner de travail ont réuni l'ensemble des délégués (pour la Commission: Sir Leon Brittan, Hans van den Broek, David Williamson, Pascal Lamy et l'ambassadeur Van Agt).

Le tête à tête a porté pour l'essentiel sur la Bosnie ainsi que sur la construction européenne et les questions commerciales. La réunion plénière s'est concentrée sur les relations transatlantiques et leur développement, la Russie et l'environnement tandis qu'au déjeuner étaient traités le GATT, les perspectives de la Grande Europe et le processus de paix au Proche Orient.

Vous trouverez, ci-dessous, les propos liminaires des trois chefs de délégation sur le perron de la Maison Blanche ; ces propos reflètent bien la substance et l'esprit de ces conversations.

Quote "

President Bill Clinton : Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. We have just completed our first meeting of the leaders of the United States and the European Community. I would like to offer a warm welcome to Washington, and the White House, to Prime Minister Rasmussen, and to President Delors. I had the pleasure of meeting with President Delors earlier, in March, and I'm delighted now to have the opportunity to see the Prime Minister in Denmark and the leader of the EC.

Before I comment on some elements of the meeting, I want to describe first, the attitude of this administration toward the European Community.

It often seems to be the case that there is a great deal of focus, understandably, on some of the trade disputes that divide us rather than the bonds which unite us. It's useful to recall that our common ground is far, far wider than the areas of disagreement.

The United States has long been a strong proponent of European unity and the importance of our transatlantic ties. Thirty-one years ago, President Kennedy made a statement that I believe holds as true today as it did then.

He said we see in Europe a partner with whom we could deal on the basis of full equality in all the great and burdensome tasks of building and defending a community of free nations. That same vision guides this administration. The European Community is our largest single trade and investment partner.

Our relationships with Europe are directly responsible for an inordinate number of American jobs, and if we cultivate that relationship properly and grow our trade and investment, it will mean more economic opportunities for the American people.

Even more important, perhaps, is our shared commitment to democratic values, to the protection of basic human rights, and to our collective responsibility to assist others who aspire to those values in their own society.

We fully support Europe's efforts toward further integration and we will work with the European Community to achieve our common goals.

We believe a strong and united European Community as a key partner in the pressing problems around the world is very much in the interest of the United States.

I want our partnership to be effective in finding solutions to the problems that we face together and to those few problems which continue to divide us.

Today we agreed to provide leadership to assure a successful conclusion to the Uruguay Round. A new GATT agreement could spark economic recovery in Europe and create waves of growth around the world.

I have worked quite hard on this in the last several weeks. Just a few days ago I met with the finance ministers and the central bankers from the G-7 countries, and I said to them what I said today to Primer Minister Rasmussen and what I reiterated to President Delors: the United States wants a successful GATT round and we are prepared to take a lot of trouble to get it done. And we agreed that we would take a lot of trouble to get it done. We agreed that we would do that.

My guests and I are committed to wrapping up these negotiations by the end of the year. We've directed our negotiators to proceed urgently with other trading partners to restore momentum to the negotiations. Our aim is to have tangible progress to report when Prime Minister Miyazawa hosts us in Tokyo in July.

We also reviewed the continuing tragedy in the Balkans. We agreed to work closely to avert further aggression against innocent populations. I have already answered some questions about this today, and I think I will let my guests make their statements before we make further comments.

We discussed our common efforts to support democratic reform in Russia, Ukraine and the other newly independent States of the former Soviet Union.

The results of the referendum in Russia clearly indicates support for the approach that we have taken. We agreed that the G-7 summit partners must continue to demonstrate their support for reform in Russia and in these other countries. I thank the EC leaders for the role they have

played in encouraging the Middle East peace talks and the support they have given to the United States in working toward a successful conclusion to those talks.

We also had a brief discussion about the growing similarity of our approaches toward protection of our environment and other global problems. These are areas in which we can do more together. I asked the Prime Minister for some advice on health care and how they dealt with that in Denmark. We talked a little bit about the role of training the work force and its impact on productivity and how we needed to make both Europe and the United States more competitive in the global environment.

And we agreed that we had a lot of things that we could learn from each other on and work together on.

We believe, finally, that we have proved in Europe and the United States that you can have societies that are diverse and strong, societies that have a rich mosaic of different cultures, but band together in common values of democracy and economic freedom and human rights.

We know from the hard experience of this century the importance of collective action in Europe to advance our common security. For all these reasons, I believe today more strongly than ever that we share a future of cooperation and progress.

Thank you both for coming to Washington. I look forward to the progress we can make together in the weeks and months and years ahead.

Prime Minister Poul Rasmussen : I wish to join the president of the United States in his positive appreciation of the result of this meeting. We have had throughout constructive talks, and of all important issues. I think we have been basing our talks on openness and on common ground.

In view of the initiative of the Danish presidency to strengthen the transatlantic dialogue, I find that the consultations today were most encouraging. May I mention that we have underlined and we did agree today, I think, that the American-EC consensus on the need to strengthen our cooperation, not least on the economic growth area and the need for creating new employment, is so important that it did play a major role in our discussion, and I feel that we also, as the true upholders of democracy and free markets, have a wide range of jobs to do together.

That leads me, Mr. President, to the subject you mentioned yourself, which I feel that the whole world are awaiting upon the next answer to give. We have had an extensive and useful discussion on the tragic conflict in the former Yugoslavia, in particular in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

We both confirmed and confirmed ourselves in having responsibility here. We both agreed upon the need to go forward together. And it is my view that this will happen.

On Monday, the foreign ministers will meet in Brussels, of the EC. We have seen some new developments during the last couple of days. Let me mention the most important ones. The leadership in Belgrade have said they will isolate the Serbs in Bosnia. Consequently, we must keep President Milosevic to his word.

Secondly, this means that the Bosnian Serbs now defy the whole international community's acceptance of the Vance-Owen plan. We therefore do not take the so-called Bosnian parliament's "no" for an answer.

And thirdly, I think that the international community, in particular the United States, the European Community, and Russia, is considering ways to increase the pressure on the Serbs in Bosnia.

And may I confirm also, Mr. President, that the effectiveness of the sanction has been a very, very important help, and important effects, and I want to thank you of our effective cooperation in that area also.

Let me finalize my comment about the Bosnian case. We keep all options open. We must continue to follow the path we have taken up till now, namely, that any additional measure should be taken, and that we should take it together under the auspices of the United Nations Security Council.

Allow me to turn to a few other major issues which I think are important. You mentioned yourself, Mr. President, the revitalization of the world economy.

I was very happy today to state that, after comments by President Delors and yourself, we did confirm each other, once more, in more details, that progresses on the GATT negotiations and the Uruguay Round should be realized, and would be realized also, so that we together at the G-7 meeting in summer, can present some good and positive results.

I feel also that our discussion about Russia was very promising, and I want to thank you about these interesting positive attitudes.

And may I finalize by underlining our environmental common issue and goals. Once more I feel that what we have done today is the next important step also in environmental question. What we do in Europe, and what you do in the United States, do have important issues and effects on our both countries and situations.

So what you shall do once more is to cooperate, be it economics, be it foreign policy, be it the threat of war in Bosnia.

Thank you so much for a good meeting and very constructive attitude, Mr. President.

President Jacques Delors : President, Prime Minister, just a few words after the declaration of Mr. Rasmussen. My colleagues and myself thank President Clinton to give us the opportunity to a discussion. I don't come back on Bosnia, but the discussion was very fruitful, just before an important meeting of the ministers of foreign relations next Monday in Brussels.

On the other subjects, we have deepened our discussion on the Uruguay Round, and since my first visit to President Clinton, I note that we have made progress together in term of procedure, and also in term of substance. We concentrate our mind on the market access, with the option to finalize concrete results, and to come back to Geneva through a multilateral declaration.

We have also spoken about the economic outlook. For the first time the Community has taken an initiative at the European level, mixed initiative with communitarian action and national action, to improve the situation of the economy. We expect more growth with this first package, but we intend to rule over the situation and to complete, if possible, this package as far as the room of manoeuvre of the Community and each country, allow the possibility to complete this package.

And we have also discussed about the future framework of the large Europe with the efforts made by the Community to open their market to the Eastern European countries, and also to have with these countries close cooperation, not only on the economic field, but also in the political field.

" Unquote

Amitiés,
Bruno Dethomas

