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KOHL, CLINTON AND DELORS VOW TO REINFORCE TRANSATLANTIC TIES IN EFFORT TO CREATE JOBS AND HELP CENTRAL AND EAST EUROPE

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, as President of the European Council, and European Commission President Jacques Delors met with US President Bill Clinton in Berlin yesterday for the seventh EU-US Presidential summit since the signing of the Transatlantic Declaration in November 1990.

Following their meetings, which focussed on many of the same economic issues as last weekend's G-7 summit in Naples, President Delors said in a joint press conference that the European Union and the United States would work together to restore prosperity to all the world. He said they were preparing a conference in Brussels, as a follow-up to the Detroit Jobs Conference last March, to look at new information technologies and their implications for employment, training, work organization and society.

Following is a summary of the discussions released at the press conference:

At the center of our discussion today in Berlin was the need to develop closer ties and more effective cooperation and consultation between the United States and the European Union on a means of furthering our common political and economic goals. We agreed on the need to reinforce and improve our dialogue and cooperation in a broad and constructive way.

On Central and Eastern European countries (CEECs), we agree to strengthen the efforts to support their economic and political reform process, to cooperate closely on all aspects of our respective assistance programs and to draw Central and East European countries closer to the European Union during the coming years. We encourage more effective intra-regional economic and political cooperation among the CEECs. We wish to work together to assure the success of the Partnership for Peace program as well as the Stability Pact initiatives. We also agree to improve and intensify our respective relations with the Russian Federation.

With respect to growth and employment, we examined the efforts undertaken on both sides of the Atlantic and agree that our economies have to adapt better to change. The outlook for growth is much improved, but problems persist with the quality and quantity of jobs. The major challenge we face is the need to promote the skills of our citizens, so that they thrive on change and to ensure that good quality jobs are available for them. Protectionism and resistance to technological progress would destroy jobs. Structural policies need to emphasize investment in people and to encourage job creation.

We agree on the need to strengthen our common efforts in order to cope with the growing problem of internationally organized crime and drug trafficking. For this purpose, we want a more efficient and better organized dialogue between the EU and the US. We should aim at combined actions to prevent drug abuse, assist third countries in their fight against drug production and transit, and to establish a more structured cooperation between the United States, EU member states and the Commission in the fight against internationally organized crime.

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We briefly discussed important current issues such as **the situation in Bosnia** where we welcomed the close cooperation established between the US and the EU. We are convinced that only a combined effort from both of us can contribute to bring lasting peace to the region.

In order to improve the functioning of US/EU transatlantic summits and to make them more effective and operational we have asked our representatives to act as personal contact points in order to coordinate and facilitate work by experts in follow-up of the summit meeting. In preparation of the next summit meeting and as part of our efforts to examine the possibilities to improve cooperation between US, EU member states and the Commission we have asked for reports by US and EU experts on two items:

- the definition of ways and means to strengthen democracy and economic cooperation with and between Central and Eastern European countries through combined US-EU actions.
- the definition of ways and means to improve joint efforts in our international relations and to fight organized international crime and drug trafficking.

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