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ON THE OCCASION OF THE DINNER
OFFERED BY THE COMMISSION OF THE EEC COMMUNITY
IN JAKARTA ON 28 FEBRUARY 1979

Mr. Minister, Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our Conference is now coming to an end.

I would like first of all to use this opportunity

to extend our sincere thanks to the ASEAN organisers
for the excellent work which has been made in the
preparation and execution of it.

It has been obvious from the beginning

that no efforts have been spared
to ensure that the physical arrangements and the
atmosphere of the Conference would give it the best
possible chances of success.

I think that I can say on behalf of all the participants

that the results of these efforts have exceeded our highest
expectations.

Thank you.

A very special thank must be given

to our host country Indonesia,
its President, Vice president and Ministers
and to the many government officials
who have been involved in the arrangements.

In particular

In particular,

I would like to thank the national ASEAN Secretariat
and the Department of Industry

who - I understand - have been most directly involved
for their never failing energy and enthusiasm
and for the kindness and friendliness

with which they have dealt with the representatives
of the Commission.

Indonesia has provided

a magnificent framework for the Conference
and has guided it

with an impressive authority and effectiveness.

To this I must add our gratitude

for the overwhelming friendliness and hospitality
which we have received.

It is customary to draw conclusions at the end of a Conference.

If we examine

If we examine what has happened this week
the results are gratifying.

I am convinced
that we have reached the goal we set for ourselves
when we began our preparations a year or so ago.

I said in my opening statement
that the purpose of the Conference
was the establishment of contacts between industrialists
in the two regions
and not a sequence of formal declarations.

It is still too early
to draw definite conclusions on the outcome of the Conference.

We know however from an on-the-spot investigation
that numerous promising contacts have been established
between potential partners in our two regions.

Clearly not all these contacts

Clearly not all these contacts will produce concrete results,
but if the pattern has been repeated with all the participants
in the Conference,

we can assume that the grounds have been laid
for a very substantial cooperation between enterprises
in ASEAN and the Community.

If we look beyond the immediate advantages of this kind of cooperation
it may also make a significant contribution at the micro level
by bringing about the further development of the economy
of the ASEAN region.

This is important

in the context of the interdependence between the developing
and the developed countries

which is becoming evermore apparent

and which necessitates growth in the developing as well as
in the industrialised countries

if the world economy is to start moving again.

This Conference

This Conference is therefore

a constructive contribution to the dialogue between the developed and the developing countries.

The Conference is about to disperse

but I suggest that it is not over.

We must hope

that what has been done here in Jakarta in the last 3 days is only a beginning.

The momentum we have created

is bound to continue at the level of contacts

between the businessmen of Europe and of ASEAN.

To give added impetus to the development of those contacts

we should examine other possibilities

and in particular the idea agreed during the Brussels Ministerial Meeting last November

of setting up a Trade and Investment Forum

to ensure continuing contacts between the business community of the two regions.

The Commission of the European Communities

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is ready to do all it can on the European side

to assure that this is brought about as soon as possible.

We and the ASEAN governments can, however, be no more than honest brokers.

Our role will be

to bring the right people from the business community together and then leave them to decide

how cooperation can best be realised.

I would like to reiterate our sincere thanks to our ASEAN and Indonesian colleagues

whose untiring efforts have made an invaluable contribution

to the success of this Conference

and for the spirit of ASEAN friendliness

which has been displayed at every stage during the proceedings.

The European Community

The European Community is full of admiration for the progress
which ASEAN has made in the last four years

both politically and economically
and I would invite everyone

to rise to toast

the continued solidarity and progress
of the Association of South East Asian Nations
and the continued cooperation between ASEAN and Europe.