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ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE COMMISSION
OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

M. Jean REY

at the opening of "Europeday" at Expo 1970
at Osaka, March 25, 1970

Mr. Commissioner-General,
Mr. President of the Association of the Exposition,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with considerable emotion and deep satisfaction that as President of the Commission, I find myself together with the President of the Council of Ministers, M. Harmel, the representative of the President of the Court of Justice of the European Community, M. Donner, my colleagues M. Coppé and M. Martino, and other leading personalities of the European Community, at the opening of "Europe day" in this splendid Universal Exposition at Osaka, the first in history to take place in Asia. The outstanding splendour of this event will not fail to make a deep impression on every overseas visitor who has the privilege of coming to admire this further proof of contemporary Japan's gift for organization and to enjoy the hospitality offered by a country such as yours, imbued with its rich and ancient culture.

As Europeans, we are specially sensible of the theme which you have chosen for this Exposition: "Progress and Harmony for Mankind". It does indeed correspond remarkably well with the spirit and objectives which inspire the European Community. Does not the preamble of our basis instrument, the Treaty of Rome, which was signed on 25 March 1957 and of which we are therefore to-day celebrating the anniversary, speak expressly of "economic and social progress", which is to be achieved within a "harmonious development"? Does not the Treaty of Paris, which is the basis of the first European Community, the ECSC, state that "the contribution which an organized and vital Europe can bring to civilization is indispensable to the maintenance of peaceful relations"?

When, therefore, we were invited by the Association of the Exposition to choose within this general theme a special theme for the European Community pavilion, it seemed to us that the simple phrase: "Imagination for peace" would best express the fundamental significance for the world today of the efforts towards economic and political union which are currently being made in the European Community. Why?

The common institutions which six European countries - Germany, Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands (soon to be joined by others) - have created for themselves make it possible for these countries, which have for centuries been divided by bloody conflicts and which differ widely in their traditions, languages, religions and mentalities, not only to live peacefully together but to act as one politically. Indeed, collaboration in these common institutions has shown them the links which, relegating these divergences to the background, bind them fundamentally: a common civilization and common interests. Is not the work of ensuring peace in Europe an essential contribution to peace in the wider world? All our history, and particularly the last two world wars, are there to demonstrate the fact very clearly.

In its relations with the rest of the world, the European Community, in the phrases of the Treaty of Rome, is contributing by means of a common commercial policy to the progressive abolition of restrictions on international trade. This, too, is imagination for peace, and I do not need, in a country like Japan, to demonstrate how important freedom of international trade can be for economic progress, and therefore for world peace.

Finally, the Treaty of Rome lays emphasis on solidarity between Europe and the developing countries and requires that the Community shall contribute to their prosperity. The efforts which have been made in this field, particularly but not only in Africa, show that Europe has understood that prosperity and peace cannot be organized in a world where two-thirds of humanity are crushed by hunger, poverty and despair.

The pavilion of the European Community highlights these interests and this work, in which a growing number of European countries are collaborating, while the individual pavilions of these countries offer a rich and varied picture of the special talents and performance of the individual members of this great European family.

Mr. Commissioner-General, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is the first time the European Community has introduced itself to an Asiatic public. We should like this public to know that we are not a closed entity driven exclusively by our own interests, but that the Community is aware of what is required of it in view of its position in the world. Its aim is to be not just a factor, but the motor of progress and peace on our planet.