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SPEECH OF SIGNOR DEL BO, PRESIDENT OF THE HIGH AUTHORITY OF THE ECSC
TO THE JOINT MEETING OF THE CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL OF
EUROPE AND THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

THE KEENEY ROUND NEGOTIATIONS ARE, FOR STEEL, A VERY VALUABLE
MEANS OF IMPROVING EQUILIBRIUM ON THE WORLD MARKET SAID SIGNOR
DEL BO, PRESIDENT OF THE HIGH AUTHORITY OF THE EUROPEAN COAL AND
STEEL COMMUNITY AT STRASBOURG TODAY. THIS WOULD BENEFIT BOTH THE
COMMUNITY AND NON-MEMBER COUNTRIES WHETHER INDUSTRIALISED OR IN
PROCESS OF DEVELOPMENT.

PRESIDENT DEL BO WAS ADDRESSING THE JOINT MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
OF EUROPE'S CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY AND THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT. THIS
JOINT MEETING, HE SAID, WAS A SYMBOL OF THE GROWING CO-OPERATION
AMONGST THE PEOPLES OF THE WEST TO ACHIEVE UNITY.

SPEAKING ON STEEL HE SAID THAT THIS WAS A SECTOR IN WHICH THERE
WAS MUCH PROGRESS TO BE MADE. THERE WERE CONSIDERABLE DISPARITIES
IN TARIFF PROTECTION AS WELL AS IN NON-TARIFF OBSTACLES SUCH AS
ANTI-DUMPING PROCEDURES, CALCULATION OF CUSTOMS VALUES AND OTHER
MEASURES RESULTING IN A SITUATION OF INEQUALITY AND VERY OFTEN IN
A QUITE ARBITRARY WAY.

THE HIGH AUTHORITY WANTED A LEVELLING OUT OF THE TARIFFS OF THE
CHIEF PRODUCING COUNTRIES AT MODERATE RATES AND A STEADY, BUT REAL
IMPROVEMENT ON NON-TARIFF OBSTACLES. CONVERSATIONS WERE AT PRESENT
UNDERWAY WITH THE MEMBER STATES OF THE COMMUNITY TO DRAW UP A COMMON
ATTITUDE.

THERE WERE THREE MAIN REASONS FOR THE ECSC'S PARTICULAR CONCERN IN THIS MATTER. THE FIRST WAS A QUESTION OF PRINCIPLE SINCE THE ECSC TREATY EMPHASISED THE OUTWARD-LOOKING NATURE OF THE COMMUNITY AND LAID DOWN THAT THE NEEDS OF NON-MEMBER COUNTRIES MUST BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT WHILE ENSURING REGULAR SUPPLIES TO THE COMMON MARKET.

THE SECOND REASON WAS THE ADVANCE ACTION TAKEN BY THE COMMUNITY, IN APPLICATION OF THE ABOVE PRINCIPLE, TO LOWER ITS TARIFFS UNILATERALLY AS THE TREATY CAME INTO FORCE. THE HARMONISED TARIFF WHICH WAS VERY MUCH LOWER THAN THE ARITHMETICAL AVERAGE OF MEMBER STATES' TARIFFS. BY THIS ACT SHOWING ITS OPEN NATURE THE COMMUNITY HAD TO A CERTAIN EXTENT ANTICIPATED THE PRESENT NEGOTIATIONS.

THE THIRD REASON WAS THE ECSC'S DEPENDENCE ON WORLD TRADE AND THE FACT THAT ITS IRON AND STEEL IMPORTS WERE RAPIDLY RISING WHILE ITS EXPORTS WERE DECLINING. IRON ORE IMPORTS HAD THUS INCREASED 160 0/0 SINCE 1954 AND AT 33 MILLION TONS OR DOLLARS 400 MILLION WORTH REPRESENTED 2 0/0 OF THE VALUE OF ALL COMMUNITY IMPORTS. STEEL IMPORTS HAD RISEN FROM 650,000 TONS IN 1954 TO 4 MILLION TONS IN 1963, AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO THAT OF THE USA. STEEL EXPORTS ON THE OTHER HAND HAD RISEN MORE SLOWLY SO THAT THE EXISTENCE OF THE COMMUNITY HAD NOT HARMED OTHER STEEL PRODUCERS BUT HAD IN FACT ALLOWED THEM TO INCREASE THEIR SALES MORE RAPIDLY.

AS FOR COAL, THE COMMUNITY PRODUCED 12 0/0 OF WORLD OUTPUT BUT HAD NONETHELESS IMPORTED GROWING QUANTITIES OF COAL SO THAT OVER THE TEN YEARS SINCE 1954 THE EXCESS OF IMPORTS OVER EXPORTS HAD ~~BEEN SIXTY SEVEN PER CENT OF THE TOTAL PRODUCTION~~
COST ABOUT DOLLARS 2 1/2 BILLION.

IMPORTS CONTINUE TO BE HIGHER THAN EXPORTS AND THIS DESPITE THE DIFFICULTIES OF THE COAL MINES.

REFERRING TO THE SLIGHT INCREASE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR IN THE COMMUNITY TARIFF PROTECTION FOR STEEL, PRESIDENT DEL BO STRESSED THE CARE WHICH HAD BEEN TAKEN TO CONSULT NON-MEMBER COUNTRIES BEFORE PUTTING IT INTO APPLICATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR TARIFF QUOTAS SINCE WHICH HELPED TO MAINTAIN THE TRADITIONAL FLOW OF TRADE.

THE RECENT EXPERIENCES OF THE COMMUNITY HAD CONFIRMED THE HIGH AUTHORITY IN ITS BELIEF THAT PRESENT DIFFICULTIES ARE CAUSED BY MAJOR STRUCTURAL CHANGES ON THE WORLD LEVEL. A MAJOR IMPROVEMENT WOULD RESULT IF THE GATT NEGOTIATIONS WERE TO SUCCEED IN OBTAINING A REDUCTION OF THE EXISTING DIFFERENCES IN THE LEVELS OF STEEL PROTECTION BETWEEN THE CHIEF PRODUCING COUNTRIES.

THIS WOULD ALSO CONTRIBUTE, DECLARED PRESIDENT DEL BO, TO BETTER TRADE RELATIONS AMONGST ALL THE COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD.

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