

MEETING OF THE HEADS OF STATE OR GOVERNMENT

THE HAGUE

1-2 DECEMBER 1969

Documents in this collection include:

The Hague Summit reproduced from the Bulletin of the European Communities, No. 1, 1970.

Background

Speech by Jean Rey, President of the Commission to the Parliament on 11 December 1969

Communiqué

Memorandum of the Commission to the Heads of State or Government of 19 November 1969

Report of the Dutch Government to the States General on the Progress and out-come of the conference of Heads of State or Government

Resolution adopted by the European Parliament on 3 November 1969 on the Hague Summit, Reproduced from the Bulletin of the European Communities, No. 12, 1969.

The "Summit Conference" at the Hague, Statements made by the Heads of State or Government on 2 December 1969, Reproduced from the Bulletin of the European Communities, No. 2, 1970.

I. THE HAGUE SUMMIT

I.

At the 76th session of the Council of the European Communities on 22 and 23 July 1969, the French Government laid before the other Governments represented "a proposal for a meeting by the end of the year in The Hague of a *conference of Heads of State or Government*, with a view to examining the problems arising for the Community, principally in the matter of its completion, its consolidation and its enlargement". This proposal met with the approval of the Council members. At a lunch on the occasion of the 79th session on 15 September 1969, the date of the Summit Conference was fixed for 17 and 18 November 1969. Subsequently, at a press conference held by M. De Koster, Netherlands State Secretary for Foreign Affairs and President-in-office of the Council, and by M. Maurice Schumann, French Foreign Minister, at a lunch in connection with the Council session of 10 November 1969 (86th session), the organization of the Summit and, more especially, the main items for discussion were specified. Ultimately, the date of the Conference was postponed to 1 and 2 December to enable the Foreign Ministers of all the member countries to take part. Prior to the Conference, the European Parliament met in extraordinary session on 3 November 1969 in Luxembourg to determine its attitude to the fundamental problems of European and Community policy. It adopted a resolution which it passed to the Community Governments and to the Council and Commission.¹

The Commission of the European Communities, for its part, expressed its attitude to the decisions to be adopted in a memorandum to the Conference of Heads of State or Government, submitted to the Governments of the Member States on 19 November 1969.

The Summit Conference was opened on 1 December 1969 in the historic Ridderzaal in the centre of the Binnenhof by M. P.J.S. de Jong, Prime Minister of the Netherlands.² The same hall had witnessed in May 1948 the European Congress which was the start of the Council of Europe and the European Movement, on 11 November 1967 the twentieth anniversary celebration of the foundation of the European Movement, and on 8 November 1968 the opening by Queen Juliana of the European Parliamentary Congress.

The delegations were led by M. Georges Pompidou, French President, M. Gaston Eyskens, Belgian Prime Minister, M. Willy Brandt, German Chancellor, M. Mariano Rumor, Italian Prime Minister, M. Pierre Werner, Luxembourg Prime Minister, and M. P.J.S. de Jong, Netherlands Prime Minister.

¹ Bulletin 12-69, Ch. VIII, "European Parliament".

² M. de Jong's opening speech and the declarations made by the other Heads of State or Government, and published, will be given in full in a chapter of Bulletin 2-1970.

The national delegations meeting only on the afternoon of 1 December and on 2 December, with the Commission, represented by M. Rey and M. Martino, in attendance, reached agreement on a number of items, which are indicated in the final communiqué. The results of the Summit Conference were analysed on 11 December in Strasbourg by M. Rey before the European Parliament, during the annual Joint Meeting between the Community institutions.¹

M. Rey's address to the European Parliament, the final communiqué of the Conference specifying the elements of agreement between the representatives of the Six, and the Commission memorandum to the Governments on the eve of the Conference are given below.

Address by M. Jean Rey to the European Parliament

(11 December 1969)

In his address on 11 December 1969 to the European Parliament, the President of the Commission of the European Communities, M. Jean Rey, drew up a balance-sheet of the results of the Conference of Heads of State or Government of the six member countries in The Hague. M. Rey stressed the positive achievements at The Hague and commented on the aspects of European policy on which progress will have to be made in future.

1. The leading positive factor is the spectacular declaration of the political aims of the Community. At a time when certain circles, mainly outside the Community, were tending to the opinion that it could be regarded as a mere trade preference area, it was essential to make clear to European and world opinion that after twenty years the Community had abandoned none of its political aims. In the three sectors with which it dealt, the Hague Conference gave the Community the means to proceed further.

Firstly, with regard to completion, the Commission sees in the events at the end of 1969 a proof that it was right not to propose any extension of the transitional phase. This decision was not easy for the Commission to take, nor was it easily accepted outside. Only recently, this or that member of the European Parliament was publicly asking whether the transition period should not be prolonged because certain tasks which should, in the normal way, have been completed by the end of 1969, would probably not be done with until the following year. Developments have shown that the Community was right not to delay the entry on the final phase.

¹ See Part Two, Ch. IV, European Parliament.

