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Preface

Over the past two decades European Political Cooperation has become a significant element in the foreign posture of the Member States of the European Community and indeed of the Community itself. European Political Cooperation has been prominent in European diplomatic activity concerning, for example, the Middle East, the Helsinki Agreement, Afghanistan and South Africa. In order to understand the vicissitudes of European foreign policy one can no longer disregard the activities of the twelve Member States of the European Community within the framework of European Political Cooperation.

European Political Cooperation manifests itself through a variety of public documents, such as speeches of the Presidency (for example at the United Nations General Assembly) and declarations of the Foreign Ministers or of the Heads of State or Government of the Twelve. Despite the growing perception of the importance of EPC there has been so far no regular source whereby scholars, third country diplomats, parliamentarians and informed public opinion in general could follow systematically its public domain output.

To fill this gap, the European Policy Unit at the European University Institute in Florence and the Institut für Europäische Politik in Bonn, has begun the publication of this *Bulletin*. The *Bulletin* is the first periodic and systematic compilation of all the public documents produced by European Political Cooperation. It includes:

- all official statements made by the European Council, the Foreign Ministers, the 'Ten' or 'Twelve', including speeches of the Presidency at international conferences and organizations, as well as the joint communiqués which are passed together with other regional groupings;
- documents related to the European Parliament, i.e. replies to oral and written questions, extracts related to EPC of the reports presented by the Presidency at the beginning and at the end of each term of office, as well as the reports on the European Council meetings.

The *Bulletin* will publish these documents in English or in French if no English version is available. Documents are ordered chronologically and are given a unique key number for citation and for quick reference in the cumulative index of the *Bulletin*. The *Bulletin* will appear twice a year covering the respective Presidencies of the European Community. This first issue covers the period of the Italian Presidency (January-June 1985). It is also planned to produce a special issue covering the past activities of EPC up to the date on which the publication of the *Bulletin* commenced.

Each document in the *Bulletin* has been analysed and indexed by reference to its source and to its content.

The editorial board of the *Bulletin*, composed of members of the European Policy Unit and the Institut für Europäische Politik aided by a group of experts which included senior diplomats and scholars of several European Community Member States, has developed an extensive index to cover all aspects of European Political Cooperation, its structure and activity. The index is open-ended to enable the inclusion of new issues as they arise on the agenda of European Political Cooperation. It will be cumulative from one issue of the *Bulletin* to the next. By consulting the index in the most recent issue, the user should thus be able to trace all EPC documents relating to a specific country or subject matter and issued during the entire period covered by the *Bulletin*.

The published edition of the *Bulletin* will ensure the widest possible diffusion of the documentation relative to European Political Cooperation, but in addition all documents will be put on the European University Institute central computer in Florence for eventual use as an online database with word search facilities. This database will be the first ever to collect all the public EPC documents in a uniform, accessible format. The database will be of great value to researchers working in the field of political cooperation. With the computer's search facility, any scholar will be able to generate his or her own index of documents according to the criteria relevant to any specific research.

Lastly, we would like to express our gratitude to all those who made the publication of this first issue possible and, in particular, to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Italy and of the Federal Republic of Germany for their most valuable collaboration.

The Editors

How to Use this Volume

The EPC documents collected in each volume are ordered chronologically. The Table of Contents gives the document title, and the date of issue together with the page-number of its publication in the *Bulletin*.

All documents within a given volume have received a number according to the year and to the order in which they were issued. For instance, '85/001' is the first document issued in the year 1985. By virtue of this system, all documents referred to in the index can be quickly located. The document number can further be used for purposes of citation. It is our hope that the *Bulletin* will become the standard citation reference for public domain European Political Cooperation documents.

The document number and other basic information (date of issue, city of issue, country holding the Presidency, source of the document, and its status) appear at the beginning of each document.

The index at the end of each volume lists all the variables we have analysed in the documents according to the following categories: document source and status, elements of EPC structure and substructure referred to; relations with institutions of the European Communities; countries, regions, and subregions or other geographical references that appear in the document; international organizations and political groupings, as well as the subject-matters that are dealt with in the document.

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85/001. Message remis par la présidence, au nom des Dix, aux Ministres des pays du groupe de Contadora réunis à Panama

Date of Issue: 8 January 1985
 Place of Issue: Rome
 Country of Presidency: Italy
 Source of Document: Presidency
 Status of Document: Message

A l'occasion du deuxième anniversaire de la création du Groupe de Contadora, les dix États membres de la Communauté européenne, fidèles à la déclaration du Sommet européen de Stuttgart du 17 juin 1983 et dans l'esprit de la Conférence ministérielle de San José (28 septembre 1984), saluent les efforts déployés par ce Groupe, renouvellent leur appui à ces efforts et assurent les quatre Pays de Contadora de leur plein soutien dans la recherche d'une solution pacifique des conflits d'Amérique centrale.

85/002. Statement by Mr Giulio Andreotti, Italian Foreign Minister and President-in-Office of the Council of Ministers, before the European Parliament

Date of Issue: 16 January 1985
 Place of Issue: Strasbourg
 Country of Presidency: Italy
 Source of Document: Presidency
 Status of Document: Programme Speech to European Parliament

Mr President, ladies and gentlemen, ...

To sum up, I do not think that I need waste words on affirming the growing importance of political cooperation among the Ten, a process on which — it can be said — there is a general consensus and which this Parliament approves and, indeed, rightly seeks to foster.

Italy will strive, therefore, to accomplish this side of its presidential responsibilities also, particularly since, at a time of change such as that which appears in many respects to have returned to the international scene as 1985 begins, it is vital that Europe should employ every means possible to make its presence felt, defend its own interests and affirm its own ideals and principles.

For a long time now we have been faced with the problem of ensuring more complete harmonization between the two aspects of our work, the truly Community work and that under political cooperation. The Italian Government has always striven in this direction, as is evident from the role played by us in the negotiations leading to the Solemn Declaration of Stuttgart. In our view, as is well known, we ought today to be in a position to proceed well beyond these results.

At this point, I think it timely to set forth, albeit briefly, the essentials of the main topics of international policy.

First of all, I should like to mention East-West relations.

The meeting in Geneva over the last few days between the American Secretary of State and the Soviet Foreign Minister is a complex event which we shall have to assess carefully and the follow-up to which will call for considerable work on the part of all concerned; however, as regards the overall issue of arms control and disarmament, we must say that this event seems to us as a positive sign. I make this point too following the statement made to us in Rome, in the wake of the Geneva meetings, by the American President's Special Adviser, Mr McFarlane, and further to those convergent impressions which have filtered through to us from the Government in Moscow.

During this new phase, the countries of the Community will be required to play a highly important back-up role, in addition to tabling proposals and examining in depth the fundamental interests which Europe must assert on behalf of the West as a whole, in order that peace and dialogue may be based on as stable a balance as possible.

In this context, the importance of maintaining active contact with both the Soviet Union and the other Warsaw Pact countries should be emphasized. In particular, we intend to continue to keep a close and involved watch on internal events in Poland, which remains very much a highly heterogeneous and lively society among the countries of the Eastern bloc.

The CSCE process continues to play a central part in East-West relations, through the promotion of better relations between the participating countries and the full expression of the personalities of those countries' citizens. The Ten will have to continue to press consistently for the full implementation of all the arrangements agreed on in Helsinki and Madrid by all participating States without exception.

At the Stockholm Conference on confidence-and-security-building measures and disarmament in Europe (CDE), after a whole year of procedural shadow-boxing we are at last moving towards a point where the arguments will be tackled in a substantive manner. This is very important, particularly following the Soviet-America meetings in Geneva.

The Ten will be called upon to make a consistent contribution and to adopt common positions and initiatives within this Conference. Our intention is to strive to achieve a simple incisive contribution towards a negotiated agreement on specific measures, in order to increase confidence and security in Europe, as well as the reaffirmation of the pledge not to resort to force or the threat of force, which Italy regards as a significant political fact.

The Ten will, however, also need to work in other debating and negotiating fora on arms control and disarmament if concrete progress is to be achieved.

With regard to the prospects for a negotiated solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, once the total stagnation of peace moves pending the outcome of elections in Israel and the United States have been overcome, pressure on the parties involved can and must be stepped up to foster at least the opening of talks and, thereby, to help to relieve the present tension in the region.

In a complex and delicate context such as that of today, the Ten need to act with caution but with perseverance, by proposing realistic targets which do not situate themselves over-ambitiously beyond the capabilities of the European Community.

I had the opportunity in Amman in the last few days to express these viewpoints not only from the Italian angle but also on behalf of the Presidency, on the basis of the Dublin document; I encountered the keen expectation on the part of those with whom I spoke, starting with King Hussein, that Europe would be ready to support any progress in the peace dialogue and to capitalize upon any glimmer of hope which might emerge.

The Ten can, moreover, boast a balanced and effective common platform in the form of the Venice Declaration and its subsequent updatings.

There is a precondition for transition from the present revival, following a long period of stagnation, to a real phase of activity; it is that the assured joining of ranks around Jordan must provide a true platform for negotiations between Jordan and the PLO, enabling Jordan to negotiate effectively on the occupied territories. This obviously presupposes willingness in principle on the Israeli side.

In the position of the new coalition government in Israel we have detected welcome signs of greater attention being paid to the problem of the Palestinians in the occupied territories.

It is clear that any action by the Ten must be linked to that of the United States, whose role is universally acknowledged as being, certainly not exclusive, but of prime importance to a solution of the Middle Eastern dispute.

We also attribute great importance to the role of the United Nations and to the commitment that has traditionally been shown by the Secretary-General. It is well known that we wish to see the United Nations far more involved in peace making or attempts at mediation in the Middle East; under the aegis of the UN such initiative would be guaranteed to be balanced and should be acceptable all round.

Lastly, we cannot disregard the usefulness of suitable contacts with the Soviet Union which, because of traditional positions and the relationships that have been built up in the Middle East,

cannot be excluded from any future overall settlement of the crisis. It is not particularly important to have a referendum for or against the conference mooted. What is important is to find a valid model acceptable to all sides.

Together with the Arab-Israeli conflict, the situation in the Lebanon and the Iran-Iraq war with its repercussions on the Gulf constitute an extremely complex background fraught with dangers and tensions and compounded by the undercurrents linking the three crises.

The Ten have frequently stressed, most recently in Dublin, the need for national reconciliation in Lebanon and the restoration of the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the State; in the same way, they have offered their full support for offers by various parties of mediation to bring an end to the war between Iran and Iraq.

Another area to which the Italian Presidency intends to pay attention is Latin America. There are three directions which this action should, if possible, take.

First of all there is the continuation, broadening and development of the political and economic dialogue with the countries of Central America, begun successfully at the San José Conference in Costa Rica last September, at which the Ten reiterated their full support for the peace attempts made in the region along the lines indicated by the initiative of the Contadora Group. We shall give close consideration to the possibility that during the Italian Presidency a second conference will be suggested in Rome, along the lines of the first, subject to establishment of the level at which it will be held.

Secondly, we shall continue our activities to promote respect for human and civil rights: we welcome the present trend towards the restoration of democratic regimes, and towards forms of dialogue between government and oppositions, and hope that in this area we shall be acting in a climate of gradual improvement.

Lastly, we must continue to encourage the spread of democracy in Latin America, particularly in Chile, whose people pursue this aspiration so courageously. The resumption of a genuine political dialogue in Chile is vital to the re-establishment of freedom and democracy.

With the forthcoming return of Brazil to a civilian regime and the recent elections in Uruguay, democracy is to be found almost everywhere in South America. However, democracy requires political and economic support, as the history of these regions and present-day events show us that the threats to democratic regimes have not disappeared. Europe must give its own support and assistance.

Another sector of constant concern to the Ten is Africa.

In the case of Southern Africa, the Ten welcomed the outlines of a solution to the serious political problems of the region which emerged in the course of 1984. The Lusaka Agreement between South Africa and Angola on military disengagement in southern Angola should, in particular, help to create a climate of mutual trust, thus facilitating implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 435 on the independence of Namibia.

Equally, the Nkomati Agreement between South Africa and Mozambique should bring greater political stability to the region and help to bring about peace within Mozambique's own borders.

This does not mean, with regard to South Africa, that the Ten are softening their firm condemnation of the apartheid system, on which a number of half-hearted reforms have failed to make any significant impact.

There are more vast areas, such as the Horn of Africa, where humanitarian problems are bound up with severe tensions and conflicts that must be borne in mind when bringing pressure to bear on the parties concerned to persevere in the difficult quest for dialogue and political solutions, in accordance with the principles of both the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity.

On the Asian scene, the situation in Afghanistan continues to be a serious international problem. The Ten have on many occasions deplored the Soviet Union's unwillingness to make a positive contribution to a solution of the Afghanistan problem on the basis of successive UN Resolutions. The Soviet Union has, on the contrary, stepped up its military activity, causing further suffering and many

civilian victims among the Afghan population. The Ten condemn these actions and continue to call for a just and lasting solution, as advocated in the Declaration approved on 27 December last year on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the Soviet invasion.

Vietnam's occupation of Kampuchea continues to threaten the stability of South-East Asia.

We believe that any political solution to the problem must be based on the total withdrawal of Vietnamese troops, the rights of the Kampuchean people to decide freely on their own future, respect for Kampuchea's independence, neutrality and non-alignment and a commitment by all States not to interfere in its internal affairs. Under these conditions, we believe that a peaceful solution can be found that will coincide with the legitimate security concerns of all the States of the region.

The Italian Presidency is committed to reinforcing the Ten's action in defence of human rights and against terrorism. On the fundamental subject of human rights, in addition to the traditional UN fora, special attention must be paid to the Conference on Human Rights to be held in Ottawa in April, which places this aspect high on the agenda for the development of the CSCE process.

With regard to terrorism, especially its new international dimension, the Ten have stepped up exchanges of views on measures to combat it, and have laid the foundations of closer co-operation on the matter, with particular reference to the abuse of diplomatic immunity for terrorist purposes. We hope to step up this form of co-operation further by more effective measures at international level.

In the light of the complexity of the international scene, the role that could usefully be played by a united Europe in the interests of peace and progress emerges clearly.

Because of its historical and cultural values, Europe is called upon to exercise a balancing influence on the international scene. The European Parliament, which forms part of the overall pattern by virtue of the power it derives from the popular vote, must be in a position to play a central role and this must be reflected in its rights of participation and its functions of control. We have as our basis an exceptional wealth of political and cultural experience which renders cooperation between our various political forces productive and which also enables this Parliament to carry on a lively dialogue from differing positions. Experience has shown quite clearly how important it is for differences in outlook not to be levelled out but instead to be examined side by side in the Community context and a middle ground sought that takes account of all values and responsibilities.

85/003. Question No H-335/84 by Mr Ephremidis on the Respect of Post-War Frontiers in Europe and, in General, of the Helsinki Final Act

Date of Issue: 16 January 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

In the light of the West German Government's reaction – also in the Council of Ministers – to the statements made by Mr Andreotti, would the Ministers state whether all the Member States of the Community respect the post-war frontiers in Europe and, in general, the Helsinki Final Act?

Mr Andreotti, President-in-Office of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs: The Ten have constantly reaffirmed their obligation to respect the Final Act of Helsinki, which furnishes a framework of reference for the conduct and development of relations among the 35 countries which are taking part in the CSCE process. This obligation concerns all the provisions of the Final Act, including that which states that the participating States (and I quote):

consider that their frontiers can be changed, in accordance with international law, by peaceful means and by agreement.

Also the principle:

The participating States regard as inviolable all one another's frontiers as well as the frontiers of all States in Europe and therefore they will refrain now and in the future from assaulting these frontiers.

Mr Ephremidis (Com): The President of the Council has certainly given a satisfactory reply, just as the statement he made provoking my question was for its part very correct. However, I must put a supplementary question to him. Is it or is it not true that during the meeting of the Council in political cooperation Mr Andreotti was criticized for the statement he had made? If he was subjected to this criticism it means that members of the Council are not honouring the spirit of the Helsinki Final Act he himself referred to.

Mr Andreotti: The answer I have just given is, as is the rule with answers concerning political cooperation, based on a text agreed within the framework of political cooperation. Apart from that, this is a matter extraneous to the field of activities of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and of the Council of Ministers.

Mr Ulburghs (NI): Do you not feel that in order to breathe new life into the spirit of Helsinki, appropriate acts of peace are perhaps more important than endless negotiations? Why not propose the designation of a nuclear-free zone, both in Western and in Eastern Europe? As regards Western Europe I have in mind Belgium, my own country, where according to the opinion polls the majority are against the siting of rockets. In Eastern Europe one might perhaps mention Bulgaria, where peace movements are very active.

Mr Andreotti: I should like to say in reply that problems of defence are not, in fact, among the subjects of political cooperation. However, since you began by asking me a question, I shall begin by answering it. I think that in the very difficult year that 1984 was, we and other countries did what was our duty in attempting to restore balance to a situation — here I am referring to the situation as regards missiles in Europe — that was extremely unbalanced. This has contributed much more to the reanimation of relations between the USA and the USSR than temporizing or failing to take a decision would have done. The subject of nuclear-free zones is, however, a much bigger one, because, among other things, everyone wants a nuclear-free zone. What we have to work for is rather the reduction of armaments, disarmament in general, not the creation of oases which, moreover, from the technical point of view would not be safe oases either.

Mr Gerontopoulos (PPE): I should like to ask the Minister whether the Council of Foreign Ministers has discussed the question of adherence to the Helsinki agreements by the Eastern bloc countries, specifically by the Soviet Union. We have the following facts. Violations one after another of the national space of the Scandinavian countries by Soviet submarines and, of late, by the Soviet Cruise-type missile. The open interference in the internal affairs of the Eastern European countries such as, for example, the Jaruzelski coup and the cancellation of the Honnecker visit to West Germany. The constant jamming of radio broadcasts. The way in which it impedes the free circulation of written matter and the free movement of people wishing to leave or visit its territory.

I should like to ask the Minister how the Council has reacted in the past and how it intends to react in the future to cases of violation by the Soviets of the spirit and the letter of the Helsinki agreements.

Mr Andreotti: As a follow-up to Helsinki and, more recently, to Madrid, there have been a number of initiatives, of which the most pertinent are that of Stockholm, the Conference on the further reduction of armaments, and a number of confidence-building measures. A number of other meetings are planned on human rights and other questions concerning the CSCE as a whole. We, as a Community, make a point of maintaining mutual consultations and presenting ourselves as far as possible as a united body speaking with a single voice. I am able to say that in the summer of this year, by way of reviewing the ten years since the Final Act of Helsinki, we have proposed — in another place, but with the agreement of all of us — the holding of a solemn celebration at the appropriate level, at which the essential item will be to take stock of the various 'baskets' to see what has been done and what has not been done in order to be able to find more consistent attitudes to

adopt. I think this will be the occasion for us, as a Council, to take up the matter and arrive at a common evaluation.

85/004. Question No H-392/84 by Mr Mancel on the Dangers Existing in the Persian Gulf

Date of Issue: 16 January 1985
Place of Issue: Strasbourg
Country of Presidency: Italy
Source of Document: Presidency
Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Can the Ministers indicate what representations they have made to the authorities concerned in response to the dangers existing in the Persian Gulf and their likely implications for fuel supplies?

Answer:

While the ten Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation have not tackled the specific problem of fuel supplies from the Persian Gulf, they have clearly stated on numerous occasions their concern at the many dangers arising from the war between Iran and Iraq.

The Ten have appealed to both these parties to adhere to the resolutions of the Security Council and to cooperate in finding a peaceful solution. The Ten have stressed to both Iran and Iraq the importance they attach to the freedom of shipping and trade in international waters.

85/005. Question No H-410/84 by Mr Van Miert on Economic Cooperation with Libya

Date of Issue: 16 January 1985
Place of Issue: Strasbourg
Country of Presidency: Italy
Source of Document: Presidency
Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

On 16 May 1984 the BLEU and Libya initialled a framework agreement on technical and economic cooperation. From 14 to 17 May 1984 negotiations were also held between the two parties on a draft cooperation agreement in the nuclear field. In practical terms this agreement concerns the construction in Libya of two 440 MU nuclear power stations.

On 23 October 1984 the Belgian Minister for Economic Affairs, Mr Eyskens, stated in the Chamber of Representatives that the Belgian Ministers for Foreign Relations would contact all other European countries that might be interested in the realization of such a project in Libya, so that a joint position might be adopted.

What attitude do the Foreign Ministers intend to adopt with regard to such economic cooperation with Libya?

Mr Andreotti, President-in-Office of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs: The Ten have not discussed this question within the framework of political cooperation. Some of our countries maintain relations of different kinds with which we are all familiar, but since it is my job here to give answers on the work of European political cooperation, we have not dealt with this in that framework.

Mr Van Miert (S): This answer surprises me because on more than one occasion in the Belgian Parliament it has clearly been suggested that the Belgian Foreign Minister, Mr Tindemans, is to have contacts with all his colleagues on this extremely difficult point. On the American side there is a clear

objection to the delivery of nuclear plants to Libya whose Head of State, as everyone knows, is pretty crazy and liable to do dangerous things. Might I ask the President-in-Office of the Council what is his opinion in respect of the possible delivery of nuclear plants to Libya by a country like Belgium and whether he considers this proper? I can assure him that on our side we do not consider it proper.

Mr Andreotti: I repeat that we have not dealt with this matter in political cooperation, nor have I, bilaterally, dealt with the question of this power station. As for my own views on the matter, since I am here to answer not on my own behalf but on that of the Council of Ministers, I will say that I have no views on the question inasmuch as we have not discussed it.

Mr Balfe (S): Will the Foreign Ministers accept that it is wish of the Libyan Government to have closer relations with the European Economic Community, being the only major Arab nation on the Mediterranean without such relations and that it will act positively to build on the good that exists and to try and foster closer relations, which are essential if we are to observe peace in the Mediterranean?

Mr Andreotti: I think that, as with the case of other countries, the Commission can go more deeply into the question of these contacts. Generally speaking, I certainly consider that isolation is of no use to anyone. I repeat, however, that we in the Council have not examined this problem, and if one day the Parliament should wish to go into it then we shall have to examine it thoroughly – not like this, in passing – on the basis of a report concerning a particular case of orders placed between Belgium and Libya.

Mr Pannella (NI): Does the President-in-Office really consider it necessary for the Parliament to make a formal act of asking the Council? Could he not instead assure the Parliament, as from now, for its information, that he will go into the matter anyway?

Mr Andreotti: The matter can be gone into if the Belgian Government asks us to do so – that is, asks for our opinion. For the moment, I repeat, the Ministers have not been informed.

The more general question of relations with Libya is, in my view, a problem that will have to be dealt with – but in depth, not just in passing during Question Time. I do not think this means showing a lack of respect for anyone. I should be showing a want of regard for the Council if I came here to talk about a matter the elements of which were unfamiliar to me and which we had not discussed in the framework of political cooperation.

Mr Chanterie (PPE): Like Mr Van Miert, I am surprised at the answer given by the President-in-Office of the Council, since I well remember that this matter – according, at least, to 'Agence Europe' – was on the agenda of a meeting of Foreign Ministers. This was not so long ago. It was in that connection that I put a question similar to Mr Van Miert's. We are entitled to some clarification here. It has undoubtedly been discussed and therefore the Minister's answer cannot be wholly correct.

Mr Andreotti: I have the greatest respect for agencies of whatever kind, but I also have regard for what is known to me directly. I repeat that there has been no talk of this.

Mr de la Malène (RDE): The President-in-Office of the Council tells us – and we naturally believe him – that this matter has not been dealt with in the sphere of cooperation. This I regret. However, in view of the concern that this question raises on all sides of this House, does the President-in-Office both of the Council and of the Foreign Ministers not feel that he could take the initiative of putting this question on the agenda, either for the Foreign Ministers or for the Council, and not wait until he is informed by some other means?

Mr Andreotti: I do not know what is the practice usually followed here nowadays in the sense that when a question or even a supplementary question is put, it automatically has to become a subject of close study for the Council or the Commission. If that is so, it is, indeed, rather a dangerous principle. I therefore think it would have to be formalized in an agenda, in a document representing the point of view of Parliament and not merely the point of view, however authoritative, of an individual. Otherwise, I can see no limit to the number of subjects that the Council would have to examine, whether in the framework of political cooperation or otherwise.

85/006. Question No H-449/84 by Mrs Lizin on Uruguay

Date of Issue: 16 January 1985
Place of Issue: Strasbourg
Country of Presidency: Italy
Source of Document: Presidency
Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Have the Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation discussed the situation in Uruguay in the light of the November elections, and what conclusions have they reached?

Answer:

The Ten are following with interest the process of democratization in Uruguay. They hope the forthcoming elections will lead to a speedy return to the traditions of democratic government in that country.

85/007. Question No H-471/84 by Mr Romeo on Coordination between the WEU and the European Community

Date of Issue: 16 January 1985
Place of Issue: Strasbourg
Country of Presidency: Italy
Source of Document: Presidency
Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

The meeting of the WEU Council of Ministers, held in Rome on 26 and 27 October on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Brussels Treaty, adopted important decisions with a view to bringing new impetus to the political action and other activities of this international organization, to which seven Member States of the European Community belong.

The President of the WEU Parliamentary Assembly subsequently declared that in his opinion, these initiatives were complementary to those undertaken by the other European institutions, inasmuch as 'they all had one final aim, that of building a European Union in which the defence aspect, like the economic aspect would have its place.' When it adopted the Fergusson report in October 1983, the European Parliament called for greater coordination at Community level in arms procurement policies.

Have the Ministers considered the implications that these developments might have for the further stages of Community integration as it progresses towards the European Union? If so, can they state what measures they intend to take in order to guarantee effective coordination between the WEU and the Community, especially in sectors of economic and technological importance such as industrial policy and arms procurement, as requested by Parliament in the Fergusson report?

Mr Andreotti, President-in-Office of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs: Within the framework of European political cooperation, there is no talk either of development or of relations with Western European Union. We know that the Ten, as such, do not take up any discussions of WEU.

If, on another plane of thought, for the sake of a political debate which is of interest to us all, it is asked along what lines the WEU might develop or be brought up to date, this subject should be raised in a document specifically requesting it. I should add that we individually, as Ministers, do concern ourselves with this within the WEU, but as a Community we have not dealt with these problems.

Mr Di Bartolomei (L): Perhaps this, too, is a reply that must be reconsidered by the Italian Presidency, because this subject has been referred to in the solemn declaration of Stuttgart and also in the Fergusson report of this Parliament. Does the Council of Ministers consider that decisions taken in this sphere by seven of the countries of the Community are of no concern to the other three or to this Parliament?

Mr Andreotti: Some decisions certainly have their implications, but we cannot concern ourselves with WEU here directly. We can deal with it in general terms, but outside the framework of the political consultations that are proper to this institution. In practice, however, there has been nothing of this kind in this connection.

Mr Elliott (S): Is the President-in-Office aware that many Members of this Parliament are profoundly concerned about the re-emergence of the Western European Union because it may lead to a further proliferation of nuclear weapons and nuclear bases in Europe?

Is he also aware that the Fergusson report referred to in the question may not now be the view of the newly elected Parliament? In fact, the author of this report, Mr Fergusson, is no longer a Member of this Parliament because he was defeated in the election by one of my colleagues. Does the President-in-Office appreciate that we have different views now? I hope that those will be taken into account.

Mr Andreotti: If a debate is required on this particular subject, then it will have to be on the basis of an appropriate document. Incidentally, having attended meetings of WEU, in Rome and elsewhere, I can say that there is no spectre of any threat to anyone. This is my own personal assessment, not the fruit of any joint experience.

Sir Peter Vanneck (ED): Is the President-in-Office aware that if we were to take as a precedent that all resolutions by previous Parliaments are null and void on the election of a further Parliament, we should get absolutely nowhere in our deliberations? Is he aware that the Fergusson report is simply calling for greater coordination in arms procurement and not for proliferation of nuclear weapons?

Furthermore, now that we have a defence subcommittee of the Political Affairs Committee in this Parliament, would he be prepared to talk to his fellow-Ministers about the possibility of Members of this Parliament acquiring some similar status, 'pro rata', in Western European Union as members of national parliaments have at the moment?

Mr Andreotti: I can say that, as you know, three EEC countries do not form part of WEU: Denmark, Greece and Ireland. What is more, Ireland is a neutral country, and not everyone in the Council of Ministers agrees to our dealing with questions of WEU.

Mr Pannella (NI): Would it be very indiscreet of me to ask the President-in-Office when this disagreement made itself manifest, since I thought he said that there was no agreement in the Council on this subject? On what occasion was this subject discussed and what were the reasons for the disagreement? I think it is very important for us to know this.

Mr Andreotti: I would say in reply to Mr Pannella that Ireland has stipulated that the Council should not discuss problems relating to defence. This is a formal and politically insuperable obstacle.

85/008. Question No 555/84 by Mr Formigoni on the Situation in the Baltic States

Date of Issue: 16 January 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

What action have the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation taken on the resolution adopted by the European Parliament on 13 January 1983, on the situation in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, in view of the fact that fresh cases of persecution of the Baltic peoples by the Soviet Union are being recorded in those countries?

Answer:

The Ministers meeting in political cooperation have taken note of the Resolution referred to. The Ministers are anxious to ensure that all the provisions of the Helsinki Final Act and of the Madrid

Concluding Document are fully implemented and they have voiced their concern to this effect on all suitable occasions. Whenever an opportunity of raising the question of human rights in the Baltic States arises, the Ten Ministers reiterate the need for all possible measures to produce worthwhile results.

85/009. Question No H-282/84 by Mr Paisley on Plastic Bullets

Date of Issue: 16 January 1985
Place of Issue: Strasbourg
Country of Presidency: Italy
Source of Document: Presidency
Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

In view of the criticism expressed by representatives from the Irish Republic on the use of plastic bullets in Northern Ireland, have the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation considered the recent admission by the authorities in the Irish Republic that its own army is equipped with rubber bullets for riot control?

Answer:

This question does not fall within the range of topics discussed by the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation.

85/010. Question No H-419/84 by Mr Alavanos on the Mediterranean Sea – an Area of Peace

Date of Issue: 16 January 1985
Place of Issue: Strasbourg
Country of Presidency: Italy
Source of Document: Presidency
Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

During the first ten days of October 1984, the Regional Trade Union Conference on the denuclearization of the Mediterranean met in Larnaca in Cyprus. The Conference stressed the desire of the Mediterranean peoples for the removal of all nuclear weapons and foreign bases from the Mediterranean Sea and the Mediterranean countries.

What is the position of the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation and what action will they take to implement the proposal to make the Mediterranean Sea an area of peace, security and cooperation between its people and to remove all nuclear weapons, which are a deadly threat to the region and continue to be deployed in the form of cruise missiles at Comiso in Italy?

Answer:

Questions on defence are not discussed by the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation.

85/011. Question No H-537/84 by Mrs Castle on 2-4-5-T Used in Vietnam

Date of Issue: 16 January 1985
Place of Issue: Strasbourg
Country of Presidency: Italy
Source of Document: Presidency
Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Bearing in mind the extensive damage to both vegetation and people of Vietnam by the use of 2-4-5-T (known as 'Agent Orange') with its huge content of dioxin, and the substantial out-of-court settle-

ment recently awarded to Vietnam veterans in the USA affected by this poisonous chemical, have the Foreign Ministers acting in political cooperation made any representations to the Government of the USA to give similar compensation to the Vietnamese victims, many of whom are suffering from cancer and have given birth to deformed children?

Answer:

The possibility of making representations to the Government of the USA on behalf of Vietnamese victims of the use of 2-4-5-T has not been discussed by the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation.

85/012. Statement by the Ten on the Vietnamese Offensive in Cambodia and the Incursions in Thailand

Date of Issue: 23 January 1985

Place of Issue: Rome

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: The Ten

Status of Document: Declaration

The Ten are following with very great concern the latest developments in the situation affecting the border area between Thailand and Cambodia. They condemn the serious violations of human rights and of the basic principles of the UN Charter that are occurring as a result of the increasingly intensive attacks made by Vietnamese troops on refugee camps in this area. The Ten also condemn the violations of Thailand's territorial sovereignty by Vietnamese troops during the course of their operations.

These developments could lead to an extension of the conflict, which might further aggravate the tensions existing in South-East Asia. This being so, the Ten once again urge the need for a comprehensive political settlement of the Cambodian crisis which remains unresolved after more than six years. Whilst reiterating the terms of the joint statement made at the fifth EEC-ASEAN ministerial meeting, held in Dublin on 15-16 November 1984, the Ten make a further appeal to the Vietnamese Government to call a halt to its military activities along the border between Thailand and Cambodia and to seek a political settlement of the crisis in accordance with the UN resolutions – adopted by the overwhelming majority of the members of the international community – calling for the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Cambodia and the restoration of the right of the Khmer people to self-determination.

85/013. Statement by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Ten on Cyprus

Date of Issue: 29 January 1985

Place of Issue: Brussels

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Foreign Ministers

Status of Document: Declaration

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs express their regret at the failure of the meeting in New York between President Kyprianou and the Turkish-Cypriot leader, Mr Denktash. They call upon the parties concerned to resume the negotiations with a view to achieving a just and viable solution to the Cyprus problem, through the good offices of the UN Secretary-General and on the basis of the UN resolutions. The Ministers of Foreign Affairs once again ask the two sides to refrain from taking any action that might jeopardize such a dialogue.

**85/014. Statement by the Foreign Ministers of the Ten
on East-West Relations**

Date of Issue: 12 February 1985
Place of Issue: Rome
Country of Presidency: Italy
Source of Document: Foreign Ministers
Status of Document: Declaration

The Ten reaffirm the importance which they continue to attach to the improvement of East-West relations.

The Ten have taken note with great satisfaction of the decision by the United States and the Soviet Union to begin negotiations on 12 March in order to work out effective agreements, aimed at preventing an arms race in space and terminating it on earth, at limiting and reducing nuclear arms and strengthening strategic stability.

The Ten share these objectives and support these negotiations.

They express the hope that both sides in the negotiations will exploit every opportunity to obtain substantial results. They note that other arms control and limitation talks are in progress to which they equally attach great importance.

They emphasize that these negotiations fall within the more general framework of East-West relations. They are pleased that, for their part, they have contributed by their actions, either as the Ten or otherwise, to the resumption of dialogue, of which the negotiations clearly constitute an essential element. They intend to pursue their action in seeking to broaden the base of this dialogue both in a bilateral context and in all the fora which are available for this purpose, in particular that of the CSCE, both in terms of the process itself – the tenth anniversary of which will be celebrated this year – and in terms of the conferences related to it. Indeed, they attach great importance to the Conference on Security and Confidence-Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe, to the CSCE experts' meeting on human rights and fundamental freedoms in Ottawa and to the Cultural Forum in Budapest, which will serve to underline the cultural identity of Europe.

**85/015. Statement of the Foreign Ministers of the Ten
on Mozambique**

Date of Issue: 12 February 1985
Place of Issue: Rome
Country of Presidency: Italy
Source of Document: Foreign Ministers
Status of Document: Declaration

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Ten, recalling the statement which they made in Paris on 27 February 1984 on the subject of Southern Africa, have confirmed the need for the understandings reached between Mozambique and South Africa to be respected as part of the efforts which are being undertaken to bring about increased security and stability in the region. They have expressed considerable regret that, a year after these understandings were reached, the continued fighting in Mozambique and continuing external interference have prevented this country from reaping the economic, security and other benefits which should follow from implementation of the agreements reached. They have firmly emphasized the importance of the promotion of peace and reconciliation in Mozambique by all the governments and of the prevention by the latter of unauthorized arms deliveries. The Ministers have also reaffirmed their commitment to Mozambique's economic development and have warmly welcomed the accession of this country to the Lomé Convention.

85/016. Text of the Démarche of the Ten on Lebanon

Date of Issue: 12 February 1985

Place of Issue: Rome

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: The Ten

Status of Document: Declaration

A) The Ten welcome Israel's decision to withdraw its forces from Lebanon, thus bringing to an end its prolonged occupation of Lebanese territory, in accordance with the Resolutions of the Security Council. They consider that the parties concerned should do all in their power to promote an orderly and complete withdrawal.

B) The Ten urge the Lebanese and Israeli Governments to show flexibility in establishing reasonable security arrangements for the territory to be returned by Israel and to do everything possible to prevent new acts of violence in the whole of the area of Israeli withdrawal.

C) The Ten believe that an orderly, complete and coordinated withdrawal of Israeli forces, together with appropriate security arrangements for both Lebanon and Israel, is in the interests of all the countries in the region. The Ten also look to the Syrian Government to facilitate this operation which they view as a major step towards the restoration of stability in Lebanon and the recovery of its entire territory, which will lead to a reduction in tension in the area as a whole.

D) The leaders of the different communities in Lebanon should play their full part in the above process, taking into account the potential risk of renewed instability and suffering for all communities, particularly in the areas to be evacuated.

E) The Ten continue to support UN efforts to bring about the orderly withdrawal of Israeli forces. They also think that the United Nations and in particular the Secretary-General, in accordance with Resolution 523 (1982), will be able to play a valuable role in the zones to be evacuated, especially as regards ensuring the safety of the inhabitants of the region, guaranteeing Lebanon's territorial integrity and re-establishing international peace and security.

85/017. Message of the ten Member States of the European Community to the Panama Meeting (14-15 February) between the Countries of the Contadora Group and the Countries of Central America

Date of Issue: 12 February 1985

Place of Issue: Rome

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: The Ten

Status of Document: Message

On the occasion of the meeting in Panama on 14 and 15 February between the countries of the Contadora Group and those of Central America, the ten Member States of the European Community, aware of the importance of this meeting, express their warm support for the action taken by the Contadora Group. They hope that during the meeting an agreement will be reached which will pave the way to the restoration of peace in the region and the solution of its numerous political, economic and social problems. This would also help to ensure a fruitful follow-up to the San José Conference, with the prospect of a further Ministerial meeting as soon as possible. In the spirit of the San José Conference, the Ten renew their full support for the efforts to reach a comprehensive, peaceful settlement within a regional framework.

85/018. Question No H-477/84 by Mrs Ewing on Turkish Peace Association Prisoners

Date of Issue: 13 February 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Will the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation consider the case of the 18 'TPA' prisoners who are currently serving lengthy sentences in Turkey with a view to taking a joint initiative on their behalf and, if so, will the Foreign Ministers make the strongest possible representations on behalf of Mahmut Dikerdem, a cancer victim, who is being denied adequate medical treatment in Sagmacilar Prison?

Mr Forte, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: Ladies and gentlemen, the Ten share the questioner's concern at the situation of Mr Dikerdem and the other members of the Turkish Peace Association. However, it should be noted that, while upholding the verdicts and sentences of 8 November, the Istanbul Military Tribunal has provisionally released six of the accused including Mr Dikerdem.

The final decision will be taken by the Ankara military appeal tribunal.

The Ten are concerned at the human rights situation in Turkey — particularly as regards persons imprisoned because of their opinions. We expect the Turkish Government fully to respect fundamental human rights and freedoms and to make positive steps in that direction.

The Ten will continue to keep a close eye on developments in the human rights situation in Turkey.

Mrs Ewing (RDE): May I thank the President-in-Office for his answer and for his concern. The question has been dragged out a bit and it has been overtaken by events. But, as he rightly says, 12 of those I mentioned remain in prison pending an appeal. One of them — a woman, Mrs Izban, is enduring very bad conditions in prison. But worse than that, may I draw his attention to the fact that in November when my question was lodged, the second Turkish Peace Association trial involved a further 48 people, including the lawyers who dare to defend those who are accused, surely a new dimension when even defending lawyers are arrested with the others! Surely this is so serious as to merit some special overt approach now by the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation to the Turkish Government, because things are not getting better, they are getting worse.

Mr Forte: I can assure you that we are hoping for a swift decision upholding the decision of the tribunal on the part of the Court of Appeal in Ankara.

We are very concerned at these latest developments.

Ms Tongue (S): It is patently obvious that the President-in-Office of the Council is not aware of the second trial of the Turkish Peace Association that Mrs Ewing just mentioned which started last November with the obvious aim of silencing the leading defence lawyers in the first Turkish Peace Association trial. It looks increasingly likely that the lawyers among the defendants in this trial will soon be disbarred from legal activity. This makes an absolute mockery of any claims made by the Turkish regime about a return to democracy. I would like to know what representations EEC Foreign Ministers plan to make to the Turkish Government in pursuit of the fundamental right of all citizens to legal representation.

Mr Forte: As I said before, we are grateful for the latest information we have received.

However, should this turn out to be the case, we will adopt the same attitudes and course of action as in the other case referred to by the questioner — and we hope this will lead to some results.

Mr Ulburghs (NI): I have heard that the Turkish Government wishes to establish contact between the Turkish and European Parliaments through its ambassador in Brussels. The letter in question was referred by the Enlarged Bureau to the Political Affairs Committee. Do you not think that a resumption of this dialogue could be interpreted as an endorsement on the part of the European Parliament of the current regime in Turkey, where thousands of people are imprisoned, and many of them tortured, for political reasons?

Last year, I personally visited...

President: Mr Ulburghs, your question, is not, I think, relevant to the matter in hand.

Mr Alavanos (Com): From the replies given by the President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers to the preceding questions, it appears that he recognizes that democratic and human rights are being brutally violated in Turkey at this very moment. Thus, I would like to ask whether he can give us an assurance that, insofar as this situation continues, all financial assistance in the context of the third and fourth financial protocols between the EEC and Turkey will be frozen, together with the special financial aid to Turkey for 1985?

Likewise, Madam President, I would like to ask to what extent the Council is willing to make representations to Turkey concerning the members of the Disk trade union, precisely now that the European Confederation of Workers has, just a few days ago, agreed to let Disk join its ranks?

Mr Forte: I do not think this is the place to discuss this matter.

Mrs Lizin (S): I should like to return to two specific points which have already been mentioned and on which the Foreign Ministers could possibly make representations to the Turkish Government. Can the President of the Council formally undertake, here today, to make these representations without delay – in other words in the course of the week? I am referring first of all to Mrs Izban who is still imprisoned under outrageous conditions. Can he also undertake to do all he can to prevent the lawyers who have either already been sentenced or are currently being interrogated as part of the trial of the 48 new members of the Turkish Peace Association from being disbarred?

Mr Forte: We conduct inquiries into every case we hear of which, like the one you mentioned, might constitute a violation of human rights so that we can subsequently voice our criticisms of the Turkish Government and make our views known – although this is hardly necessary since we react in the same way every time.

Mr Pearce (ED): Does the Council not agree that, while maintaining pressure on Turkey to see that human rights are respected there, credit should be given where credit is due and that the Council should properly recognize that Mr Dikerdem has, in fact, been released, that the humanitarian aspects of this case have been recognized and that the Council's overall position in this should strike a balance between the difficulties experienced in Turkey, on the one hand and, on the other, the progress which that country is making towards reestablishment of peaceful, democratic and humanitarian standards?

Mr Forte: This is exactly the view we take.

85/019. Question No H-336/84 by Mr Ephremidis on Community Measures against the Turkish Government

Date of Issue: 13 February 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

What measures has the Community taken against the Turkish Government in view of the latter's massive campaign to exterminate the Kurds through military operations, the formation of paramilitary units, etc.?

Answer:

The question raised by the Honourable Member has not been discussed specifically by the Ten meeting in political cooperation.

However, I can assure the Honourable Member that the Ten are following events in Turkey closely, particularly the situation as regards the respect of human rights, and have not failed to make their concern known to the Turkish Government.

85/020. Question No H-444/84 by Mr Van Miert on the Situation in Uganda

Date of Issue: 13 February 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

The Ministers stated last month that they were considering how best to use their influence and support to restore peace and stability to Uganda and, in the meantime, to prevent human rights violations.

What conclusions have the Ministers reached, what initiative have they taken already and what results have been achieved?

Mr Forte, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: The situation in Uganda is under constant review in the context of political cooperation. As regards the human rights question, representations were made to President Obote last November by the heads of the diplomatic mission of the Ten to Kampala. President Obote confirmed the undertaking on the part of his government to guarantee the respect of human rights, as far as the situation in the country permitted, and the application by the legal authorities of the legislation concerning the prevention of crime and the abuse of power.

Mr Van Miert (S): I am pleased to hear that representations have in fact been made to the authorities. However, these representations were made last November and it is now February and it would appear that the Minister is still unable to tell us what has come of them. Could he try to do something about this? I assume that, after making these representations, the heads of the European diplomatic mission will in the meantime have reported on their practical outcome. Can the Minister give us any information on this subject or at least assure us that the Italian Presidency will be able to inform us of developments in the very near future?

Mr Forte: We have in fact received a letter from President Obote. However, I cannot read it to you because it runs to some 20 pages. We are always on the lookout for any tangible evidence and we expect the situation may become much clearer in future. At the moment, however, it is not easy to find out what is really going on. It is hard to tell whether the letter gives a complete picture or simply a rough idea. At any rate, if we discover any irregularities we will take other steps as soon as possible.

85/021. Question No H-579/84 by Mr Selva on a European Anti-Terrorist Squad

Date of Issue: 13 February 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Following yet another massacre of helpless and innocent people, on the Naples-Milan train on 23 December 1984, do the Foreign Ministers feel that it is a matter of urgency to lay foundations for the establishment of a European anti-terrorist squad?

Mr Forte, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: The Foreign Ministers' meeting in political cooperation have not yet discussed the possibility of setting up a European anti-terrorist squad. They have, however, agreed to closer collaboration between the Ten in the face of the disturbing new waves of terrorism in many European countries. Cooperation of this kind must nowadays be one of our main priorities and will require considerable efforts to organize and implement, as noted by the Ministers meeting in political cooperation on 12 February.

Mr Selva (PPE): I should like to thank the President of the Council for his reply. As you said, my question refers to the active terrorism on the Naples-Milan train. Since then, terrorism has reared its ugly head once more with the killing of General Audran in France and Mr Zimmerman, the industrialist, in the Federal Republic.

I should like to ask whether it would be possible during the Italian Presidency, i.e. before 30 June 1985, to convene an informal meeting between the Ministers of the Interior and the Ministers of Justice?

Mr Forte: A meeting of this kind has already been planned. I might also add that, if I am not mistaken, this matter is to be discussed in connection with a subsequent question by Mr Formigoni. I will go into the matter at greater length on that occasion.

85/022. Question No H-584/84 by Mr De Vries on the Persecution of the Baha'is

Date of Issue: 13 February 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

What bilateral action did the Presidency take in 1984 in conjunction with the international organizations to induce the Iranian Government to put an end to the continual persecution of the followers of the Baha'i faith? What initiatives have the Ten decided to take during the Italian presidency?

Mr Forte, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: The Ten are keeping a close eye on the situation of the Baha'is in Iran, which is a cause of great concern. During 1984 they continued to do all they could in the competent international organizations – in particular, the Commission on Human Rights – or in direct contact with the Iranian authorities. I might remind you, for example, of the representation made by the Ten in Teheran on 2 October 1984.

The Ten intend to continue taking any steps possible, as and when they appear most appropriate, in their dealings with the Iranian Authorities in the interests of fair treatment for the Baha'i community in that country.

Mr De Vries (NL): I should like to thank the Italian Presidency for his answer, although it is not totally reassuring. The ruthless persecution of the Baha'is in Iran is virtually unparalleled in recent history. The cases of torture or imprisonment without trial or where the trial was a mere sham are innumerable. Thousands of Baha'is have been killed since 1979 and this means that the political pressure which the Ten have brought to bear on Iran has been ineffective. I should like to ask the President of the Council quite simply whether or not he is prepared to enter into consultation with the Political Affairs Committee of this Parliament with a view to determining whether other steps could possibly be taken jointly by the Ten in cooperation with the European Commission. Is he prepared to discuss this question once more on an informal basis this Parliament?

Mr Forte: I should like to point out that we must make a distinction between procedural questions and substantive questions. We intend to take whatever action would appear most likely to produce results in the field of human rights. We are not thinking in terms of boosting our popularity and it is well known that methods of bringing psychological pressure to bear which can produce positive results with other governments may have the opposite effect with the Iranian government – I am referring in particular to the amount of publicity given to such action. We therefore intend to exert the maximum possible pressure which appears likely to produce the maximum possible results as regards the human rights situation.

Mr Marshall (ED): As the author of the resolution passed by this Parliament early in 1984, may I congratulate the President-in-Office for the action the Council has taken; but would he accept that so far the rulers of Iran have been deaf to the pleas from outside for them to reverse this awful policy?

The Iranian Revolution was undertaken by a man of God. Can I ask the Council to continue the pressure, and make it even stronger, so that, perhaps, they may eventually reverse this totally abhorrent policy?

Mr Forte: While I would like to be God for a moment so that I could simply solve certain problems with a wave of my hand, we certainly intend to go on using pressure – as I said before – as firmly and at the same time as effectively as possible.

Mr Alavanos (Com): Very recently the Tudeh party, the Communist Party of Iran, made a staggering accusation. They claimed that the members of the Tudeh party who have been condemned to death by the Iranian authorities are, before they face the firing squad, brought to hospitals where they are violently and forcibly bled to satisfy the needs of the Iranian army in the Iran-Iraq war. This is an inhuman torture, morally and physically, and I would like to ask whether the Foreign Ministers would consider making representations in the light of this disclosure.

Mr Forte: This was a hypothetical question – at least that is how it came out in the interpretation. My answer is similarly hypothetical: yes, we would.

Mr Habsburg (PPE): After discussing the question of the Baha'i so often, only to discover that the pressure of public opinion has hardly produced any results, I would like to ask once more whether or not it is time we called on the Governments of the Member States to make more use of the United Nations than they have done so far, since we see all too often that the United Nations Organization concerns itself with all sorts of problems but hardly at all with this one, even though it is the most serious.

Mr Forte: We will give this some consideration, although the question was not very specific.

Mr Clinton (PPE): I think the flow of representations that most of us get in our constituencies is fair evidence of the fact that whatever steps have been taken by the Council are not effective or have had very little effect. Would the President-in-Office see if there is any other approach which could be made to try and overcome this very, very serious problem for the people of the Baha'i faith?

Mr Forte: This question was somewhat vague. If someone can suggest any more effective approaches, we will be glad to consider them.

Mr Vandemeulebroucke (ARC): I do not think the President-in-Office correctly understood Mr Habsburg's question. He asked whether the Foreign Ministers' meeting in political cooperation are prepared to make joint representations to the United Nations. This question was not answered. It was not a hypothetical question at all and I have therefore repeated it.

Mr Forte: I did not, I think, give a hypothetical answer to this question, but to the question concerning the possible method of torture consisting of draining the blood from persons condemned to death. Now that the question has been clearly formulated I can give a precise answer.

The problem of the Baha'is in Iran has frequently been discussed in the United Nations, with particular reference to the protection of human rights. In March 1983 a resolution was adopted, with the firm support of Italy, requesting the Iranian Government to guarantee the respect of human rights and basic freedoms to all persons living in Iran, particularly in connection with the religious intolerance *vis-à-vis* the Baha'is and the dire consequences this has had. The attitude of the Italian Presidency to this question should therefore be clear.

85/023. Question No H-588/84 by Mr Deniau on the 40th Anniversary of the Yalta Agreements

Date of Issue: 13 February 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Could the ministers, on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the Yalta agreements, which are a symbol of the division of Europe into two and of Soviet hegemony over the eastern half, solemnly affirm the principle of European unity founded on a common civilization and restate that the peoples

of Central and Eastern Europe belong wholly and entirely to that civilization. Could they also state what ways and means they intend to use to diminish the present division, which is contrary to the fundamental rules of the law and of democracy, from continuing. Could they furthermore declare that the right to self-determination is a fundamental European value that should obtain throughout our continent and should apply in particular both to the choice of internal political systems and to membership of military alliances?

Mr Forte, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: The Ten are aware that 1985 marks not only the 40th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, but also the 10th anniversary of the Final Act of Helsinki which, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the generally accepted principles of international law, affirms the importance of the respect by all the countries which took part in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, regardless of their political, economic and social systems or geographical location, of the principles governing their mutual relations including the principle of equality and the right to self-determination.

They particularly recall that the first principle of the Final Act of Helsinki mentions the right of all the participant countries freely to choose and develop their political, social economic and cultural system. This first principle also affirms that all the participating States have the right to belong or not to belong to international organizations, to be or not to be a party to bilateral or multilateral treaties, including the right to be or not to be a party to treaties of alliance.

The Ten reaffirm the universal importance of this principle and their attachment to the respect and exercise of these rights as well as practical measures to promote contacts between individuals and peoples, and the freedom of movement between States. The Ten will continue to stress the importance they attach to the full application of all the provisions of the Final Act while at the same time pursuing their policy of constructive dialogue and cooperation with the Soviet Union and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

Mr Deniau (L): This was the answer I was afraid you would give. I had feared that when I mentioned the anniversary of Yalta – which did not result in an agreement as such but in recognition of a *de facto* situation – people would start talking about Helsinki. It would appear that everyone has the impression that the Final Act of Helsinki is not being applied in spite of the fact that it is a treaty, i.e. an agreement, while the results of Yalta are being applied even though they only consisted of recognition of a *de facto* situation and not an agreement.

Mr President of the Council, I think we should all bear in mind in all the Institutions that peoples exist as well as States, and that there is another Europe where the people do not have the right to choose for themselves and for which we represent an ideal, with our freely elected Parliament, our representative governments and our countries where people are free to choose their friends and alliances and hold their own opinions and beliefs. As I see it, we form part of the same civilization and culture and we should not forget this fact since we embody a hope for this other Europe. I would therefore be pleased if this other Europe – which is also our Europe, since it consists of Europeans like ourselves – were mentioned in this debate so that their representatives, who have lost everything simply because of their attachment to freedom, might fully realize that we recognize them as fellow Europeans and have no wish to dash their hopes.

President: I think I should thank the President-in-Office of the Council for his answers.

85/024. Question No H-590/84 by Mr Deprez on the Hostilities in Ethiopia

Date of Issue: 13 February 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

At its December 1984 part-session the European Parliament passed an urgent resolution calling on the Ministers of Foreign Affairs to use their good offices to bring about a cease-fire that would end the hostilities in Ethiopia.

What action have the Ministers of Foreign Affairs taken since December to bring about a cease-fire and should they not have made the granting of additional aid to Ethiopia by the European Community conditional on prompt introduction of such a cease-fire?

Answer:

The Ten are very anxious to see the restoration of peace in Northern Ethiopia by political methods, based on the respect of territorial integrity and the principle of non-interference in internal affairs, and respecting the identities of the peoples of those regions. Aid has been granted on humanitarian grounds to combat the crisis and is intended for all the people of the country affected by the famine. The Ten consider that to attach political conditions to aid granted on strictly humanitarian grounds would be wrong.

85/025. Question No H-598/84 by Mr Cot on the Ratification of the International Convention against Torture

Date of Issue: 13 February 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Could the Ministers of Foreign Affairs meeting in political cooperation state whether measures have been taken to promote ratification by all the Member States of the International Convention against Torture, which was unanimously adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 10 December 1984?

Answer:

The International Convention against Torture, adopted unanimously by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 10 December 1984, was open for signature from 4 February, the date of the opening of the 41st session of the Commission on Human Rights.

It was agreed by the Ten meeting in political cooperation that the Convention should be signed as quickly as possible. However, some Member States will take longer to ratify it than others, in view of the different national parliaments' examination procedures and because, before they can ratify, the signatory States are obliged to introduce a number of regulations into their national legislation.

85/026. Question No H-603/84 by Mrs Castle on the Persecution of the Tamil Minority in Sri Lanka

Date of Issue: 13 February 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Bearing in mind the continuing murders and persecution of Tamils in Sri Lanka, and disturbing reports of the involvement of the Sri Lankan Army in some of these acts which are giving rise to widespread concern, will the Foreign Ministers raise the question of human rights with the government of Sri Lanka and press for: permission for access for the foreign press to go into Jaffna, the Tamils' homeland; to allow foreign government delegates to inspect the camps where thousands of Tamil youths are being kept; to allow food and medical supplies to reach Tamil areas?

Answer:

The Ten are closely following developments in the situation in Sri Lanka, where a state of emergency has been proclaimed in the northern part of the island following acts of terrorism committed by extremist Tamil groups which, especially recently, have claimed many victims and caused great damage. This situation affects the civilian population in that area because the establishment of an 'exclusive coastal zone' and the sometimes uncontrolled reactions of the forces of law and order have created a climate of insecurity and economic difficulties.

Nevertheless, the Ten have noted the repeated attempts by the Government in Colombo to restore national unity. In the present circumstances, they can only hope that a political solution will be reached which will enable the various communities in Sri Lanka to live together in peace and harmony, with human rights and the pluralist and democratic traditions of that country being fully respected.

85/027. Question No H-630/84 by Mr Elliot on Chemical Weapons

Date of Issue: 13 February 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Bearing in mind that the use of sophisticated modern chemical weapons could present almost as great a threat to the life and future health of humanity as the use of nuclear weapons, and noting recent well-founded reports that the British Government is seriously considering adding chemical weapons to its military arsenal, would the Foreign Ministers agree as a matter of urgency to issue a statement condemning the development or stock-piling of chemical weapons by any nation anywhere in the world, in particular to make the strongest representations to the government of any nation in the European Community known to possess or to be considering acquiring chemical weapons?

Answer:

The newspaper reports referred to in the question — which have, however, been denied by the Member State concerned — relate to defence matters which, as such, are not dealt with in the context of European political cooperation.

The great importance which the Ten attach to the conclusion of a convention banning chemical weapons is, however, well-known and was referred to in the address given on behalf of the Ten during the plenary session of the United Nations General Assembly on 25 September 1984.

85/028. Question No H-653/84 by Mrs Dury on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms in Chile

Date of Issue: 13 February 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Have the Ministers for Foreign Affairs put pressure on the Chilean Government with a view to obtaining that human rights and fundamental freedoms are at last respected and, if so, how exactly have they done this and what measures have they taken to bring round the Chilean Government to restoring freedom of the press and trade union rights in Chile?

Answer:

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Ten meeting in political cooperation are watching the situation in Chile closely and have on several occasions made representations to the Santiago Government in defence of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

They have also declared publicly on several occasions, and this has received ample coverage in the press, their strong concern at the situation in Chile, deploring the current repressions. I refer in particular to the statements made on 9 April and 11 September 1984.

Recently, on 12 November last year, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs issued a public statement deploring the continued existence of martial law and the consequent violation of human rights and calling for a renewal of dialogue for the restoration of democracy and the return of the political exiles to Chile.

85/029. Question No H-657/84 by Mr Alavanos on Acts of Provocation by the USA against Nicaragua

Date of Issue: 13 February 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

The United States of America has stepped up its terrorist activities against Nicaragua in recent times by withdrawing from the International Court of Justice at The Hague, deploying warships off the coast of Nicaragua, continuing to supply military aid to the counter-revolutionary mercenaries, etc. Would the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation state what action they have taken or intend to take against the US Government on the basis of the San José Declaration?

Answer:

The Honourable Member is referred to the reply to his oral question No H-330/84.

85/030. Question No H-666/84 by Mr Iversen on Arms Sales from EPC Countries to South Africa

Date of Issue: 13 February 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Have the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation discussed the rumours that individual countries participating in EPC are selling arms to South Africa in defiance of the UN's arms embargo and, if this is so, would they indicate which countries are involved and the quantity of arms sold to South Africa?

Answer:

The question of the implementation of Resolution No 418 (1977) of the United Nations Security Council on the embargo on the sale of arms to South Africa was examined by the Ten meeting in political cooperation. Every one of the Ten, acting in accordance with its own national legislation on arms sales, is adhering strictly to the provisions of the Resolution.

85/031. Question No H-680/84 by Mr Pearce on the Relations between EEC Countries and Libya

Date of Issue: 13 February 1985
 Place of Issue: Strasbourg
 Country of Presidency: Italy
 Source of Document: Presidency
 Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Have the Ministers meeting in political cooperation now considered relations between Community countries and Libya, as referred to in Question Time in the January session of the European Parliament?

Answer:

The Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation have not discussed the matter to which the Honourable Member refers.

85/032. Question No H-687/84 by Mrs Van Den Heuvel on the Suspension of Talks between the Government of Nicaragua and the United States

Date of Issue: 13 February 1985
 Place of Issue: Strasbourg
 Country of Presidency: Italy
 Source of Document: Presidency
 Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

In view of the tense political and military situation in Central America, are the Foreign Ministers prepared to act as mediators to ensure that these extremely important talks are resumed as soon as possible?

Answer:

The Ten have on several occasions expressed their full support for the Contadora Group initiative to find a peaceful and global solution to this area's problems.

The temporary suspension of the meetings between the United States and Nicaragua has occurred at a time when relations between a number of the countries of the region are delicate. The Ten are convinced that this can only be overcome by a return to constructive dialogue between the Central American States, within the framework of the Contadora initiative.

The Ten has therefore sent a message of encouragement to the Foreign Ministers of the Contadora Group at Panama.

85/033. Question No H-91/84 by Mr Formigoni on the Combating of Terrorism

Date of Issue: 13 February 1985
 Place of Issue: Strasbourg
 Country of Presidency: Italy
 Source of Document: Presidency
 Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

On 9 July 1982 the European Parliament adopted a resolution on the European legal area in which it urged that measures should be taken to ensure that the combating of terrorism is better coordinated and organized.

Parliament confirmed this position in a resolution on violence and terrorism adopted on Thursday, 25 October 1984 (PE 93.203).

1. What has the Council (the Commission) done in response to this request?
2. Have there already been any concrete results?
3. What measures does it intend to take?

Mr Formigoni (PPE): Mr President, we have witnessed a dramatic resurgence of international terrorism of late. Public opinion has been shaken and frightened by the high degree of organization that terrorism has achieved, by the news of the international connections which terrorism now enjoys, of the complicity, cover-up and other direct assistance offered to terrorists by foreign powers bent on toppling democracy in Europe and destabilizing the democratic system of the West. Nor can the fact be overlooked that a frequent and direct target of terrorist strikes are often persons, locations and installations of the NATO defence organization to which our countries belong. It was not by chance that the new terrorist phenomenon has been given the newly coined name of 'Euroterrorism'. In view of the fact that it is European terrorism that we are confronted with it is primarily to the European institutions that public opinion is looking in the hope of receiving a satisfactory response.

This is the essence of the questions I shall put to the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation, and to the Council and the Commission. My question to the representatives of the various Community institutions will be: what has been done to stem the tide of Euroterrorism and what do you intend to do to repress it?

That is my question, the question of the Political Committee which has given me the task of putting this question — the question that the European Parliament is putting and the question that European public opinion is putting. What has been done and what do you intend to do to contain the surge of Euroterrorism?

It is a question that we are putting unequivocally today since the European Parliament has repeatedly drawn your attention to this urgent problem over a long period.

The first resolution on this subject was adopted by the European Parliament on 27 September 1979, a date when the European Parliament elected on the basis of universal suffrage had just come into being. I should also like to remind you that over the past two years alone the European Parliament has voiced its opinion some 22 times with as many resolutions on the subject.

When the Political Affairs Committee gave me the task of tabling this question its intention was to demonstrate its continuing concern in the face of the violence which is attacking our countries and our people. With these measures the Political Affairs Committee and the European Parliament have done all that they can do. They have done their duty. Now is the time for all to do their duty as their powers allow in this delicate and important area.

Mr President, ladies and gentlemen, it is my wish that your reply today should not be a formal reply nor a routine reply. This is an area which requires maximum commitment and maximum effort on the part of all. Obviously, and let me state the point quite clearly, it calls for a greater effort than that which has been in evidence so far. I should like to voice my total dissatisfaction concerning the way in which the Member States of the European Community have over the past few years failed to develop an effective Community system to control terrorism and make some progress towards a European legal area.

I should like in particular to remind the House that the European Parliament has on many occasions sought closest possible cooperation between the Member States in this field. May I also point out that for its part the Council as early as April 1977 stressed the need to award top priority to greater cooperation between the Member States to protect our society from terrorist violence. Now, eight years after the signing of the Strasbourg Convention only four countries have ratified it and six of the 10 Member States of our Community have still not done so.

Mr President, eight years in my opinion is more than enough time to reflect fully on the matter, provided, that is, that the reflection has not taken on the form of a deep sleep.

There is something else that I would like to stress. I should like to remind you that a Member State of the Community, Italy as it happens, has submitted to another Member State, France, some

120 requests for the extradition of persons charged with terrorist activities and, in many cases, persons who have already been convicted of common offences in the country seeking their extradition, in other words Italy. However, Italy has not received anything which could be called a reply from the other country which is also a member of the same Community. My question to you is how can such a state of affairs be tolerated?

Mr President, before I listen to the replies to my questions I should like to add a general point and will also put forward some firm proposals. The general point is the following one — I am convinced that the control of terrorism must not divert our attention from one of the principal elements of the Community which is the free movement of persons between the Member States and the stage-by-stage dismantling of barriers impeding that free movement. The point must be made here that the control of terrorism, far from representing a reason for restricting the principle of the free movement of persons, should be carried out in the form of coordinated action based on the knowledge that the process of integration between the 10 presupposes that the latter recognize that their various political structures are similar and that their values are identical. In other words, the control of terrorism must be seen in the broad context of the creation of a European legal area. The control of terrorism can therefore and must be pursued with tools which take full account of the philosophy on which the Community is based, in other words the territory of one Member State is not 'abroad' viewed from that of another.

It is in the context of this idea of a single area, which is the aim of the movement for uniting Europe that the Member States should prepare the most suitable ways and means of combating terrorism and it is in this context that I should like to put forward the following five firm proposals. First: the ministers in the Member States who are responsible for controlling terrorism should meet at regular intervals like the Council of Ministers.

Second, I propose that the possibility of setting up a European court for terrorist crimes should be examined. The idea was put forward many years ago by the President of the French Republic and to me there is an urgent need for it.

Third, I propose that the possibility of setting up a European study and information centre with responsibility for the dissemination of technical information on terrorist crimes and studying the links between terrorist crimes and common crime, financial crimes and arms and drug trafficking. Such a centre could also ensure the European-level exchange of views and the coordination of information and cooperation.

Fourth, there is a need to stimulate a greater awareness in the people of the Community of the threat which terrorism poses to the freedom of the individual and to that of the people as a whole. The Commission could study a suitable information plan for this project.

Fifth: I propose that the Member States who have not yet done so should be invited to ratify the agreement signed by the Ministers of Justice on 4 December 1979 in Dublin to implement on Community territory the European convention on the control of terrorism signed in Strasbourg on 27 January 1977.

I should now like to address the President-in-Office and hope that he can, even today, if possible, let me hear his reply to these proposals. Or that before us here today he could at least give a formal undertaking that the issue and the proposals will be raised at the Council of Ministers meeting as part of the political cooperation programme. It may not be possible for him to give this assurance in his first reply but I hope as time progresses this will be possible.

Mr Forte, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: In the context of European political cooperation it has been agreed that collaboration between the Ten concerning the control of terrorism and organized crime should be intensified, in particular in view of its recent resurgence in various European countries, which gives us grounds for concern. The subject was considered by the Ministers in Rome on 12 February last. After the debate and after having heard the Commission I shall provide further information and some points for consideration both with regard to the meeting of 12 February and on this subject in general.

Lord Cockfield, Vice-President of the Commission: Mr President, this is a subject of immense importance. It has been introduced by Mr Formigoni in a speech of great power and sincerity. I have

no doubt that many other important and notable contributions will be made. Indeed, the very fact that this debate is being held testifies to the strong feelings that we — all of us — have on this subject which poses so serious a threat, not just to us as individuals, but to the society in which we live.

However much we want to act and to act vigorously, we need to start by recognizing that the Commission, like Parliament, unfortunately has no specific powers of its own in this field. If we had power to act, we would act. It is not a lack of determination; it is a lack of the necessary legal powers. The powers and therefore the responsibilities rest with the individual Member States. The role we can play and have played is to press tirelessly upon the Member States the need to act, the duty to act. Parliament has played an important role in this field as your successive resolutions adopted on 9 July and 25 October 1982 and more recently on 16 September, as well as the present debate, amply testify.

Following the resolution of 9 July 1982 the Commission drew the attention of the meeting of Justice Ministers to the resolution adopted by Parliament, including Parliament's wish that the Dublin Agreement of 4 December 1979 on combating terrorism, should be ratified. Parliament's resolution of 9 July 1982 was comprehensive and farsighted and would have provided a sound basis for a common approach to these problems. Unfortunately, the Member States could not reach agreement, and as unanimity would be required for action under Article 235, the Commission did not feel that it could usefully pursue the matter further with the Member States.

The adoption for the Declaration on International Terrorism at the London Economic Summit on 9 June 1984, however, marked an important step forward. This referred to closer cooperation and coordination between police and security organizations, especially in the exchange of information, intelligence and technical knowledge, the use of powers under the Vienna Convention in relation to the potential abuse of diplomatic immunity, action to review the sale of weapons to States supporting terrorism and consultation and cooperation in dealing with known terrorists. This declaration was further reinforced by the conclusions of the European Council, adopted at Dublin on 4 December 1984, on terrorism and the abuse of diplomatic immunity.

The most recent development is the agreement reached between France and the Federal Republic of Germany on 5 February to set up an operational group to coordinate national efforts. A measure of this kind is a valuable means of combating terrorism at the European level. The Commission would express the hope that these arrangements could be extended rapidly to include other Member States. Indeed, European anti-terrorist measures of this kind are indispensable. Terrorism does not respect State borders and action, therefore, needs to be on a European level.

May I also pay tribute to the very active interest that the new Italian Presidency is taking in this subject. We as a Commission are very conscious of our own responsibilities where our actions may impinge on these matters. Thus, while we are all anxious to see free movement of our citizens in the Community, the new draft directive on facilitating cross-border movement does provide for special measures to deal with situations that could threaten public security.

It is not enough to deplore terrorism, as we all do. It is not enough just to condemn the outrages wherever they occur — in Brighton, Paris, Munich and elsewhere. We need to be eternally vigilant. Where we have powers we should exercise them. Where we have no powers we should press upon those who do have the powers to act and to act vigorously and in cooperation. We need to recognize that terrorism strikes not just at individuals, but at the fabric of society itself, at the whole concept of democracy. Civilization depends upon the rule of law. Men can only be free under the law and under the protection of the law. Those who resort to violence have as their aim the destruction of the law, and with it our freedom.

Let us both, Parliament and Commission, continue to impress upon Member States our concern and our demand for action. We, the Commission, stand by ready to give whatever assistance we can in further work undertaken by the Member States.

Mr Amadei (S): Mr President, the resurgence of terrorism in our countries and the imminent danger to our freedom, human dignity and democracy itself that it represents should prompt the European Parliament to devote due attention to this problem.

Terrorism in Europe is evidently becoming increasingly international in style so that the name Euroterrorism, that Mr Formigoni aptly gave it, is appropriate.

Now, more than ever, an effective European level reaction is called for. It must be a determined reaction, and geared, initially, to the protection of freedom and of the rights of the individual which represent the liberty and democracy that are our heritage.

Faced with the international character of terrorism and the resultant need for new forms of political, legal and judicial cooperation, decisive and concerted action at European level is called for. Terrorism benefits not only from the democratic freedom enjoyed in each Member State but also from the other Community achievements such as free movement of persons, the increasingly infrequent checks at borders and, last but not least, that which in some cases and circumstances has been an enlightened spirit of openness towards political refugees. This tradition of open hospitality has marked and honoured the political history of a number of Member States. However, Mr President, ladies and gentlemen, I should like at this juncture to make two points. The first point concerns the fact that the combating of terrorism should not jeopardize that which has been achieved in the Community by effort and sacrifice. While accepting and recognizing the need for appropriate and urgent measures we must insist that the combating of terrorism does not call into question the reduction of the number of checks on persons at borders within the Community.

The second point concerns that which might constitute a distortion of a long and precious tradition of political tolerance and civilization. When it is considered that a Member State gave asylum to such people as the current President of the Italian Republic, Mr Pertini, to the former President of the Republic, Mr Saragat, to men such as Nenni and other great men of the Italian resistance during the struggle against Fascism, in the defence of liberty, this fact, I repeat, must not be exposed to the risk of debasement and misunderstanding. There are terrorists and common criminals who on occasions use the label of political struggle to escape justice and seek protection in other countries by abusing those countries' traditions of liberty and political tolerance.

It is all too clear that there is an indispensable need to respond in a united and coordinated manner, at European level, to this new form of international subversion which avails itself of the most recent and greatest achievements of liberty to develop and move freely and with impunity all over Italy. We call upon the ministers of the governments of the Member States meeting in the context of political cooperation to examine in consultation with the European Parliament, the problems of combating all forms of terrorism and serious criminal activities.

We must create common procedures for combating terrorism and organized crime and solve the problems of extradition both within and outside the Community. European level cooperation thus now becomes the only means of providing adequate and effective response to Euroterrorism. What has already been done elsewhere to combat terrorism, in particular by the Council of Europe, must also be borne in mind. Duplication of effort must be avoided and it will be necessary to organize coordinated plans to a common aim which are based on previous experience and we must ensure that any action in the Community on this problem is compatible with the terms of the Treaties.

On the basis of this recommendation we request that the Legal Affairs Committee should be given the task of entering into a dialogue with the appropriate parliamentary committees in the Member States and that it should seek to create a legal policy and establish a series of effective measures to combat terrorism and crime. The governments of the Member States are also requested to increase and deepen collaboration in the context of political cooperation. If the Council can act towards this end it will enjoy the support not only of the Socialist Group but the political support and understanding of the whole of the European Parliament.

...

Mr Habsburg (PPE): Mr President, the Commission representative has given us a positively moving account of the position which we have adopted with regard to terrorism. The most important part of the motion for a resolution tabled by the European People's Party — more important even than the practical section — is the explanatory statement, since this explains Parliament's thinking and suggestions over the past six years to combat terrorism effectively.

These earlier documents are very illuminating. If the national governments of six years ago had shouldered their responsibilities, we would not have needed to hold this debate. The incident at Brighton, the murders in Paris, the explosions in Italy and the murders in Munich would not have happened.

This is a further demonstration of the fact that Parliament focuses attention on matters of real concern, whereas the national governments — though I do not in fact wish to express a severe criticism here — are slow to take action once the initial excitement has died down, and then again nothing gets done.

There is one thing, however, which we must be clear about. It is no longer possible to tackle terrorism on a national scale, just as it is becoming impossible to discuss environmental protection in a purely national context, since all these problems are now international. I feel it is our duty to emphasize again and again how important it is to consider this problem in European terms, to remind the national governments constantly of their responsibilities and, in particular, to put greater pressure on bureaucracies. Anyone who has ever had anything to do with the machinery of national government knows very well that governments have relatively little to do with such decisions. It is the bureaucracies which are attached to the governments and prevent them from taking action, though I do not want this to be interpreted as a criticism of our police forces, which have on the whole made a serious effort to combat terrorism.

The terrorists have long been living in the 20th and 21st centuries. As their latest declaration shows, they are the first to achieve unity on a European scale, while we are still using the machinery of the 19th century, that is of our grandparents, to tackle something which has slipped through our grasp.

I therefore feel it is very important, especially now that time is running out — international terrorist rings have become a reality — to remind the national governments as forcefully as possible of their responsibilities in this matter and tell them that the people whom we are proud to represent here will call them to account if they shun them.

The fact that all our resolutions have the same fundamental objective shows that there is agreement among the democrats here, and it is high time we forced the bureaucratic administrations and governments to follow them through!

Mr Prag (ED): You might ask, if you were so inclined, whether, in present circumstances, it would be better to be a distinguished politician, a businessman, a member of the security forces or a terrorist. As we are law-abiding citizens, you and I would choose to be on the side of law and order and democracy. However, I am not sure that, morality aside, the odds at the moment are not with the terrorists.

We learned from the 'Agence France Presse' this morning rather more of what the Foreign Office Ministers of the Ten agreed yesterday in Rome than we heard from the President-in-Office a few moments ago. They adopted no texts or formal motions and they gave us the same old pledge. There are, however, to be further meetings of the Ministers of the Interior and Home Affairs Departments, of the Justice Ministers and of the specialized security services. So far, so good. It may mean something or it may mean nothing. Hope springs eternal in the human breast and perhaps the Member States really are going to do something.

It was in January 1977 that the Council of Europe, including all the present Member States of the European Community, signed here in Strasbourg the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism. Some of them have still not ratified it. Others subjected their ratification to stultifying conditions, notably on the extradition of terrorists. At least the Federal Republic of Germany and my own country, the United Kingdom, were among those who ratified it unconditionally, but they were exceptions.

Following the international agreement on terrorism in December 1979, as Lord Cockfield has said, we had the Dublin Agreement between the Member States of which there were then nine. If one is to sum it up succinctly, the effect of that agreement also was virtually nil. Of course, if you read it you can understand why. I doubt whether anybody in any of the Member States understood it, so

contorted and complex is the text. Perhaps the only thing in it that was readily comprehensible was that there was a let out somewhere for everybody.

Since then there has been resolution after resolution from this House on the need for joint action. In November last year we regretted the slow progress being made etc., etc. Two years earlier in September 1982, this Parliament called on the police authorities of the Member States to set up an effective mutual information network and asked for cooperation, in particular on strengthening controls at external frontiers. We asked for the creation of a European centre for information, research and intelligence but without executive powers as we did not want to go too far. If you go back to the July 1982 part-session of Parliament there is yet another motion urging effective cooperation and specialized European structures to centralize confidential information, etc.

Each of these resolutions by this House and each statement of good intention by the governments followed a series of quite hideous acts of terrorism in the Member States. It is very instructive to look at what happened. The more numerous the intentions and the stronger the expressions of good intention by the governments, the less the Member States have actually achieved. Since 1980 the number of incidents and the number of deaths in Western Europe has been rising inexorably. In 1983 there were more victims than ever before — 1 925 — double the 1982 figure, and more than half of the attacks were on diplomats. The number of those who die from terrorism in Western Europe is rising by 13% each year. The leading assassins included the Palestine Liberation Organization, the Armenian Secret Army, the Irish Republican Army and the so-called Irish National Liberation Army and the Basque Separatist Group (ETA). How long will it take our governments actually to do something effective together? It is this appalling rise in terrorism which casts the most serious doubts on the efficacy of intergovernmental cooperation. Surely the time has come to give the fight for internal security a Community dimension. It does not require a genius to see what needs to be done. We need a joint anti-terrorist staff at European Community level which should be entitled to communicate directly with the national anti-terrorist staffs in each Member State. We need a much better exchange of information. The diplomatic black-list is, of course, useful, but it is not enough. We need automatic and immediate, if selective, exchange of information between the security authorities of each Member State.

The question of political asylum must be resolved once and for all. No one who uses or advocates or organizes violence with the aim of overthrowing a democratically elected government should be given political asylum or protected from extradition. In this connection one welcomes the statement yesterday by Mr Dumas in which he promised, in particular regarding the presence of Italian terrorists on French soil, that links between France and Italy would be tightened. They need to be. None of us has forgotten how easy it was for an Italian terrorist sentenced to 36 years imprisonment, moving freely about France, to get into this House. Although the tradition of my own country is against it, I personally believe that we shall have to come to compulsory identity cards throughout the Community.

I have poked fun at the governments, and they deserve it. They have talked big and acted small. I understand as well as anyone the difficult problem of preserving the freedom and democratic way of life of our Member States. We do not want to destroy by our action against terrorism the very freedom we seek to preserve. Nevertheless, the time has come for the governments to act to protect those democratic systems which have produced them and of which they are the guardians. Action, as Lord Cockfield said, needs to be on a European level to be effective. It also needs to be 'action'. Dare we hope that this time the governments really mean business?

Mr Barzanti (COM): Mr President, ladies and gentlemen, the series of terrorist acts which has caused bloodshed and provoked a reaction of horror in various countries in Europe, being directed of late against persons, installations and locations of the NATO, has demonstrated an unscrupulous and disconcerting ability for coordination, a renewed determination coupled with a marked deterioration of the situation.

Against this background of an international scale of connections, which is not new by any means but without doubt today more widespread than in the past, of a phenomenon which this Parliament

has also often debated in order to determine effective channels for action, the need for the Community to achieve real and effective tools to tackle the problem becomes a particularly important aspect of the issue as a whole.

Simplistic or tendentious interpretations, delivered possibly to discredit unilaterally the pacifist voices are, in our opinion, to be ignored: they serve no useful purpose. What really is needed in the view of the Italian Communists is willpower, methods, principles and practical tools which can oppose this new force which the terrorists' destructive plans for destabilization are aimed at achieving while all the time negotiations are about to commence which we all hope mark the start of a new era of international detente.

There is no lack of resolutions or documents — and they have been mentioned here — which have concerned this subject. As an example let me quote the resolution of 9 July 1982 on the European Legal Area adopted by this Parliament and the European Convention on the combating of terrorism signed in Strasbourg in 1977.

In addition to these documents we believe that certain articles of the Treaties, for example Article 220 of the EEC Treaty among others, could be used as a basis for providing effective powers to the Community institutions to take direct action in this field.

The question is typically a political one. The very international nature of the terrorism calls for the effective and coherent coordination of measures between the Member States and this coordination cannot merely consist in a general proclamation of willingness for informal contacts between administrations for the exchange of information at intervals. We need something more. In order to oppose terrorism and new organized crime, drugs and arms trafficking we have to create a European legal area modelled on many of the points made in the resolution approved by Parliament on 9 July 1982. We will need precise and detailed guidelines, specific and clear-cut for all and equally binding on all with regard to the observance of the European convention on human rights, the sovereignty of the States, which are not prejudicial to the provisions for free movement which constitute the very essence of the European Community.

On the other hand a number of standards and principles can be reviewed today in the light of experience or historical changes. We feel for example that the requests for extradition for terrorist acts submitted by individual countries on the basis of appropriate and manifestly conclusive documents must prompt a positive reaction as today terrorism, given its predominantly and obviously criminal nature and given its aim of spreading insecurity and threatening the lives of citizens on a ever-increasing scale cannot seek cover behind any political justification, whatsoever. And, while on this point, in other words extradition, I should merely like to make a reference to the provisions of Article 7 of the European convention on combatting terrorism to which we lend our wholehearted support.

Mr President, ladies and gentlemen, experience in Italy shows that by a mass reaffirmation of the principles of democracy and liberty terrorism can and must be combatted. Two other basic elements are also necessary, however: an upgrading of the security services within the State and their total reliability from the point of view of democracy. Finally, the full independence of the services with a view to an effective defence of liberty in the countries of Europe and in general of democracy.

We welcome what we have heard on the agreement reached in Rome yesterday concerning the plans for an intensification of measures to coordinate at political and operational level activities in the Member States to combat organized crime and it is our hope that words will become deeds.

Mrs Veil (L): Mr President, ladies and gentlemen, when we condemned terrorism once again at a previous part-session and called on the Council and our governments to take firm action and make a determined effort to combat this problem more effectively, we scarcely imagined that we would be debating the subject again today in such an alarming context.

In the past few weeks, terrorists have struck again and killed in France, Germany, Belgium, Italy, Portugal and other non-EEC countries. This time, however, the murderers showed themselves in their true colours. They made no attempt to hide the fact that they were attacking our democratic structures, combating imperialism, as they called it, with the aim of destabilizing the Western defence system. To achieve this, they do not hesitate to kill, destroy buildings and equipment considered to be symbols of our determination to shoulder our responsibilities.

They showed themselves in their true colours by claiming joint responsibility for their crimes and revealing the links that exist between terrorist organizations in our different countries.

Finally, they proved that the real aim of their prison hunger strikes is not to secure more human conditions but simply to wage a political campaign as part of their general struggle.

As Members of the European Parliament, we have a duty to express the anxiety felt by the citizens of Europe, whom we represent, in the face of this threat to their safety and, above all, to our democratic regimes. We must once again draw our governments' attention to the gravity of the situation and the need to take effective counter-measures.

We must therefore put forward clear proposals. However, we should also be aware of the perversity of terrorists: their aim in killing is not only to destabilize the system but also to provoke our democratic regimes and draw them into a cycle of violence in order to force us to act against our own principles.

Hence our response must have a dual objective:

- to take more vigorous and more effective action against terrorism;
- to guarantee individual rights in accordance with the European Convention on Human Rights, which all our countries have signed and to which, may I remind you, we suggested the Community as such should accede.

In its motion for a resolution, the Liberal and Democratic Group has therefore called on the Ministers of the Interior and of Justice of the Community to meet as a special Council as a matter of urgency in order to decide what common judicial and police measures should be taken in the circumstances.

The Ministers must agree to common extradition regulations because it is quite unacceptable that the Member States, which are all democracies, should be able to invoke the right of asylum as a reason for refusing to extradite persons charged with or convicted of terrorists acts within the Community.

However, this is not sufficient. Let us face the facts. Our countries are slow to act and often do not even know how to act. Some, in trying to be effective and to counter the threat, are tempted to neglect basic rights, or at least certain humanitarian principles. Others, influenced by ideas that are totally irrelevant to the situation of those who are attacking our democracies, hide behind lofty principles and refuse to take the necessary measures.

A European approach is the only means of dealing with organized international terrorism. Our democracies must support one another, act jointly and follow, identical rules.

We therefore hope that Parliament's Legal Affairs Committee will give very careful consideration to the introduction of exceptional provisions to combat terrorism, aware that these must conform to the rule of law if they are to achieve our dual objective: to save democracy, our action must both be effective and remain democratic. On the basis of the Legal Affairs Committee's report to Parliament, specific suggestions can then be put forward to serve as a model for the Council.

Mr Baudoin (RDE): Mr President, ladies and gentlemen, European governments are having increasing difficulty in keeping tabs on terrorism and all its ramifications, for it is becoming part of the stock in trade of those minorities prepared to use violence in order to make its point, to destabilize governments or even assume power in the long term.

In the realization of the danger, the governments of Europe have been trying since 1970 to find an answer to the problem and establish ways of dealing with the danger. The uncommitted observer is inevitably struck by the inadequacy of the present arrangements, how weak and behind the times they are, when compared with terrorism which has resolutely adapted to late twentieth-century civilization.

We repeat that only cooperation at regional level — and by regional I mean European — has any chance of success because it is only at such a level that it can adapt to the specific types of terrorism we have in our countries. It is for that reason that the European Convention on the repression of terrorism, usually known as the Strasbourg convention, laid down the main points which would serve as a cornerstone of a common anti-terrorist policy. There are four main points: the use of extradition, the scope of anti-terrorism, respect for human rights — there is to be no extradition in cases primarily of political opinion, and its application between the member States of the Council of Europe. Fourteen of the 21 member States accepted, there were arguments for and against. And when the

Dublin agreement appeared taking up much the same ideas, a number of our Member States, including France in particular, rejected it. France's reasons were first that the crimes were not closely enough defined, secondly that the heterogeneous membership of the Council of Europe did not permit France to abandon her freedom of decision as regards extradition, thirdly that the right of political asylum is imperilled by virtually automatic extradition, and finally that application of the principle of transfer or pursuit, which obliges a State to judge if it is not willing to pursue, would pose virtually insoluble constitutional problems for certain Community Member States.

Bearing these difficulties in mind, we must review what the Dublin agreement and the Strasbourg Convention provide for, and resolve the problems of extradition so as to ensure that the right of asylum is not, as Mrs Veil said, used abusively.

In addition, we have the idea of the European jurisdiction, launched by the former President of France, who proposed that we adopt a convention which provided for automatic extradition, with appropriate guarantees in the case of particularly serious crimes, regardless of the motive, with the Community Member States setting up the first elements of what would be a *jurisdiction unique* in the world. A number of problems has arisen here, too, and we must look at the problem again, otherwise there will be no end to it.

Finally, we need action with the police. Meetings between ministers of justice, ministers of home affairs and foreign ministers must become more frequent.

If we are to have real cooperation we must overcome our nationalistic attitudes, and, as far as extradition is concerned, we must rule out any abusive or systematic use of the notion of political crime, and encourage people to come together at last to consider and evaluate jointly the problems of terrorism in all our democracies. We must be fully aware that if we continue to act as individuals, and not as a community, then terrorism can only increase, whereas if we act together, then we can find the way to beat it.

85/034. Question No H-671/84 by Mrs Lizin on WEU

Date of Issue: 13 March 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Have the Ministers meeting in political cooperation tackled the subject of the WEU, and in particular the updating of its objectives, and what are their conclusions and proposals for action?

Answer:

As pointed out in the reply to oral question No H-471/84, the WEU has not been discussed as part of European political cooperation. The Ten, as such, do not express opinions on developments within the WEU.

85/035. Question No H-429/84 by Mr Ephremidis on Steps to Frustrate the Deployment of Pershing 2 and Cruise Missiles in Europe

Date of Issue: 13 March 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

In response to Question H-242/83 which called for the whole of Europe to be declared a nuclear-free zone, I received the following answer: 'The Ten support all specific, balanced and verifiable disarmament measures which enhance the security of Europe and elsewhere, and which lessen the risk of nuclear conflict. For the Ten nuclear disarmament is a matter of top priority.' In view of the fact that

peace and disarmament is a matter concerning the whole of mankind, i.e. it is clearly a political matter which cannot be confined within the narrow concept of military security, what measures have the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation so far taken to prevent the deployment of nuclear weapons in the United Kingdom, West Germany and Italy, where an accelerated rate of deployment of Pershing 2 and Cruise missiles has recently been observed – especially in West Germany, where, according to the *Washington Post*, 46 Pershing II missiles have been deployed.

Answer:

As has already been stressed, both the military aspects of security and defence questions do not fall within European political cooperation. There is consequently no measure regarding the installation of nuclear weapons which can be examined or proposed by the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation.

I should like, however, to repeat that the Ten support all practical, balanced and sincere measures which might bring about disarmament and thus reduce the risks of nuclear conflict.

In particular, the Ten were pleased to learn of the forthcoming resumption of talks between the United States and the Soviet Union in Geneva, as was expressed in particular in the declaration on East-West relations adopted by the Foreign Ministers on 12 February last.

They were also pleased to have contributed, whether as the Ten or otherwise, by their action to the resumption of the dialogue, of which the Geneva talks form an essential part – but obviously not an exclusive one, since account must be taken of the efforts being made elsewhere – and intend to continue this action with a view to broadening the basis of this dialogue.

85/036. Question No H-445/84 by Mr Van Miert on Gibraltar

Date of Issue: 13 March 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

On 23 October 1984, the Spanish Prime Minister, Mr Felipe Gonzalez, made a statement to the Spanish Parliament on the most important aspects of Spanish security policy, including Gibraltar.

According to Mr Gonzalez, a British colony which formed an integral part of the NATO command existed on Spanish soil. Attempts must be made to solve this problem by bringing Gibraltar under Spanish sovereignty.

What is the attitude of ministers to these statements, what initiatives have they already taken and what results have been achieved?

Answer:

The question of Gibraltar has not been discussed as part of European political cooperation.

85/037. Question No H-742/84 by Mr Evrigenis on Member States' Relations with UNESCO

Date of Issue: 13 March 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

On 31 December 1984, the United States of America withdrew from UNESCO. The Government of the United Kingdom has also announced its intention to withdraw from the same organization at the end of 1985.

Do the Foreign Ministers believe that these developments which, *inter alia*, create enormous financial problems within UNESCO, are expressions of a profound crisis in the workings of the organization.

If so, have they considered the problem in the context of political cooperation and are they taking steps to draw up a common or harmonized Community policy towards UNESCO?

Mr Forte: The Ten are keeping a close eye on the current crisis in UNESCO, including the financial problems resulting from the withdrawal of an important Member State, which had been the organization's main contributor.

The nature of the problem and the most appropriate means of improving the running of the organization and guaranteeing adherence to the fundamental principles underlying this important specialized UN institution are receiving careful attention within the context of European political cooperation.

Mr Evrigenis (PPE): Perhaps it is natural that the President-in-Office is unable to give a clearer indication of the policy which is probably part of the cooperation policy of the Ten. If this is the reason for his rather vague reply, I should not like to insist any further.

Mrs Hammerich (ARC): Does the President of the Council agree that the relations between the individual Member States and the United Nations and its organizations such as UNESCO are matters of national sovereignty and do not fall within the scope of European Political Cooperation – i.e. that it is for each individual country to make its own decisions about its relations with the UN and its various organizations?

Mr Forte: I should like to say in reply to the second question that this matter is receiving careful attention, for obvious reasons, in the context of political cooperation. As regards the original question, if my reply was not sufficiently clear I will try to be more explicit on these matters, which would appear to be somewhat delicate. We are currently, as I said, studying the problem with a view to re-establishing, if possible, the original function of this worthy institution.

The Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation feel that cultural cooperation and cultural activities at world level are of vital importance. However, I should like, if I may, to point out that we are concerned at the substantial cost of representation in this institution and would be pleased, therefore if something could be done so that it could tighten things up somewhat as regards the pursuit of its objectives and utilization of its financial resources.

85/038. Question No H-664/84 by Mr Adamou on Cyprus and the Italian Presidency

Date of Issue: 13 March 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Would the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation state why the Italian Presidency's policy statement, though making reference to a large number of international issues, ignored the Cyprus problem, when the northern part of the island is occupied by Turkish troops despite the fact that Cyprus is a member of the United Nations Organization and the situation on the island is currently at a critical juncture and calls for the active support of the international community?

Answer:

The Ten constantly follow developments regarding Cyprus with the greatest attention.

It draws the Honourable Member's attention to the declaration by the Foreign Ministers of the Ten of 29 January 1985.

In it the Foreign Ministers expressed their regret at the failure of the New York meeting between President Kyprianou and the Turkish-Cypriot leader, Mr Denktash. They called on the parties concerned to resume negotiations with a view to achieving a just and practicable solution to the problem of Cyprus, via the good offices of the United Nations Secretary-General and based on the UN resolutions. The Foreign Ministers once again call on the two parties to abstain from any action likely to jeopardize such a dialogue.

85/039. Question No H-694/84 by Mrs Fontaine on Christians in Lebanon

Date of Issue: 13 March 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

In recent months, there has been a steady increase in the harassment and intimidation of Lebanese Christians. Monasteries, convents, bell-towers and schools are being razed to the ground, and every effort is being made to force the Christians to leave a land where they have lived since the dawn of Christianity. So far, the political response from the European Community has been virtually non-existent.

Will the Foreign Ministers state how they plan to assist a Community whose fate has always been so closely bound up with our own?

Mr Forte, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: We cannot help but be affected by the human aspects of this question, which concerns the suffering of a section of the Lebanese population, i.e. the Christians, and should be examined in the overall context of the Lebanese question and of human rights in general. The position of the Ten has traditionally been based, on the one hand, on the aim of safeguarding the independence, unity and territorial integrity of the Lebanon while at the same time endeavouring to promote the process of conciliation between the various groups in that country. Only by overcoming the various differences and conflicts which have for so long stood in the way of peaceful coexistence will it be possible to guarantee a peaceful and prosperous future which will be more human than the present for the Lebanese population, regardless of their race or creed.

The Ten have repeatedly affirmed their undertaking to make an active contribution, when appropriate, to the reconstruction of the Lebanon.

Mrs Fontaine (PPE): I should like to thank the President of the Council for his answer. However, I do not find it entirely satisfactory since it is not precise enough. I shall therefore have to be more insistent. A few years ago while the rest of the Middle East was being torn apart by conflict, the Lebanon was a haven of peace and prosperity and a rare example of the possibility of cultural and religious co-existence. In less than ten years, this country – which has so many historical, cultural and religious links with Europe – has been brought to its knees by war and robbed of a large part of its sovereignty – a point which you yourself stressed, Mr President – as a result of a whole range of internal, regional and world-level conflicts all coming to bear simultaneously on this small nation. It is, of course, true to say that all the various communities have suffered and continue to suffer, and live in constant fear of attack. However, the fact that I have drawn particular attention to the Christian community is not because I am unaware of the dramatic situation of the Palestinian refugees or the blatant insecurity in Israel, but simply because I wished to emphasize one particular situation, i.e. the fact that the differences in the demographic developments of the Arab and Christian communities, look likely to put the balance which had been established in the Lebanon in serious jeopardy.

I should therefore like to ask whether or not you agree that it is a serious matter that the European Community should merely look on without lifting a finger, while the situation could easily explode into genocide?

Mr Forte: The Council has adopted a number of resolutions and taken several initiatives which, as I see it, amply meet the requests embodied in the remarks made by the Honourable Member. I would refer you in particular to the text of the initiative by the Ten on the Lebanon, dated 12 February 1985, of which I should be glad to send a copy to the Presidency of this Parliament. The document as a whole, and in particular section D, deals with the sufferings of the various communities and, in particular, the different religious groups. I should repeat that this is not only a declaration, but an initiative, i.e. a political measure taken by the Community.

Mr Marshall (ED): Would the President-in-Office accept that, after the statesmanlike withdrawal by Israeli troops, what is making it difficult to preserve peace in the Lebanon is the refusal of the Syrians to leave and the fact that the Lebanese Government's remit does not run throughout the Lebanon? Can he give us a guarantee that the Ten are going to bring pressure to bear on the Syrians to withdraw their unwelcome troops from the Lebanon?

Mr Forte: Like other documents concerning previous initiatives, this present document – which amply illustrates the steps we have taken – makes it quite clear, I think, that we are bringing this pressure to bear in areas where this appears necessary, including the one mentioned by the Honourable Member.

85/040. Question No H-704/84 by Mrs Castle on Trading with South Africa

Date of Issue: 13 March 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Have the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation discussed the question of sanctions against South Africa, in respect of both exports, particularly military and related products, and imports, in particular fruit, clothing and minerals? If not, when do they propose to discuss these imports and exports?

Mr Forte, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: Mrs Castle, Resolution No 418 of 1977 of the United Nations Security Council calls for an embargo on all exports of military and related products to South Africa.

As was pointed out in reply to an oral question put by Mr Iversen in 1984, the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation have examined the question of the application of this resolution and each of the Ten adheres strictly to it. So much for the question of the ban on exports of military and related products to South Africa.

As regards the imports of South African fruit, clothing and minerals, this has not been discussed in the context of political cooperation.

Mrs Castle (S): Is the President-in-Office of the Council aware that this month has been dedicated to the campaign for the boycott of goods from South Africa? Can he therefore assure me that the Council will start to give urgent consideration to the question of a ban on imports from South Africa – the boycott that has been called for in the United Nations and elsewhere? Is he aware, for example, that in 1983, 4 000 000 tonnes of coal were imported into the EEC from South Africa and that this increased to 5 500 000 tonnes in 1984? Is it not scandalous that we should be importing coal from this apartheid regime when our own pits are being closed and miners are being turned out of work in the EEC?

Or take fruit and vegetables. Is he aware that in our markets it is often impossible to get anything but South African fruit and vegetables? Yet we have got a lot of jolly good Mediterranean produce to which we should be giving priority. Will he assure us that this boycott on imports will be given serious consideration by the Council?

Mr Forte: Mrs Castle has just raised two points, one of which might be described as political in nature, and it should be clear in connection with this specifically political point that the Council can only act on the basis of initiatives such as the Resolution of the United Nations Security Council which specifies an area where restrictions or a boycott, in the legal sense of these terms, are to be applied. This is obviously of considerable significance. The other point, however, does not fall within the scope of political cooperation and could be brought up in a different context in this House. This would involve finding out whether the European Community adequately monitors the flow of Mediterranean or imported products and similar problems, which are certainly matters for which this Parliament is competent but which do not, I repeat, fall within the scope of the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation, on whose behalf I am speaking.

Miss Brookes (ED): While I appreciate that the question I am going to put is not directly related to exports, it is, in fact, deeply concerned with South Africa. Would the Foreign Ministers agree that sport and culture would be one way to break down racial barriers, particularly athletics and – since I come from Wales – rugby? These things could help to break down the constitutional barriers which exist.

President: The President of the Council is obviously under no obligation to answer this question.

Mr Maher (L): Could I ask the President of the Foreign Ministers if he would not agree that the weakening of the South African economy as a result of possible action taken against it by the European Community could also have a damaging effect on many of the countries that surround South Africa?

Secondly, would the Council of Foreign Ministers consider making an approach to the United States Government, which seems to be constantly supporting the South African regime with its abhorrent apartheid policy, to try to prevail upon it to bring pressure to bear on the South African Government to dismantle apartheid as quickly as possible?

Mr Forte: The declarations made by the Council regarding its policy *vis-à-vis* South Africa are, I think, sufficiently clear. We stick by what we said in these declarations and do not regard various other points which might be made here as relevant.

Mr P. Beazley (ED): Could I ask the President-in-Office why Europe should take this attitude to South Africa when South Africa is supplying all the black States that surround it with massive exports, which they are delighted to get, and providing work for them in its own country? Why should we boycott South Africa if, in fact, the black States that surround it do not find it necessary to boycott its food, engineering products and the rest, and are seeking employment in South Africa.

Mr Forte: Perhaps I was not as clear as I should have been. We are applying a United Nations Resolution concerning an embargo on the export of arms and that is all there is to it.

85/041. Question No H-730/84 by Mrs Hammerich on Participation in EPC

Date of Issue: 13 March 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Are the Foreign Ministers willing to invite other countries, for example Norway, Sweden and Finland, to participate in EPC as soon as possible?

Mr Forte, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: I would remind you that, pursuant to the Copenhagen report, Political Cooperation constitutes an additional aspect of the joint activities of the Member States of the Community. Thus, participation in Political Cooperation is restricted to the Member States of the Community. It should be borne in mind, however, that there are well-

established procedures for contacts between the Ten meeting in political cooperation and third countries in connection with questions covered by the Ten in the context of European Political Cooperation.

Mrs Hammerich (ARC): My question concerns the Dooge Committee which is currently operational and has plans for a fixed EPC secretariat. There is considerable opposition to this in Denmark and for this reason, the idea has been put forward in certain political circles that EPC should become the starting point for broader political cooperation in Western Europe, which everyone feels would be a good idea or indeed essential. It would therefore be nice if you could tell us quite clearly once and for all whether or not there are plans to extend European Political Cooperation to third countries? You have just referred back to the Copenhagen declaration and told us that it is still only the Member States of the European Community which are involved in Political Cooperation. I am now asking you whether or not there are plans to extend European Political Cooperation to cover countries which are not Member States of the European Communities.

Mr Forte: As you know, we have a Committee on institutional questions and all we can say is that this committee is not discussing this question and that therefore the answer is 'no, there are no plans to extend political cooperation beyond the Ten'. I might add, furthermore, that it would be somewhat self-contradictory if in the context of our need to strengthen political cooperation between the Ten, we were to discuss political cooperation not between the Ten but between the Ten and others. These are two completely different questions.

Mr Christiansen (S): You said that there were no plans to extend European Political Cooperation. May I ask, however, as a supplementary question, whether or not this question is discussed from time to time by the Foreign Ministers meeting in the context of political cooperation?

In addition, you said there was an established procedure governing dealings with third countries. Can the President of the Council assure us that this established procedure is used, for example, in connection with Norway, to which Mrs Hammerich referred in her question?

Mr Forte: All I can do is repeat that political cooperation takes place between the Ten, who can, in the context of this cooperation, also deal as a single unit, as it were, with other countries on certain specific questions, which I will describe to you shortly, according to a procedure which has over the course of time become formally established on the basis of precedent and agreements.

The procedure followed since 1982 in connection with Spain and Portugal provides for 'troika' meetings every six months at ministerial level and two separate bilateral meetings every six months between the heads of political departments of each of the countries concerned.

In the case of Norway, the Norwegian Foreign Minister visits the Foreign Minister of the country holding the Presidency at the beginning of his period of office. Other contacts take place in Oslo.

In the case of Turkey, meetings are held every six months between the heads of political departments and, occasionally, at ministerial level, when this appears appropriate in the light of international events.

In the case of Canada, 'troika' meetings are occasionally held between the heads of political departments every six months.

In the case of Japan, the procedure established in 1983 provides for a 'troika' meeting at ministerial level every six months. In addition, on 9 March 1985 a 'troika' meeting between the heads of political departments was held for the first time in Tokyo.

There is no established procedure in the case of China. In practice, however, a ministerial level meeting was held in Paris on 5 April 1984 and there have been various meetings between officials. Over the last few days, Mr Bottai, ambassador and head of the political department of the country currently holding the Presidency, i.e. Italy, has been meeting top Chinese officials in Peking.

Contacts with India have similarly not been formalized. However, there was a ministerial-level meeting in Paris last April and the Italian Foreign Minister and President of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the European Community, Mr Andreotti, is to meet the Indian authorities on behalf of the Ten in New Delhi in the near future.

Various meetings are held with the United States as and when they seem appropriate. Exchanges of views take place via the Presidency before and after each important political cooperation meeting. In practice there have also been four additional meetings between the heads of political departments.

Finally, there are also contacts with other bodies and groups of countries such as the Council of Europe, Asean, the Central American countries and San José di Costa Rica.

85/042. Question No H-748/84 by Mr Schinzel on a Peace Settlement in the Middle East

Date of Issue: 13 March 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

What contribution, in the Ministers view, can the European Community make to bringing about a lasting peace settlement in the Middle East?

Answer:

The principles and objectives of political action by the Ten with a view to bringing about a global, just and peaceful solution to the Middle East problem are clearly expressed in the Venice declaration of June 1980 and in the successive statements by the Ten on this matter.

On this basis, the Ten have constantly striven to help bring about a solution to the Middle East conflict. This problem remains one of the main topics of discussion in European political cooperation.

85/043. Question No H-750/84 by Mr Boutos on the Iraq-Iran War and Attacks on Merchant Vessels

Date of Issue: 13 March 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

The continuation of hostilities between Iraq and Iran represents a constant threat to shipping in an extremely sensitive crisis area. Recently, attacks on merchant vessels have become more frequent again, very often seriously endangering the lives of Community citizens and Community interests.

What action do the Foreign Ministers intend to take on this serious and pressing matter in order to put an end to a situation which underscores the Member States' inability to take effective measures in such circumstances?

Answer:

As was pointed out in the reply to oral question No H-392/84 by Mr Mancel, the Ten have on numerous occasions expressed their concern at the great risks involved in the conflict between Iran and Iraq.

Calling on both parties to comply with the Security Council resolutions and to cooperate in the search for a peaceful solution, the Ten have particularly stressed both to Iran and to Iraq the importance they attach to security and to the freedom of navigation and trade in international waters.

85/044. Question No H-757/84 by Mr Croux on the Convention against Torture

Date of Issue: 13 March 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

On 4 February 1980, twenty States, primarily Western and Latin American countries, signed the above Convention.

The Governments of all countries that have special relations with the European Community should be urged to sign and ratify this Convention.

Can the Foreign Ministers say whether they are prepared to take such action, particularly in the case of Member States of the Community that have not yet signed, the applicant countries, the associated countries and the countries that are signatories to the Third Convention of Lomé.

In so doing, would they also urge the countries concerned to authorize the Committee against Torture, established under the Convention to carry out on-the-spot investigations of complaints, and will they ensure that the Member States themselves ratify the Convention as soon as possible?

Mr Forte, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: Madam President, as was pointed out in the reply to the Oral Question by Mr Cot in 1984, the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation have recognized the appropriateness of the Ten becoming signatories to this Convention.

The procedure is still in progress in some Member States, while others have already completed it.

Mr Croux (PPE): I am disappointed at the answer given by the President-in-Office since the purpose of my question was to find out clearly once and for all whether or not the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation can play a more active role and the answer I received tells me nothing new. 'Yes, we've talked about it.' I am told, 'but we see that not all the Member States have so far completed the procedure.' It was not until February that twenty countries got round to signing the Convention and I should therefore like to ask once more whether, in the light of the solemn declaration of Stuttgart and the programmes of various Presidents of the Council, including the Italian President, whether or not the Community and, in particular, the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation, could not play a more active part in promoting action to combat torture in the world, at which we feel such concern.

Mr Forte: As often happens, these were two questions in one. One of these questions, as I see it, suggests that the Convention against Torture, which the Ten have decided to sign, should be extended to the other signatories of the Lomé Convention, i.e. the associated countries.

We must be clear on this point. For this extension outside the Community proper to have credibility, the procedure must first be completed by all the ten Member States, which is in line with the Council's intentions.

The other question concerned the way in which the Foreign Ministers or the various governments could encourage ratification. In this connection, the Council is endeavouring to bring about ratification as soon as possible, while taking account of the democratic procedures in the various countries involved. This is precisely what we are doing in accordance with the Council's competency. Obviously, unlike the various individual Foreign Ministers, the Council is not competent for internal matters in the individual countries.

Obviously, we cannot make judgements or interfere in matters which are the responsibility of the individual Foreign Ministers.

Mr Kuypers (ARC): Various European countries share some of the blame in this respect since it is known that various Western European countries manufacture these instruments of torture and export them to Latin America. Is the Commissioner aware of this, and what steps does the Commission intend to take to ban the manufacture of such instruments in the Member States?

Mr Forte: Thank you for referring to me as 'the Commissioner'. However, this is not one of my various functions. Unfortunately, in my capacity as representative of the Council I do not have access to information which may be at the Commission's disposal. We in the Council have no knowledge of anything along the lines described by the Honourable Member, who obviously has information which he could bring up in a question of his own. For the rest, I repeat that the Council is not aware of anything of this nature.

85/045. Question No H-783/84 by Mrs Crawley on the Progress of the Banotti Resolution

Date of Issue: 13 March 1985
 Place of Issue: Strasbourg
 Country of Presidency: Italy
 Source of Document: Presidency
 Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Are the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation aware of what progress has been made to implement the resolution by Mrs Banotti (Doc. 2-1417/84) adopted overwhelmingly by Parliament on 17 January 1985 and what opportunity will there be for Members to be involved in the recommendations of the resolution?

Answer:

The matter considered by the resolution cited by the Honourable Member does not fall within the terms of reference of the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation.

85/046. Question No H-787/84 by Mr Alavanos on the Need to Respect International Agreements to Avoid War

Date of Issue: 13 March 1985
 Place of Issue: Strasbourg
 Country of Presidency: Italy
 Source of Document: Presidency
 Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

In connection with the planned rally in the FRG of German war veterans from Polish Silesia, the Prime Minister, Mr Helmut Kohl, and the chairman of the parliamentary Christian-Democratic Party, Mr Dregger, have been adopting slogans and making territorial claims that amount to contempt for international agreements such as the Helsinki Final Act, which guarantees the inviolability of borders and the territorial integrity of States, and the 1945 Potsdam decision on the establishment of Poland's western border along the Oder-Neisse line.

What view do the Foreign Ministers take of this serious matter and do they intend to make a statement to the effect that respect for international agreements and the safeguarding of peace are the central pillars of the Member States' political cooperation?

Answer:

The episode to which the Honourable Member refers and the statements by the Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany on that occasion — have not been discussed as part of European political cooperation.

The position of the Ten on respect for international treaties and the principle of the inviolability of frontiers was clearly stated in the reply to oral question No H-335/84 by Mr Ephremidis, to which the Honourable Member is referred.

85/047. Question No H-789/84 by Mr Wurtz on the Human Rights Situation in Turkey

Date of Issue: 13 March 1985
Place of Issue: Strasbourg
Country of Presidency: Italy
Source of Document: Presidency
Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Do the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation endorse the stance taken by Sir Geoffrey Howe, Foreign Secretary, in Ankara on 13 February 1985 in support of the release of \$ 600 million in Community appropriations for Turkey? Do they not think that this money should instead remain frozen, as the European Parliament has clearly indicated, until democratic rights have been restored in full in Turkey?

Answer:

Although the human rights situation in Turkey is the subject of close scrutiny within European political cooperation, any question dealing with the Association Agreement between Turkey and the Community, including appropriations intended for that country, is dealt with by the appropriate Community body. However, the specific question raised by the Honourable Member has not been discussed by the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation.

85/048. Question No H-791/84 by Mr Iversen on the Code of Conduct on Wages in South Africa

Date of Issue: 13 March 1985
Place of Issue: Strasbourg
Country of Presidency: Italy
Source of Document: Presidency
Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

In the Foreign Ministers' press release of 20 November 1984 on the fourth analysis of national reports on how Community undertakings with subsidiaries in South Africa apply the Community's code of conduct the Ten noted that the percentage of workers whose wages were higher than those recommended in the code had fallen slightly, presumably because of the economic recession in South Africa. Do the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation consider this trend gratifying since they merely take note of this deterioration of the situation of workers in South Africa, and does the fact that it is the black workers that have to pay for the economic recession in South Africa reflect their attitude to the South African apartheid regime?

Answer:

The Ten share the Honourable Member's concern on this matter.

The position of the Ten on the system of apartheid in force in South Africa, as well as on the grave implications and consequences, including economic and social, which such a system has, is well known.

The Ten are closely following developments in labour relations in South Africa, and among other things require firms with branches in South Africa to submit periodical reports on the application of the Community's code of conduct.

85/049. Question No H-793/84 By Mr Selva on Restrictions of Liberty in Malta

Date of Issue: 13 March 1985
 Place of Issue: Strasbourg
 Country of Presidency: Italy
 Source of Document: Presidency
 Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

What do the Foreign Ministers intend to do about relations with Malta following that country's umpteenth attempt to restrict the liberty of a Community citizen, in this case Massimo Gorla, President of the European Young Christian Democrats who was arrested and sentenced on 24 February merely because he had taken part in a meeting of the opposition.

Answer:

The case to which the Honourable Member refers has not been examined as part of European political cooperation.

Mr Massimo Gorla was arrested on 24 February last and brought before a Maltese court for having made a speech at the Congress of the Nationalist Party without obtaining prior authorization, as provided for by the law currently in force in Malta, from the authority responsible for supervising the external relations of political parties.

Mr Gorla was released the same evening pending a ruling by the Maltese Supreme Court on the plea introduced by his defending counsel to the effect that the law was unconstitutional.

85/050. Statement of the Ten on the Latest Events in South Africa

Date of Issue: 25 March 1985
 Place of Issue: Rome
 Country of Presidency: Italy
 Source of Document: The Ten
 Status of Document: Declaration

The Ten Member States of the European Community are deeply concerned at the increasing tension in South Africa created by the indiscriminate repression of black South Africans.

They roundly condemn in particular the behaviour of members of the security forces during the events in Uitenhage which led to the death of many black South Africans.

Recalling the ministerial statement of 11 September 1984, the Ten reiterate their appeal for an end to apartheid and for dialogue leading to substantial reforms to meet the legitimate aspirations of black South Africans.

85/051. Statement by Mr Bettino Craxi, President-in-Office of the European Council

Date of Issue: 17 April 1985
 Place of Issue: Strasbourg
 Country of Presidency: Italy
 Source of Document: Presidency
 Status of Document: Report on European Council to European Parliament

Mr President, Honourable Members of the European Parliament, ladies and gentlemen, ...

Because of its structure and its economy, Europe can only prosper in a climate of free trade and safety in international relations. Europe seeks peace and dialogue and offers its genuine collaboration in promoting development in the world.

The conclusion of the third Lomé Convention, which binds the Community in close relationship with 65 States of Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific; the useful understandings with the ASEAN countries and India, the new agreement which the Ten are about to conclude with China in May, the new Mediterranean policy which should lead to a qualitative change in the direction of more active collaboration with the countries in this area, are among the most outstanding of the measures for peace and friendship which the Community has developed and intends to continue developing in order to construct a better world. Part of this plan must be the strengthening of relations between the EEC and the countries of Latin America which share the values of our civilization and which are now committed to making a relentless thrust towards the democratization of the entire sub-continent.

It was my pleasure to attend the great popular festival with which Uruguay celebrated its return to freedom. Before Uruguay it had been the turn of Argentina, and after Uruguay, Brazil. Powerful forces are working in those countries to extend and complete the democratization process. In Chile, a civilized people, with ancient democratic traditions, is clamouring for a return to a State of law and free elections. It is an aspiration which is worthy of the support of all democratic forces and to which we cannot remain insensitive.

We will also have to pay similar attention to those countries where the democratic system, restored at last, needs to be consolidated. We must ward off the risk of worsening economic difficulties eroding the social consensus on which the renewed democratic institutions are based, thus reopening the return of the troubled chapters of authoritarian rule.

In Central America too Europe must also make its own political and economic contribution to the process of peace by supporting the mediation efforts of the Contadora Group, and assisting in the socio-economic development of the entire area. Following the gratifying success of the San José Conference, the political dialogue between European and Central American countries should be made more formal and negotiating directives should be passed without delay for cooperation agreements which would testify to our support for measures to overcome all unacceptable forms of inequality which are the real focal points of crisis and instability.

The European Community has always sought to keep open all channels of East-West dialogue and has never ceased to urge constructive negotiations for balanced and verifiable disarmament measures and for a stable organization of peace through security. Now that the negotiations have resumed we know that the work done was not futile: but we also know that it is not finished. We shall continue therefore to follow with the greatest attention developments in the various phases of the negotiations to encourage their ultimate objective, a substantial reduction in strategic and intermediate nuclear weapons and the prevention of a new arms race in other sectors including space.

The success of the Geneva talks will depend to a large extent on our ability to establish increased understanding and trust between East and West. In the past we have made overtures to the East, and we have also tried to offer concrete evidence of our resolve to reinforce our exchanges between us so as to bring out the points which, despite the diversity of our socio-political systems, define and qualify where our interests converge. Now there is a new leadership in the Soviet Union and I think I can detect in the SUCP General Secretary, Michael Gorbachev, an openness to maintaining and stimulating a more constructive dialogue. I hope I am not mistaken, but for the time being I would not undervalue or disregard such openness which should rather be encouraged by balanced attitudes.

The Europe of the Ten is prepared for its part to strengthen the cooperation agreements with the Eastern European countries on the basis of joint advantage and reciprocal respect and to look for new forms of dialogue capable of improving stability and restoring a genuine process of détente.

There is one region, the Middle East, which, more than any other, is torn by tensions and conflicts and where the need for peaceful initiatives is therefore more pressing. At the European Council in Brussels we examined with concern the development of events in this region. The will emerged that every effort should be made to support any negotiating move towards a process of peace.

As regards the Arab-Israeli crisis, I have, on the explicit instructions of the Heads of State or of Government of the European Community, declared Europe's support for the movement under way to

seek a negotiated and peaceful settlement to this longstanding conflict. I expressed appreciation for the Jordano-Palestinian agreement signed on 11 March in Amman which introduces new elements into the negotiating process.

I voiced Europe's desire to assist and encourage all those who are progressing towards an equitable settlement based on mutual respect for the rights of all the parties involved, frequently reiterated by the Ten and first stated in the Venice declaration. Firstly, the right of all States to existence and security and the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, with the concomitant principle, also so often repeated, of involving the PLO in the peace negotiations.

Without deluding ourselves about the difficulties, and in some cases, the contradictions which remain, it would be well to point to the satisfactory direction taken by new elements including the ideas put forward by President Mubarak — as well as to the hopes they raise for openings towards a broader dialogue, which should involve all the interested parties and which the Ten support and encourage in the hope of being able to facilitate a reconciliation of the various positions.

Other situations of conflict in the world cause great concern and require our attention. I refer to the sterile and bloody conflict in the Gulf. This is a tragedy which has been going on for years and pages of intolerable violence are still being written. The Ten have addressed constant, pressing appeals to induce the parties to come to a complete cessation of hostilities and with the launching of negotiations for a definitive political settlement of the conflict in accordance with international law and the United Nations' resolutions.

Our thoughts still turn towards Lebanon, a country tormented by cruel internal struggles which preclude that major national reconciliation which the international community would be prepared to support with a plan for the rebuilding of the country.

We also discussed in Brussels the growing tension in South Africa which is a cause for concern. The position of the Ten has been consistently firm in condemning the violence which the system of racial segregation has fanned, and in pressing urgently for an overall dialogue aimed at making substantial reforms designed to achieve equality for all citizens.

Only from greater unity and a higher degree of cohesion will Europe be able to derive the authority to discharge its role as a political force active on the international stage, and as a factor for development, progress and stability. The new Europe cannot be simply the result of an institutional engineering operation. European Union is certainly a political design which meets a profound aspiration of the peoples and nations of our continent, but at the same time it must be able to perform the great task of mediation — mediation between present and future interests, between expectations and needs. From the real problems, from the replies to the requests from the member countries there is no escape. The existing Treaties offer great scope for action to this end which we have been able to turn to good account but which we have not yet been able to complete. We should now do so, pursuing all the guidelines aimed at a more far-reaching integration of our economies and markets. Our task is to design still further the convergence of economic results, to create new areas of action particularly where the future of the Community is at stake — strengthening the competitiveness of European industry by giving it a genuine and broad technological basis — and to encourage the development of initiatives already launched. Other spheres of activity should be expanded and developed, and here I am thinking of cooperation in the field of law and legislation and above all of the cultural component, on which our manner of acting and sense of identification as European is based.

The attempt to increase European political cooperation, the efforts to harmonize the positions of the Ten, and soon of the Twelve, can be summed up in one specific objective, the search for an external identity which is not to compromise the traditional roles of the Member States but should, on the contrary, give them increased credibility, and greater incisiveness as parts of a more harmonious and united whole.

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85/052. Question No H-777/84 by Mr Chambeiron on the Action by the Ten to Re-Establish Human Rights in Turkey

Date of Issue: 17 April 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

During Question Time on 13 February 1985, the President-in-Office of the Council, Mr Forte, undertook to inform the Turkish Government of the critical view taken by the Ten of the grave situation with regard to human rights prevailing in Turkey.

Can the Ministers say what action has been taken on this undertaking by Mr Forte?

Mr Andreotti, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: I can assure the Honourable Member of Parliament that in accordance with the declaration at the seat of the European Parliament on 13 February last the Ten are continuing to follow closely developments in the situation regarding human rights in Turkey. I myself have been in contact with the Foreign Minister, and at least two Community Foreign Ministers have been to Turkey, where they have encountered a series of proposals and documents which show that this concern of the European Parliament is regarded with due respect and that there is a gradual programme, already well advanced, intended to abolish the emergency legislation over the whole of the country. Finally the emergency legislation has in fact been abolished in roughly two thirds of the country.

Mr Wurtz (Com): May I, by way of a supplementary question, ask the President how it is that when other countries are involved, the Commission's position on human rights is public, whereas here it manifestly is not, since we do not know what has been said. Secondly, might I know, other than the reports obtained by the Council, what are the precise measures taken, so that from one Question Time to the next we do not always get the same reply, but achieve concrete results?

Mr Andreotti: The contacts which have been made inevitably develop gradually. They consist in the proposal on our part for an extremely precise start, that is the full return to normality as well as an objective recognition of the progress made in the right direction. In the spheres in which there is some delay, which meanwhile the Turkish authorities do not foresee as being of long duration, there are still special situations connected with terrorist activities due to very complex circumstances specific to this country which is not very easily managed or completely homogeneous in its structure. I can say that, whilst it is not possible to make a detailed report here, the fact that this contact continues in being, that there is a progressive contraction of the region subjected to emergency legislation and that at the time there is recorded the statement that a return to normal legislation is envisaged within the year, all that indicates, I think, concrete results and thus constitutes an objective factor and not a mere general affirmation.

Mr Lomas (S): I wonder if the Foreign Ministers would comment on the recent statement made by the United Kingdom's Foreign Secretary. He said that he thought the EEC aid programme to Turkey, which quite rightly was suspended because of the appalling repressive nature of that regime, should now be resumed. Do the Foreign Ministers have any comment to make and do they agree with that statement?

Mr Andreotti: This argument has not been put before the Council in its corporate capacity and I therefore have no observations to make. I may say, in addition to what I said just now, that after the previous meeting in which this argument was discussed we ourselves recommended that the Turkish Members of Parliament should be permitted to make contact in the various capitals with their colleagues in the national parliaments. This was so as to permit them to realize the concern which we all feel in this matter and to provide information not only through the intermediary of the governments or the Council of Ministers of the Community but also directly. Thus on the specific subject which has been mentioned there has not been any examination on the part of the Council and hence I could not give information with regard to it.

85/053. Question No H-569/84 by Mr Adamou on the Community Abstention in UN Vote

Date of Issue: 17 April 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Can the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation state why they abstained from voting on resolutions adopted by the UN's First Political Committee at the end of November 1984 by 111 votes in favour on matters concerning peace and disarmament (banning of new weapons of mass destruction, the arms race at sea, international cooperation and disarmament, participation in a conference on disarmament and other related topics)?

Mr Andreotti, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: The Ten decide their position regarding voting on motions for resolutions presented at the General Assembly of the United Nations Organization on the basis of an assessment not only of the objectives which these texts propose but also of the approach adopted and the means indicated for the attainment of such objectives. There is no doubt that in the First Political Committee of the General Assembly the Ten have constantly exerted themselves in favour of the adoption of constructive and realistic measures intended for the consolidation of peace and the promotion of agreements on disarmament which would be fair and verifiable. The abstention or the negative vote of the Ten on certain motions for resolutions indicates simply that the Ten did not think these texts balanced and capable of making a serious contribution to the realization of the objectives proposed. If the Honourable Member who has raised the question would like to glance at the outcome of the voting he will see that there is a considerable diversity, but he will also see that on the questions of principle there has never been any change from the correct positions on the part of the Ten.

Mr Adamou (Com): I thank Mr Andreotti, even though his answer did not satisfy me. The subjects of peace and disarmament are among the most important that affect contemporary international life. I would like above all to ask him whether his reservations are consistent with what was said a little while ago by Mr Craxi. Because it is obvious that in that case there is a difference of opinion and I think the President-in-Office could answer me whether such reservations are justified in connection with matters of this kind?

Mr Andreotti: I should like to confirm the distinction which exists between the objectives of a resolution and the text of the document itself. Sometimes indeed there may be a question of abstentions; contrary votes are absolutely rare and individual. Moreover, as is well known, on certain subjects individual positions are not always the same or convergent.

However, in the case of problems of principle I do not infer from the list of votes, which I have examined with attention, any divergences of attitude on the part of our countries of the Community. As regards the text on the other hand, we have to appraise it, taking account of the fact that every year in the United Nations votes are taken on some sixty texts on disarmament, some of which are constructed in such a way that they cannot be accepted: not because there is any objection to the principles of disarmament or to the positive principles in all these matters but because we do not think we can approve the text.

And this is the significance of the abstentions, that they are not intended to indicate opposition to the objectives, but simply that there is no agreement as concerns the drafting of the document put to the vote.

Mr Ulburghs (NI): Could the Ministers state whether they also took account of the positions of the peace movements that are able to mobilize the masses and, according to opinion polls, have the support of 70% of the population of my country Belgium?

Mr Andreotti: What is really under discussion here is voting attitudes as regards UNO documents.

I have already said that faced with this huge number of documents which exceed eighty a year and more than 60% of which are approved unanimously, there is no question of any difference.

If the Honourable Member is now asking what is the general attitude towards the pacifists I must say first of all that under this generic and composite term there is an enormous variety of positions; intellectual, cultural, organizational, political and para-political. I do not feel able therefore within a brief period for questions to express a comprehensive view, which is extremely difficult to formulate.

Certainly all those who love peace, who organize themselves for it and seek to achieve for this cause a greater consensus cannot merit anything other than all our respect, all the more so in cases in which they act by peaceful means, since sometimes the opposite occurs. But it is a subject which I think perhaps it would be better to examine in its own right rather than as incidentally as this.

Mrs Hammerich (ARC): I should like to ask the President-in-Office of the Council whether it is not the case that each individual foreign minister who attends the UN General Assembly retains his independence and sovereignty in full. If a foreign minister or any delegates from a particular country at the UN General Assembly, for example, wish to support an arms reduction proposal, there is no excuse for them to say that other Community countries do not wish to support that arms reductions proposal. Does not every individual country enjoy full sovereignty in the UN? Surely it is the case that countries put pressure on one another in the UN to adopt a uniform line? It is quite possible to support an arms reduction proposal if one agrees with it. There is therefore no excuse for Denmark not to support an arms reduction proposal because, for example, other Community countries do not support it. I should like to have an answer to this question. Do the representatives of a country at the UN General Assembly enjoy independence as a national delegation?

Mr Andreotti: I can reply very simply by saying: not only has each State the sovereign power to decide how to vote at UNO, but this power is very widely used.

85/054. Question No H-659/84 by Mr Ephremidis on the Visit of the President of Israel to the European Parliament

Date of Issue: 17 April 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Do the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation agree that ceremonial occasions such as the visit and address by the President of Israel to the European Parliament during the part-session in February 1985 have no dissuasive effect on the aggressive and expansionist policy of Israel, which is continuing its military occupation of Arab territories, but instead consolidate and recompense the Israeli position and put obstacles in the way of international endeavours to find a just and peaceful solution to the Middle East conflict?

Mr Andreotti, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: The Council, like its Presidency, feels that it should not comment on this subject, since the European Parliament, when it thinks it right to send an invitation and receive a guest, is exercising a power of its own which we must absolutely respect. Hence I think it would be wrong on my part to comment on a decision taken in due form by this Parliament.

Mr Ephremidis (Com): I am compelled to put a supplementary question because in no way was the sense of my question that Council should intervene in Parliament's competences. It has its own competences, which it exercises on its own responsibility. The sense of my question is whether the Foreign Ministers meeting within the scope of political cooperation have discussed this case and reached the conclusion that the festive demonstration in question helped to foster a peaceful solution to the Middle-Eastern problem, or whether they concluded that the unilateral invitation to Israel and the failure to invite the other side, the Palestinians, who are presently sustaining yet another attack by

Israel, is likely to hinder their own effort to achieve a peaceful solution to the Middle-Eastern problem. Thus, my question relates chiefly to the responsibilities of the Foreign Ministers meeting within the scope of political cooperation, and not the responsibilities of Parliament.

Mr Andreotti: I am not contradicting myself if I say that the European Parliament invites those whom it thinks it ought to invite and receives those whom it thinks it ought to receive. However, if I am being asked whether we think it correct, in the political effort of seeking the solution to Middle East problems by way of negotiations and not by military means, to make efforts to have contacts with all the parties, my answer is a clear 'yes'.

We must seek to have relations with all the States in the area because amongst other things one of the reasons for which certain initiatives have come to grief was precisely that it was thought better on one side or the other to stay away. Even within the Arab world itself it has been thought possible to have differentiated positions and not to encourage a uniform attitude. I may say that we have always moved in that direction and for example we think that the fact that at the present time an Israeli minister is visiting Cairo is a positive factor.

Naturally all this must not be seen from a biased point of view but must represent so many pages of a discussion of a general nature which in the end all these countries must hold.

85/055. Question No H-731/84 by Mrs Hammerich on the Secretariat in Copenhagen

Date of Issue: 17 April 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

What are the chances of setting up a permanent secretariat in the near future, possibly with its seat in Copenhagen?

Mr Andreotti, President-in-Office of the Council of Foreign Ministers: The question of the setting up of a permanent secretariat has not been the subject of discussion within the framework of European political cooperation.

The possibility of a secretariat of that nature is mentioned in the report of the Dooge Committee and will be examined by the Presidency during its term of office.

Mrs Hammerich (ARC): When I ask about the secretariat in Copenhagen it is not by any means because I am keen to have such a secretariat in Copenhagen, but because it has been suggested in Denmark in connection with the union process and the Dooge report that, if a permanent secretariat were located in Copenhagen, it would have the symbolic significance of opening up EPC so that countries other than the Member States of the Community, such as Norway, Sweden and Finland, could participate. I should like to ask the following: has an opening up of EPC so that other European countries can participate been discussed by the foreign ministers meeting in EPC?

Mr Andreotti: In this House I have to report the opinion of the Council of Ministers and I repeat that the Council of Ministers has not considered this problem. I note that it is being brought forward now so as to create a psychological climate in which progress may be made. We shall have to take up other ideas of this kind if they will serve to remove any more or less serious difficulties on the road to the Union.

Mr Møller (ED): I should like to ask the President-in-Office of the Council whether he thinks that it should indeed be in Copenhagen, and whether precisely the views of Mrs Hammerich and her comrades show that it is necessary and imperative to have such a secretariat in Copenhagen, so that perhaps Denmark could learn a little more about what is taking place in the European Community?

Mr Andreotti: I think that before deciding where a new-type secretariat ought possibly to go, we should see whether it will be decided to have a new-type secretariat. I understand well from your point of view the political interest, which is considerable. However, the question is absolutely out of place at the moment.

85/056. Question No H-806/84 by Mr Tzounis on the United Nations Report on Afghanistan

Date of Issue: 17 April 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

A recent report on the situation in Afghanistan drawn up by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights contains harrowing details about how the people of this country are being treated by the foreign occupation forces and their local collaborators. Among the serious allegations made in the report, reference is made to the deliberate policy of massacre.

Do the Foreign Ministers agree that this report places them under an obligation to take all necessary measures to condemn the alleged acts and provide all possible aid to the heroic people of Afghanistan?

Mr Andreotti, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: The Ten are following with considerable concern the progress of the situation in Afghanistan which is continuing to display serious violations of human rights and increasing sufferings on the part of the population which seeks nothing other than freely to decide its own future.

The most recent evidence of such concern is the approval of Resolution 3913 at the 39th General Assembly of UNO and the speech made in plenary session on the same occasion by the President-in-Office of the Ten. Additional evidence is to be found also in the declaration of the Ten of 27 December last on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, a declaration which in particular condemns the continued violations of human rights in connection with the intensification of the Soviet operations in the country as well as the presentation of and support for the relevant resolution adopted at Geneva on the occasion of the 41st session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights.

Consistently with that line the Ten intend to continue to stress their concern in the appropriate international fora and in their bilateral contacts, emphasizing the very strong expectations of the governments and of democratic public opinion in the various countries of the Community for a speedy political solution of the Afghan crisis based on the successive resolutions of the United Nations.

Mr Tzounis (PPE): I would like to thank the Chairman of the Council of Foreign Ministers meeting within the scope of political cooperation for that answer he kindly gave me.

I would also like to ask him whether in his opinion the efforts made by the Ten on behalf of the people of Afghanistan and to solve the problem in that country are sufficient, and whether they are considering the possibility, apart from their efforts up to now, of undertaking some more general diplomatic and political initiative to find a solution to the problem. Also whether they are considering sending a fact-finding committee to Afghanistan to gather information about the true situation, and finally, whether they are thinking of sending humanitarian aid to the people of Afghanistan, who are suffering acts of war under the Soviets, perhaps in the form of medical aid in view of our recent information that chemical warfare is being practised.

Mr Andreotti: The only thing we can do, hoping that it will have some effect, is to give ever stronger support to the actions of the United Nations and of the Secretariat General. As far as aid is concerned, both the Community and individual countries have given aid for the Afghan refugees who are in the concentration camps. Let us not be asked to send aid to Afghanistan which, amongst other things, I think would be extremely difficult to distribute.

Mr Alavanos (Com): I would like to put a very brief supplementary question to the President, relating to what Mr Tzounis said, because it was not specifically answered.

Have the Foreign Ministers meeting within the scope of political cooperation received accusations or figures indicating that chemical warfare has been waged in Afghanistan by the Soviets? Because in

failing to answer the allegation Mr Andreotti could be interpreted as agreeing to some extent with the allegation made by Mr Tzounis.

Mr Andreotti: I know of no documentation of the type to which reference has now been made and I understand that none is in the possession of the Council.

85/057. Question No H-825/84 by Mr Tomlinson on the Community's Relations with Pakistan

Date of Issue: 17 April 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Do the Ministers consider that the recent general election held in Pakistan was either fair or free such as to constitute a democratic basis on which the European Community's relations with Pakistan can be strengthened?

Answer:

The Ten have closely followed the progress of the recent general elections in Pakistan that undoubtedly constitute an initial step towards the establishment, albeit slowly and gradually, of more representative institutions. The renewal of the government, the selection of the speaker of the new parliament and the appointment of a Prime Minister for the first time since 1977 all confirm this trend.

The Ten welcome these developments and hope to see their promise fulfilled as soon as possible, thereby helping to strengthen relations between the European Community and Pakistan.

85/058. Question No H-14/85 by Mrs Dury on the Statement on Nicaragua by Mr Reagan

Date of Issue: 17 April 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

What is the Foreign Ministers' attitude to Mr Reagan's statement on Nicaragua and what stage has been reached in preparations for the meeting between the Foreign Ministers of the Ten and the Contadora group?

Answer:

The Ten have consistently expressed their conviction that the problems of Latin America, including Nicaragua, cannot be solved by resorting to force but only by means of a political solution issuing from the region itself. With this in mind, the Ten have repeatedly expressed their support for the initiative of the Contadora Group, which seeks a peaceful and global solution of the region's problems. This support was reaffirmed at the ministerial meeting in San José, Costa Rica. The Ten are keeping in contact with the countries of the Contadora Group and the Central American countries with a view to organizing, before the end of the year, a further ministerial meeting with the same participants as in San José. The United States administration is naturally well aware of the position of the Ten and of the above-mentioned initiative.

85/059. Question No H-30/85 by Mr Lomas on the Sentence and Imprisonment of Ismet Imset

Date of Issue: 17 April 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

I refer to my Question No 1679/83, when I asked the Ministers to intervene in the case of Ismet Imset and persuade the Turkish authorities to cease the harassment of Mr Imset. Mr Imset has now been sentenced to 4 years and 2 months imprisonment for membership of an armed gang, a charge which has never been mentioned since he was originally charged in 1978 with illegal ownership of a pistol. This charge he admitted to under torture. Mr Imset has been out on bail for five years. No new evidence was presented for either the original or final charge. Will the Ministers as a matter of urgency press the Turkish authorities for the immediate release of Mr Imset?

Answer:

The case of Mr Ismet Imset raised by the Honourable Member has not been the subject of special discussion by the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation.

The Ten, as pointed out on numerous occasions, are closely monitoring the human rights situation in Turkey and have repeatedly, in their contacts with the authorities in Ankara, voiced their concern in this respect.

85/060. Question No H-37/85 by Mr De Vries on the Ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on the Combating of Terrorism

Date of Issue: 17 April 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

In view of the resolutions adopted by the European Parliament, contained in documents 2-1605/84, 2-1618/84, 2-1641/84, 2-1643/84, 2-1644/84 and 2-1650/84, calling for coordinated action to combat terrorism, and in view of the announcement that a meeting of the ministers responsible for counter-terrorist action is to be held before the end of the Italian Presidency, could the Foreign Ministers state what factors have prevented six Member States from ratifying as yet the convention on the combating of terrorism signed under the auspices of the Council of Europe in 1977? And are they prepared to urge these Member States to ratify the convention at an early date, a step that could facilitate coordinated action to combat terrorism?

Answer:

The Foreign Ministers of the ten Member States meeting in political cooperation share the view of the European Parliament expressed in the resolution referred to by the Honourable Member on the need for greater coordination of anti-terrorist action.

The subject was last dealt with in February at the ministerial meeting in Rome, during which the Ministers stressed the need to continue and increase the existing cooperation between the Ten to tackle this problem.

As regards the ratification of the 1977 Convention of the Council of Europe by those Member States which have not yet done so, this question must be examined by each of them in the light of their respective national constitutional and legal provisions.

85/061. Question No H-59/85 by Mr Iversen on Sanctions or an Oil Embargo against South Africa

Date of Issue: 17 April 1985
 Place of Issue: Strasbourg
 Country of Presidency: Italy
 Source of Document: Presidency
 Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Have the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation discussed the savage attacks carried out by the South African government on the black population in the last few weeks? Have they, in this connection, discussed the sanctions taken against the South African Government by, among others, Norway and Sweden, and, in the context of political cooperation, have they discussed the Danish Parliament's resolution of March 1985 on the situation in South Africa? Can the Foreign Ministers say what their attitude is to further sanctions and a possible oil embargo on the apartheid regime in South Africa?

Answer:

The recent events in South Africa to which the Honourable Member refers were the subject of a statement which the Presidency issued on behalf of the Ten on 25 March last and which reads as follows:

The ten Member States of the European Community express their grave concern at the tension which has arisen in South Africa as a result of the indiscriminate acts of repression carried out against the black population.

In particular, they strongly condemn the behaviour of police units during the events of 21 March in Uitenhage, as a result of which many black residents died.

The Ten, recalling the Ministerial Declaration of 11 September 1984, reiterate their appeal for an end to apartheid and for a process of dialogue to bring about major reforms designed to fulfil the legitimate aspirations of the black population.

Since the Member States participate in European political cooperation on the basis of their respective political positions, the resolution of the Danish Parliament to which the Honourable Member refers has of course been brought to the attention of the other partners.

Lastly, as regards the problem of sanctions against South Africa, the Ten are strictly applying the mandatory measures adopted by the United Nations.

85/062. Question No H-63/85 by Mr Alavanos on the Attitude of the Ten to the Situation in Turkey

Date of Issue: 17 April 1985
 Place of Issue: Strasbourg
 Country of Presidency: Italy
 Source of Document: Presidency
 Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

In reply to my Oral Question No H-749/84 on the situation in Turkey, the Council states that 'the Ministers of the Ten once again addressed themselves briefly to the question of developments in Turkey at their meeting of 18 February 1985'.

Can the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation say to which precise aspects of the situation in Turkey they gave their attention, what points of view were put forward, whether there was any convergence of views and, if so, to what extent, and, to conclude, why the Ten have not so far reacted to the continuing persecution, torture and conviction of Turkish democrats, particularly the mass death penalties meted out to Turkish patriots?

Answer:

The meeting of 18 February referred to by the Honourable Member was not a political cooperation meeting but a meeting of the Council of Ministers. The Council has not changed the position it adopted in 1980/1981 as regards relations with this associated country.

As regards the question of human rights in Turkey, the Ten – as has been repeatedly stated – are following the situation very closely and have repeatedly voiced their concern on this matter during their contacts with the authorities in Ankara.

85/063. Question No 1686/84 by Mrs Crawley (S-UK) on Uganda; detention of Lt. Silver Tibihika

Date of Issue: 19 April 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 18 January 1985

Would the Foreign Ministers, in line with the EEC's commitment to the upholding of human rights throughout the world, take up the case of Lt. Silver Tibihika of Uganda with the Ugandan Government?

Silver Tibihika was arrested on 23 February 1981 and is detained in Luzira Upper Prison under the Public Order and Security Act. His case was brought up at a Detention Review Tribunal on 6 January 1983, and as far as it is known, no evidence was found to incriminate him. He was not charged and has not been brought to trial.

Birmingham Central Amnesty Group are concerned for the welfare and safety of Mr Tibihika, and would ask that you use your good offices to demand of the Ugandan Government that he is either brought to trial or released. The concern of my constituents is expressed within the context of escalating acts of violation of human rights in Uganda: would the Foreign Ministers condemn these acts categorically as well as seek to find out the condition of Lt. Silver Tibihika?

Answer:

The specific case of the detention of Mr Silver Tibihika has not been examined in the framework of European political cooperation.

The Ten have nevertheless examined the general human rights situation in Uganda on a number of occasions.

An approach on this question was made to President Obote last November by the Heads of Mission of the Ten in Kampala.

President Obote confirmed his Government's commitment, as far as the situation in the country allows, to guaranteeing that human rights are respected and that the judiciary applies the laws for the prevention of crime and abuses of power.

85/064. Question No 1718/84 by Mr Lomas (S-UK) on the Imprisonment and the Torture of Bolivian Workers

Date of Issue: 19 April 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 24 January 1985

I note the Foreign Ministers' reply of the 18th May 1984, to my Question No 2135/83, regarding the imprisonment and torture of Bolivian workers.

Are the Foreign Ministers aware that on the 12th October, the Permanent Tribunal of Military Justice passed sentences on the seven 'Luribay' prisoners, five Bolivians and two Chileans, of between two and six years' imprisonment. In protest, the prisoners commenced a hunger-strike. It is now reported that all seven are in an extremely weak condition, and at least one prisoner has now been transferred to a military hospital in La Paz.

On the 26th October 1984, President Herman Siles Zuazo declared an amnesty for the seven 'Luribay' prisoners, and ordered their immediate release. Under the Bolivian Constitution, the President has the power to declare an amnesty for political offences. However, it is understood that the military court has announced its refusal to implement the presidential amnesty and the prisoners are still being held in military custody.

Will the Foreign Ministers make further representations to the Bolivian Authorities on this subject?

Answer:

From the beginning, the Ten have been closely following developments as regards the seven prisoners (two Chileans and five Bolivians) arrested in the Luribay area of Bolivia.

The Ten made démarches to the Authorities in La Paz in both May and October 1984, asking that they respect the basic rights of the accused, whose case had made a strong impression on the European public.

After the granting of an amnesty to the seven by the President of the Republic of Bolivia, Siles Zuazo, with which the Military Court refused to comply, there was a state of legal conflict which the Supreme Court of Justice was asked to resolve. A decision is expected by the end of March.

At present, any further démarches would be interpreted as outside interference in matters within the Court's jurisdiction and could therefore have adverse effects. However, the Ten are continuing to follow events closely whilst ensuring that until the Court's decision the prisoners are properly treated. They will consider whether further action is appropriate in the light of the judgment passed by the Supreme Court.

85/065. Question No 1813/84 by Mr Seligman (ED-UK) on the Human Rights Abuses in Uganda

Date of Issue: 19 April 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 4 February 1985

Will the Ministers press directly, or through the Lomé Convention, for an independent inquiry into the allegations of torture of prisoners and killings of unarmed civilians by the Ugandan army?

Have the Ministers received any credible assurances from the Ugandan Government that measures have been taken to halt these abuses?

Answer:

The situation in Uganda is being constantly monitored in the framework of European political cooperation.

As regards the question of human rights, an approach was made to President Obote last November by the Heads of Mission of the Ten in Kampala.

President Obote confirmed his Government's commitment, as far as the situation in the country allows, to guaranteeing that human rights are respected and that the judiciary applies the laws for the prevention of crime and abuses of power.

85/066. Question No 1918/84 by Mrs Piermont (ARC-D) on the Western European Union

Date of Issue: 25 April 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 11 February 1985

Would the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation provide detailed information regarding the following points:

- why they consider it necessary to revive the WEU in addition to and outside the EPC;
- what tasks they envisage for the WEU;
- what its geographical sphere of activities should be;
- whether there are plans to increase the number of Member States of the WEU;
- how they intend to ensure that the European Parliament is kept fully and continuously informed of the progress and outcome of negotiations?

Answer:

As indicated in the replies to Oral Questions No H-471/84 and H-671/84 the WEU is not being discussed within the framework of European political cooperation. The Ten as such do not adopt a position on developments within the WEU.

85/067. Question No 2321/84 by Mr Lomas (S-UK) on Human Rights

Date of Issue: 25 April 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 18 March 1985

Are the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation aware of the case of Mr Eddie Byrne, who was arrested in April 1974, charged with conspiring to cause an explosion and sentenced to 18 years' imprisonment, which was reduced to 14 years on appeal?

In 1976, Mr Byrne and five other prisoners were involved in a protest at Albany Prison, which resulted in him receiving physical injuries at the hands of prison officers. Following the disturbance at Albany Prison, a hearing was held and Mr Byrne was given five months' solitary confinement and loss of 690 days' remission.

None of the prisoners, including Mr Byrne, were allowed any form of legal representation at the hearing to assist them.

Following the decision and then solitary confinement, all six prisoners lodged complaints with the European Court of Human Rights. As all the cases were identical, the Council of Ministers selected two of the cases – Mr Fell and Mr Campbell – and it was decided that whatever decision was arrived at in those cases would apply to all six cases.

After all the evidence had been presented, the European Court of Human Rights ruled that the British Government was guilty of violating the European Convention on Human Rights, by denying prisoners facing mutiny charges access to lawyers for their internal disciplinary hearings. The Court also held that there had been a breach of the Convention, because the decisions of the internal hearings at Albany Prison had not been made public.

This ruling is a landmark for prisoners' legal rights. A similar case was heard in the High Court in 1983 and the Home Office has since taken some steps to meet its obligations arising from that judgment.

Prison Boards now have a duty to consider providing legal advice for prisoners, not only for 'exceptionally grave' offences, such as mutiny, but also for the less serious categories.

The European Court has now ruled that all six prisoners had in effect been convicted of offences amounting to 'criminal charges' with the right to a fair hearing as enshrined in the European Convention. The Court also ruled that the restrictions on the men's access to legal advice in respect of their personal injuries' claims were a breach and that restrictions on the conditions for lawyers' visits and correspondence were a breach. The Court further ruled that the prisoners' inability to obtain legal advice or representation at the disciplinary proceedings, and the Board's failure to make public its decision, had violated the Convention.

Despite the ruling by the European Court of Human Rights Mr Byrne is still in prison and in September last year started to serve the 690 days' loss of remission.

I have personally written to the Home Office asking them to implement the European Court's decision, but they refuse.

Would Foreign Ministers take some urgent action to secure the early release of Mr Byrne?

Answer:

The question raised by the Honourable Member is not a matter for European political cooperation.

85/068. Report by Mr Giulio Andreotti, President of the Council of the European Communities on Activities within the European Communities as far as European Political Cooperation is Concerned, Presented to the 76th Session of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe

Date of Issue: 24 and 25 April 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Speech in International Fora

Following the report presented by the Irish Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Peter Barry, as President-in-Office of the Council, in November 1984, I in turn wish to give you a summary of the activities of the Ten in the course of the last half-year in the framework of political cooperation.

The Ten have been watching with the utmost attention the development of the situation in Chile. On 12 November 1984 they approved a Declaration on Chile, in which they deplored the increase of violence, condemned the declaration of a state of siege by the Santiago authorities, and reaffirmed the need to re-establish political dialogue between the authorities and the democratic opposition, and the need for democratic liberties to be restored.

A few days later, on 20 November, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Ten, meeting in Brussels on the occasion of a ministerial meeting on political cooperation, considered questions concerning the Middle East, East-West relations and Central America. Concerning the Middle East, the Ten approved the text of a report on scope for action by the Ten in the region; the report was subsequently referred to the European Council meeting in Dublin in December. In the matter of East-West relations, the Ministers approved the text of a joint reply to the Finnish authorities on the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the signature of the Helsinki Final Act, stating that they were willing to take part at high level in a commemorative ceremony, on the assumption that the international climate permitted. As regards Central America, the Ministers confirmed the readiness of the Ten, further to the San José Conference, to hold a meeting in the first half of 1985, so as to continue and intensify the political dialogue with the countries of the region.

The Ten further approved, on the same occasion, the text of a Declaration by the Office of the President to the press concerning Central America, expressing profound concern over the rise in tension in that region. The Ten went on to hope that the parties at issue would make every endeavour to reach full agreement on a final text of the Contadora Act.

On 28 November the Ten voiced publicly their preoccupation over the situation in Bolivia, restating the importance they attached to the maintenance of a democratic government in the country.

The European Council was held in Dublin on 3 and 4 December 1984, at the expiry of the Irish Presidency. At that meeting the Heads of State or Government of the Ten examined the situation in the Middle East, East-West relations, the question of Central America, the problem of terrorism and the abuse of diplomatic immunities.

In connection with the Arab-Israel conflict, the Ten reaffirmed that a peaceful solution could be sought on the basis of the principles traditionally upheld by them. The progress realized by the different parties towards a peace process was then noted and welcomed. The Ten undertook to continue, jointly and severally, the contacts with the different parties, in the quest for movement towards negotiations and improvement of the situation in the region. In the matter of the Lebanon, the Ten welcomed the Naqoura negotiations between Lebanon and Israel over the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Southern Lebanon. They reaffirmed their position in favour of Lebanon's full independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity and the withdrawal of all foreign troops, except for those whose presence is authorized by the Lebanese Government. They renewed their appeal in Iran and Iraq to bring about an immediate cease-fire and embark on negotiations making it possible to find a just and honourable solution to the Iran-Iraq conflict.

In connection with East-West relations, the European Council recalled the traditional attitude of the Ten, in favour of keeping open channels of dialogue with the Soviet Union and its allies, and in favour of more stable relations between East and West. The Heads of State or Government reaffirmed the importance of the various negotiations on disarmament and arms control, but welcomed enthusiastically the announcement of the meeting of MM. Schultz and Gromyko. The meeting in fact took place on 7 and 8 January 1985. The Ten expressed the hope that it would be followed by substantive negotiations designed to bring balanced reductions of inter-continental strategic nuclear weapons and INFs to the lowest possible level, and for the dangers of an arms race in space to be averted. The Ten declared for their part that they would undertake to search for practical solutions in the negotiations to which they are party, first of all at the Conference in Stockholm on confidence and security-building measures and disarmament in Europe, whose agreement on a working structure they welcomed. Lastly, the importance attached by the Ten to the CSCE process in its different aspects and specialist fora was reaffirmed.

The Heads of State or Government noted in connection with Central America the structure for political and economic dialogue between Europe and Central America, instituted with the San José Conference, with approval. They restated their support for the quest for peaceful solutions originating within the region and abiding by the principles of non-interference and inviolability of frontiers. The Ten stated that the Contadora process represented the best opportunity here, and stated that they hoped early agreement would be reached on the final text of the Contadora Act.

The Heads of State or Government fully approved the set of principles on terrorism adopted by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs on 11 September 1984, deeming them a significant step forward in the Ten's efforts to counter an increasingly serious problem, in particular connection with its links with the abuse of diplomatic immunities.

On 27 December 1984, the fifth anniversary of the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, the Ten reaffirmed their condemnation of the Soviet occupation and constant violation of human rights. They also spoke out against attacks on Afghan refugees and civilians in Pakistan, reiterating the need for a just and lasting solution to the problem, based on the immediate withdrawal of Soviet troops, restoration of the Country's independence and its status as a non-aligned country. That should among other things enable millions of refugees to return to Afghanistan in safety and honour. The Ten supported accordingly the efforts being pursued by the representative of the United Nations Secretary-General.

On 23 January 1985, at the start of the Italian Presidency, the Ten issued a statement in connection with political cooperation on the Vietnamese offensive in Cambodia and incursions into Thailand, condemning the serious violations of human rights and the fundamental principles of the United Nations Charter, and Thailand's territorial sovereignty, provoked by increasing attacks by Vietnam

troops against refugee camps at the frontier between Cambodia and Thailand. They went on to restate their traditional attitude in favour of a political solution of the Cambodian problem, along the lines of the relevant United Nations resolutions.

In the matter of Cyprus, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Ten on 29 January expressed their regret at the failure of the meeting in New York between President Kyprianou and the Turkish-Cypriot leader, Mr Denktash; they called on both parties to resume negotiations with a view to a just and lasting political solution, based on the appropriate United Nations resolutions and thanks to the good offices of the Secretary-General.

On the occasion of the Ministerial meeting devoted to political cooperation on 12 February, in Rome, the Ten spoke out on the main questions in the international forefront. In the matter of East-West relations, Ministers welcomed the news of the resumption of negotiations on arms controls between the two super-powers. They reiterated the importance they attach to this kind of contact at bilateral level as well as those taking place in broader frameworks, such as the specialist fora of the CSCE process.

Turning to Lebanon, the Ministers approved a text welcoming the Israeli decision to withdraw troops from Lebanese territory; they also called on the Lebanese Government and the Israeli Government to adopt the security measures necessary for the purpose of averting fresh acts of violence in the Israeli withdrawal regions. The Syrian Government and the heads of the different Lebanese communities were also invited to facilitate the process. Lastly, they reaffirmed their support for possible action on the part of the United Nations with a view to guaranteeing the safety of populations in the zones to be evacuated and Lebanon's territorial integrity.

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Ten also sent a message on that occasion to the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the countries belonging to the Contadora Group and Central America, due to have met in Panama on 14 and 15 February. In their message (not transmitted because the Panama meeting was postponed), the Ten reiterated their support for the initiatives of the Contadora Group and hoped that the meeting would ultimately be able to reach agreement on a peaceful solution to the problems besetting the region.

Lastly, a declaration on Mozambique was issued in which the Ten restated the need for the Nkomati agreements of February 1984 between South Africa and Mozambique to be respected, so that political stability and economic progress in the region could be guaranteed.

In the matter of terrorism, which is once more occupying an alarming place on the European scene, the Ten have decided to activate as far as possible all the available instruments of collaboration within the context of European political cooperation, and furthermore agreed on the case for calling an informal meeting of the Ministers concerned at the earliest possible moment.

On 25 March, the Ten issued a statement on recent events in South Africa, condemning the conduct of the South African police in the clashes that occasioned the deaths on 21 March of a large number of black citizens at Uitenhage. They repeated their call for an end to the Apartheid system, and for a start on far-reaching reforms in response to the legitimate aspirations of the black population.

85/069. Statement by the Foreign Ministers of the Ten on the Middle East

Date of Issue: 29 April 1985

Place of Issue: Luxembourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Foreign Ministers

Status of Document: Declaration

1. Arab-Israeli Conflict

The Ten Ministers for Foreign Affairs continue to maintain a close interest in developments in the Middle East. They welcomed recent moves towards a reactivation of the negotiating process in the search for a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, notably the Jordan/Palestinian agreement reached on 11 February at the initiative of King Hussein, which contained a commitment to negotiations for

peace in accordance with UN resolutions, including resolutions of the Security Council. In the view of the Ten this represents a constructive step forward. They also welcomed the ideas put forward by the President of Egypt.

The Ten consider that these important initiatives reflect a desire for movement towards a peaceful solution. This deserves encouragement and a positive response.

They confirm their conviction that the achievement of a just and lasting solution calls for the participation and the active support of all the parties concerned. The Ten consider that no effort should be spared to maintain and strengthen the present movement in the peace process and to facilitate a dialogue between all the parties to the conflict.

The Ten reconfirm their willingness to contribute to a comprehensive, just and peaceful settlement of the Middle East question on the basis of the principles which they have stated many times in the past and to which they continue to adhere.

In particular, they recall the rights of all States in the region, including Israel, to existence and security, the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, with all that this implies. With regard to the association of the PLO with the negotiations, the Ten refer to their well-known positions. In their contacts with all the parties concerned, the Ten, both collectively and individually, will work to promote the reconciliation of the various positions.

2. Lebanon

The Ten continue to view with concern the deterioration of the situation in Lebanon and in particular its consequences for the civilian population in the South, which continues to be subjected to unjustifiable acts of violence. Following the Israeli Government's decision to withdraw its forces, they look for the early, orderly and complete withdrawal of those forces from that region in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council, as well as of those other forces which are not there at the request of the Lebanese Government. The Ten consider it important that appropriate security arrangements be reached between the Israeli and Lebanese Governments.

The Ten appeal to all the parties concerned, both within Lebanon and outside, to act in such a way as to facilitate the process of restoring the sovereignty, unity, territorial integrity and independence of Lebanon, a process which has been seriously compromised by the recent worsening of the political and security situation. The Ten reaffirm their support for UNIFIL. The Ten call on all parties to respect UNIFIL's role, avoiding all incidents, cooperating fully with the Force and ensuring the safety of its personnel.

They are deeply concerned at the suffering of the Lebanese people and at the kidnappings involving foreign nationals.

3. Iran-Iraq Conflict

The Ten view with utmost concern the aggravation of the conflict between Iraq and Iran. The escalation in military activities against civilian targets is a serious development. The continued losses of life among the civilian population, the serious damage to the economy of both countries and the permanent risk of an extension of the hostilities make a negotiated solution to the conflict more necessary and pressing than ever. Recalling the relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council and the recent statements of the UN Secretary-General, which they support, the Ten urge Iran and Iraq to agree upon an immediate cease-fire and to start a negotiating process with a view to achieving a peaceful solution which is honourable and acceptable to both sides.

In the meantime, the Ten call again upon Iraq and Iran to comply with the commitments made under the agreement concluded in June 1984, under the aegis of the UN Secretary-General, to refrain from bombing civilian targets. The Ten draw the attention of both countries to the profound humanitarian concerns raised by this and other aspects of the conflict, such as the treatment of prisoners of war. They condemn the use of chemical weapons, wherever and whenever it occurs. The Ten emphasize that the Geneva Conventions, and the other rules of international law, must be fully and unconditionally respected.

85/070. Statement by the Foreign Ministers of the Ten on Southern Africa

Date of Issue: 30 April 1985
 Place of Issue: Luxembourg
 Country of Presidency: Italy
 Source of Document: Foreign Ministers
 Status of Document: Declaration

1. The Ten are seriously concerned at the general deterioration in the situation in South Africa. They deplore the violent situation which is developing there.

The Ten consider that the measures recently announced do not match the reality or scale of the problem. Only the abolition of discriminatory practices and of the system of apartheid, together with recognition of the civil and political rights of the black population, are capable of ensuring the peaceful evolution of South African society.

2. With regard to Namibia the Ten reaffirm their commitment in favour of the application without preconditions of Security Council Resolution 435.

They deplore the delays in implementing the United Nations plan, which in their view remains the only acceptable basis for a final settlement of the question of Namibia.

They consider the recent announcement by Pretoria concerning the setting up of an interim government in Namibia to be null and void.

85/071. Statement by the Foreign Ministers of the Ten on Sudan

Date of Issue: 29 April 1985
 Place of Issue: Luxembourg
 Country of Presidency: Italy
 Source of Document: Foreign Ministers
 Status of Document: Declaration

The Ten considered the latest developments in the situation in Sudan.

They welcome the undertaking given by the new Sudanese leaders to continue a policy of effective non-alignment and to seek a position of autonomy and independence in order to contribute to stability in the area. The Ten hope that the new Government of Sudan will solve the country's serious economic and political problems. The Ten appeal to all political forces in Sudan to start a dialogue with a view to reconciliation throughout its territory.

Turning to the very serious economic situation, which has been aggravated by drought, the Ten expressed their desire to continue and step up development cooperation with and emergency aid to Sudan.

85/072. Statement by the Foreign Ministers of the Ten on the Ottawa Meeting on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms

Date of Issue: 29 April 1985
 Place of Issue: Luxembourg
 Country of Presidency: Italy
 Source of Document: Foreign Ministers
 Status of Document: Declaration

The Ten attach very great importance to the Ottawa meeting of experts on human rights and fundamental freedoms, in view of the fact that it represents the first opportunity for a specific debate, in the CSCE context, on questions which concern them deeply.

The Ten recall that the Helsinki Final Act explicitly reaffirms that respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms is an essential factor in the peace, justice and well-being required for the development of friendly relations and cooperation between all States. They therefore emphasize that full advantage must be taken of the opportunity offered by the Ottawa meeting for concrete developments in the respect for and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms. This also corresponds both to the legitimate hopes which the Ottawa meeting raises in public opinion in all countries participating in the CSCE and to the need to retain the full and unimpaired vigour of the entire CSCE process through balanced progress in each of its components.

85/073. Statement by the Foreign Ministers of the Ten on UNESCO

Date of Issue: 29 April 1985
Place of Issue: Luxembourg
Country of Presidency: Italy
Source of Document: Foreign Ministers
Status of Document: Declaration

The Ministers of the Ten reaffirm their commitment to multilateral international cooperation and to the principles and purposes of UNESCO as set out in its constitution. At the same time they express their concern at the current situation in UNESCO and stress the necessity for effective reforms this year both in administrative practice and in the biennial programme and budget. These reforms should also contribute to a return to the universality of the Organization.

In this connection, the Ministers stress the importance of the forthcoming session of the Executive Board and the need to reach agreement on:

- recommendations on a draft programme and budget for 1986/87 which will attract the support of all and which fully reflect the reduction in resources available to the Organization;
- a comprehensive plan and timetable for the implementation of administrative reforms;
- the necessary selective reduction of expenditure in the current year to take account of the shortfall resulting from the withdrawal of a Member State.

The Ten wish to cooperate closely with other countries both during the forthcoming meeting of the Board and subsequently. They appeal to all Member States of UNESCO to work in the same spirit in order to find a solution to the present crisis and to assure the Organization's long-term future.

85/074. Question No H-807/84 by Mr Christodoulou on the Human Rights in Albania

Date of Issue: 8 May 1985
Place of Issue: Strasbourg
Country of Presidency: Italy
Source of Document: Presidency
Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Amnesty International recently published a report on Albania, confirming once again the odious, blatant and systematic violation of human rights in this country, particularly against the Greek community in northern Ipirus.

Do not the Foreign Ministers consider that the time has come to take an interest in the matter and take whatever measures are necessary?

Mr Forte, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: The Ten pay close attention to the problem of human rights and the defence of basic freedoms, wherever it may be. It is to be hoped that, after the recent indications that Albania is opening up slightly to the outside world, other positive developments may follow with regard to human rights and basic freedoms.

Mr Christodoulou (PPE): I am pleased to hear the President-in-Office giving us some hope on this matter. I should like to ask whether, after the change of leadership in Albania following the death of Enver Hoxha, now is perhaps the time for this cautious approach to take on a slightly more substantial form and to start being expressed more firmly. If we continue simply to adopt this cautious approach towards such matters, we shall end up in a situation like that which we have with the Greek minority in Turkey, which ultimately dwindled to nothing as a result of a cautious approach.

I should like to ask the President-in-Office to take advantage of the change of leadership in Albania to proceed to more concrete measures, since according to the evidence collected by Amnesty International Albania is currently the only place in which citizens whose origin is in a Community country are subjected to harassment and torture.

Mr Forte: This is indeed the direction in which we are moving. I should like to state that during 1984 two important visits took place at government level: the Albanian Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Mr Kaplani, visited Athens in June, and the Greek Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister, Mr Papulias, visited Tirana in December.

The political significance of the exchange of visits was also demonstrated when, during the visit of Mr Papulias, five agreements were signed in Tirana on transport, postal arrangements, telecommunications, and scientific and cultural cooperation, with a view to fostering relations between the two countries. And on 12 January the Cacavia border pass, which had been closed for 40 years, was reopened.

Better relations between Greece and Albania should, we think, gradually bring about an improvement in the situation of the Greek community in Albania and thus an improvement in the human rights situation.

85/075. Question No H-808/84 by Mr Boutos on the Murders of Representatives of the Press within the Community

Date of Issue: 8 May 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Recently, in a Member State of the Community, two newspaper publishers have been assassinated within a short space of time. These crimes are still unsolved. Within the general climate recently created by a whole series of terrorist acts committed in the democratic countries of Europe, to which our Parliament rightly gave its attention in the February part-session, there is – with due cause – a growing suspicion that this campaign is taking on new dimensions that make it particularly dangerous for our institutions. It is now clear that, in liquidating important figures in the press world, the aim is to undermine the desire and capacity for freely expressing ideas in this crucial area of our public life, in the hope that others will thereby be intimidated and our democracies will as a result be further destabilized. Do the Ministers share the view that this new development is particularly alarming and that every effort should be made to give special protection to all those active in the press world and to accelerate the coordination of measures by the governments in all Member States aimed at combating terrorism?

Answer:

The Ten share the Honourable Member's concern at the recent new outbreaks of terrorism in Europe and agree on the need for closer coordination between the Member States in tackling it.

This matter was recently dealt with at the Ministerial Meeting in Rome on 12 February last, during which the Ministers stressed the need to continue and strengthen the already active cooperation between the Ten in order to tackle this problem.

85/076. Question No H-826/84 by Mr Habsburg on the Situation in the Baltic States

Date of Issue: 8 May 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

On 13 January 1985, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on the people of the Baltic States by a substantial majority. Since then the situation in the Baltic States has, if anything, deteriorated.

Will the Foreign Ministers meeting in EPC inform this Parliament whether they have considered the situation in the Baltic States again since the most unsatisfactory answer given by Mr Genscher? If so, what was the outcome of their deliberations and, if not, are they now prepared, bearing in mind the USSR's systematic repression of the Baltic States, to remind Moscow of the rules of international law and of the Helsinki Final Act and to demand that they be respected?

Mr Forte, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: As stated in the reply to Oral Question No H-555/84, the Foreign Ministers of the Ten meeting in European political cooperation noted the resolution adopted by the European Parliament on 13 January 1983, to which the Honourable Member refers. In their constant concern to ensure full compliance with the provisions of the Helsinki Final Act and of the Madrid follow-up text, the Ten have on numerous occasions expressed to the appropriate quarters its preoccupation about the respect of the rights enshrined in those documents. The Ten will continue to assess carefully when it is the right time to carry out any action likely to bring about practical results, since when it comes to human rights it is practical results which concern them.

The Ten also consider that the Ottawa meeting on human rights, which is due to take place this month, is an important opportunity, in a particularly appropriate forum, to make further moves regarding a situation which at the moment and in more general terms can certainly not be considered satisfactory.

Mr Wedekind (PPE): In the resolution in question we asked for the question of the Baltic States to be brought before the UN Decolonization Committee, and a large majority in Parliament voted for it. We expect the Council to tell us what it intends to do on this matter.

Mr Forte: As I have already said, the context in which we operate is the one which remains valid for us. Obviously those concerned may apply to the United Nations in order to pursue the matter further.

Mr Seeler (S): I should like to ask the President-in-Office the following supplementary question following on from Mr Wedekind's question: no one in this House disputes that it is at present politically impossible to restore independence to the three Baltic nations. But everyone knows that Helsinki, among other things, makes the cultural and ethnic independence of the peoples within the Soviet Union possible. I gathered from your answer, Mr President-in-Office, that the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation feel that they are not able to put this most basic requirement of the Helsinki act into practice. Do you agree?

Mr Forte: I am unable to agree with this conclusion. The Council seeks to ensure compliance with the Helsinki Final Act.

Mr Seligman (ED): In view of President Reagan's moving resolution this afternoon to unite East and West in Europe and have a free passage from Moscow to Strasbourg, will he send a message of hope to these Baltic States that that is our resolution in the long run?

Mr Forte: Of course this is what we wish to see in the long term.

85/077. Question No H-828/84 by Mr Flanagan on the Pressure on the Nicaraguan Government

Date of Issue: 8 May 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Are the Foreign Ministers aware of the severe pressure being put on the democratically elected Government in Nicaragua by the President of the United States, who is at present seeking Congressional approval of \$ 14 million in aid to the rebels, and will the Foreign Ministers state their view on this very serious situation?

Mr Forte, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: The Ten have in fact been informed of the particular move to which the Honourable Member refers. The Ten have constantly expressed their conviction that the problems of Central America, including those of Nicaragua, cannot be solved by force, but only by a political settlement emanating from the region itself. With this in mind, the Ten have repeatedly expressed their support for the Contadora initiative, which seeks to bring about a peaceful and global solution to the problems of the region.

Mr Flanagan (RDE): In view of the high-sounding words used today by the President of the United States of America, could I ask the Council and, indeed, Europe as a whole to redouble efforts to find a peaceful solution in Central America along the Contadora lines? And would the Council agree that 75 years of interference by various Presidents of the United States from 1911 onwards is a very long period of American interference in the affairs of the people of Nicaragua?

In the light of all the sentiments expressed today by the President of the United States, would Europe redouble its efforts, especially in the matter of trade with people who are being economically forced into poverty by the action of the President of the United States, not by the Congress or the people of America but by the President and his Administration? This initiative by Europe could prevent driving another whole section of the world into Soviet hands — the very thing which the President so enthusiastically objected to today. Would this not be a good occasion to start this initiative — the day the President spoke to us?

Mr Forte: An initiative entitled 'Troika' is in progress with a view to organizing in Europe a conference of the Contadora Group countries, or rather the countries of Central America, which might lead to both political and financial solutions. The aim of this initiative is broadly the same as that which the Ten are trying to achieve, namely to seek peaceful solutions which are adopted by the countries themselves.

Mr Newens (S): Is it not utterly deplorable that the United States should be supporting rebels many of whom were supporters of the appalling Somoza dictatorship, which for many years ruled by means of imprisonment, torture and execution? One cannot possibly declare it democracy to be supporting such people. Can it be placed on record today that the Ten not only deplore the use of force — and this includes any possibility of invasion by United States Forces as well as support for the Contras — but also deplore the American trade blockade and will continue to encourage Nicaraguan exports to Europe?

Mr Forte: The American trade blockade has not yet been discussed. For the rest, I note what you have said.

Mrs Dury (S): I believe very strongly in initiatives such as the Troika, to which reference has been made, but I wish to state that an economic blockade can strangle a country very rapidly. I should like to ask the President-in-Office when he intends to meet the Nicaraguan authorities to see what their needs are and how we can respond in the immediate term to this type of strangulation being practised unilaterally by the United States and which is going very much against the people of Nicaragua.

Mr Forte: One of the tasks of the Troika mission is to visit Nicaragua to see the situation at first hand.

For my part, I should like to put a small point to you. If in certain agricultural sectors the policy of the European Economic Community were slightly different from what is at present — and many of those who express these concerns could do something about it — everything would be easier.

Mr Schinzel (S): Mr President-in-Office, if the Council has not yet got an idea on how to offset the trade blockade against Nicaragua by European measures, is the President-in-Office prepared to bring such an initiative before the Council so that the effects of this American trade embargo can be offset by European measures?

Mr Forte: I said that the question of the embargo has not yet been discussed by the Ten. Information is being collected, and so we cannot for the moment prejudge any decision by the Ten.

Mr Alavanos (Com): The last reply given by the President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation is, to say the least, regrettable, and I hope he is not speaking for all the Ministers. According to his answer, there is a problem in obtaining information about the trade embargo.

In this connection I should like to repeat the question put by the previous speaker, which was as follows: is the Italian Presidency prepared to bring before the first meeting of the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation the problem of the American trade embargo against Nicaragua and the adoption of suitable counter-measures by the European Community? In view of the crucial nature of this subject, I would ask that, for once, we should be given an honest answer.

Mr Forte: I fail to see why you imagine that we find it difficult to answer on this subject. The matter in question is, I believe, being dealt with this very day by the Political Committee in Rome. This means that we are looking into it.

Mr Wurtz (Com): The embarrassment of the Council representative in answering a straightforward question is, I think absolutely incredible. So I apologize for being, I think, the fifth speaker to ask the same question. Is there any need to go to Nicaragua to collect information on a measure such as the blockade imposed by the United States, which so obviously runs counter to the Contadora process to which the Community has given its backing? In such case, or I would say even before it arises, since it was foreseeable, are there or are there not plans for financial and food aid measures to prevent a situation in which, when the matter actually comes before the Council, it will be too late because disaster will already have struck Nicaragua?

Mr Forte: I think I have already given an adequate reply. Furthermore, it seems to me obvious that all these questions are the same and serve one particular purpose, namely that each Member can ask a question. But since I am only one person, I can also refer to the previous replies.

Mr Galland (L): Mr President-in-Office, you will be pleased by the question I am about to ask you since it has nothing to do with the previous ones. Do you think, Mr President-in-Office, that one of the major problems which face this part of the American continent, and the consequences of which we can see here, arises from the attempts by the Soviet Union to penetrate and destabilize this part of the world?

[Protests from the Socialist Group]

I am sorry to upset you, ladies and gentlemen. You are very quick to react on a certain number of subjects but you remain very silent on others!

President: I think that the political problem raised by Mr Flanagan's question is extremely important, as has been demonstrated by the breadth of the debate in the various meetings. It is being discussed by the Committee on relations with the Latin-American Parliament and we shall be discussing it tomorrow under urgent procedure. However, I think it would be better to ask the Council for information or facts on which it can reply more directly.

Mr Forte: The Ten are convinced that the problems of Central America cannot be solved by military means but only by a political solution emanating from the region itself and which respects the principles of non-interference and the inviolability of frontiers.

Mr MacSharry (RDE): I rise to ask one brief supplementary question. I welcome the statement by the President-in-Office of the Council on behalf of the Council. However, is he aware of a report by a delegation from this Parliament who went there to supervise the elections that were held? Whilst I very much welcome the visit of the United States President here today, I must put the record straight. He said: 'I have been in Nicaragua, you have not.' But there was a delegation from this Parliament in that country. Is the President-in-Office of the Council aware of the report of that delegation?

Mr Forte: I am unaware of this.

President: I can point out that the Political Affairs Committee is drawing up a report on Nicaragua. The Council will receive this document when Parliament has debated and adopted it.

Mr Forte: Thank you, Mr President.

Mr Fellermaier (S): Mr President-in-Office, if the Political Directors are meeting in Rome today, you must surely be able to answer the following specific question with yes or no: is the question of offsetting the policy of the American President towards Nicaragua, i.e. the economic blockade, on the agenda of the preparatory meeting of the Political Directors for the next session of the Foreign Ministers meeting in European political cooperation? This can only be answered by yes or no.

Mr Forte: The question on the agenda is Central America.

Mr Ephremidis (Com): I have followed all the answers given by the representative of the Foreign Ministers. He gave me the impression that he constantly put forward the argument that the Council is collecting information. My question is: What information is he collecting? Is it or is it not a fact that the United States has declared a trade embargo against Nicaragua? What does he want? To confirm the fact? It is common knowledge. We wish to be told what the position of the Foreign Ministers is on this subject.

Mr Forte: Since the meetings are still going on, I cannot say what their result will be.

If the Greek Member considers that there is no point in obtaining information, then it will obviously be wasted on him, but it will be useful to others.

85/078. Question No H-834/84 by Mr Selva on Khadafi and Terrorism in Europe

Date of Issue: 8 May 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

How do the Foreign Ministers think they ought to respond to statements by Khadafi (extracts of whose speech appeared in the European press on 4 March 1985) that he regards the Baader-Meinhof, Red Brigades and Action Directe terrorist groups as 'revolutionary opposition' and promises to support them, and does any EEC government believe that such organizations have received aid from Khadafi in the past?

Answer:

The statements by Colonel Khadafi to which the Honourable Member refers have not been discussed in European political cooperation. Hence the implications of these statements and any possible reaction to them have not been discussed by the Ten. However, this does not exclude the possibility that the partner countries have taken or plan to take bilateral political and diplomatic initiatives.

85/079. Question No H-710/84 by Mr Van Miert on the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea

Date of Issue: 8 May 1985
Place of Issue: Strasbourg
Country of Presidency: Italy
Source of Document: Presidency
Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

On 9 December 1984 when the deadline for signature expired, 159 countries had signed the Convention, including most of the Member States, except for the Federal Republic of Germany and the United Kingdom, as well as the European Community. On the other hand, however, not one single Member State has so far ratified the Convention. The preparatory committee of the Seabed Authority has now evidently decided to commence registration of firms engaged in deep-sea mining in March 1985. What steps have the Ministers already taken to ensure that the Member States ratify the Convention and that the Community does not miss the boat in such an essential sector as the law of the sea?

Answer:

When the United Nations signed the Convention on the Law of the Sea, some signatory Member States and the European Community itself made statements on the omissions and shortcomings of Section 11 of the Convention, which deals with the seabed, and expressed the hope that the preparation committee for setting up the International Seabed Authority would manage in the course of its work to draw up implementing rules which would make the system applying to the seabed acceptable. In addition, some Member States did not sign the Convention.

In view of this, it does not look as if the process of ratification or accession by the Member States of the Community will be concluded soon. Consultations between the Member States of the Community are still being conducted on the matter.

Furthermore, in accordance with Resolution No 2 on the protection of prior investments, the French Government lodged an application on 3 August 1984 for registration with the Preparatory Committee as a pioneer investor with a view to obtaining rights to a prospecting site for metal-bearing nodules.

This registration cannot take place until all the conditions set with regard to Resolution No 2 have been met.

85/080. Question No H-732/84 by Mrs Hammerich on the Participation by Countries other than Community Member States in European Political Cooperation

Date of Issue: 8 May 1985
Place of Issue: Strasbourg
Country of Presidency: Italy
Source of Document: Presidency
Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

If it is seriously to be believed that European political cooperation functions independently of the Community, the current practice must cease as soon as countries other than Community Member States participate in European political cooperation. If European political cooperation is to expand to become proper West European cooperation involving countries other than Community Member States, will the Foreign Ministers draw the appropriate conclusions and stop linking European political cooperation with the activities of the European Parliament? Will the President of the Foreign Ministers then stop attending Parliament's part-sessions each month for inspiration and guidance and to answer questions?

Answer:

As was stated in the reply to Oral Question No H-730/84 tabled by the Honourable Member herself, participation in political cooperation is restricted to the Member States of the European Community.

The Honourable Member's attention should also be drawn to the fact that, by recognizing that 'the Assembly of the European Community has an essential role to play in the development of European Union' and consequently, that 'the European Parliament debates all matters relating to European Union, including European Political Cooperation', the Solemn Declaration on European Union, signed by the Heads of State or Government of the Ten at the end of the European Council held in Stuttgart on 17-19 June 1983, laid down the consultation procedure currently in force between the Presidency of the Ten and the European Parliament.

85/081. Question No H-15/85 by Mrs Dury on the Dictatorship in Chile

Date of Issue: 8 May 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

On 22 February 1985, Carlos Gabriel Godoy Echegoyen, a young man of 23, died as a result of torture inflicted the day after he had been arrested with 12 others. He is the second person in less than a month to have been tortured to death in the Chilean dictatorship's secret prisons.

Do the Foreign Ministers envisage bringing other forms of pressure to bear on the Chilean dictatorship, since it remains unmoved by the written and verbal protests which have been made?

Answer:

The Ten have on many occasions expressed their deep concern at the repeated violations of human rights in Chile and its shock at the tragic events, of which the death of Carlos Gabriel Godoy Echegoyen, referred to by the Honourable Member, is a recent serious example.

In their statement of 12 November 1984, which received wide public attention, the Ten strongly condemned the breaking off of dialogue with the opposition and the declaration of martial law, by which the Chilean Government is attempting to justify legally the constant violations of human rights and basic freedoms. It should be pointed out that, in this regard, the Ten have not only publicly condemned these acts but have also made repeated representations, including recently, to the authorities in Santiago on behalf of Chilean citizens.

85/082. Question No H-46/85 by Mr Ephremidis on the Non-Involvement by Member States in Star Wars Plans

Date of Issue: 8 May 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

At the last two-day conference in Rome of the European Space Agency, Italy, a Member State of the Community, and a member of the Agency, asked ministers to agree to a proposal by President Reagan that the Agency should become involved in the Star Wars programme. Britain announced that it was prepared to take part in the programme, while France, through its Foreign Minister on his last visit to the USA, said in this connection that the USA and its allies 'must have further discussions on this idea of a protective curtain leading to the disappearance of the offensive system'.

What steps do the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation propose to take to prevent involvement by Community Member States in the Star Wars plans, and are such attitudes of Member States' governments not at variance with repeated declarations made in the context of political cooperation concerning peace, arms reductions and the need to step up the Geneva talks?

Answer:

Disarmament issues are obviously dealt with in the context of European Political Cooperation. The Ten have always done, and continue to do, everything in their power to promote bilateral or multilateral negotiations with a view to the reduction of armaments of any kind, both nuclear and conventional, by means of balanced measures under effective international supervision.

The question raised by the Honourable Member, however, concerns a matter which is not covered by European Political Cooperation and has thus not been discussed in that context. The governments of the Member States of the Community will thus have to adopt a position on this matter at national level or on the basis of direct consultations between the countries concerned. However, the Honourable Member's description of the attitude of certain Member States towards this question does not correspond with the actual positions of the countries in question as expressed in numerous public statements.

85/083. Question No H-54/85 by Mr Tzounis on the Violation by the Soviet Union of a Series of Arms Reduction Treaties

Date of Issue: 8 May 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Have the Foreign Ministers given any consideration to the reports that the Soviet Union has violated the 1972 ABM Treaty by constructing a prohibited type of radar in Siberia, the 1979 SALT II treaty by going on to test a second type of intercontinental missile, and the 1963 nuclear test Treaty by carrying out tests from which there were leaks of radioactive waste?

Answer:

The Ten are closely following the Geneva negotiations on space and nuclear weapons and, as in the past, will not fail to encourage any possibility of positive developments in the talks between the United States and the Soviet Union.

The question raised by the Honourable Member is a fundamental aspect of the current negotiations. The Ten attach the greatest importance to compliance with the obligations resulting from the present treaties, in particular the ABM Treaty, and will not fail to take due account of these concerns in their action to promote positive results in Geneva.

85/084. Question No H-77/85 by Mr Fellermaier on the Change of Names of Turkish Citizens in Bulgaria

Date of Issue: 8 May 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Can the chairman of the Foreign Ministers confirm reports that as part of a nationwide campaign since the end of 1984, the Turks living in Bulgaria have been forced to give up their Turkish names

and adopt Bulgarian names and does the conference of Foreign Ministers see any possibility of influencing Bulgaria, given that it is one of the signatories of the Final Act of Helsinki, to respect the human rights of its Turkish minority?

Answer:

The Ten are closely following the situation of the Muslim minority in Bulgaria. This question was recently dealt with in the context of European Political Cooperation. In order to gain a full and objective insight into the problem and all its implications, the Ten are currently engaged in obtaining further facts.

85/085. Question No H-80/85 by Mr Pearce on the Export of Cocaine

Date of Issue: 8 May 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Will the Foreign Ministers make representations to the governments of those South American countries from which cocaine is exported with a view to impeding supplies from reaching Europe?

Answer:

The illegal export of cocaine from South America is not at present receiving specific attention in the context of European Political Cooperation. However, at the meeting of 12 February 1985 in Rome the Foreign Ministers of the Ten recognized the importance of the problem of drug trafficking and agreed that it should be discussed at the next meeting of the Ministers responsible for action to combat terrorism and organized crime.

85/086. Question No H-100/85 by Mr McMahon on the Shootings in South Africa

Date of Issue: 8 May 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Can the President of the Council of Ministers inform Parliament as to what actions the Ministers propose taking to put pressure on the South African Government to end their policy of apartheid and what representations were made by the Commission to the South African Government about the killing of innocent citizens in the month of March in the Eastern Cape?

Answer:

The Ten have of course on numerous occasions expressed their condemnation of apartheid in South Africa and called on the Pretoria Government to move quickly to introduce the reforms necessary for bringing racial segregation to an end, notably in the Foreign Ministers' declarations of 11 September 1984 and, more recently, 29 April 1985. The recent events in South Africa, as was indicated in the answer to oral question H-59/85, were the subject of a press statement made by the Presidency on behalf of the Ten on 25 March 1985.

This stated that the ten Member States of the European Community expressed their deep concern at the tension created in South Africa as a result of indiscriminate repressive action against the black population. In particular, they strongly condemned the behaviour of the police in the events of 21 March in Uitenhage, which led to the deaths of a number of blacks. The Ten recalled the Foreign Ministers' declaration of 11 September 1984 and repeated their call for an end to apartheid and for a process of dialogue leading to substantive reforms that met the legitimate aspirations of the black population.

85/087. Question No H-138/85 by Mr Iversen on the Measures against South Africa

Date of Issue: 10 May 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

In recent months, the Scandinavian countries have taken a tougher line with the barbaric regime in South Africa. Among other things, measures have been taken with a view to a boycott of coal imports from, and oil exports to, South Africa. In their answer to my question H-59/85, the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation stressed that they would welcome thorough-going reforms with a view to satisfying the legitimate aspirations of the black population. However, the Foreign Ministers are evidently unwilling to take more stringent measures against South Africa than those of the UNO. Is this because the Foreign Ministers do not consider that an oil boycott and other economic sanctions would actually be an effective instrument against the illegal regime in South Africa?

Answer:

The situation in South Africa and the policy to be adopted towards that country are regularly discussed in European Political Cooperation.

In this context, as pointed out in the reply to the Oral Question No H-59/85 tabled by the Honourable Member himself, the position adopted by the Danish Parliament has been brought to the attention of the other partners. However, the possibility of imposing an oil boycott or other economic sanctions on South Africa, in addition to the mandatory sanctions adopted by the United Nations and strictly applied by the Ten, has not been discussed in European Political Cooperation.

The Ten will continue to use their collective weight to induce the South African Government to end the inhuman system of apartheid.

85/088. Question No 1913/84 by Mrs Crawley (S-UK) about Yosif Begun

Date of Issue: 10 May 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 11 February 1985

Would the Foreign Ministers use their good offices to contact Konstantin Chernenko, Secretary-General of the Central Committee of the CPSU, to help alleviate the suffering of Yosif Begun, who is serving a prison sentence in the Perm Labour Camp Complex in the Soviet Union, and who has been denied visits for over two years ?

Answer:

The human rights situation in the USSR is being examined constantly within the framework of European political cooperation. Several representations have been made in this respect to the Soviet authorities. On these occasions, the Ten, in expressing their concern, have invited the Soviet authorities to adopt an attitude more in keeping with the rules on the protection of human rights as sanctioned by international law and to act in accordance with the undertakings given in the Helsinki Final Act and in the Final Document of the Madrid meeting.

However, it seems that action concerning specific cases has a greater chance of success where it takes the form of confidential representations, avoiding any form of publicity which might produce the opposite effect.

Furthermore, the Ottawa meeting on human rights, which is scheduled to take place in May 1985, will provide the Ten with another particularly appropriate forum in which to undertake further action concerning the problem of human rights in order to make real progress in a situation which, in general terms, has appeared unsatisfactory for too long.

**85/089. Question No 2175/84 by Mrs Crawley (S-UK)
about Zahar Zunshain**

Date of Issue: 10 May 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 11 February 1985

Will the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation convey to the Soviet Government their concern at the plight of Zahar Zunshain, a Soviet Jew from Riga? Zahar Zunshain has been sent to prison under Article 183/1 of Soviet law following his arrest for taking part in a peaceful demonstration staged in Moscow with his wife and two other Riga Jews on 5 March 1984.

Since the beginning of his sentence I am informed that he has lost three stone in weight and has been threatened with being sent to work down a mine or in a chemical plant where prisoners' health is at risk — normal industrial safeguards are totally lacking. These threats are used to try to make him renounce his religious faith.

Answer:

The human rights situation in the USSR is kept under constant review in the framework of European political cooperation. The Soviet authorities have been approached several times in this connection. On each occasion, the Ten have expressed their concern and urged the Soviet authorities to adopt an attitude more consonant with the rules on the protection of human rights as sanctioned by international law and to honour the commitments entered into in the Helsinki Final Act and in the Concluding Document of the meeting in Madrid.

However, representations in respect of specific cases seem to have more chance of success when they are made privately, avoiding any form of publicity which could have the opposite of the desired effect.

The Ottawa meeting on human rights due to be held in May will provide the Ten with another particularly appropriate framework for further representations on the problem of human rights, with the aim of achieving real progress in a situation which, in general terms, has for too long been unsatisfactory.

85/090. Question No 2176/84 by Mrs Crawley on the Iran-Iraq Conflict

Date of Issue: 10 May 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 8 March 1985

Will the Council of Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation call on Iran to seek a peaceful solution to the Iran-Iraq conflict, as a further escalation of the war endangers international stability ?

Will the Council of Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation ascertain whether or not Iranian children of nine and 10 years of age are being used by the Iranian Government as human minesweepers, as has been alleged, in the war against Iraq, and why the Iranian Government will not accept them back when the Iraqi Government has attempted to repatriate these children after capturing them as prisoners of war ?

Answer:

The Ten have always paid great attention, within the framework of political cooperation, to the problem of the Iran-Iraq conflict, in view of its potential for destabilizing a region of considerable political and economic importance and its serious repercussions from the humanitarian point of view.

The Ten have on several occasions made representations to the authorities in Baghdad and Teheran regarding various issues of a humanitarian nature such as the bombing of towns, the use of chemical weapons, the difficulties encountered by the International Committee of the Red Cross in its work and the treatment of prisoners of war, to which the Honourable Member specifically refers.

85/091. Question No 2243/84 by Mrs Lizin (S-B) on the Alarming Situation of Jorge Palma Donoso, Carlos Araneda Miranda and Hugo Marchant Moya, Prisoners in Chile

Date of Issue: 10 May 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 11 March 1985

Will the Ministers meeting in political cooperation discuss as a matter of urgency at their next meeting the case of Jorge Palma Donoso and the two other prisoners who are due to stand trial before a wartime military tribunal, a procedure under which the rights of the defence are extremely limited, and for whom the death penalty has been demanded?

In view of the fact that these prisoners will be the last to be tried under this procedure, do the Foreign Ministers intend to make representations to the Chilean Government?

Answer:

The Ten have from the outset been closely following the case of the three Chilean citizens accused of the murder of General Urzua, the Prefect of Santiago, and brought before a court martial under a special measure providing for this procedure in certain specific instances of crimes against senior officials of the State.

At the beginning of March the Ten made representations to the Chilean authorities and asked them to ensure the accused were given all the necessary guarantees regarding their defence and all the opportunities for appeal provided for under ordinary jurisdiction.

85/092. Statement by the Foreign Ministers of the Ten on the Situation in Lebanon

Date of Issue: 20 May 1985
 Place of Issue: Brussels
 Country of Presidency: Italy
 Source of Document: Foreign Ministers
 Status of Document: Declaration

Recalling their Statement of 29 April, the Ten Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the European Community express deep concern for the deteriorating situation in Lebanon, where clashes between various groups are becoming more serious, acts of violence are increasing and whole populations are leaving their homes.

They appeal to all parties concerned for the resumption of the dialogue between the various Lebanese groups and the holding of a true national reconciliation conference.

The Ten reiterate their conviction that only if present internal differences are overcome can Lebanon preserve its unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity and are ready to contribute in the search for such a solution.

85/093. Question No 2224/84 by Mrs Ewing (RDE-UK) on an Egyptian Visa

Date of Issue: 22 May 1985
 Place of Issue: Strasbourg
 Country of Presidency: Italy
 Source of Document: Presidency
 Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 11 March 1985

Will the Council of Ministers investigate why the Egyptian Consulate in London failed to grant a visa timeously to Mrs Winnifred Ewing, Member of the European Parliament for the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, thus preventing her from visiting Egypt and causing her loss of the full holiday cost, in the following circumstances:

1. Application was made in due form by Mrs Ewing to the Consulate on 18 December 1984.
2. Various promises were made on the telephone that the visa was being posted.
3. The holiday was due to start from London on 30 December 1984.
4. The passport arrived by post on Monday, 31 December 1984 with visa attached, too late for the holiday.
5. The visa was dated 28 November 1984 and had been held by the Consulate, for some reason, for a month.

Answer:

The Honourable Member's question does not fall within the Council's purview.

85/094. Statement by the Ten on the Situation in Southern Africa

Date of Issue: 5 June 1985
 Place of Issue: Rome
 Country of Presidency: Italy
 Source of Document: The Ten
 Status of Document: Declaration

The ten Member States of the European Community recall that in February 1984 they welcomed the initiatives taken by Angola and the Republic of South Africa to bring about security and stability in Southern Africa.

They emphasize their deep concern over the recent action in Angola by South African military forces, which violates Angolan sovereignty and introduces further obstacles in the process of dialogue, intended to achieve peaceful solutions to the problems of the region.

85/095. Declaration by the Ten on Cyprus

Date of Issue: 10 June 1985
Place of Issue: Rome
Country of Presidency: Italy
Source of Document: The Ten
Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

The Ten note that so-called 'Presidential' elections took place in northern Cyprus on 9 June. They do not recognize the 'Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus' and therefore would not recognize any so-called 'constitutional' developments in northern Cyprus. The Ten wish to see a just and viable solution to the Cyprus problem, through the good offices of the UN Secretary-General and on the basis of the UN resolutions. They call upon the parties to respond positively to the Secretary-General's initiative, which the Ten continue strongly to support, and to avoid any action which could undermine the dialogue.

85/096. Statement by Mr Giulio Andreotti, Italian Foreign Minister and President-in-Office of the Council of Ministers, before the European Parliament

Date of Issue: 11 June 1985
Place of Issue: Strasbourg
Country of Presidency: Italy
Source of Document: Presidency
Status of Document: Balance Speech to European Parliament

Mr President, ladies and gentlemen, ...

I am concerned here to point out that the achievements of the Ten, especially in the sphere of European Political Cooperation, demonstrate without a shadow of a doubt how strong the universal demand for Europe is today.

One only has to reflect here on the interest China is showing in Europe, a practical expression of which was to be seen last month in Brussels with the signing of the economic cooperation agreement with China.

As could be seen from the recent visit to Moscow by the Italian Prime Minister and myself, it appears that the Soviet Union, too, is paying particular attention to Europe, not only recognizing the international influence of the Community but also becoming aware of the political role of the Ten on the international stage.

Nor do I wish to omit, in this connection, the considerable attention which the countries of the so-called Third World, especially those in areas of crisis, are continuing to give to Europe. I am referring to the Middle East and in particular the recent events in Lebanon, concerning which, on 29 April last, the Ten made a declaration, which I had the task of personally explaining to President Gemayel and to the Syrian Vice-President, Mr Khaddam. I would emphasize that during my talks in both Beirut and Damascus I found confirmation of the importance which the leaders of those countries attach to an active role for Europe in overcoming that difficult and complex crisis.

In another sensitive area, namely Latin America, the action of the Ten, aimed at supporting existing peace efforts and promoting the restoration and consolidation of democratic regimes, has received wide appreciation and general interest. The Italian Presidency has in particular encouraged the sending of a high-level mission to all the capitals of Central America and the Contadora

countries, one practical result of which has been the organization of a meeting in Europe next November along the lines of the one held year at San Jose in Costa Rica.

The Ten have strong cooperation links with Africa, which find fundamental expression in the Lomé Convention, itself enhanced by the accession of Mozambique and Angola, and Africa has received special attention from the Community both in the form of humanitarian and emergency aid for famine victims and as regards developments in the situation in southern Africa and in Sudan.

In Asia, the Ten are continuing to watch with concern the developments in the two major, and still unresolved, crises in Afghanistan and Cambodia.

Europe's role in the world is one of moderation, a role in keeping with its tradition and culture. If this role is to be performed fully, Europe needs both the will and the courage to strengthen itself.

85/097. Question No H-4/85 by Mr Hutton on Chemical-Weapon Disarmament

Date of Issue: 11 June 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

To what extent have the Foreign Ministers of the Ten taken a common political position on the proposals from the United Kingdom and the United States on chemical-weapon disarmament within the Conference on Disarmament, bearing in mind that the United Kingdom stopped producing chemical weapons in 1956, that the United States stopped producing chemical weapons in 1969 and holds only a small and ageing stock, that NATO holds no stocks and that the Soviet Union holds very large stocks estimated at a minimum of 300 000 tonnes of nerve gas?

Mr Andreotti, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: We have on a number of occasions expressed our approval for the banning of chemical weapons, and our readiness to speed up the negotiations that are taking place. We consider that this has become even more urgent following the use of chemical weapons in the conflict that is going on between Iraq and Iran, which shows that the problem, far from being a purely theoretical one, is also, and above all, a practical problem. I may add that, in all of our discussions on the subject, there has never been any disagreement. It is our firm intention to contribute as effectively as possible to the conclusion of a treaty for a total ban on chemical weapons.

Mr Hutton (ED): In view of the willingness of the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation to see the speeding up of negotiations, could the President-in-Office say whether they have considered taking any joint steps on behalf of the Foreign Ministers of the Ten, rather than only supporting those taken by the United Kingdom and the United States?

Mr Andreotti: So far we have not discussed any independent proposal on the part of the Ten, but we have shown our firm determination, and full agreement, in supporting proposals designed to achieve as quickly as possible a total ban on chemical weapons.

Mr Elliott (S): With regard to this desperately important matter of chemical weapon disarmament, have the Foreign Ministers studied, not only the small and ageing stocks to which the question refers, but also the serious consideration being given in governmental and military circles in the United States, Britain and possibly other NATO countries to the development of so-called binary chemical-weapon systems, in which you have two chemicals, each of them innocuous in itself when separated but capable of being combined to form a lethal chemical weapon at the point of use? These proposed new weapons open up a very serious new threat to the well-being of humanity, and I would like to know whether these have been included in the discussions of the Foreign Ministers.

Mr Andreotti: My answer to that is that they have. When we had to examine together the undertakings not to supply arms to countries at war — precisely for the fear that chemical weapons

would be used – we very definitely included the supply of chemicals that may be considered innocuous in themselves but which can be combined in some form or other to become chemical weapons.

The problem is therefore having our attention, and we share the questioner's concern.

Mr Bonde (ARC): I understand from the answer of the President-in-Office that matters such as arms reduction, arms control and confidence-building measures are now subjects which can be discussed within the framework of European political cooperation.

I should like to ask the President-in-Office to specify in more detail what is covered by the new definition of security policy which was discussed at the meeting in Stresa last weekend. Where does the dividing line lie which separates off the military aspects, and what are the practical implications of the progression from the earlier definition of the political and economic aspects of security policy to the broader application of the security concept? Can the President-in-Office give a few examples of questions which do not fall within the scope of European political cooperation in this area?

Mr Andreotti: There are two separate questions: one is the general question of the extent of the Community's competence where security is concerned. Moreover, in the Committee on Political Affairs of the European Parliament, questions have often been raised regarding security problems. According to established practice, therefore, the political aspects of security problems – not their technical and military aspects – are matters of common concern, and, as such, are the subject of political consultation amongst us.

When, for example, it is decided not to provide military supplies for a particular country, we have of necessity to make a detailed analysis to ensure that materials are not supplied that, even if they are not of a military character, could be used for military purposes, especially for chemical warfare. I explained this earlier.

85/098. Question No H-7/85 by Mr Chambeiron on the Activities of Nazi War Criminals

Date of Issue: 11 June 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

What steps have the Foreign Ministers taken or do they intend to take, in the spirit of the resolution adopted by the European Parliament, to speed up the process of finding and convicting certain Nazi war criminals who are still at large, in particular J. Mengele and Alois Brunner, in order to ensure that their crimes do not continue to go unpunished?

Mr Andreotti, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: We have not had occasion, meeting in political cooperation, to discuss specifically the points to which the questioner refers. I must however say that the problem is so important politically and morally that I think none of our countries considers itself exempt from the duty to collaborate. They are in fact crimes for which there is no deadline within which the perpetrators must be brought to justice, and nothing must be done to prevent those responsible from being justly punished.

Mr Chambeiron (Com): Mr President-in-Office, I have no doubt of the goodwill of the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation, but I would like to hear something other than declarations of good intentions because this question has not come to you as a surprise. It was already on the agenda a month ago and was carried over.

What I should like to ask you is this: what steps do the Foreign Ministers really intend to take in order to pick up the trace of certain Nazis whose whereabouts are perfectly well known; will they be obtaining the instruments needed to have them extradited or punished locally, because the European Parliament has been absolutely clear on this problem. On any number of occasions it has expressed

the depth of its feeling about the fact that certain war criminals whose whereabouts are well known are going unpunished.

Mr President-in-Office, while giving you the time – which I imagine you will need – to prepare a reply, I give notice that I would still like a more detailed answer, whether from you or from your successor, on the action which the Foreign Ministers intend to take on this matter.

Mr Andreotti: Saying, with regard to the whereabouts of these criminals, that they are 'perfectly well known' is perhaps not very accurate, since, according to the press, where Mengele is concerned, it is not even known if he is really dead or not. However, if I have to answer the question whether our governments are available to collaborate, through their police organizations and so forth, and assist in the process of finding and duly punishing Nazi war criminals, then in my view the answer is 'Yes' and, therefore, everything that can be done in this direction certainly will be done.

Mr Ford (S): I would like to follow up Mr Chambeiron's supplementary question and ask what attempts have been made to obtain material from governments within the Community that might actually facilitate the location of these individuals, particularly Mengele. There was a recent statement from Mrs Thatcher that there was material available on Mengele and on Klaus Barbie – although he has obviously been caught now – that had not been released and which obviously might give some idea as to where these people are hiding. What representations have been made specifically to General Stroessner about the outrageous treatment of Beate Klarsfeld in Paraguay recently when she was trying to find Mengele?

Mr Andreotti: I think that the best way will be to give Interpol all the information that may come into the possession of each of our countries, so that the competent bodies can make effective use of it in the course of their duty, to find those responsible and hand them over to the competent courts.

Mr Ducarme (L): I fully appreciate why the President-in-Office has replied to us in this way but agree with Mr Chambeiron that we should try to obtain an answer in this context. However, looking beyond questions concerned specifically with the Mengele case or the Brunner case, and in the light of the last answer given by the President-in-Office, when he said that the information should be given to Interpol, I should like to ask him the direct question whether he does not consider that it would be appropriate to arrange for this to be included as a specific item on the Council's agenda, since I feel that this is what this question is really driving at.

Is the President-in-Office of the Council prepared to ask his colleagues to agree to this subject being included as a specific item on the Council's agenda, so that it can be discussed by the Council of Ministers? I think that this is the essential point.

If you are able to tell us that you will be adopting this course, Mr President, I believe that Parliament can look forward to appropriate action on the resolutions that it has passed.

Mr Andreotti: I can unquestionably answer in the affirmative, and I will have this subject placed on the agenda for the first meeting in political cooperation.

85/099. Question No H-17/85 by Ms Tongue on the Violation of Human Rights in Pakistan

Date of Issue: 11 June 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Given that the Community has recently signed a cooperation agreement with Pakistan, the Council must surely be aware that a systematic and widespread violation of the United Nations Charter on Human Rights is taking place in that country. A specific and urgent case raised by Amnesty International is that of Raza Kazim, a civilian lawyer, suffering from ill health, who has been held *incommunicado*, in a military prison without charge, for one year. There were also allegations of

torture and ill treatment. Mr Kazim is now undergoing trial by secret military court, without legal representation.

Could the Ministers support the Amnesty appeal and request the Government of Pakistan to bring Mr Kazim to trial before an open court with full legal safeguards, including regular access to his lawyer, in accordance with Article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; and urge that he be given proper medical treatment and access to his family? In the absence of a satisfactory response, and since this is not an isolated case, would the Ministers consider a suspension of the agreement?

Mr Andreotti, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: According to the most recent information Mr Raza Kazim, the lawyer who is at present undergoing trial by a military court for attempted conspiracy against the government, has recently been admitted to the Mayo hospital in Lahore for treatment in connection with a heart illness.

The Ten are following with great attention the question of human rights in Pakistan, and recently, even, they intervened with the competent authorities in Islamabad with a plea for clemency on humanitarian grounds.

Ms Tongue (S): The agreement with Pakistan is not yet ratified and it has not as yet come before this Parliament. I would like to have the assurance of the President-in-Office that before it goes any further he will make direct representations to the Government of Pakistan to uphold all rights and liberties which citizens of any civilized country cherish. I would like to draw his attention to Parliament's resolution of 13 April 1984 which called for

the creation of a framework for dialogue to foster observance of internationally accepted stands of rights in the European Community and those countries with which it has close ties.

What steps has the Council taken to follow the recommendation of this resolution?

Mr Andreotti: Whilst repeating what I have already said, to the effect that the Ten have agreed to monitor the problem of human rights in Pakistan, I can give an assurance that, so far as the specific request that has just been made for further steps is concerned, I will undertake to put that forward, the more so as the Pakistan Foreign Minister was a prisoner-of-war in Italy, and we might therefore have a special relationship with him.

85/100. Question No H-31/85 by Mr Elliott on Human Rights

Date of Issue: 11 June 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

In order to assist in promoting the principles of civil liberty enshrined in both the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights and the European Convention of Human Rights, will the Foreign Ministers be prepared to urge that all countries, and in particular the governments of the EEC Member States, ensure that their police and other law-enforcement agencies are fully publicly accountable for their actions to the communities they serve and are under the control of local democratically-elected bodies?

Mr Andreotti, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: This is a somewhat complex question. We have to remember that the Community is founded on democratic principles and respect for human rights, and therefore in all Member States as indeed in every democratic country the police forces and all other law enforcement agencies are fully accountable for their actions to the communities they serve, to their governments and their courts.

This is the general rule. We do not see what special initiatives are called for in this respect.

Mr Elliott (S): I understand the answer I have received, and it was not unexpected. However, what I would ask the President-in-Office to concentrate on is not the question of detailed administration. I am not suggesting, and the question did not imply, that there should be any kind of administrative control of the police at Community level. I am opposed to a national police force in Britain: I would hardly want a Community police force of law-enforcement agency. The thrust of the question is related to human rights and the need to ensure that all State organizations which have a law-enforcement role should be publicly accountable to democratically elected bodies. We have had a very recent case in the United Kingdom of what appears to be extreme police overreaction in a particular situation. There have been other instances. I would ask that consideration be given to urging that all law-enforcement agencies, police and others, should be accountable for their actions. That is a situation which does not always obtain, and I wish it did.

Mr Andreotti: Mr Elliott, there can be no doubts as to the principle involved; that is to say, there is no section of the public – whether we are talking about the police or not – that is beyond the law or unaccountable for its actions if it infringes human rights or civil rights. But as far as the rest is concerned we have then to see what the individual systems are, because in some systems law enforcement agencies are responsible to democratically elected local authorities and in others this is not the case. The essential point is that they should all be accountable, both for what they do and for what they do not do, because, for example, on a number of occasions – and we have seen this recently – if some of the police had been more efficient, tragedies might have been avoided. In this case there was an excessive respect for the human rights of those that ended up by being assassins.

Mr Balfe (S): The President-in-Office may be aware that at the next part-session in July, when, regrettably, he will not be in office any longer, we shall be debating the report on human rights in the world. I would ask him to confirm that an integral part of human rights in the world is the recognition of such rights within this European Community, because if we do not deal with human rights and the respect for them within our European Community, we can hardly start to preach to the rest of the world. I hope that the Foreign Minister will find that an agreeable proposition.

Mr Andreotti: We are concerned with human rights; we must also concern ourselves with human rights in our own countries, bearing very much in mind, however, that human rights are the rights of every citizen, and we must not therefore privilege those who sometimes, in the name of human rights, trample over others.

85/101. Question No H-110/85 by Mr Ford on Team Spirit '85

Date of Issue: 11 June 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Can the Foreign Ministers state their views on the dangers to peace in the Far East created by Team Spirit '85, and were these views conveyed to Prime Minister Nakasone, President Reagan and President Chun Doo Hwan?

Mr Andreotti, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: Team Spirit '85 is the last in a series of defence manoeuvres that have been carried out every year from 1976 onwards in South Korea by the joint Korean and American forces. These exercises, of which advance notice was given to the military Armistice Commission, were conducted like previous ones on the basis of the defence and mutual assistance treaty signed by South Korea and the United States in 1954. Moreover the question, since it essentially concerns military aspects of security, would not be one of the subjects dealt with by European Ministers meeting in political cooperation, and at all events has not been discussed by them.

Mr Ford (S): Is it not recognized that the scale of these exercises in South Korea has been increasing year by year and that the whole area of the Far East around the Korean peninsula is a highly sensitive one and may be a flashpoint for the future? Is it not felt that this is an area to which

the European Community in its external role should pay particular attention, and can we be told whether any views were expressed to the relevant authorities in Japan, South Korea and the United States?

Mr Andreotti: By its very nature the problem does not come within the terms of European political cooperation. What does, however, come under those terms is the hope that the dialogue which has been resumed between the two Koreas can lead to a successful conclusion, which we would all hope to be the case, not least in relation to the 1988 Olympics, which we hope will take place in a certain atmosphere of cordiality between the two Koreas, that would allow all nations to take part.

85/102. Question No H-66/85 by Mrs Lizin on Uruguay

Date of Issue: 12 June 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Could the President of the Conference of Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation indicate the Conference's views on the developments currently affecting the Uruguayan regime?

Answer:

The Ten are following with considerable satisfaction the developments in Uruguayan political life following last November's elections, which marked that country's return to democracy.

The ceremony to install the President elect, Julio Sanguinetti, in office, which took place on 1 March last in an atmosphere of enthusiastic approval both in Uruguay and internationally, was attended by high-level delegations.

At the very beginning of his term of office the new President expressed his desire to govern in harmony with the country's other political forces and restored the civil liberties which the previous military regime had curtailed, granting among other things a broad amnesty to political prisoners. He also stated that he wished to play a part in stimulating the spread and consolidation of democracy throughout Latin America.

In addition to the national messages expressing satisfaction at and support for the restoration of democracy in Uruguay, it should be pointed out that the President-in-Office of the Ten, Mr Craxi, when addressing the press at the end of the European Council in Brussels on 29-30 March 1985, warmly welcomed Uruguay's return to democracy and expressed the wish that such a development would spread throughout Latin America.

85/103. Question No H-150/85 by Mr Mattina on the Protection of Ethnic Minorities in Bulgaria

Date of Issue: 12 June 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

According to recent press reports, the army in Bulgaria has massacred a number of Turks who were demonstrating peacefully against Bulgarian Government measures to integrate the Turkish community into the national population.

Foreign journalists have been forbidden access to the entire area where the Turks have been active. This is not the first time that measures of this type have been adopted in Bulgaria with regard to the ethnic minorities, which constitute about a quarter of the entire population.

1. What action do the Foreign Ministers intend to take in order to express the disapproval of such brutal integration measures felt by the peoples of Europe?

2. How do the Ministers propose to guarantee protection for ethnic minorities in countries which do not give them proper civil equality with the national population and in which their culture, language and traditions are not respected?

Answer:

As stated in the reply to Oral Question No H-77/85, the Ten are closely following the situation of the Turkish Muslim minority in Bulgaria, and the Ministers meeting in European political cooperation are continuing to examine this matter. The problem has been dealt with at the meeting on human rights and fundamental freedoms being held in Ottawa.

In accordance with the commitments entered into with the signing of the Helsinki Final Act and confirmed in the document issued at the end of the Madrid follow-up conference, the Ten intend to continue, in the appropriate international forums, to take any action seeking to ensure that all countries respect the rights of people belonging to a national minority.

85/104. Question No H-149/85 by Mr Taylor on the Votes by Greece at the United Nations

Date of Issue: 12 June 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

How often did Greece vote at the United Nations during the year 1984, with the other nine countries of the European Community, and in a manner different from the other nine countries of the European Community?

Answer:

It would not seem appropriate for the President-in-Office, speaking on behalf of the Ten, to comment on the individual stance adopted by any one Member State when voting in the UN General Assembly. However, I can inform the Honourable Member that at the 39th Session of the General Assembly, the Ten voted unanimously on 68.5% of the resolutions (including those passed on the nod), that percentage being higher than the one recorded at the previous Session.

85/105. Question No H-161/85 by Mr Alavanos on the Démarches Relating to Human Rights in Turkey

Date of Issue: 12 June 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

In recent months the European Parliament has made a number of moves by way of resolutions or questions on the violation of human rights by the military junta in Turkey. In fact, at its last plenary

part session in April 1985, it unanimously adopted, by the urgent procedure, the Ephremidis resolution on that subject.

What specific démarches have the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation made, to what specific cases do they refer, to which specific authorities in Turkey were they made, and on what actual dates?

Answer:

As stated on many occasions, the Ten closely follow the human rights situation in all countries, including Turkey. They have repeatedly expressed their concern over this matter in their contacts both with the Turkish military government and with the present government.

Although they have noted the declarations of intent by the Turkish government, as well as certain positive developments, the Ten will continue to follow the situation closely.

85/106. Question No H-163/85 by Mr Ephremidis on the EEC and Atlantic Alliance

Date of Issue: 12 June 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

What are the Council's views on the text by the Spaak II Committee referring to 'the need for the Atlantic Alliance to maintain adequate military strength in Europe for effective deterrence and defence' and stating that account will have to be taken of 'the frameworks which already exist...such as the Atlantic Alliance, the framework for and basis of our security, and Western European Union, the strengthening of which, now under way, would enrich the Alliance with its own contribution'?

Answer:

As stated on many occasions, the military aspects of security are outside the scope of European political cooperation, and therefore the Ministers concerned do not discuss developments connected with the Atlantic Alliance and the WEU.

85/107. Question No H-179/85 by Mr Selva on the Massacre of Christians in Lebanon

Date of Issue: 12 June 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

What measures have been or will be taken to prevent the current massacre of Christians in Lebanon?

Answer:

The Ten have repeatedly expressed their concern at the deterioration of the situation in Lebanon and at the repeated acts of violence against the civilian population. This was most recently expressed in the declarations by the Foreign Ministers of the Ten in Luxembourg on 29 April and in Brussels on 20 May. On the latter occasion the Ten drew up a practical proposal for a conference of genuine national reconciliation, at which dialogue between the various Lebanese communities can be resumed

and an agreement can be arrived at to ensure peaceful co-existence and internal stability. Indeed, the Ten retain their conviction that it is only by overcoming the differences of the opposing parties that the people of Lebanon, whatever community they belong to, will be able to enjoy a peaceful and prosperous future.

85/108. Question No H-167/85 by Mr Adamou on US Policy in Central America

Date of Issue: 12 June 1985
 Place of Issue: Strasbourg
 Country of Presidency: Italy
 Source of Document: Presidency
 Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

What approaches could the Foreign Ministers make towards the American Government to persuade it to curb its aggressive policy in Central America, a policy which is much disputed in the USA itself, and, in particular, to persuade the American Government to accept the conciliatory proposals put forward by President D. Ortega of Nicaragua for an immediate cease-fire with simultaneous cessation of US support for the mercenary partisans of the dictator Somoza?

Answer:

The ten Member States of the European Community have constantly expressed their conviction that the problems of Central America, including Nicaragua, cannot be solved by force but only through a political solution emanating from the region itself. With this in mind, the Ten have on many occasions expressed their support for the Contadora Group's initiative seeking a peaceful and global solution to the problems of the region. Furthermore, the position of the Ten has been repeatedly expressed publicly and is thus well known to all the parties concerned.

85/109. Question No H-181/85 by Mrs Boserup on Community Participation in the Star Wars Project

Date of Issue: 12 June 1985
 Place of Issue: Strasbourg
 Country of Presidency: Italy
 Source of Document: Presidency
 Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Two meetings were held simultaneously on Monday 22 and Tuesday 23 April: in Rome an informal meeting of the Council of Research Ministers and in Bonn a meeting of the Defence and Foreign Ministers of the seven member countries of the Western European Union.

Both meetings discussed the USA's invitation to the countries of western Europe to participate in the Star Wars project and President Mitterrand's plans to use the Eureka project to enable the Community to compete in technology with the USA and Japan.

What are the Foreign Ministers' views on Eureka and do they regard it as an appropriate way in which the Community can participate in the development of the Star Wars project?

Answer:

The Eureka project, which seeks to promote research programmes for civil purposes, is a joint effort by the Member States of the Community and, more broadly, by the countries of Europe to establish for Europe a place, alongside the United States and Japan, in the development of advanced technology.

gies. The Strategic Defense Initiative is a research programme for military purposes and as such is outside the field of competence of European political cooperation.

The Ten have discussed the Eureka project in these terms and have expressed their interest in an initiative which could give a considerable boost to the economic and technological progress of the Community as a whole.

85/110. Question No H-212/85 by Mrs Dury on the Expulsion of Persons not in Possession of Papers from Nigeria

Date of Issue: 12 June 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Tens of thousands of foreigners, 'without papers', officially expelled from Nigeria, have rioted in the Ikeja transit camp near Lagos.

As a result of the closure of Nigeria's frontiers, thousands of people await repatriation in makeshift camps. According to witnesses, several foreigners have been killed by the police at the frontier between Benin and Nigeria.

Can the Foreign Ministers approach the Nigerian authorities to request that the repatriation process be carried out in more human conditions and what proposals will they make to the Nigerian authorities to achieve this purpose?

Answer:

The Ten are following developments in Nigeria and in the neighbouring countries following the recent measures introduced by the Lagos Government against foreigners illegally resident in the country.

They hope that while these measures are being enforced there will be no further incidents and that the human rights of the expelled immigrants will be fully respected.

85/111. Question No H-195/85 by Mr Iversen on the US Trade Embargo against Nicaragua

Date of Issue: 17 June 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Do the Foreign Ministers meeting in European political cooperation agree that the trade embargo imposed by the USA against Nicaragua is a totally inappropriate way of solving problems in Central America, and can the ten Foreign Ministers state in this connection what initiatives they propose to take to counteract the American trade embargo?

Answer:

The ten Member States of the European Community have constantly expressed their conviction that the problems of Central America, including Nicaragua, cannot be solved by force but only through a political solution emanating from the region itself. With this in mind, the Ten have on many occasions expressed their support for the Contadora Group's initiative seeking a peaceful and global solution to the problems of the region. Furthermore, the position of the Ten has been repeatedly expressed publicly and is thus well known to all the parties concerned.

85/112. Declaration by the Ten on the South African Incursion into Botswana and the Developments in Namibia

Date of Issue: 17 June 1985
Place of Issue: Rome
Country of Presidency: Italy
Source of Document: The Ten
Status of Document: Declaration

The ten Member States of the European Community strongly condemn the South African incursion into Botswana, which has seriously violated that country's sovereignty and has resulted in many casualties among the population. They consider that this unacceptable action runs counter to the continuation of a dialogue aimed at seeking peaceful solutions to the problems of the region and South Africa itself, as strongly desired by the Ten.

The Ten also consider that the bringing into force, at the present time, of decisions concerning the transfer of powers in Namibia will delay the implementation without preconditions of Security Council Resolution 435, which remains the only acceptable basis for a final settlement of the question of Namibia.

The Ten consider the establishment, on 17 June, of an interim government in Namibia to be null and void.

85/113. Statement by the Foreign Ministers of the Ten on the CSCE Meeting in Ottawa

Date of Issue: 19 June 1985
Place of Issue: Luxembourg
Country of Presidency: Italy
Source of Document: Foreign Ministers
Status of Document: Declaration

At the meeting of experts on human rights and fundamental freedoms held in Ottawa from 7 May to 17 June, the Governments of the Ten spared no efforts to reach agreement on a number of recommendations to be put to their governments.

They regret that no progress was made at the Ottawa meeting towards strengthening the provisions on human rights and fundamental freedoms adopted by the 35 States which signed the Helsinki Final Act, provisions which represent commitments for both East and West.

Because of the fundamental importance of this commitment, they nevertheless consider that the Ottawa meeting was necessary and useful. It provided an opportunity for a frank and open exchange on each participant's respect for human rights, as defined by the Final Act and the Madrid Concluding Document.

The Governments hope that the value of the recommendations which they proposed or supported at the Ottawa meeting will gradually be recognized, particularly during other meetings of the CSCE dealing with these matters.

In this context, they would confirm the importance which they attach to the process which began at Helsinki almost ten years ago. The celebrations on 30 and 31 July and 1 August to mark the tenth anniversary of the signing of the Final Act will provide an opportunity for stressing the need for all the elements of this document (security, economic and scientific cooperation, cooperation in the humanitarian field and others) to be applied with equal force.

85/114. EEC – COMECON

Date of Issue: 28-29 June 1985

Place of Issue: Milan

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: European Council

Status of Document: Conclusions of the European Council

The European Council held an exchange of views on the recent letter from Comecon to the EEC Commission proposing the resumption of their mutual relations. It noted that an exploratory mandate had been given to the Commission. It considers that the results of these contacts should now be awaited.

More generally, the Heads of State or Government also discussed the interest in the political role of the Ten recently demonstrated in statements by the Secretary-General of the CPSU.

They noted these developments with interest.

85/115. Question No 2308/84 by Mr Wurtz (Com-F) on the Human Rights Situation in Turkey

Date of Issue: 2 July 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 18 March 1985

Can the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation confirm the allegations made by Amnesty International concerning the widespread use of torture? In this connection, have they intervened on behalf of the 400 hunger strikers in the Mersin military prison, who embarked on a hunger strike to protest against the use of torture ?

How many political prisoners are currently detained in Turkish prisons, in their estimation ?

Answer:

As the Honourable Member will be aware, the Ten are following the human rights situation in Turkey with the greatest attention and have voiced their concern in this regard on numerous occasions in their contacts with the authorities in Ankara.

As regards prison conditions in Turkey, many parliamentarians have been to Turkey to study the situation, which has also been examined by the Council of Europe.

The Ten are keeping a constant watch on the question raised by the Honourable Member. However, it is difficult to estimate the number of political prisoners in Turkey, bearing in mind, too, the various meanings that can be attributed to the term 'political prisoner'.

85/116. Question No 2343/84 by Mr Pearce (ED-UK) on the Prisoners of Conscience Held in Syria

Date of Issue: 2 July 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 21 March 1985

What action are the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation taking to free prisoners of conscience held in Syria, such as Farhan Nirbien, who has reportedly been held in prison without trial for nine years ?

Answer:

As is well known, the Ten are constantly and painstakingly working to promote observance of human rights wherever they are violated, and in particular are closely following the human rights situation in a complex region like the Middle East. The question of political prisoners held in Syria, however, such as the case of Mr Farhan Nirbien which was mentioned by the Honourable Member, have not been examined specifically in European political cooperation.

**85/117. Question No 2358/84 by Mr Vandemeulebroucke (ARC-B)
on the Killing of Unarmed Rebels in Afghanistan**

Date of Issue: 2 July 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question

We have learned through various channels that Afghan and Soviet troops have shot unarmed rebels in recent months.

Can the Members States not make representations to the UN Commission on Human Rights for renewed efforts to put an end to these massacres ?

Answer:

The Ten are following with deep concern the development of the Afghan crisis, which is reflected in an escalation of the conflict and very serious violations of human rights.

While fully supporting the Resolution on this subject adopted in Geneva at the 41st Session of the Commission on Human Rights, the Community Member States wish to stress once again the absolute need, now that the occupation of Afghanistan has continued for more than five years, for a political solution based on the withdrawal of Soviet troops and re-establishment of the right of the Afghan people to self-determination.

**85/118. Question No 2380/84 by Mr Glinne (S-B) on a Nuclear-Free
Zone in the Balkans**

Date of Issue: 2 July 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 21 March 1985

Mr Andreas Papandreou, Prime Minister of Greece, has submitted a proposal to the Rumanian and Bulgarian Governments for the creation together with Greece of a nuclear-free zone in the Balkans, imposing restrictions on both the Warsaw Pact and Atlantic Alliance, if only in terms of measures which, although incapable of guaranteeing citizens against a nuclear holocaust, would help inspire a climate of confidence over a considerable area of the European continent.

What is the opinion, if any, of the Ten on this proposal and on the arrangement postponing until 1988 a final decision, in principle a bilateral one, on the presence of American bases in Greece ?

Answer:

As has been pointed out on several occasions, the military aspects of security do not come within the province of European political cooperation. Consequently, the question raised by the Honourable Member has not been discussed in that framework.

85/119. Question No 2406/84 by Sir Stewart-Clark (ED-UK) on the Imprisonment of Christian Missionaries in Greece

Date of Issue: 2 July 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 26 March 1985

It has been drawn to my attention that on 21 December 1984, two Christian workers from a British agency, together with the local pastor, were sentenced by a Greek court to three-and-a-half years imprisonment for proselytizing the Christian faith in Athens.

It appears that the charges are based on a law which dates from 1938 restricting the exchange of ideas and open discussion of any expression of Christianity other than that of the State religion.

Can this be true ? How can this possibly be reconciled to the principles of open democracy signified by the membership of the 10 States of the European Community ?

Answer:

The matter raised by the Honourable Member is not within the purview of European political cooperation.

85/120. Question No 2431/84 by Mrs Lizin (S-B) on the Middle East Initiative

Date of Issue: 2 July 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 26 March 1985

In its statement on the programme for its term of office, the Italian Presidency indicated its intention to work actively on such an initiative. Would it reply to the following questions ?

1. What positions or statements on this issue have been adopted by the Ministers meeting in political cooperation since January 1985 ?
2. What specific initiatives have been taken *vis-à-vis* Jordan ?
3. What contacts have there been with Syria ?

Answer:

The Ten have followed the situation in the Middle East with particular attention and have maintained close contact with all the main protagonists in that part of the world. Furthermore, they have not failed to express their points of view, either in the form of démarches carried out by the Presidency on behalf of the Ten and by the various partners at national level or by public statements. In particular, attention should be drawn to the statement by the Foreign Ministers on 29 April 1985 – partly based on the outcome of the European Council in Brussels on 29 and 30 March – in which the Ten expressed their support for the period of 'mouvement' observed after the conclusion of the Agreement between Jordan and Palestine on 11 February.

The Ten have paid special attention to Jordan, which is one of the main protagonists in the negotiations aimed at finding a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. As far as the Presidency is concerned, attention should be drawn in particular to the visit by the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Andreotti, to Amman on 4 and 5 January and the visit to Rome by the Jordanian Minister of the Royal Court on 21 February.

As regards Syria, the Ten have been anxious to keep open the dialogue with Damascus. The Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs went to Damascus on 25 May to have talks with Syrian leaders.

85/121. Question No 2448/84 by Mr Glinne (S-B) on the Public Holdings of Shares in Companies Operating in South Africa

Date of Issue: 2 July 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 27 March 1985

Having heard the Nebraska Investment Council, and at the urging of Representative Ernest Chambers, the Nebraska legislature, as part of the campaign against apartheid, had that State sell shares for the value of some \$ 14.6 million in companies which had invested in South Africa. The Nebraska Investment Council has also drawn up a list of 95 companies in which the State of Nebraska is prohibited from buying stocks and shares, in view of their activities in South Africa.

The States of Massachusetts, Michigan, Maryland and Connecticut have adopted similar legislation and attitudes. For its part, the New York City Employees Retirement System decided on its own to sell the shares it held in US companies operating in South Africa, worth \$ 665 million.

In view of the obvious inadequacy of the Code of Conduct for EEC companies in South Africa, I should like to know whether the Member States could not at least do what these five US States have done, perhaps applying something like the 'Sullivan clause', as in Nebraska, which makes certain allowances for companies which genuinely advance their African workers in South Africa. At all events, what is the Council's opinion of the legislation adopted by the five US States, taking into account the differing customs of governments on one side and the other of the Atlantic as regards holdings and investing in the private sector?

Answer:

The situation in South Africa and the policy to be followed towards that country are, as is well known, discussed regularly within the framework of European Political Cooperation.

As regards the activities of European companies in South Africa, the Ten consider that the Code of Conduct has played an important role in the elimination of racial discrimination at the workplace and in the improvement of the standard of living of black workers and their general conditions of life. The measures referred to by the Honourable Member have not been studied within the framework of European Political Cooperation.

85/122. Question No 2471/84 by Mr Glinne (S-B) on Preparations for Chemical Warfare

Date of Issue: 2 July 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 27 March 1985

It would appear certain that the USSR is implementing a chemical-weapons production programme and that certain of these weapons have recently been used, and are being used, by Soviet forces or their allies in Afghanistan and Indochina. Furthermore, President Reagan, whose 'chemical rearmament' programme was rejected by the Congress during his first term, has just resubmitted his request to the US legislature.

Since Western Europe is the most likely site on which 'chemical defence' measures would be organized, and the most likely target for a chemical weapons attack, have the Foreign Ministers taken steps to ensure the continuation of the moratorium on chemical-weapons production, agreed to by President Nixon, and to protest against the USSR's programme and USSR deployment of chemical weapons in the subjugation of the resistance in Afghanistan ?

Answer:

The Ten attach particular importance to the successful conclusion of the negotiations in progress at the Geneva Disarmament Conference on the preparation of a convention outlawing chemical weapons. The Ten have made an active contribution to the work of the Conference in this particular area by submitting documents, written proposals, suggestions and ideas.

85/123. Question No 135/85 by Mr Glinne (S-B) on the Right of Kampuchea to Self-Determination

Date of Issue: 2 July 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 17 April 1985

The recent capture by the Vietnamese invasion forces of Tatum camp, the last stronghold of the forces of the tripartite liberation movement headed by Prince Norodom Sihanouk, merely marks the end of the positional war in Kampuchea, since the guerillas retain considerable advantages.

Furthermore, the Foreign Ministers of the ASEAN countries appealed last month for military aid for the Kampuchean resistance, while last week the President of the People's Republic of China declared support for the armed struggle of the people of Kampuchea against the Vietnamese occupying forces.

Could the Foreign Ministers answer the following questions :

1. Have they taken steps to guarantee Thailand European support for its territorial integrity and, if so, with what results ?
2. After carrying out his difficult 'public relations' mission, Mr Bill Hayden, the Australian Foreign Minister, concluded that the only political solution acceptable to the Kampuchean resistance would entail the complete withdrawal of the Vietnamese forces from Kampuchea and the holding of free elections. What do the Ministers think of this political solution and its main elements ?
3. What kind of relationship (diplomatic relations, direct or indirect aid, etc.) exists between the Members States and the Kampuchean authorities collaborating with the Vietnamese forces in Phnom Penh ?

Answer:

The Ten have on several occasions expressed themselves in favour of a political solution to the Cambodian crisis providing for the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops and allowing the people of Cambodia to exercise their right of self-determination.

The most recent instances of this were the joint Declaration made following the EEC-ASEAN Ministerial meeting in Dublin on 15 and 16 November 1984 and the Declaration of 23 January 1985 in which the Ten strongly condemned the recent Vietnamese offensive and the serious violations of Thai territorial sovereignty which had occurred on that occasion.

Like the member countries of the ASEAN, the Ten do not maintain any relations with the pro-Vietnamese regime in Phnom Penh.

85/124. Question No 195/85 by Mr Kuijpers (ARC-B) on 'Rucksack Nuclear Weapons' in Europe

Date of Issue: 2 July 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 19 April 1985

American troops in Europe have recently once more been allocated miniature nuclear weapons such as mines and grenades loaded with fissile material. A few years ago this type of weapon was removed from Europe since no agreement could be reached with the European host countries on a decision-making structure to authorize their use.

In principle, only the American President can give the order to use nuclear weapons. However, these small weapons almost inevitably remain outside the President's responsibility. Hence, in case of conflict, it would be possible for a junior officer to precipitate a nuclear war.

The previous decision has now been reconsidered, which means that miniature nuclear weapons for the individual use of army units are now being allocated to specialized American commander troops in the Federal Republic of Germany and Italy.

Can the President indicate the views of the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation on the structure responsible for authorizing the use of the abovementioned 'rucksack nuclear weapons' in Europe ?

Answer:

As has been pointed out a number of times, the military aspects of security are not a matter for European political cooperation and, consequently, any question about the deployment of weapons is not examined in that context.

85/125. Question No 218/85 by Mr Cottrell (ED-UK) on the Non-Enactment by Greece of Article 25 of the European Convention on Human Rights

Date of Issue: 2 July 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 23 April 1985

Greece is now the only Member State of the Community which has not enacted Article 25 of the European Convention on Human Rights, which would give Greek citizens the right of independent access to the Commission and Court of Human Rights at Strasbourg. Do the Foreign Ministers now agree that Greece should come into line with the common accord of the Nine on this subject ?

Answer:

The question raised by the Honourable Member does not come within the province of European political cooperation.

85/126. Question No 219/85 by Mr Penders (PPE-NL) on Access to the Territory of a Member State

Date of Issue: 2 July 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 23 April 1985

1. Are the Foreign Ministers aware that, on 22 March 1985, Mrs Snoeijs, a Netherlands national, was refused entry into Greece because her passport contained stamps from what I will call, for convenience, the Turkish-Cypriot Republic ?
2. What is the formal legal basis for this action by the Greek authorities ?
3. How do the Foreign Ministers view a situation in which one Member State refuses a national of another Member State access to its territory because of a conflict involving a third country ?

Answer:

The question raised by the Honourable Member does not come within the province of European political cooperation.

85/127. Question No 361/85 by Mrs Crawley (S-UK) on Youth with a Mission – Imprisonment

Date of Issue: 2 July 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 3 May 1985

Would the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation, use their good offices to examine the cases of three Protestant missionaries, Don Stephens, Alan Williams and Costas Macris, sentenced in Greece on 22 December 1984 for proselytism, to a term of three-and-a-half years imprisonment ? The severity of the sentence (the most severe for this kind of case since 1827) begs certain questions about what would appear to be substantial restrictions on the spreading of religious ideas, and on religious freedoms in Greece, a member country of the EEC.

Answer:

The question raised by the Honourable Member does not come within the province of European political cooperation.

85/128. Question No 383/85 by Mr Kuijpers (ARC-B) on European Cooperation on Security Policy

Date of Issue: 2 July 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 3 May 1985

In preparation for the meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and of Defence of the member States of the Western European Union scheduled for April, a meeting of senior officials from the foreign ministries of the countries concerned was held in Bonn in February 1985. The possibility of

institutionalizing cooperation on defence along the lines of European political cooperation was discussed at that meeting.

The governments of the seven member States of the WEU subsequently received a letter from a senior official of the US State Department, responsible for European affairs, advising them not to adopt a common position on arms control outside the framework of NATO.

This reaction was interpreted as an indication that, although the USA accepts that Europe should use the revival of the WEU as a means of improving its contribution to NATO's conventional defence, the WEU should not be used for coordinating policy on more controversial issues, such as European participation in the SDI research programme.

Will the Presidency indicate the position of the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation on the form and content of European cooperation in the fields of security and defence ?

Answer:

As has been repeatedly stated, the military aspects of security do not come within the purview of European political cooperation.

85/129. Question No 384/85 by Mrs Van Hemeldonck (S-B) on the Reduction of IDA Aid to the UN Fund for Population Activities

Date of Issue: 2 July 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 3 May 1985

Are the Foreign Ministers aware that the aid from the International Development Association to the UN Fund for Population Activities has been cut by \$ 10 million, because the Fund assists birth control programmes in China which include the use of abortion ?

Is the attitude of the IDA, which is after all an internationally administered body whose decisions, according to its statute¹ – must be based on economic considerations alone and not be influenced by political considerations, determined by the anti-abortion crusade of the President of the United States?

What is the attitude of the representatives of the Member States of the Community, which together have more votes than the USA, on this question ?

Answer:

The matter raised by the Honourable Member has not been discussed in European political cooperation.

85/130. Question No 1698/84 by Mrs Dury (S-B) on the Execution of Political Prisoners in Turkey

Date of Issue: 8 July 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 8 July 1985

Since October 1984, there has been a new wave of executions of political prisoners in Turkey.

On 7 October, Ilyas Has was hanged.

¹ Article V, Section 6, of the Statute of the International Development Association.

On 25 October, Hidir Aslan suffered the same fate even though a delegation of French politicians had gone to Turkey to try to prevent these executions.

1. Can the Council of Ministers give an account of the protests it sent to President Evren and the Turkish Government to prevent these executions?
2. What measures does the Council of Ministers intend to take against Turkey in response to the flagrant violations of human rights?

Answer:

While the use of the death penalty as such in Turkey has not been the subject of discussion in European political cooperation, the Ten regret on humanitarian grounds the recent executions and death sentences in that country.

The Ten reiterate their concern over the human rights situation in Turkey and they share the preoccupation of the European Parliament in this matter.

85/131. Question No 1717/84 by Mr Lomas (S-UK) on the Resumption of Executions in Turkey

Date of Issue: 8 July 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 24 January 1985

I refer to my Question No 1146/84 regarding the possibility of the resumption of executions in Turkey.

Since that question was tabled, another Turkish citizen has been executed. Mr Hidir Aslan was hanged on 25 October.

The situation is giving rise to great concern, particularly in view of number of other prisoners under the threat of the death sentence and with a great many mass political trials about to end.

Will the Foreign Ministers exercise their influence and intercede with the Turkish Government and authorities so that no further executions are carried out and also support the campaign in Turkey for the commutation of death sentences and the abolition of the death penalty ?

Answer:

While the use of the death penalty as such in Turkey has not been the subject of discussion in European political cooperation, the Ten regret on humanitarian grounds the recent executions and death sentences in that country.

The Ten reiterate their concern over the human rights situation in Turkey and they share the preoccupation of the European Parliament in this matter.

85/132. Question No 2307/84 by Mr Kuijpers (ARC-B) on the European Contribution to the Verification of Arms Control Agreements between the United States and the Soviet Union

Date of Issue: 8 July 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 18 March 1985

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe called on member governments in its recommendation No 957 (1983) to examine the possibility of implementing the proposal to set up an international satellite monitoring agency. This proposal was endorsed by the Assembly of the Western

European Union in recommendation No 410. The idea underlying these recommendations is that a surveillance satellite launched by the European Space Agency could provide a solution to the problems encountered in the past by the United States and the Soviet Union with regard to the verification of arms control agreements.

On the basis of a technical, economic and institutional study carried out by the executive body of the European Space Agency (ESA), the national delegates to the ESA concluded that the ESA would be an appropriate forum to deal with the technological and industrial aspects of the problem, but not with the political aspects. They therefore decided not to pursue their discussion of this subject, but to resume discussions at a later stage, if necessary, in the light of political decisions which might be taken by the competent European bodies.

What is the attitude of the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation on this subject ?

Answer:

The Governments of the Ten agree that adequate monitoring is essential for effective control of armaments and attach great importance to discussions on matters relating to monitoring in the appropriate fora. However, the matters raised by the Honourable Member have military implications which are outside the scope of European Political Cooperation.

85/133. Question No 2506/84 by Mrs Lizin (S-B) on the Follow-up to the Meeting in San José, Costa Rica

Date of Issue: 8 July 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 1 April 1985

Is it true that the Italian presidency has decided to postpone the Rome political cooperation meeting between the Foreign Ministers of the Ten and Ministers from the Contadora Group countries ?

Is it true that this meeting is to be replaced by a meeting of heads of political departments ?

Is it true that the Rome meeting is now to be postponed until November ?

Answer:

Following the meeting in San José, Costa Rica, the Ten have kept permanently in touch with the countries of Central America and those of the Contadora Group with a view to arranging a further ministerial meeting in Europe at the appropriate time.

In order to sound out the wishes and thinking of the Central American and Contadora countries, a mission, organized under the Troika system, was sent to Central America by the Italian Presidency from 22 April to 13 May 1985. This mission confirmed the Ten's readiness to convene a second meeting of the San José type in Europe next autumn.

It emerged from the opinions canvassed that this meeting could take place in November 1985 at Foreign Ministers level. The Central American countries thought that a preparatory meeting of the heads of political departments would be superfluous. However, meetings might be held between officials concerned in September on the occasion of the opening of the United Nations General Assembly.

85/134. Question No 2509/84 by Mr Deprez (PPE-B) on the Plight of a Prisoner of Conscience in Turkey

Date of Issue: 8 July 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 1 April 1985

In 1978 Mr Recep Marasli, a Turkish Kurd, was imprisoned for eight months for his activities as a publisher : he had published books on Kurdish history and culture and on the position of the Kurdish ethnic minority in Turkey.

In January 1982 he was arrested again and sentenced to four year's imprisonment for publishing an open letter explaining the Kurdish issue.

In January 1984 the Istanbul military court in addition sentenced him to a total of 12 years' imprisonment on various charges including 'undermining national feeling' (Article 142 of the Turkish Penal Code). In spring 1984, while serving his sentence in Diyarbakir military prison, Mr Marasli was apparently tortured following a hunger strike to protest at poor conditions and torture.

The facts reported above were established by Amnesty International and the Belgian Amnesty group 28 (Jambes) has adopted Mr Marasli.

Could the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation not encourage the Turkish authorities to adopt a much more flexible attitude towards the Kurdish separatists, particularly now that Turkey has returned to democracy ?

Answer:

The Ten follow the human rights situation in Turkey very closely, and on a number of occasions in their contacts with the Ankara authorities they have expressed their concern on the matter.

However, the specific case raised by the Honourable Member has not been discussed in the context of European political cooperation.

85/135. Question No 391/85 by Mr Glinne (S-B) on Threats by South Africa to Zambia's Territorial Integrity

Date of Issue: 8 July 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 8 May 1985

In an interview given to *The Observer*, which it published on 7 April 1985, Mr Kenneth Kaunda, the President of Zambia, spoke in particular of the likelihood of military intervention by South Africa on Zambian territory, in violation of international law, because of – or on the pretext of – the presence of leaders of South Africa's African National Congress in the Zambia capital.

1. What steps have the Ten, meeting in political cooperation, taken to assure the States bordering on or near to South Africa, particularly Zambia, of their political support in the event of a violation of their territorial integrity by South African forces ?
2. Are they prepared to act in concert to secure the unconditional release of Nelson Mandela, called for once again by President Kaunda and also by the European Parliament and the EEC-ACP Joint Committee?

Answer:

The Ten have continually voiced their condemnation of the violations of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of neighbouring countries by South African military units.

In this connection, we should like to draw attention to the statement of 5 June 1985 on the incursion of South African forces into northern Angola and the statement of 17 June 1985 on the action carried out by units from Pretoria in the capital of Botswana.

85/136. Question No 1917/84 by Mrs Piermont (ARC-B) on the Accession of Spain to the EEC and the Use of Torture in Spanish Prisons and Police Stations

Date of Issue: 15 July 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 11 February 1985

Amnesty International's Annual Report which appeared at the end of October 1984, carries an extensive report on the continued use of torture in Spanish prisons and police stations. One of the contributing causes is the Spanish anti-terrorist law, under which a detainee may be held *incommunicado* for up to 10 days without access to a lawyer. The provisions made by the Ministry of the Interior to prevent abuses are inadequate. Legal redress against torture in police custody, theoretically possible, is usually unsuccessful. The state of affairs described by 'Amnesty' is corroborated notably by Mr José Maria Mohadano, President of the Madrid Human Rights Association: more than 500 complaints concerning torture were registered in 1984. In view of the fact that Spanish accession to the EEC is invariably portrayed by the EEC Member States as the culmination of Spain's progress towards democracy:

1. Do the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation consider that the torture of detainees prejudices democracy and human rights in a country?
2. If so, have they already raised this issue in the accession negotiations with Spain?
3. Do they consider that the final cessation of all forms of torture should constitute just as much of a precondition for Spanish accession as a settlement of the problems of customs duties, catch quotas and wine?
4. If so, what steps and measures do they envisage – or have they already initiated – to ensure that this precondition, too, is respected?

Answer:

The Ten consider that torture is to be regarded as an affront to human dignity, whatever the regime under which it is practised.

The particular question raised by the Honourable Member does not come within the purview of European political cooperation.

85/137. Question No 2383/84 by Mr Glinne (S-B) on the Content of Certain Broadcasts by Radio Free Europe – Radio Liberty

Date of Issue: 1 July 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 21 March 1985

On 19 August 1984, Radio Liberty which, like Radio Free Europe, is presided over by the former New York senator and neo-conservative, James Buckley, broadcast to its listeners in Eastern Europe

a commentary on an extract from Solzhenitsyn's novel *'August 1914'* concerning the assassination of a Minister of Tsar Nicholas II in 1911. According to the 4 February 1985 edition of the American weekly publication *'The New Republic'*, the Jewish anarchist Bogrev, who carried out the assassination, was described as a 'cosmopolitan' with no 'Russian blood or character', 'a degenerate of Stateless radicalism', a 'snake' whose 'shot struck the Russian nation itself'. The commentary ended with an extract from the Protocols of the Elders of Zion comparing the Jews to a snake 'devouring' other nations! Radio Liberty had already encouraged the spread of opinions based on conservative and anti-semitic pan-slavism in December 1982 by broadcasting, without comment, a speech by A. Solzhenitsyn in which he described western democracy as a 'democracy on the verge of chaos, high treason and the uncontrolled right to self-destruction'.

I wish to draw the attention of the Ministers to the distorted view of western political pluralism, both European and American, being disseminated by conservative Russian 'émigrés' who are employed indiscriminately and given considerable freedom by Radio Free Europe – Radio Liberty, which is, moreover, currently being investigated by the General Accounting Office in the United States.

Anti-communist fervour should not lead to bombastic attacks condemning western democracy in excessive terms reminiscent of the vocabulary of its declared enemy. Can the Ministers of the Ten not ensure that some sense of moderation and balance is shown by the commentators speaking from Western Europe to millions of Eastern European listeners under the responsibility of Mr James Buckley and the American authorities?

Answer:

The activities of Radio Free Europe – Radio Liberty are not discussed in the context of European political cooperation.

Whatever opinion one might hold regarding the content of the broadcasts mentioned by the Honourable Member, it would seem appropriate to point out in this connection that amongst the principles enshrined in the Final Act of Helsinki – which must be applied in all the Signatory States and to which the Ten have constantly expressed their attachment – is that of the freedom to broadcast information of any kind.

85/138. Question No 2390/84 by Mr Glinne (S-B) on the Respect for Human Rights and the Situation of Palestinians in the Occupied Territories

Date of Issue: 15 July 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 21 March 1985

The Ten have examined, within the framework of political cooperation, possible ways of stepping up their action on behalf of the Palestinians in the occupied territories.

They agreed in particular to continue to monitor closely the situation with regard to respect for human rights, including the freedom of movement of Palestinians and freedom of education, and, more generally, the observance of the Conventions of Geneva and The Hague, and reserved the right to intervene if these rights are violated.

Press reports gathered in Tunis reveal that there have been serious violations of human rights in the occupied territories. The International Commission of Jurists apparently accused the Israeli army on 31 January 1985 of having tortured young Arabs at the Al-Fara prison camp. The ICJ's report, which covers the period 1982-1984, asserts that Israeli soldiers placed prisoners in solitary confinement, often blindfolded and handcuffed, for hours and days on end in cells flooded with dirty water. The

prisoners were also left outside in the rain naked at night. Soldiers struck them in the genital organs, kicked them with studded boots, burned them with cigarettes and poured buckets of urine and cold water over them.

Has the Council monitored closely the situation with regard to respect for human rights and observance of the Conventions of Geneva and The Hague as stated in its declaration of intent? If so, is it aware of the situation in the Al-Fara camp described by the International Commission of Jurists? Has the Council intervened to put a stop to this situation? What steps has it taken? With what result?

Answer:

The Ten are closely monitoring the situation of Palestinians in the occupied territories, including the respect for human rights, and they have appealed to the Israeli authorities invoking, where appropriate, the standards laid down in the Conventions of Geneva and The Hague. Over the last six months they have made approaches in the most appropriate manner and with the necessary discretion where it was clear that measures were being taken which were harmful to the interests and rights of the Palestinians in the occupied territories. For instance, the Ten appealed in May for a satisfactory solution to the problem of the Jerusalem Hospice, which the Israeli authorities were considering closing down.

The situation in the Al-Fara camp has not been examined in the framework of European political cooperation.

85/139. Question No 2451/84 by Mrs Lizin (S-B) on the Follow-up to the Contadora Procedure

Date of Issue: 15 July 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 27 March 1985

What action does the Italian Presidency intend to take to allow the efforts of the Contadora countries to continue, and specifically as a follow-up to the positive results of the meeting with the Foreign Ministers of the Ten in San José, Costa Rica ?

Is it contemplating an early meeting with the ministers of the Contadora countries ?

Answer:

Following the meeting in San José, Costa Rica, the Ten have kept permanently in touch with the countries of Central America and those of the Contadora Group with a view to arranging a further ministerial meeting in Europe at the appropriate time.

To this end, the Italian Presidency decided to send a mission of senior officials under the Troika system to the countries of Central America and the Contadora Group this spring. The main object of this mission was to confirm the Ten's full support for the pacification process within the context of the Contadora initiative and to signal the Community's readiness to convene a ministerial meeting with the same participants as at San José, preferably next autumn.

In all the Central American and Contadora countries the mission was received with the greatest possible sympathy and in a spirit of collaboration. All the countries visited fully recognized that the Ten's unswerving support for the Contadora venture was a positive and balancing factor in the Central American question and served to enhance the prestige and credibility of the initiative. At the same time, the mission was able to observe how keenly the Central American countries looked forward to the positive follow-up sought by the Ten to the San José meeting by repeating the exercise in Europe next November.

85/140. Question No 2472/84 by Mr Glinne (S-B) on the United Nations Convention against Torture

Date of Issue: 15 July 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 27 March 1985

Did all the Member States sign the United Nations Convention Against Torture in New York on 10 December 1984, or have they done so in the meantime? If not, why not? Furthermore, can the Foreign Ministers list all the signatories ?

Answer:

The International Convention Against Torture, unanimously adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 10 December 1984, has been open for signing from 4 February, the opening date of the 41st session of the Commission on Human Rights. The desirability of swift accession to this Convention by the Ten has been mentioned in European political cooperation. On the other hand, the accession procedures are still under way in certain Member States because of the need to harmonize national legislation with the provisions of the Convention.

85/141. Question No 392/85 by Mr Glinne (S-B) on Self-Determination for the People of East Timor

Date of Issue: 15 July 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 8 May 1985

For more than 10 years, the people of East Timor have endured Indonesian occupation; the Kraras massacre (in which 700 were killed) is merely the best-known example of the repression they have suffered. Amnesty International, the Catholic Church, the Red Cross and Tapol (British Campaign for the Defence of Political Prisoners and Human Rights in Indonesia) are unanimous in putting the number of victims of the bloody repression carried out by the Indonesian army at 100 000, out of a total population of 600 000 in 1975.

1. What is the attitude of each of the Member States of the Community, and of Spain and Portugal, with regard to Djakarta's claim to sovereignty over East Timor ?
Which governments represented in the United Nations have so far repudiated this claim ? Cannot European political cooperation, extended to include Madrid and Lisbon, be instrumental in helping the people of East Timor to exercise their right to self-determination ?
2. Can the Ten, in concertation with Madrid and Lisbon, remain seemingly indifferent to the brutality which the people of East Timor have endured since the end of Portuguese colonial rule, i.e. for more than a decade, as the result of Indonesia's annexation of their country ? Cannot diplomatic efforts by the Twelve persuade the Indonesian Government at least to authorize the Red Cross to resume the organization of humanitarian relief operations in East Timor ? Is the war in East Timor a 'forgotten war' ?

Answer:

The Ten are carefully monitoring the confidential negotiations taking place between Portugal and Indonesia on the East Timor problem. The situation in this territory and reports of human rights violations have been discussed in European political cooperation. Certain Member States have expressed their concern to the Indonesian authorities on this matter.

From the human rights point of view, there has been some improvement in recent months with the release of a large number of political prisoners and the reduction by about three-quarters in the number of people imprisoned as supporters of the Front against the integration of East Timor with Indonesia. Moreover, as regards humanitarian relief operations, which have been suspended since mid-1983, it should be noted that, following its recent agreement with the Indonesian authorities, the International Red Cross has resumed its operations in the territory and has obtained access to various detention centres where persons captured during military operations are being held.

85/142. Question No 563/85 by Mr Balfe (S-UK) on Anti-Apartheid Group Telephone Tapping

Date of Issue: 15 July 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 3 June 1985

Bearing in mind the statements of the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation on the subject of South Africa, can the President-in-Office state how he views the fact that the British Home Secretary authorized the tapping of the telephone of a leading member of the City of London anti-apartheid group and that, according to a newspaper article which has not been denied by the Home Secretary, transcripts of the telephone conversations were passed on to officials at the South African Embassy ?

Answer:

The question raised by the Honourable Member, which is moreover based on an unsubstantiated article in the press, does not come within the province of European Political Cooperation.

85/143. Question No 2226/84 by Mr Filinis (Com-GR) on the Unjustified Description of Political Parties as Extremist

Date of Issue: 4 September 1985

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Italy

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Are the Foreign Ministers aware that a report published by the German Ministry for Foreign Affairs Office for the Protection of the Constitution describes both Greek Communist parties with organizations in West Germany defending the rights of migrant workers as extremist and their supporters as extremists for having demonstrated against the Denktash regime in northern Cyprus.

Where is the right to free expression of opinion which the German constitution is supposed to guarantee, also to foreigners, when peaceful demonstrations of this kind are described as extremist activity ? Do the Foreign Ministers intend to ask the German Government to erase this description of the Greek Communist parties and their supporters, who are represented in both the Greek and the European Parliaments?

Answer:

The question raised by the Honourable Member of Parliament is not a matter for European Political Cooperation.

The first part of the paper discusses the importance of understanding the underlying mechanisms of the observed phenomena. This is followed by a detailed description of the experimental setup and the data collection process. The results are then presented in a series of tables and figures, which are accompanied by a thorough analysis and discussion. The paper concludes with a summary of the findings and some suggestions for future research.

The second part of the paper focuses on the theoretical aspects of the problem. It starts with a review of the existing literature and then presents a new theoretical framework. This framework is used to explain the observed phenomena and to make predictions about the future. The paper also includes a section on the limitations of the current study and some suggestions for future research.

The third part of the paper discusses the practical implications of the findings. It starts with a review of the existing literature and then presents a new practical framework. This framework is used to explain the observed phenomena and to make predictions about the future. The paper also includes a section on the limitations of the current study and some suggestions for future research.

The fourth part of the paper discusses the future research. It starts with a review of the existing literature and then presents a new research framework. This framework is used to explain the observed phenomena and to make predictions about the future. The paper also includes a section on the limitations of the current study and some suggestions for future research.

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