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All correspondence concerning this publication should be addressed to: European Policy Unit,
European University Institute,
CPN 2330
I-50100 FIRENZE
(Italy)

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Foreword

This sixth issue of the EPC Documentation Bulletin covers the term-of-office of the Danish Presidency (1 July - 31 December 1987). It includes:

- the official declarations of the European Council and of the Foreign Ministers and of the 'Twelve', including statements in international conferences and organizations;
- all documents related to the European Parliament, i.e. replies to oral and written questions, abstracts related to EPC of the reports presented by the Danish Presidency at the beginning and at the end of its term-of-office, as well as other reports on matters of EPC.

Also included are several documents which for technical reasons could not be included in Volume 1987-1 (Belgian Presidency).

In addition, an attempt is made to bring into chart the attitudes of the Member States with regard to United Nations resolutions. To this effect this issue contains, besides the documents relating to the 42nd session of the United Nations General Assembly, a section on the voting behaviour of the Twelve in the General Assembly and the Security Council.

We would like to thank all those who helped us in collecting materials for this issue, and in particular Mr B. Kjeldsen from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Copenhagen and Mr J. Hollants van Loocke from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Brussels. Our gratitude also goes to Emir Lawless from the European Documentation Centre of the EUI and to Angelika Lanfranchi and Annette Merlan for their help in the preparation of this fifth issue.

The Editors

How to Use the EPC Bulletin

The documents issued in the framework of European political cooperation are normally published in English or in French if no official English version is available.

They have been given a unique document number for quick reference in the index of the Bulletin and for purposes of citation. It is our hope that the EPC Documentation Bulletin will become the standard reference work for public domain EPC documents.

The document number indicates the year in which the document is issued, as well as the place of that document in the EPC Bulletin. Documents are ordered chronologically in each issue, and they are numbered consecutively throughout the volume (two issues) covering one year. Thus, whereas the first document issued in 1987 bears the number '87/001', the present issue starts with document number '87/230' because 229 documents were contained in the preceding issue of the EPC Bulletin relating to the first half of 1987.

The cumulative index of the EPC Bulletin refers to document numbers, and therefore to the place of a document in a given volume. If for technical reasons a document can not be included in the volume concerning the year in which was issued, it will be published in a later volume. In the cumulative index a reference to such a document will be accompanied by a reference to the volume and issue in which the document can be found.

The EPC Bulletin contains further information on the origin and status of the documents, and on their contents.

At the beginning of each document basic information concerning the date of issue, the city of issue, the country holding the Presidency, the source of the document, and its status can be found.

At the end of each issue the cumulative index can be found, which contains different classes of information for which the documents have been specifically analyzed. This index has been developed by 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. It is designed to cover all aspects of European political cooperation, its structure and activity. Thus one will find the following classes of information:

- The category Status of document permits the location of documents according to their type.
- The category *EPC structure and procedure* contains all references to statements of EPC which comment on or illustrate the working of EPC or its relation with the European Communities.
- The category Contacts reports all official relations with third countries, international organizations and political groupings.
- Geographical reference categories indicate countries, regions and subregions, whenever these are intrinsically dealt with.
- The category International organizations and political groupings does the same for all international organizations, political groupings and conferences of relevance to EPC.
- Finally, issues are classified by subject matter in the general *Issues* category.

The index is open-ended to enable the inclusion of new issues as they arise on the agenda of European political cooperation. It is cumulative from one issue of the EPC 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.

List of abbreviations

ABM Anti Ballistic Missile

ACABQ Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

ACC Administrative Committee on Coordination ACP African, Caribbean and Pacific States

A.C.P. Pays d'Afrique, des Caraïbes et du Pacifique

A.G. Assemblée Générale

A.E.L.E Association européenne de libre échange
A.I.D. Association internationale de développement
A.I.E.A. Agence internationale de l'énergie atomique
A.N.A.S.E. Association des Nations de l'Asie de l'Est
ANC African National Congress (South Africa)
A.N.C. Congrès national africain (Afrique du Sud)
A.P.D. Assistance publique au développement

ARC Groupe arc-en-ciel (PE); Rainbow Group (EP)

ESA European Space Agency

IDA International Development Association

A.S.E. Agence spatiale européenne

ASEAN Association of South-East Asian Nations
Azapo Azanian People's Organization (South Africa)

Belgium; Belgique

BLEU Belgo-Luxembourg Economic Union

Bull.EC Bulletin of the Commission of the European Communities; Bulletin des

Communautés européennes

C.A.C. Comité administratif de coordination

C.A.E.M. Conseil d'assistance économique mutuelle (COMECON)

C.C.I. Corps commun d'inspection (N.U.)

C.C.Q.A.B. Comité consultatif pour les questions administratives et budgétaires
CDE Conference on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures and Dis-

armament in Europe

CDU Christlich-Demokratische Union (Deutschlands)

C.E. Communautés européennes

C.E.E. Communauté économique européenne

CERD Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination CMEA Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (COMECON) C.F.P.I. Commission de la Fonction Publique Internationale

C.I.J. Cour internationale de justice

C.N.U.C.E.D. Conférence des Nations Unies sur le Commerce et le Développement

C.N.U.D. Commission des Nations Unies du Désarmement

COM Communist and Allies Group (EP); Groupe communiste et apparentés

(PE)

COMECON Cf. C.A.E.M., CMEA

COSATU Council for South African Trade Unions
CPC Committee for Programme and Co-ordination
C.P.C. Commission pour le programme et la coordination

C.P.E. Coopération politique européenne

CPSU Communist Party of the Soviet Union; Parti communiste de l'Union

Soviétique

CSCE Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe C.S.C.E. Conference sur la Sécurité et la Coopération en Europe

CSU Christlich-Soziale Union (Bayern)

D Federal Republic of Germany, République fédérale d'Allemagne

DK Denmark; Danemark

Doc. Document

DR Group of the European Right (EP); Groupe des droites européennes

(PE)

Dr Drachme
E Spain; Espagne

EC European Communities

ECOSOC Economic and Social Council
E.C.O.S.O.C. Conseil économique et social
Ecu Unité monétaire européenne
ECU European Currency Unit

ED European Democratic Group (EP); Groupe des démocrates européens

(PE)

EDF European Development Fund
EEC European Economic Community
EFTA European Free Trade Association
EIB European Investment Bank
EMS European Monetary System

EP European Parliament

EPC European political cooperation

EPP European People's Party; Group of the European People's Party

(Christian Democratic Group) (EP)

ESA European Space Agency

F France

FICSA Federation of International Civil Servants Associations
F.I.C.S.A. Fédération des associations de fonctionnaires internationaux

F.I.D.A. Fonds international de développement agricole F.I.N.U.L. Force intérimaire des Nations Unies pour le Liban

F.I.S.E. Fonds des Nations Unies pour l'enfance

F.M.I. Fonds monétaire international FRG Federal Republic of Germany

GATT General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

G.A.T.T. Accord général sur les tarifs douaniers et le commerce

GNP Gross national product

GR Greece; Grece

List of abbreviations

I Italy; Italie

IAEA International Economic Energy Agency
IATA International Air Transport Association
ICAO International Civil Aviation Organization

ICARA International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa I.C.A.R.A. Conférence internationale sur l'assistance aux réfugiés en Afrique

ICJ International Court of Justice

ICRCInternational Committee of the Red CrossICSCInternational Civil Service CommissionIDAInternational Development Association

IFAD International Fund for Agricultural Development

ILO International Labour OrganizationIMF International Monetary FundIMO International Maritime Organization

IRA Irish Republican Army

IRL Ireland; Irlande

JO Journal Officiel (des Communautés européennes)

JIU Joint Inspection Unit

KGB Komitet Gosudarstvdnnoi Bezopasnosti; Committee of State Security

(USSR); Comité de la sécurité d'Etat (U.R.S.S.)

L Luxembourg; Luxembourg

L Liberal and Democratic Group (EP); Groupe libéral et démocratique

(PE)

LDC Less developed countries, developing countries

LLDC Least developed countries

MEP Member of European Parliament

MFN Most Favoured Nation

MNR Mozambique National Resistance
MPE Membre du Parlement européen

NASA National Aeronautics and Space Administration (United States)

NATO North Atlantic Treaty Organization

NDP New Democratic Party

NGO Non-Governmental Organization
NI Non-inscrits (PE); Non-attached (EP)

NL The Netherlands; Pays-Bas N.P.F. Nation la plus favorisée

N.P.S.A. Nouveau programme substantiel d'action

NPT Non Proliferation Treaty, Treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear

weapons

O.A.C.I. Organisation de l'aviation civile internationale

OAS Organization of American States
OAU Organization of African Unity
OCT Overseas Countries and Territories
ODA Official Development Assistance
O.E.A. Organisation des États américains
O.I.T. Organisation Internationale du Travail

OJ Official Journal (of the European Communities)

O.M.I. Organisation maritime internationale
O.M.S. Organisation mondiale de la santé
O.N.G. Organisation non-gouvernementale
O.N.U. Organisation des Nations Unies

O.N.U.D.I. Organisation des Nations Unies pour le développement industriel

O.L.P. Organisation pour la libération de la Palestine O.T.A.N. Organisation du traité de l'Atlantique Nord

O.U.A. Organisation de l'unité africaine

P Portugal

PAC Pan Africanist Congress
PE Parlement européen

PFP Progressive Federal Party of South Africa; Parti progressiste fédéral

(Afrique du Sud)

PLO Palestine Liberation Organization

P.M.A. Pays les moins avancés P.M.D. Pays les moins développés

P.N.U.D. Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement

PPE Parti populaire européen; Groupe du Parti populaire européen (Groupe

démocrate-chrètien) (PE); Group of the European People's Party

(Christian Democratic Group (EP)

P.V.D. Pays en voie de développement (developing countries)

RDE Groupe des rénovateurs et du rassemblement des démocrates européens

(PE); Group of the European Renewal and Democratic Alliance (EP)

Res. Resolution(s); Résolution(s) R.F.A. République fédérale d'Allemagne

R.S.F.Y. République fédérale socialiste de Yougoslavie

RSA Republic of South Africa R.S.A. République sud-africaine

S Socialist Group (EP): Groupe socialiste (PE)

SADCC Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference

SALT Strategic Arms Limitation Talks; Négociations sur la limitation des

armements stratégiques

SARC South Asia Regional Cooperation
SFRY Social Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

SDI Strategic Defence Initiative S.M.E. Système monétaire européen

SNAP Substantial New Programme of Action SSOD Special Session on Disarmament

SWAPO South West African People's Organization

T.N.P. Traité de non-prolifération, traité sur la non-prolifération des armes

nucléaires

TPA Turkish Peace Association

TREVI Terrorisme, radicalisme et violence international

TWA Trans-World Airlines

UDF Union Defence Force (South Africa)

List of abbreviations

UDI Unilateral Declaration of Independence; Déclaration unilaterale d'in-

dépendance

U.E.B.L. Union économique belgo-luxembourgeoise

U.E.O. Union de l'Europe occidentale

UK United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; Royaume-Uni

UN United Nations

UNCTAD United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

UNDC United Nations Disarmament Commission
UNDP United Nations Development Programme

UNDRO Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator
UNESCO United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
U.N.E.S.C.O. Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'éducation, la science et la culture

UNICEF United Nations General Assembly
UNICEF United Nations Children's Fund

UNIDO United Nations Industrial Development Organization

UNIFIL United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

Unisa University of South Africa; Université de l'Afrique du Sud UNITAR United Nations Institute for Training and Research

U.N.I.T.A.R. Institut des Nations unies pour la formation et la recherche

UNRWA United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the

Near East

U.N.R.W.A. Office de secours et de travaux des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés de

Palestine dans le Proche-Orient

U.R.S.S. Union des républiques socialistes soviétiques

US; USA United States of America

U.S.A. United States of America; États-Unis d'Amerique

USSR Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

WEU Western European Union
WHO World Health Organization
ZANU Zimbabwe African National Union
ZAPU Zimbabwe African People's Union

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87/339. Question No 668/87 by Mr Price (ED-UK) Concerning the Restrictive Measures Against South Africa Adopted on 16 September 1986 Date of Issue: 24 September 1987
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87/230. Déclaration concernant les bombardements meurtriers effectués par l'aviation afghane en territoire pakistanais

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Agissant au nom des douze pays membres de la Communauté européenne, Monsieur Frans Roelants, Secrétaire général du Ministère des affaires étrangères, a fait le 22 avril 1987 à l'ambassadeur d'U.R.S.S. une communication par laquelle les Douze protestent contre les bombardements très meurtiers effectués récemment en territoire pakistanais par l'aviation afghane.

87/231. Convention Between the Member States of the European Communities on Double Jeopardy

Date of Issue: 25 May 1987 Place of Issue: Brussels Country of Presidency: Belgium Source of Document: The Twelve Status of Document: Convention

The Member States of the European Communities hereinafter referred to as 'the Member States', Mindful of the close links existing between their peoples,

Taking into account the developments tending to the elimination of obstacles to the free movement of persons between Member States,

Desiring to extend their cooperation in criminal matters on the basis of mutual trust, understanding and respect.

Convinced that a mutual recognition of the rule of double jeopardy with respect to foreign judicial decisions constitutes the embodiment of such a trust, understanding and respect, Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

A person whose trial has finally been disposed of in a Member State may not be prosecuted in another Member State in respect of the same facts, provided that if a sanction was imposed, it has been enforced, is actually in the process of being enforced or can no longer be enforced under the laws of the sentencing State.

Article 2

- 1. A Member State may, at the time of ratification, acceptance or approval of this Convention, declare that it shall not be bound by Article 1 in one or more of the following cases:
- a) If the facts which were the subject of the judgement rendered abroad took place on its own territory either in whole or in part. In the latter case this exception shall not apply if those facts took place partly on the territory where the judgement was rendered.
- b) If the facts which were the subject of the judgement rendered abroad constitute an offence directed against the security or other equally essential interests of that Member State.
- c) If the facts which were the subject of the judgement rendered abroad were committed by an official of that Member State contrary to the duties of his office.
- 2. A Member State which makes a declaration in respect of the exception in paragraph 1(b) shall specify the type of offences to which that exception may be applied.

- 3. A Member State may at any time withdraw such a declaration in respect of one or more of the exceptions in paragraph 1. The withdrawal shall be notified to the Foreign Ministry of Belgium and shall take effect on the first day of the month following the date of such notification.
- 4. The exceptions which may be the subject of a declaration under paragraph 1 shall not apply if the Member State concerned in respect of the same facts requested the other Member State to bring the prosecution or granted extradition of the person concerned.

Article 3

If a Member State brings a further prosecution in respect of the same facts against a person whose trial has finally been disposed of in another Member State, any period of deprivation of liberty served in the latter Member State arising from those facts shall be deducted from any sanction imposed. To the extent permitted by national law sanctions not involving deprivation of liberty shall also be taken into account insofar as they have been enforced.

Article 4

- 1. If a criminal charge is brought against a person in a Member State and the competent authorities of that Member State have reasons to believe that this charge concerns the same facts as those in respect of which his trial has finally been disposed of in another Member State they shall, if they consider it necessary, seek relevant information from the competent authorities of the Member State where the trial took place.
- 2. Information thus requested shall be given as soon as possible and shall be taken into account in determining whether the proceeding should be continued.
- 3. Each Member State shall, at the time of signature, ratification, acceptance or approval of this Convention, specify the authorities authorized to request and receive information under this Article.

Article 5

The preceding provisions shall not prevent the application of wider domestic provisions relating to the rule of double jeopardy attached to foreign judicial decisions.

Article 6

- 1. This Convention shall be open for signature by the Member States. It shall be subject to ratification, acceptance or approval. The instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval shall be deposited with the Foreign Ministry of Belgium.
- 2. This Convention shall enter into force 90 days after the deposit of the instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval by all the States which are members of the European Communities at the date on which this Convention is opened for signature.
- 3. Each State may, when depositing its instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval, or at any later date until the entry into force of this Convention, declare that this Convention will apply to it in its relations with other States that have made the same declaration 90 days after the date of deposit.

Article 7

- 1. This Convention shall be open for accession by any State which becomes a member of the European Communities. The instruments of accession shall be deposited with the Foreign Ministry of Belgium.
- 2. This Convention shall enter into force for any State acceding thereto 90 days after the deposit of its instrument of accession.

Article 8

1. Each Member State may, at the time of signature or when depositing its instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval, specify the territory or territories to which this Convention shall apply.

- 2. Each Member State may, when depositing its instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval or at any later date, by declaration addressed to the Foreign Ministry of Belgium extend this Convention to any other territory specified in the declaration and for whose international relationships it is responsible or on whose behalf it is authorized to give undertakings.
- 3. Any declaration made in pursuance of the preceding paragraph may, as regards any territory specified in that declaration, be withdrawn by means of a declaration addressed to the Foreign Ministry of Belgium. The withdrawal shall have effect immediately or at such later date as may be specified in the declaration.

Article 9

The Foreign Ministry of Belgium shall notify all the Member States of any signature, deposit of instruments, declaration or notification.

Done at Brussels, this twenty-fifth day of May in the year one thousand nine hundred and eighty-seven in all official languages of the European Communities, each text being equally authentic, in a single original which shall be deposited in the archives of the Foreign Ministry of Belgium.

The Foreign Ministry of Belgium shall transmit certified copies to the Government of each Member State.

87/232. Agreement on the Application, Among the Member States of the European Communities, of the Council of Europe Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons

Date of Issue: 25 May 1987 Place of Issue: Brussels Country of Presidency: Belgium Source of Document: The Twelve Status of Document: Convention

The Member States of the European Communities hereinafter referred to as 'the Member States', Mindful of the close links existing between their peoples

Desiring to facilitate the transfer of sentenced persons, to apply in their mutual relations the Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons, which was opened for signature in Strasbourg on 21 March 1983 (hereinafter referred to as 'the Convention on Transfer'), to extend the field of application of the Convention and to improve its operation,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

- 1. As between Member States which have ratified the Convention on Transfer, that Convention shall be supplemented by the provisions of this Agreement.
- 2. As between Member States, at least one of which has not ratified the Convention on Transfer, the provisions of that Convention as supplemented by the provisions of this Agreement shall be applicable.

Article 2

For the purpose of applying Article 3(1)(a) of the Convention on Transfer, each Member State shall regard as its own nationals the nationals of another Member State whose transfer is deemed to be appropriate and in the interest of the persons concerned, taking into account their habitual and lawful residence in its territory.

Article 3

1. Declarations made pursuant to the Convention on Transfer shall not apply with respect to the Member States that are parties to this Agreement.

2. In its relations with Member States that are party to this Agreement, each Member State may make, renew or alter any declaration provided for by the Convention on Transfer and shall send any such declaration to the Foreign Ministry of Belgium.

Article 4

- 1. This Convention shall be open for signature by the Member States. It shall be subject to ratification, acceptance or approval. The instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval shall be deposited with the Foreign Ministry of Belgium.
- 2. This Convention shall enter into force 90 days after the deposit of the instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval by all the States which are members of the European Communities at the date on which this Convention is opened for signature.
- 3. Each State may, when depositing its instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval, or at any later date until the entry into force of this Agreement, declare that this Convention will apply to it in its relations with other States that have made the same declaration 90 days after the date of deposit.
- 4. A State that has not made such a declaration may apply the Agreement with other contracting States on the basis of bilateral agreements.
- 5. The Foreign Ministry of Belgium shall notify all the Member States of any signature, deposit of instruments or declaration.

Article 5

- 1. This Convention shall be open for accession by any State which becomes a Member of the European Communities. The instruments of accession shall be deposited with the Foreign Ministry of Belgium.
- 2. This Convention shall enter into force for any State acceding thereto 90 days after the deposit of its instrument of accession.

Done at Brussels, this twenty-fifth day of May in the year one thousand nine hundred and eighty-seven in all official languages of the European Communities, each text being equally authentic, in a single original which shall be deposited in the archives of the Foreign Ministry of Belgium.

The Foreign Ministry of Belgium shall transmit certified copies to the Government of each Member State.

87/233. Convention Abolishing the Legalization of Documents Between the Member States of the European Communities

Date of Issue: 25 May 1987 Place of Issue: Brussels

Country of Presidency: Belgium Source of Document: The Twelve Status of Document: Convention

The Member States of the European Communities,

Convinced of the desirability of ensuring the free movement of documents between their States, Desiring for this purpose to adopt uniform rules concerning the abolition of all forms of legalization of documents,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

1. This Convention shall apply to public documents which are drawn up in the territory of a contracting State and which have to be produced in the territory of another contracting State or shown to the diplomatic or consular agents of another contracting State even if those agents are acting in the territory of a State which is not a party to this Convention.

- 2. The following shall be deemed to be public documents:
- a) Documents emanating from an authority or an official connected with the courts or tribunals of the State, including those emanating from a public prosecutor, a clerk of the court or a process server ('huissier de justice');
- b) Administrative documents;
- c) Notarial acts:
- d) Official certificates which are placed on documents signed by persons in their private capacity, such as official certificates recording the registration of a document or the fact that it was in existence on a certain date, and official and notarial authentications of signatures.
- 3. This Convention shall also apply to documents drawn up in their official capacity by the diplomatic or consular agents of a contracting State acting in the territory of any State, where such documents have to be produced in the territory of another contracting State or shown to the diplomatic or consular agents of another contracting State acting in the territory of a State which is not a party to this Convention.

Article 2

Each contracting State shall exempt the documents to which this Convention relates from all forms of legalization or of equivalent or similar formality.

Article 3

For the purposes of this Convention legalization means only the formal procedure for certifying the authenticity of a signature, the capacity in which the person signing the document has acted and, where appropriate, the identity of the seal or stamp which it bears.

Article 4

- 1. If the authorities of the State in whose territory the document is produced have serious doubts, with good reason, as to the authenticity of the signature, the capacity in which the person signing the document has acted or the identity of the seal or stamp, they may request information directly from the relevant central authority, designated in accordance with Article 5, of the State from which the act or documents emanated. Requests for information may be made only in exceptional cases and shall set out the grounds on which they are based.
- 2. Whenever possible, requests for information shall be accompanied by the original document or by a photocopy thereof. Such a request and the reply thereto shall not be made subject to any tax, duty or charge.

Article 5

3. Each contracting State shall, at the time of signature, ratification, acceptance or approval of this Convention, designate the central authority responsible for receiving and forwarding the requests for information referred to in Article 4. It shall indicate the language(s) in which the authority will accept requests for information.

Article 6

- 1. This Convention shall be open for signature by the Member States. It shall be subject to ratification, acceptance or approval. The instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval shall be deposited with the Foreign Ministry of Belgium.
- 2. This Convention shall enter into force 90 days after the deposit of the instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval by all the States which are members of the European Communities at the date on which this Convention becomes open for signature.

3. Each State may, when depositing its instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval, or at any later date until the entry into force of this Convention, declare that the Convention will apply to it, in its relations with other States that have made the same declaration 90 days after the date of deposit.

Article 7

- 1. This Convention shall be open for accession by any State which becomes a member of the European Communities. The instruments of accession shall be deposited with the Foreign Ministry of Belgium.
- 2. This Convention shall enter into force for any State acceding thereto 90 days after the deposit of its instrument of accession.

Article 8

- 1. Each Member State may, at the time of signature or when depositing its instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval, specify the territory or territories to which this Convention shall apply.
- 2. Each Member State may, when depositing its instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval or at any later date, by declaration addressed to the Foreign Ministry of Belgium extend this Convention to any other territory specified in the declaration and for whose international relations it is responsible or on whose behalf it is authorized to give undertakings.
- 3. Any declaration made in pursuance of paragraph 2 may, as regards any territory specified in that declaration, be withdrawn by means of a declaration addressed to the Foreign Ministry of Belgium. The withdrawal shall have effect immediately or at such later date as may be specified in the declaration.

Article 9

The Foreign Ministry of Belgium shall notify all the Member States of any signature, deposit of instruments, declaration or notification.

Article 10

This Convention replaces between contracting States the provisions of other treaties, conventions or agreements on the simplification or abolition of legalization of documents except when these treaties, conventions or agreements concern documents:

- a) which are not covered by this Convention;
- b) which have been drawn up in territories to which this Convention does not apply.

Done at Brussels, this twenty-fifth day of May in the year one thousand nine hundred and eighty-seven in all official languages of the European Communities, each text being equally authentic, in a single original which shall be deposited in the archives of the Foreign Ministry of Belgium.

The Foreign Ministry of Belgium shall transmit certified copies to the Government of each Member State.

87/234. Allocution de clôture de la session 1987 de la Commission des Nations Unies du Désarmement

Date of Issue: 27 May 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Belgian Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Monsieur le Président, j'ai eu le privilège de prendre la parole au nom des douze Etats membres de la Communauté européenne au début de nos travaux pour préciser les objectifs et les espoirs que nous mettions dans les travaux de la session 1987 de la Commission des Nations Unies du Désarmement. J'ai

également pu exposer, dans le cadre des groupes de travail, les convictions et la ligne de conduite des Douze dans les domaines du désarmement conventionnel ¹ et de la vérification ² ainsi qu'au sujet du rôle des Nations Unies dans le désarmement ³.

De l'avis des Douze la Commission remplit un rôle utile. Son ordre du jour contient une série de points importants, dont plusieurs ne sont pas traités dans d'autres forums compétents pour le désarmement. Certains nécessitent un examen continu, mais il est décevant de constater que d'autres ont été inscrits depuis des années à l'ordre du jour de la Commission du Désarmement sans résultat positif.

Permettez-moi, Monsieur le Président, de passer en revue rapidement les différents points de cet ordre du jour.

D'abord la question du désarmement nucléaire et conventionnel, examinée avec soin par le groupe de contact sous l'impulsion de l'Ambassadeur Teja de l'Inde. Malgré les efforts, peu de progrès ont pu être réalisés au sujet des propositions de recommandations. Déjà l'année dernière les Douze avaient exprimé leurs doutes quant à la possibilité de surmonter, dans ce cadre et vu la méthode adoptée depuis des années, les divergences fondamentales entre les points de vue. Il nous paraît difficile d'arriver à des recommandations concrètes pour les sujets qui font l'objet de discussions et de négociations dans d'autres enceintes. Rappelons que les Douze souhaitent que des réductions substantielles et équilibrées soient réalisées en matière d'armement nucléaire. Ils s'attendent à ce que les deux puissances militaires les plus armées, les Etats-Unis et l'Union Soviétique, persistent dans la recherche d'un accord dans les domaines faisant l'objet de négociations à Genève.

En ce qui concerne les consultations sur les problèmes relatifs aux budgets militaires, sous la conduite active de notre collègue Tinca de Roumanie, nous constatons un développement encourageant dans le sens de la mise en œuvre des principes de transparence et de comparabilité des budgets militaires, que les Douze considèrent comme fondamentaux dans ce contexte. Nous espérons que ce développement pourra mener à l'échange de données sur les dépenses militaires, selon des méthodes standardisées établies par l'O.N.U., par un nombre toujours croissant de pays. Dans ce contexte les Douze jugent nécessaire de garder ce sujet à l'ordre du jour de la Commission du Désarmement.

Quant à la capacité nucléaire de l'Afrique du Sud, les Douze notent qu'un léger progrès a été réalisé grâce aux suggestions et propositions réalistes et constructives présentées par nombres de délégations et encouragées par M. Fischer de l'Uruguay, Président du groupe de travail. Il est à espérer que l'on parviendra lors de la prochaine session de la Commission à régler les questions encore en suspens.

S'agissant du rôle des Nations Unies dans le domaine du désarmement, examiné par le groupe de travail sous la présidence de l'Ambassadeur Engo du Cameroun, qui est à l'origine de cette initiative, les Douze regrettent qu'il n'ait pas été possible, cette année encore, d'aboutir à un texte commun. Ils notent avec satisfaction le degré d'entente qui s'est fait autour de la partie opérationnelle du document issu du groupe de contact dirigé par l'Ambassadeur Butler, quant à la première commission, le Conseil consultatif du désarmement, l'U.N.I.D.I.R. et le rôle du Secrétaire général que les Douze souhaitent cependant voir accentué davantage. Partant de ce document, qui demande par ailleurs à être plus équilibré, les Douze espèrent que, lors de la prochaine session, des recommandations pratiques et réalistes pourront être agréées en vue d'atteindre ainsi les objectifs communs de désarmement. En attendant ils émettent l'espoir que les délégations pourront s'inspirer des résultats obtenus et tirer profit de la qualité du travail fourni et des échanges de vue utiles qui ont eu lieu.

Passant au point de l'ordre du jour relatif aux armements et au désarmement navals, il convient de remercier l'Ambassadeur Alatas de l'Indonésie pour la façon dont il a dirigé les travaux du groupe de consultations. Comme le reconnaît le document de travail issu des discussions, les forces navales ne sont pas indépendantes des autres forces militaires et ne peuvent par conséquent pas être considérées séparément des efforts globaux de désarmement nucléaire et conventionnel. Les Douze appuient le point de vue selon lequel les diverses mesures de confiance pratiques et réalistes, aussi bien dans le contexte global que régional, se prêtent davantage à un consensus dans les forums appropriés.

Quant au désarmement conventionnel et comme je l'ai mentionné dans mon intervention au début de la session, les Douze attachent beaucoup d'importance à cette question. Ils considèrent par conséquent que les discussions substantielles au sein du groupe de travail qui ont largement bénéficié de l'expérience dans ce domaine du Président, l'Ambassadeur Mellbin du Danemark, représentent une évolution très

positive. Nous nous félicitons des progrès accomplis par le groupe de travail comme le démontre le rapport. Toutes les délégations ont contribué à ces progrès et le degré d'accord tel que le reflète le document CRP.3/Rev.3 signifie un important pas en avant. Nous nous réjouissons de ce que la Commission du Désarmement recommande à l'Assemblée générale que la Commission continue ses travaux dans le domaine du désarmement conventionnel lors de sa prochaine session en 1988. Les Douze s'attendent à ce que la Commission du Désarmement continuera ses délibérations de façon régulière sur le thème du désarmement conventionnel. Ils considèrent en outre que la troisième session spéciale de l'Assemblée générale consacrée au désarmement fournira une occasion importante de poursuivre le processus de désarmement conventionnel et d'élargir le degré de consensus dans ce domaine.

Pour ce qui est de la question de la vérification dans tous ses aspects, nous voudrions exprimer notre gratitude à l'Ambassadeur Roche du Canada pour son apport personnel et pour le matériel de documentation mis à la disposition des délégations. Les Douze se félicitent du progrès accompli tel qu'il ressort du rapport du groupe de travail IV. Ils regrettent cependant qu'un certain nombre de dispositions essentielles pour une approche pratique et efficace de la vérification n'aient pu être incorporées dans le rapport. Ils regrettent également que des déclarations prometteuses faites dans d'autres enceintes au sujet de la vérification n'aient pas été réaffirmées à la Commission du Désarmement. Pour leur part ils soulignent à nouveau que la vérification constitue un élément fondamental de tout accord de contrôle des armements ou de désarmement.

Monsieur le Président, ce survol de nos travaux, esquissé au nom des Douze, se veut réaliste et balance. Il est fait dans un esprit d'ouverture.

La troisième session spéciale de l'Assemblée générale consacrée au désarmement aura à juger de l'apport que la Commission fournit au processus du désarmement. Elle aura à examiner ses méthodes de travail, son efficacité, le résultat atteint dans chacun des domaines que la Commission s'était choisi de soumettre à l'étude. Nous pensons que cette efficacité devra être accrue, que la Commission gagnerait à définir à intervalles réguliers les questions qu'elle souhaite mettre à l'examen, qu'elle tirerait un plus grand bénéfice si ses méthodes de travail pouvaient être davantage adaptées à la recherche du consensus dans des domaines à progrès discernable.

Quant aux conditions de fonctionnement, qui sont assujetties aux restrictions du moment, les Douze expriment le souhait qu'elles permettent la pleine utilisation des facilités généralement prévues, notamment dans les débats et lors de l'élaboration de textes.

Les Douze, Monsieur le Président, ont participé dans un esprit constructif aux travaux de la présente session de la Commission et ne ménageront pas leurs efforts à l'avenir. En leur nom, je voudrais remercier les Présidents des divers groupes de travail et de consultations pour la façon dont ils se sont acquittés de leur tâche. Il me reste aussi à vous remercier. Monsieur le Président, de vos efforts personnels.

87/235. Déclaration dans le Comité préparatoire de la troisième session extraordinaire de l'Assemblée générale consacrée au désarmement

Date of Issue: 27 May 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Belgian Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Monsieur le Président, j'ai l'honneur de prendre la parole aujourd'hui au nom des douze Etats membres de la Communauté européenne pour vous adresser, à vous-même et aux autres membres du Bureau, nos félicitations pour votre élection. Nous formulons l'espoir que, sous votre direction, nos travaux seront couronnés de succès.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 87/169. ² EPC Bulletin, Doc. 87/168. ³ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 87/167.

Point n'est besoin de rappeler ici l'importance de cette réunion du Comité préparatoire en prévision de la troisième session spéciale consacrée au désarmement, que l'Assemblée générale a décidé de convoquer. Non seulement les Douze n'ont pas hésité à se joindre au consensus sur la résolution pertinente 41/60 [G], mais ils ont le souci et la volonté de jouer un rôle actif et constructif aussi bien dans la préparation que dans la tenue de la troisième session extraordinaire.

Il s'agit, aux yeux des Douze, d'un événement important dans le domaine de la maîtrise des armements et du désarmement. Les problèmes qui y sont traités concernent la sécurité et la paix pour l'ensemble de la communauté internationale et devraient toujours être placés au premier rang de nos préoccupations.

S'il est vrai que le désarmement général et complet reste l'objectif final, il n'en est pas moins vrai que cet objectif ne peut être réalisé que progressivement. Dans ce contexte, il est crucial d'aboutir à des accords vérifiables et équilibrés de réduction des armements, au niveau le plus bas possible par des négociations aussi bien bilatérales que multilatérales.

Tout en appuyant et en encourageant les entretiens bilatéraux entre les deux plus grandes puissances, il convient également de ne pas négliger tous les efforts multilatéraux qu'il s'agisse de négociations ou de délibérations, qui contribuent, directement ou indirectement, grâce à l'action responsable des Etats, à créer un climat de plus grande confiance afin que la paix et la sécurité internationales puissent s'instaurer définitivement.

La troisième session extraordinaire de l'Assemblée générale consacrée au désarmement est incontestablement le forum approprié pour délibérer des problèmes complexes liés à la maîtrise des armements et au désarmement, juger des résultats obtenus jusqu'à présent et recommander des actions futures dans un nombre élargi de domaines où un consensus est possible.

En abordant cette SSOD-III il convient, selon les Douze, de réaffirmer l'importance du document final issu de la première session extraordinaire consacrée au désarmement en 1978. Ce document, adopté par consensus, constitue en effet une base importante pour les délibérations et actions des membres de l'Organisation des Nations Unies dans le domaine du désarmement.

Quant à la SSOD-II, ses objectifs ambitieux n'ont pu être atteints et les espoirs qu'elle avait suscités ont été déçus. Les Douze estiment cependant que les difficultés diverses rencontrées peuvent et doivent être surmontées.

Le climat international semble actuellement plus propice. L'on dénote à la fois une certaine flexibilité et un effort pour mettre tout en œuvre dans la recherche de solutions à nombres de problèmes qui depuis trop longtemps déjà font l'objet de la préoccupation de la communauté internationale. Rappelons le succès de la Conference de Stockholm sur le plan des mesures de confiance et de sécurité en Europe qui permet maintenant d'aborder avec les consultations de Vienne sur la stabilité conventionnelle en Europe, une nouvelle étape dans la négociation. Rappelons également les réels progrès enregistrés au sein de la Conference du Désarmement en ce qui concerne l'élimination des armes chimiques et les négociations bilatérales actuellement en cours entre les deux plus grandes puissances pour lesquelles l'espoir existe d'arriver à des réductions substantielles des arsenaux nucléaires.

Située dans ce contexte et portée par la conviction et la volonté de tous, la troisième session extraordinaire consacrée au désarmement devrait pouvoir avec succès

- identifier les domaines qui constituent la préoccupation essentielle de l'ensemble des pays,
- dresser le bilan des développements les plus significatifs des dernières années,
- identifier les perspectives réelles et réalisables à moyen terme,
- proposer des sujets de discussion, sur base d'un ordre du jour réaliste, et des recommandations de nature à être adoptées par consensus.

Tout cela exige bien entendu une préparation minutieuse, puisqu'il ne faut jamais confondre espoir et succès. Il n'est que trop facile de susciter le premier. Il est beaucoup plus difficile d'atteindre le second. Pour cela, il faut faire preuve d'une attitude constructive, réaliste et flexible en même temps.

C'est dans cet esprit que les douze Etats membres de la Communauté européenne participent à ce Comité préparatoire et envisagent le déroulement de la troisième session extraordinaire afin que les débats puissent aboutir, toujours sur la base du consensus, à des recommandations pouvant mener à des mesures précises et pratiques de contrôle des armements et de désarmement.

Je vous remercie, Monsieur le Président.

87/236. Déclaration dans l'E.C.O.S.O.C. sur le point 3 de l'ordre du jour: débat général sur la politique économique et sociale internationale y compris l'évolution régionale et sectorielle

Date of Issue: 24 June 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Belgian Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Monsieur le Président, j'ai l'honneur de faire cette déclaration au nom de la Communauté européenne et ses Etats membres.

Il y a un an, au début du débat sur la politique économique et sociale internationale, la Présidence en exercice de la Communauté avait exprimé un optimisme prudent. Il était fondé sur la reconnaissance du fait qu'une croissance continue et stable dans les pays en développement comme dans les pays développés était essentielle, sur le fait qu'à la réunion d'octobre 1985 du F.M.I. et de la Banque mondiale à Séoul, à la réunion d'avril du Comité intérimaire 1986 à Washington, et au sommet de Tokyo des résolutions avaient été prises pour y parvenir. Nous constations en outre que la reprise économique, hésitante depuis 1983, semblait se confirmer. La croissance économique, combinée avec une inflation modérée, se poursuivait.

Nous relevions également les points les plus sombres du tableau:

Dans un grand nombre de pays en développement, l'ajustement avait eu des conséquences sociales pénibles et le fardeau de la dette avait atteint pour certains d'entre eux un niveau difficilement tolérable.

Dans le monde industrialisé c'était la persistance du chômage qui était la plus inquiétante.

Quelle est la situation un an après?

On peut dire en général que les aspects positifs se sont assez bien maintenus, mais que les progrès enregistrés ne sont pas suffisants pour résoudre à long terme les maux dont souffre l'économie mondiale.

Sans citer tous les chiffres à l'appui de cette constatation, nous observons que, selon l'Etude sur l'économie mondiale:

- la croissance de la production mondiale a persisté en 1985 et en 1986 mais qu'elle se ralentit par rapport à celle de 1984;
- la régression de l'inflation s'est poursuivie tant dans les pays industrialisés que dans la plupart des pays en développement, à de notables exceptions près.

La croissance globale reste, bien entendu, le but poursuivi. Des obstacles se présentent: déséquilibres budgétaires et commerciaux, problèmes de l'instabilité des taux de change. C'est à ces obstacles que s'attaquent nos mesurés de politique économique. Dans la Communauté européenne, les politiques d'ajustement pour réduire les déficits budgétaires et contrôler l'inflation n'ont d'autre but que de faciliter la croissance réelle. La recherche de l'équilibre impose aux pays membres de la Communauté une stricte discipline.

Nous ne doutons pas que cet effort portera ses fruits. Cependant les prévisions de croissance pour l'ensemble des douze pays de la Communauté sont d'à peine 2% pour 1987, avec des prévisions quasiment identiques pour l'année prochaine.

Conséquence de cette croissance économique faiblissante, les prévisions pour l'emploi s'assombrissent. Il ne devrait croître que de 0,6% en 1986 et de 0,5% en 1987. Le taux de chômage risquait ainsi de rester de 12% de la population active en 1986, et diminuerait à peine (11,8%) en 1987 et 1988, ce qui donne la mesure du prix que nos pays paient dans le processus mondial d'ajustement structurel. En revanche, l'inflation demeurera basse dans la Communauté. Elle passerait de 3,8% en 1986 à 3,2% en 1987, et 3,3% en 1988.

Les exportations continueront de croître de 2,2% en 1987 et de 3,3% en 1988, tandis que les importations croîtront de 4,5%. La différence entre ces taux montre que la Communauté joue un rôle stimulant dans l'économie mondiale.

C'est un fait encourageant que la croissance se poursuit depuis cinq années consécutives. Néanmoins, le processus d'ajustement et de reprise est plus lent que nous ne l'espérions et nos perspectives de croissance en souffrent. La Communauté est la plus grande entité économique du globe, mais pas plus que les autres pays elle n'échappe à certains effets extérieurs.

La situation économique des pays de la Communauté nous semble illustrer une phase de l'économie mondiale où un nombre de conditions sont réunies pour une croissance plus forte, mais où la persistance de certains problèmes empêche encore les effets multiplicateurs de jouer pleinement leur rôle.

Les facteurs financiers et monétaires continuent à affecter l'activité économique mondiale. C'est pourquoi les pays industrialisés ont manifesté à plusieurs reprises la volonté d'agir dans ce domaine. Un certain progrès a été accompli non seulement dans la maîtrise des instabilités des taux de change, mais aussi dans le domaine plus vaste de l'harmonisation des politiques économiques et le redressement des déséquilibres. Les accords du Louvre et de Washington, la réunion ministérielle de l'O.C.D.E. à Paris en mai dernier ont agi dans ce sens. Finalement, dans cette même ligne, le récent sommet de Venise a fait avancer davantage la coopération des pays industrialisés en vue de mieux coordonner leurs politiques économiques. Cette quête d'une plus grande cohérence correspond à la responsabilité internationale dont les pays industrialisés se trouvent, de fait, investis. Elle répond d'ailleurs à une recommandation contenue dans l'Etude sur l'économie mondiale.

Monsieur le Président, dans la même perspective, je voudrais m'arrêter à la situation des pays en développement. La croissance dans le monde industrialisé doit jouer un rôle moteur pour la relance des pays en développement. Cela s'est réalisé dans une certaine mesure. Mais globalement les effets ont été insuffisants et tous les pays en développement n'ont pu en bénéficier.

Il est frappant que les performances des pays en développement soient si variables, même sur un plan régional. Je reviendrai sur cet aspect. Pour m'en tenir maintenant aux problèmes qui touchent nombre de pays en développement, celui de la dette reste probablement le plus important.

La charge considérable de la dette constitue toujours un obstacle majeur à la croissance dans certains pays à revenu moyen lourdement endettés. Le problème est plus contraignant encore dans les pays à faible revenu. Cependant la question évolue. Pendant la 41^e Assemblée générale, le fait d'être parvenu à un consensus sur la dette constituait un élément politique nouveau.

La Résolution 41/202 s'inspirait clairement de l'esprit de détermination commune qui doit ouvrir la seule voie possible pour sortir des problèmes d'endettement. Parallèlement, des innovations dans les modalités de remboursement et dans d'autres aspects des relations entre les débiteurs et le monde bancaire sont apparues. On a fait preuve de plus d'imagination et de souplesse dans les négociations. Ces nouvelles modalités prouvent que les problèmes sont de plus en plus perçus dans leur complexité et leur diversité.

Dans ces circonstances changeantes, le rôle central du Fonds monétaire et de la Banque mondiale nous paraît plus que jamais nécessaire. Les Etats membres de la Communauté se sont déclarés en faveur de l'augmentation du capital de la Banque et ils ont contribué à la 8^e reconstitution des ressources de l'Association internationale de développement au niveau de 12,4 milliards de dollars. Ils se félicitent également des propositions pour une augmentation substantielle des ressources de la facilité d'ajustement structurelle du F.M.I.

Evidemment, la perception accrue de la complexité et la diversité des données n'est qu'un début. Il faut en tirer les conclusions. La voie à suivre peut sembler lente. Mais il faut bien voir que ce sont les réformes internes et une gestion productive des ressources qui créent les conditions pour les flux financiers, notamment en provenance du secteur privé. En disant cela, nous ne perdons nullement de vue les conséquences politiques des efforts d'ajustement, ni surtout leurs conséquences sociales pour les groupes les plus vulnérables.

A cet égard, le problème de la dette se pose indéniablement dans des circonstances particulièrement difficiles pour les pays les plus pauvres et notamment en Afrique subsaharienne. Les Douze se félicitent des initiatives tendant à octroyer à ces pays, en contrepartie à leurs efforts d'ajustement, des conditions de remboursement adaptées: possibilités de taux d'intérêt réduits, période de grâce et de remboursement prolongée, possibilité de transformer des prêts publics en dons. Ces initiatives seront prises en considération à l'avenir au Club de Paris et lors de la réunion d'automne du Comité pour le

développement du F.M.I. En plus, lors du sommet de Venise, une impulsion politique a été donnée à cette approche et l'importance de plusieurs initiatives nationales dans ce même domaine a été reconnue. Finalement, ce problème sera sans doute traité par la prochaine session de la C.N.U.C.E.D., avec l'ensemble des questions relatives aux ressources pour le développement.

Monsieur le Président, un autre problème important est celui du commerce mondial. Il est évident qu'une croissance bien répartie du commerce mondial intéresse également les pays en développement. L'impact négatif des tendances néo-protectionnistes est également clair. L'Etude sur l'économie mondiale souligne d'ailleurs le danger croissant de ces tendances.

Parlant au nom de la Communauté européenne et de ses Etats membres, je ne peux pas manquer de rappeler que l'Europe des Douze a toujours cherché à favoriser et à étendre ses relations commerciales, en particulier avec les pays en développement. La Communauté a continué à libéraliser l'entrée des importations en provenance des pays en développement sur son marché, et cela dans un climat international dans lequel les tendances protectionnistes étaient à la hausse. Je voudrais rappeler ici une fois de plus que 80% des importations en provenance des pays en développement jouissent de l'accès libre au marché de la Communauté; que plus de 20% de ces importations consistent en produits manufacturés, et finalement que la Communauté est un importateur net de produits agricoles en provenance des pays en développement.

En ce qui concerne précisément le commerce agricole, permettez-moi de revenir sur la déclaration ministérielle de l'O.C.D.E. que j'ai déjà citée auparavant. Nous constatons en accord avec cette déclaration que tous les pays ont des responsabilités dans la situation actuelle. Il faut mettre un terme au processus de détérioration et l'inverser. Certains pays ou groupes de pays, dont la Communauté, ont amorcé un effort dans ce sens. Toutefois, étant donné l'ampleur des problèmes et la nécessité de les résoudre d'urgence, une réforme concertée des politiques agricoles sera mise en œuvre d'une manière équilibrée et flexible. L'observateur de la Communauté économique européenne s'exprimera plus longuement sur les problèmes du commerce et notamment le commerce agricole.

D'ailleurs, pour l'ensemble des problèmes du commerce mondial, la Communauté continue à attacher une importance primordiale aux approches multilatérales. C'est ainsi que je veux répéter notre attachement aux négociations commerciales multilatérales du cycle d'Uruguay. Nous respecterons les engagements pris à Punta del Este, y compris en ce qui concerne le statu quo et le démantèlement (standstill and roll-back).

Monsieur le Président, je voudrais également mentionner les problèmes des produits de base. Ces problèmes forment peut-être la meilleure illustration des questions structurelles devant lesquelles se trouve l'économie mondiale; mais ils affectent tout particulièrement les pays en développement largement tributaires de ces produits. La Communauté et ses États membres ont toujours défendu des positions réalistes dans ce domaine. Il faut trouver, en cette matière, une convergence des intérêts des producteurs et des consommateurs; cette convergence ne se fera pas sans réformes structurelles des deux côtés; et en considérant cela, il faut garder à l'esprit que l'accélération de la croissance de l'économie mondiale serait une des conditions nécessaires à toute reprise des prix des produits de base.

La Communauté prépare ce dossier dans un esprit constructif pour la 7^e C.N.U.C.E.D. Des actions visant à éliminer les mesures qui faussent les échanges des produits de base et à assurer une plus grande transparence des marchés, contribueraient grandement à améliorer les perspectives d'exportation pour les pays en développement tributaires des ces produits. A plus long terme, la diversification s'impose, comme le souligne d'ailleurs également l'Étude sur l'économie mondiale.

Mais la problématique générale des produits de base n'exclut pas certaines surprises. C'est ainsi que l'évolution récente des prix du pétrole tend à diversifier sensiblement les performances des pays en développement, notamment entre pays exportateurs et importateurs de pétrole, et cela même à l'intérieur d'une même région. L'Etude sur l'économie mondiale confirme ce fait. On peut s'interroger sur les causes plus profondes de cette diversification des performances. Nous avons, quant à nous, toujours insisté sur l'importance des politiques internes. Nous constatons également que, dans de nombreux cas, ce sont de grandes économies qui ont fait preuve d'une plus grande faculté d'adaptation, et par conséquent d'une meilleure vitalité économique. Comme il s'agit souvent de pays très peuplés, on peut

dire que de meilleures conditions de vie deviennent réalisables pour un nombre croissant de personnes dans le monde en développement.

Monsieur le Président, ce qui précède nous permet d'insister sur l'importance du processus d'ajustement. Ce processus ne se déroule certes pas de façon identique dans l'ensemble des pays en développement. C'est ainsi que l'Afrique a bénéficié d'une attention particulière au sein des Nations Unies. La Communauté européenne et ses Etats membres ont pris, à cet égard, les responsabilités correspondant à leurs liens avec la région et s'attachent, par leurs engagements multilatéraux et bilatéraux, à la mise en œuvre du programme d'action pour le redressement et le développement économique en Afrique adopté par l'Assemblée générale extraordinaire. J'ai déjà évoqué la situation particulière de l'Afrique en ce qui concerne les problèmes de la dette. Laissez-moi ajouter que nous accueillons l'initiative du Secrétaire général des Nations Unies de réunir un groupe d'experts sur les flux de ressources pour les pays d'Afrique avec l'espoir confiant que ce groupe pourra contribuer utilement à la considération du problème au niveau multilatéral.

Plus généralement, nous nous félicitons des réformes entreprises dans un nombre de pays de la région et nous espérons que les conditions pour une reprise de croissance soutenue puissent continuer à se réunir.

Monsieur le Président, les liens de la Communauté avec l'Afrique n'ont rien d'exclusif. Nous suivons les développements dans les autres régions avec toute l'attention qu'elles méritent. En Amérique latine aussi, la diversité des performances d'un pays à l'autre nous frappe. Dans la mesure où des tendances générales se dégagent, nous notons surtout la lutte soutenue contre l'inflation et les efforts d'adaptation — souvent difficiles — à l'environnement économique extérieur. Les efforts d'ajustement ont clairement révélé leur impact social en Amérique latine. Nous suivons attentivement l'évolution à cet égard.

Dans nos relations avec l'ensemble du monde en développement, nous sommes conscients de l'importance de l'aide publique, et nous réaffirmons l'objectif de 0,7% déjà fixé par des organisations internationales pour le niveau futur de cette aide. Je voudrais également rappeler qu'environ 35% des flux d'aide du monde industrialisé vers les pays en développement proviennent de la Communauté et de ses Etats membres. Mais nous ne voyons pas cette question en termes purement quantitatifs. Outre le volume de l'aide, la qualité et l'efficacité en doivent également être améliorés.

Monsieur le Président, lors des débats de la Commission spéciale, nous nous sommes déjà interrogés sur le rôle de l'E.C.O.S.O.C. Cette question revêt d'autant plus d'actualité maintenant que se prépare la 7^e C.N.U.C.E.D.

L'E.C.O.S.O.C. a, selon la Charte des Nations Unies, un rôle de coordination générale à remplir. Il est important de renforcer ce rôle. Mais l'E.C.O.S.O.C. est également un forum pour des discussions économiques internationales. Cet aspect de sa tâche — même s'il entraîne certains problèmes — est également important.

C'est la rationalisation des débats économiques aux Nations Unies qui nous semble essentielle. Le fait que cette année-ci nous allons tenir, à 15 jours d'intervalle, un débat similaire à l'E.C.O.S.O.C. et à la 7° C.N.U.C.E.D., nous renforce dans cette conviction. La situation de cette année-ci est certes exceptionnelle, mais dans une année normale nous avons aussi divers débats économiques de nature générale: à l'Assemblée générale, à la Deuxième Commission, à l'E.C.O.S.O.C. et au Conseil du commerce et du développement.

Notre réflexion à ce sujet dans la Commission spéciale doit continuer: nous en réaffirmons l'importance.

Monsieur le Président, il y a eu, tout au long de ce discours, plus de points d'interrogation que d'affirmations. C'est un signe des temps. Mais cela prouve également que, dans ce débat, nous avons le courage de laisser rentrer les doutes du monde réel. Une idée, cependant, fait son chemin depuis quelque temps dans tous les débats économiques aux Nations Unies: l'affirmation de l'interdépendance, dans sa double signification, interdépendance des problèmes, interdépendance des régions et des pays. La première vocation des Nations Unies est d'être un forum global. Mais il faut garder en même temps la flexibilité pour faire face à des situations spécifiques ou régionales. Il y a donc plusieurs niveaux de réflexion que l'E.C.O.S.O.C. doit encourager; mais l'esprit d'une véritable coordination devrait toujours être présent.

La présente session de l'E.C.O.S.O.C. se situe à un moment quelque peu difficile; c'est-à-dire avant et après d'autres réunions d'importance globale. L'interrogation sur le rôle de notre Conseil est donc justifiée. L'E.C.O.S.O.C. devrait être le promoteur par excellence de l'esprit économique global. La qualité de nos débats sera plus que jamais le seul critère pour juger de l'efficacité du Conseil.

87/237. Déclaration dans l'E.C.O.S.O.C. sur le point 15 de l'ordre du jour: coopération et coordination internationale dans le cadre du système des Nations Unies

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Monsieur le Président, j'ai l'honneur de prendre la parole au nom de la Communauté européenne et de ses Etats membres.

En traitant de la « coopération et coordination dans le cadre du système des Nations Unies », le Conseil économique et social devrait exercer plus particulièrement une des prérogatives spécifiques que lui confie la Charte: celle de veiller à la coordination des activités dans le domaine économique et social de l'ensemble des organes et institutions qui constituent le système des Nations Unies.

Nous ne pouvons que rappeler ici la déclaration des Douze dans le débat sur ce sujet lors de la troisième session de la Commission spéciale: l'E.C.O.S.O.C. a été créé par les auteurs de la Charte pour inspirer et assister l'Assemblée générale. Il devrait l'inspirer en établissant des lignes directrices en matière de politique économique générale et en matière sociale et humanitaire. Il devrait l'assister en assurant la coordination tant à l'intérieur des Nations Unies — spécialement en matière d'activités opérationnelles — que vis-à-vis des institutions spécialisées.

Monsieur le Président, c'est avec une attention particulière que nous avons examiné le très bon rapport du Secrétaire général sur la coordination à l'Organisation des Nations Unies et dans le système des Nations Unies.

Il fait suite à la Résolution 40/177 qui était inspirée du souci de rendre plus efficace et d'améliorer la coordination dans le système des Nations Unies et appelait tous les intéressés à s'acquitter plus énergiquement de leurs responsabilités à cet égard. En s'attaquant à cette tâche, nous devons être conscients qu'une coordination effective est plus une question d'état d'esprit que de règlement.

La coordination doit répondre à un double objectif:

- 1. orienter de façon convergente les multiples activités du système conformément à une conception convenue du développement économique et social;
- 2. éviter les doubles emplois et les gaspillages.

C'est avec raison que le rapport fait remarquer que la coordination est coûteuse, tant sur le plan humain que sur le plan financier et que, dès lors, les efforts de coordination doivent être sélectifs et être orientés vers les questions les plus importantes pour les Etats membres. A cet effet, le mécanisme de coordination doit demeurer souple et maniable.

En étudiant la coordination à l'échelon intergouvernemental, le rapport examine le rôle et la fonction des principaux mécanismes de coordination existants, en commençant par l'E.C.O.S.O.C.

Une fois de plus, il faut souligner le rôle central de l'E.C.O.S.O.C., qui doit donner des directives et traduire les activités diverses du système en un ensemble cohérent.

L'E.C.O.S.O.C. a été chargé par l'Assemblée générale d'une étude approfondie du fonctionnement du mécanisme intergouvernemental que lui-même et l'Assemblée générale ont créé et dont l'activité échappe en bonne partie à leur coordination.

Le rapport insiste, avec raison, sur la surcharge dont souffrent les travaux de l'E.C.O.S.O.C. La présente session, pendant laquelle nous devons traiter en onze jours d'une variété de sujets contenus dans

une cinquantaine de rapports, l'illustre une fois de plus. Les Douze ont déjà mis l'accent, lors des débats de la Commission spéciale, sur le besoin d'alléger les ordres du jour surchargés des sessions de l'E.C.O.S.O.C. et sur l'utilité de la biennalisation à cet effet.

Le Comité pour le programme et la coordination [C.P.C.], organe subsidiaire principal de l'E.C.O.S.O.C. en matière de coordination des programmes, s'est vu confier un rôle renforcé par la Résolution 41/213. Il est chargé d'évaluer la façon dont sont appliquées les recommandations relatives au mécanisme intergouvernemental et à son fonctionnement. Son rôle dans l'établissement du plan à moyen terme est accentué, et devrait être renforcé par une meilleure application des règles et procédures existantes. Il joue un rôle clé dans la mise en place du nouveau processus budgétaire. Du succès de ses prochaines sessions dépendra, en grande partie, le succès de la réforme en cours.

Un certain nombre de domaines d'intérêt général – tel celui des femmes et du développement – déborde des limites sectorielles d'un grand nombre d'organes et doivent faire l'objet d'un effort particulier de coopération et de coordination intersecrétariats. A l'intérieur du système, la solution du problème réside dans la procédure de la planification du programme et du budget. Le C.P.C. a déjà entrepris un examen critique des Analyses interorganisations des programmes (C.O.P.A.'s) qui ont acquis progressivement une complexité et une lourdeur méthodologique qui font douter de leur rentabilité. Le secrétariat devra veiller à ce que les propositions d'amélioration formulées par le C.P.C. soient suivies d'effet. En particulier, ces analyses devraient être plus spécifiques et ponctuelles et être fusionnées autant que possible avec les évaluations.

Les réunions conjointes du C.P.C. et du C.A.C. [Comité administratif de coordination] sont les seules où les délégués des Etats membres ont l'occasion de discuter avec ceux des institutions spécialisées des problèmes de coordination. Jusqu'à présent, elles n'ont pas donné les résultats espérés. L'expérience entreprise depuis deux ans, qui consiste à concentrer le débat sur un seul thème, est plus utile que la discussion très générale à laquelle on assistait précédemment, mais n'a pas permis jusqu'à présent de déboucher sur l'identification de lacunes ou de doubles emplois précis, et encore moins sur des propositions concrètes pour remédier aux inconvénients constatés. Il faut organiser ces réunions de façon à ce qu'elles puissent déboucher sur des recommandations concrètes.

En ce qui concerne le problème de la coordination intersecrétariat, nous relevons deux remarques importantes: d'abord la constatation de l'influence « considérable » que les Chefs de secrétariat exercent sur leurs organes intergouvernementaux respectifs; ensuite, le fait que la coordination interagences s'effectue principalement entre les diffèrentes institutions spécialisées elles-mêmes, sans intervention de l'organe central, c'est-à-dire l'E.C.O.S.O.C. Le rôle de cet organe central est cependant indispensable. Le dialogue entre l'Assemblée générale et l'E.C.O.S.O.C. d'une part, et les institutions spécialisées d'autre part, laisse beaucoup à désirer. Une façon de l'améliorer serait d'inviter les institutions spécialisées à expliquer dans leurs rapports à l'E.C.O.S.O.C. quelle suite elles ont donnée aux résolutions de l'Assemblée générale ou de l'E.C.O.S.O.C. qui les concernent.

Nous apprenons à la lecture du rapport qu'on a pu identifier dans le système plus de 90 mécanismes formels de coordination dont 22% sont des organes du C.A.C. et 44% sont constitués par diverses institutions spécialisées entre elles. Le rapport ne nous explique pas que font les 34% restants d'organes coordinateurs. Toujours est-il qu'il devient très difficile pour l'E.C.O.S.O.C. de contrôler au sommet un pareil réseau de coordination.

Le Comité administratif de coordination est l'organe statutaire de la coordination intersecrétariat.

Le rapport admet que, malgré l'application des directives de l'Assemblée générale, et plus spécialement de la Résolution 32/197, le mécanisme élaboré au sein du C.A.C. n'a pas donné les résultats escomptés.

Il est clair que le C.A.C. est confronté au même problème que l'E.C.O.S.O.C. lui-même: la difficulté de maîtriser une variété universelle de problèmes. Il s'y ajoute une difficulté que le rapport ne mentionne pas: la très large autonomie des institutions spécialisées qui décident souverainement de leurs programmes et de leurs priorités. Là où leurs intérêts se recoupent, elles se livrent parfois à une véritable concurrence.

La difficulté de rendre effectif le rôle du coordinateur résident illustre cet esprit d'indépendance – souvent regrettable – des institutions spécialisées.

Les institutions spécialisées devraient faire preuve de plus d'initiative dans l'élaboration de l'ordre du jour des réunions du C.A.C., en y incluant les problèmes qui les préoccupent. Elles devraient également relever le niveau de leur participation à ces réunions.

Le rapport annuel du C.A.C., dans sa forme actuelle, ne constitue guère qu'un répertoire des domaines dans lesquels des consultations se sont déroulèes entre les organisations du système des Nations Unies. Une large partie en est consacrée aux questions budgétaires et de personnel, dont l'harmonisation relève de la Commission internationale de la fonction publique et de la Cinquième commission. S'il permet d'entrevoir l'extrême complexité des mécanismes de coordination subsidiaires du C.A.C., le rapport annuel, tel qu'il se présente actuellement, ne peut constituer la base d'un examen, par le C.P.C. et l'E.C.O.S.O.C., des questions de coordination qui se posent à l'échelle du système. Les rapports annuels du C.A.C. devraient être plus analytiques et plus substantiels. Ils devraient faire état, dans les domaines choisis, de possibles lacunes, chevauchements ou inefficacités constatés dans les activités, les compétences et les mandats des diverses entités du système et mettre l'accent sur les solutions à envisager, tant au niveau intersecrétariat qu'au niveau intergouvernemental.

Dans sa conclusion, le rapport fait état de la vive préoccupation du C.A.C. face à la crise financière de l'O.N.U. et lance une mise en garde contre les conséquences pour l'Organisation et l'ensemble du système d'une détérioration des droits et avantages pécuniaires des fonctionnaires internationaux.

Les Douze partagent la préoccupation du Secrétaire général et du C.A.C. de voir préservé les droits du personnel. Ils font cependant remarquer que les membres du C.A.C. sont les gardiens du système commun et qu'ils ont le devoir de faire respecter les décisions prises par l'organe souverain qu'est l'Assemblée générale.

Les Douze attachent une importance primordiale à la coordination des activités opérationnelles. Les besoins des pays en développement sont trop grands pour qu'on puisse se permettre de gaspiller les moyens mis à disposition pour y faire face. Nous soutenons tous les efforts tendant à renforcer le rôle et l'efficacité du P.N.U.D. et celui des coordinateurs résidents. Le P.N.U.D., les institutions spécialisées et les gouvernements concernés — bénéficiaires et donateurs — doivent poursuivre leurs efforts afin de mieux coordonner leurs programmes et leurs projets. (A ce sujet, on pourrait étudier l'opportunité d'organiser un examen biennal des activités opérationnelles du P.N.U.D. au lieu de l'examen triennal qui est pratiqué à présent).

Nous voulons insister aussi sur l'importance du rôle que doit jouer le Directeur général dans le processus de coordination tant intergouvernemental qu'intersecrétariat.

Pour conclure sur la coordination intersecrétariat, nous reconnaissons que la méthode de coordination souple et « *ad hoc* » peut avoir de très bons résultats. Le succès de l'opération de secours d'urgence à l'Afrique en 1985-86 mérite d'être souligné. Nous espérons que la coordination intersecrétariat prouvera une fois encore son efficacité dans la mise en œuvre du programme d'action pour le redressement économique et le développement de l'Afrique.

Dans ses considérations sur la coopération et la coordination à l'intérieur de l'O.N.U., le rapport insiste sur le rôle central des commissions régionales et sur la nécessité de mettre en œuvre la Résolution 32/197 pour renforcer ce rôle. Nous approuvons ces considérations, mais nous constatons également que, dans la mesure où croît l'importance des commissions régionales — par ailleurs justifiée —, croissent aussi leur indépendance et leur tendance à considérer que les organes centraux, c'est-à-dire l'E.C.O.S.O.C. et l'Assemblée générale, n'ont plus qu'à entériner les politiques et programmes qu'elles proposent. Le renforcement de la coopération régionale devrait aller de pair avec une coordination au niveau mondial au bénéfice de l'ensemble de la communauté internationale.

Monsieur le Président, le plan à moyen terme à l'échelle du système pour les femmes et le développement pour la période 1990-1995, tel qu'il a été amélioré sur base des recommandations de la Commission du statut de la femme, constitue un instrument nouveau et intéressant, bien qu'encore à un stade expérimental. Les Douze peuvent, d'une manière générale, se rallier aux propositions contenues

dans le rapport E/1987/52. Au cours de l'établissement des plans à moyen terme des différentes institutions, ces propositions pourraient continuer à être affinées pour parvenir, d'une part, à une meilleure définition des produits des différents programmes et sous-programmes et, d'autre part, à des critères qui permettront de mesurer les progrès établis. Ces éléments devraient être pris en compte dans une future Analyse interorganisations des programmes (C.O.P.A.)

J'en viens maintenant, Monsieur le Président, à l'examen des plans à moyen terme des organismes des Nations Unies dans le domaine de la science et de la technique et à l'Analyse interorganisations des programmes dans ce domaine. Malheureusement, cette année le Conseil ne pourra bénéficier des vues du Comité intergouvernemental pour la science et la technique sur cette question. Les recommandations du C.P.C. s'adressent dans une large mesure au rôle de coordination du Comité et à la façon dont celui-ci formule ses recommandations. Il est regrettable que, huit ans après l'adoption du Programme d'action de Vienne, qui définissait le cadre de l'action du système des Nations Unies dans ce domaine, plusieurs plans à moyen terme d'organisations du système, dans ce domaine, semblent l'ignorer complètement. La Communauté et ses Etats membres appuient les recommandations du C.P.C. concernant le rapport E/1987/51 en ce qui concerne notamment le besoin pour le Comité intergouvernemental d'établir, au-delà des politiques générales, des priorités spécifiques, des orientations claires et des buts et objectifs réalistes. En outre, la question d'une définition plus précise des activités, qui relèvent de la science et de la technique au service du développement, devrait faire l'objet d'une attention accrue.

Enfin, Monsieur le Président, le C.P.C. a transmis directement au Conseil le rapport E/AC.51/1987/13 sur le répertoire des activités de développement du système des Nations Unies. Nous nous félicitons des progrès accomplis dans ce domaine depuis la dernière session de l'E.C.O.S.O.C. Comme en témoignent les résultats des consultations menées avec les gouvernements et les organisations concernées, ce répertoire constituera un instrument utile de coordination et permettra une vue cohérente des activités de développement du système par pays et par secteur. Peut-être aurait-il fallu consulter les gouvernements plus tôt sur leurs préférences quant à la présentation des données, ce qui aurait permis d'éviter de revoir sans cesse les modalités arrêtées pour la forme du répertoire. Par ailleurs, il est essentiel que chacune des organisations du système, en particulier les plus importantes, founissent les informations demandées, qu'il s'agisse des activités de développement financées par le P.N.U.D. ou sur fonds propres. L'E.C.O.S.O.C. devrait peut-être attirer l'attention des organes législatifs concernés sur cette question.

Monsieur le Président, le renforcement constant de la coordination des activités des Nations Unies dans les domaines économique et social est un des objectifs spécifiques de l'étude approfondie du mécanisme intergouvernemental que la Commission spéciale de l'E.C.O.S.O.C. est chargée d'effectuer. Nous exprimons l'espoir que la Commission spéciale sera en mesure de faire, à ce sujet, des recommandations qui favorisent l'efficacité des Nations Unies.

Merci, Monsieur le Président.

87/238. Statement on South Korea

Date of Issue: 2 July 1987 Place of Issue: Copenhagen Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: The Twelve Status of Document: Declaration

The twelve Member States of the European Community are closely following the political situation in South Korea. They find the latest developments of which they are aware encouraging and welcome them. The Twelve express their wish to see this friendly country move rapidly towards the realization of the goals of democracy and respect for human rights, with the responsible contribution of all political forces.

87/239. Statement on the Programme of the Danish Presidency

Date of Issue: 8 July 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Programme Speech to European Parliament

Mr Ellemann-Jensen, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: [...] On the foreign policy front, Western Europe is merely the extremity of the great Euro/Asian continent. No single West European country has enough weight on its own to counterbalance the superpower which adjoins Western Europe. History has shown that only determined action based on the will to defend its own system of values and type of society can ensure a country's right to live in peace and freedom. This also applies to the current situation of the countries of Western Europe.

If it is important to keep in mind Europe's cultural heritage in any analysis of the major challenges facing Western Europe, and therefore the European Community and European political cooperation, this is precisely because challenges from outside are making it necessary for us to close ranks and to do so on the basis of our cultural heritage.

[...]

The rules for European political cooperation have now been laid down in the Single Act. Article 30(4), which directly concerns relations between European political cooperation and the European Parliament, states that:

The High Contracting Parties shall ensure that the European Parliament is closely associated with European political cooperation. To that end the Presidency shall regularly inform the European Parliament of the foreign policy issues which are being examined within the framework of political cooperation and shall ensure that the views of the European Parliament are duly taken into consideration.

There will be many occasions in the next months when it will be my task as President to discuss foreign policy questions with Parliament. I look forward to them.

It has been my experience from 1982 that these meetings between the Parliament and the Presidency are important. I can assure you, Mr President, that the Danish Presidency will do its best to ensure that the views of the European Parliament in the foreign policy field, as expressed in its resolutions, will be incorporated with the appropriate weight into European political cooperation.

European political cooperation is seen by all the Twelve as a forum in which the members together can exercise greater influence on international events than they can individually. No Presidency should harbour any illusions that it is possible, in order to further its own national interests, to alter the foreign policy positions of the Twelve swiftly on one issue or another.

Events have shown that the Twelve increasingly speak with weight and authority in international affairs. To take this positive development further the Twelve must constantly consult each other and to the greatest possible extent co-ordinate their positions. In exercising the Presidency Denmark will do its utmost to live up to this particular responsibility.

Allow me now to touch briefly on some of the matters which can be expected to come to the fore during the Danish EEC Presidency.

Four and a half years ago in this Chamber I took stock following the last Danish Presidency. East-West relations were then going through a difficult time following the Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan and developments in Poland. Much has happened since in East-West relations. As always the matter has demanded considerable attention from the Twelve. This will also be the case under Denmark's Presidency this year.

In recent months the prospects for a successful outcome of the arms control negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union have increased considerably. This opens up afresh the possibility of further success in other areas of East-West relations.

The Twelve have closely followed recent developments in the Soviet Union and on the Soviet political scene. I hope that what we are now witnessing will eventually prove to be a transitional stage towards more stable and positive East-West relations. The Twelve's attitude has been marked by both constructive openness and vigilance. We must be ready to seize any chance to improve East-West relations, but must remain on the alert so that we can protect our fundamental principles and interests. Above all we must enter into a dialogue to establish whether the Soviet Union and the other Warsaw Pact countries are prepared to see fine words and handsome proposals followed by negotiations and agreements.

The CSCE follow-up meeting in Vienna is a very important task for the Twelve. The meeting is now entering a crucial stage. With their special interest in closer East-West relations the Twelve will continue to participate actively and constructively in the CSCE negotiations. Our aim is a final document which will reinforce the human dimensions of the Helsinki Final Act, increase confidence and security in Europe and open the door to greater economic cooperation. The Danish Presidency will thus direct its efforts towards implementation of the West's proposed plan of action. This includes the holding of a conference on the CSCE's human aspects so as to secure the required balance in the CSCE process, with on the one hand efforts to obtain military security and on the other hand efforts to improve the lot of the individual. It will be possible to make progress in the CSCE follow-up meeting in Vienna as advances are made in the other areas of East-West relations, in particular on the balance of conventional forces and disarmament in Europe.

East-West ties are of vital significance for us but the Twelve must also consider a whole range of other questions in the next six months.

Take the situation in Afghanistan. The Twelve must help to maintain and intensify international pressure on the Soviet Union for a withdrawal of Soviet forces.

At the same time the Twelve must support United Nations efforts to arrive at a negotiated settlement establishing the Afghan people's right to self-determination.

In the Middle East we hope that the prospects for an international peace conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict will increase during the year. The Twelve support this process and will make every effort to help bring the parties directly concerned together around the negotiating table.

The Twelve will also continue to participate in the efforts to obtain a peaceful and lasting solution to the conflict in Lebanon.

In the war between Iraq and Iran, the Twelve must continue to support every practical effort at conciliation, and principally those being made under the auspices of the United Nations.

Developments in Southern Africa remain a matter of intense discussion in European political cooperation. The Twelve should play an active part in international pressure to bring about the complete abolition of apartheid.

At the same time we must intensify the positive action we are taking to obtain the abolition of the apartheid policy in South Africa, and for the benefit of the front-line States and the SADCC countries.

The Twelve are also monitoring developments in Latin America, and fully support the peace process in Central America which the Contadora countries initiated in 1983. This year will see preparations for the next San José-type conference between twelve European and nine Latin American countries.

One area which plays an increasingly important part in international politics is human rights. The Twelve's declaration on human rights last year testifies to the importance we place on this question. In the past year the Twelve have made a number of representations to different governments in an effort to promote respect for human rights both at a general level and in individual cases. The Danish Presidency will support and intensify the Twelve's commitment in the field of human rights.

In the context of political cooperation the Twelve have in the past year been increasingly discussing the possibility of a common front in the fight against international terrorism. The Danish Presidency will sustain these efforts, as well as those in other relevant for such as the United Nations, the ICAO and the Council of Europe.

The role of the European political cooperation Presidency is especially conspicuous in the UN General Assembly. Through its Presidency, Denmark will endeavour to co-ordinate the attitudes of the

Twelve towards the many draft resolutions which are put to the vote. Furthermore, attempts are being made to extend the already very considerable areas in which the Twelve speak with one voice and vote as one.

Finally, allow me to comment on the Twelve's relations with third countries.

In a declaration annexed to the Single European Act, the Twelve reaffirmed their openness to other European nations which share the same ideals and objectives. They agreed to strengthen their links with such countries. The Danish Presidency lays great store by this declaration and will work to develop links with the other Western European nations, including the other Nordic countries for whom Denmark, as — until now — the only Nordic member of the EC, has traditionally assumed the special role of bridge builder.

The Twelve also enjoy close contacts with a series of other countries. One month ago the 40th anniversary of the Marshall Plan was celebrated. That Plan became a most decisive prerequisite for the construction of the European Communities. It was the USA which, via Marshall Plan aid, enabled the Europeans to live again after a devastating World War. The present-day cohesion of the Western world is built on the strong bonds across the Atlantic linking Europe and North America. We must work for the values we hold in common: respect for human rights, trust in peace-promoting concepts and the desire for unimpeded relationships across national frontiers. In its Presidency Denmark will work to continue to maintain close links with the USA. We must demonstrate that foreign policy cooperation between the Twelve is a factor in strengthening the broad basis of Western cohesion.

In our Presidency we shall also be in close contact with many other like-minded Western nations. Furthermore, links with other countries and groups, such as the ASEAN countries and the front-line States, will be maintained.

Europe must not come to a halt. The challenges and the problems are too great for that. We must not look inwards and keep ourselves to ourselves. On the contrary, we need to be sensitive to the trends and influences which reach us from outside.

The European Communities are a unique phenomenon in the history of international affairs. It is important for the Community to continue to develop. Otherwise, there is a danger of moves towards disintegration which could lead to isolation and protectionism resulting in irreparable damage, not only for Europe and the individual countries of Europe, but also for the rest of the world. That is why the Danish Presidency wants the Community to develop and grow during the next six months.

The Presidency looks ahead to constructive cooperation with the other Community institutions, not least with the European Parliament, and with the other Member States from this viewpoint.

87/240. Question No H-165/87 by Mr Iversen Concerning the Boycott of Shell

Date of Issue: 8 July 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

According to the answer to Written Question No 2119/86, the Council intends to continue purchasing petrol exclusively from Shell despite the latter's behaviour in South Africa.

Can the Council confirm that purchasing petrol exclusively from Shell is at variance with the Community's policy towards the apartheid regime in South Africa and can it indicate when it intends to stop purchasing petrol from Shell?

Mr Ellemann-Jensen, President-in-Office of the Council and of the Foreign Ministers: The Council has already answered a Written Question on this subject. It was Written Question No 2199/86 from Ms Lizin. That answer stated that the General Secretariat of the Council buys its petrol coupons from Shell for functional and practical reasons, without regard to any political considerations whatsoever ¹.

Mr Iversen (COM): I do not know whether one can say: 'thank you', for an answer like that, since it was not what I asked about. I have read the answer the Council gave on a previous occasion, and I referred to it in my question. What I was asking about of course has to do with the international campaign currently underway to boycott Shell on the grounds of its involvement in the situation in South Africa. I think it is a moral question: whether the Council thinks that it can, on the one hand, produce paper resolutions supporting the struggle against apartheid in South Africa while, on the other hand, supporting those firms which are in South Africa and are undermining the struggle against the apartheid regime in South Africa. I think therefore that, on moral grounds, the Council should state its position on the matter. It should also say whether it will continue with this or not. It is nonsense to talk of functional reasons. This is a policy issue, and the Council is well aware of it.

Mr Ellemann-Jensen: I am not here to pass moral judgements. I am here to explain what the rules are. Now it so happens that the practice of the Council General Secretariat is not in conflict with the restrictions imposed by the Twelve on South Africa. The Council cannot therefore confirm that it is a violation of the Community's policy on the apartheid regime in South Africa for the General Secretariat to buy all its petrol from Shell. No doubt it does so in order to get it a little cheaper than from other sources.

Mr Smith (S): As the Council are obviously not willing to do anything to support the boycott of Shell, have they any intentions of doing anything in support of the coal boycott? Are they aware that two Council members, Great Britain and West Germany, have in recent years increased their imports of coal from South Africa quite substantially. Britain increased her imports by 300% and West Germany by 900%. Isn't it hypocritical for them to do this and at the same time pay lip service to the fight against apartheid?

Mr Ellemann-Jensen: I can say that this is a question which has been discussed on several occasions by the Council meeting in European political cooperation. It has not yet been possible to get all members to agree on a coal boycott. As the Honourable Member will know, everyone must agree before we can adopt a common position. I can inform him that it is a question which will be taken up again at the next meeting in European political cooperation. Perhaps we can return to it at the next Question Time, when we know the results of those discussions.

Ms Lizin (S): While accepting the answers given by the President-in-Office of the Council, I should like to point out that a six-month Presidency offers few opportunities for making symbolic gestures. So there is no question of me or, I think, Mr Iversen seeking to jeopardize political cooperation. We shall return to that subject, in any event, in a question I have tabled on political cooperation. It is true that Shell is cheaper, and it is true that Belgium facilitated the contract with Shell, but it is also true that challenging this contract would be a genuine token of increased awareness on the part of the Danish Presidency and would be interpreted clearly.

Mr Ellemann-Jensen: Thank you for your comments. I will bear them in mind and discuss them with my colleagues.

Question No H-1003/86 by Mr Boesmans Concerning the Involvement of European Companies in the Disappearance of Indians from the Amazon Area

Date of Issue: 8 July 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Presidency Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

In the Amazon area of Ecuador, in the province of Napo, the land, the way of life and the whole existence of 40 000 Indians are threatened by an immense oil-palm scheme which is intended to cover

Answer by the Council to Written Question No 2119/86, OJ No C 91 of 6 April 1987, p. 26.

245 000 hectares. One of the agro-industrial undertakings involved in the scheme belongs to the Belgian Sofinco Group. There are also German shareholders. One particular undertaking has been given a credit of BFR 15m by the Belgian Government.

What steps do the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation propose to take to ensure that the legitimate interests of the Indians concerned are respected by both the undertakings and the Ecuadorian Government?

Mr Ellemann-Jensen, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: I have a very short answer to that. This question, which was put by Mr Boesmans and concerns a matter relating to the Amazon region, was not discussed in European political cooperation.

Mr Boesmans (S): I can well imagine that that perhaps has not happened, but that does not exclude Europe participating some day. One or more Member States are subsidizing projects which have precisely the opposite effect from what we are aiming at with our Community development cooperation and increasing yet further the surpluses of palm oil. That seems a crazy situation to me. If that has not yet been discussed then I think it should be as soon as possible.

Mr Ellemann-Jensen: I have been informed that the majority of the projects referred to in the question are in Ecuadorian hands. I have also been informed that both the present and previous governments in Ecuador consider that they are projects which will be of economic and social benefit to the population. So against that background I find it difficult to see what the Twelve can do in this connection.

Mr Arbeloa Muru (S): Mr President, I am asking you this supplementary question as the proposer of a motion for a resolution on the Indians in Brazil and after listening to a forceful discussion about a certain historic genocide. Is the President of the Council not afraid that, if things go on as they are, within a few years we shall also be able to talk about the genocide of the Indians in La Cuenca del Amazonas?

Mr Ellemann-Jensen: I do not feel I have anything to add to the answer I have already given.

Mr Ulburghs (NI): In this instance the European Community was not the party concerned, but as the previous speaker said the EEC was represented in the Caracas project through the European Investment Bank. Is it not time for the European institutions and enterprises to act not just in words but in deeds to defend the Indians in Ecuador and in the whole of South America?

Mr Ellemann-Jensen: The question is about Ecuador, but I can see that there is a parallel with the other subject which is being introduced here. Clearly the question of ethnic minorities is one we should always take seriously, not least when it involves areas in which we are ourselves economically committed. I entirely agree therefore that it is a question on which we must be constantly vigilant.

Mr Elliott (S): This is a very important issue and I would like an assurance from the President-in-Office, when the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation discuss issues that involve the possibility of assistance or aid from the Community or the economic involvement of Member States in activities of this nature, that they consider not just the economic advantage of the dominant culture in these countries but the entitlement and the right of minority groups, such as those involved here in Ecuador, to continue their heritage, culture and way of life as they wish.

Mr Ellemann-Jensen: Yes, I think it entirely reasonable that in such cases we should look in particular at the possibilities of protecting ethnic minorities. What we are dealing with here, namely the Indian societies along the Amazon, occur in only one place on the globe where problems of this kind arise. We encounter them elsewhere, in Africa too, so I think it is a very relevant question.

87/242. Question No H-86/87 by Mr Arbeloa Muru Concerning the Imprisonment of the Turkish Writer Ismail Besikci

Date of Issue: 8 July 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

Have the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation taken any steps to relieve the plight of the Turkish writer and sociologist Ismail Besikci, who is serving a ten-year prison sentence for having condemned the persecution suffered by the Kurds in Turkey in a letter to the president of the Union of Swiss Writers in 1980?

Mr Ellemann-Jensen, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: The case to which the Honourable Member refers, that of the imprisonment of the Turkish writer, Ismail Besikci, was not discussed by the Council of Ministers meeting in European political cooperation, but each party took special note that the Sub-Committee on Human Rights of the European Parliament raised the question with the Turkish Ambassador on 13 May this year. According to reports we have received from Ankara, Mr Besikci was released on 25 May, after serving part of the ten-year sentence imposed on him in 1982. The Twelve are closely following the human rights situation in Turkey and have drawn attention to this several times, for example in the recent answer to question No 248 from Mr Muru¹.

87/243. Question No H-193/87 by Mr Iversen Concerning Political Initiatives on Apartheid in South Africa to Be Undertaken by the Danish Presidency

Date of Issue: 8 July 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

What initiatives do the Foreign Ministers meeting in European political cooperation intend to take over the next six months on apartheid in South Africa, and can the Foreign Ministers state whether they support the international campaign to have Shell withdraw from South Africa?

Mr Ellemann-Jensen, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: I must take care not to repeat myself more than absolutely necessary. Questions regarding the policy of the Twelve on South Africa will still be very high on the agenda for European political cooperation. They will be treated with equal importance at both ministerial and civil servant level. We are still very much concerned to expedite a peaceful change in the situation in South Africa. We are still absolutely convinced that the Government in South Africa must take the necessary measures now to open up a dialogue, a genuine dialogue on a national basis.

Mr Iversen (COM): Once again we get an answer from the President-in-Office which is a non-answer. In fact I asked about the Shell affair in this question. I want to hear whether the Danish Presidency intends to propose that we adopt and support the international campaign against Shell and whether it does not also consider that to be an effective instrument in the struggle against the apartheid regime. Or does it merely intend to continue putting words together in declarations, as it has done in the past?

Mr Ellemann-Jensen: Now I promised that I would not repeat myself any more than was absolutely necessary. As I have already said that the Twelve have not made any pronouncement on the presence of Shell in South Africa, I assume that to be understood. But with regard to the second part of Mr Iversen's question, I would say that I think it a little tame only to discuss a single company. We should be discussing principles. And the questioner is aware that the country I come from has introduced a general trade embargo against South Africa. So I do not think the questioner should be in any doubt that Denmark, as the country of the Presidency too, will be working to secure a tightening up of the restrictions on South Africa adopted by the Twelve. As I already said in an earlier answer, we shall during our Presidency be continuing the efforts to secure agreement on the inclusion of a ban on coal imports in the list of restrictive measures. But again I have to say that it is something which requires general agreement. So the fact that it is up for discussion and constitutes a fixed item on the agenda should not deceive anyone into thinking that we have moved closer to possible agreement.

¹ Cf. EPC Bulletin, Doc. 87/287.

87/244. Question No H-239/87 by Mr Ephremidis Concerning the Proposals for the Convocation of an International Conference on Cyprus

Date of Issue: 8 July 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

The Soviet Union recently approached the Presidency of the Council of the European Community and called for the Twelve within the framework of political cooperation to support the convocation of an international conference on Cyprus.

Would the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation state whether they have discussed this proposal, what position they have adopted, whether they intend to promote such an initiative and, if they have failed to discuss this matter, when they intend to do so?

Mr Ellemann-Jensen, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: The Twelve have noted that the Soviet Union has proposed that there should be an international conference on Cyprus under United Nations auspices. The Twelve have repeatedly stated that the Cyprus problem is a crucially important international issue and therefore support the mediation efforts of the UN Secretary-General. We do so because it is that which offers the best hope of progress towards a just and lasting solution to the Cyprus problem. The Twelve have also made it clear that they unreservedly support the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and unity of Cyprus in accordance with the United Nations resolutions which have been adopted on the subject. Clearly the Soviet approach to the Twelve is in itself interesting, but because no clear position has been adopted with regard to the approach within the Twelve, I do not think it wise to comment further on the matter.

Mr Ephremidis (COM): In replying to the question the President-in-Office has used a ploy which I think is a trifle strange to say the least. He could easily have said that he did not wish to give an answer. To avoid making a reply while seeming to do so is not, in my opinion, a mark of political or diplomatic genius. I asked the question and I want a reply. Have the Foreign Ministers discussed the Soviet Union's proposal for an international conference on Cyprus with the participation of the Twelve? Yes or no? And the President-in-Office tells me their view on the Cuéllar initiative. A totally different matter! Have they discussed this proposal? What position have they taken? Are they going to discuss it?

Mr Ellemann-Jensen: I will follow your good advice and look into it. I do not want to answer the question, but the reason why I do not want to answer it is — and it is my great respect for you which prompts me to say this — that we have not yet had an opportunity to discuss it and that we want to have a chance to assess whether other possibilities might be more appropriate than supporting the efforts of a friendly Secretary-General. I therefore think it would be wrong to start discussing other possibilities prematurely, if there is a risk that we might thereby undermine the weight carried by the efforts of the UN Secretary-General in this matter.

Mr Scott-Hopkins, Sir James (ED): I do not know whether the Minister is aware that I have just come back from leading a delegation from this House to Cyprus. All the leaders on the Greek Cypriot side were in favour of an international conference. Would the Minister not agree that at the end of the day the negotiations to settle the Cypriot question have to be between the leader of the Greek Cypriots on the one hand and the leader of the Turkish Cypriots on the other? That is where the negotiations must take place. If there is to be an international conference, it should be purely to set out the guidelines under which those negotiations should take place. That could be done under the auspices of the Secretary-General, I would have thought.

Mr Ellemann-Jensen: The fundamental attitude of the Twelve in relation to any form of regional conflict is that it is in the first instance up to the parties directly involved to resolve the difficulties and that no one from outside can take the place of the parties directly involved.

87/245. Question No H-246/87 by Mr McMahon Concerning South Africa

Date of Issue: 8 July 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

Have the Foreign Ministers had any further discussions on the situation in South Africa following the recent South African elections and the decision by the South African Government to expel representatives of the UK media from that country, and have they any proposals to put before the June Summit for the stepping up of sanctions and other measures against the racist regime in South Africa?

Mr Ellemann-Jensen, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: As I indicated earlier, questions on South Africa are under constant review at all levels of European political cooperation. On 25 May the Foreign Ministers had a discussion on the result of the whites-only elections in South Africa on 6 May. We noted with grave concern in this connection that there is a serious risk of a further polarization of attitudes. We agreed that these elections would be a disappointment to all South Africans, white and black, who are working honourably for a peaceful change in the situation in South Africa. We therefore repeated our call to President Botha to take steps in order to facilitate a national dialogue. We confirmed that the aim of the policy of the Twelve on South Africa remained the complete abolition of apartheid and the introduction in its place of a genuinely democratic and non-racist system of government ¹.

Mr McMahon (S): Whilst thanking the President-in-Office for his answer, would he not agree that one of the issues that should be taken up is the expulsion of Community citizens such as the British journalists who had been reporting events and who were kicked out of South Africa by this apartheid and fascist regime shortly after the elections? Would he not further agree, in line with his statements about 'high on the list', that some of the initiatives that Denmark might consider having the twelve Member States adopt would be the embargo enforced by the Danish Government and the extension of the coal ban to oil and other strategic materials?

Mr Ellemann-Jensen: With regard to the last point mentioned, clearly we would consider it an excellent development if other countries were to follow our initiative. We have already seen how a couple of the other Nordic countries have followed our lead and have applied similar sanctions. The question of the expulsion of representatives of various foreign media, which Mr McMahon mentions, must be seen in the context of the press censorship applied by the South African Government. This again is an element in the state of emergency. We have clearly stated our condemnation of the state of emergency.

Mr Marshall (ED): Whilst condemning the apartheid regime in South Africa, may I ask the Minister, before he comes forward with further proposals for sanctions, to look at the impact those would have on the Bantu, to look at the forecasts that additional sanctions would cause deaths among the Bantu and to look at the history of sanctions in failing to bring down similar regimes at all speedily and frequently resulting in those regimes becoming more firmly entrenched.

Mr Ellemann-Jensen: The aim is not speedily to bring down a government, but to promote a peaceful development. When we are confronted with rulers who oppose peaceful change, we are obliged to bring international pressure to bear on such rulers in order to bring home to them that these are not things we sit and talk about in our lighter moments. We can always discuss the time at which pressure should be applied and what effects it will have. But the intention is not to expedite the fall of governments. That should also be clear from what I said earlier. The aim is to secure a non-racist form of government by way of peaceful change.

Mr Habsburg (EPP): If a coal embargo really were to be introduced by the whole of the Community, where do you expect the Community to replace the coal it now gets from South Africa? Would it then not have to come — as has been suggested by some newspapers — from the Soviet bloc? Do you think the Soviet bloc has a more liberal regime than South Africa?

Mr Ellemann-Jensen: I can refer the questioner to the example of Denmark, because we have introduced such a ban. We are a very large coal importer, because we were foolish enough to stick to

coal-fired power stations, instead of going for more modern technology. But that is another question. The coal, which we have to get from elsewhere, comes from places such as Colombia and Australia. We have not obtained it from the places Mr Habsburg refers to.

87/246. Question No H-248/87 by Mr Papakyriazis Concerning the Destruction of Cultural Monuments in the Turkish-Occupied Territory of Cyprus

Date of Issue: 8 July 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

In the course of a debate during Question Time in the plenary sitting of the European Parliament on Wednesday, 13 May 1987, the President-in-Office of the Council of Foreign Ministers, Mr L. Tindemans, stated that during a visit to Cyprus in June 1986 the Council of Europe's Committee on Migration had failed to detect any pillaging of the ruined monuments and works of art in Cyprus¹.

Would the Presidency of the Council state:

- a) whether the above-mentioned committee is competent to make pronouncements on cultural matters;
- b) whether a committee of the Council of Europe was really instructed to hold on-the-spot investigations into the destruction of monuments on the Turkish-occupied territory of Cyprus; and
- c) whether Mr Tindemans' remarks are based on any official information or sources? (If so, we should like to be officially informed of them.)

Mr Ellemann-Jensen, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: There was no mention in the answer which Mr Tindemans gave to the question from Ms Dury and Mr Mavros of a Council of Europe committee. It came up in the subsequent discussion, when Mr Tindemans had to answer supplementary questions. In that he referred to press reports concerning the Council of Europe's Committee on Migration². I must say that the work of this committee falls within the competence of the Council of Europe and that, if there are any questions on it, they should be addressed to the Council of Europe and not to me.

Mr Papakyriazis (S): The President-in-Office is just settling in and I am grateful for his reply, but it is totally inadequate of course. We know about this committee of the Council and what it does, and it does not have the function attributed to it by Mr Tindemans. So here we have an inaccurate statement by a President of the Council, and that is what I am asking about. I appreciate how difficult this must be for the new President-in-Office, but the Council of Ministers is a collective and ongoing institution and I would like to know the Council's view on a case in which one of its former Presidents has put it in an invidious position by making an inaccurate statement.

Mr Ellemann-Jensen: I think that different things have got mixed up together, because Mr Tindemans referred to some press reports which had appeared. I am getting a whole load of questions here about what that committee is doing and what powers it has. I can only say that I cannot make any pronouncement on it, because it is a committee of the Council of Europe, and this is not the Council of Europe. It may be in a fortnight's time, but it is not today. Today it is the European Parliament, and we are discussing European Community affairs. I am sorry, but I cannot give any other answer.

Mr Marshall (ED): Would the Foreign Minister agree that the fact of this question, coming as it does thirteen years after the arrival of Turkish troops in Cyprus, underlines the need mentioned in Mr Ephremidis' question for a real international effort to try to solve the Cyprus problem, which has been a blot on the history of Europe for these past thirteen years?

FPC Bulletin, Doc. 87/188.

Mr Ellemann-Jensen: I agree that, in all circumstances and seen from all points of view, it is of the utmost importance to find a solution to the Cyprus problem.

² EPC Bulletin, Doc. 87/173.

87/247. Question No H-279/87 by Mr Christiansen Concerning SABENA Flights to South Africa

Date of Issue: 8 July 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

Do the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation not find it unacceptable that the Belgian airline SABENA still flies to South Africa? This should be seen in the light both of international condemnation of the South African apartheid regime and of the closer cooperation which is about to take place between SABENA and the Scandinavian airline SAS, which has already stopped its flights to South Africa.

Answer:

The restrictive measures agreed on by the Twelve on 10 September 1985 and 16 September 1986 do not cover flights to South Africa.

87/248. Question No H-261/87 by Ms Crawley Concerning Honduran Babies

Date of Issue: 8 July 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

Would the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation investigate, as a matter of urgency, recent press reports that adopted Honduran babies are being sold for use in organ implants? Leonardo Villida Bermudez, Secretary-General of the National Social Welfare Commission of Honduras, has claimed that the practice was discovered by government investigators.

Answer:

Neither the former Secretary-General of the Honduran National Welfare Commission, Leonardo Villida Bermudez, nor anyone else has ever produced any evidence in support of these allegations. The Honduran Government has also rejected the allegations most vigorously.

87/249. Question No H-271/87 by Mr Pearce Concerning the Attitude of Front-Line States to Sanctions Against the Republic of South Africa

Date of Issue: 8 July 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

^{(&#}x27;... N'a pas constaté des pillages aux destructions de monuments et d'œuvres d'art.') Verbatim report of proceedings of the sittings of European Parliament in May 1987, provisional edition, p. 184.

Now that the Mozambican Government has obtained agreements with the South African Government to upgrade the harbour at Maputo, valid for four years, following the recent doubling of the railway between the two countries, and the exchange of trade delegations between other front-line States and the Republic of South Africa, what is the point of international sanctions against that country when neighbouring States do not apparently believe in them?

Answer:

The Twelve welcome any development that might strengthen the independence of Mozambique and raise the population's standard of living. They have therefore always supported efforts to improve Mozambique's transport infrastructure, notably the country's railways and port facilities.

With regard to the broader question that the Honourable Member has raised, South Africa's neighbouring States hold divergent views on international sanctions. Even though most of them have publicly declared their support for such measures, some of them may think that they are not in a position to introduce sanctions themselves.

87/250. Question No H-277/87 by Sir James Scott-Hopkins Concerning Amnesty International's Report on Iran

Date of Issue: 8 July 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

In the light of the recent Amnesty International report on Iran, highlighting the widespread use of torture and brutality in that country, what representations have been made to the Government of Iran on behalf of the Community, concerning human rights?

Answer:

The Twelve follow human rights developments in Iran with particular attention. In their contacts with the Iranian authorities, both at political and administrative level, the Presidency and the twelve Member States have never failed to inform them of the great importance they attach to the observance of human rights throughout the world, and the Twelve see this as an important aspect of their relations with third countries.

During the recent visit to Europe by the Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister, Larijani, several Member States protested strongly against the violation of human rights by Iran and the recent kidnapping of a British diplomat in Teheran.

87/251. Question No H-297/87 by Ms Lizin Concerning South Africa

Date of Issue: 8 July 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

Will the Danish Presidency continue to work for the adoption of the joint declaration of the twelve Member States on European policy on South Africa, for which the Belgian Presidency had hoped to secure public support, and will it propose that on the occasion of United Nations Day for South African Women (9 August) a declaration be made on the situation of children imprisoned in South Africa?

Answer:

The work to which the Honourable Member seems to be referring forms part of the Twelve's regular discussion of their policy vis-à-vis South Africa in the context of European political cooperation. As she will be aware, these internal deliberations are confidential.

As regards United Nations Day for South African Women, the Presidency will consider the possibility of the Twelve's making a suitable reference to that day. It should also be said, however, that the Twelve have repeatedly made it clear that in their view all those imprisoned without charge during South Africa's state of emergency should be released forthwith, and they have expressed particular concern regarding the detention of children and young people. The British Presidency made representations to Pretoria in this connection in December 1986¹, and these were followed up under the Belgian Presidency in April 1987². The Twelve are pleased to note that many of the detainees have recently been released, but also demand that all those remaining in detention either be released or have charges brought against them.

87/252. Question No 2282/86 by Mr Beyer de Ryke (LDR-B) Concerning the Arrest of the 'Section de Jazz' Band in Prague

Date of Issue: 10 July 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 12 January 1987

On 5 August 1986, all the members of the rock-pop band 'Section de Jazz' were accosted by the police in Prague and arrested for anti-social activities.

Czechoslovakia is one of the thirty-five States signatory to the Helsinki Agreements, which include a chapter on human rights.

Freedom of expression in all forms, particularly through music, is a right recognized by all the signatory States.

Will the Foreign Ministers use diplomatic channels to secure the immediate release of the members of the rock group 'Section de Jazz' by the Czechoslovak authorities and to ensure that they are not interfered with in future in the exercise of their right to freedom of artistic expression?

Answer:

The Twelve are continuing to follow attentively developments in the situation in Czechoslovakia. They make a point of individually and jointly emphasizing to the Czechoslovak authorities the need to comply fully with the international provisions and commitments on human rights to which Czechoslovakia is a signatory.

In the specific case referred to by the Honourable Member, only two members of the Management Committee of the Jazz Section of the Czechoslovak Musicians' Union are still in prison.

The trial of some members of the group, which took place on 11 March, culminated in actual or suspended prison sentences, against which both the public prosecutor and those sentenced appealed.

The trial was held in the presence of Western journalists. Despite entreaties to the Czechoslovak authorities, no member of a Western embassy was able to attend.

Following the judgment, the Twelve voiced through the Presidency their strong disapproval of the sentences, at the plenary session of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe on 20 March 1987 in Vienna.

The Twelve are, of course, continuing to follow this affair closely and will certainly remind Czechoslovakia again, if need be, of the commitments it entered into in signing the Helsinki Final Act and under the CSCE process.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 86/406.

² EPC Bulletin, Doc. 86/164.

87/253. Question No 2735/86 by Mr Vandemeulebroucke (ARC-B) Concerning the European Security Policy

Date of Issue: 10 July 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 27 February 1987

Article 30 (6) of the European Act states, *inter alia*, that the Member States are ready to coordinate their positions more closely on the political and economic aspects of security. At the same time, the Western European Union agree[d], following what happened in the Community, to hold regular meetings with the political directors of the Foreign Ministries.

I should like to know whether meetings of the political committees of European political cooperation and the WEU are held concurrently and how policy decisions in European political cooperation and the WEU are coordinated.

Answer:

The activit[ies] of the WEU do not fall within the ambit of European political cooperation.

87/254. Question No 2825/86 by Ms Heinrich and Others Concerning the Construction of a Control Centre for Space Weapons and the Construction or Use of Other Military Installations in Portugal by the United States of America

Date of Issue: 10 July 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 5 March 1987

Whereas Portugal is a member of the Council of Europe, a signatory to the Final Act of the Conference of Helsinki on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) and is a member of the European Community,

Convinced in the interests of safeguarding peace that the European nations should not allow their territory to be used for bases for the trial and development of space weapons and that an unequivocal ban should be placed on the construction of military installations on their territory except where legally binding treaties exist,

Whereas at the General Assembly of the United Nations on 10.12.1984 an overwhelming majority of 150 States, including all the Member States of the Community, voted *nem. con.* in its Resolution 39/59 for space to be used solely for peaceful purposes and only the USA abstained,

We would ask the Council:

- 1. Is the Council aware that the USA has concluded bilateral agreements with the Portuguese Government for the construction of a control centre for space weapons in Almodovar, in the District of Beja?
- 2. Does the Council believe that it is compatible with Community efforts to reduce international tension if the USA constructs on the territory of a Member State military installations for research into, trials and deployment of space weapons, although the ABM Treaty concluded between the USA and the USSR in 1972 prohibits all air, sea and land-based missile systems in order to maintain the mutual vulnerability of the territories of the two world powers to safeguard peace?
- 3. What measures does the Council believe appropriate to restrain the Governments of Portugal and the USA from implementing their agreements which jeopardize peace?

- 4. Is the Council aware that on the basis of further bilateral agreements between the USA and Portugal, which are not covered by the NATO Treaty,
- a) a military satellite monitoring station is to be set up in Voia, in the District of Faro; and
- b) military bases for nuclear armed submarines are to be constructed in Sines, in the District of Setubal and in Lisbon?
- 5. Is the Council aware that the use of the airforce bases of Beja and Lajes (in the Azores) serve offensive military purposes, in particular US intervention with its rapid deployment force, and are neither covered geographically nor technically by the NATO Treaty?
- 6. Should the Council not be aware of the points mentioned in paragraphs 1, 4 and 5, is it willing to seek the necessary information without delay from the Portuguese Government?

Answer:

The issues raised by the Honourable Members have not been discussed within European political cooperation.

87/255. Question No 2828/86 by Ms Oppenheim and Others Concerning Efforts to Create a Common European Policy on Refugees

Date of Issue: 10 July 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 5 March 1987

Refugee problems are an international problem. There has been a considerable increase in the number of refugees in Europe in quite a short time and this is liable to cause tension between the refugees and local citizens.

The United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (Geneva Convention) of 1951 lays down the basic principles for the granting of asylum and the protection of refugees. Furthermore, the Convention on Racism of 1965 bans any discrimination on the basis of race, colour, origin or other causes.

The United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees applies to any person who

owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such event, is unable, or owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it.

- 1. Can the Council describe the conditions offered to refugees, in the individual Member States of the Community?
- 2. To what extent does the Council and the Commission believe that the problems of refugees can be included as part of the EEC countries' general policy on human rights?
- 3. Does the Council believe that as Western Europe is increasingly being seen as a geographical, economic and political entity legislation and practice as regards the treatment of refugees including the procedure for applying for asylum, could profitably be coordinated in the Community Member States, possibly with a view to creating common European rules, for instance in cooperation with the Council of Europe?
- 4. Will the Council take the initiative in ensuring that better and more complete information is given to the people of Europe on the background to refugee policy in order to avoid the emergence of any doubts as to the duty of the Member States to help solve the international refugee problem, and to allay any misunderstandings in connection with this.

- 5. Will the Council make sure that initiatives are taken in the Member States to provide organized teaching for those seeking asylum and especially their children in order thereby to increase their possibilities of understanding our culture and way of life and to impart to them, for example, the necessary command of language to be able to take part in the everyday life of the host country?
- 6. Will the Council help, in cooperation with the authorities of the individual Member States, to involve the public, through voluntary associations and organizations, in taking an active part in information work in order to build up the dialogue between the refugees and the people in their immediate vicinity in the host country and thereby to create a more committed background for the integration process?

Answer:

All Member States of the European Community are party to the United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (Geneva Convention) and fulfil the obligations arising from this Convention. The Convention does not establish a link between the status of refugee and the granting of asylum. The conditions offered to refugees differ from Member State to Member State.

Policy on refugees can be considered as part of a general policy on human rights. Refugees are victims or potential victims of serious human rights violations. The fact that an applicant for asylum originates in a country where human rights are violated does not, as such, qualify him as a refugee in the sense of the Geneva Convention. In order to be recognized as a refugee according to the Convention, the applicant for asylum must make a convincing case that he has ample cause to fear persecution in his country of origin on one of the grounds stated in the Convention as referred to by the Honourable Members of Parliament.

Consultations on harmonization of legislation and practice as regards refugees take place in several European bodies, among them the *ad hoc* committee on legal aspects of territorial asylum of the Council of Europe (CAHAR). While work is being done in these fora, the establishment of a new forum does not seem to be necessary.

The provision of information on refugee policy to the public is dealt with by the Twelve on a national basis.

Organized teaching for refugees is provided for in the Member States of the European Community only when a refugee has been admitted so as not to raise expectations unduly.

Voluntary associations and organizations already play an active role in every member country of the Community in helping refugees to take part in everyday life of the host country.

87/256. Question No 2836/86 by Mr d'Ormesson (DR-F) Concerning the Threat to Lebanese Christians

Date of Issue: 10 July 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 10 March 1987

The Group of the European Right is deeply concerned at the threat of genocide hanging over Lebanese Christians as a direct result of the military and political pressure exerted on the Christian community by Syria in an attempt to impose upon them agreements which they find unacceptable. Could the Council state whether it intends to take the necessary steps to dispel this threat to Lebanon's Christians, which directly affects the European Community born out of the Roman and Christian society that went before it?

Answer:

The Twelve are well aware of the precarious situation facing all the communities of Lebanon. They have repeatedly condemned the constant deterioration in the situation in Lebanon with its unacceptable consequences for the Lebanese people, from which the Christian community among others is suffering.

They placed great hope in dialogue between the various communities of Lebanon with a view to a conference to bring about true national reconciliation between the different religious and ethnic groups in the country. They have seen that it has still not been possible for an agreement to be implemented.

The Twelve, who reject any external interference, are convinced that it is by overcoming their internal differences that all communities in Lebanese society will be able to safeguard the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Lebanon.

The Twelve remain ready to help in the search for a peaceful solution and they are continuing to examine the possibilities available to them for working in that direction.

87/257. Question No 2868/86 by Mr Prag (ED-UK) Concerning Joint Action by the Member States to Curb Terrorism

Date of Issue: 10 July 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 10 March 1987

This Parliament warmly welcomes the agreement of 25 September 1986 by the Ministers of the Interior of the Member States, and recalls that it has repeatedly urged such joint action by the Community and its Member States to combat terrorism. Among the measures it has proposed or discussed are:

- 1. Establishment of a European legal area;
- 2. Common framework for action to counter terrorism;
- 3. A Community agreement to harmonize and speed up extradition procedures, and to curb the abuse of political asylum;
- 4. Establishment of a mutual fully-computerized information network on terrorism, with automatic exchange of key information between the national security services:
- 5. Common measures to curb the abuse of diplomatic privilege;
- 6. Establishment of a European centre for research and intelligence into terrorism;
- 7. The setting up of a small joint anti-terrorist staff at European Community level, with the right to communicate directly with national anti-terrorist staffs;
- 8. The setting up of transnational operational units of the security services to coordinate and undertake joint action when needed;
- 9. The introduction, throughout the Community, of identity cards, with a machine-readable strip, which would be extremely difficult to counterfeit.

Will the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation state what has so far been undertaken by the Community, what measures are planned and what other forms of cooperation may conceivably be undertaken in the future — in each case with specific reference to the above recommendations by the Community Parliament?

Answer:

The Twelve fully share the sense of urgency expressed by the European Parliament on many occasions for joint action by the Twelve to combat international terrorism. The Honourable Member will wish to note the work undertaken, in particular following the TREVI Ministers meeting in London on 25 September 1986.

All terrorist threats to any of the Twelve are examined very carefully by the appropriate authority cooperating within TREVI. Foreign policy aspects are dealt with in European political cooperation. The Twelve have devoted a great deal of attention over the past year to improving the machinery for collective action against the threat of terrorism, both in the TREVI and the European political cooperation framework. The key to success in their common effort lies in thorough police and intelligence cooperation and in the determined application of the principles they have already agreed to follow.

87/258. Question No 2880/86 by Mr Romualdi (DR-F) Concerning the Council Meeting in Luxembourg

Date of Issue: 10 July 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 18 March 1987

Following the Council's most recent meeting, could the British Presidency clarify the reasons behind its stance towards Syria, and more specifically, could it be more forthcoming on the evidence in the possession of the British Government? Does the Community feel that the lack of support for the United Kingdom on the part of certain Community countries could constitute encouragement to commit terrorist acts?

Does the Council not believe that it should seek Parliament's opinion on such important matters?

Answer:

The Honourable Member of Parliament will be aware of Sir Geoffrey Howe's remarks to the press, after Ministers meeting in London on 10 November had again discussed the Hindawi case ¹. A court in the United Kingdom found Hindawi guilty on 2 October 1986. In the lead-up to the ministerial meeting on 10 November evidence of Syrian involvement was made available to Partners' governments. I would refer the Honourable Member to the statement made by Sir Geoffrey Howe to the House of Commons on 24 October, a copy of which has been placed in the European Parliament Library. The Twelve are united in their strong condemnation of international terrorism and in their resolve to curb terrorism in all its forms.

The Twelve are fully committed to associate the European Parliament closely with European political cooperation. The Presidency regularly informs the Parliament of the foreign policy issues under discussion in European political cooperation and ensures that the views of the European Parliament are duly taken into consideration.

87/259. Statement on East-West Relations

Date of Issue: 13 July 1987 Place of Issue: Copenhagen Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: The Twelve Status of Document: Declaration

- 1. Ministers reviewed the state of East-West relations. They noted with satisfaction that the dialogue between the United States and the Soviet Union on arms control has been intensified and that there are more favourable perspectives as regards an agreement on Soviet and United States INF. They reaffirm their commitment to the total elimination of chemical weapons. They favour a stable and verifiable conventional balance at a lower level of forces in the whole of Europe. They will contribute, as far as they can, to the attainment of these goals.
- 2. The Twelve strongly wish the CSCE follow-up meeting in Vienna to achieve concrete results. They insist on the need for significant and lasting progress to be achieved in all fields and in particular as regards respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. In this context they recall the importance which they attach to their proposal on the human dimension. Such progress is indispensable if relations between East and West are to develop in a climate of confidence.
- 3. The Twelve are open to the new possibilities presented by recent developments in Soviet policy. They underline the need for the new words used by the Soviet Union to be transformed into concrete deeds.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 86/351.

87/260. Statement on the Arab-Israeli Conflict

Date of Issue: 13 July 1987 Place of Issue: Copenhagen Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: The Twelve Status of Document: Declaration

The Twelve noted the positive welcome given to their declaration of 23 February 1 in favour of an international peace conference on the Middle East. As a suitable framework for the necessary negotiations between the parties directly concerned, such a conference seemed to them at present the only formula which would allow the peace process in the region to move forward. They expressed the hope that conditions allowing an international peace conference to be held can be established rapidly upon the basis of an agreement between the parties to it.

For their part, the Twelve have followed developments in the area closely and have decided to pursue, both via the Presidency and bilaterally, their contacts at all levels with all the interested parties in order to contribute to the search for a just, global and lasting settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the Palestinian problem, in accordance with the 1980 Venice Declaration.

The Twelve recalled their commitment to the respect of human rights in the occupied territories. They agreed that the deterioration of the economic and social situation in these territories, as well as in the region as a whole, threatens to complicate the search for peace. For this reason, the Twelve will continue to contribute to economic and social development, although this cannot be a substitute for a political solution.

87/261. Statement on the Iran-Iraq War and the Situation in the Gulf

Date of Issue: 13 July 1987 Place of Issue: Copenhagen Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: The Twelve Status of Document: Declaration

The Twelve remain deeply concerned by the conflict between Iraq and Iran. They note the Venice Summit declaration on the war and freedom of navigation in the Gulf.

They recall their previous declarations on the conflict in which they expressed their support for the efforts of the UN Secretary-General and their frequent appeals to the parties to respect Security Council Resolutions 582 and 588. They once more wish to emphasize the necessity to end this cruel war and they welcome new international efforts, in particular in the Security Council, to ensure that both parties will respect a cease-fire and put an end to the war on the basis of a comprehensive, just and honourable settlement.

The Twelve re-emphasize their previous positions, notably concerning respect for the laws governing armed conflict, in particular attacks on towns and the use of chemical weapons, on the risk of the conflict spreading to neighbouring States, on the threat to the freedom of navigation in the Gulf, and on the threat to regional and international peace and security.

87/262. Statement on Lebanon

Date of Issue: 13 July 1987 Place of Issue: Copenhagen Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: The Twelve Status of Document: Declaration

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 87/114.

The Twelve expressed their profound concern about the continuation of violence in Lebanon, recently highlighted once again by the assassination of the Lebanese Prime Minister, by further hostage-taking and by the escalation of killings in South Lebanon.

They expressed once again the hope that all interested parties would show moderation in order to allow the political dialogue to recommence with a view to national reconciliation based on respect for the sovereignty, unity, independence and territorial integrity of Lebanon.

The Twelve reaffirmed their support for Unifil and urged that it be allowed to fulfil its mandate, in the best possible security conditions for its members.

Finally, the Twelve expressed their condemnation of the continuing detention of hostages and victims of kidnapping in Lebanon.

87/263. Statement on Afghanistan

Date of Issue: 13 July 1987 Place of Issue: Copenhagen Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: The Twelve Status of Document: Declaration

The Twelve have examined the situation in Afghanistan. They noted that the latest round of proximity talks in Geneva between Afghanistan and Pakistan had produced no result.

They reaffirmed their belief that the rapid withdrawal of Soviet troops according to an irrevocable time-table remains the essential precondition if this long conflict is to be brought to an end. For the Twelve, Afghanistan represents a concrete test of Soviet goodwill.

A political solution must guarantee the Afghan people's right to self-determination, allow the return of the refugees and re-establish Afghanistan's status as a genuinely independent and non-aligned country.

The Twelve reaffirm their support for the efforts of the UN Secretary-General and his special representative. They continue to support the moderate and reasonable position of Pakistan.

87/264. Question No 2710/86 by Ms Dury Concerning Trade Sanctions Against South Africa

Date of Issue: 13 July 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 19 February 1987

The European Energy Foundation's information bulletin reports that the Italian firm ENEL has just signed a contract to buy coal from South Africa at a time when the United States has decided that it will no longer import eight sensitive mineral products from South Africa. Does the Council of Ministers intend to take appropriate measures with regard to the trade sanctions against South Africa?

Answer:

Giving effect to their decision of 10 September 1985, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Twelve announced in their statement of 16 September 1986 a series of both 'positive' and 'restrictive' measures in respect of South Africa ¹. A copy of this statement will be conveyed to the Honourable Member under separate cover.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 86/279.

87/265. Question No 2865/86 Mr Medina Ortega and Others (S-E) Concerning Attacks on Merchant Vessels off the Western Coast of the Sahara

Date of Issue: 24 July 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 10 March 1987

During the last ten years there have been a number of attacks on merchant vessels and other shipping owned by nationals of the Community off the coast of the Western Sahara, the most recent of which took place on 10 September 1986 between 22 05' and 22 45', 7 miles off Cabo Corbeiro, when the 'Ruente Canario', a cargo vessel plying between Nouadhibou (Mauritania) and Las Palmas, was attacked; the whole of the crew's quarters was destroyed and one member of the crew killed.

To date there have been twenty-three deaths and many injuries and several vessels have disappeared in acts which can only be described as 'piracy' under the international conventions on the Law of the Sea.

Have the Foreign Ministers investigated this situation or do they now intend to do so and, if so, what measures do they intend to take to protect Community nationals carrying out peaceful activities in this maritime area?

Answer:

The Twelve note with concern the incidence of indiscriminate attacks on innocent parties as a result of the Western Sahara conflict. The Twelve appeal again to the parties in the conflict to respond positively to the UN Secretary-General's efforts to find a peaceful solution.

87/266. Question No 58/87 by Mr Lucas Pires and Mr Beiroco (PPE-P) Concerning the Plight of Four Timorese Students Being Detained by the Government in Indonesia

Date of Issue: 24 July 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 6 April 1987

Four Timorese students, who are merely seeking exit visas to travel to a Community country — Portugal — where their safety will be assured and they will be able to continue their studies, are being held in solitary confinement and subjected to intimidation in Indonesia.

In view of the Community's links with ASEAN through the ASEAN-EEC Council, of which Indonesia is a member and which recently met in Indonesia, what steps do the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation intend to take to ensure that the minimum standards of human dignity and fundamental rights under threat in this case are met?

Answer:

The Twelve are aware of the problem raised by the Honourable Members. The partner concerned is seeking a bilateral solution.

87/267. Question No 215/87 by Mr Griffiths (S-UK) Concerning Visas for Israel Granted by the Soviet Union

Date of Issue: 24 July 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 15 April 1987

In their reply to my Written Question No 1612/86¹, the Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the European Community meeting in political cooperation overlooked the second point of my question, repeated below:

Can the Foreign Ministers list those Jews who have been granted visas since the Ottawa and Berne meetings and indicate which of those granted have been waiting for more than ten years?

Answer:

The information requested by the Honourable Member is not available to the Twelve but is in the possession of the various countries in which the persons in question took up residence after leaving the Soviet Union.

87/268. Question No 237/87 by Ms Lizin (S-B) Concerning the Case of Mr Tripathi (Franco-Greek Children)

Date of Issue: 24 July 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 15 April 1987

A French national, Mr Tripathi, divorced from a Greek citizen has been granted custody of his children by a French court. As the mother had taken them to her country, the father collected them and took them back to France.

Greece then issued an arrest warrant through Interpol for kidnapping. Mr Tripathi was arrested in the Federal Republic of Germany. However, after several weeks in prison, Germany refused to extradite Mr Tripathi who returned to France at the end of 1986.

The children refuse to live in Greece and are at present staying in Paris with their mother. After an inquiry by the welfare authorities, the French court ruled that they may not leave the country and confirmed custody for the father, providing he has a job.

Mr Tripathi has found a job which requires him to travel around Europe. However, the Greek Ministry of Justice has recently issued another arrest warrant through Interpol so preventing Mr Tripathi from leaving French soil at the risk of finding himself in prison again.

The Greek authorities have not so far responded to the requests by the French Ministry of Justice to discuss the matter and seek a settlement.

Could the Ministers meeting in political cooperation ask the Greek Ministry of Justice to explain the reasons for its attitude towards Mr Tripathi who is being treated like a criminal although his children have clearly expressed their wish to live with him?

Answer:

The case mentioned by the Honourable Member is a judicial matter falling within the internal competence of Member States. It does not therefore come within the ambit of European political cooperation.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 87/089.

87/269. Question No 402/87 by Mr Balfe (S-UK) Concerning South African Products

Date of Issue: 24 July 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 20 May 1987

In October 1986 I tabled Written Question No 1447/86 1:

I note that in an interview in *She Magazine* of September 1986, Ms Lynda Chalker when asked 'Would you buy Cape — South African — fruit?' she replied 'No, not knowingly'.

May I congratulate the Minister on this statement which accords with the majority view of the European Parliament and ask how many other Foreign Ministers of the Member States have followed her splendid example?

The answer which I eventually received on 23 January 1987 read as follows: 'This subject falls outside the scope of European political cooperation'.

In view of the Ministers' many positive statements on South Africa can the Ministers explain why this particular question falls outside the scope of the European political cooperation? Surely one of the most important tests is the attitude of the individual Ministers who meet in political cooperation.

Answer:

The aim of European political cooperation is close and effective coordination of the foreign policies of the twelve Member States of the Community.

In the case of South Africa, the Ministers have in the context of political cooperation decided on a number of measures both restrictive and positive in order to encourage peaceful and fundamental change in that country.

The measures decided on by the Twelve do not cover the purchase of fruit coming from South Africa.

The reply by a United Kingdom Minister referred to in Question No 1447/86 comes under the heading of personal choice.

87/270. Question No 1446/86 by Mr Ulburghs (NI-B) Concerning the Expulsion of Father Vandekerckhove from India

Date of Issue: 30 July 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 26 September 1986

At the end of August 1986 Father Vandekerckhove, a Belgian national, was expelled for good from India for no apparent reason, after 40 years' mission work in the country. Church circles say this must be seen as an attack on the Catholic Church community, which works particularly among people with no rights, awakening within them a degree of social awareness. There is even a suggestion of Hindu fanaticism against the original Adibasi population.

In what ways do the Foreign Ministers intend to take up this matter with the Indian authorities, to put an end to this persecution of the Catholic Church and to have the expulsion order against Father Vandekerckhove rescinded?

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 87/065.

Answer:

The matter raised by the Honourable Member of Parliament has not been discussed in European political cooperation.

However, the partner concerned has duly dealt with with it through the usual diplomatic channels.

87/271. Question No 2717/86 by Ms Lizin (S-B) Concerning Legal Cooperation and the Implementation of the Luxembourg Convention Concerning the Custody of Children

Date of Issue: 30 July 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 19 February 1987

Do the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation under the Belgian Presidency envisage any specific measures for the accelerated ratification of the Convention of Luxembourg concerning transfrontier recognition of decisions relating to custody of children and the removal of the reservations contained therein?

In this context, what importance will be attached to ascertaining the child's best interest?

Answer:

I would refer the Honourable Member to the two replies to Oral Questions H-131/87 and H-203/87, which give a full account of what was achieved in this connection under the Belgian Presidency¹.

87/272. Question No 2734/86 by Mr Vandemeulebroucke (ARC-B) Concerning the Setting up of a European Foundation for East European Studies

Date of Issue: 30 July 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 27 February 1987

In its resolution of 6 October 1986, the European Parliament proposed the setting up of a European Foundation for East European Studies ¹ which, given the present efforts at *rapprochement* between the Community and COMECON, would provide the Community with a better insight into Eastern Europe and help it to arrive at a European approach to East-West issues.

I should like to know from the Presidency what action the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation and the Council of Education Ministers are taking in this area.

Answer:

Relations between the European Community and the Member States of COMECON and between the European Community and COMECON itself are being studied by the Community. The political aspects

¹ EPC Bulletin, Docs. 87/178 and 87/219.

of such relations together with East-West relations in general are being examined in the context of European political cooperation: the possibility of setting up a European Foundation for East European studies has not been discussed in this connection.

87/273. Question No 2807/86 by Ms Piermont (ARC-B) Concerning the Answer from the Foreign Ministers Meeting in Political Cooperation to my Written Question No 2031/86 Concerning an Article Appearing in 'Le Monde' on 6 November 1986

Date of Issue: 30 July 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 5 March 1987

The answer given by the Foreign Ministers, which consists of two sentences, contains a blatant contradiction between the two sentences.

The first sentence maintains that Sir Geoffiey made the remarks I referred to on the alleged 'present imbalance in favour of the USSR' 'in his national capacity'.

The second sentence maintains that he did not make the remarks at all.

Would the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation please be so kind as to tell me whether Sir Geoffrey made the remarks or not?

I am also waiting for the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation to answer points 3 and 4 of my Written Question No 2031/86¹.

Answer:

The answer to the Honourable Member's Written Question No 2031/86 makes it quite clear that the remarks as reported by the press can not be attributed to the former President-in-Office.

Since, moreover, he was not at the time speaking on behalf of the Twelve, the additional questions relating to the matter can not be answered in the context of European political cooperation.

87/274. Question No 3027/86 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E) Concerning the Imprisonment of Norman Zikhali in Zimbabwe

Date of Issue: 30 July 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 30 March 1987

Have the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation taken any action to help Norman Zikhali, a pioneer of the trade union movement in Zimbabwe in the 1960s, who was detained in the 1970s and is now in prison for being a member of the central committee of the legal and non-violent minority ZAPU Party?

Answer:

The Zimbabwean national Norman Zikhali was released in October 1986 together with other ZAPU members in the context of unity talks.

Resolution of 6 October 1986 on the establishment of a European Foundation for East European Studies, OJ No C 283 of 10 November 1986, pp. 13-16.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 87/090.

87/275. Question No 42/87 by Ms Lizin (S-B) Concerning the Attitude of the Foreign Ministers to the Gorbachev Proposals

Date of Issue: 30 July 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 6 April 1987

Will the Belgian Presidency state whether the Gorbachev proposals and the proposals made by the Americans in Geneva have been discussed in the Council of Foreign Ministers?

What joint position was established following these talks on separate negotiations on Euromissiles, the imbalance in conventional weapons and facilities for monitoring these arrangements?

What provisions have the Foreign Ministers made to follow up the proposals made by Western powers in Geneva? Has the Belgian Presidency made any specific moves?

Has the Presidency set up any special links between the European countries affected by the deployment of medium-range missiles on their territory?

Answer:

As the Honourable Member will be aware, the military aspects of security are not a matter for European political cooperation. However, the political aspects of the Soviet proposals for arms control and reduction are discussed by the Twelve as part of their examination of developments in East-West relations. They continue to make their points of view known to the United States and the Soviet Union both bilaterally and, where appropriate, as the Twelve. The Presidency of the Twelve has not 'set up any special links between the European countries affected by the development of medium-range missiles on their territory' apart from meetings of the Twelve.

87/276. Question No 238/87 by Mr Mühlen (PPE-L) Concerning the Disinvestment Campaign in South Africa

Date of Issue: 30 July 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 15 April 1987

Mr Chris Dlamini, vice-chairman of the extreme left-wing black workers' union, COSATU, has recently confirmed in a television broadcast on 3 March 1987 by the BBC that his union has never called for disinvestment nor, more particularly, for the departure of foreign companies, whether American, British or German. This statement is all the more significant in that COSATU is one of the main bodies distributing aid to the victims of apartheid. During the same programme, the Rev. Allan Boesak, who is also an active opponent of apartheid, expressed himself on similar lines.

Can the Council indicate whether it shares these opinions on disinvestment? If so, does it not feel that it would be appropriate to remind those Member States who are championing disinvestment that even radical movements in South Africa like COSATU are opposed to such action?

Answer:

By their decisions, and in particular that of 16 September 1986, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Twelve have adopted a series of measures which includes a ban on new investments in South Africa (and not a 'disinvestment' campaign).

Moreover, in their attitude to the situation in that country the Twelve are of course aware of the different points of view expressed by the various South African groups.

87/277. Question No 250/87 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E) Concerning Arrests in Burundi

Date of Issue: 30 July 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 27 April 1987

Can the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation shed any light on the fate of the Catholic priests André Kameya, Jean Baptiste Ndikuriyo and Ephrem Girukwishaka, arrested in 1986 and 1987, in the Munanira, Gitega and Ngozi provinces respectively, for religious activities?

Are the Ministers further aware of the imprisonment of the Catholic catechists Simon Kabwa, Juvenal Kazaya and Matthias Sindimwo, gaoled in February 1986 for having organized religious education classes on working days, which is prohibited by the Government of Burundi?

Answer:

The commitment of the Twelve to human rights is well known, as is the importance which we attach to them in our relations with third countries.

We have followed with concern recent developments in relations between the Government of Burundi and the Catholic Church and we have ensured that the authorities in Bujumbura are fully aware of our position. Freedom of worship is one of the fundamental freedoms which must be respected without exception. The individual cases referred to by the Honourable Member have not been discussed by the Twelve in political cooperation.

87/278. Question No 327/87 by Mr Pordea (DR-F) Concerning the Inherent Contradiction in Mr Gorbachev's Offer of Nuclear Disarmament and the Soviet Occupation of Eastern Europe

Date of Issue: 30 July 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 6 May 1987

Both the European Parliament and the governments of certain countries of Western Europe have felt bound to express their support for the Soviet proposal of a zero option on European nuclear missiles.

Leaving aside the strategic implications — particularly for security — of such a prospect, would the Foreign Ministers agree to negotiations being opened without the attention of the Soviet Union being drawn to the inherent contradiction in its allegedly pacifist and liberal approach given — among other things — its subjection of the peoples of Eastern Europe, who are prevented by the Soviet Union from exercising their right to self-determination?

Answer:

As the Honourable Member knows, the military aspects of security do not come within the purview of European political cooperation. However, there is a political side to the problems raised in his question. The division of Europe with all that that entails is the result of a process which began after the end of the Second World War. The Twelve have frequently expressed their concern at the consequences of this situation, particularly for the countries of Eastern Europe. They try to limit the negative aspects of the situation by taking action in the context of the CSCE.

87/279. Question No 347/87 by Mr Perinat Elio (ED-E) Concerning the French Purchase of AWACS Aeroplanes

Date of Issue: 30 July 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark

Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 7 May 1987

France's recent acquisition of three 'AWACS' planes (advanced warning airborne control system) shows not only the high technical quality of the Boeing-built plane which made it the French choice, but also the capacity for mutual understanding in security and defence matters displayed by both France and the United States.

As these planes will not be the only ones of this quality and category at the disposal of some of the Member States, what is the opinion of the Ministers on the possibility of cooperation in the area of security and defence between the States in question, in order to utilize and profit from the airborne radar belonging to other Member States, both practically and logistically? Do the Ministers think that such cooperation could be interpreted as a real wish to proceed with the integration of elements common to the security and defence of the whole territory of the Community?

Answer:

As the Honourable Member is no doubt aware, the military aspects of security do not come within the purview of European political cooperation. The question raised is a matter for the national jurisdiction of each individual partner.

87/280. Question No 408/87 by Mr Glinne (S-B) Concerning Non-Compliance by Member States with the Embargo on the Supply of Arms to South Africa (Resolution 418 of the Security Council of the United Nations, 4 November 1977)

Date of Issue: 30 July 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 20 May 1987

Have the Foreign Ministers considered, under the terms of Article 30 of the Single European Act, the report submitted by the State Department to the United States Congress on 1 April 1987 in accordance with the Presidential Executive Order 12571 and section 508 of the Anti-Apartheid [Act] of 1986? Since serious accusations have been made against Member States or private companies within the Community regarding non-compliance with the above-mentioned Resolution 418, even though the latter is essentially binding in character, have the Ministers as a result drawn any conclusions or proposed any measures, and how, in the light of this problem and its implications, do they view the promise to ensure that 'the European Parliament is closely associated with European political cooperation' contained in Article 30 (4) of the Single European Act?

Answer:

The Ministers have not, in the context of political cooperation, examined the document referred to by the Honourable Member, who should refer to the reply given to Oral Question H-192/87 put by Mr Iversen ¹.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 87/218.

87/281. Question No 441/87 by Mr Glinne (S-B) Concerning Punitive Raids by Zairese Commandos into Neighbouring Countries

Date of Issue: 30 July 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 27 May 1987

On 29 November 1986 the Zairese armed forces crossed into Sudan and Uganda to 'punish' Zairese refugees accused of recruiting young activists for an anti-Mobutu group, the PLC (*Parti de la liberation du Congo*) — Congo Liberation Party). In Sudan, plantations were set on fire and food stolen. In Uganda, the troops murdered a Ugandan they mistook for a Zairese refugee.

A further punitive raid against refugees in Uganda was carried out in the Paida region in January 1987.

These murderous incursions seem likely to induce the Governments of the countries bordering Zaire to refuse to take in the large numbers of Zairese fleeing from the Mobutu regime.

Are the Foreign Ministers aware of the activities of these Zairese commandos operating outside Zaire? What was their official reaction to these raids aimed at spreading fear and terror in countries bordering Zaire?

Answer:

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Twelve meeting in the context of European political cooperation have not discussed the question raised by the Honourable Member.

87/282. Statement on the Guatemala Summit

Date of Issue: 5 August 1987 Place of Issue: Copenhagen Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: The Twelve Status of Document: Declaration

The Twelve, concerned by the continuation of tensions in Central America, acknowledge the importance for the region's future of the Summit Conference of the five Central American Heads of State to be held in Guatemala on 6 and 7 August 1987. This will follow on from similar direct talks held in the Guatemalan City of Esquipulas in May 1986.

The Twelve have noted with great interest the Central American peace initiative which the Costa Rican President has tabled for consideration by the other Central American Heads of State and which will be the main issue on the Summit's agenda.

They believe that President Arias' peace initiative deserves to be supported. It represents an original and constructive contribution to the establishment of peace through political means and to the consolidation of democracy in Central America, notably by holding pluralist elections to the Central American parliament and to national parliaments. This proposal, within the framework of the Contadora process, takes advantage of the Central American countries' wish to resume their negotiations in order to create conditions in which it will be possible to sign an agreement on lasting peace in the region.

The Twelve stress that the political dialogue meetings in which they participated in San José, Luxembourg and Guatemala City had the same objectives. They fully support the efforts which the five Central American countries will make in Guatemala and express the hope that these countries will be able to reach an agreement which will put an end to violence and instability in the Central American region.

87/283. Statement on the Peace Plan Approved in Guatemala City on 6 and 7 August

Date of Issue: 13 August 1987 Place of Issue: Copenhagen Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: The Twelve Status of Document: Declaration

The Twelve have taken note with great satisfaction that the five Central American Presidents at their recent meeting in Guatemala have reached agreement on a plan for peace and democracy in Central America, in accordance with the aims of the Contadora process.

They believe that the outcome of the summit meeting constitutes a very important step towards the establishment of a climate of mutual trust necessary for a peaceful development of that region with respect for political freedom and social justice.

The Twelve fully support these efforts in conformity with the long-standing objectives of the political dialogue in which they participated in San José, Luxembourg and Guatemala City.

The Twelve urge the five Central American countries as well as all countries with links and interests in the region to cooperate constructively in translating the agreement reached into lasting peace and true democracy in Central America.

87/284. Question No 3026/86 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E) Concerning the Detention of Kostadin Kalmakov in Bulgaria

Date of Issue: 19 August 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 30 March 1987

Are the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation aware of the situation of Kostadin Kalmakov, a Bulgarian Pentecostalist, who has already been imprisoned for refusing to do military service and who is now serving a five-year sentence in the prison of Burgas for protesting about the imprisonment of conscientious objectors?

Answer:

The Twelve take every appropriate opportunity of reminding the States signatory to the Helsinki Final Act that they are required to fulfil the obligations to which they freely consented. The right of everyone to freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief is enshrined in the Final Act. Implementation of all obligations therein is being examined at the third meeting on the follow-up to the CSCE currently in progress in Vienna. The specific case referred to by the Honourable Member has not been discussed in the context of European political cooperation.

87/285. Question No 3028/86 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E) Concerning Persons Detained in Mauritania

Date of Issue: 19 August 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 30 March 1987

Are the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation aware of the situation of some twenty people sentenced to long periods of imprisonment and internal exile in Mauritania, for opposing the social and political discrimination against the black population in the south of the country?

Have they taken any action to shed light on the case of these prisoners and exiles and to help as much as possible?

Answer:

Although the Twelve follow developments in the sphere of human rights in third countries with attention, this specific question has not been examined within the framework of European political cooperation.

87/286. Question No 3070/86 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E) Concerning Prisoners of Conscience in Yugoslavia

Date of Issue: 19 August 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 30 March 1987

Can the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation make representations to the Yugoslav authorities with a view to securing the release of four elderly prisoners of conscience: Nikola Novakovic (73), Ivan Zografski (72), Milisav Zivanović (75) and Mirko Sunić (71)?

Answer:

The Twelve take every appropriate opportunity to remind the States signatory to the Helsinki Final Act of their obligation to respect the undertakings into which they freely entered. Freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief for all was laid down in the Final Act. The implementation of the Final Act is being examined at the third meeting on the follow-up to the CSCE, currently in progress in Vienna. The specific cases mentioned by the Honourable Member have not been discussed in the framework of European political cooperation.

87/287. Question No 248/86 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E) Concerning a Prisoner of Conscience in Turkey

Date of Issue: 19 August 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 27 April 1987

Are the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation aware of the situation of the prisoner of conscience Mehdi Zana, imprisoned since 1980 and sentenced in 1983 to 24 years' imprisonment for belonging to the illegal Kurdistan Socialist Party (TKSP) and engaging in separatist activities?

Have the Ministers taken any steps to ensure that the hearing of Mr Zana's appeal against this sentence is not further postponed?

Answer:

The particular question raised by the Honourable Member has not been discussed within the framework of European political cooperation.

However, the Twelve have always given their close attention to the course of the human rights situation in Turkey, including the freedom to form political organizations without which democracy cannot exist. In their declaration on human rights of 21 July 1986¹, they stated that respect for these rights was an important element in the relations between the Twelve and third countries.

The Turkish authorities are aware of the strong views of the Twelve on this point.

87/288. Question No 252/87 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E) Concerning the Imprisonment of a Jehovah's Witness, Ivan Cecko (Yugoslavia)

Date of Issue: 19 August 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 27 April 1987

Have the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation given consideration to the case of the Yugoslav citizen, Ivan Cecko, a Jehovah's Witness from Malibor (Slovenia) who is serving his third sentence and eighth year of imprisonment for refusing to do military service?

Answer:

The Twelve take every appropriate opportunity of reminding the States signatory to the Helsinki Final Act that they are required to fulfil the commitments which they freely entered into. The right of everyone to freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief is enshrined in the Final Act. Implementation of the Final Act is being examined at the third meeting on the follow-up to the CSCE currently in progress in Vienna. The specific case referred to by the Honourable Member has not been discussed in the context of European political cooperation.

87/289. Question No 256/87 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E) Concerning the Whereabouts of the Mozambique Intellectual, Domingo Álvarez Anibal

Date of Issue: 19 August 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 27 April 1987

Have the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation taken any steps to obtain information from the Mozambique Government as to the whereabouts of the intellectual Domingo Álvarez Anibal (Mozambique), who was arrested prior to 1976?

Answer:

The Twelve keep close track of the situation regarding human rights in third countries. They take full account of this highly important question in their relations with such countries and this point was stressed in the Ministerial declaration of 21 July 1986. However, the specific question raised by the Honourable Member has not been discussed in the context of European political cooperation.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 86/230.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 86/230.

87/290. Question No 531/87 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E) Concerning the Imprisonment of the Former Kurdish Mayor of Divarbakir

Date of Issue: 19 August 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 12 June 1987

Have the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation made any representations on behalf of Mehdi Zana, former major of Diyarbakir (Turkey), who was detained following the military coup in 1980, tortured and held *incommunicado*, repeatedly tried and convicted by military courts, and is now serving a 31-year sentence in the Diyarbakir military prison?

Answer:

The Twelve would request the Honourable Member to refer to the reply given to his Written Question No. $248/87^{1}$.

87/291. Statement on Sri Lanka

Date of Issue: 20 August 1987 Place of Issue: Copenhagen Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: The Twelve Status of Document: Declaration

The twelve Member States of the European Community have warmly welcomed the agreement signed on 29 July 1987 between Sri Lanka and India for a peaceful solution to the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka.

On many previous occasions they have in common statements advocated a negotiated settlement of this tragic conflict within the framework of a united Sri Lanka as the only way to reach a lasting solution acceptable to all parties concerned.

So much the more do the Twelve regret recent events of violence which may jeopardize the peaceful implementation of the said agreement. They express their sympathy with the injured and bereaved.

The twelve Member States of the European Community urge all parties concerned to comply with the provisions of the agreement and refrain from any action intended to endanger it.

Statement at the International Conference on the Relationship Between Disarmament and Development held in New York, 24 August – 11 September 1987

Date of Issue: 25 August 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: The Twelve

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Mr President, it is my honour and pleasure to take the floor today on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community. In doing so allow me first of all to congratulate you on your election to the important post of President of the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development. We are confident that you have every qualification for performing the task and that under your wise and experienced guidance, the conference will be able to complete its task to a successful end. Let me assure you that the Twelve will make every effort to contribute constructively and in a positive spirit to the work of the conference.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 87/287.

This conference is being held at the initiative of a Member State of the Twelve. The Twelve have participated actively in the preparatory process and *inter alia* contributed a working paper at the last preparatory committee.

Disarmament and development constitute fundamental objectives of the Twelve. Like, we hope, the rest of the world, we would like to see military expenditure restrained to the levels justified by security needs, and greater efforts to meet the demand for social and economic development. We share the widespread concern over the disproportion between arms expenditure and development efforts. The cost involved in the high levels of military expenditure all over the world is difficult to reconcile with the unacceptable conditions in which a significant proportion of the population of the globe now lives, particularly in the developing countries.

The relationship between disarmament and development has for many years been on the international agenda. When initiating this international conference on the relationship between disarmament and development, it was felt that the time had come to move towards a more substantial and methodical consideration of the matter by giving concrete expression to the concepts being dealt with under the heading: disarmament — development.

The relationship between disarmament and development is a very complex one. This becomes apparent when trying to agree on a more concrete definition of the interplay between the two concepts. The whole preparatory process has in this respect been an illustrative example.

The relationship is not as straightforward and simple as it might appear on an abstract level. The question of security is a central feature in any detailed analysis of the relationship. The interplay between disarmament and development can only be correctly perceived and understood if disarmament and development are viewed in the larger context of their mutual inter-relationship with security.

Decisions to increase or reduce military expenditure remain tied to issues of international and regional security, a point which, of course, applies equally to developing and developed countries. The Twelve favour a pursuit of balanced and verifiable arms control and disarmament measures that will enhance security at the lowest possible level of forces. In recent months, the prospects for a successful outcome of the arms control negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union have increased considerably. The Twelve welcome this development and reaffirm their support for the two countries' efforts to reach agreement.

When focusing on the interplay between disarmament and development it is important to bear in mind that we are dealing with two distinct processes which both must be pursued vigorously and on their own merits. Progress in the transfer of resources for development purposes must not be held hostage to progress in arms control and disarmament. Indeed it is pertinent to point to the commitment as adopted under the international development strategy to reach the target of 0,7% of GNP for official development assistance, as most recently reiterated in the final act of UNCTAD VII.

The Member States of the European Community on their part have not awaited the outcome of current disarmament efforts before allocating substantial sums to development assistance. As a group, the Twelve, on a national basis and through the European Community are the largest contributor of development assistance. We urge all countries to live up to their internationally agreed commitments in the development field.

The Twelve recall the formulation in paragraph 35 of the Final Document of the first Special Session on disarmament which reads:

Resources released as a result of the implementation of disarmament measures should be devoted to the economic and social development of all nations and contribute to bridging the economic gap between developed and developing countries.

The Twelve would advocate creating conditions enabling the present situation of arms build-up and unmet development needs to be turned into a constructive interaction between security, disarmament, and development.

All States have a responsibility to promote and to strive for disarmament and development. While it is true that a few States account for the majority of global military expenditure, the burden of the arms race in terms of diversion of resources from economic and social purposes is an urgent problem in a large number of countries and is often a serious obstacle to social and economic development.

The Twelve believe that a closer study of the relationship between disarmament and development might identify internal reallocation of resources from military to economic and social purposes as the approach which is most likely to have an early impact on development. This of course presupposes that countries have reached the conclusion that the local and/or regional security situation will enable them to move towards disarmament. Emphasis has rightly been put on the enormous volume of military spending which is perceived necessary to provide a degree of security — a security which is often too fragile. The problem of military spending and its disproportionate growth affects all countries, and indeed raises the question of over-armament. In this connection the Twelve recall the wording in the thoughtful joint declaration of the eminent personalities panel which says: 'What we should be aiming at, is that each and every State should use appropriate security interests as the criterion for its arms expenditure'.

What is needed — and what this conference will hopefully contribute to — is a reassessment of ideas and expression of the corresponding political will. It is in the general interest of all nations that the underlying causes of continued growth in military expenditure around the world be discussed.

Although the picture is too differentiated for an automatic or causal link to be established between disarmament and development, it is obvious that transfer of resources from military purposes in countries where military expenditure constitutes a high percentage of the GNP could represent an important development potential. All countries make decisions concerning the national allocation of scarce financial and human resources for military or social and economic purposes, taking into consideration their perceived security situation. While it is evident that there is a need for further and improved international support for the development efforts of developing countries, it should be emphasized that the primary responsibility for development lies with each individual country.

Given the fact that any disarmament process may be expected to take place gradually, any savings from arms control and disarmament agreements will only have an effect in the long run. Bearing in mind the need for effective verification measures, savings are likely to be limited, moreover: implementation of certain arms control and disarmament agreements may even be cost consuming. A good example of this would be the costs involved in the verification measures required to implement a ban on chemical weapons that would furthermore have to include the safe destruction of existing stocks.

Accordingly, disarmament agreements will not automatically lead to a transfer of resources for development purposes, either directly or indirectly; such transfers can only be the result of specific political decisions.

Mr President, consideration of the relationship between disarmament and development cannot merely be confined to the resource aspect. Other elements naturally come into focus.

The Twelve believe that any evaluation of the impact of global arms expenditure must start from a reliable data base. The need for transparency, openness and reliable data is apparent in both the disarmament and the development field.

The lack of adequate data was recognized in the United Nations study on the relationship between disarmament and development, the so-called Thorsson report. The inadequacy of existing data bases is apparent both as regards military matters and as regards reporting on official development assistance. The Twelve, *inter alia* through the cooperation in the OECD, exhibit full openness on their development assistance both concerning the amounts transferred and the nature of the assistance.

The Twelve have participated actively in the work of the UNDC on the reduction of military budgets. Over the years, we have stressed the need for greater transparency in military budgets — and indeed for greater openness in military matters in general — and have, on our part, reacted positively on recommendations by the UN General Assembly to report on military budgets.

The Twelve can only once more express themselves strongly in favour of giving renewed impetus to the work in the United Nations on the comparability of military budgets. They support the concept of regular reportings to the Secretary General by the Member States, in particular the permanent members of the Security Council, on the development in their military expenditures. Further, the Twelve find that

the establishment, within the auspices of the United Nations, of a monitoring centre to register and evaluate the levels of military spending could be a natural follow-up on the United Nations involvement in the matter. The expertise of UNIDIR could be utilized in this respect. The centre could draw on, *inter alia*, already available data and collaborate with the different regional research institutions and competent expert groups.

In addition to conflicts, tensions, and excessive armaments, non-military threats to security and development also have to be taken into account. Social and humanitarian conditions, in particular the assurance of fundamental human rights and freedoms, constitute key non-military elements of security.

The world cannot be regarded as secure when so many people live in extreme poverty, in fear of invasion, of loss of liberty, or other basic human rights. The existence of hunger, social injustice and poverty are major sources of conflicts, internal as well as external in the developing world. The member countries of the Twelve are mindful that their world-wide commitment to assist developing countries in their development efforts also contributes to the maintenance of peace and security.

The world today is characterized by increasing interdependence, not least in the economic field. It is essential that this mutual dependency and the resulting common interests be recognized. At the same time, it should be borne in mind that the economic problems, and the economic performances of various countries, are increasingly diverse. Against this background, it is essential that developed and developing countries alike — jointly as well as individually — take the necessary steps to adapt to the changed conditions. The Twelve are fully aware that a solution to the present global economic problems including the questions of foreign debts is a challenge to international solidarity, in particular with the least developed countries.

Regional cooperation and efforts to enhance confidence, create stability and reduce tension, assume far-reaching importance in today's interdependent world where single events may have global repercussions. Security concerns of States and, to some extent, even concepts of security differ markedly from region to region. A regional approach to disarmament and development is of particular importance precisely because it can take full account of these regional differences. The Twelve have participated actively in the Stockholm Conference on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe. Hopefully, more effort in this field will be made in a near future. We support efforts in other parts of the world to enhance peace, confidence and regional cooperation.

For the countries on whose behalf I speak nuclear disarmament is one of the highest priorities. It is, however, pertinent to point out that in the context of this present conference the question of conventional disarmament is of particular relevance. It is estimated that 80% of global arms expenditure is devoted to conventional weapons. Concrete, balanced, and verifiable measures of conventional disarmament would do much to reduce tensions, distrust and fear among nations and could, apart from releasing resources for socio-economic development, also make a valuable contribution to the disarmament process as a whole.

Mr President, this conference takes place after a long process of preparation. The issue of disarmament and development has widespread appeal, as demonstrated also by the NGO activities in connection with this conference. The conference will serve to focus world attention on two vital subjects and will thus contribute to increase the understanding of both disarmament and development. Further, the conference will shed light on the essential elements, in particular that of security which constitutes the basis of any comprehensive approach to the relationship between disarmament and development in all its aspects.

The Twelve hope to see our deliberations these coming weeks result in a positive outcome. What we need is to take stock of the situation till now. To see how far the common ground extends and to have this confirmed at a political level. If we are all guided by a sense of reality and show the necessary will to compromise, the Twelve are confident that it is possible, during our deliberations, to strike the correct balance between differing viewpoints and interests.

With these words, Mr President, I would like to repeat that the Twelve will work actively and constructively for a successful outcome of our deliberations. Thank you, Mr President.

87/293. Statement on the Philippines

Date of Issue: 28 August 1987 Place of Issue: Copenhagen Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: The Twelve Status of Document: Declaration

The twelve Member States of the European Community are deeply concerned about the attempt to overthrow the President of the Republic of the Philippines by violent means.

They strongly condemn this illegal military action to eliminate democracy and renew their full support for President Corazón Aquino, for constitutional democracy in the Philippines and for its duly elected representatives.

The Ambassadors of the European Community countries in Manila have been asked to convey this message to President Aquino.

87/294. Question No 594/86 by Mr Kuijpers (ARC-B) Concerning the Community Contribution to a Diplomatic Solution to the Sahara Conflict

Date of Issue: 2 September 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 9 June 1986

At the initiative of the UN Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, talks were held between 9 and 14 April 1986 in New York on the Western Sahara in order to sound out whether a diplomatic solution is possible to this conflict which has now been dragging on for ten years. The European Community could play an important role here. Up to the present, European arms supplied to the conflict-stricken area have, however, continued undiminished.

Can the Ministers indicate:

- 1. how much the arms supplied from the various Member States to Morocco amounted to in recent years?
- 2. why certain Member States refuse any humanitarian aid for the Sahrawi people?
- 3. in what manner the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation contemplate participating in a diplomatic solution to the Sahara conflict and, in particular, what is their attitude towards the holding of an independent referendum on the future of the Western Sahara?

Answer:

The matters referred to in the first two questions have not been discussed within European political cooperation.

As to the prospects for a peaceful solution to the Western Sahara conflict, the Twelve welcome and support the recent efforts of the UN Secretary-General to promote talks between the parties in the conflict (in the framework of the peace plan of the OAU endorsed by the United Nations).

87/295. Question No 688/86 by Mr Robles Piquer (ED-E) Concerning Aid for Afghan Refugees in Pakistan

Date of Issue: 2 September 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 1 July 1986

The growing number of Afghan refugees in the neighbouring territory of Pakistan, which, according to official estimates is nearly as high as 3 million people, is naturally a source of political concern as to the fate of those who have fled from the Soviet invasion of their country.

The possible changes in the climate produced by current political circumstances seem unlikely to have immediate consequences for the fate of these refugees, who will continue to suffer the distressing conditions forced on them by their terrible plight.

In view of the need for humanitarian aid for the Afghan refugees, what measures has the European Community taken through the appropriate channels to provide urgent and decisive assistance for this sizeable group of people?

Answer:

The Twelve have on several occasions expressed their deep concern about the situation of the Afghan refugees in Pakistan. Direct humanitarian aid has been given by the European Community to these refugees since the beginning of the Soviet invasion, amounting to about 120 million ECU, in addition to substantial bilateral aid from individual Member States and contributions from individual Member States and non-governmental organizations to the United Nations High Commissioner's Office for Refugees and other agencies, earmarked for this purpose.

87/296. Question No 732/86 by Mr Zarges (PPE-D) Concerning the Maltreatment of the Turkish Minority in Bulgaria by the Bulgarian State and Amnesty International's Reports Thereon

Date of Issue: 2 September 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 2 July 1986

In a booklet entitled 'Bulgaria — Imprisonment of Ethnic Turks' published in April 1986, Amnesty International asserts that in a 'Bulgarianization' campaign at the end of 1984 'Bulgarian Turks' who had refused to give up their Turkish name and adopt a Bulgarian one were subjected to violence; Amnesty International claims that over a hundred people were killed at the hands of the State and supply a list of names.

In reply to my enquiry regarding the truth of Amnesty International's allegations, the Bulgarian Government has said the following: Investigation of the list of 114 persons said to have been killed has revealed that 80 of the names are fictitious and the remaining 34 persons are alive and well, free and going about their daily business. Of the 281 persons said to be imprisoned for the same reasons, 117 names are bogus and the other 164 persons named are all free and not in prison. To give a few examples, rather than an exhaustive list: among the persons said to have been killed but who have never existed, since their names are entirely fictitious, are for example:

- Mechmed Achmedov from Krumovgrad, Kardjali district; Adem Ismailov Iliev from Tutrakan, Silistra district; Tschetip Erov from Jablanovo village, Sliven district; Ibrachim Halilov from Buinovo village, Targoviste district; Shaban Mechmedov from Dobromir village, Burgass district.
- Some persons named on the list are said to have been killed during the campaign, but in fact died a natural death at a much earlier date, for example: Mechmed Hüseinov Aptulov, from Dobromir village, Burgass district, who died of lung cancer on 21 May 1976; Firret Iliasov Aliev from Djebel, Kardjali district, who died in hospital on 7 August 1977; Osman Mechmedov Useinov form Dobromir village, Burgass district, who died of a heart attack on 27 April 1979.
- The following persons who were also alleged to have been killed are alive and well and free: Martin Tschavadarov Assenov (previous name: Murad Ferchadov) from Kubrat; Mintscho Angelov Filipov (previous name: Mustafa Aptulov Ferchadov), Andrei Andreev Ticholov (Achmed Achmedov Mechmedov) and Angel Mintschev Kantschev (Aptula Mechmedov Kotschev), all from the village of Jonkovo, Razgrad district,

- Miltscho Issaev Pirinski (Mümün Ibischev Kelov) and Miltscho Alekov (Mechmet Aliev Mustafov) from Swalenik village; Ferdo Isaev Belberov (Fadail Sabriev Kadirov) from Judelnik village; Milen Assenov Kolev (Mechmet Hassanov Kelov), born in Opaka village, Targoviste district and now resident in Russe – all from Russe district,
- Pawlina Martinova Aldekova (Pakise Mümünova Hassanova), Filip Russinov Horosov (Fechim Hüsseinov), Ignat Martinov Kalinov (Issmet Mechmedov Duralov) and Jordan Jankov Iossifov (Ussuf Jakubov) from Kardjali; Isskren Ognianov Hrelkov (Issmail Osmanov Halilov) from Momtschilgrad, Stilian Assenov Julianov (Schaban Hüsseinov Hüsseinov) from Gorno Prahovo village — all from Kardjali district.

Are the Foreign Ministers aware of this situation? Can they say anything in support either of Amnesty International's allegations or of the statements by the Bulgarian Government? It seems clear to the questioner that the Bulgarian Government has in many cases resorted to force to persuade Islamic Bulgarians to adopt a Bulgarian name in place of their Turkish name, but also that the reports reaching Amnesty International have been manipulated — perhaps at the instigation of Turkey — to give a distorted picture of the true situation in Bulgaria, so as to discredit a country which is currently seeking to develop new and closer commercial, economic and political ties with the European Community.

Answer:

The Twelve continue to monitor closely the situation of the Muslim minority of Turkish origin in Bulgaria. This question was raised in the CSCE framework at the Ottawa experts meeting on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, the Budapest Cultural Forum and recently at the Berne experts meeting on Human Contacts. The Seventh Principle of the Helsinki Final Act, to which the Twelve attach great importance, obliges the 35 participating States — including Bulgaria — to respect the rights of individuals belonging to minorities.

87/297. Question No 763/86 by Mr Perinat Elio (ED-E) Concerning the Strategic Defence Initiative

Date of Issue: 2 September 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 2 July 1986

The Strategic Defence Initiative, known as SDI, represents the greatest advance that defence technology has made since the inevitable process of the militarization of space began.

Nevertheless, the general public in Europe is not fully aware of the scope and implications of this initiative.

Although European researchers have been asked to take part in developing the SDI system, it should be borne in mind that its aim is to defend only the territory of the United States of America against missiles from the other military superpower without taking the defence of European territory into account.

Can the Foreign Ministers therefore say exactly what is the point of European research taking part in the development of the SDI system and why the territory of Europe is not included in this defence project?

Answer:

The issue raised by the Honourable Member has not been discussed within European political cooperation, as it pertains to the military aspects of security.

87/298. Question No 764/86 by Mr Perinat Elio (ED-E) Concerning the Territories Occupied by Israel on the West Bank of the Jordan

Date of Issue: 2 September 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 2 July 1986

The recent visit to Israel by the British Prime Minister Mrs Margaret Thatcher made an important contribution to the peace-making process in the area, by virtue of the very fact that the visit took place and that it was the first of its kind in Israel.

Despite the goodwill shown by Mrs Thatcher during her visit, she stated on several occasions that Britain is opposed to the Israeli occupation of the West Bank of the Jordan and deplored the poor living conditions to which the Arabs there are subjected.

Since the situation on either side has not changed despite representations made by the political authorities of the Member States, what further steps do the Foreign Ministers intend to take to ensure that a solution is finally found to the problem of the above-mentioned lands and their Arab population, in order to restore equilibrium to the area and promote peace?

Answer:

The Twelve are fully aware of the precarious living conditions of the people in the occupied territories on the West Bank of the river Jordan.

The Twelve remain committed to the search for a just settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute which represents the only lasting way of alleviating the problems of those living in the occupied territories.

87/299. Question No 835/86 by Mr Cottrell (ED-UK) Concerning a Greek-Turkish Dialogue on Cyprus

Date of Issue: 2 September 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 10 July 1986

The Greek Prime Minister, Mr Papandreou, has recently refused to meet his Turkish counterpart, Mr Ozal, on the 'Green Line' separating the Turkish and Greek communities in Cyprus. The offer was made by Mr Ozal with the intention of commencing a dialogue on the future of Cyprus. Do the Ministers not regret this decision by Mr Papandreou, bearing in mind the oft-repeated call for Greco-Turkish talks on Cyprus? Would the Ministers themselves now be prepared to propose a similar meeting to both parties, not necessarily in Cyprus? If the Greek Government continues to refuse an invitation to that or similar meetings, does it not indicate a lack of willingness in Athens to secure a solution in Cyprus, and suggest an intention to maintain a divisive issue for internal domestic political consumption?

Answer:

The specific question raised by the Honourable Member has not been discussed within the European political cooperation but Ministers discussed recent developments in Cyprus at their meeting on 21 July 1986 in Brussels.

The Twelve have repeatedly affirmed their unconditional support for the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and unity of Cyprus. They underline the importance of support for the Secretary-General of the United Nations in his mission of good offices which, they consider, represents the best hope of making progress towards a just and lasting solution of the problem of Cyprus.

The Twelve would favour any dialogue that reduces tension. They continue to stress the need for all parties to avoid actions that might make progress in that direction more difficult. They regard the Government of President Kyprianou as the sole legitimate government of the Republic of Cyprus.

87/300. Question No 847/86 by Ms Crawley (S-UK) Concerning the Liberation of Mr Mehmet Aydan Bulutgil, Currently Serving a Prison Sentence in Turkey

Date of Issue: 2 September 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 10 July 1986

Will the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation bring concerted moral pressure to bear on the Turkish Government in order that Mehmet Aydan Bulutgil, a Turkish citizen, member of the Turkish Communist Party and former student of Birmingham University (which is in my constituency), is released from Mamak Military Prison? Mr Bulutgil — now adopted by Amnesty International — is serving a sentence of sixteen years and eight months, having been charged with no violent offence; he has allegedly been tortured and is believed, now, to be crippled.

Answer:

The Twelve continue to monitor the human rights situation in Turkey and member countries raise as appropriate their concerns.

87/301. Questions No 956/86, No 957/86 and No 958/86 by Mr Cottrell (ED-UK) Concerning Terrorism in Greece, Libyan Diplomats in Athens and the Greek Refusal to Comply with the Community Accord on Libya

Date of Issue: 2 September 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Questions of 16 July 1986

Question No 956/86:

In the past nine months (to 25 June 1986) there have been 26 victims of terrorism in Greece, including airline passengers, a newspaper publisher, an industrialist and a policeman. This is two more than the number of Americans listed as terrorist victims by the US State Department. What conclusions does the Council draw from this tragic situation in Greece, about which the government in Athens appears not to care one jot; would the Council agree that Greece has a greater motive than any other Member State to comply with Community accords against terrorism?

Question No 957/86:

According to confirmed reports from Athens, the Libyan mission there — which contains four recognized members — has been granted 56 diplomatic licence plates for motor vehicles by the Greek authorities. Will the Foreign Ministers explain how this situation conforms with the recent Community accords against terrorism?

Question No 958/86:

By June 1986, the Government of Greece had not complied in any respect whatsoever with the accord reached by the Foreign Ministers concerning actions against Libya. The Greek Prime Minister, Andreas Papandreou, has argued that his country is a 'special case' because of its relationship with the Arab world, including Libya. Do the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation accept that this 11-1 majority arrangement is acceptable to the Council — or indeed, to the Community as a whole? Has the precedent been set whereby one (or more) Member State may opt in or out of political decisions, as it or they please themselves? If Greece chooses not to abide by Community accords, should the rest of the Community feel any obligation to her — in payments for regional development activities, or benefits derived from the common agricultural policy? Why is the Council afraid to condemn one of its members who decides to ignore the general conclusions of the Community on such a vital topic as restraining terrorism?

Answer:

The measures regarding Libya adopted at ministerial meetings on 14 and 21 April, 1986, were agreed by all Twelve¹. The working group of the Twelve established for cooperation in the fight against international terrorism is asked, upon request of Ministers, to monitor the implementation of the measures taken.

87/302. Question No 963/86 by Ms Piermont (ARC-D) Concerning Relations Between the European Community and New Caledonia

Date of Issue: 2 September 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 16 July 1986

In its issue of 31 May 1986, No 4329, 'Agence Europe' reported that the Socialist Group intended to invite the three Kanaka Presidents of the Northern, Central and Island Regions of New Caledonia in which the FLNKS won a majority in the September 1985 elections to a meeting in Strasbourg in September 1986. With reference to this article and the ban imposed on me on 4 March 1986 by the French High Commissioner in New Caledonia (when I arrived at Noumea airport at the invitation of these three Presidents to carry out a fact-finding mission in the Northern, Central and Island Regions), can the Foreign Ministers say:

- 1. In the light of the statement by Mr Glinne and Mr Sutra that the Fabius Plan and September elections have 'brought peace and calm to the territory', how do the Foreign Ministers assess the reason given for the ban imposed on me, namely that my presence would have caused a breach of the peace?
- 2. Does a demonstration at the airport involving somewhere between thirty and fifty people constitute a disturbance of the peace?
- 3. How do the Foreign Ministers intend to respond to the fact that a Member of the European Parliament invited by the Presidents of the three pro-independence regions should be refused entry to New Caledonia when these Presidents are themselves to be invited to Strasbourg as the (honoured) guests of one of the European Parliament's political groups?
- 4. What specific action do the Foreign Ministers intend to take to ensure that there is no repetition of such disregard for the elected representatives of the Kanaka people by imposing a ban on their guests?
- 5. How do the Foreign Ministers intend to ensure that the European Community fulfils its obligation towards an overseas territory associated with it through France, that is to ensure that it achieves independence?

¹ Cf. EPC Bulletin, Docs. 86/119 and 86/168.

6. From what FLNKS document or speech by one of its leaders is it assumed that 'independence-association is the basis of the FLNKS programe' as reported by 'Agence Europe' (possibly on the basis of a statement by Mr Glinne or Mr Sutra)?

Answer:

The rules for the operation of political cooperation generally do not permit replies to be given to questions concerning the individual policies of one or more Member States.

87/303. Question No 1481/86 by Mr Robles Piquer (ED-E) Concerning the Ministers' Response to the Request Made by their Opposite Numbers in the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN)

Date of Issue: 2 September 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 26 September 1986

At the recent meeting in Manila attended by the Foreign Ministers of ASEAN, the Ministers issued a joint declaration condemning Vietnam's continuing occupation of Kampuchea. At the same time they called upon the international community to bring pressure to bear on Vietnam to put an end to this occupation.

In view of this appeal made by their counterparts in ASEAN, what position have the Ministers adopted in response to it and what course of action have they decided on, in the interests of putting an end to the invasion of Kampuchea by Vietnamese troops, which is an unacceptable violation of international law?

Answer:

In the joint declaration issued at the recent EC/ASEAN ministerial meeting in Jakarta on 20-21 October 1986¹, Foreign Ministers of the Twelve have, together with their ASEAN colleagues, reiterated their view that the Vietnamese military occupation of Kampuchea continues to be an obstacle to peace and stability in South-East Asia. Ministers also agreed to continue to promote the search for a negotiated settlement to the conflict in Kampuchea, in accordance with the resolutions of the United Nations and the International Conference on Kampuchea. Ministers called on Vietnam to begin serious negotiation for the withdrawal of all its forces from Kampuchea, and reaffirmed that no assistance should be given to Vietnam of such a nature as to sustain and enhance the Vietnamese occupation of Kampuchea. The Twelve also supported the United Nations General Assembly resolution on the situation in Kampuchea, which was passed by a record 115 votes.

87/304. Question No 1840/86 by Mr Antony (DR-F) Concerning Gulf Company Royalties to Angola

Date of Issue: 2 September 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 7 November 1986

The American oil company Gulf is paying royalties to the Angolan Government for the exploitation of its oil reserves. These royalties go towards the maintenance of Soviet and Cuban troops stationed in Angola.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 86/306.

Will the Foreign Ministers condemn these practices which help keep the Angolan Communist regime in power by force?

Answer:

This issue has not been discussed in European political cooperation.

87/305. Question No 2032/86 by Mr Alavanos (COM-GR) Concerning Community Sanctions Against Syria

Date of Issue: 2 September 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 28 November 1986

At a meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers in London on 10 November 1986 eleven Member States of the European Community decided to adopt sanctions against Syria in response to charges brought by the British Presidency. Would the Foreign Ministers state:

- 1. Why they do not make it clear that this decision is merely a common position adopted by eleven countries outside the institutional framework of the European Community and that the Community as an organization has not officially taken any action against Syria since the unanimity which is required by the Single European Act signed last December proved impossible?
- 2. Why the 'Eleven' decided on such action against Syria when the evidence presented by the British Government has been seriously called into question notably by Mr Chirac, the French Prime Minister, who told the 'Washington Post' that the attempt to place a bomb on board an aircraft was organized by Mossad, the Israeli Secret Service, in collaboration with Syrian dissidents, and that he was opposed to sanctions against Syria?
- 3. How the 'Eleven' allowed themselves to be persuaded that the measures adopted by the West against various Middle-East countries accused of terrorism were not dictated exclusively by reasons of political and military expediency unconnected with the problem of terrorism; for instance, although the United States of America has listed Iran among the countries which support terrorism and has officially forbidden arms sales to that country, President Reagan and the White House have sent special envoys to Iran to sell arms in order to facilitate domestic political developments to their advantage?
- 4. Whether the decision by the 'Eleven' will prove effective against terrorism and if so, in what way and how it will help normalize relations in the Middle East?

Answer:

In the press statement following the meeting of Foreign Ministers of the Twelve on 10 November 1986¹, it was made clear that nothing had been added by the Syrian authorities to the evidence considered by the court which found Hindawi guilty. It was on the basis of that evidence that measures were taken against Syria in order to protect our citizens from any possible repetition of such acts of terrorism and to send Syria the clearest possible message that what has happened is absolutely unacceptable. No reference was made to any decision adopted within the framework of the European Community. The text of the press statement is attached for the information of the Honourable Member, who is also referred to the answer given to his oral question No H-660/86².

EPC Bulletin, Doc. 86/351.
 EPC Bulletin, Doc. 86/400.

87/306. Statement on the Iran-Iraq Conflict and the Situation in the Gulf

Date of Issue: 3 September 1987 Place of Issue: Copenhagen Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: The Twelve Status of Document: Declaration

The twelve Member States of the European Community are seriously concerned by the continuation of the Iraq-Iran conflict and the resulting increase in tension in the Gulf. They deeply deplore the fact that, in spite of the ongoing efforts to implement Resolution 598 of the United Nations Security Council, hostilities have once again been seriously escalated.

The Twelve wholeheartedly support Resolution 598 of the Security Council and call for its early implementation in full. The Twelve continue to support strongly the efforts of the Secretary-General to that end. They condemn all acts contrary to this resolution and call on the parties to exercise the utmost restraint. Noting the positions of the two parties as expressed to date, they urgently call for a speedy acceptance of the resolution and for the immediate observance of a cease-fire on land, sea and in the air. The Twelve strongly condemn recent attacks on merchant ships in the Gulf and reiterate their firm support for the fundamental principle of freedom of navigation, which is of the utmost importance to the whole international community.

87/307. Question No 1834/86 by Mr Boesmans (S-B) Concerning the Situation of Aygun Yildizdogan

Date of Issue: 7 September 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 30 March 1986

Mr Yildizdogan, a Turkish national, was sentenced on 29 March 1985, under Article 141 of the Turkish penal code, to ten years and eight months imprisonment, followed by a period of internal exile under surveillance, on a charge of belonging to the outlawed Turkish Communist Party.

During the trial there were several references to confessions being extorted by torture. Mr Yildizdogan is now being held in the Mamal Askeri military prison in Ankara.

Do the Ministers not consider that Article 141 of the Turkish penal code is contrary to Article 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights, which states that everyone has the right to freedom of association? If so, what steps have the Ministers already undertaken to persuade the Turkish authorities to release Mr Yildizdogan?

Answer:

The specific case referred to by the Honourable Member of Parliament has been the subject of correspondence between the Presidency and another Honourable Member of Parliament, Mr Eyraud.

The Twelve continue to monitor the human rights situation and the democratization process in Turkey and member countries raise as appropriate their concerns.

87/308. Question No 3023/86 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E) Concerning Arrests in Kenya

Date of Issue: 7 September 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 30 March 1987

Are the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation aware of the recent arrests in Kenya of over one hundred people on grounds of public safety, many of whom, according to information received by Amnesty International, have been tortured?

Answer:

While the Twelve are aware of a number of arrests for internal security reasons over recent months in Kenya, they are unable to confirm the figures quoted and have no evidence to substantiate allegations of widespread torture. The attitude of the Twelve on human rights is well known to the Kenyan authorities.

87/309. Question No 3069/86 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-B) Concerning Arrests and Torture in South Korea

Date of Issue: 7 September 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 7 September 1987

Having read the report by Amnesty International on violations of human rights in South Korea, have the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation taken any measures to bring to an end the practice of torture, the death penalty and arbitrary trials which commonly take place in that country?

Answer:

The Twelve are following developments in the human rights situation in South Korea closely. While no joint measures have yet been undertaken, the twelve Partners have individually pointed out to senior representatives of the South Korean Government, during contacts with the latter, the importance which the Twelve place on matters of human rights.

The twelve Partners have the impression that the South Korean Government is well aware of the need for progress in this sphere.

87/310. Statement on Paraguay

Date of Issue: 9 September 1987 Place of Issue: Asunción, Paraguay Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: The Twelve Status of Document: Message

The Twelve are following very closely the political situation in Paraguay and express their concern about the arrests that have taken place in the last few days of numerous political leaders of the democratic opposition and about the decision of the Paraguayan authorities to close indefinitely the weekly 'El Pueblo'.

The Twelve reiterate their conviction that full respect of all political and social rights is one of the indispensable conditions for the recognition and development of the democratic regime to which the Paraguayan people aspire. The Twelve specifically reject the closing of the weekly 'El Pueblo' which constitutes a new attempt against freedom of expression to which the Twelve attach paramount importance.

The Twelve hope that measures will be taken to guarantee the full respect for and exercise of social and political rights in Paraguay and that the restrictions that the media face in that country in the exercise of their rights to freedom of expression should cease.

87/311. Statement at the International Conference on the Relationship Between Disarmament and Development

Date of Issue: 11 September 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: The Twelve

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Mr President, speaking on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community, I would like to express our satisfaction with the fact that having now adopted a Final Document by consensus, the International Conference on the Relationship Between Disarmament and Development has completed its task and has come to a successful end.

First and foremost to you, Mr President, we offer our congratulations and warmest regards.

We would also like to pay tribute to Ambassador Dubey of India, who conducted the preparatory process with great proficiency and never failing dedication. We would also like to praise and acknowledge the hard work performed by the three working group chairmen, Ambassador Hucke of the German Democratic Republic, Ambassador Oramas-Oliva of Cuba and Ambassador Engo of Cameroun, and their laudable efforts in trying to take account of the differing interests and viewpoints. Furthermore, we express our deep appreciation to the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole for his ability and skill in producing a text that could lead to consensus. We are aware that elaborating a text acceptable to all was extremely difficult, and the success of this conference owes a lot to Ambassador Huslid of Norway, assisted by the Rapporteur-General, Colonel Morrison, the Secretary-General of the Conference, Mr Jan Maartenson, and his staff for striking a workable balance.

The Twelve welcome the consensus which has been achieved after laborious and demanding negotiations. At the outset of the conference, the Twelve stated that what we needed was a political document which took stock of the situation. The aim, in our view, was to test how far the common ground extends and to see the outcome of our efforts confirmed at a political level. In order to achieve maximum impact and appeal the final declaration should be short, concise and catching to the eye and ear.

A lot of delegations on all sides around this room will no doubt have difficulties with paragraphs in the text. The search for compromise, however, is a give-and-take process, and due to the good atmosphere and positive spirit which have guided our work, that process has become both possible and meaningful. The outcome is not a victory for any individual delegation. It is, however, a victory for multilateral cooperation. It is the confirmation by the international community of the value of multilateralism. This is a result the Twelve welcome, and to which we attach great importance.

Being a compromise text, it is clear that many formulations might have been drafted in another way and we would have preferred it if greater account had been taken of our proposals. This observation applies, for example, to the various direct and indirect references to the Charter of the United Nations.

The Twelve, in their opening plenary statement, advocated the creation of conditions enabling the present situation of arms build-up and unmet development needs to be turned into a constructive interaction between security, disarmament and development. One of the achievements of this conference is the reaffirmation of the crucial importance of the question of security in any detailed analysis of the relationship between disarmament and development: security understood as a broader concept encompassing social, humanitarian, environmental, developmental as well as military aspects.

Mr President, from the start the Twelve have approached this conference in a positive and constructive spirit, and have dedicated themselves to the achievement of a result to which we can all subscribe.

The essence of our common efforts so far, and by the same token a guiding light for our continued endeavours, is stated in short and succinct phrases in one of the preambular paragraphs of the Final Document:

Disarmament and development are two of the most urgent challenges facing the world today. They constitute priority concerns of the international community in which all nations — developed and developing, big and small,

nuclear and non-nuclear — have a common and equal stake. Disarmament and development are two pillars on which enduring international peace and security can be built.

Thank you, Mr President.

87/312. Statement on Israel's Settlement Policy

Date of Issue: 14 September 1987

Place of Issue: Brussels

Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Foreign Ministers Status of Document: Declaration

The Foreign Ministers of the twelve Member States of the European Community have noted with serious concern the continuing Israeli policy of establishing new settlements in the occupied territories, most recently at the Avnei Hefetz site on the West Bank.

They reiterate their strong conviction that progress towards a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the region depends on the creation of a climate of confidence between the parties to the conflict. The Twelve believe that the opening of new settlements as well as the disturbing increase of the number of settlers in existing settlements pose a serious risk of jeopardizing the prospects for peace.

They consider that every new and every existing settlement is in violation of international law and call upon the Israeli Government to put an end to the illegal policy of settlements in the occupied territories.

87/313. Question No O-255/86 by Mr Arndt and Others Concerning Political Prisoners in Pakistan

Date of Issue: 16 September 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

In the part-session of 1I-14 March 1986, the European Parliament adopted its opinion on a proposed Council Regulation concluding the EEC-Pakistan Cooperation Agreement. In the debate on this proposal, President-in-Office of the Council Mr van den Broek, referred to the problem of political prisoners and undertook that the Council would continue to keep a close watch on this aspect of the situation in Pakistan ¹.

Will the Ministers now state:

- 1. What information do they have (from the embassies of the Member States in Pakistan, and other sources) on the fate of political prisoners in Pakistan?
- 2. How many political prisoners who were held in detention as a result of convictions by military courts under martial law have (a) been released and (b) had their judgements referred to the civilian courts?
- 3. How many of these political prisoners therefore remain in detention?

Mr Ellemann-Jensen, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: Mr President, as an answer to the inquiry addressed to the Council in this question, I would point out that the Twelve are following the human rights situation in Pakistan very closely. Since the military state of emergency was lifted on 30 December 1985 there has clearly been considerable progress with regard to the observance of human rights. I have also been asked several questions relating to the number of political prisoners. Here I must say that the numbers given by the human rights organizations, the political opposition and the Government show great divergence, and it would be impossible to establish the exact figure.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 86/091.

87/314. Question No O-16/87 by Mr Habsburg and Others Concerning United Nations Resolution No 3379

Date of Issue: 16 September 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

Since it is clear that United Nations Resolution No 3379, equating Zionism with racism, has done nothing to further moves for peace in the Middle East, and that this kind of semantic distortion is totally inaccurate, offensive and dangerous, and can only exacerbate existing tensions and thereby make solutions more difficult, will the Foreign Ministers move, at the next session of the UN General Assembly, that Resolution No 3379 be repealed?

Mr Ellemann-Jensen, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: I think it very erudite of Mr Habsburg to take as his starting point a reference to the pronouncement of Buddha that we should give back to words their true meaning. I think that is a very worthy and fine way of describing the honesty which we all like to find in politics. I feel my position is rather the reverse of that represented by Mr Habsburg's youthful idealism. It is I who must try to convey the less heated deliberations of mature years. For, when we give back to words their meaning, we must also have reasonable assurances that the meaning thus given to the words is the one we think is well founded and that there is no risk of a meaning being imparted to them which is perhaps politically expedient but is not consistent with the honesty we wish to convey.

Let us try to look in concrete terms at the problem raised by Mr Habsburg, and let us take a concrete look at the Community's view of these questions. In the inter-institutional declaration on racism and xenophobia, which was adopted here in Strasbourg on 11 June 1986, the Member States reaffirmed that respect for human dignity and the rejection of manifestations of racial discrimination formed part of the common cultural and legal heritage of the Member States. The same declaration roundly condemns any intolerance, hostility or force against a person or group of persons on grounds of racial, religious, cultural, social or national differences. That respect for human rights is a matter which the Twelve take very much to heart was again confirmed by the declaration of 21 July 1986¹, in which the Foreign Ministers affirmed that the European Community and its Member States, in the development of their relations with third countries in the administration of their aid programmes, would continue to promote fundamental rights so that persons and populations might retain the full enjoyment of their economic, social and cultural rights as also of their civil and political rights. Let me remind you that none of the Community's Member States voted for Resolution No 3379, which was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1975 and in which Zionism is placed on a footing with racism. None of us voted for it — of course not.

In the General Assembly of the United Nations the Twelve cooperate very closely, both in New York and in contacts between the capitals, with a view to harmonizing their positions as far as possible, as they are required to do by the Single European Act. The common position of the Twelve, notably on human rights, forms the basis for this coordination. What I am trying to say, Mr Habsburg, is that no one can be in any doubt of our position on these matters, but we must take great care not to risk setting a process in motion that may lead to a result which is far removed from what we actually want to achieve.

87/315. Question No H-348/87 by Mr Lalor on Securing the Release of Mr Brian Keenan from the Lebanon

Date of Issue: 16 September 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 86/230.

Can the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation give an account of any steps they have taken to secure the release of Mr Brian Keenan, who has been held prisoner in the Lebanon since 11 April 1986?

Mr Ellemann-Jensen, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: Unfortunately I have to say to Mr Lalor that the tragic and very difficult situation arising from the fact that citizens of Member States are reported missing in the Lebanon is a problem which the Member States concerned must try to solve on a bilateral basis.

Mr Lalor (RDE): I am rather shattered by the reply from the President-in-Office of the Council. Is he aware of the fact that one of the hostages, Oral Corlea, when released some six months ago, carried a written message from Brian Keenan praying in the name of God that his friends be told that he was still alive? Surely then someone knows where he was held and who were holding him.

I ask if more cannot be done to have him released, particularly now, Mr President, in the light of your statement on Monday last at the reopening of this parliamentary session. Surely it is not correct for the President-in-Office, in his capacity as Foreign Minister, to say that in that particular capacity this matter cannot be discussed? I would ask him again to raise this matter afresh at Foreign Minister level.

Mr Ellemann-Jensen: I did not say that we could not discuss this question. I said that it was one which must be resolved by the countries concerned themselves on a bilateral basis. However, they can also raise it in European political cooperation. But we have not discussed this question.

Mr Taylor (DR): Would the President-in-Office make it clear whether or not the Community makes any representations about hostages, or whether that is strictly left to the national governments responsible? In this case it would be, of course, the Irish Government.

Mr Ellemann-Jensen: It is left to the individual governments to react bilaterally, but of course they remain free to raise the question in European political cooperation.

Mr Marshall (ED): Would the President-in-Office agree that until his question of hostages in the Lebanon is solved, it would be premature for any country to accord Syria diplomatic recognition again? The United Kingdom broke off diplomatic relations with Syria. Does not the failure to solve this problem underline how wise the British Government was?

Mr Ellemann-Jensen: The Twelve have vigorously condemned hostage-taking in several statements, and I do not think it would be right to start widening the discussion in the way suggested here.

87/316. Question No H-369/87 by Ms Lizin Concerning the International Conference on the Middle East

Date of Issue: 16 September 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

What action is the Danish Presidency contemplating in order to maintain the contacts initiated by the Belgian Presidency in this regard?

Answer:

The declaration of the Twelve in favour of an international peace conference on the Middle East, issued on 23 February 1987¹, has received a positive welcome. Foreign Ministers of the Twelve therefore decided at their meeting of 13 July 1987 in Copenhagen to pursue, both via the Presidency and bilaterally, their contacts at all levels with all interested parties in order to contribute to the search for a just, global and lasting settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the Palestinian problem². The Danish Presidency has pursued this goal from the very first day. In July there were talks with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and with President Mubarak of Egypt. Other contacts will follow.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 87/114. ² Cf. EPC Bulletin, Doc. 87/260.

87/317. Question No H-380/87 by Mr Selva Concerning Confiscated Drugs

Date of Issue: 16 September 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

The general public is still unclear as to what happens to drugs which are seized by police in the EEC Member States. I should like to know what has happened to such drugs and what quantities have been destroyed, and how, in the last three years.

Answer:

Confiscation of drugs and ways of destroying drugs in Member States are not being dealt with in European political cooperation. The Twelve have, however, made clear on several occasions that they are determined to contribute actively to the struggle against drugs through national measures as well as European cooperation in international fora. In the European framework their efforts are being coordinated by the Pompidou group of the Council of Europe, where the Twelve also benefit from the knowledge and experience of other European countries. Since the drug problem is a truly international problem, the United Nations plays a leading role in guiding international efforts. The International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking held in Vienna in June 1987 was therefore of primary importance to the Twelve and they participated actively in it.

87/318. Question No H-384/87 by Mr Iversen Concerning the Community Human Rights Policy and Community Aid to Iran

Date of Issue: 16 September 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

According to new reports from Amnesty International, the torture and treatment of prisoners in Iran are beneath contempt. In this connection is it in keeping with the Community's human rights policy that refunds on exports of Danish feta cheese provide indirect aid of about DKR 500 million a year to the inhuman regime in Iran, and would it not be more in keeping with the Community's human rights attitude if, in return for cheap feta, the Community helped prisoners that are either rotting or being shot in Iranian prisons to get out of Iran?

Mr Ellemann-Jensen, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: The Twelve have on many occasions made it clear to the Iranian authorities that they are disturbed over violations of human rights. The Twelve also voted in favour of Resolution No 41/159 of the UN General Assembly on the human rights situation in Iran. The question on specific aspects of the common agricultural policy should be addressed to the Council. It is not one which is discussed within the framework of European political cooperation.

Mr Iversen (COM): I understand from the President-in-Office that he inclines to the same view as many others on this matter: money has no smell, and of course feta cheese does not smell of blood. I think it is utterly disgraceful for the President-in-Office of the Council to refuse to discuss the stark fact that Denmark receives DKR 500 million per year in refunds on feta cheese exported to Iran. I think it is utterly deplorable that the Foreign Ministers meeting in European political cooperation are not prepared to discuss these matters. They are clearly more interested in continuing to sell arms to the belligerent parties and afterwards send down minesweepers, which have the protection of their own weapons.

I should like to end with a concrete question: can the President-in-Office confirm that the EC Commission, amongst other things against the background of the debate actually taking place in

Denmark on these questions, has in recent weeks been in Denmark or will be going to Denmark in the next few weeks to discuss the question of feta cheese? Can the Foreign Minister confirm the suppositions we have heard in connection with these matters?

Mr Van Aerssen (PPE): As the European Parliament, Council and Commission are constantly confronted with human rights questions, I should like to ask the President-in-Office of the Council if he shares the view of his former colleague, Prime Minister Lubbers, that the European Community should develop a code of human rights to make it clear what our position is on certain questions and that we can impose sanctions to get our way in certain matters, because that is what this question is really about. Would the President-in-Office of the Council be prepared to join with Parliament in trying to make progress with an initiative of this kind during his term of office?

Mr Marshall (ED): Would the President-in-Office agree that the denial of basic human rights in Iran and the continued bloody conflict between Iran and Iraq underline the folly and immorality of those Community countries willing to supply arms to Iran?

Mr Ellemann-Jensen: May I first say that a declaration on human rights — on the lines of that which is being suggested — has been adopted in the Community. It was adopted on 21 July 1986 ¹. But I thought the question was actually about trade in agricultural products. Mr Iversen is getting things mixed up: the export refunds which are paid out are not paid to the country receiving the products. They are paid to the exporting country as an element in the EC common agricultural policy. That has absolutely nothing to do with the other matter raised by Mr Iversen.

87/319. Question No H-397/87 by Mr Ephremidis Concerning Children in Detention in South Africa

Date of Issue: 16 September 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

According to the Detainees' Parents Support Committee in South Africa, roughly 10 000 children have been interned by the regime. There are currently between 3 000 and 4 000 still in detention, some of whom are under the age of ten. Despite their tender years, the regime does not hesitate to subject them to the most appalling torture (whipping, scalding with boiling water, electric shocks, etc.) and denies them any medical care.

What steps have the Foreign Ministers taken to save all these children and to ensure their release?

Mr Ellemann-Jensen, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: I have to say that the Twelve are deeply disturbed over allegations about the continued ill-treatment and torture of persons detained in South Africa. We are particularly disturbed over allegations that children and young people have been exposed to such sufferings. We have repeatedly called on the South African Government to release persons detained without charge in South Africa, and we have made special appeals to the South African Government to release the children and young people who are detained. We have made a number of representations to the authorities in Pretoria, the latest on 27 July, in which we gave expression to our concern. We have stressed the necessity for the South African Government to grant all its citizens basic human rights and liberties.

Mr Ephremidis (COM): The President's answer was very interesting. He generalized the entire subject of South Africa, and we agree completely. However, I am rather surprised that he neglected the specific point contained in the question.

10 000 children, and today 3 000 to 4 000 children less than ten years old, according to reliable statistics, are not only being detained — imprisoned, but also inhumanly tortured. It is a repetition, in a different way, of what was done by Herod, which forms a stigma on world history. How can Council

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 86/230.

answer in that way? How can they eat when this situation affects 4 000 children, without stirring their conscience and doing all they can to free those children? That is quite unacceptable! I fear it offends the sensibilities of this Parliament. It offends the sensibilities of the institutional bodies, and particularly that of today's Presidency, namely, that of a sensitive, gentle nation like the Danish people.

Mr Beazley (ED): Are we sure that Mr Ephremidis' information is up-to-date and accurate? My own official information is different from that of even the President-in-Office. The last official information I received was that all children, except eleven, were released into the care of their parents at the end of May. The eleven held are held in regard to serious offences such as murder, including the use of petrol-filled necklaces, and arson. Allegations of torture are said to have been investigated and in most cases are said to be unsubstantiated. I am informed, furthermore, that the prisoners receive regular medical visits and medical care where necessary. Can the President-in-Office say whether this is true or not and look into the matter further, because it certainly conflicts very directly with the information given by Mr Ephremidis in his question?

Mr Ramírez Heredia (S): I just want to express my indignation, along with Mr Ephremidis, at the reply from the President-in-Office of the Council of Ministers, because I believe that in a case such as this one, with such a – seemingly – major discrepancy between the information that we have just heard and that appearing in the text of the question, our sensibilities in this Assembly, as democrats and simply as human beings, cannot but be revolted by the mere possibility that children may be undergoing torture. I was concerned at the expressions used by the President-in-Office of the Council of Ministers when he said that 'it appears that children are being held in prison' and that 'we have expressed our concern to the Government of South Africa'.

We need something more than 'it appears' and 'we have expressed our concern'. This situation, if it exists, should be tackled radically; not only should the children's release be secured, but that government should be punished by us as a matter of course, for having carried out such unspeakable acts.

Mr Ellemann-Jensen: I must emphatically reject Mr Ephremidis' charge that we are merely turning a blind eye. I refer again to my answer that we have already made representations on several occasions, particularly in connection with the allegation that children and young people are being imprisoned.

Mr Pearce (ED): On a point of order, Mr President. Mr Beazley asked some fairly specific questions seeking information, information which would refute the charges made in the original question which has been in the Minister's hands for a couple of months. I don't think the Minister gave an answer to that. I think you should rule, Mr President, that the Minister should give an answer when proper warning of the question has been given. Unfounded, unsubstantiated charges have been made and the Minister has made no attempt to deny them. I can only assume from this that he believes that the information in the original question is correct. If, in fact, I find that that information is not correct, then on a future occasion I shall ask the Minister to check his facts more carefully.

Mr Ellemann-Jensen: I formulated my answer very carefully by referring to alleged imprisonment. It is not always possible to check on allegations contained in questions. I therefore have no alternative but to include a reservation, which I also did in the answer I gave.

Mr Alavanos (COM): Mr President, I do not think we should accept the effort by some colleagues on the opposite side to cast doubt upon the facts relating to a question which not only quotes those facts but gives their specific source, the Detainees Parents' Support Committee in South Africa, which is internationally recognized. On the other hand, we have a colleague, Mr Beazley, who brings us figures concerning ten children without telling us when or where he acquired his facts, or by what authority, while there are other colleagues on the opposite side who, on the basis of Mr Beazley's abstract figures, doubt the authenticity of a question which, I repeat, not only quotes the figures but mentions their specific source. I do not think that we should accept such an attitude by colleagues who doubt the authority of statements within the Parliament without themselves having a well-founded objection, or at least naming their specific source.

I would like to ask Mr Beazley what is the source of the information he gave us?

Mr Beazley (ED): I think I said very clearly that mine is the official source, namely, the South African Government source. I have already told you that. The point of my question was that I asked the President-in-Office to investigate and confirm the information I have. I am not judging whether your

information or mine is correct, I am stating what the official government answer is. It may or may not be correct. It is very important to this House, which is so concerned, and I am just as concerned as you are, about the situation of children and people of all colours in South Africa, if statements are made based on out-of-date information. The official statement is that these releases have been made and that only eleven children remain in custody on very serious charges. If that is incorrect, then it is an even greater condemnation and I would like to know it. If that is not incorrect then I think you will be equally fair and admit that your information is possibly out of date. I do not know, I asked my question to find the truth.

87/320. Question No H-285/87 by Mr Pearce Concerning Sanctions Against South Africa

Date of Issue: 16 September 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

Are the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation satisfied that those Member States which claim to operate sanctions against South Africa actually do so, even where their economic interests are affected, having in mind in particular whether Scandinavian Airlines System's catering department is involved anywhere in the world in provisioning South African aircraft or in operating catering facilities in airport terminals serving South African aircraft in any country?

Mr Ellemann-Jensen, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: On that I have to say that the restrictive measures adopted by the Twelve in relation to South Africa do not extend to those parts of the Scandinavian Airlines System's operations to which the Honourable Member refers.

Mr Pearce (ED): I thank the Minister for his reply. Should I deduce from this that, given the difficulty of seeing whether Member States implement sanctions when it would be in their own economic interests not to do so, Ministers will in future accept the view that it would be better to scrap this nonsense of sanctions as a system which does not work and replace it by being constructive and trying to get into a dialogue by adopting an attitude vis-à-vis South Africa which would encourage change instead of merely setting out to achieve the maximum irritation, which in fact retards progress in that country?

Mr Habsburg (PPE): It is generally known that, although the sub-Saharan countries publicly demand sanctions, they are not joining in them, and our whole system of sanctions cannot therefore work in any case. We also have information that sub-Saharan countries are buying spare parts for aircraft here and then selling them to the South Africans at higher prices. In these circumstances, is it really wise to continue this policy of sanctions when we cannot effectively impose them?

Mr Ellemann-Jensen: I do not want to go over the discussion again on whether or not to have a sanctions policy. I will merely say that, if majorities in our parliaments have adopted a sanctions policy, it should also be effective. We must also take care to ensure that when, for example, the Community adopts sanctions or when the USA applies sanctions, others do not come along and fill the gaps left. Otherwise there is no point in it. If we opt for sanctions, therefore, they must be effective. And we must refrain from snatching trade from one another when gaps appear on the market. We have therefore instituted an investigation to determine whether there have been changes in the patterns of trade, especially with regard to air transport and the computer market, as a result of the sanctions various countries have applied. It is reasonable to have such a picture.

On the question regarding a dialogue, I would add that we have also put work in hand to investigate the possibilities of contributing to the dialogue which is taking place between the many different groups opposed to apartheid in South Africa. A conference was held in that connection recently in West Africa, an event supported by a number of countries, including European countries, and we must now investigate the possibilities for the Community to act as sponsor for such a conference. But the condition will, of course, be that there should be a suitably broad participation, so that it facilitates a real dialogue between the many different interests and population groups opposed to apartheid.

Since the Scandinavian Airlines System has been brought into the discussion and, as there are so few of us left here, I will say, to end with and in all confidentiality in this exclusive circle, that I have heard from the Danish Government that it has made approaches to SAS, and the contracts in question will not be renewed.

87/321. Question No H-400/87 by Mr Alavanos Concerning Acknowledgement of the Genocide Perpetrated Against the Armenians

Date of Issue: 16 September 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

At the June part-session 1987, the European Parliament adopted a resolution acknowledging the genocide perpetrated against the Armenian people 1.

In view of this decision, what representations have the Foreign Ministers made or will they make to the Turkish Government?

Mr Ellemann-Jensen, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: The question raised by the Honourable Member has not been discussed in European political cooperation. The Foreign Ministers meeting in European political cooperation are not obliged to take up a position on resolutions adopted by the European Parliament and, as you know, such decisions are not binding on the Member States.

Mr Alavanos (COM): I would like to stress that the reliability of information from the South African Government concerning the apartheid regime is about as convincing as that of information from Mr Le Pen about Nazi crimes. Now, coming to the matter of the genocide of Armenians itself, I would like to ask the President whether he thinks that such an important decision by the European Parliament, which has repeatedly been commented about by very many governments, which was reported in the international press and was taken up by international public opinion, should be regarded with indifference by political cooperation? Also, it is known that Mr Ali Boser, the Minister of the Turkish Government responsible for European matters, who is likely to have had, or to have, meetings either with the President himself or with some other representative of the Council, is on his way to Europe. Will whoever meets him raise this important question in view of the European Parliament's attitude, which expresses the views of the Community's peoples? And I appeal once again to the Danish Presidency, which I believe, represents a people with particular sensitivity over such issues.

Mr Habsburg (PPE): Mr President, as you well know, this resolution on the history of Armenia was adopted by an insignificant minority in this Parliament, the majority having abstained, if only because they regarded the matter as ludicrous and as not falling within Parliament's terms of reference. Would you not, therefore, share my view that, if the Council wastes its time in contemplations of history which have nothing to do with its political powers, it will completely cease to function.

Mr Brok (PPE): Mr President of the Council, in the context of the European Parliament's resolution on the Armenian question, it has been said on various occasions that there was a connection with the murders of Turkish civilians in Arispos in Anatolia. Has the Council, acting within the framework of European political cooperation, adopted a position on these monstrous crimes against civilians during the summer and expressed its regret to the Turkish Government?

Mr Adamou (COM): I should like to make a small comment. It is, of course, true that Armenia belongs to history, but history teaches many lessons. And if we bear in mind that the same genocide is being conducted today in Turkey against 8 million Kurds who form the Kurdish minority, is it not true that Council should take account of the lesson so as to defend those who remain alive?

Mr Ellemann-Jensen: I can only repeat that this question has not been discussed in the Council. The other matter which was mentioned has also not been discussed, but I am aware that a number of

governments have, either individually or bilaterally, sent messages of sympathy to the Turkish Government on those tragic events.

87/322. Question No H-87/87 by Mr Arbeloa Muru Concerning the Violation of Human Rights in Bangladesh

Date of Issue: 16 September 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

Are the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation aware of the 'Amnesty International Report on Unlawful Killings and Torture in the Chittagong Hill Tracts' (in Bangladesh) concerning the killing, torture, looting and imprisonment of local tribes at the hands of military and paramilitary forces during recent years? Have they taken any steps to investigate these violations of human rights and bring those responsible to justice?

Answer:

In the answer to the Written Question No 2170/86 ¹ by Mr Luc Beyer de Ryke, referring to the same subject, it has been outlined that the Twelve follow closely the human rights situation in Bangladesh and particularly in the Chittagong hill tracts and that they have expressed their concern in this matter to the authorities of Bangladesh. The Twelve are aware of the report of Amnesty International. They understand that the Bangladesh Government has delivered a detailed rebuttal to Amnesty International. They will continue to follow the evolution closely.

87/323. Question No H-403/87 by Ms Crawley on Concern About the Welfare of Julieta Campusano and Mireya Baltra

Date of Issue: 16 September 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

Will the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation make known to the Chilean Government their condemnation of the treatment at the hands of the Chilean authorities of Julieta Campusano, 69, ex-Senator in Allende's Government, and Mireya Baltra, ex-Minister of Labour? Their well-being is causing great concern. Will the Foreign Ministers investigate and report on their welfare and call for an immediate lifting of the banishment order which has been served on them?

Answer:

We understand that the two individuals referred to by the Honourable Member are no longer subject to a banishment order, that they have both returned to Santiago and are at liberty once again.

I would add that the Twelve's concern about the human rights situation in Chile, including the use of banishment orders, is well known and that we have frequently made our views clear to the authorities in Santiago.

Resolution of 18 June 1987 on a political solution to the Armenian question, OJ No C 190 of 20 July 1987, pp. 119-121.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 87/185.

87/324. Question No H-106/87 by Mr Boesmans Concerning the Death of the Belgian Doctor Michael De Witte in El Salvador

Date of Issue: 16 September 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

On 8 February this year Dr De Witte was killed in a bomb attack by government forces in El Salvador. He had for several years been treating the wounded in the civil war as well as being responsible for preventive health care among the poor peasant population. Have the Foreign Ministers taken any steps to have the authorities in El Salvador shed light on this incident and bring those responsible to justice and, if so, what exactly was the outcome of those steps?

Answer:

As the Honourable Member will be well aware, the Twelve have consistently supported efforts to achieve a peaceful resolution of Central America's problems through dialogue and negotiation. Through a series of ministerial meetings, the most recent in Guatemala City in February this year, the Twelve have demonstrated their willingness to work with those in the region seeking a political solution based on the objectives of the Contadora Group.

Against this background the Twelve clearly deplore all acts of violence likely to exacerbate the situation in Central America and make the search for peace more difficult. They are particularly concerned when such acts of violence lead to the death or injury of EC citizens. The Twelve have not, however, discussed the specific case to which the Honourable Member refers.

87/325. Question No H-394/87 by Mr Adamou Concerning Political Prisoners in South Korea

Date of Issue: 16 September 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

How do the Foreign Ministers intend to react to the fact that roughly 3 000 communists and other democrats are still being held in South Korean prisons as a result of their opposition to the dictatorial regime in spite of the partial amnesty?

Answer:

As they expressed in their declaration of 2 July 1987, the Twelve find the recent developments in South Korea encouraging and they welcome them as steps in the right direction. In this context it should be noted that the number of political prisoners is substantially lower than indicated by the Honourable Member.

Question No H-364/87 by Ms Dury Concerning the UN **Convention Against Torture**

Date of Issue: 16 September 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

Source of Document: Presidency

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 87/238.

Under the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, unanimously adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1984, a period of thirty days was required to elapse following the signing of the convention by at least twenty States before torture was outlawed. Since Friday 26 June this condition has been met: Afghanistan, Argentina, Belize, Byelorussia, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Denmark, Egypt, France, Hungary, Mexico, Norway, Philippines, Senegal, Sweden, Switzerland, Uganda, Ukraine, Uruguay and the USSR have signed.

Would the Ministers say why all the Member States have not acceded to the UN Convention against torture, and do they not consider that the Member States' approach to such questions ought to be the subject of stricter political cooperation?

Answer:

Member States of the European Community are among the most energetic defenders of human rights and consequently they support any effort to eliminate torture and other inhuman treatment in the world. They have, therefore, contributed considerable efforts in the United Nations framework and particularly in the adoption of the UN Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. All Member States have either signed the convention or signalled their intention of doing so. Ratification requires, in some cases, national legislation, depending on the constitutional provisions. Time required for ratifying the convention therefore varies among the Member States.

87/327. Question No H-304/87 by Mr Hänsch Concerning the Death Sentences Passed on the Chileans Jorge Palma Donoso, Hugo Marchant Moya and Carlos Araneda Miranda

Date of Issue: 16 September 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

Are the Foreign Ministers aware that the above death sentences were confirmed by the *Corte Marcial Chile* on 10 April, although — according to the defence, which had succeeded in having them quashed last December — they were the result of a miscarriage of justice and based solely on the presumption of alleged involvement in attempted assassination? Will the Foreign Ministers look into these cases with due speed and use their influence to prevent enforcement of the sentences?

Answer:

The Twelve are following closely the cases of the three individuals mentioned and of eleven others who also face death sentences. In March 1985 the Twelve intervened with the Chilean authorities in favour of the three detainees in question. That *démarche* aimed at transferring the trials of the three detainees from a special military court — with the threat of summary proceedings and subsequent executions — to 'regular' military judiciary. Thereafter, the trials were in fact transmitted to a military court. The Twelve will continue to follow the cases and will, in this context, consider a further *démarche* in favour of the three detainees, if the appeal procedure indicates that this would be helpful. The Twelve continue to make clear to the Chilean authorities their concern about human rights violations in Chile.

87/328. Question No 2664/86 by Ms Garcia Arias (S-E) Concerning the Ruling of the International Court of Justice at The Hague Concerning the Action Taken Against Nicaragua

Date of Issue: 18 September 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 12 February 1987

Does the Council have an opinion concerning the immediate enforcement of the ruling by the International Court of Justice of 27 June 1986 on military and paramilitary activities in and against Nicaragua? Does it consider that the Member States would be capable of adopting a common position if a motion for a resolution on the matter were tabled in the United Nations?

Answer:

The Twelve have repeatedly expressed their viewpoints on the current crisis in Central America. They did so more recently in adopting, together with the countries of Central America and of the Contadora Group, the joint political declaration of the third Ministerial Conference between the European Community and its Member States, the States of Central America and those of the Contadora Group held in Guatemala on 9 and 10 February 1987¹.

I would also refer to the reply to question No H-624/86 put by Mr Baillot. This reply contains the positions of the Member States of the Community regarding the International Court of Justice at The Hague and its ruling of 27 June 1986².

87/329. Question No 536/87 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E) Concerning Violent Deaths in Surinam

Date of Issue: 18 September 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 12 June 1987

Have the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation been informed of the violent deaths of civilians at the hands of soldiers belonging to the Surinam army on 1 August, 18 October and 29 November, 1986?

Have they been able to corroborate reports of the deaths on 29 November 1986 of 31 people, including several children and three pregnant women?

Answer:

The Twelve are following closely the situation in Surinam, where clashes between the army and rebel elements have led to displacement and suffering among the civilian population. Some of the Twelve, on an individual basis, have informed appropriate authorities of their concern at the human rights situation.

The Twelve sincerely hope that Surinam will continue the process leading to the restoration both of democracy and legal safeguards and of respect for human rights and fundamental freedom.

87/330. Question No 562/87 by Mr Perinat Elio (ED-E) Concerning the Balance Between Civilian Society and the Military in Latin America

Date of Issue: 18 September 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 12 June 1987

The political world in Latin America continues to be torn by the traditional confrontation endemic in that continent between civilian society and the military, as was demonstrated by the rebellion in Ecuador last February, the recent military crisis in Argentina and the revolt by the armed forces in Peru last

month, which suggest there may be a widening of the breach between the two sides.

EPC Bulletin, Doc. 87/096.
EPC Bulletin, Doc. 86/398.

Democracy is essential for the development of civilian societies in Latin America but it is just as essential to ensure that the armed forces of the countries in question carry out their duties professionally and responsibly and that they respect the principle that the military is subordinate to the civilian authorities.

Since the defence of democracy everywhere is a matter of concern to us all, do the Foreign Ministers feel it would be possible to organize a programme of invitations from the various Community institutions to leading members of the armed forces in Latin America to enable them to see for themselves how the various democratic bodies of the Community Member States operate?

Answer:

The Honourable Member's suggestion has not been examined in the context of European political cooperation. However, the Twelve have on several occasions expressed their support for the democratic process in Latin America.

87/331. Question No 563/87 by Mr Perinat Elio (ED-E) Concerning Community Aid to Assist Bolivia's Efforts to Combat the Drugs Problem

Date of Issue: 18 September 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 12 June 1987

The serious economic crisis which has arisen in Bolivia as a result of the slump on stock market prices for tin and the sharp drop in prices for other minerals and gas has led to an increase in the number of unemployed, who have swollen the numbers of those growing coca. As a result, the 12 000 hectares used for this purpose ten years ago has risen to 70 000 hectares today.

In spite of this crisis, the Bolivian Government has undertaken a major campaign to wipe out coca growing, as far as possible, by encouraging farmers to switch voluntarily to other crops. The Bolivian Government's plan, which will cost \$ 300 million over three years, recently came under scrutiny at the Vienna Conference and has the support of the United Nations, the United States and other members of the international community. Does the European Community intend to provide any assistance for the implementation of this plan, whose aim is to combat the drugs problem — the scourge of the 20th century?

Answer:

The Honourable Member's question falls within the competence of the Community. For that reason it has not been discussed within the framework of European political cooperation.

87/332. Question No 565/87 by Ms Lizin (S-B) Concerning the Protection Granted by the Member States to Chilean Political Refugees who Opt to Return to Chile

Date of Issue: 18 September 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 12 June 1987

Will the Council state what guarantees, particularly as regards civil and political rights, the various Member States can give to Chilean nationals who opt to go back and who have political refugee status in their country of residence? The Netherlands, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Denmark, Italy and Spain are affected by this issue.

Answer:

The Honourable Member's question has not been touched on in the context of European political cooperation.

87/333. Statement at the Plenary Session of the UN General Assembly

Date of Issue: 22 September 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Mr Ellemann-Jensen: Mr President, on behalf of the European Community and its Member States I take pleasure in congratulating you on your election to the Presidency of this 42nd session of the General Assembly.

I should further like to express the Community's appreciation to the outgoing President for the leadership he has shown on so many occasions during the past year.

The twelve Member States of the European Community also wish to pay tribute to our Secretary-General and would like to express our deep appreciation of his patient and tireless efforts to solve the problems facing us — including those within this very Organization.

I last had the honour to address the General Assembly on behalf of the European Community and its Member States in 1982. I began with words which vividly reflected the difficulties which we then faced: 'The world today presents a bleak picture. It is becoming increasingly difficult to remain optimistic about the future'.

How does the situation look today, five years on? I am happy to say that, in the period since I last addressed the General Assembly, there have been a number of encouraging developments. Fortunately, the worst fears expressed at that time have not been realized and there are grounds for us to look to the future with guarded optimism. Difficulties remain in many parts of the world. But it should be noted that international tension has been reduced to some extent as a result of improving relations between East and West.

Numerous challenges, however, remain. And the role of the United Nations continues to be central to meeting them. It is striking how the United Nations is now seen as having a major role in finding acceptable solutions to so many of the serious international conflicts which face us: Afghanistan; the Iran/Iraq war; the Arab/Israeli conflict; Lebanon; Cyprus; Kampuchea; and Southern Africa. After a period in which the United Nations was too often seen as marginal to the great issues of the day, the Twelve welcome the Organization's increasingly central and active role. The twelve EC Member States are willing to contribute fully and constructively to the efforts being made by the Secretary-General, the Security Council and this Assembly. It is important that all the nations of the world work together as truly united nations. The French philosopher, Pascal, once wrote: 'Plurality which is not reduced to unity is confusion: unity which does not depend on plurality is tyranny'.

Let us all try in the coming months here in New York to work together and to settle our differences in an atmosphere of constructiveness and far-sightedness. This is what the many millions of people whom we represent expect from us.

We live in a world of interdependence; a world in which few major problems, if any, can be resolved by one nation alone. The very existence of the European Community reflects the Twelve's acknowledgement of this fact. Our collective efforts to meet the challenges which have faced Western Europe in

the last thirty years highlight our fundamental commitment to international cooperation and collaboration. Since the Treaty of Rome was signed in 1957 the Community has faced difficulties and disagreements. It has taken time to develop the habits of instinctive partnership amongst the EC Member States. But we are in no doubt about the benefits which our peoples have enjoyed as a result of the creation of the European Community.

With the entry into force of the Single European Act this year the European Community has entered into a new phase of close collaboration. Our own experiences have made us all the more convinced that such a regional cooperation within the wide global framework is essential if lasting solutions are to be found to the world's problems.

The Twelve naturally attach particular importance to the development of East-West relations. As Europeans, we cannot ignore the artificial barriers which divide our continent, and have divided it for over forty years. The Helsinki Final Act has laid a solid foundation to overcome these barriers. Unfortunately, much still remains to be done in order to adequately translate the provisions of the Final Act into reality. The Twelve have played a central role in the CSCE process since its inception, and we are determined to press for continuing progress. The commitments freely entered into in Helsinki and elsewhere must be fully implemented by all States participating in the CSCE. Their peoples must be able to enjoy the real benefits, including, in particular, respect for human rights, which they were promised in 1975.

At the current follow-up meeting in Vienna the Twelve have therefore submitted major proposals within the main areas of the CSCE process, especially concerning its human dimension. We wish, in particular, to increase the impact of the CSCE for individual Europeans — by facilitating contacts between East and West, by creating and strengthening guarantees of individual rights and freedoms and by ensuring the free flow of information, ideas and people. Our ideals and proposals must be adequately reflected in any concluding document of the Vienna meeting. This document would thus promote full compliance with existing commitments as well as represent substantial and balanced progress across the full range of CSCE subjects. The CSCE process cannot stand still. It must be dynamic and responsive to the needs and wishes of our citizens.

We are following carefully recent developments in the Soviet Union. We note with interest that new words have been used by the Soviet Union which could point towards a more open society. Improved mutual awareness and understanding between States are both desirable in themselves and have a crucial role to play in reducing mistrust and fear.

However, we look to the Soviet Union for deeds which will match its words. Afghanistan is a case in point. Soviet policy in Afghanistan is a concrete test of the Soviet Union's goodwill and intentions: more than 110 000 Soviet troops remain in Afghanistan against the will of the Afghan people. Seven years of indiscriminate warfare has brought immense suffering upon the civilian population, created the world's biggest refugee problem and imposed considerable burdens on neighbouring countries, in particular Pakistan.

As expressed in the annual resolutions overwhelmingly endorsed by this Assembly, the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan continues to be as unacceptable to the international community as was the case in 1979. The rapid and unconditional withdrawal of all Soviet troops, according to an irrevocable time-table, and the respect of the legitimate right of the Afghan people to decide freely their own future and their government are the key elements in a lasting peaceful solution. The Twelve support the efforts of the United Nations Secretary-General to bring about an early negotiated settlement based on the principles contained in the United Nations resolutions.

The Twelve welcome improved relations between the superpowers and, in particular, indications that agreement is near on the global elimination of land-based intermediate-range nuclear missiles with a range of between 500 and 5 500 kilometres. This would be a major achievement. The Twelve hope that such an agreement would help to reduce tensions and enhance international security. The Twelve also hope that success in INF negotiations will give new impetus to US-Soviet negotiations on other nuclear missile and space systems. The next priority should be given to reaching early progress towards limitations and substantial reductions of the strategic nuclear arsenals of the two superpowers. We call for a further intensification of efforts aimed at reaching agreements which are fair, balanced and effectively verifiable.

Urgent progress must also be made in other fields of arms control and disarmament. A global ban on chemical weapons should enhance international security and lead to the removal from countries' arsenals of a particularly horrifying and inhuman instrument of war. We cannot forget that it is conventional weapons which have caused millions of deaths around the world since 1945 and continue to do so. The Twelve want to use this opportunity to underline the importance of the progress towards building greater military confidence in Europe, started in Stockholm, of which the first result constitutes a success recognized by all. We hope to see further progress in this field at the Vienna CSCE follow-up meeting. The Twelve underline their strong interest in the discussions in this connection on further steps to promote the establishment in Europe of a secure and stable balance of conventional forces at a lower level and an increase of military transparency. We also strongly support efforts within the United Nations to tackle the problem of conventional disarmament. In this field, as in many others, the Third Special Session on Disarmament presents an opportunity to make a further contribution to process including effective steps towards the implementation of the necessary transparency of military budgets according to objective standards.

One area which carries deep scars of regional tension and armed conflict is the Middle East. The conflict between Iraq and Iran has now lasted for seven terrible years and continues to cause widespread death, destruction and suffering. This conflict represents an increasingly serious threat to security and to the freedom of navigation in the Gulf. As expressed in their declaration of 3 September 1987 the Twelve are seriously concerned by the continuation of the Iraq/Iran conflict and the resulting increase in tension in the Gulf. The Twelve wholeheartedly support Resolution 598 of the Security Council and call for its early implementation in full. Noting the positions of the two parties as expressed to date, we urgently call for a speedy implementation of the resolution and for the immediate observance of a cease-fire on land, sea and in the air.

We fully support the Secretary-General in his efforts to obtain this end and appeal to both Iraq and Iran to cooperate fully with him. We reiterate our firm support for the fundamental principle of freedom of navigation, which is of the utmost importance to the whole international community.

The Arab/Israeli conflict remains an issue of concern to us all. It lies at the heart of continuing tension in the Near East and further efforts are urgently needed to achieve progress towards a just, global and lasting settlement of this conflict. The Twelve's views on the key elements which must make up a solution to this conflict are well known. In accordance with the Venice Declaration and other declarations, two principles are fundamental: the right of all States in the area, including Israel, to exist within secure frontiers, and the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination with all that this implies. We call upon the parties involved in the Arab/Israeli conflict to open the doors to peace by recognizing each other's rights. Against the background of our long-standing contacts with the region, the Twelve are following closely current diplomatic efforts to revitalize the peace process. In our declarations of 23 February 1987 and of 13 July 1987 we have stated that we are in favour of an international conference, held under the auspices of the United Nations, with the participation of interested parties as well as any party able to make a direct and positive contribution to the restoration and maintenance of peace and to the region's economic and social development. Such a conference provides a suitable framework for the necessary negotiations between the parties directly concerned and seems to us at present the only formula to allow the peace process to move forward. We are in close contact with all the parties concerned and we shall do all in our power to encourage them to bring their positions sufficiently close together to allow such an international conference to be held — and to achieve worthwhile results.

The Twelve are increasingly concerned about the situation of human rights in the occupied territories. We renew our call on Israel to fulfil its obligations as the occupying power, pending its withdrawal, to lift restrictions on political and economic activities and, as we have reiterated recently in our declaration of 14 September 1987, to put an end to the illegal policy of settlements. In order to help improve the living conditions of the Palestinians in the occupied territories, the Community and its Member States will continue to provide economic assistance directly to the Palestinians, designed to allow the territories to enjoy the fruits of normal economic development. This assistance is in no sense an alternative to a lasting political settlement — but we hope nevertheless that it may help, in a small way, to bring such a settlement nearer.

As to the tragic fate of Lebanon, we remain firmly committed to Lebanon's sovereignty, unity, independence and territorial integrity. We welcome the vital work being done by UNIFIL and call on all involved to support the UNIFIL force and allow it to carry out its mandate fully and in the best possible security conditions.

Turning now to the question of Cyprus, a member of the European family, I cannot disregard the fact that the situation remains unchanged. The tragic division of the island continues. The Twelve attach great importance to the just and viable solution of this problem. To this end we reaffirm our strong backing for the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and unity of the Republic of Cyprus in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions. We stand fully by our previous statements and reject any action which purports to establish an independent State within Cyprus. We also express our support to the Secretary-General in his mission of good offices and ask those concerned to cooperate with him in the search for a solution to this problem of international concern and to refrain from words or actions that might adversely affect the prospects of a solution by peaceful means.

Turning to South Africa, we face a situation which none of us can view with equanimity. The Twelve have always made clear our unequivocal condemnation of apartheid, an immoral and unacceptable system which breeds hatred and violence.

We remain convinced that what is needed in South Africa is a genuine national dialogue. Only broad-based negotiations, involving the genuine representatives of the various components of the South African population, can bring about a lasting settlement. The aim of the negotiations should be the emergence of a free, democratic, non-racial and united South Africa which takes into account the diversity of its society. The longer the Government delays, the more difficult this exercise will become. The longer the Government relies on repression as its main response to demands for change, the stronger will become the position of those in the majority who argue that only force can end apartheid. An increasing majority of South Africans will conclude that there is no way in which apartheid can reform itself through the parody of democracy practised in their country.

On the face of it the outcome of the white elections in May was a victory for those in the minority community opposed to fundamental change. But in reality it was a defeat for everybody. The white minority community voted for the continued exclusion of the majority of the South Africans from having any say. For the time being, the South African Government may be able to suppress opposition by force. But it cannot stop the clock of history. Apartheid is doomed; the sooner the Government in South Africa comes to terms with this fact, the better. President Botha has the necessary majority in parliament to abolish apartheid, thus paving the way for a peaceful development in South Africa.

The meeting between a courageous group of individual South Africans and ANC leaders in Dakar earlier this summer illustrated that common ground can still be found between the two communities.

We have frequently made clear the sort of steps which we believe the South African Government should take in order to allow a process of peaceful change to begin. We do not believe that a dialogue can take place while leaders of the majority are imprisoned or in exile, their political organizations are proscribed, and the state of emergency continues. Yet Nelson Mandela, probably the most respected political leader in South Africa, has now been in prison for more than 25 years.

At the same time, we will continue to provide assistance to the victims of apartheid, inside South Africa as well as in the neighbouring States. The latter continue to suffer from South Africa's destabilization and armed incursions.

We will continue to monitor every aspect of the effects of apartheid, including human rights violations and other abuses committed under cover of the state of emergency. The Twelve will continue to use pressure to bring about peaceful change. In the absence of significant progress in the abolition of apartheid, the attitude of the Twelve to South Africa remains under constant review.

We call once again on South Africa to allow Namibia to become independent without delay on the basis of Security Council Resolution 435. There is no justification for any other conduct.

The Twelve are concerned by the resumption of the conflict between Chad and Libya. They believe that Chad has the right to decide its own destiny, free from interference from neighbouring countries. They note that there is a territorial dispute between the two countries. Conscious of the dangers inherent in the present situation, they hope that this dispute can be resolved peacefully in accordance with

international law and as rapidly as possible. They therefore wish to see either a direct agreement between the two parties or recourse to a process of international arbitration. The *ad hoc* committee created by the OAU in order to deal with the dispute and the International Court of Justice seem the most appropriate bodies.

In the Western Sahara, we appeal to the parties to respond positively to the Secretary-General's efforts to find a peaceful solution.

We note with concern the continuing tensions on the Horn of Africa and look forward to peaceful negotiated settlements among the countries concerned. We urge them also to take further steps to achieve the peaceful settlement of internal conflicts and to ensure respect for human rights in the countries. We are seriously concerned at the extent of food shortages, especially in Ethiopia. We attach particular importance to appropriate policies to help prevent further famine and to promote food security. We recognize the immediate need for humanitarian relief in the region and are playing our part.

As to the division of the Korean peninsula and continuing tension there we see a resumption of the suspended direct dialogue between North and South as the only way to reach a solution by peaceful means. It is our hope that on the basis of the principle of universality the people of Korea may soon gain full membership of this Organization. We have been encouraged by the progress made towards democratic reforms in the Republic of Korea. We extend our best wishes for the success of the forthcoming olympic games.

The continuing Vietnamese occupation of Kampuchea, in violation of the fundamental principles of the United Nations and international law, remains an issue of the greatest concern to the international community. Kampuchea must be free both from foreign troops and from any prospect of a return to the appalling activities of the *Khmer rouge*. The Twelve call upon the new leadership in Hanoi to end the Vietnamese military intervention in Kampuchea in order to contribute to a rapid peaceful solution, which places the fate of the hard-tried Kampuchean people in its own hands. To this end we support a settlement of this tragic conflict in accordance with repeated United Nations resolutions while expressing our firm support for the constructive efforts made by ASEAN.

We have seen this year in Sri Lanka encouraging proof that, where opportunities are grasped with courage and determination, conflict can be resolved. The Twelve have warmly welcomed the agreement signed on 29 July between Sri Lanka and India for a peaceful solution to the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka, a solution which we had long advocated. But such agreements only work through the goodwill of all concerned. We urge them to continue to comply with the provisions of the agreement.

The Twelve reaffirm the particular importance they attach to the strengthening and development of relations with Latin America for historic, political, economic and cultural reasons. Recent developments in Central America give cause for optimism. We warmly welcome the agreement signed at the Central America summit in Guatemala City on 7 August and supported by the Contadora Group and its Support Group. This agreement offers a historic opportunity to end armed conflict and bring peace and genuine democracy to the region. We have always believed that any lasting solution to Central America's problems had to emerge from within the region itself, and we urge the five countries, as well as all countries with links and interests in the region, to cooperate constructively in implementing the Guatemala Agreement within the time-frame prescribed. The Twelve remain committed to helping them — both by intensifying our political dialogue with the region, which is due to be carried forward by ministers at a meeting in the Federal Republic of Germany early next year, and by using our economic assistance to encourage and strengthen regional cooperation and integration.

I would like now to turn to a problem from which none of us can be confident of remaining free: international terrorism. It is a scourge which can threaten any of our citizens at any time. The strength of the Twelve's commitment to combating terrorism, whenever and wherever it appears, is well known. We believe that effective international cooperation is indispensable in responding to the terrorist threat. In this connection, maintaining the consensus in this Assembly represented by Resolution 40/61 is in the interest of all. All involved must be made to realize that acts of terrorism can only damage the causes which they purport to help. For our part, the Twelve have left third countries in no doubt about our collective determination to take action in this field. No country which lends support to terrorism can expect to enjoy normal relations with the Twelve. When we have clear indications of government support

for terrorism, we shall not hesitate to act. We are working hard, in partnership with other like-minded countries, to ensure that the perpetrators of such acts are brought to justice. We think that any government supporting them should be strongly condemned by the international community.

The Twelve continue to attach the utmost importance to the respect of human rights in their approach to the rest of the world. For us, human rights are not a minor byway of international relations. They are of central importance in our dealings with all third countries. The concept of human rights is not a convenient catchword to be used in attacking those with whom we disagree. It involves the acceptance of a set of fundamental standards of civilized behaviour by which we should all be ready to be judged. Over the years the United Nations has played a key role in establishing such internationally accepted standards in this vitally important area. We naturally expect all members of the United Nations to live up to these standards. We welcome any efforts designed to strengthen existing mechanisms established to ensure that nations' words are matched by deeds. And we feel free, indeed obliged, to raise these issues with others when human rights are ignored or abused. The entering into force of the United Nations Convention against torture in June this year was an important step in the right direction.

We feel obliged to alleviate the plight of those who suffer from abuse of human rights, not least those who have been forced to leave their country. We think efforts should be made, based on the concept of international solidarity in order to improve the protection of the world's refugees.

The Twelve reaffirm the role of the UNHCR as the international focal point to promote durable solutions for refugees in all parts of the world, such as voluntary repatriation, regional integration or resettlement in third countries.

The International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking held in Vienna in June 1987 was of primary importance to the Twelve. The European Community and its Member States participated actively in it.

Mr President, the present over-all economic context is characterized by moderate growth, accelerated and profound changes in the world economy, shifting policy concerns and persisting difficulties of many developing countries. Among the serious problems facing the world economy are the severe debt problem of many developing countries, continuing protectionist pressures and major changes in the relative weight of the commodities sector. Looming behind these problems is the deteriorating state in some areas of the global natural resource base upon which economic development depends considerably.

However, there is sometimes a tendency to focus on uncertainties and overlook positive developments. And despite the present uncertainties there is cause for some optimism.

Efforts are under way to foster vigorous national economies and a more stable and growth-oriented world economy.

Most countries are endeavouring to combine effectively macro-economic and structural policies, to extend the role of the market and to develop their human potential.

Equally important is the recognition of the joint responsibility for the functioning of the world economy, with each country contributing to the fostering of an expanding world economy in accordance with its ability.

Most recently, this was demonstrated through the adoption by consensus of the Final Act of UNCTAD VII.

It is indeed a major achievement that all 140 countries participating in the conference agreed on a common assessment of the relevant economic trends and of their policy implications as well as on policy approaches and measures to deal with debt problems and resources for development, with commodities, with international trade and with the problems of the least developed countries.

In the true spirit of interdependence and partnership all countries recognized their responsibility, collectively and individually, to contribute, according to their capacities and weight in the world economy, to the common objective of revitalizing development, growth and international trade.

Hopefully, the constructive and cooperative approach taken at the conference will constitute not only a new beginning for UNCTAD itself but also a milestone in international cooperation.

The European Community and its Member States worked actively towards this result. We fully support the Final Act of UNCTAD VII and will contribute constructively to the fulfilment of these undertakings in all the relevant international fora. We expect all other countries — developed and developing alike — to do the same, and look forward to a continued cooperative effort.

The financing of the development efforts of developing countries requires enhanced mobilization of domestic economic and human resources as well as increased external financial flows.

Official development assistance will continue to play a decisive role for a large number of developing countries, particularly on highly concessional terms for the poorer and least developed countries. The European Community and its Member States are already large donors. We realize that further efforts are needed to increase the effectiveness of aid and to achieve as quickly as possibly the ODA-target of 0.7% of GNP as adopted under the International Development Strategy and the ODA-target of 0.15% of GNP for the least developed countries as adopted in the Substantial New Programme of Action.

The multilateral institutions should be enabled to play a greater part in promoting more satisfactory growth, effective adjustment and mobilization of resources by providing concessional and non-concessional finance, and by catalyzing additional private capital flows.

Accordingly, we support a capital increase for the World Bank. We favour an early agreement on a substantial increase. We also welcome the proposal of the Managing Director of the IMF for a significant increase in the resources of the IMF's structural adjustment facility and are ready to work actively towards reaching a conclusion of discussions thereon this year.

Handling the problems of debt facing many developing countries is one of the most important tasks confronting the international community.

There has been an evolving response of the international community to the debt problems. There is a recognition of the need for enhanced cooperative action on a case-by-case basis by the parties involved and further progress was achieved at UNCTAD VII. In this respect the UN Resolution 41/202 adopted last year may also be recalled as a positive step. We are convinced that the agreement at UNCTAD VII constitutes an important contribution to discussions of the debt servicing problem, which will continue in the coming months in the relevant international fora.

The debt service burden of the poorest countries, primarily in sub-Saharan Africa, is particularly constraining. We fully accept measures adapted to the needs of these countries which are undertaking adjustment efforts. Intensified deliberations in the Paris Club have already resulted in larger repayment and grace periods with respect to rescheduled official credit for certain countries in support of their far-reaching economic reforms. Proposals for lower interest rates have been put forward.

Turning to the field of international trade, the European Community worked hard for the launching of the new round of multilateral trade negotiations, and we intend to work vigorously towards its successful and balanced conclusion within the agreed time-frame.

In recognition of the importance of trade in tropical products to a large number of developing countries we are preparing a proposal to be presented at an early stage of the negotiations in GATT.

The Community remains firmly committed to the objectives and undertakings of the Punta del Este Declaration. As the developing countries progressively develop and improve their trade situation they should participate more fully in the framework of rights and obligations under the General Agreement, thereby allowing positive measures to be taken to meet the needs of the least developed countries.

Liberalization and expansion of trade are in the interest of all countries and require concerted efforts. We take the agreement at UNCTAD VII as clear evidence that all Uruguay Round participants are ready to shoulder their responsibilities. All parties concerned must undertake to adhere to the principles of multilateralism.

Agriculture remains a major political issue and this field has witnessed major progress in recent months.

Given the scope of the problems – for which all countries bear some responsibility – and their urgency, the OECD Ministers in May 1987 agreed on the principles for a concerted reform of their countries' agricultural policies to be implemented in a balanced manner. Reforms of agricultural policies

in industrialized countries on the basis of these principles will also be of benefit to developing countries. The European Community reaffirms its commitment to this important agreement and stresses the decisive importance of the Uruguay Round in this context.

The agreement reached at UNCTAD VII on international cooperation between producers and consumers in the field of commodities drew on past experience, on a recognition of the complex circumstances affecting individual commodities, and thereby laid down the basis for working in the future towards constructive results in this field.

A similar realistic approach should be taken with regard to the Common Fund which might now enter into force after the recent signing by several countries.

The need for intensified international cooperation was also highlighted in the recent report of the World Commission on Environment and Development. This timely report reminds us of the fragile ecological balance on which economic development is based.

The World Commission has presented a strategy for sustainable development which includes valuable guidelines to be used by the international community. Also the 'Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond' constitutes a basis for further discussions.

Mr President, the debate on the report of the Group of Eighteen High-Level Experts and the adoption by consensus of Resolution 41/213 clearly shows the determination of all Member States to reform and improve this Organization.

The Twelve hope that the work prepared by the CPC will be successfully concluded during this session.

The Secretary-General has demonstrated his determination to follow up seriously the reform process, and I can assure him of the full support of the Twelve in these efforts.

It now remains for the Special Commission undertaking the in-depth study of the UN intergovernmental structure and functions in the economic and social fields to show the same kind of determination. The Twelve will continue to work actively for a positive outcome. It must be in the interest of all Member States to ensure that the intergovernmental machinery functions as effectively as possible in accordance with the Charter. Furthermore, we strongly believe that, together with other parts of the reform process, progress in this respect will contribute significantly to restore the confidence in the ability of the United Nations to deal effectively with issues entrusted to it.

Reform is necessary to restore confidence in the merits of the Organization. But no reform can be completed if the Organization is deprived of the means to fulfil its mission. The Twelve emphasize again the need for all Member States to comply fully with their statutory financial obligations.

There have been sufficient examples in the history of the United Nations to prove the value of multilateralism. The Twelve share the view expressed by the Secretary-General in his annual report that a pragmatic approach to the problems of an interdependent world provides a promising basis for broadened multilateral cooperation and for the increased effectiveness of the United Nations.

The Twelve firmly support a strong and effective United Nations and trust that this objective is shared by all Member States. However, to reach our common goal deeds must follow words.

Mr President, the 42nd General Assembly of the United Nations started its work last week. The next months will be characterized by a multitude of meetings in many committees.

Let me finish by quoting Piet Hein, a Danish philosopher, who gives the following advice on the arithmetic of cooperation: 'When you're adding up committees there's a useful rule of thumb: that talents make a difference, but follies make a sum'.

Mr President, let us all add up our talents in order to settle our differences. The net result should be a better world.

Thank you, Mr President.

87/334. Opening Statement of the Fourth Session of the CSCE Vienna Meeting: the CSCE, CDE and Other Aspects of the Helsinki Final Act

Date of Issue: 22 September 1987 Place of Issue: Vienna, Austria Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Mr Chairman, today as we begin our work again after the summer break I would like, on behalf of the Member States of the European Community, to share some views with you on the tasks which lie ahead of us.

Obviously the nature and scope of these tasks very much depend on the goals and objectives which we set ourselves.

In our view the Vienna meeting is a very special event in the history of the CSCE process because it takes place in a political environment which at least on the surface looks far more promising than for many years past. The declared intention of some participating States to undertake policy reforms which could have a direct bearing on their fulfilment of CSCE commitments and the progress being made on important arms control issues are examples of events which have contributed to raise hopes everywhere that a turning point may have been reached in the CSCE process.

It is against this background that we feel that all participating States should be courageous and ambitious in formulating their objectives for this meeting. Progress so far has been slower than we had wanted and a lot of work remains to be done if an outcome which can satisfy legitimate public expectations is to be reached. I am stating this fact not in order to put the blame on particular delegations nor to deter any of us from the work which lies ahead. On the contrary, our delegations have come back to Vienna prepared to engage themselves in hard work right from the outset because we are of the firm opinion that the Vienna meeting can and should be concluded with a satisfactory result before the end of this year. However, we realize of course that our own efforts in this respect will be in vain unless they are matched by a similar engagement on the part of others.

Mr Chairman, as I have had the occasion to state before, a satisfactory outcome means to us a balanced and substantial concluding document leading to tangible progress in the implementation of the commitments voluntarily undertaken in Helsinki and Madrid. Towards this goal we will continue to direct all our efforts. In fact, we have already presented our views on how such a result should be arrived at, be it in the human dimension, or in the area of military security or others. We are still waiting for a similar approach from our Eastern partners. We hope that the period of reflection which we have all just enjoyed may have served to advance matters in this respect.

We have repeatedly been invited to engage in what some of our partners call 'real drafting'. We agree that drafting is necessary in order to arrive at a text, and indeed we very much hope to reach this state without any delay. But drafting can only take place on the basis of mutual understanding. 'Drafting, indeed, is a sign that a measure of such understanding has been reached.

Just before the summer break Austria and Switzerland presented in drafting group H a comprehensive non-paper on Basket III issues. We believe that this was an effort made precisely to advance mutual understanding among delegations and from that point of view we have welcomed the initiative. I must, however, add that our scrutiny of the contents of the text has revealed certain shortcomings from our point of view, the nature and extent of which we shall be glad to explain in the drafting group in the course of our examination of this text.

We believe that similar initiatives from those best placed to undertake them will be a very important element in the advancement of our work and a means to give it the necessary focus. We congratulate the coordinators on the excellent manner in which they have conducted the dialogue within each of the baskets so far. Their dedication and skill portend the establishment soon of solid foundations for the efforts towards achievement of a successful outcome of our meeting.

We are, of course, aware that once we come to the stage of agreeing on specific wording, more flexibility will be required on all sides. But, Mr Chairman, I hope it will be clearly understood that we, for

our part, are not prepared to agree to empty words just to arrive at an agreement. We owe it to our citizens and to the international community not to disappoint them in this manner but to demonstrate that we are able to provide real answers to the real problems that exist.

Mr Chairman, when I referred to the work which remains to be done I was thinking of the many questions in all the different areas before our meeting. But I will not hide from you that there is one area in particular where lack of progress up till now gives our delegations cause for serious concern and that is the one referred to as the human dimension. We are at the same time puzzled and disappointed by this. We are puzzled by the fact that the much heralded 'new thinking' apparently has not been reflected in the statements made by some delegations here in Vienna. We are concerned by the possible implications of this for the overall outcome of our meeting. I believe it is a common understanding among us that the concluding document must reflect a balance between the baskets. In the human rights and humanitarian field there is a particular need for better compliance with existing commitments as well as the need to make important steps forward. We regard it as essential that the Vienna meeting results, both in specific and unambiguous undertakings to this effect and in the establishment of a continuing process allowing for scrutiny of progress in the implementation of human rights and human contacts commitments both on a bilateral and multilateral basis. This is the meaning of the proposal on a conference on the human dimension. The mechanism it proposes aims at treating the concrete questions and refraining from declaratory manifestations. These are two considerations which will continue to guide us in this area.

Mr Chairman, as we are now embarking on the Fourth Session of the Vienna meeting let us recall that the CSCE is important to us all in that it is, or should be, a dynamic process promoting contacts and negotiations among participating States and designing measures to mitigate the effects of the division of Europe to the benefit of all our citizens. We should all be aware of the historic opportunities which this meeting presents us with. If we fail to show dynamism and imagination in dealing with the tasks before this meeting we will not only miss this opportunity but we may also create lasting doubts about the ability of the CSCE to deal effectively with today's political problems.

We, the Member States of the European Community, for our part are determined to spare no effort in order to make use of the opportunities, but a successful outcome requires the same willingness on all sides. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

87/335. Question No 3021/86 by Mr Cano Pinto (S-E) Concerning the Naval Blockade of Nicaragua

Date of Issue: 24 September 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 27 March 1987

Recent statements by the new American national security adviser, Frank Carlucci, issued on 25 February 1987 report that serious consideration is being given to a naval blockage of Nicaragua to end the flow of Soviet aid to that country. In the light of this, is any political or diplomatic initiative being planned with a view to dissuading the US Government from organizing such a naval blockage of Nicaragua and avoiding the various dire consequences which would result for the political stability of the region and international detente?

Answer:

The Twelve remain convinced that the problems in Central America can be resolved only by a political solution coming from the region itself. They have, since its inception, supported the Contadora peace procedure. At the third Ministerial Conference between the European Community and its Member States, the States of Central America and those of the Contadora Group in Guatemala, on 9 and 10 February 1987, the participants yet again reiterated their conviction, in the joint political declaration of

the Conference¹, that it was essential for all countries with links and interests in the region to make a genuine contribution towards creating a favourable climate in which the Contadora objectives could be translated into an agreement which could bring lasting peace and stability to the region.

The above-mentioned declaration was brought to the attention of all countries concerned.

87/336. Question No 499/87 by Ms Lizin (S-B) Concerning Political Refugees: Granting this Status to Women Fleeing a Country which Refuses to Recognize their Existence

Date of Issue: 24 September 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 11 June 1987

Are the Ministers meeting in political cooperation prepared to grant political refugee status in the Twelve to women fleeing from Iran, particularly since the adoption of the law refusing them access to university and to public service employment?

In this context do the Twelve envisage applying an interpretation of the concept of 'social group' within the meaning of Article 3 of the United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees?

Answer:

The Honourable Member's question has not been discussed within European political cooperation. Nonetheless, the Twelve have on many occasions pointed to the Member States' duty to give refuge to the persecuted and stressed their desire to comply fully with the Geneva Convention. They also consider that on humanitarian grounds they may allow aliens to stay even if they do not meet the conditions laid down in that Convention. It must, however, be said that each Member State has to define the status of political refugee in accordance with its national legislation and its commitments under the Treaty.

87/337. Question No 647/87 by Mr Robles Piquer (ED-E) Concerning a Meeting of European Specialists in Constitutional Science

Date of Issue: 24 September 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 26 June 1987

The Sixth Congress of Political Science and Constitutional Law recently held in the Spanish city of Albacete and attended by some two hundred university teachers and experts in the field demonstrated how worthwhile such meetings, at the highest academic level, are as a means of crystallizing the constitutional ideals and philosophy underlying the organization and development of any political community.

This prompts the reflection that, at the point now reached in the development of the ideal of a Community Europe, it would be worth finding out what suggestions and relevant conclusions academics and experts in political science and constitutional law from all the Community Member States could contribute to securing progress towards the goal of a European unity which, as we all know, has fallen into a slough of apathy and stagnation.

Has it occurred to the Ministers that it would be worth organizing a meeting similar to that held in Albacete, as a way of hearing the authoritative view which would emerge from a forum attended by the most eminent European specialists in constitutional science?

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 87/096.

Answer:

The Twelve believe that the Single European Act, which came into force on 1 July 1987, marks a worthwhile step in the process of European integration. In drafting this Act, the Twelve took appropriate account of all ideas on the subject, including those of political scientists and experts in constitutional law.

87/338. Question No 669/87 by Mr Price (ED-UK) Concerning the Restrictive Measures Against South Africa Adopted on 10 September 1985

Date of Issue: 24 September 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 26 June 1987

For each of the categories of restrictive measures against South Africa agreed by the Twelve on 10 September 1985, will the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation list in respect of each Member State:

- a) the legal instrument by which the measure was imposed;
- b) the date when the measure became operative;
- c) the maximum penalty which can be enforced in the event of breach of the measure;
- d) any exceptions or exemptions allowed in respect either of subcategories of the product or item concerned or of specified legal or actual persons;
- e) the authority responsible for enforcement?

Answer:

All members of the Twelve control the import to and the export from their countries of arms and paramilitary equipment. In most countries no specific legislation was therefore required to implement the embargo agreed on 10 September 1985. The same applies to the ban on new collaboration in the nuclear field and that on the export of sensitive equipment destined for the South African police and armed forces.

The ban on oil exports to South Africa is enforced by legislation, by administrative act or by official guidelines.

The measures took immediate effect or came into force as soon as the necessary legislation had been passed. Enforcement, and the penalties for any breaches of these measures, are the responsibility of the individual governments.

The Twelve believe that the restrictive measures agreed to in 1985 and 1986 are being fully implemented.

87/339. Question No 668/87 by Mr Price (ED-UK) Concerning the Restrictive Measures Against South Africa Adopted on 16 September 1986

Date of Issue: 24 September 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 26 June 1987

For each of the categories of restrictive measures against South Africa agreed by the Twelve on 16 September 1986, will the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation list in respect of each Member State:

- a) the legal instrument by which the measure was imposed;
- b) the date when the measure became operative;
- c) the maximum penalty which can be enforced in the event of breach of the measure;
- d) any exceptions or exemptions allowed in respect either of subcategories of the product or item concerned or of specified legal or actual persons;
- e) the authority responsible for enforcement?

Answer:

The ban on the import of iron and steel products originating in South Africa was implemented by a decision of representatives of the governments of the Member States of the European Coal and Steel Community on 27 September 1986.

The ban on the import of gold coins originating in South Africa was implemented by Council Regulation (EEC) No 3302/86 adopted on 27 October 1986.

The ban on new investment in South Africa has been implemented in different ways in different Member States. In some cases new legislation has been introduced, in others administrative restrictions have been applied, in others a voluntary ban has been introduced.

Enforcement, and the penalities applied for breaching these measures, are the responsibility of individual governments.

87/340. Question No 670/87 by Mr Price (ED-UK) Concerning the Restrictive Measures Against South Africa Adopted on 27 October 1986

Date of Issue: 24 September 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 26 June 1987

For each of the categories of restrictive measures against South Africa agreed by the Twelve on 27 October 1986, will the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation list in respect of each Member State.

- a) the legal instrument by which the measure was imposed;
- b) the date when the measure became operative;
- c) the maximum penalty which can be enforced in the event of breach of the measure;
- d) any exceptions or exemptions allowed in respect either of subcategories of the product or item concerned or of specified legal or actual persons;
- e) the authority responsible for enforcement?

Answer:

The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given to his previous Written Question 1.

87/341. Question No 844/87 by Ms Squarcialupi (COM-I) Concerning the Situation in Zaire

Date of Issue: 24 September 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 20 July 1987

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 87/339.

The situation of political prisoners in Zaire is increasingly difficult and dangerous for the country's political opposition. President Mobuto continues to place under house arrest or imprison political opponents and the leaders of the opposition party, the UDSP (Union for Democracy and Social Progress), and to declare the party illegal, although there have been some attempts to make political opponents join Mobuto's party. Many political prisoners are in a seriously weakened condition. Mr Makanda, an opponent of the regime, recently died in prison as a result of malnutrition (his weight had dropped to 35 kg), ill-treatment and lack of medical care.

Do not the Ministers consider that it is time to propose to the Member States that financial aid to Zaire be halted or other sanctions imposed on the Government of Zaire, instead of merely stating that the Community 'is aware of the situation and is following it very closely'?

Answer:

The Twelve do not attempt to make humanitarian assistance to third countries dependent upon their precise constitutional arrangements.

That said, the Twelve do follow individual countries' records in the field of human rights closely and raise individual instances of human rights abuse where appropriate. They have made clear that they expect third countries to meet internationally accepted standards of behaviour and that the Twelve's policy towards third countries, including on such issues as economic assistance, must take this fact into account.

87/342. Statement in the Sixth Committee of the UN General Assembly: Consideration of Effective Measures to Enhance the Protection, Security and Safety of Diplomatic and Consular Missions and Representatives ¹

Date of Issue: 30 September 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Mr Skibsted: Mr Chairman, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community.

The Twelve wish to thank the Secretary-General for the report he has prepared under this agenda item and also the Under-Secretary-General and Legal Counsel, Mr Carl-August Fleischhauer, for his valuable introductory statement.

The Twelve have carefully examined the Secretary-General's report (document A/42/485), which shows that attacks on diplomatic and consular missions and their representatives continue to take place in various parts of the world. The Twelve view with the strongest concern these criminal attacks against the safety of personnel and premises. Such crimes endanger international relations by attacking the very people whose task it is to work for harmonious and peaceful relations between States, and it is imperative that the international community continue its efforts to counteract these attacks. The Twelve express similar concern that other violations of diplomatic and consular privileges and immunities have occurred during the past year. They remain firmly committed to making use of all available legal resources in order to prevent and combat crimes against diplomatic and consular personnel and to strengthen international cooperation to this end.

We wish to repeat the need for all States to observe scrupulously the obligations incumbent on them by virtue of general international law and the international conventions relevant to the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives. It goes without saying that it is essential to fulfil a basic condition here: All States must respect the letter and spirit of these obligations.

Every failure by a State in this field, whether by tolerance of acts of individuals or groups of individuals or — exceptionally — by acts of State organs themselves, contributes to a weakening of the whole framework of international relations, which cannot serve the interests of any State.

The Twelve wish to emphasize that both the entitlement, under international law, of missions and representatives to a special degree of protection as well as their privileges and immunities have not been conferred for the personal benefit of individuals but are aimed at ensuring the efficient performance of their functions at diplomatic missions and consular posts — to the benefit of international relations.

Moreover, it must be stressed that while sending States are entitled to expect the adequate protection of their diplomatic and consular representatives, the duty of such representatives to respect the laws and regulations of the receiving States must also be strictly observed.

We should not forget that abuses by missions or representatives themselves of their privileges and immunities, especially when they involve the use of violence, may diminish public understanding for the necessity to respect these privileges and immunities and to protect missions and representatives. The governments of the Twelve remain determined to prevent abuses of diplomatic and consular immunity and have continued their cooperation in this respect.

Mr Chairman, all of the duties to which we have referred in this statement are already well established in existing international law. The Twelve attach great importance to the existing legal instruments, which have in general worked well in the past and which seem sufficient for the time being. What is essential, then, is the strict observance by sending and receiving States alike of their international obligations under those instruments to which they are parties and under general international law, and the adherence of as many States as possible to the conventions in question.

The Twelve therefore hope that States which have not yet become parties to the relevant conventions, including the optional provisions for the settlement of disputes, will seriously consider doing so.

Finally the Twelve wish to express their firm conviction that the reporting procedures established according to Resolution 35/168 have served a useful function by drawing attention to the violations which have taken place as well as to measures taken in order to bring the offenders to justice. With regard to the operation of the reporting procedures we are encouraged by the constructive spirit of the deliberations last year on the basis of the survey of the Secretary-General. A number of views were expressed by the Twelve in that connection, among others that reports to the Secretary-General should only contain facts which have previously been made available to the State where the violations took place, or facts which were generally available through other channels. In addition, reports should refer only to serious violations. Reports containing criticism of a State should be submitted to the Secretary-General early enough for the State criticized to have its reply included in the report, thus giving it more balance. The Twelve also pointed out that incidents which fall within the competence of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country should not be dealt with *in extenso* under the agenda item under consideration. A mere reference to reports submitted to the Host Country Committee would seem more appropriate.

In view of the fact that the reporting procedures have been established for some years, and that, fortunately, the number of serious incidents reported has decreased, the Twelve believe that it may not be necessary for this item to be included on the agenda every year.

We appreciate that the main ideas presented by the Secretary-General in his survey of the operation of the reporting procedures were reflected in operative paragraph 10 of Resolution 41/78. It is our hope that these new ideas together with the helpful guidelines prepared by the Secretary-General in accordance with paragraph 11 of Resolution 41/78 will lead to a further improvement of the reporting procedures, which continue to be the essential element in the resolution to be adopted under the present agenda item. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

¹ Agenda item 133.

87/343. Question No 2686/86 by Mr Boesmans (S-B) Concerning Nicaragua

Date of Issue: 1 October 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 12 February 1987

The Community has always supported the Contadora peace plan. In addition to the original proponents and the South American Support Group, the countries of Central America and the United States have declared their agreement with the principles of a search for a peaceful solution to the conflicts and unrest in this region.

At the beginning of January 1987, the American Deputy Secretary for Inter-American Affairs said that the Contadora Group occasionally gave the impression that they did not 'support democracy'. On 19 January 1987, the President of Nicaragua, Daniel Ortega, stated in the presence of the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr Pérez de Cuéllar, and representatives of the Contadora Group that he was prepared to enter into bilateral negotiations with the United States and to conclude a regional agreement on peaceful co-existence and the safeguarding of basic freedoms and political pluralism in the region. In the light of these events and positions adopted earlier, it is important for the European Parliament to know:

- a) whether all the countries concerned still support the Contadora initiative;
- b) whether attitudes to it have changed and, if so, in relation to which aspects, why or at whose instigation:
- c) what the Council's position is, what precise mandate the President-in-Office of the Council has on this matter and/or what action he will take at the negotiations in Guatemala City on 9 and 10 February 1987?

Answer:

According to the information available to the Twelve, all the countries referred to by the Honourable Member in his question have stated that they continue to favour a peaceful settlement on the basis of the general principles of the Contadora peace plan.

At the Guatemala Conference, the twelve Community Member States strove to support and encourage the efforts of the countries of the region and of the Contadora Group to resolve Latin America's problems in a peaceful manner.

87/344. Question No 2919/86 by Mr Baudis and Others (PPE-F) Concerning Beirut (East) Airport

Date of Issue: 1 October 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 18 March 1987

Beirut airport, which is located in the Moslem part of the city, is no longer able to guarantee the minimum security conditions for passengers arriving or leaving the airport.

A second airport, immediately operational from both the technical and the security points of view, has just been completed at Halate in the Christian area, but countries which might allow landing rights on their territory are being subjected to intense pressure from the Moslem authorities.

Do the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation not consider that the Community should make every effort to ensure that the Christian population of Lebanon, at present cut off from the rest of the world, has access to an airport of its own, and if so, what initiatives do they intend to take in order to achieve this?

Answer:

The Twelve are keeping a close eye on development in the political and security sphere in Lebanon, and particularly Beirut.

In their view, the problem of access to airports which could serve Beirut is closely bound up with the internal situation obtaining in the Lebanese capital and requires a political dialogue between the Lebanese parties concerned.

The Twelve also consider that this question must be resolved in accordance with the international rules governing the legal establishment of international airports.

87/345. Question No 2930/86 by Mr Schwalba-Hoth and Others (ARC) Concerning Assistance for Training and Equipping the Police Forces of the 'Third World' Countries

Date of Issue: 1 October 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 18 March 1987

- 1. Which Community Member States have drawn on development aid resources to help to train or equip the police forces of 'Third World' countries and to what extent?
- 2. What were the specific objectives of this?
- 3. Was this assistance co-ordinated; if not, is it considered important to ensure that it is co-ordinated in future?
- 4. a) What view do the Foreign Ministers take of the fact that the Federal Republic of Germany has used development aid funds to assist Guatemala in equipping its police?
 - b) What view do the Foreign Ministers take of the fact that, following a decision by the *Bundestag* Budget Committee, this is no longer to be done in future?

Answer:

The specific questions raised have not been discussed within the framework of European political cooperation.

87/346. Question No 3029/86 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E) Concerning Missing Persons in Peru

Date of Issue: 1 October 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 30 March 1987

Do the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation know the whereabouts of Policarpio Condori Vargas, a non-violent prisoner, who survived the massacre of June 1986 at El Frontón prison in Peru? Do they know the whereabouts of a further 115 missing persons, many of whom were moved to the main naval base in El Callao?

Answer:

The Twelve are following attentively the human rights position in Peru. In the specific case cited by the Honourable Member, they are awaiting with great interest the forthcoming publication of the Peruvian authorities' report on the incidents at El Frontón prison.

87/347. Question No 257/87 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E) Concerning Arrests in Gabon

Date of Issue: 1 October 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 27 April 1987

Are the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation aware of the arrests of 24 Jehovah's Witnesses during a prayer meeting, who are accused of supporting an illegal association, and three of whom have been given prison sentences for being recidivists?

Can the Ministers intervene with the Government of Gabon to obtain the release of the three sentenced to imprisonment?

Answer:

The Honourable Member should refer to the reply to Written Question No 256/87 put by him.

87/348. Question No 279/87 by Mr Glinne (S-B) Concerning the United Nations Refusal to Publish All its Records on Nazi War Criminals

Date of Issue: 1 October 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 27 April 1987

Only two thousand of the tens of thousands of records on Nazi war criminals held by the United Nations are to be forwarded to Israel. The Israeli Ambassador to the United Nations is therefore accusing it of defending Nazi war criminals in hiding around the world by its refusal to open up its files to the public. The countries opposed to the publication of United Nations archives apparently include the United Kingdom, the United States and the USSR.

Have the Member States of the Community adopted a common position on the Israeli request and, if not, what is the position of each individual Member State?

Answer:

The question raised by the Honourable Member has not been discussed within the framework of European political cooperation.

87/349. Statement in the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly: Racism, Racial Discrimination and the Right to Self-Determination ¹

Date of Issue: 5 October 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 87/289.

Mr Hoppe: Mr Chairman, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community on agenda items 87, 91 and 92, concerning racism, racial discrimination and the right to self-determination.

The Twelve condemn and reject all forms of discrimination based on race, colour, descent or ethnic origin, which are an affront to human dignity.

Racism and racial discrimination are irreconciliable with the ideals of our free and democratic societies, based as they are on the principles of equality, justice and liberty.

Racism and racial discrimination transcend regional groupings and national boundaries. Regrettably, they are universal phenomena, which spring from ignorance, fear, mistrust and rejection — even false philosophies of alleged superiority and inferiority. They affect, in differing degrees, all countries and societies, including our own.

The principal responsibility for their eradication rests, in our view, with governments themselves, within their respective jurisdictions. For our part, we have taken firm legislative, administrative, and educational measures to combat racism and racial discrimination. We are keenly aware, however, that the enactment of laws proscribing these phenomena is only a beginning; implementation and enforcement are what counts.

Recognition and analysis of a problem is the first, necessary step towards a solution. Denial of its existence — which we hear all too often in our debates in the United Nations — only makes matters worse.

Mr Chairman, the United Nations has played an essential part in increasing public awareness of the evil of racism and has been instrumental in establishing international standards and mechanisms to combat it.

The Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, proclaimed by consensus by the 38th General Assembly, and the plan of activities for the first half of the Decade, constitute concrete evidence of the will of the international community to make determined and co-ordinated efforts to eliminate these evil phenomena throughout the world. The Twelve welcome the subsequent reinforcement of this consensus. We are ready to work actively with all interested parties at this session to maintain that consensus. Only by united efforts can progress be achieved.

Mr Chairman, the Twelve thank the Secretary-General for his report on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. It contains a comprehensive list of the various activities which have already been undertaken within the United Nations system in this field as well as proposals for future undertakings. The Twelve would, however, have appreciated some analytical comments with regard to the implementation of the programme.

While not all activities listed have their origin in the Second Decade as such, it is commendable that the report presents the General Assembly with an overall picture of efforts within the United Nations system to eliminate racism and racial discrimination.

We note with satisfaction that the report reflects the broad scope of the Second Decade. As I have already pointed out, racism and racial discrimination are universal phenomena and appear in numerous and varied manifestations.

We welcome, once again, the emphasis which continues to be placed on education and training, which, in our view, are among the most important tools in the fight against racism and racial discrimination. In this regard we appreciate the various handbooks and manuals already elaborated or under preparation. Likewise, we support the efforts to translate and disseminate widely the basic convention.

A very useful recent undertaking was the training course in New York for legislative draftsmen with the aim of focusing on the preparation of national legislation against racism and racial discrimination. This kind of activity represents the United Nations at its best: translating broad mandates into concrete undertakings which may affect the lives of individuals in a positive way. In order to ensure that potential participants from all parts of the world can benefit from such courses, we hope that in future they will not be limited to one language.

The Twelve look forward to discussing at the 43rd General Assembly the results of the global consultation on racial discrimination, which the Secretary-General will convene in 1988 pursuant to Resolution 41/94, with the aim of improving the co-ordination of international activities in this field.

With regard to the proposed future activities, we note that emphasis continues to be placed on studies, meetings of experts, and seminars, following in the track already established. We hope that such activities, as well as hopefully increased efforts on the part of national governments, will make significant contributions towards the elimination of racism and racial discrimination worldwide. We recall that difficulties in the implementation of the programme of action have been experienced in the past. We hope that these difficulties will be overcome, and that the programme will be implemented in full as early as possible.

Mr Chairman, as I stated earlier, racial discrimination is a universal phenomenon. However, in most countries it exists not because of the law, but in spite of the law.

Such is not the case in South Africa.

The system of apartheid is especially repugnant, and indeed unique, because it represents an institutionalized, systematic and all-encompassing practice of racism and racial discrimination. By its very nature, the apartheid system is a particularly gross and flagrant violation of human rights.

The Twelve remain gravely concerned about the lack of progress towards the abolition of apartheid in South Africa.

As we have repeatedly made clear, the apartheid system is totally unacceptable and indefensible. We keep working actively for its complete and peaceful abolition and its replacement by a free, democratic and non-racial system of government in a united South Africa.

We note an increasing awareness on the part of some sectors of the white community that radical changes are necessary. And the meeting between a courageous group of individual South Africans and ANC leaders in Dakar earlier this summer illustrated that common ground can still be found. Even so, recent overall developments inside South Africa have not been encouraging. On the face of it, the outcome of the white elections in May was a victory for those in the minority community opposed to fundamental change. But in reality it was a defeat for everybody. The white minority voted for the continued exclusion of the majority of South Africans from having any say. The unacceptable detention and torture of children and young adults who protest against the inhuman regime continues. A recent further manifestation of the intolerable social conditions was the widespread miners' strike.

Government must take the steps necessary to allow a genuine national dialogue to begin. These steps include the unconditional release of all political prisoners, including Nelson Mandela and Zephaniah Motopheng; ending the ban on the African National Congress, the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania, and other political parties; and lifting the state of emergency. We have left the South African authorities in no doubt about the urgency of this task; the longer it is delayed, the more difficult it will become.

To support our objectives, the Community and its Member States have introduced a series of measures, both restrictive and positive. The former are designed to impress upon the South African Government the urgent need for fundamental change and to bring home to the whole white community in South Africa the total opposition of the Twelve to the continuation of apartheid in any form. The positive measures are a means of providing assistance to the victims of apartheid, both inside South Africa and in the region as a whole.

As a further contribution to helping the process of peaceful change in South Africa, the Twelve have for some years operated a code of conduct for EC companies with branches or subsidiaries in South Africa. We believe that this code has a significant role to play in efforts to eliminate apartheid from the workplace and to ensure that all workers are given equal opportunities.

Finally, I should stress that the Twelve continue to monitor developments in South Africa very closely and will continue to use pressure to bring about peaceful change. We regularly review our policy in the region and consider ways in which our contribution to the elimination of apartheid could be enhanced.

As my Minister stated in the general debate on behalf of the European Community and its Member States:

For the time being, the South African Government may be able to suppress opposition by force. But it cannot stop the clock of history. Apartheid is doomed; the sooner the Government of South Africa comes to terms with this fact, the better.

Mr Chairman, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination is one of the most important legal instruments in the field of human rights, and with 124 States parties it is the instrument in this field which boasts the highest degree of adherence. It is the fervent hope of the Twelve that all States will ratify or accede to the monitoring organ established under the convention. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination has a key role in ensuring compliance by States parties with the terms of the instrument. CERD has been facing mounting difficulties in its work, however. These difficulties fall into two categories.

As is regrettably the case with other human rights instruments, many States parties submit their obligatory reports very late, thus creating a sizeable backlog of work for CERD. In addition, some of those reports which are submitted are of such a nature as to render a serious and thoroughgoing examination difficult. The Twelve underline the importance of providing timely, comprehensive and balanced reports to the Committee. With a view to rationalizing the work of CERD, we support the invitation extended by Resolution 41/121 to the Chairmen of supervisory bodies to consider rearranging, where possible, the periodicity of reporting. Likewise, we welcome the practice of CERD of considering multiple overdue reports in consolidated form.

Another, and steadily more serious, difficulty relates to the substantial arrears of States parties. In this respect, the 41st General Assembly adopted by consensus Resolution 41/105 requesting States parties to pay their dues and asking the Secretary-General to organize an extraordinary session of States parties to discuss the serious situation.

This session was held last April. It launched an urgent appeal to all States in arrears to respect their financial obligations in accordance with the Convention. A number of States parties seized the occasion to make their payments, which we welcome. But as the report of the Secretary-General now before us indicates, sizeable arrears remain, causing this summer's session of CERD to be severely curtailed.

As is clearly evident from the report of the Secretary-General, the amount outstanding for each State Party is very small. No State can justifiably claim that it is not in an economic position to pay. We therefore take this opportunity once again to appeal for the urgent settlement of all arrears in order to allow CERD to proceed with its heavy workload.

The Twelve look forward to an improvement in the situation. We furthermore underline the importance of reaching consensus on the resolution relating to the report of CERD. We regret that in recent years, this consensus has been gradually undermined by the inclusion of divisive and extraneous issues. In our view, this important resolution should reflect the views of all States parties. To that end we are ready to work actively with other interested delegations.

Mr Chairman, allow me to conclude my statement by making a few observations on item 91, the importance of the universal realization of the right to self-determination.

In accordance with the principles laid down in the Charter, the common first article of both International Covenants proclaims the right of self-determination. It is important to recall that, under the Covenants, self-determination is the right of *peoples*, not States. It applies with equal force to all peoples, without discrimination.

The Twelve fully support this right and work for its universal application. We have contributed to and continue to uphold the exercise of the right to self-determination by peoples formerly under colonial rule or otherwise unable to exercise this right.

We are deeply concerned, however, — indeed, we deplore, — that in too many instances peoples continue to be denied, or have been deprived of, their right to self-determination.

In one case, South Africa, a small minority, basing itself on the inhuman system of apartheid, continues to suppress the will of the majority of the people. As stated earlier, apartheid must be abolished. Only thus will the people of South Africa be able to determine its own future.

South Africa continues its illegal occupation of Namibia. We call once again on South Africa to allow Namibia to become independent without delay on the basis of Security Council Resolution 435.

In other cases, this fundamental right is violated through foreign intervention and occupation. Such is the case in Afghanistan and Cambodia, which were previously independent nations. In these cases, the Twelve once again call on the invading and oppressing foreign powers to implement the relevant United Nations resolutions and to allow these peoples freely to determine their own future.

In yet other cases, the right to self-determination is trampled upon by the entrenchment of regimes which in effect operate on the principle that only they know what their peoples want, without asking the opinion of these very same peoples. Regrettably, such is the case in many States, in all regions of the world. In these cases, the Twelve call on the governments concerned to fully respect the principles of the Charter, which they are all obliged to implement.

In our view, Mr Chairman, the exercise of the right to self-determination is a continuous process, not a single event. If peoples are, in the words of the Covenants, 'to freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development', they must have regular opportunities to choose their governments and their social systems freely; and to change them if they so wish, without the threat of a foreign intervention, a *coup d'état* or a state of emergency. It follows that each individual has the inherent right to exercise the other rights set out in the Covenants, such as the rights to freedom of thought and expression; the rights of peaceful assembly and freedom of association; the right to take part in the conduct of public affairs, either directly or through freely chosen representatives; and the rights to vote for a candidate of his choice and to be elected at genuine, periodic elections.

The United Nations has a very important role to play in this regard. Wherever the exercise of the right to self-determination is violated, it is only natural that the matter be dealt with in the world organization. The denial of this right anywhere is a concern of people everywhere. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

87/350. Statement in the Sixth Committee of the UN General Assembly: Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Drafting of an International Convention Against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries ¹

Date of Issue: 5 October 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Mr Skibsted: Mr Chairman, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community.

The Twelve reiterate their strong condemnation of the activities of mercenaries. We fully understand the danger which attacks by armed bands of mercenaries represent for all States, in particular the smaller and weaker ones. Thus, the initiative originally taken by Nigeria was a timely one and those of the Twelve who are members of the Ad Hoc Committee will continue to take an active part in the Committee's work on drafting a Convention which could be universally adhered to.

The international community has dealt with somewhat analogous problems in the past. Thus conventions have been adopted designed to combat the hijacking of aircraft, the launching of attacks on diplomats and the taking of hostages. It will be recalled that the approach adopted in these Conventions was not to create crimes to be judged by an international criminal court. Neither was the purpose of these Conventions to lay down rules on State responsibility. Their aim is to intensify international cooperation, with a view to ensuring that individuals who commit specific offences are brought to justice and, upon conviction by a competent court of national jurisdiction, suffer appropriate penalties which take into account the seriousness of the offences concerned.

It is with these factors in mind that the Twelve on earlier occasions have urged the Ad Hoc Committee to pay particular attention to efforts to harmonize national criminal law and intensify international cooperation in regard to activities of mercenaries. Therefore, we note with satisfaction the considerable

Agenda items 87, 91 and 92.

progress achieved *inter alia* in that respect at the last session of the Ad Hoc Committee. I am especially referring to the draft article concerning inter-State cooperation in the taking of measures to prevent the activities of mercenaries, which is now presented as a clean text without square brackets.

This encouraging result can be taken as a mark of the atmosphere prevailing in the Committee at its last session, which was one of constructive negotiations in search of viable solutions. I take this opportunity to convey our thanks to Mr Vreedzaam and the other members of the Bureau for the efficient way in which the work of the Ad Hoc Committee was conducted in preparing the so-called Second Revised Consolidated Negotiation Basis, which will undoubtedly facilitate the future work of the Committee.

The report of the *Ad Hoc* Committee confirms however, that its work is difficult and delicate and that there remain serious differences of position between delegations concerning several of the issues involved. As stated by the Twelve on earlier occasions the efforts of the Committee should be accompanied by a real political will not to lose sight of the objective of concluding a generally acceptable convention which would be effectively implemented by States. Such an instrument should be principally concerned with the penal aspect of the problem and consequently define the punishable acts as precisely as possible. The definition of offences and the closely related definition of a 'mercenary' continue to be the crucial points to which the *Ad Hoc* Committee should give priority attention. In this connection we would like to underline the view that an individual should be liable to sanctions only if he commits specific, precisely defined acts.

We also consider it essential that the nationality criterion as contained in article 47 of Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 should be included in the definition of a mercenary in order to avoid the danger that political opponents could be categorized as mercenaries. Further, it is important to maintain the criterion of personal gain involving excessive material compensation, which we believe is central to the mercenary concept. And it is also necessary that any person regarding whom proceedings are carried out in this context shall be guaranteed human treatment as provided for in article 75 of Additional Protocol I and other international instruments. On that basis progress could be achieved at the *Ad Hoc* Committee's next session.

However, the Twelve are disappointed by recent developments in other fora. We wish to recall that the Economic and Social Council adopted in May this year a resolution approving the decision by the Commission on Human Rights to appoint a Special Rapporteur. Furthermore, we have been concerned to learn that also this year the Third Committee will be dealing with this question; an example of duplication that we deplore. In our view it is clear that there is a danger of conflict between activities undertaken in the Economic and Social Council and the Third Committee on the one hand, and the Sixth Committee on the other. In the continuing absence of even an agreed definition of 'a mercenary' for the purpose of a draft convention, the Twelve regard it as inappropriate that a Special Rapporteur has been appointed on this question. Also, it strikes us as curious that this matter is being addressed by the Third Committee at all. The question of mercenaries presents both political and legal problems that should properly be addressed exclusively in the Sixth Committee.

Mr Chairman, the Twelve will follow attentively developments in the Third Committee and their attitude to the present item will be influenced by the outcome there. We hope to be in a position to continue to participate in a constructive spirit in the drafting of a Convention on mercenaries. I thank you, Mr Chairman.

87/351. Question No 2320/86 by Mr Perinat Elio (ED-E) Concerning Representatives of the Arab League in the Member States

Date of Issue: 5 October 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 14 January 1987

Agenda item 134.

Since the Arab League was founded in 1945, the number of member countries has been increasing, from the six founder members to the present twenty-two members, i.e. all Arab countries except Egypt.

For this reason the League has permanent representatives with semi-diplomatic status in various countries of the European Community, in the same way as other international organizations. Can the Ministers say in which Member States of the European Community the Arab League has permanent representatives, what has been achieved in the framework of political cooperation with the Arab League and how they intend to improve relations with this organization, creating enhanced and closer relations between it and the European Community?

Answer:

The Arab League has offices and/or information centres in the following Member States: Belgium, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, Italy, The Netherlands, Spain, the United Kingdom.

Their main task is the co-ordination of work at all levels among Arab embassies and the promotion of relations between the host countries and the Arab world as a whole. The status of Arab League representatives is subject to bilateral agreement between individual Member States and the Arab League.

The Twelve's contacts with the Arab League take place in the framework of the Euro-Arab dialogue. The Twelve look forward to the resumption of the dialogue, initially through a Troika meeting at ministerial level on political issues, and look for a positive response from the Arab League to this proposal.

87/352. Question No 2482/86 by Mr Saridakis (EPP-GR) Concerning Turkey's Acts of Provocation with Regard to Greece

Date of Issue: 5 October 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 26 January 1987

Are the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation aware that in the past few weeks there has been a marked increase in the acts of provocation committed by Turkey with regard to Greece? These have taken various forms, in particular:

- 1. The increasingly frequent violation of Greek airspace and territorial waters. There were hundreds of incidents of this kind last year, culminating in the first attack on European borders, i.e. Community borders, since the Second World War, namely the incident provoked by the Turks on the River Evros on 19 December 1986:
- 2. The increase in the strength of Turkey's armed forces, with no distinction being made between Turkey and Cyprus, in particular as regards motorized armoured forces and landing-craft and their disposition in relation to the Greek islands. This information was confirmed by the American Undersecretary of State, Mr Ridgeway, and the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr Pérez de Cuéllar, has expressed his concern;
- 3. The completion of Levkoniko airport in Cyprus, which is only five minutes away from airports on the Turkish coast opposite the island;
- 4. The provocative statements made by the Turkish Prime Minister, Mr Ozal, on 27 December 1986, in which, amongst other things, he boasted of having 'firmly established the Republic in Northern Cyprus' thereby ignoring the refusal by all the countries of the world and by international organizations to recognize as an independent State the resultant of the Turkish invasion and of the subsequent military occupation of that part of the Republic of Cyprus.

Turkey's new refusal to accept the Greek proposal that the delimitation of the continental shelf in the Aegean be referred to the International Court of Justice in The Hague for a ruling is a further expression of its dangerous and provocative stance.

How do the Foreign Ministers intend to react to this dangerous and continually escalating Turkish provocation?

Answer:

With regard to the first paragraph of the question, the Honourable Member is asked to refer to the reply given to the oral question put by Mr Mavros (H-814/86) on the same subject ¹.

As far as parts 2, 3 and 4 of the question are concerned, the Twelve have on numerous occasions indicated their support for the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and unity of Cyprus. They consider that progress towards a just and lasting solution to the problem of Cyprus can best be made through the good offices of the United Nations Secretary-General and that it is important that he be supported in his mission. They have stressed the need for all parties concerned to avoid any action which could make progress towards such a solution more difficult.

87/353. Question No 3025/86 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E) Concerning the Detention of Clergy in China

Date of Issue: 5 October 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 30 March 1987

Can the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation shed any light on the fate of the Chinese Catholic priests, Liu Xilue and Gao, both over 75 years old, who together with other believers, nuns and novices, were detained and roughly treated during a religious service on 29 May 1986 in Qiaozhai, a district of Gaocheng? Can they also shed light on the situation of several members of the Catholic clergy detained in June and July of the same year in the province of Hebei, and of four seminarists detained on 25 June when visiting the aged and ailing bishop Zhou Shanfu?

Answer:

The Twelve are aware of the arrest of priests and clandestine seminarists mentioned in the first part of the question. They have not been able to obtain any further information since then. They will, however, continue to follow the matter.

87/354. Question No 253/87 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E) Concerning Missing Persons in Sri Lanka

Date of Issue: 5 October 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 27 April 1987

Have the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation discussed the numerous cases of disappearances in Sri Lanka since 1984?

What have been the results of representations made to that country's Government?

Answer:

The Twelve have not yet had the opportunity of discussing, in the context of political cooperation, the particular question raised by the Honourable Member.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 87/124.

The statements they made on Sri Lanka on 25 February 1986, 14 July 1986, 27 April 1987 and 5 June 1987 essentially concerned the need for the parties in question to resolve the ethnic conflict which is tearing that country apart through dialogue and negotiation. On 5 June 1987, the Twelve condemned the terrorist activities which claim numerous civilian victims.

The question of disappearances is very difficult to assess, given the ethnic conflict which existed previously in the north of the country.

It is the hope of the Twelve that the agreement of 30 July 1987 between Prime Minister Gandhi and President Jayewardene will make a decisive contribution towards improving the human rights situation in Sri Lanka.

87/355. Question No 533/87 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E) Concerning the Violation of Human Rights in the Republic of Korea

Date of Issue: 5 October 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 12 June 1987

Following the murder by torture of the student, Park Cong-chol; in Seoul on 14 January 1987 and the resignation of the Minister of the Interior and the Chief of National Police, the President of the Republic ordered the setting-up of 'a special commission for the protection of human rights'.

Have the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation taken an interest in the functioning of this commission and supported the President's action?

Answer:

As was recently confirmed in the reply to Written Question No 3069/86 ¹ put by the Honourable Member of Parliament on the same subject, the Twelve are following developments in the human rights situation in South Korea closely. They have individually and in their joint declaration of 2 July 1987 ² pointed out to the South Korean Government the importance which they place on matters of human rights. They find the most recent developments encouraging and hope that South Korea will rapidly achieve the objectives of democracy and respect for human rights.

87/356. Question No 957/87 by Ms André (LDR-B) Concerning the Olympic Games in Seoul in 1988

States of the EEC still intend to participate in the 1988 olympic games in Seoul?

Date of Issue: 5 October 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 27 July 1987

In view of the manifest violations of human rights and democracy in South Korea, do the twelve Member

¹ EPC Bulletin, Docs. 86/088, 86/220, 87/163 and 87/203.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 87/309. ² EPC Bulletin, Doc. 87/238.

Answer:

The Twelve follow closely the human rights situation in the Republic of Korea. They take encouragement from some recent decisions taken and intentions announced by the Korean Government, which aim at progress towards democratic reform and increased respect for human rights.

The question of participation by the Member States in the 1988 olympic games does not arise, since it is the National Olympic Committees and not governments that decide upon participation in the olympic games.

87/357. Question No 2608/86 by Ms Piermont (ARC-D) Concerning the Vote of the EEC Member States at the 41st UN General Assembly on 2 December 1986 on New Caledonia

Date of Issue: 6 October 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 6 February 1987

In the vote on United Nations Resolution No A/41/L.33 on New Caledonia, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Denmark and Greece abstained, while the other Member States of the European Community opposed the resolution.

- 1. Was this resolution not formally examined in the framework of European political cooperation?
- 2. Did any informal discussion of this matter take place in the same framework?
- 3. When was this formal or informal discussion, if any, held?
- 4. Was there any agreement on a common approach ensuring that there would at least be no votes in favour of the resolution?
- 5. What arguments were advanced in favour of the resolution, if any?
- 6. What were the grounds for the rejection of the resolution by eight Member States of the Community? Was this purely a matter of expressing support for France in the vote?

Answer:

The harmonization of positions and joint votes by the Twelve in the United Nations and other fora are important aspects of European political cooperation as expressed in the Single European Act. Member States are committed to consult each other with a view to seeking common positions on all important foreign policy questions which are of concern to them. They endeavour to avoid any action or position which impairs their effectiveness as a cohesive force in international relations or within international organizations. They have therefore developed a system of close consultations and cooperation on all levels concerning subjects being dealt with in the framework of the United Nations.

The resolution mentioned by the Honourable Member of Parliament has been part of their consultations. In this case, however, a common position by the Member States could not be obtained, which explains the non-uniform voting pattern on this particular issue.

87/358. Question No 3068/86 by Mr Glinne (S-B) Concerning Support for the Irish Republican Army by the Libyan Regime

Date of Issue: 6 October 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 30 March 1987

Since the break-off of diplomatic relations in April 1984 between the United Kingdom and Libya following the murder of Yvonne Fletcher, an unarmed police-woman, by shots fired from the Libyan embassy in London, supplies of arms and other material support to the Irish Republican Army from the Libyan regime, which had been suspended, have now been resumed and stepped up. According to 'The Observer' of 1 March 1987, Mr Gadaffi has once more stepped up his unwarranted intervention 'in retaliation for Britain's involvement in the American air raids which attempted to kill him last year'. The families of the victims of the bombing might seek 'private' vengeance in the United Kingdom and the United States all the more so since 'the Americans and English fell somewhere in between monkeys and human beings'. The Libyan regime, which unrelentingly hunts its opponents who take refuge in other countries, has recently televised the execution by hanging and firing squad of seven dissidents.

Can the Ministers therefore reply to the following questions:

- 1. Following the bilateral agreement concluded between the Governments of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland, what view is taken of Mr Gadaffi's unwarranted interference in the Northern Ireland problem and what concerted measures have been taken to counter his threats of 'private vengeance' in the United Kingdom or elsewhere?
- 2. What degree of protection is accorded by the Community Member States to Libyan opponents to the Gadaffi regime?
- 3. How do the Twelve regard Libyan policy in respect of Chad in view of the declaration by Mr Gadaffi to 'Le Monde' of 4 March 1987 to the effect that the leaders in N'Djamena must understand that the destiny of Chad was linked to that of Libya?
- 4. What view is taken by the Twelve of the status of the waters of the Gulf of Sirte and what initial measures do they themselves intend to take to ensure that international law is respected and defended there against all unilateral appropriation, seizure of boats and crews, obstacles to traffic, etc.?

Answer:

- 1. The matter of bilateral agreements between Member States falls outside the scope of European political cooperation.
- 2. The policy of granting protection to opponents of foreign regimes is the responsibility of every individual Member State.
- 3. The Twelve believe that the people of Chad are entitled to decide their own future, free from threats of interference from neighbouring countries.
- 4. The status of delimitation of international waters is governed by international law. The Twelve have repeatedly stated that they expect all States to abide by international law and regulations for the settlement of disputes.

87/359. Question No 211/87 by Mr Glinne (S-B) Concerning the Quotas Imposed on the Foreign Press in Algeria

Date of Issue: 6 October 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 15 April 1987

Until recently the Government of the Republic of Algeria, without displaying any great originality, applied indirect censorship of the press by subjecting sales of foreign newspapers to a quota system. On 5 February 1987, ENAMEP, the national press distribution company, officially announced that imports of foreign press publications would be 'considerably reduced' during 1987, with the subsidies hitherto granted being cut back by 60%. The new quotas are to apply in principle to all foreign publications without exception, each quota being reduced by at least half. It seems that this measure is connected with the resentment harboured (wrongly) by certain Algerian authorities against the European press in the

wake of the riots in eastern Algeria in November 1986 and with the pressure exerted by Algiers by the banning in France of the opposition publication 'Al Badil' (which has since reappeared under the new title 'Alternative').

Do not the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation consider that it would be advisable and valuable to make use of their long-standing cordial relations with the Government of the Republic of Algeria to suggest that the imposition of these quotas on foreign — and particularly French-language — publications might be reconsidered?

Answer:

As the Honourable Member will be well aware, the Twelve believe strongly that the free flow of information is an important aspect of increasing understanding between peoples and countries. They deplore any attempt to restrict this flow of information for political ends.

87/360. Question No 249/87 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E) Concerning the Arrest in South Africa of Reverend Tshenuweni Simon Farisani

Date of Issue: 6 October 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 27 April 1987

Are the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation aware of the situation of the Reverend T.S. Farisani, dean of the Lutheran Evangelical Church at Venda (South Africa), under arrest in solitary confinement since November 1986? He is on hunger strike in protest at his imprisonment, and is known to have been taken to hospital twelve times since his arrest.

Answer:

The Twelve took an active interest in the Reverend Farisani's situation and warmly welcomed his release on 30 January 1987.

87/361. Question No 535/87 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E) Concerning Arrests and Torture in Bahrain

Date of Issue: 6 October 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 12 June 1987

Have the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation addressed themselves to the matter of the arrest and torture of eighteen people in Bahrain and their trial on 7 February 1987? Have they been informed of the death in prison of Dr Hashim Asmail al-Alawi, apparently as a result of torture? Are they aware that defendants on charges relating to national security do not have the right to appeal against either the verdict or the sentence of the court?

Answer:

The Government of Bahrain is well aware of the Twelve's position on human rights.

The specific question referred to by the Honourable Member has not been discussed in the framework of European political cooperation.

87/362. Question No 624/87 by Ms Lizin (S-B) Concerning Contacts Between Syria and the EEC

Date of Issue: 6 October 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 22 June 1987

Has the President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers been in contact with Syria as part of the preparations for the Conference on the Middle East?

Is it true that Syria had intimated that it was interested in sending representatives to Europe to establish contact with the Presidency and that no reply was given because of the British veto?

Answer:

The answers to the Honourable Member's questions are as follows:

- i) The Presidency is in contact with the parties concerned, including Syria, about a possible international conference on the Middle East.
- ii) There is no British veto on Syrian representatives being received in Europe.

87/363. Statement in the Fourth Committee of the UN General Assembly: Activities of Foreign and Other Interests, and Military Interests which Are Impeding the Implementation of the Declaration of the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples ¹

Date of Issue: 7 October 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Ms Bagge: Mr Chairman, on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community I have the honour to speak to the draft resolution and draft decision contained in document A/42/23 (part III).

The Twelve would like to reaffirm their support for all efforts compatible with the Charter of the United Nations to eliminate colonialism, apartheid and racial discrimination in Southern Africa and to enable the peoples of the remaining non-self-governing territories to exercise their right to self-determination in accordance with the Declaration of the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

The main focus of the draft resolution contained in document A/42/23 (part III) is the serious situation in Southern Africa. The Government of South Africa bears the responsibility for the continued oppression and instability in the region.

Against this background the Twelve do not hesitate to condemn the activities, for example the depletion of natural resources, of those foreign economic and other interests, which do impede the process of self-determination, both in the illegally occupied Namibia and its adjacent waters and in other non-self-governing territories.

However, the draft resolution before us does not recognize that the activities of foreign economic and other interests are often beneficial — and sometimes essential — to the economic and social development of non-self-governing territories. The failure to distinguish between the various kinds of activities referred to above seems to us a failing in the draft resolution. In this context we note the calls, in separate resolutions and decisions of this committee, to accelerate and expand economic development in the non-self-governing territories.

The Twelve have reservations of principle with regard to a number of specific paragraphs in the draft resolution which fail to take into account the Charter provisions concerning the division of competence between the General Assembly and the Security Council. They also deplore the singling out of individual countries, in particular in preambular paragraph 16 and operative paragraph 17.

The Twelve also wish to express their concern at the proposal to vote on the draft decision relating to military activities in non-self-governing territories since this deals with a subject that does not appear on the list of agenda items allocated by the General Assembly to the Fourth Committee.

For these reasons the Twelve are not able to support the draft resolution and draft decision before us. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

87/364. Statement in the Fifth Committee of the UN General Assembly: Scale of Assessments for the Apportionment of Expenses of the United Nations — Report of the Committee on Contributions ¹

Date of Issue: 7 October 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Mr Kastoft: Mr Chairman, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community.

The Twelve wish to thank the Committee on Contributions for its report, and we are very grateful to the Committee's distinguished Chairman, Ambassador Amjad Ali for his introduction which as usual was very helpful.

Mr Chairman, before addressing some of the issues dealt with in the report we should like to make a few observations of a more general nature.

Last year's resolution confirmed yet again that the scale of assessments shall be based on the principle of capacity to pay. It ought not to be difficult to agree to calculate the capacity to pay of individual member countries in a simple and reasonably objective way so that no Member State has to bear an unfair share of the costs of running the United Nations. The annual wrangles on this subject sadly prove the opposite, and the trend over the last decade has been in the opposite direction. We now operate under a complicated calculation system resulting in a lack of transparency with respect to the way in which we share the cost of running the United Nations. We have stated before that this trend should be reversed. In the interests of simplification we believe that we should favour a straightforward system, such as one based on national income, with only an allowance for low per capita income entering into the calculation of the scale of assessments.

Mr Chairman, turning now to the report itself we appreciate the Committee's continuing efforts to improve the comparability of national income statistics and estimates. We note with satisfaction that progress in this area has been made, thereby bringing us closer to a uniform data base. In paragraph 9 we are informed that the Committee strongly urged Member States to respond to the annual questionnaire from the United Nations Statistical Office on national income and other national accounts data. We fully endorse that plea. We also noted the Committee's firm belief that should Member States wish the Committee to review any additional national data, the necessary information should be submitted in due time prior to its session, not less than two months beforehand. We think this ought to be a firm rule to be applied without exceptions. Similarly, we endorse the view that only published data should be admissible.

The Committee has continued its studies of the price-adjusted rate of exchange methodology and improvements were noted. We regret that agreement on applying that methodology for systematic adjustments of national income data could not be reached. We would like to express the hope that those members of the Committee who stood in the way of an agreement will reconsider the matter.

¹ Agenda item 109.

Mr Chairman, the report contains a brief but interesting discussion of the external debt burden and its possible role as a factor in the calculation of a new scale of assessments. We would like to recall that in the exercise which lead to the present scale the inclusion of the debt burden was based on a resolution of the General Assembly which was explicitly of an *ad hoc* nature. We have very serious reservations about bringing in once again an indicator to measure the debt burden. *Firstly*, it would go against our wish to have a scale based on simple and transparent criteria. *Secondly*, it is doubtful whether the impact of such an indicator would be more than marginal as interest payments on external debt are already deduced from national income estimates before the scale is calculated and double counting would not be acceptable. *Thirdly*, such an exercise would not affect the nearly 80 countries assessed at the floor-level. *Fourthly*, the data base for such an exercise would — in spite of improvements — still be deficient.

Like the Committee, we see no reason to alter the current basis for the low per capita income allowance formula.

The Committee recommends no change in the statistical base period. The Twelve still hold the opinion that ten years is too long a period accurately to reflect the actual economic situation of Member States. Furthermore, the stability inherent in a long-base period is already provided for by the scheme of limits to avoid excessive variations of individual rates between successive scales, introduced for the current scale period. The Twelve continue to believe that the scheme of limits has the effect of taking us another step or two away from the principle of capacity to pay. Nonetheless, we recognize that the existence of this scheme might reduce or eliminate the need for the arbitrary and non-objective process of mitigation.

Further we accept the Committee's recommendation that there should be no change in the ceiling and floor rates.

Mr Chairman, establishing a fair, equitable and universally acceptable scale of assessment has proved not to be an easy task. The Twelve wish again to express their appreciation to the Committee on Contributions for its continued efforts aiming at achieving this important goal. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

87/365. Statement in the Sixth Committee of the UN General Assembly: Report of the Special Committee on Enhancing the Effectiveness of the Principle of Non-Use of Force in International Relations ¹

Date of Issue: 8 October 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Mr Skibsted: Mr Chairman, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community.

The position of the Twelve on this topic has been consistent and well known since the Special Committee first met in 1977. We always believed that the principle of non-use of force was adequately covered by Article 2(4) of the Charter of the United Nations and that attempts to interpret or elaborate on this unambiguous text might create doubts about — or even undermine — Member States' obligations enshrined in the Charter. That is why the proposal to draft a world treaty on the non-use of force in international relations gave rise to serious objections amongst the Twelve.

However, in the light of the views expressed in the debate on the present item at the 41st session of the General Assembly, in particular by the original proponent of a world treaty, and taking into account the general willingness to follow a more realistic approach, we agreed — under certain conditions — to engage in discussions about the drafting of a Declaration on the Enhancement of the Effectiveness of the

Agenda item 121.

Principle of Refraining from the Threat or Use of Force in International Relations, thus enabling the Committee to bring its work to an end. The Committee's mandate was changed accordingly and Resolution 41/76 was adopted by consensus.

The result of this endeavour is a draft of a non-normative nature. On the one hand, it repeats well-established formulations of the principle of refraining from the threat or use of force as contained in the Charter of the United Nations and in the Declaration on Friendly Relations. On the other hand, it indicates certain fields in which cooperation could enhance the effectiveness of the principle. The paragraphs that repeat terms of the Declaration on Friendly Relations certainly do not subtract from — or add to — that declaration, nor do they change the meaning these terms have in the context of that declaration. The remaining paragraphs, especially those in parts II and III, seem to us generally positive; they illustrate the complex interrelations that exist between the principle of non-use of force and other principles, such as that of the peaceful settlement of disputes and that of the protection of human rights; they single out specific fields of cooperation between States, such as disarmament, economic development and confidence-building measures, which, as they are pursued, may help in enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of non-use of force; they indicate in some detail how full implementation of the United Nations Charter in the field of maintenance of peace and security may play a fundamental role in the same direction.

Mr Chairman, the twelve Member States of the European Community welcome the spirit of compromise which made it possible for the Special Committee in its last session in March 1987 to fulfil its mandate in accordance with General Assembly Resolution 41/76 by completing the elaboration of a draft declaration on the enhancement of the effectiveness of the principle of non-use of force in international relations. As might be expected some delegations may have difficulties towards particular provisions of the draft declaration. We ourselves have such misgivings. We are, however, not proposing to reopen the text on the understanding that others will likewise refrain from doing so in the interest of achieving consensus on the draft declaration as it stands. What remains of lasting importance, however, is the political will of States faithfully to carry out their international legal obligations in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and other rules of international law. If the draft declaration can make a contribution in that respect and thereby be a step towards a more favourable international climate our endeavours during all these years will not have been in vain. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

87/366. Statement on Free Elections in Chile

Date of Issue: 9 October 1987 Place of Issue: Copenhagen Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: The Twelve Status of Document: Declaration

The twelve countries of the European Community firmly believe it is essential for Chile to return to a truly democratic government if peace and respect for human rights are to be restored there. Accordingly, they consider that the Chilean people should have complete freedom of information and opinion, and should be able to elect their President and the members of their parliament in a ballot guaranteeing the free expression of their will.

In restating their condemnation of violence, whatever its source, the twelve countries of the European Community hope that the Government, the institutions and all the political forces in Chile will take the steps needed in order that the forthcoming elections may be conducted in accordance with the international instruments to which Chile is a party, such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of December 1948 and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of December 1966.

Agenda item 131.

87/367. Statement in the Fifth Committee of the UN General Assembly: Financial Reports and Audited Financial Statements, and Reports of the Board of Auditors ¹

Date of Issue: 9 October 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Mr Kastoft: Mr Chairman, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community.

The Twelve wish to thank the Board of Auditors for the comprehensive reports submitted to the General Assembly this year. We are also grateful to the ACABQ for its valuable commentary.

We also appreciate the summary of the principle findings and conclusions for remedial action presented to us in document A/42/372. The summary is useful, though it is no substitute for studying the reports themselves, where *inter alia* we also find the responses — unfortunately in some cases the lack of responses — from the organizations examined.

In recent years the reports of the Board of Auditors have received increasing attention in the Fifth Committee. Let me just mention two reasons why this should be the case. The first is that in accordance with their terms of reference and in line with modern trends the Board of Auditors have extended the scope of their audits to cover more than just the traditional verification of figures. Secondly, the comments and opinions of the Board of Auditors have become weightier and more substantial. We welcome the increase in the substance of the Board's reports. And we welcome the progress made year on year as organizations respond to the Board's observations, comments and criticisms.

Mr Chairman, of the several organizations reported on this year, UNDP and UNICEF merit particular attention. The extent and scope of this year's audit of UNDP's account is much wider than usual. The Twelve welcome this constructive and comprehensive approach which, in our view, is useful both for management and for Member States.

Thorough external reviews such as that carried out of the UNDP can identify possible unrecognized administrative deficiencies and can provide managements with helpful recommendations for enhancing financial and administrative accountability as well as budgetary control.

In addition, extensive audits are a valuable tool for Member States if they are to exercise control over the organization's financial affairs here in the Fifth Committee and in relevant governing bodies.

Comprehensive audits, where the auditors broaden the perspective to encompass an overall assessment of the quality of financial management, often give rise to questions such as whether the financial practices are in compliance with generally accepted principles of accounting, with stated accounting practices, and with the financial rules and regulations, as well as whether they are in accordance with the policies laid down by the Governing Council, and whether these policies are in line with sound accounting methods. As is apparent from the comments submitted by the UNDP Administration to the Board of Auditors' report, these are difficult questions on which substantial differences of opinion may occur and therefore an open and constructive dialogue is imperative.

Mr Chairman, the Twelve consider that the practices followed by UNDP in the areas of financial, administrative, accounting and programme management should be in accordance with the policy guidelines established by the Council as the governing body of the Programme. If the examinations of the Board reveal that the policy guidelines and regulations laid down by the Council are inadequate to secure reasonable financial control or are at variance with sound principles of accounting, this situation should be brought quickly and clearly to the attention of the Governing Council which should see to it that corrective action is taken.

The Twelve have noted with satisfaction the auditor's statement to the effect that the Administration has complied with the recommendations contained in the 1985 report of the Board with the exception of the recommendation pertaining to UNDP's accounting standards on non-expendable property. But we

cannot overlook the fact that the auditors have nevertheless qualified their opinion on the UNDP Financial Statement on a number of counts. We should like to comment briefly on some of the main points raised.

On page 27 of the Auditor's report we learn that the qualification expressed in the audit opinion is based on UNDP's failure, in the Board's view, to obtain, check and certify financial information on programme expenditures, particularly on unliquidated obligations from agencies and governments executing UNDP-funded projects. The ensuing uncertainty affecting a substantial part of reported expenditures and obligations has made it necessary for the Board to issue its opinion 'subject to the effect of such adjustments' as may be required following the verification of these factors. There seems to be agreement between the Administration, the Board and the ACABQ that this raises the question of whether UNDP should continue the long-established practice embodied in the organization's Financial Rules and Regulations of relying only on the executing institution's accounts subject to their own external and internal audit procedures, given that this may not be sufficient to exert the necessary financial control.

In view of the fact that this question *inter alia* has implications for the broader issue of the existing relationship between UNDP and the executing agencies, we agree with the conclusion reached between the Administration and the Board and supported by ACABQ that the question of the scope of audit of these accounts by the relevant external auditors concerned should be addressed by the governing bodies and the Panel of External Auditors. We likewise agree with the ACABQ that the matter should be the subject of further consultation between UNDP and the executing agencies.

That being said, however, I should like to recall that the Governing Council of UNDP, with a view to increasing transparency, has already for some years urged the Panel of External Auditors to extend the scope of their audit of the programme expenditures of the agencies executing UNDP-funded projects.

With respect to the validity of the accounts submitted in connection with government-executed projects, we agree that there is room for improvement. This question was the subject of extensive debate at the UNDP Governing Council in June 1987. The Administration was requested to report to the next Council on ways and means to improve the transparency and accountability of these expenditures. We look forward to the Administration's report.

We have noted with satisfaction that the Administration has already taken corrective action on a number of issues which contributed to the qualification of the audit opinion, notably the large number of suspense and clearing accounts which were not cleared at year-end.

Mr Chairman, in addition to the items which resulted in the Board qualifying its opinion of the UNDP accounts, the report raises a number of other matters, notably the high level of liquidity in the Fund, the questionable viability of some projects, some shortcomings in budgetary control and the high ratio of programme support and administrative costs to total costs. Although we generally share the concerns expressed by the auditors on these points, it has to be acknowledged that many of the issues involve complex questions of programme policy, delivery rates, personnel intensity of UNDP assistance, etc. We encourage the Governing Council and the UNDP Working Group to pay close attention to these questions in their continuing review of these matters.

Mr Chairman, I turn now to the report on UNICEF, which causes the Twelve serious concern. It is an unusual event in the history of the United Nations system that the Board of Auditors has been unable to express an opinion on financial statements. The Twelve sincerely trust that steps will be taken by the UNICEF administration to ensure that it does not arise again.

The ACABQ in paragraph 21 of its report enumerates six areas, such as the timing of income recognition with respect to supplementary resource pledges, the reversal of programme expenditures and the funding of UNICEF's Fortieth Anniversary celebrations, in which the Board of Auditors found major inconsistencies. I shall not go into details regarding all those areas, which does not mean that we find those not mentioned less important. But let me comment briefly on a few issues.

First, with regard to income recognition, Statement I for 1986 reported an excess of income over expenditure of \$ 26.34 million. The auditors found it necessary to make adjustments amounting to \$ 32.2 million so that the expenditures were in excess of income by a little less than \$ 6 million. This significant difference in the presentation and interpretation of the same figures suggests that the UNICEF

accounting procedures fall far short of the clarity and transparency we believe necessary. Consequently, we want to draw attention to the recommendation of the Board of Auditors in paragraph 5 (a) and we expect to see the Administration follow up on this.

Mr Chairman, with respect to UNICEF's Fortieth Anniversary celebration, the Board of Auditors has been unable fully to identify the costs involved, the reason being that the Administration failed to provide an appropriate accounting infrastructure. Our concern can not but grow noting the fact that the Administration obviously never requested the approval of the Executive Board of UNICEF for an appropriation for the resources to be spent. From the report of ACABQ we learn that the Administration is preparing a full accounting of the Fortieth Anniversary and related activities for submission to the Executive Board, and the Board of Auditors recommends that the Administration request an *ex post facto* approval. In addition, the Administration should give an assurance that they will in the future faithfully adhere to the appropriate rules and regulations.

Several paragraphs of the Board's report deal with the UNIPAC operation in Copenhagen. ACABQ calls it a continuing problem, as previous audits have also dealt with the same matters. We note with some concern that the Administration has made no comments or given any reasons as to why the accounting systems at UNIPAC and UNICEF remain incompatible.

As for general resources temporarily allocated to supplementary funded programmes, we have taken due note of the Board's recommendation concerning a comprehensive review of the policies, instructions and practices regarding such programmes. We share the expectation of ACABQ that the Administration in its report to the Executive Board in 1988 will indicate its remedial action with a view to implementing the recommendations of the Board.

Mr Chairman, let me turn now to some positive aspects of the Board of Auditors' report on UNICEF.

First, on a number of matters raised in the current report, we welcome the fact that agreement has been reached between the Board of Auditors and the Administration, and in some cases implementation has already taken place. Second, there were no known cases in 1986 of fraud or presumed fraud. Third, the Board of Auditors' follow-up on matters dealt with in the 1985 Report on UNICEF shows that many matters have been dealt with by the Administration to the satisfaction of the Board of Auditors. Nonetheless, we note that certain items do reappear in this year's report.

Finally, Mr Chairman, the fact that the Board of Auditors decided that they were unable to express an opinion on the accounts of UNICEF raises the question both to the organization and to the General Assembly: Where do we go from here?

Fortunately, the ACABQ has pointed to a way out. May I cite just the first five lines of paragraph 28 of ACABQ's report. They read:

The Advisory Committee views with concern the several material errors pointed out by the Board of Auditors, and in view of this and the other circumstances described above recommends that the Board undertake an expanded audit of the 1986 UNICEF accounts with a view to enabling it to issue an opinion on those accounts.

It further says that the expenses of such an expanded audit should be borne by UNICEF.

We, and hopefully all other delegations as well, do strongly endorse this recommendation by the ACABQ, which should be carried out before April next year.

May I cite also paragraph 30:

The Advisory Committee was informed that the UNICEF Administration is willing to address the issues raised by the Board of Auditors and to work closely with the Board to achieve a satisfactory solution.

We share the ACABQ's trust that this spirit of cooperation will continue so that the expanded audit will lead to mutually acceptable procedures in the future.

In concluding my remarks on UNICEF, Mr Chairman, I wish to stress that the Twelve endorse the recommendations of the Board of Auditors.

Mr Chairman, during the 41st session of the General Assembly the Twelve expressed concern about the shortcomings identified by the auditors in the management of the voluntary funds administered by the Office of the *United Nations High Commission for Refugees*. The Twelve took note this year of the findings of the special programme audit examination carried out by the Board. We welcome the progress described by the Board and support the recommendations made in order to further improve such important points as the effectiveness of working relationships with partners, administrative efficiency, the effectiveness of field staffing, the planning and budgeting cycle, the procurement and supply chain, as well as asset purchasing and maintenance.

The Twelve also read with great attention the report of the Board's examination of the *system for allowances and entitlements in the United Nations*. The weakness of the current procedures for detecting fraud is a cause of worry. The Twelve support the recommendations of the Board and share the view expressed by ACABQ that a reform of the system for the administration of justice is essential for the effective administration of allowances and entitlements.

Mr Chairman, I have already spent considerable time on the UNICEF and UNHCR reports, for obvious reasons. Accordingly, I will not take more time on the reports before us on other organizations. Nonetheless, we have read those reports and noted the Board of Auditors' allocations of praise and blame. We expect the Administrations in question to take careful note of the Board of Auditors' comments and recommendations and to take appropriate action.

A few final thoughts, Mr Chairman. In my opening remarks, I spoke of the increased attention given to the Board of Auditors' reports nowadays. This is as it should be - the Board of Auditors serve as the expert advisors of the General Assembly to ensure the sound stewardship of the substantial resources Member States contribute. That increased attention by Fifth Committee is particularly merited in a year when those expert advisors submit reports with qualified audit opinions, and one without an audit opinion. If the Board of Auditors, as our expert advisors, are concerned, then we Member States cannot but share that concern. We welcome assurances from the relevant administrations, but what we need is practical evidence of prompt changes or remedial action in the regular working practices of the organizations. The merit of the objectives of any organization does not absolve administrations from a responsibility to meet the proper standards. While the detailed scrutiny applied by the Board of Auditors to the various organizations may seem to them to divert their energies from their immediate tasks, we believe that the regular examination of management practice, and the positive and constructive dialogue between the auditors and the administrations which should follow, are essential elements in maintaining and improving performance. The third important partner in this process is the governing body. We encourage governing bodies throughout the system to follow up vigorously on the auditors' findings, the ACABQ's comments thereon as well as the Fifth Committee's discussion.

Mr Chairman, these are our remarks at present on the reports of the Board of Auditors. We look forward to an opportunity to put questions to the representatives of the various organizations reported on.

87/368. Statement in the Plenary Session of the UN General Assembly: Report of the ECOSOC Concerning the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless ¹

Date of Issue: 12 October 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Mr President, I have the honour to make the following statement on behalf of the European Community and its Member States.

First, I should like to take this opportunity to thank the Secretary-General for his very substantial report on the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless contained in document A/42/378. It gives an excellent description of the goals and accomplishments of the Year.

¹ Agenda item 113.

It is evident that the severe economic and financial strains experienced by most developing countries in the last decade have had an adverse effect on human settlement activities, and we share the view that there is a continued need to focus attention on these problems. We very much look forward to the results of the next year's meeting of the Commission of Human Settlement where the results of the International Year will be evaluated. In anticipation of the evaluation we are of the opinion that the Year of Shelter for the Homeless has helped focus international attention on problems of human settlement.

The two main objectives of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless were:

- by the end of 1987 to secure a measurable improvement in the shelter situation of the poor in developing countries,
- with the year 2000 as a target to demonstrate ways and means of improving the shelter of all the poor around the world.

To be sure that the Year should prove successful it was decided to formulate an action-oriented programme containing a number of specific goals, the achievement of which would improve considerably the situation of the homeless before, during and after the year. In general, we share the Secretary-General's assessment of the Year of Shelter for the Homeless and are pleased that it has succeeded in raising international awareness of the problems of the homeless and, in addition, advancing the specific goals. However, large problems still remain and continued attention to these is necessary.

With regard to the accomplishment of the goals at the national level we find it very positive that a number of developing countries have established shelter strategies and will urge others to do the same.

The importance of the cooperation between the private and the public sector in the area of providing shelter as well as the valuable participation of non-governmental organizations is also underlined in the Secretary-General's report and we find it important that this cooperation is further extended.

Being a focal point for shelter related activities in the United Nations system, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) has at the international level fully supported the objectives of the Year. We attach importance to the task of the Commission. Consequently, in April of this year the majority of the Member States participated in the tenth session of the Commission and took part in the important debate on the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless and the ensuing adoption of relevant resolutions and decisions. It has become clear that the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) has made significant efforts to improve the cooperation between States and the co-ordination within the United Nations system. Further improvements of the co-ordinative role of Habitat remains necessary for the coming years.

All of the Member States of the Community have always supported the ideas and the aims behind the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless and been active in promoting these ideas during the year. We will continue to do so.

Public awareness of the serious problems involved has been heightened through numerous activities and events, including exhibitions and the publication of books, articles and reports. In addition, the year has served as an important stimulus for new discussions at the policy level on the broader issue of human settlement.

The provision of shelter for the poor and disadvantaged is not a task falling only on developing countries. The need for taking a fresh look at human settlement policies and development cooperation policies has become increasingly apparent in all countries due to the increased attention brought about by the United Nations and particularly Habitat.

The Year has helped to raise public consciousness of the serious problems facing the homeless. More authorities and planners, more decision-makers have had the benefit of the intellectual input coming from the initiative stressing the importance of shelter in improving health and well-being, employment, industrial development, the environment and overall national economic and social development. We will continue to address the problems and try to maintain the momentum created during the year.

The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and its Executive Director are to be congratulated on their very effective implementation of the decisions of the UN General Assembly and of the Commission on Human Settlements on the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless.

We should also like to commend the actions taken by the Executive Director with a view to ensuring effective follow-up of the full integration of the activities of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless in the regular work programme of Habitat on the formal termination of the International Year on 31 December 1987. Thank you, Mr President.

87/369. Statement in the Fifth Committee of the UN General Assembly: Pattern of Conferences¹

Date of Issue: 12 October 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Mr Kastoft: Mr Chairman, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community.

The Twelve thank the Committee on Conferences for its report and appreciate its efforts to secure the best possible use of conference resources. We also are grateful for the introductory statements made by the Chairman of the Committee, Mr Mudho, and by the Under-Secretary-General, Mr Wyzner. The financial environment in which the Department of Conference Services is operating makes their task more than usually difficult.

The Twelve share the concerns expressed by the Under-Secretary-General relating to the level of resources allocated to the Department of Conference Services. We hope that the Fifth Committee will consider this issue when examining the programme budget, given the importance attached to these activities. The implementation of the new budget procedures mandated by Resolution 41/213 — to also incorporate in the proposed programme budget for 1988-89 the cost for temporary assistance — should be viewed as a positive step toward better management of conference services.

Mr Chairman, I should like to discuss later the more successful aspects of the report of the Committee on Conferences which presents us with the usual and useful feature of containing draft resolutions. But firstly, however, we have to express our sincere disappointment with the first of these drafts. Resolution 41/177 [B], adopted by consensus, reflected the need to strengthen the Committee on Conferences so that it might fully discharge its functions. It instructed the Committee to consider changing its terms of reference and status, and return to the 42nd General Assembly with recommendations. Instead of a proposed new mandate and status for the Committee in accordance with that resolution, and Resolution 41/213, we are presented with a proposal to extend the life of the Committee by one year.

It appears from the report and the presentation by its Chairman that the Committee has been quite close to unanimity with respect to the terms of reference. It is also obvious from the report, Mr Chairman, and particularly from the reservations entered by at least five delegations against its 77th paragraph, that the Committee had difficulty in reconciling all elements to be considered in proposing changes in its status and mandate. We are told that lack of time, despite sustained efforts — and I would add that the Committee required and consumed more than double their usual amount of conference servicing resources — was the reason why the Committee could not agree. The real reason, Mr Chairman, is indubitably more political.

We regret, consequently, that in this report we are not presented with agreed concrete proposals but instead with the diverging views expressed by members of the Committee. We also regret that there are no proposals concerning the future status and composition of the Committee. The Twelve continue to believe that sufficient guidance exists, in particular in Resolution 41/213, as well as in Resolution 40/243; we believe that a renewed Committee on Conferences could only operate effectively by taking into account the resources available for conference servicing.

That said, the Twelve are not yet convinced that draft resolution A offers the best option to the Fifth Committee in the resolution of this matter. The Committee on Conferences has asked for more time in

¹ Agenda item 12.

order to complete their task and present recommendations to the 43rd General Assembly, although we note that this is not in compliance with Resolution 41/177. As I said a little while ago the Committee was quite close to unanimity with respect to the terms of reference as contained in paragraph 74 of the Committee's report. So a second option might be for Fifth Committee to approve these terms of reference and ask the Committee on Conferences — again before the next General Assembly — to complete its work pertaining to a change in its status. A third option might be to try to solve all outstanding problems here in Fifth Committee before the end of the current General Assembly.

Mr Chairman, the critical tone of the above remarks should not, however, detract from the more positive aspects of the Committee's routine work. In this respect the second resolution should present no problems, but we should draw attention to paragraph 3 which reads:

Requests United Nations organs, in order to make optimum use of the conference-servicing resources allocated to them, to indicate with greater precision the actual number of meetings with conference services that they will require in their coming sessions.

It is a request — a wish — but the question remains, how do we make the organs in question comply with this request? For the moment we leave it to the Committee on Conferences to follow up. The valuable work done by the Committee and the Department on Conference Services on utilization rates show that many bodies are still not using conference services properly, responsibly or effectively. The Committee should redouble its efforts in this direction in order to ensure that the available resources are sufficient to cope with the demands placed on the Department of Conferences Services. In this regard we note with appreciation that ECOSOC, before its first regular session of 1987, had notified the Department of Conference Services that less than half of the usual number of meetings would be required and that ECOSOC was actually able to complete its work despite the reduction.

Mr Chairman, we also support the Committee's efforts to regularize inconsistencies in the application of the General Assembly's relevant resolutions. In particular, we welcome their action on Special Conferences and ICSC's request to hold meetings away from a United Nations headquarters. We have noted the discussion in the Committee regarding conference services provided to United Nations organs and programmes not funded by the regular budget of the Organization. The discussion was inconclusive and it should be continued. We share the Committee's regret that some bodies have regressed towards annualization of meetings. The General Assembly has endorsed the trend towards greater biennialization; the Committee should work to this end, and towards greater harmonization of the pattern of meetings of subsidiary bodies. We have, of course, also noted that the Committee has devoted time to discussion on control and limitation of documentation and has decided to take up certain matters in more detail in 1988.

In turning to the draft Calendar, we note that, of necessity, some details are not yet finalized. However, we trust that once they are, it will be in accordance with relevant resolutions. In this context we note that some meetings of Regional Commissions and other bodies are scheduled to be held from Headquarters. The Twelve trust that the terms of Resolution 40/243 regarding any additional costs entailed will be faithfully adhered to. Thank you Mr Chairman.

87/370. Statement at the Plenary Session of the UN General Assembly: Situation in Kampuchea¹

Date of Issue: 13 October 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Mr Bierring: Mr Chairman, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community.

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The tragic situation in Cambodia is unfortunately still to be found among the distressing issues on the agenda of the General Assembly. The Vietnamese occupation of Cambodia has now lasted for eight years in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the fundamental principles of international law.

The world community has expressed itself clearly on Vietnam's continued violations of Cambodia's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity and has demanded the withdrawal of the occupying forces. Last year, 115 countries, including the twelve Members of the European Community, supported the resolution on Cambodia. This vote in favour of the resolution — the largest ever — can leave Vietnam in no doubt of the strength of the worldwide opposition to its unlawful and oppressive policy.

The Twelve have constantly supported the right of the Cambodian people to determine their own destiny without outside interference and their right to preserve their culture and national identity in a pluralist society. The present regime in Phnom Penh has no claim to legitimacy. However, the Twelve have no intention of contributing to the re-establishment of the Pol Pot regime in Cambodia. We share the collective abhorrence felt by the world community at the terrible abuses inflicted on the Cambodian people by Pol Pot and *Khmer rouge*. But this provides no justification for Vietnam's illegal occupation and its imposition of an illegitimate regime.

Recently we have seen much activity on the diplomatic front, raising hopes that prospects for a negotiated settlement had improved. However, we have seen no real evidence of a change in the policy of the leadership in Hanoi and no willingness to expedite the withdrawal of troops from Cambodia or implement successive United Nations resolutions. Hanoi and the government installed in Phnom Penh continue to reject the eight point proposal put forward in March last year by Prince Sihanouk. In recent months there have been a number of initiatives, including, in particular, proposals for a so-called 'cocktail party' meeting. The Twelve hope that these will help pave the way for a real dialogue on substantive issues and a negotiated settlement.

The Twelve believe it essential to find a negotiated solution to the problem of Cambodia. We continue to believe that the 1981 declaration of the International Conference on Kampuchea offers the best basis for such a settlement. The Twelve urge Vietnam to accept successive United Nations resolutions based on International Conference on Kampuchea principles. Nothing short of United Nations supervised general and free elections will satisfy the genuine aspirations of the Cambodian people for self-determination and independence.

A decisive element in any settlement is the immediate and complete withdrawal of Vietnam's occupation forces and guarantees that Vietnamese forces will not re-enter Cambodia after their withdrawal. Partial withdrawal is inconsistent with the resolutions endorsed by the General Assembly. Vietnam's declared intention to withdraw all its forces by 1990 remains insufficient and unacceptable. It is not for the occupying power to put a timetable on the restoration of Cambodian independence and there is no guarantee that Vietnam will actually live up to its declared intentions. The prolonged Vietnamese occupation is increasingly acquiring colonial overtones.

The situation within Cambodia and in the Thai border area is virtually unchanged. Within Cambodia the war continues to inflict untold suffering upon the civilian population as the Cambodian resistance continues to mount its challenges to the Vietnamese forces. The refugees in Thailand have been unable to return to their homes. The Twelve and other countries have urged Vietnam to cease its cross border incursions and artillery attacks into Thailand, but to no avail. These clear violations of international law are unacceptable and only add to the suffering of the population in the refugee camps. Vietnam should abide by the will of the world community and cease these activities forthwith.

The presence of approximately a quarter of a million refugees in Thailand places a heavy burden on that country. The Twelve once more applaud the humanitarian role played by the Government of Thailand and reiterate the commitment of the European Community and its Member States to continue to support the programmes co-ordinated by the United Nations Border Relief Operation. In doing so we do not forget the admirable role played by voluntary organizations comprising nationals of the Member countries of the European Community. All humanitarian efforts to relieve the suffering of the refugees are indispensable.

In conclusion, the Twelve once more give their full support to the efforts of the Secretary-General, his representatives and the Ad Hoc Committee of the International Conference on Kampuchea as well as the

ASEAN countries to bring about a peaceful and just solution to the conflict in Cambodia. The Twelve will once again give their full support to the resolution tabled by the ASEAN countries calling for a peaceful and just solution to the conflict in Cambodia, the immediate withdrawal of foreign forces, the restoration of the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Cambodia and free elections.

No country professing adherence to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations can escape its duty to support the resolutions before us. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

87/371. Statement in the First Committee of the UN General Assembly: General Debate on Disarmament

Date of Issue: 13 October 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Mr Bierring: Mr Chairman, I have the honour and privilege to take the floor on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community. I should like first to extend our congratulations to you, Mr Chairman, on your election to the chair of this important Committee, and also to the other members of the Bureau. We trust that under your leadership the First Committee will conduct its business efficiently and successfully, and we can assure you of the full support of the Twelve in this work.

The work of the First Committee to which the Twelve attach considerable importance cannot be regarded in isolation from the international developments in general. This has always been the situation, but this year we meet in an international climate, which should inspire and influence our work in an increasingly positive manner. A great deal has happened in East-West relations in recent months. The United States and the Soviet Union are presently engaged in an intense dialogue — as demonstrated by the outcome of the meeting in Washington in September between the US Secretary of State and the Soviet Foreign Minister. Measures of arms control and disarmament are in focus, but the talks also cover a number of other major issues between East and West, including human rights and regional conflicts. The Twelve hope that the summit meeting between President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev later this fall will lead to constructive progress and concrete results in the comprehensive relationship between the two powers. In the view of the Twelve it is important to maintain a broad scope for the dialogue as we know from experience that tangible and durable progress in one area is difficult to achieve if the situation in other areas is not developing in a satisfactory way. On the other hand, it is also obvious that positive results in one area strengthen mutual confidence and thus enhance possibilities of progress in other areas.

The Twelve have closely followed recent developments in East-West relations and noted a number of encouraging steps towards a more stable and constructive relationship. The crucial test, however, is to what extent declarations and proposals brought forward during the negotiations will lead to concrete agreements. In the arms control context increased confidence and greater openness are fundamental requirements for real progress towards balanced and verifiable arms control and disarmament measures which will enhance security at the lowest possible level of forces.

The twelve Members of the European Community, who are convinced that peace and security in Europe cannot be built by military means alone, attach particular importance to the CSCE process. They stress that tangible and lasting progress in all fields of the CSCE process, including full implementation of the provisions within the human dimension, is indispensable if relations between East and West are to develop in a climate of confidence, an important concomitant of agreements on disarmament and arms control.

Increased information and openness are directly related to the question of confidence and constitute central common elements to arms control and disarmament negotiations. The Twelve have consistently supported a freer, more open flow of useful and objective information on military matters. The United

¹ Agenda item 24.

Nations reporting system, whereby member States in different geographic regions and with different budgeting and accounting systems can supply information about their military expenditures in a standardized form, is a valuable instrument that contributes to greater transparency in this area. The Twelve regret that there are still many States within the United Nations which have declined to participate in this useful exercise. For the Twelve, increased information on military matters is an important prerequisite for achieving agreements on reductions of armed forces.

Adequate verification is an essential element of arms limitation and disarmament agreements. Verification measures differ according to the requirements of the agreement in question but a general and fundamental criterion is to provide maximum incentive for strict compliance. Adequate and effective verification provisions that act as a deterrent to circumvention of an agreement will offer a necessary assurance to the Parties that the undertakings agreed upon are being strictly adhered to. Effective verification arrangements can thus contribute to a general strengthening of confidence among States in the field of arms control.

Mr Chairman, when considering the wide area of arms control and disarmament I must stress that for the Twelve all relevant elements of the military balance, nuclear, conventional and chemical forces are of utmost importance. Nuclear arms reduction remains one of the highest priorities and the United States and the Soviet Union have a crucial responsibility for achieving substantial and balanced reductions in the global level of nuclear arsenals. The Twelve therefore find it very encouraging that the two military superpowers in September were able to reach agreement in principle to conclude a treaty on the global elimination of American and Soviet land-based intermediate-range nuclear missiles with a range of between 500 and 5 500 kilometres, thereby removing a whole class of nuclear weapons. This would be a major achievement. The Twelve hope that this recent progress in the American-Soviet dialogue will give new impetus to the bilateral negotiations on other US-Soviet nuclear missile and space systems. The Twelve attach great importance to reaching an agreement on 50 per cent reductions in the strategic nuclear arsenals of the two superpowers in accordance with their earlier agreed objective.

While supporting and encouraging the two countries in their efforts to negotiate agreements on reduction of nuclear arms, the Twelve stress the importance of strict compliance by all parties with existing arms control agreements, including the bilateral US-Soviet ABM Treaty of 1972.

The question of a comprehensive test ban remains on the agenda of the Conference on Disarmament. The establishing of an *ad hoc* committee on this issue is still pending, as agreement on the question of a mandate for the committee has not yet been reached. The Group of Seismic Experts is considering the various technical problems concerning verification, including the work on seismic data exchange and the Twelve are looking forward to the group continuing its useful work.

The Twelve have taken note of the recent US-Soviet agreement to initiate bilateral stage-by-stage negotiations on verification measures, which will make it possible to ratify the US-USSR Threshold Test Ban Treaty of 1974 and the Peaceful Nuclear Explosions Treaty of 1976, and on further intermediate limitations leading to the ultimate objective of the complete cessation of nuclear testing.

The agenda of the First Committee contains, as in previous years, proposals concerning nuclear weapon free zones in certain parts of the world. The creation of such zones could contribute to stability in the areas concerned, to non-proliferation and to the disarmament process in general, provided that the States concerned are prepared to participate on the basis of agreements freely entered into and in keeping with internationally recognized principles.

The Twelve attach the utmost importance to an effective international non-proliferation regime. Efforts should be made with a view to further spreading the support for the non-proliferation regime within the international community.

The Twelve see an urgent need to achieve concrete results in the field of conventional arms limitation and disarmament. Conventional disarmament is an integral and essential part of the overall disarmament process for several reasons.

It is conventional weapons that since the creation of the United Nations and before have been the cause of many millions of lost lives and untold suffering in different parts of the world. Expenditure on conventional armaments and forces, furthermore, accounts for the overwhelming part of all military budgets in the world, and is a serious economic strain on a large number of countries and is often an

obstacle to social and economic development. The process of conventional disarmament is therefore essential for all States in the world and should be pursued on the global as well as on the regional level. The aim of this process should be to seek effective and verifiable arms control agreements, which should lead to increased security at the lowest possible level of forces.

For Europe, the need for conventional disarmament derives from the fact that our continent has the largest concentration of arms and forces in the world. It is very important to achieve a reduction in the levels of conventional forces together with the elimination of imbalances that threaten stability and security. There is also a need to build upon and expand the confidence- and security-building measures adopted at last year's Stockholm Conference, which made a major contribution to improving security and cooperation in Europe. The Twelve hope to see further progress in this field as a result of the Vienna CSCE Follow-up Meeting. The Twelve underline their strong interest in the discussions in this connection on further steps to promote stability through the establishing in Europe of a stable and secure balance of conventional forces at a lower level.

The Twelve also support efforts in other parts of the world to increase confidence and security, thereby contributing to progress towards conventional disarmament agreements at a regional level.

The United Nations Disarmament Commission had a substantive consideration of the question of conventional disarmament at its 1987 session. The Twelve participated actively in the deliberations in the working group on this item chaired by a member of the Twelve. We look forward to the further consideration of this issue by the UNDC at its next substantive session in 1988 on the basis of the report from the working group and hope that concrete results will then be achieved.

Negotiations on a multilateral convention on the complete and effective prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons and on their destruction are a priority task for the Conference on Disarmament. The Twelve reaffirm their commitment to the total elimination of chemical weapons and members of the Twelve have contributed substantially to the work of the Conference on Disarmament on this subject. Important progress has been made on certain parts of the text of a draft convention. Solutions to some sensitive political and complicated technical problems are, however, still outstanding. One of the crucial elements is verification, where it is necessary to establish a stringent regime providing for on-site inspection on challenge when circumstances so require and to secure adequate verification of non-production of chemical weapons in the chemical industry. The Twelve welcome the progress made in the Conference on Disarmament this year. We hope that further constructive steps will make it possible to move closer towards an early agreement on a comprehensive, worldwide and effectively verifiable Treaty embracing the total destruction of existing stockpiles of chemical weapons within an agreed timeframe.

The urgent need for a global ban on chemical weapons has been demonstrated by the use of these weapons in the conflict between Iraq and Iran. The Twelve are deeply concerned by the unanimous conclusions reached by the experts sent to the region by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, which were contained in the President of the Security Council's declaration of 14 May, 1987. The experts' report makes clear that the dispositions of the 1925 Geneva Protocol have been repeatedly violated, despite pressing appeals from the Security Council and the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The use of these weapons against the civilian population is an alarming escalation. The Twelve, as expressed by the Foreign Ministers in their declaration of 25 May, strongly condemn these flagrant breaches and urgently appeal for an immediate end to the use of chemical weapons in the conflict involving these two countries.

Solving the problems relating to the prevention of an arms race in outer space has for years been considered a matter of urgency by the Twelve. The bilateral talks in Geneva between the United States and the Soviet Union on this subject are followed with close attention by the Twelve, and we hope that the Parties, in accordance with their declared commitment to prevent an arms race in space, will continue and intensify their search for agreements in this area. The Twelve also hope that the Conference on Disarmament Ad Hoc Committee on Outer Space will be able to make progress in its considerations of the subject, including the examination of the multilateral aspects of the question. The work of the Committee must be carried out on a realistic basis and must complement the results of the bilateral talks in Geneva.

Mr Chairman, the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament is an important subject which for some years has been under consideration in this Committee as well as in the Disarmament Commission. The Twelve have retained a keen and active interest in this question as we are convinced that the United Nations in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter must play a central role in the quest for disarmament. The General Assembly and, in particular, the First Committee are useful fora, where all States of the world, also those not members of the specific negotiating bodies, can participate in the deliberations of disarmament issues.

It is, however, important that we make efforts to improve the efficiency of the work of this Committee. Because of the proliferation of resolutions the work load of the Committee has increased and is now close to the limit, where serious and careful considerations of the many resolutions may no longer be possible. A continuation of this development could undermine the credibility of the Committee. In the view of the Twelve it is the extent of meaningful consensus that is important and not the number of resolutions tabled and voted upon. The budgetary problems of the United Nations further underline the need for organizing our work in a more efficient way.

The subject was considered by the Disarmament Commission at its session this year and a number of constructive proposals for improving the organization of work of this Committee were discussed, but no agreement was reached. We hope that the Disarmament Commission at next year's session will succeed in agreeing upon specific recommendations to be submitted to the General Assembly. The role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament will also be an important subject at the Third Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament.

In this respect, the continuing requirement for a single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, as provided by the Conference on Disarmament, taking decisions on the base of consensus, is evident. The resolution on the report of the Conference on Disarmament should likewise reflect the fundamental importance of consensus as the rule for decision-making in the Conference on Disarmament.

The decision by the General Assembly in Resolution 41/60 [G] to convene a Third Special Session devoted to disarmament was welcomed by the Twelve, who have participated actively in the work of the Preparatory Committee. In the view of the Twelve, the Third Special Session should reaffirm and build upon the Final Document of SSOD I and at the same time be forward-looking, the discussions and considerations should be based on a realistic and practical agenda concentrated upon a number of carefully selected items. The overall objective should be to secure a final document which can be adopted by consensus. The Twelve will contribute in a positive and constructive manner to such a successful outcome of the Special Session.

The International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development was a significant event in the United Nations. The Twelve welcome the adoption by consensus of a final document.

In our view one of the achievements of this Conference is the reaffirmation of the crucial importance of the question of security in any detailed analysis of the relationship between disarmament and development: security understood as a broader concept encompassing social, humanitarian, environmental, developmental as well as military aspects.

The Twelve in the deliberations during the Conference dedicated themselves to the achievement of a result acceptable to all. The final document constitutes a delicate balance of different interests and viewpoints, and in this way reflects the Conference's deliberations on the relationship between disarmament and development.

Mr Chairman, the twelve Members of the European Community believe that the process of arms control and disarmament should apply in all fields and we attach the utmost importance to the ongoing negotiations at the bilateral, regional and multilateral level, which should result in balanced and verifiable agreements on reduced levels of armaments. Recent developments seem to have opened up new and hopeful prospects in arms control.

In view of this situation let us all take a fresh outlook on the work of the First Committee. The Twelve consider it important that this Committee offers constructive and stimulating contributions to the new developments in the field of disarmament. As the influence of the Committee is increased when we succeed in reaching common ground on various disarmament issues, serious efforts should be made in

order to expand the area of consensus. By doing this we can contribute to enhance the role of the First Committee and the United Nations in the process of disarmament as envisaged in the Charter. The Twelve will work actively in order to achieve constructive results in the First Committee and we call upon other states to join us in these efforts.

87/372. Statement in the Special Political Committee of the UN General Assembly: Effects of Atomic Radiation ¹

Date of Issue: 14 October 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Mr Chairman, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Community and its twelve Member States.

The Twelve attach great importance to the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation and they wish to express their appreciation for the Committee's valuable contributions to our knowledge of ionizing radiation and radioactivity and its effects upon man and his environment. The Committee has carried out its mandate conscientiously and has efficiently handled an increasing number of complex scientific issues.

Fortunately, accidents involving risk of exposure to radiation are rare occurrences. However, when they do happen, the need for close international cooperation in this field is amply illustrated. The Twelve have noted and share the sympathy which the Committee expressed to the delegation of the Soviet Union for the accident that occurred on 26 April 1986 at Chernobyl. We appreciate the efforts of the Committee to collect sufficient data on that accident and we are looking forward to the report that the Committee intends to present to the 43rd General Assembly.

We have learned with regret of the staffing difficulties presently confronting the Committee, which in our view has been disproportionately affected by economy measures within the Organization. These difficulties have adversely affected the Committee's ability to carry out its work. Furthermore, the need to respond to the demands for information has increased since the Chernobyl accident and has imposed additional stress.

We welcome the close cooperation that has by now been established between the Scientific Committee and the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Health Organization, the International Atomic Energy Agency and other international governmental and non-governmental organizations. The exchange of information that takes place with these organizations as well as with member countries of the United Nations is essential if the Committee is to continue to carry out its mandate successfully.

The Twelve are prepared to continue their cooperation with the Scientific Committee whose reports on physical, biological and genetic aspects of radiation are of great value to us and indeed to the entire international community. As a contribution to this cooperation the European Community has for its part offered 40 000 US dollars through a special grant in order to help in the assessment of dose and potential health effects from the Chernobyl accident.

We expect to be able to express our support for the Committee by our participation in the adoption by consensus of a resolution containing a renewal of the mandate of the Committee. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

¹ Agenda item 74.

87/373. Question No H-453/87 by Mr Stevenson and Question No H-363/87 by Mr Andrews Concerning Sanctions Against South Africa

Date of Issue: 14 October 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Questions

Question No H-453/87:

Will the Council of Ministers reconsider its position, with a view to increasing the severity of EEC sanctions applied to South Africa in the light of South African employers' willingness to inflict hardship on black workers who are engaged in an industrial dispute with their employers, especially because the current sanctions were made to be almost ineffective (ostensibly to avoid hardship to black workers)?

Question No H-363/87:

Is the Council aware that 808 555 tonnes of apples were imported from South Africa to the European Community during the period 1980 to 1985, and does the Council believe that the continuation of such imports into the Community is compatible with the overall objective of bringing a speedy end to the practice of apartheid?

Mr Ellemann-Jensen, President-in-Office of the Council and of the Foreign Ministers: Both the Community and the Member States have repeatedly voiced their abhorrence of apartheid. There can be no doubt that the Twelve advocate the total abolition of apartheid and the introduction of a fully representative, non-racist system of government in South Africa. Restrictive measures against South Africa were adopted in September 1985 and again in September and October 1986 in order to step up the pressure from the Twelve on the South African Government and to stress their deep concern over apartheid. These restrictive measures do not comprise any restrictions on the Community's imports of apples, with which one of the questions is specifically concerned.

All I can add to the information already provided in the written answer to Mr Stevenson, which is on its way to Parliament, is that the Member States will continue to follow the situation in South Africa within the context of European political cooperation, and the Member States have quite recently confirmed that, if significant progress is not made towards the abolition of apartheid, the Twelve will reconsider their position on South Africa on a continuing basis.

Mr Stevenson (S): Is the President-in-Office aware that over one year after the limited sanctions were agreed, products subject to these sanctions, such as steel and iron products, are flowing into the EEC? In fact, in the United Kingdom, on the basis of a month-by-month comparison those imports have actually increased. In the light of this disgraceful situation, will the President-in-Office now institute urgent measures that will effectively implement the present, albeit limited, sanctions? In view of the continued repression and hardship in South Africa, particularly that which we have witnessed in the recent mining dispute in that country, will he also bring forward proposals that will step up significantly the sanction measures against South Africa?

Mr Ellemann-Jensen: I can only say that the Presidency would very much like to see the application of tighter sanctions. But we have to recognize that it is not at present politically possible to get tighter sanctions adopted. Instead, we are endeavouring to analyse in more detail the effectiveness of the sanctions which have already been adopted. That work is well in hand. [...]

Mr Ramirez Heredia (S): Questions regarding racism and human rights clearly arouse special emotions among all of us, which is why, of the few Members present, so many of us want to speak on this matter. I had requested to speak on this question and the previous one. I was, up to a point, quite happy with the reply from the representative of the Council of Ministers. What I would add, though, is that it is not enough simply to express good intentions when the time comes to actually put strong measures into

practice against the South African Government. What I would like to ask specifically, Mr Minister, is why a detailed list of those South African companies and employers who basically have a violent attitude towards the non-white population of that country is not drawn up. Secondly, with respect to the second question under discussion at the moment, why is there not a list of companies producing these apples which we buy, so that those particular companies can actually be punished in practical terms? And lastly, Mr Minister, why don't we speak directly to those involved, with those suffering from the repression? Why don't we talk to the representatives of the non-white people working in these companies run by racists and exploiters, so that they can speak for themselves and so that the Council can move ahead with an effective policy against racism and apartheid?

Mr Ellemann-Jensen: The questioner must be aware that the President-in-Office of the Council is the Foreign Minister of a country which has gone further than any other country in applying restrictions on South Africa. So I do not really think I have any case to argue with regard to the views presented here.

Sir James Scott-Hopkins (ED): Would the President-in-Office not agree that the whole history of sanctions over the years, not only against South Africa but against all the other countries, shows that they have been unsuccessful in achieving their objectives, and does he not feel that these sanctions will be unsuccessful as well? Would he not accept that if sanctions are imposed more strictly and more severely, the people who will suffer are the people we want to help, namely the black people? I have been to South Africa many times, as I am sure the Honourable Member who is shouting has been there too, and also the President-in-Office. He knows full well that the people who will suffer if these sanctions are made much worse are the people in the workshops, the factories and the mines. I am sure he would agree with my Prime Minister that what is being done at the moment is sufficient.

Mr Ellemann-Jensen: With all due respect, I do not agree. To begin with I think that when sanctions are applied they should be applied effectively. A major problem today is that many countries apply sanctions in word but not in deed. I also think that it is undoubtedly correct that, as the Honourable Member points out in his question, those who stand to suffer most are the people who live in South Africa — the people we want to help. That is correct. But we must also take note of the fact that it is the representatives of those people who put forward the demand for sanctions. If that were not the case, it would of course be a different matter.

Mr Eyraud (S): The Council President has said that he favours effective sanctions, and that is very good. I fully endorse what he has just said.

But whilst we have imported 800 000 tonnes of apples into the Community in the last five years, following Ruling 207/83 of the Court of Justice, consumers have had no means of knowing that these apples came from South Africa. People anxious to demonstrate their opposition to the regime of apartheid in South Africa should be able to check that these apples originate in South Africa. I would thus ask the Council President if he proposes to take measures to enable the consumer to know where the products he buys come from?

Mr Ellemann-Jensen: I can only repeat what I said at the start. The import of apples is not covered by Community sanctions, but those imports are covered by the sanctions applied in various countries. In my country, for example, there is a ban on imports from South Africa. Elsewhere it is up to consumer groups, for example, and others to pursue activities of the kind advocated by the questioner.

Mr Cryer (S): Before people start boasting about trips to South Africa, they should declare a financial interest and say who has bribed them to go there.

I would ask the President-in-Office whether he is going to go further than just fine words. He has uttered a lot of fine words, but there has been absolutely no action. Coal and steel imports from South Africa into the Community have actually increased during this torrent of fine words over the past twelve months. Would he publish the list of Member States who are opposing further actions? We have no doubt on this side that it will be headed by the United Kingdom under Ms Thatcher. Will he at least ensure that sanctions against South Africa are on the agenda for every meeting of Ministers meeting in political cooperation as long as his country has the Presidency? That would be a basic minimum to ensure that the matter is at least discussed.

Mr Ellemann-Jensen: I have already explained — moreover in association with colleagues from other countries — that we want to have it as a permanent item on the agenda. I also think that, in fairness, it

should be said that it is not just one Member State which is opposed to tighter sanctions. Several countries are opposed to them. Our problem is, of course, how we can get beyond the fine words, bearing in mind that we have to agree to go further. I think there is something positive in the efforts currently being made to establish a dialogue between the many different groups which are opposed to apartheid. It should not be seen as an attitude of resignation with regard to stepping up the pressure on South Africa but as a realization that, while we clearly cannot make progress in that area for the moment, we must not miss opportunities to take action in other areas. Here the dialogue, serving as a basis for a peaceful change of system, is definitely one of the routes we should seek to take.

87/374. Question No H-104/87 by Mr Arbeloa Muru Concerning the Defence of Europe

Date of Issue: 14 October 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

Does the Council of Ministers feel it would be useful to hold a meeting of the European Council in the near future to discuss the defence of Europe and Mikhail Gorbachev's recent initiative?

Mr Ellemann-Jensen, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: I have to say to the questioner that questions relating to defence fall quite distinctly outside the scope of European political cooperation. On the other hand, those matters which in the Single European Act are referred to as 'the political and economic aspects of security' are the subject of both regular and detailed consultations between the Twelve.

Mr Arbeloa Muru (S): Mr President, I addressed my question to the Council, not to the Ministers. Parliament services, however, then sent it to the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation. It wasn't my decision. Anyway, I hope the President-in-Office will answer my question all the same, which is: does he believe that the WEU or NATO is an adequate body to defend the so-called bastion of European defence?

Mr Ellemann-Jensen: It is difficult for me to answer that wearing my present hat, because I represent a Community in which some of us think that the defence of Europe can be best secured through membership of NATO. There is also a Member State which has chosen to be neutral so, as President-in-Office of the Council, I cannot give a clear answer.

Mr Alavanos (COM): I would like to take the question a bit further and ask why political cooperation has taken such a negative position on the Gorbachev initiative concerning the Scandinavian seas, particularly when the Scandinavian countries themselves, apart from Denmark, have adopted a positive stance. This surprises us, and we would appreciate a statement from the President-in-Office as to why this has been the position — with a Scandinavian, Danish Presidency — when, as with the general position of the EEC, it does nothing to help the cause of disarmament, détente and the establishment of security measures in Europe.

Mr Ellemann-Jensen: I will try to give an answer even though, no doubt, it has nothing to do with the question which has been asked. I understand that the questioner wishes to have some further clarification of certain comments made after the informal meeting of Foreign Ministers last week, which related to the so-called Murmansk speech made by Mr Gorbachev. I want to point out that the negative comments emanating from various quarters were exclusively concerned with the risk that by regionalizing the discussion on the security of Europe we might be taking a step backwards in relation to the efforts which have been made, not least in the CSCE process, to discuss the security of Europe as a whole. If we now suddenly single out a region and give it special treatment, we shall be weakening the efforts to negotiate on European security as a single entity. In our opinion that would be a major retrograde step in relation to what has been achieved, especially within the CSCE process, to which the Twelve have made such a strong commitment and which they support, particularly because of its total European approach.

Ms Hammerich (ARC): Mr President-in-Office, to begin with I have to tell you that this has a lot to do with the question, since it is concerned with Gorbachev's latest initiative. His latest initiative was in fact a proposal for détente put to the Scandinavian countries, a proposal concerned with disarmament, détente, environmental cooperation, Scandinavia as a nuclear-free zone, etc. It may well be that your remarks after the European political cooperation meeting in Nyborg were comments at random, but they came over in public — Sir Geoffrey Howe's remarks too — as an outright rejection. I want to ask: do you not think that it would be a good idea to discuss matters of that kind with your Scandinavian colleagues before a proposal on détente is categorically rejected in the name of Central Europe?

Mr Ellemann-Jensen: Now I am a little confused, because this question was already put last May. I find it truly amazing that anyone could know back in May what Mr Gorbachev would be saying in Murmansk in September-October. I must try not to draw too sweeping conclusions from that, but it gives me food for thought. I must say to Ms Hammerich that to speak of a categorical rejection makes me suspect that she gets her information from the most primitive section of the press. Really, she should be above doing that! There was no question of an outright rejection. The comments related to the single element which I mentioned earlier, namely the danger inherent in the proposal of a regionalization of the European security discussion. I also agree that — as Ms Hammerich would have it — all initiatives from Mr Gorbachev should be taken seriously and that we should examine, preferably through direct negotiations, to what extent they are just fine words. Certainly we should not reject them out of hand. Nor did we do so in this instance.

87/375. Question No H-501/87 by Mr McMahon Concerning the Peace Plan for Nicaragua and Question No H-439/87 by Mr Adamou Concerning Pacification of Central America

Date of Issue: 14 October 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

Question No H-501/87:

Has the Council meeting in political cooperation discussed the current peace proposals for Central America, in particular Nicaragua? When will the Council take active steps to prevail upon the United States to withdraw support from the Contras, thus ending the war and safeguarding Community investments such as EEC assistance for medical aid projects in that country?

Ouestion No H-439/87:

What approaches have the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation made or do they intend to make towards the US Administration with a view to the discontinuation of military, economic and political support for the Contras in Nicaragua, which is undermining the plan of the five Presidents for the pacification of Central America?

Mr Ellemann-Jensen, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: The Twelve have on many occasions stated their position with regard to the peace process in Central America and the principles on which a just, negotiated solution should be based. It is a position which emerged most clearly in the Joint Political Declaration adopted on 10 February 1987 in Guatemala ¹. It is to be found, in particular, in points 20 and 22 of that declaration and in the declaration of the Twelve of 13 August ² this year, in which the Twelve appeal to the five Central American countries, as also to all countries which have ties and interests in the area, to cooperate constructively in translating the agreement concluded into lasting peace and genuine democracy in Central America.

At the most recent meetings, which took place in New York between the Twelve and the countries in the Contadora Group and the so-called support group, the Twelve reaffirmed their support for the agreement which was signed by the five Central American Presidents in Guatemala on 7 August this year, as is also stated in the declaration of the Twelve of 13 August.

Mr McMahon (S): While thanking the President-in-Office for his reply, would he not agree that matters have moved on considerably since then? Only yesterday, President Arias was awarded a Nobel prize for his efforts in this area. Would the Council be prepared to send him a telegram congratulating him on his efforts and would the Council be prepared to take stronger measures in making representations to the United States of America who are the people who are holding up the peace process? The Nicaraguan Government have established a conciliation council, they have liberated the press, they have opened up their country to democracy, but at the moment the United States is still persisting in sending assistance to the Contras. When will the Community take a strong line with President Reagan and some of his advisors in the White House?

Mr Ellemann-Jensen: I should like to say in answer to the supplementary question that, as soon as word reached me that President Arias had been awarded the Nobel prize, I made a statement paying homage to President Arias and congratulating him on the distinguished honour which had been bestowed on him. I have circulated a proposal via the so-called COREU network for a joint congratulatory message to be sent from the Twelve, and I very much hope that it will be possible. In my statement I also stressed that the reason why President Arias was chosen was precisely to highlight what he had done to find a just solution to the conflicts which in that region are due, first and foremost, to centuries of social and economic injustice. Precisely because of these circumstances, which are the source of the conflicts in the region, I think it would be very unwise of the Twelve to begin making such one-sided assessments of the situation as the questioner advocates, particularly in a situation in which possibilities seem to have been created for the peace process to start up again.

Mr Dessylas (COM): We too applaud the significant efforts of the peoples, movements and governments of the five Central American countries to bring peace to this sensitive region. This effort is gaining increased international recognition, endorsement and support. One sign of this, as has been said, is the recent award of the Nobel prize to the President of Costa Rica.

On the other hand, however, the President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation has not answered the question as to what approach it intends to take, and when it intends to take it, towards the Reagan Administration regarding the latter's unacceptable attempts to undermine the plan by continuing to support the Contras in Nicaragua. In other words, what specific approach does it intend to make to the American Administration?

Mr Ellemann-Jensen: At the informal meeting of Foreign Ministers held in Denmark at the beginning of this month we had a further discussion of the situation in Central America. As a consequence of this discussion we made representations via diplomatic channels to all five Central American countries stressing the support of the Twelve for the implementation of this peace agreement. It goes without saying that the Twelve will continue to follow the situation very closely and that we shall keep under constant review the possibilities open to us of offering concrete assistance in the implementation of the Guatemala agreement.

87/376. Question No H-460/87 by Ms Lizin Concerning the EEC's Diplomatic Relations with Romania and Hungary

Date of Issue: 14 October 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark

Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 87/096.

² EPC Bulletin, Doc. 87/283.

Have new steps been taken in, or new contacts arranged through, political cooperation with a view to advancing progress in this matter?

Answer:

The question of establishing official relations between the Community and Romania and Hungary is being dealt with at Community level and not within the framework of European political cooperation.

87/377. Question No H-496/87 by Mr Piquet Concerning the Protection of Palestinian Refugee Camps

Date of Issue: 14 October 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

Are the Ministers prepared to take measures at the international level, as urged by the European Parliament in its resolution of 17 September 1987¹, to secure guarantees for the safety of the Palestinian refugees and the people in southern Lebanon, bearing in mind, in particular, the need to prevent a repetition of the recent murderous raids by Israeli fighter planes, which left 46 dead, including 36 civilians, and 40 injured?

Answer:

The Twelve have frequently – the last occasion was the statement on 16 February 1987² – expressed their concern at conditions in the Palestinian refugee camps. They have appealed to all concerned to exercise the greatest possible restraint and to enter into peaceful negotiations with a view to achieving a just, comprehensive and lasting solution to their differences.

The Twelve continue to hold the view that Lebanon's sovereignty, unity, independence and territorial integrity must be respected.

87/378. Question No H-430/87 by Mr Tzounis Concerning Statements by the Turkish Prime Minister, Mr Ozal

Date of Issue: 14 October 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

Have the Foreign Ministers considered the statements made by the Turkish Prime Minister, Mr Ozal, at Proussa on 17 August and are they prepared to take this opportunity to reiterate their categorical condemnation of the use of force in international relations, the occupation of foreign territory in general and, in particular, the Turkish invasion of Cyprus in 1974 and the seizure of some 40% of its territory?

Answer:

The question put down by Mr Tzounis is on the same subject as the one put down by Ms Crawley (Question No H-411/87)¹, and I should therefore like to give a joint reply to both questions.

¹ Resolution of 17 September 1987 on the Israeli bombardment of the Palestinian camps in the Lebanon, *OJ* No C 281 of 19 October 1987, p. 129.

² EPC Bulletin, Doc. 87/097.

Only recently I had occasion to reaffirm the Twelve's position on the Cyprus question in an international forum. In my speech on behalf of the Twelve at the 42nd General Assembly of the United Nations on 22 September 1987 I made it clear that the Twelve regret the tragic partition of the island and attach great importance to finding a just and lasting solution to this problem.

On behalf of the Twelve I stated that:

We reaffirm our complete support for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and unity of the Republic of Cyprus in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions. We stand by every aspect of our previous statements and disassociate ourselves from any action aimed at establishing an independent State on Cyprus. Similarly, we support the Secretary-General in his efforts to mediate and call upon the parties involved to assist him in his efforts to find a solution to this problem which is arousing international concern. Likewise, we call upon the parties involved to refrain from words or actions which might reduce the scope for finding a peaceful solution.

87/379. Question No H-441/87 by Mr Ephremidis Concerning **EEC-Syria Relations**

Date of Issue: 14 October 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

Following recent developments in EEC-Syria relations and Mr Cheysson's visit to Damascus, do the Ministers intend to lift all the bans introduced in the last year, proceed to a new financial protocol in respect of self-sufficiency programmes in food, irrigation, electricity and industrial renewal and contribute to the reinstatement of diplomatic relations between all the Member States and Syria?

Answer:

At the meeting in Copenhagen on 13 July 1987 the Foreign Ministers of the Twelve stated that they intend to continue their contacts - via the President-in-Office and on their own initiative - at all levels and with all the parties involved in the area with a view to contributing to finding a just, comprehensive and lasting solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, including a solution to the Palestinian problem, in agreement with the Venice Declaration of 1980 1.

The question of renewing the financial protocols with third countries is dealt with at Community level. Any decision to establish diplomatic relations with third countries must be taken by the individual Member States.

87/380. Question No H-445/87 by Mr Alavanos Concerning Torture in Turkey

Date of Issue: 14 October 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

According to Amnesty International's monthly bulletin (published on 2 September 1987), no substantial change has been noticed in the widespread use of torture and at the beginning of 1987 the number of people arrested was estimated to be at last 240 000 by the Union for Human Rights in Turkey. In view of this situation and the fact that Turkey has applied for membership of the European Communities, can the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation continue to be indifferent?

FPC Bulletin, Doc. 87/388.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 87/260.

Answer:

The Twelve are closely following the situation in Turkey with regard to respect for human rights and fundamental liberties. We deeply regret that this situation is continuing to give rise to serious concern. The Twelve have repeatedly stated that respect for human rights is a major element in their relations with third countries. The Turkish authorities are aware that this is a matter of serious concern to the Twelve.

The question of Turkey's possible accession to the European Communities is not being discussed within the framework of European political cooperation.

87/381. Question No H-452/87 by Mr Cano Pinto Concerning the Release of South Vietnamese Prisoners

Date of Issue: 14 October 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

On 2 September 1987, 2 500 prisoners were released from re-education camps in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam; nevertheless, some 5 000 persons who were active in the former South Vietnamese Government are still imprisoned there, most having been sentenced for their role in the previous regime. In view of the fact that complete restoration of order in that country calls for genuine national reconciliation, which the European Community should further and support, what action will the Foreign Ministers take, in the context of political cooperation, in order to secure the release of the 5 000 prisoners held in Vietnamese re-education camps, this being conducive to ultimate national reconciliation?

Answer:

The Twelve agree with the Honourable Member that there is a need for genuine national reconciliation in Vietnam. What is more, they are of the opinion that no one should be deprived of civil or political rights by reason of his conviction or belief — and they have expressed this view on numerous occasions, most recently in their declaration of 21 July 1986 on human rights ¹.

The human rights situation in Vietnam is discussed regularly within the framework of European political cooperation, and for humanitarian reasons attention has been drawn to a number of individual cases such as the one raised by the Honourable Member.

87/382. Question No H-454/87 by Mr Beazley Concerning an Oral Question to the Foreign Ministers

Date of Issue: 14 October 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

With regard to Question No 86 by Mr Ephremidis on 16 September 1987¹, can the President-in-Office now provide an answer to my question of 16 September 1987 as to whether the information on which Mr Ephremidis based this question on children in detention in South Africa was out of date and incorrect and can he also confirm that the 'official' information which I obtained from the South African

Government on this matter, and gave to the House, was correct and up-to-date?

FPC Bulletin, Doc. 86/230.

Answer:

The Twelve are not in a position to provide the Honourable Member with authoritative numbers of how many children and young people are being held in detention in South Africa.

According to the figures from the South African Government, confirmed by the Detainees Parents' Support Committee, on 8 August 1987 there were 232 people held in detention without trial under the Internal Security Act: it is not stated how many of these were children or young people.

According to official South African statistics, since 12 June 1986 16 282 persons have been detained for 30 days or more under the state of emergency; this figure includes 3 fifteen-year-olds, 18 sixteen-year-olds and 84 seventeen-year-olds. According to the detainees parents' support committee the correct number of detainees held under the state of emergency (including persons held for less than 30 days) on 22 September 1987 was, in round figures 3 500, of which 112 were children and young people: 1 was twelve, 4 fourteen, 13 fifteen, 25 sixteen, 37 seventeen and 32 were eighteen.

I would like to finish by pointing out that the Twelve strongly condemn every case of detention without charge, especially when those concerned are children or young people. We regard this as a basic principle and we have jointly expressed our serious concern in notes to the South African authorities.

87/383. Question No H-456/87 by Mr Cabezón Alonso Concerning Freedom of Expression in Chile

Date of Issue: 14 October 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

On Monday, 24 August 1987, Marcelo Contreras and Sergio Marras, director and assistant director of the Chilean magazine 'Apsi', were arrested by order of the Chilean Military Court. Some 30 000 copies of a special edition of this magazine were seized by the police. The journalist and director of the magazine 'Analisis', Pablo Cardenas, is also in detention, and another half-dozen Chilean journalists are facing court cases because of what they have written.

What actions or initiatives have the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation taken in the light of these events and of the systematic violation of freedom of the press, information and expression in Chile?

Answer:

The specific events referred to by the Honourable Member have not been discussed within the framework of European political cooperation.

I would like to add that the Twelve are closely following the situation in Chile. We have frequently pressed the Chilean Government to reintroduce democracy in Chile. In this context we have urgently requested the immediate release of journalists and the lifting of restrictions on the media in Chile. In their latest statement on 9 October 1987 the Twelve stress that the Chilean people should enjoy complete freedom of information and expression.

87/384. Question No H-462/87 by Ms Dury Concerning the Fate of Chilean Political Refugees

Date of Issue: 14 October 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 87/319.

What steps have been taken by the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation and the Member States to bring about the expulsion of the 15 political refugees sentenced to execution and enable them to come to Europe, thereby saving them from certain death?

Answer:

The Twelve are following closely the matter of the 15 detainees who may be condemned to death.

As stated in the answer to Question No H-304/87¹, the Twelve made an approach to the Chilean authorities in March 1985 regarding three of the prisoners. The aim of this approach was to have the cases against them transferred from a special court martial — with the resultant risk of summary proceedings and subsequent execution — to an 'ordinary' military court. The cases were in fact later transferred to a military court.

The Twelve will continue to follow the matter closely and consider what can be done to save the lives of these detainees. Amongst other things they will consider a renewed approach on behalf of the prisoners, if this is considered opportune in conjunction with the appeal procedure.

The Twelve will also continue to convey to the Chilean authorities their deep concern at the infringements of human rights in Chile.

87/385. Question No H-485/87 by Ms Boot Concerning the Improvement of the Position of the Baltic States

Date of Issue: 14 October 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

Can the President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation say what views have been expressed from the Community side at the CSCE Conference in Vienna with regard to improving the position of the Baltic States? (See also the unanimously adopted Council of Europe resolution – document 5667 – of 28 January 1987.)

Answer:

Both individually and jointly, the Twelve take every available opportunity to remind the Soviet Union of the commitments it entered into voluntarily when it signed the Helsinki Final Act and other CSCE documents.

Respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief, without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion, is laid down in the Helsinki Final Act. At the current CSCE follow-up meeting in Vienna the Twelve have therefore repeatedly brought up this question and called upon the Soviet Union to make considerable improvements as regards human rights and personal contacts.

For the same reason the Twelve have proposed, or were instrumental in proposing, a number of steps aimed at enhancing the importance of CSCE for all the nations and citizens of Europe — by improving opportunities for contacts between East and West, by giving guarantees which will strengthen individual rights, and by ensuring freedom of movement for information, ideas and persons. I am thinking particularly, but not exclusively, of our proposal regarding the human dimension. This proposal, tabled jointly with the other Western CSCE countries, contains a comprehensive plan of action aimed at ensuring greater agreement between the various CSCE commitments with regard to the human dimension.

EPC Bulletin, Doc. 87/327.

87/386. Question No H-112/87 by Mr Boesmans Concerning the Murder of Serge Berten

Date of Issue: 14 October 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

On 19 January 1982 the Flemish development cooperation worker, Serge Berten, was kidnapped in Guatemala. We have repeatedly urged the Belgian Government and the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation to discover what happened in this tragic affair.

The Menen 'Friends' committee for development cooperation' has just heard that, following his disappearance, Serge Berten was subjected to terrible torture and then executed.

Will the Foreign Ministers now at last make representations to the Guatemalan authorities with a view not only to clarifying what happened but also to bringing those responsible to justice?

Answer:

The Honourable Member is referred to the answer to Question No H-118/87 by Mr Ulburghs (which was answered on 13 May 1987) ¹.

87/387. Question No H-280/87 by Mr Pearce Concerning Drug Trafficking and Arms Trade in Central America

Date of Issue: 14 October 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

Are the Ministers aware of media reports (CBS television about 7 April 1987) that the Central Intelligence Agency has been involved in deals for the provision of arms to the Contras in Nicaragua involving favours to American drug smugglers? If so, what representations are they making to the United States authorities in the context of the Community policies to combat drug trafficking?

Answer:

As the authorities for this subject in the Member States have received no confirmation of the alleged drugs trafficking, the Twelve have never considered this question.

As the Honourable Member will know, the Twelve are very worried about illegal drugs production and drugs trafficking throughout the world; everyone knows that this is an eminently international problem which knows no frontiers and if we are to have any hope of eradicating it our efforts have to be made both nationally and internationally. One thing we have done is to encourage the increased exchange of police officers from drug squads wherever and whenever this has seemed appropriate in order to strengthen existing cooperation between police forces and to obtain valuable information about drug smuggling.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 87/177.

87/388. Question No H-411/87 by Ms Crawley Concerning the Illegal Turkish Occupation of Northern Cyprus

Date of Issue: 14 October 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

Would the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation please outline what initiatives they are taking as far as the United Nations negotiations on the illegal Turkish occupation of northern Cyprus are concerned?

Answer:

As Question H-430/87 1 by Mr Tzounis concerns the same subject, reference is made to the reply to that question.

87/389. Letter to Mr Oscar Arias, President of Costa Rica, Congratulating him on the Award of the Nobel Peace Prize for 1987

Date of Issue: 14 October 1987 Place of Issue: Brussels Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency Status of Document: Message

Dear Mr President.

In my capacity as President of the Council of the European Community and of European Political Cooperation, I have the honour to congratulate you wholeheartedly on the award to you of the Nobel peace prize for 1987.

The initiative for peace in Central America which you, in the framework of the Contadora process, submitted early this year for consideration by the other Central American Heads of State, broke the deadlock in the peace process. Your courageous efforts to establish peace in Central America have led to the agreement reached at the Guatemala Conference.

The adoption of the peace plan in Guatemala on 7 August this year created renewed hopes that the hostilities in the region would be brought to an end, and peaceful economic and social development initiated.

The well-deserved honour bestowed on you is a manifestation of the international interest and sympathy for your personal efforts and those of the region itself to achieve a lasting and just peace in Central America.

The twelve Member States of the European Community hope that these efforts will bring lasting peace and true democracy to the region, and I take this opportunity to express to you once again our firm support of your endeavours and our hope that the efforts may soon be crowned with success. Yours sincerely,

[signed]
Uffe Ellemann-Jensen
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Denmark

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 87/378.

87/390. Explanation of Vote at the Plenary Session of the UN General Assembly: Cooperation Between the United Nations and the League of Arab States¹

Date of Issue: 15 October 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Mr Bierring: Mr President, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community.

While we have all voted in favour of the resolution on cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States just adopted we wish, nevertheless, once again to make a few general comments.

Over the last few years the General Assembly has been faced with a growing number of resolutions relating to the cooperation between the United Nations and various organizations holding observer status, a tendency which will continue during this General Assembly. The Twelve are well aware of the benefits of such cooperation and have been happy to join in expressions of support and encouragement for the further development of such cooperation within the framework of the United Nations Charter.

However, the Twelve would prefer that resolutions of this kind deal with the question of cooperation in terms which avoid introducing contentious elements.

In particular, with regard to operative paragraph 3 of L.5, the Twelve wish to draw attention to the need to avoid prejudicing the role of the Secretary-General and to the fact that the Twelve have not supported all the resolutions referred to in that paragraph.

The Twelve also urge that, in view of current financial constraints, efforts be made to limit the costs of such cooperation between the United Nations and various organizations with observer status. Thank you, Mr President.

87/391. Statement in the Second Committee of the UN General Assembly: Special Programmes of Economic Assistance¹

Date of Issue: 15 October 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Mr Chairman, on behalf of the European Community and its Member States I should like to make some comments on the Secretary-General's Report on Special Programmes of Economic Assistance.

Let me state at the outset, Mr Chairman, that we fully share the hope expressed in your opening address to this Committee that it will prove possible this year to deal with the requests for special economic assistance in one comprehensive resolution to the greatest extent possible. We almost succeeded in doing so last year and we would like to thank the developing countries concerned who agreed to have their requests included in one resolution. The adoption of such a comprehensive procedure will in our view contribute to the rationalization of our work with these requests.

Being among those who for a number of years have expressed concern on the effectiveness of the Special Programmes of Economic Assistance we also noted with interest that you referred [in your address] to the programmes as one of the areas where improvement and streamlining is needed.

Our delegations have on several occasions pointed out that the special assistance programmes — initially conceived as a means of providing short-term assistance to governments experiencing acute and specific problems — have had a tendency to take on a semi-permanent character and drag on even after

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the special circumstances which prompted them have ceased to exist. In addition, the programmes have often been inadequately integrated with long-term development efforts in the recipient country and the imprecise definition of special economic assistance has sometimes resulted in overlap between these programmes and the regular programmes of the United Nations system.

Against this background the Community welcomed Resolution 41/192 of the 41st General Assembly, which *inter alia* called for rationalization and reduction in the number of programmes, concentration on countries where the assistance is genuinely needed and not covered by other programmes, periodic reviews in order to determine the need for continued assistance and better integration of the assistance with other forms of development aid by transferral of the responsibility for their implementation to other United Nations bodies.

The report now before us shows that progress in the implementation of this resolution has already been achieved on a number of counts. We particularly welcome the Secretary-General's decision to transfer the responsibility of the administration of the programmes to the UNDP except in cases of political sensitivity where other arrangements might be appropriate. It is our hope that this will provide the basis for a better integration of the assistance with the long-term development efforts in the recipient country; particularly through the round-table process.

We appreciate that 14 out of the 18 countries where special assistance programmes have been initiated are LDCs, as stated in the Secretary-General's report. It does, however, give rise to some concern that roughly half of the programmes were started up before 1981 and some even as far back as in 1976, since this inevitably contributes to blurring the distinction between short-term assistance and regular programmes.

Let me finally, Mr Chairman, make a brief comment on the Secretary-General's report on special assistance to front-line States and other bordering States in Southern Africa. We would have liked to see the report being a little more specific in its description of the initiative taken by the Secretary-General to ensure follow-up to the resolution.

As indicated in the report, the Community has already provided considerable support both on a collective and individual basis to programmes aimed at alleviating the economic and social problems of the front-line States and lessening their economic dependence on South Africa. We will continue to do so.

The aid provided in support of these programmes, notably through SADCC, reflects the importance we attach to the countries of the region and our commitment to mitigate, through substantial and practical measures, the destabilizing effects of the South African regime on the economies of the countries concerned. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

87/392. Statement in the Fifth Committee of the UN General Assembly: Joint Inspection Unit 1

Date of Issue: 16 October 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Mr Kastofi: Mr Chairman, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community.

The Twelve wish to thank the Chairman of the Joint Inspection Unit for his presentation of the reports of the Unit when this item of our agenda was opened. It was a candid and thoughtful presentation, and in certain respects it might even be considered quite provocative.

As we know, two years have elapsed since the Fifth Committee last considered the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit. In the mean time some very important things have happened. The Group of High-Level

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Intergovernmental Experts presented its report to the 41st General Assembly, which acted upon its recommendations in Resolution 41/213. Furthermore, the Joint Inspection Unit acting in response to General Assembly Resolution 40/259 has undertaken an assessment of its own activities and reported thereon in document A/42/34. These developments should prompt all of us to give particular attention to the matters now before us.

I shall, now, Mr Chairman, comment briefly on the recommendations regarding the Joint Inspection Unit of the Group of High-Level Experts as endorsed by the General Assembly.

The *first* of these – Recommendation 63 – regarding changing the name of the Joint Inspection Unit I shall leave aside. The *second* – Recommendation 64 – goes to the core of the problem. It calls on member States in selecting candidates for appointment as inspectors to give special emphasis to qualifications. In the short time since Resolution 41/213, this recommendation can hardly yet have had any effect. But it must in the future if the Joint Inspection Unit as a subsidiary body of the General Assembly is to be in a position to perform the role assigned to it.

The *third* — Recommendation 65 — calls on the General Assembly to give the Joint Inspection Unit greater guidance on its programme of work with respect to the United Nations. This is a sound principle. Certainly, the Joint Inspection Unit should in preparing its programme of work pay careful attention to the comments of member States. Further, the Joint Inspection Unit should take care to match its output with the agendas of forthcoming sessions of the General Assembly and meetings of governing bodies, so that the Joint Inspection Unit reports are as timely and relevant as possible. However, the Twelve also attach importance to the Inspectors' independence and freedom of action, as set out in the Joint Inspection Unit Statute. We should not wish to see this independence diluted by waiting overlong for guidance from the General Assembly, where full agreement on the Joint Inspection Unit's work programme will not necessarily be easily attained. The Joint Inspection Unit should judiciously combine an assessment of member States' concerns with its own assessment of areas for priority attention.

We have before us document A/42/133 containing the Joint Inspection Unit's workprogramme for 1987 and what is called 'Nucleus of the Workprogramme for 1988-89'. These programmes give us an idea of which studies are underway and which are planned. It is a little late to comment on the workprogramme for 1987, as it is already partly carried out, but we note that apart from the evaluation of the Joint Inspection Unit itself it contains 18 titles with 7 under the heading of 'Development Cooperation' and the rest under the heading 'Management'. So many titles seem to place too heavy a workload on the Joint Inspection Unit to ensure in-depth studies and evaluations.

The presentation of the nucleus for 88-89 is more timely, but it still does not give more than broad titles and the Fifth Committee should need more than broad titles to give the Joint Inspection Unit its opinion or even its guidance on its workprogramme. Let me add that to us it seems that one of the studies, '2(a), Report on Restructuring', appears to be premature.

The latest process of restructuring, we hope, will be completed by 1990. Up till then the Secretary-General will be reporting to the General Assembly and consequently we see no useful role for the Joint Inspection Unit during this period. As for other studies, for example, study '2(b), Productivity Norms in Organizations of the United Nations System', just to mention one, we would be interested in further information about the content of these studies.

I have already mentioned the work load on the Joint Inspection Unit in trying to provide in-depth studies and evaluations on a vast number of titles; the Joint Inspection Unit readership — both member States and Secretariat — would also benefit from fewer, pithier and more targeted reports.

Mr Chairman, the *fourth* recommendation — Recommendation 66 — of the Group of High-Level Experts says that the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit, with summaries thereof, should be made available to all member States and that all United Nations organs and organizations should be invited to indicate their approval or non-approval of the recommendations. We wish to remind the organs and organizations of this recommendation.

The *fifth* – Recommendation 67 – says that there should be increased cooperation between the Joint Inspection Unit and the external Auditors. We recognize that the recommendations are less than a year old, but we are somewhat disappointed that we find little of substance in the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit regarding follow-up on this matter.

Let me then, Mr Chairman, turn to the assessment of the Joint Inspection Unit in Chapter VI of document A/42/34. We certainly appreciate the candid discussion in this part of the report of the problems facing the Joint Inspection Unit. In paragraph 19 the difficulties of assessing the Joint Inspection Unit's overall performance and impact are discussed. The paragraph opens by speaking of the impressive array of subjects the Joint Inspection Unit has dealt with. We think that a concentration of efforts by the Joint Inspection Unit might have made it easier to make such an assessment.

Paragraph 24 says that 'It is true that in some cases, reports, both in terms of their subject-matter and the manner in which the recommendations were framed, held out little chance for their success'. If that was the case then a question arises as to the wisdom of embarking on the study. Let me take one example. In document A/42/540 we have the Joint Inspection Unit report on autonomous research institutes of the United Nations. The very first recommendation of this report tells these institutes to set up a reserve fund equivalent to at least 2 1/2 years expenditures. We think that such a recommendation is unrealistic, particularly in these times of financial constraints.

Another example, Mr Chairman, is the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on publications of the International Court of Justice, which makes a number of recommendations. The author of the report himself acknowledges that the implementation of these recommendations would not generate savings, but would result in a substantial modification of the manner in which judgements and opinions of the Court are published. Apart from the proposal to revise current technical and financial arrangements which might warrant further consideration by the Court itself, the other recommendations raise legal issues of some importance that cannot be dealt with adequately in this committee.

Mr Chairman, we find the thrust of the discussion in paragraphs 25-47 encouraging. In particular, we are glad to see that the Joint Inspection Unit will move from an individualistic approach to a more collective approach in assigning studies to Inspectors. We do think that a more pronounced selectivity in the subjects to be studied by the Joint Inspection Unit as well as a more collegial approach will enhance the value and thereby also the follow-up by organizations and member States of the Joint Inspection Unit reports.

We suggest a primary criterion for selecting studies would be their relevance to the member States by dealing with problem areas of serious concern. The Joint Inspection Unit should through a consultative process inform itself of these priority areas without prejudice to its independence in formulating its final programme of work.

A final remark, Mr Chairman. The Joint Inspection Unit is clearly frustrated by the lack of follow-up on its reports by member States and organizations. The Chairman of the Joint Inspection Unit mentioned in his introduction that two years ago only three speakers had commented on the Joint Inspection Unit reports. I should like to recall what we — the Twelve — said recently regarding the increased attention given over the last years to the reports of the Board of Auditors and the reasons for this increased attention.

Mr Chairman, we think that the Joint Inspection Unit has an important role to play as a valuable instrument in enhancing the effectiveness of the United Nations. Its statutes assure it of the necessary independence. This independence gives the Joint Inspection Unit a great deal of freedom of action and also the potential for exercising considerable influence; it brings at the same time an obligation to strive for effectiveness through an indisputable quality of its work. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

87/393. Statement in the Special Political Committee of the UN General Assembly: Comprehensive Review of the Whole Question of Peace-Keeping Operations in All their Aspects¹

Date of Issue: 19 October 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

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Mr Chairman, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community.

United Nations peace-keeping operations established in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter have greatly assisted in the maintenance of international peace and security and have become an important part of the overall measures which the Organization may take to prevent aggravation of a conflict. The Twelve are strong supporters of peace-keeping operations within the framework of the United Nations and have in fact taken part in all but one of the total thirteen operations that have been mounted over the years. There can be no doubt that peace-keeping has proven an effective instrument in bringing stability to conflict areas and maintaining the delicate balance of international peace and that this important instrument may find wider application.

In his annual report on the work of the Organization the Secretary-General suggests that the Security Council could in the future make fuller use of the possibilities available within the meaning of the Charter, including peace-keeping forces, to avert recourse to violence and facilitate the resolution of disputes before armed conflict occurs. We support this suggestion and in this context we also support the Secretary-General in the restructuring of the political functions in the Secretariat in order to strengthen the early-warning capacity of the Organization.

In view of our strong support for United Nations peace-keeping operations we regret that the Special Committee on Peace-Keeping Operations continues to find no basis for reactivating its work and has in fact for the last year not called a single meeting. The Committee has in the past been given the mandate to work towards the completion of agreed guidelines that would govern the conduct of peace-keeping operations of the United Nations, including ways of overcoming the financial difficulties they face. We attach great importance to the tasks that have been conferred on the Committee. The Twelve all voted in favour of Resolution 38/81 dated 15 December 1983, which received an overwhelming support from member States, and which in our view established a useful frame of reference for the Committee. The six Members of the Twelve represented on the Committee will gladly take part in consultations on how work in the Committee may be reactivated and rationalized.

Peace-keeping operations are intended to supplement rather than replace the various methods for establishing peace that have been foreseen in the Charter. Thus, peace-keeping operations often play the role of setting conditions conducive to negotiations for a peaceful solution of a conflict. Peace-keeping ought not to be interpreted by parties to a conflict as a substitute for peace-making and should be accompanied by serious efforts to negotiate a lasting solution.

Mr Chairman, peace-keeping operations can only be carried out successfully if a number of conditions are fulfilled. In addition to a clearly defined mandate the successful conduct of a peace-keeping operation requires the full support of members of the Security Council. Furthermore, an operation must have the cooperation of the parties concerned as well as the support of the troop-contributing countries. United Nations military personnel are only provided with light weaponry and may use force only in self-defence. Therefore, parties must bear responsibility for assuring the safety of United Nations personnel. Regrettably, these conditions are not always fulfilled. Attempts to hinder the freedom of movement of an operation according to its mandate and outright attacks on peace-keeping personnel are frequent events. Two such incidents involving UNIFIL were reported by the Secretary-General to the Security Council on 5 October 1987. We extend our condolences to the families of the Nepalese soldiers killed and repeat our vigorous condemnation of any such acts.

Certain peace-keeping operations also continue to be hampered by financial shortcomings. Resolution 38/81 of 15 December 1983, which has the support of the Twelve, stressed that member States have the collective responsibility for the financing of peace-keeping operations launched by the Security Council. It is our view that in general and in the absence of any decision to the contrary by the Security Council the costs of these operations should be shared by the entire membership of the Organization. Financial difficulties are most often due to the failure of certain member States to pay their assessed contributions to the financing of peace-keeping operations in accordance with their obligations under the Charter. As a result, troop-contributing countries are required to assume responsibility for an unduly large share of the often very high costs of peace-keeping operations. This creates difficulties when a troop-contributing

country is led to reconsider its commitment for reasons of finance and makes it harder to mount support for future peace-keeping operations.

The Twelve urge all countries that have either failed to pay or are currently withholding their assessed contributions to United Nations peace-keeping operations to settle all their accounts. It is incumbent on all States to pay their fair share overall to the financing of United Nations peace-keeping operations.

In this context we wish to draw attention to the problems of the two largest United Nations peace-keeping operations currently deployed, UNIFIL and UNFICYP, in which we take a special interest.

There can be no doubt that UNIFIL, although currently prevented from carrying out its mandate in full, plays an important role in the maintenance of peace in the area. Its withdrawal would have profoundly adverse effects. The Twelve fully share the view of the Secretary-General who in his report of 24 July on UNIFIL to the Security Council remarked that the refusal of Israel to withdraw completely and its insistence on maintaining the so-called 'security zone' continue to thwart efforts to start a process to restore international peace and security in the area.

We remain deeply concerned at the continuation of hostile actions against UNIFIL and deplore the casualties that have ensued. It is imperative that all parties should cooperate fully with UNIFIL in the exercise of its mandate and that they help ensure the safety of the personnel.

The Twelve also wish to reiterate the importance they attach to the operation of UNFICYP. As noted by the Secretary-General in his report of 29 May 1987 it is, in the present difficult situation, essential that UNFICYP be kept in place.

In his report the Secretary-General also draws attention to the serious financial difficulties of UNFICYP. As a consequence the troop-contributing countries' claims for reimbursement have been met only up till 1979 and they have been forced to assume an unfair responsibility for the financing of the force.

Mr Chairman, I take pleasure in concluding this statement by reaffirming our confidence in the manner in which the Secretary-General has conducted peace-keeping operations on behalf of the United Nations. We also commend those governments which have contributed contingents and equipment to these operations, and we pay particular tribute to the soldiers of many countries who have bravely and devotedly carried out a difficult task under the United Nations flag. A special tribute is due to those who have given their lives or suffered injury on peace-keeping duty. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

87/394. Statement in the Second Committee of the UN General Assembly: Report of the Economic and Social Council¹

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Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Mr Chairman, on behalf of the European Community and its Member States I should like to make some comments on this summer's ECOSOC session and its report. It is not a short report, and I do not intend to address all the issues contained in it.

I think the Secretary-General voiced a common sentiment when he in his opening address to the Council stated and I quote 'that the Council has not lived up to expectations', and 'that there is a need for a clearer division of labour between the Council and the General Assembly on one hand and between the Council and the Intergovernmental subsidiary machinery on the other', end of quote.

Mr Chairman, it is widely acknowledged that the Council for a number of years has encountered persistent difficulties in carrying out in an effective manner its important role as a forum for deliberations on international economic issues as well as its responsibilities in the field of monitoring and

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co-ordination. The fact that throughout its history there have been periodic efforts, which are still continuing, to reform and revitalize ECOSOC is an indication of the general dissatisfaction with its performance.

Some of the major problems of ECOSOC have been identified as overcrowded agendas, unfocused and disjointed discussions which often fail to attract high-level government representation and duplication of the Council's discussions by the General Assembly, UNCTAD and other United Nations bodies as well as a vast subsidiary machinery. The lack of sufficient prestige and authority of the Council to ensure compliance with its decisions combined with insufficient attention paid by member countries to this issue has further meant that ECOSOC until now has been largely unsuccessful in its attempts to achieve co-ordination within the United Nations system.

Mr Chairman, I think it is fair to say that these underlying problems combined with the difficult working conditions imposed on the Council by its back-to-back session with the UNCTAD Conference resulted in raising the level of dissatisfaction at this year's ECOSOC session considerably.

Thanks to the high quality of the documentation and its succinct presentation by the Secretary-General and Under-Secretary-General Ahmed the Council had a reasonably good exchange of views during the general debate on the world economic situation. That being said it must, however be admitted that the debate clearly lacked the kind of focus, which would give a greater impact on the deliberations in other fora on international economic issues. The same by and large holds true for the debates that took place in the third sessional committee (the Co-ordination Committee) which should provide the context for the Council to exercise its co-ordination function in relation to other United Nations bodies. The agenda of the Committee was crammed with wide-ranging and largely unrelated issues and despite the Chairman's laudable efforts to cluster the items and impose some structure, the outcome — a rather diffuse discussion which provided little guidance for other United Nations bodies — was inevitable. In this connection we particularly regret that time did not allow a more thorough discussion of the Secretary-General's interesting report on co-ordination within the United Nations system. We also regret the late arrival of some important reports to be dealt with by the Council.

A by-product of the shortened session had been the recent resumed sessions of the Council, which due to the fact that they took place at the same time as this committee has a largely procedural character and little substance to it.

Mr Chairman, the experience at this year's Council inevitably leads one to the conclusion that ECOSOC faces serious problems and that action is called for in order to get it back on the track again.

Recently, considerable thought has been devoted both inside and outside the United Nations system to the question of how to improve the performance and enhance the role of the Council. In view of the importance we attach to the effective exercise of the mandate entrusted to the Council by the United Nations Charter the Community and its Member States welcome the increased attention paid to this issue.

The Secretary-General's report to this year's Council on co-ordination in the United Nations system contained a succinct analysis of the difficulties that currently beset the Council as well as many good and practical proposals aimed at overcoming them by rationalizing the Council's working procedures and improving its co-ordination function. The Community can support the general thrust of all of them.

There are also a few far-reaching proposals for reform on the table, and although it is quite obvious that these proposals contain controversial elements we nevertheless see them as important and bold contributions, which merit further consideration.

Mr Chairman, the role and functioning of the Council is also the subject of intense scrutiny in the Special Commission of ECOSOC on the In-depth Study of the United Nations's Intergovernmental Structure in the Economic and Social Fields. Through the Special Commission the United Nations and its member States have ventured on a comprehensive and long-term reform process. After a somewhat slow start the discussions at the recent fourth session on ECOSOC and its subsidiary machinery took on a welcome substantial and pragmatic character.

The session indicated that there exists a considerable communality of views in the identification of the current problems pertaining to the functioning of the Council and its subsidiary machinery and a number

of concrete ideas and proposals were submitted, which will hopefully make a fruitful basis for further deliberations. Among them were the proposal submitted by the Group of 77 as well as our own proposals.

I do not intend to rehearse at any length the views advanced by the Community during the debates here. Suffice to say that our proposals for reform have been guided by the basic assumption that pragmatic and practical steps aimed at increased efficiency will be the cornerstone in rebuilding trust in the Council.

The Commission is still in the exploratory phase of its work and it is now necessary to let the ideas mature. Meanwhile, we should, as stipulated in the programme of work of the Commission, move to a close examination of the subsidiary machinery of ECOSOC with a view to determining where duplication of efforts occurs and streamlining would be in order. Upon completion of this task we will hopefully have a clearer picture of where to go from here.

Mr Chairman, I have dwelt on the question of reform at some length because the way in which the Council goes about its business inevitably has implications for every issue that comes before it. I should now like to make a number of comments specifically pertaining to the report of this year's Council.

The first concerns Resolution 1987/93 entitled 'Net Transfer of Resources from Developing to Developed Countries'. As you will recall, Mr Chairman, the Community was not able to support this resolution which by the way only differs marginally from a resolution on the same subject passed last year. Our difficulties stem from the fact that the concept of 'net transfer of resources' has lent itself to a variety of interpretations. As became evident during our informal discussion at the Council the economic and financial issues involved are highly complex.

A realistic assessment of the net effect of financial and resource flows between developed and developing countries is in our opinion not advanced by lumping some together and ignoring others. Given that each country faces a very particular set of circumstances we remain convinced that reliable conclusions cannot be reached by aggregating these flows on a global level.

We regret that it — largely due to time constraints — did not prove possible to agree on a more adequate conceptual framework for the assessment of these important flows at the Council. I should, however, like to repeat that the Community stands ready to engage constructively in deliberations on this question at any time.

Mr Chairman, my second remark relates to Resolution 1987/90 entitled 'Food and Agricultural Problems'. The Community sincerely regrets not having been able to support all of this resolution. This is all the more so since there is a long-standing tradition for adopting resolutions on this issue by consensus and informal consultations showed that there was a genuine willingness on behalf of all parties to try to solve the outstanding differences.

Resolutions dealing with food and agricultural problems have always been of paramount importance in the context of our North-South dialogue. They represent the summing-up of thorough and fruitful discussions on issues which unfortunately continue to remain with us.

I should, however, like to point out that important matters of principle were involved. Although it is tempting to try to add more or less loosely correlated issues which are rightly within the purview of other bodies to the central theme addressed by the food resolutions in order to render them more comprehensive, one clearly runs the risk of letting such issues stand in the way of expressing our agreement on the principle issues involved. We should, in our opinion, try to avoid this temptation in the future. Similar dangers may also occur when non-universally shared questions of principle, the negotiation of which is by definition impossible or very difficult, become confused with resolutions on specific problems. I should also like to add that certain paragraphs of the resolution in our view conveyed a somewhat distorted picture of the origins of the current problems we are facing in the field of food and agriculture.

Let me finally confirm, Mr Chairman, that we consider ECOSOC to be a forum for discussions on important economic issues, irrespective of whether they are controversial or not and that the Community is prepared to engage in further discussions of these important issues at any future point in time. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

¹ Agenda item 12.

87/395. Statement in the Plenary Session of the UN General Assembly: Report of the Economic and Social Council Relating to AIDS¹

Date of Issue: 20 October 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Mr President, allow me first on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community to thank the Secretary-General for addressing the General Assembly and Dr Mahler for briefing us on the threatening disease AIDS — a disease affecting all regions of the world. We welcome that special attention is given to AIDS here at this Assembly. Let me mention among other things two reasons for that:

- A keyword in the fight against AIDS is: awareness. Not only does awareness tend to increase the resources given to combat the disease but awareness in itself is furthermore a direct remedy for the time being the most important remedy to slow down the spread of the pandemic. By discussing AIDS at this Assembly it is our firm belief that awareness will be increased not only among public health officials and doctors but also among politicians and the public at large. It will promote efforts by the international community.
- Secondly, it is essential that all resources are used in the most efficient way in the fight against AIDS.
 Discussions and exchange of information about the subject in various for a should aim at coordination and cooperation and thereby avoiding duplication of efforts.

Mr President, I should like in general terms to express appreciation and satisfaction with the important work of the World Health Organization (WHO) which the twelve Member States of the European Community have always supported strongly. We also support the activities carried out by other United Nations agencies in this field. Let me assure you that also in the future support will not lacking.

Moreover, I should like to stress that we fully endorse WHO as the agency which has the international leadership and as the coordinating agency with respect to the global struggle against AIDS. WHO enjoys world-wide respect and has so far shown that it has the flexibility and the capacity to deal effectively with the problem. We believe that WHO is ideally placed to provide and to mobilize the international action that will be needed to establish and maintain national AIDS-programmes in all countries and we note with satisfaction that National AIDS Committees have already been established in more than one hundred countries.

Not less important is the fact that WHO, with its long experience in the health sector, is the organization which is best suited to ensure that efforts to combat AIDS are to the maximum extent possible integrated in general public health services, thereby using existing infrastructure and avoiding creating new and costly structures. We expect, therefore, that WHO will also make use, wherever expedient, of existing channels and programmes of United Nations organizations like UNICEF and UNFPA as well as of a number of non-governmental organizations which are particularly suited for the execution of important activities in the fight against AIDS.

Mr President, information, education and research are essential elements in the fight against AIDS as long as no vaccine exists and the Community and its Member States focus exactly on these elements. The European Community has decided to introduce in its 4th Medical Research Programme 1987-91 the coordination of medical research on AIDS. Just a few weeks ago the research Ministers from the European Community approved about 15 million US dollars to research on AIDS.

Let me along the same lines mention that the Council and the Ministers of Health meeting within the Council on 15 May 1987 adopted a number of conclusions aiming at strengthening and improving our common efforts to combat AIDS.

Within these conclusions it was confirmed that the efforts of the European Community would be carried out in concertation with the WHO in order to avoid duplication of efforts.

The Council of Ministers also decided to establish an *ad hoc* group of representatives with the mandate to propose as soon as possible a common strategy for an action plan to fight the disease to be carried out by the Community and its Member States.

We believe that in our efforts to combat AIDS care must be taken to respect fully the human rights of all. We stress in this context the ineffectiveness, in terms of prevention, of any policy of systematic and compulsory screening, in particular during health checks at frontiers.

Mr President, AIDS is not only a grave health problem in all parts of the world. The disease will have serious implications for social and economic development, especially of the most vulnerable countries. Given the considerable difficulties we have encountered in trying to combat AIDS in our own countries we can easily appreciate that countries whose national health resources are much more limited find it even harder to cope with the problem.

On this background the European Community approved in June this year a three years' plan with a budget amounting to about 40 million dollars. This plan involves providing technical, financial and scientific assistance to ACP countries running national AIDS control programmes and to encourage Community coordination of bilateral efforts.

It should be superfluous to say that the plan will be carried out in close cooperation with WHO but let me again state clearly that the idea with the plan is to make a Community contribution to the international AlDS campaign being run and coordinated by the WHO's Special Programme on AIDS. The Community notes with satisfaction that so far about forty ACP countries have asked to take part in the programme.

Mr President, the Community is pleased to see a draft resolution on prevention and control of AIDS has been presented to this General Assembly.

The AIDS pandemic has in the space of a few years become a matter of great concern to the international community and the twelve Member States of the European Community believe that extraordinary attention should be given to the struggle against the disease. We commend WHO for having done that.

The Community also strongly welcomes the convening of the World Summit of Ministers of Health on Programmes for AIDS Prevention in London from 26 to 28 January 1988.

It is necessary to continue to work solidly and tirelessly towards eradicating the many health problems that still exist.

We have the full trust that WHO will work seriously and wisely in the battle against AIDS while at the same time not neglecting the many other valuable activities carried out in world-wide cooperation towards attaining health for all. Thank you, Mr President.

87/396. Statement in the Plenary Session of the UN General Assembly: Report of the International Economic Energy Agency¹

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Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Mr President, speaking on behalf of the European Community and its Member States I should like first of all to thank the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency for his Annual Report on the work of the Agency during 1986.

We wish to reaffirm our full support for the objectives of the IAEA: to encourage and facilitate international cooperation in the use of nuclear energy for peace, health and prosperity throughout the world and to prevent nuclear proliferation.

Mr President, we should like to express our appreciation for the work which has been done in order to promote the safe use of nuclear energy in some areas of special interest to the Community members.

First, we will repeat our support to the activities of the IAEA in the Technical Assistance programme. We are among the major contributors to the Agency's Technical Assistance and Cooperation Fund and it is our policy to maintain this position despite domestic budgetary problems.

¹ Agenda item 12.

Further, we appreciate that the Agency is making a valuable contribution in nuclear research activities in the laboratories in Seibersdorf, Trieste and Monaco — activities in which scientists from both developed and developing countries participate actively. We are convinced that this work is in the long-term interest of all member States and deserves their full support and encouragement.

Of significance to us all is the application of nuclear technique in medicine and agriculture. The work in this area is of special importance also for those member States for which the nuclear power option is still a distant possibility.

We would also like to stress our continuous support to and interest in the Agency's activities as regards waste management. It is of importance for the promotion of nuclear energy that this complex problem is solved in a satisfactory way. This work should not be confined to safe storage but also comprise issues such as transport and dumping.

Mr President, having stressed the Agency's work for promoting nuclear energy, it is important at the same time to underline the complementary issue, namely the verification of its peaceful use.

We have noted with satisfaction from the Annual Report that the Agency has concluded that also in 1986 all nuclear material under Agency safeguards has remained in peaceful nuclear activities.

The safeguards system is an essential part of non-proliferation policy, which the European Community and its Member States strongly support. Four non-nuclear weapon States became party to the Non-Proliferation Treaty in 1986. We furthermore highly appreciate that negotiations with China to place some of its civilian nuclear installations under Agency safeguards will soon be finalized. When an agreement as a result of these negotiations enters into force there will be safeguards agreements in force with all five nuclear weapon States.

The European Community and its Member States consider it of great importance that safeguards should be applied as widely as possible in furtherance of the policy of non-proliferation. Thus, we repeat our appeal to those non-nuclear weapon States having nuclear facilities which are not under IAEA safeguards to place those facilities under safeguards.

Mr President, it goes without saying that 1986 with its tragic event of the Chernobyl accident created one of the most important and work-loaded years in the Agency's thirty years' history. As can be seen from the 1986 Annual Report, many activities within the area of nuclear safety and radiation protection have been greatly influenced by the Chernobyl accident. These activities have clearly shown the important role of the Agency.

The Chernobyl event clearly illustrated that nuclear accidents can have transboundary effects. Thus, we should like to emphasize the importance of a strengthening of international cooperation both at the bilateral and the multilateral level with regard to nuclear safety, radiological and physical protection and environmental compatibility.

We appreciate and support the activities of the Agency in the area of nuclear safety. Nuclear energy could not develop without rigorous safety measures which must be kept under regular review.

The Agency has witnessed major progress in the field of international cooperation on nuclear safety since the Chernobyl accident. In particular, the Special Session of the General Conference in September last year was an important milestone in the Agency's work on safety issues. During this session the foundation was laid for expanded cooperation in some key areas of nuclear safety.

The adoption — and early entry into force — of the two Conventions on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident and on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency has in particular been an important step towards improved international cooperation in the safety area.

It is indeed remarkable that it has been possible within a very short time to agree on two so important international conventions. The speed with which the negotiations were completed was proof of the commitment of the Agency and member States to improve existing arrangements on nuclear safety. The two conventions have already been signed or ratified by a large number of member States.

It is, however, important that the Agency's work in this area now one and a half years after Chernobyl maintains its momentum. There are still important areas where international cooperation can and should be strengthened. First of all, I am thinking of worldwide accepted safety principles and safety standards. We strongly support the work of the Agency for the updating of the five NUSS Codes of Practice.

In this context we also appreciate the work which has been carried out by the International Nuclear Safety Advisory Group (INSAG) during the last year. The recommendations formulated by INSAG in its report on the Post Accident Review Meeting on the Chernobyl accident could play an important role in the field of nuclear safety.

Nuclear safety is first of all the responsibility of the owner State. It is our hope that the updated NUSS-safety standards can help us to obtain and preserve a high international level of nuclear safety and that member States will incorporate them into their own national safety standards.

We would like to express our support to the Agency's Operational Safety Review Teams (OSART). These missions are a good example of what the Agency can do in order to secure a high international safety level and a reassurance that strict standards are being applied.

We should also like to express our appreciation for the efforts within the Agency and other fora to improve the liability regime for nuclear damage.

Mr President, at the same time when member States have expressed their appreciation for the effectiveness of the IAEA and underlined the importance of its tasks, major problems threaten the smooth work of the Agency.

Firstly, the IAEA has until now received only part of its assessed contributions due to be paid at the beginning of the year. This has left the Agency in a difficult financial situation. If this situation continues, the approved programme for 1988 must be reduced. In our opinion it is important that the financial rules of the Agency are accepted as international obligations which we all have to live up to. If not, the IAEA will not be able to fulfil in a satisfactory way the important tasks to which I have referred in this statement.

Secondly, it is also of great concern to the European Community and its Member States that the Agency is brought to deal with political issues that belong to the responsibility of other fora. This jeopardizes the role of the Agency as an effective instrument for the promotion of cooperation in the field of peaceful application of nuclear energy.

Finally, Mr President, I should like to state that it is the firm wish of the European Community and of its Member States that the close cooperation which exists between them and the Agency in all peaceful nuclear activity fields should continue to develop successfully. Thank you, Mr President.

87/397. Question No 2684/86 by Mr Boesmans (S-B) Concerning Honduras

Date of Issue: 20 October 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 12 February 1987

In recent months, a new offensive has been launched in North-East Honduras on the border with Nicaragua against opponents of the Contra troops who attack Nicaragua from the territory of Honduras, with the support of the United States of America.

There are reports of systematic attacks on trade unionists and police officers who support a law under which Contra troops would be forced to leave Honduran territory.

One of the most recent flagrant violations of human rights is the execution by agents of the Honduran National Investigation Bureau (DNI) without any form of trial of Hermes Aguilar in Agua Blanca Silvi on 23 October 1986 and the arrest of various members of his family.

Is the President-in-Office of the Council aware of these facts and will he bring them up during the talks between the European Community and Central America to be held in Guatemala City at the beginning of February?

¹ Agenda item 14.

Answer:

The entry of the Twelve into the Central American dialogue is based on their wish to contribute to the effort to encourage respect for human rights, social justice and economic development as well as fundamental freedoms in that region. At the formal meeting in Guatemala the Twelve laid great emphasis on the need for a genuine commitment by each Central American country to social justice, the protection of human rights and respect for civil liberties.

87/398. Question No 2685/86 by Mr Boesmans (S-B) Concerning Guatemala

Date of Issue: 20 October 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 12 February 1987

For some time now, the Mutual Support Group (MSG) has been calling for an independent investigation into the numerous cases of disappearance, torture and murder by members of the army and the police force in Guatemala.

The MSG and its President, Nineth de Garcia, have, however, recently become the targets of a smear campaign carried out by the Government and the army. Despite all the promises made by President Vicenzo Cerezo, no independent committee of inquiry has been set up to date whilst human rights defenders such as the members of the MSG may now risk falling victim in their turn to political violence. Meanwhile, the disappearances and the reign of terror in Guatemala go on unabated, as a recent European Parliament delegation was able to confirm for itself.

Is the President-in-Office of the Council aware of these facts? What steps have already been taken to protest about these events and what results have been achieved so far?

Answer:

The precise question put by the Honourable Member has not yet been discussed in political cooperation. The Guatemalan Government, taking part in the political dialogue between the Central American countries and the Twelve, is fully aware of the position of the Twelve regarding human rights. At the Conference in Guatemala on 9 and 10 February 1987, the Twelve emphasized the importance of the broadest and most genuine respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in Central America.

87/399. Question No 3062/86 by Mr Vandemeulenbroucke (ARC-B) Concerning Community Help to Nicaragua

Date of Issue: 20 October 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 30 March 1987

According to a recent statement by the President-in-Office of the Community Council of Ministers, Mr Tindemans, the Community is to reduce its aid to Nicaragua and increase aid to other Central American countries.

Can the Commission give the specific reasons for this, indicating why aid to Nicaragua in particular was reduced and why assistance to the other countries is to be increased? Was any distinction made between the other countries?

Answer:

Questions concerning Community aid to the countries of the Central American isthmus and future aid policy are dealt with in the Community framework and not that of European political cooperation.

87/400. Question No 3088/86 by Mr Klepsch and Ms Lenz (PPE-D) Concerning the Conference of the Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the Community and the Foreign Ministers of the Countries of Central America and the Contadora Group

Date of Issue: 20 October 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 2 April 1987

- 1. Are the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation prepared to give a detailed report to the House on the outcome of the Costa Rica III Conference?
- 2. Do the Foreign Ministers see any possibility of the increase in Community aid to Central America to 120 million ECU which was promised at the Costa Rica I Conference in 1984 being implemented within the foreseeable future?
- 3. Do the Foreign Ministers think it possible that the Costa Rica Conferences might be made into a permanent feature of relations between the Community and Central America?

Answer:

- 1. The Presidency made a detailed statement on the outcome of the Guatemala Conference at the colloquy with the Political Affairs Committee of the European Parliament on 24 February 1987.
 - 2. Questions regarding aid to Central America are dealt with in the Community context.
- 3. The conference on political dialogue and economic cooperation between the European Community and its Member States, the countries of Central America and of the Contadora Group has in fact become a permanent feature. At the Guatemala Conference delegations agreed to hold the next meeting in Europe in 1988.

87/401. Question No 180/87 by Ms Dury (S-B) Concerning the Case Brought by Nicaragua Against the US Administration

Date of Issue: 20 October 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 13 April 1987

It is now eight months since, on 27 June 1986, the International Court of Justice pronounced judgement in the case brought by Nicaragua in April 1984 against the US Administration:

Its ruling may be summarized in three main points:

- 1. US operations against Nicaragua constitute violations of the basic principles of international law;
- 2. The United States of America should terminate these operations forthwith;
- 3. The United States of America has a duty to compensate the Republic of Nicaragua for all damage inflicted on that country through the activities condemned by the Court.

Eight months have passed. The verdict of the Court in The Hague has simply been ignored. Furthermore, even before the Court had pronounced judgement, on 18 January 1985 the US Administration announced that it refused to recognize the Court's jurisdiction in the matters brought

before it by the Nicaraguan Government. The Court's Statute, which was drawn up in 1945 by the United Nations Conference, is perfectly clear, however. It states that where there is disagreement as to whether the Court is competent, the Court shall decide.

Europe has voiced its concern on a number of occasions about the situation in Central America and has affirmed its support for a peaceful solution to the conflicts in the region, rejecting all use of force and outside interference. It is its duty to exhort the United States of America to abide by the ruling of the International Court of Justice.

Have the Ministers taken measures with a view to enforcing the judgement passed by the International Court of Justice?

Answer:

The Honourable Member's attention is drawn to the replies to Questions No H-624/86 and No H-890/86, which deal with this subject ¹.

87/402. Question No 251/87 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E) Concerning Arrests in Peru

Date of Issue: 20 October 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 27 April 1987

Are the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation aware of the arrest and torturing of Alejandra, Ubaldina and Julio Huaman Ccahua, Mario Secco Hauyllani, Carlos Valdivia Miranda, Hugo Franco Mayuri, Antonio Chalco Flores and Francisco Villafuerte Malpartida, all of whom were arrested in Cuzco in November 1986 and subsequently tortured because of their alleged involvement in an attack on the Civil Guard as members of the guerilla group Shining Path (Sendero Luminoso)?

Do the Ministers have any news of their current situation, in the light of the finding, by a committee of investigation appointed by the Peruvian Interior Minister, that these prisoners are innocent?

Answer:

As is evident from the answer to Question No 3029/86 ¹ by Mr Arbeloa Muru, the Twelve are following human rights developments in Peru with attention. The Twelve have not discussed the particular cases, raised by the Honourable Member, within the framework of European political cooperation.

87/403. Question No 254/87 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E) Concerning the Murder of the Mexican Lawyer Andulio Gálvez Velásquez

Date of Issue: 20 October 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 27 April 1987

Have the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation examined the case of the murder – after several failed attempts – of Andulio Gálvez Velásquez by four gunmen on 4 October 1986? Mr Gálvez

EPC Bulletin, Docs. 86/398 and 87/210.

EPC Bulletin, Doc. 87/346.

was a lawyer working on behalf of peasants under arrest for land disputes who were members of the United Socialist Party of Mexico. Has this case been examined in the context of the political violence afflicting some rural areas of Mexico?

Answer:

The issue raised by the Honourable Member was not discussed by the Ministers for Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation.

87/404. Question No 409/87 by Mr Glinne (S-B) on Further Revelations Concerning Chilean State Terrorism in Europe, the United States of America and the World at Large

Date of Issue: 20 October 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 20 May 1987

On 21 September 1976, Mr Orlando Letelier, a former Chilean Foreign Minister, was assassinated in the very heart of Washington, along with the American citizen, Ronnie Moffitt. This followed the assassination in Buenos Aires in 1974 of General Carlos Prats, an opponent of General Pinochet, and the severe wounding in Rome in 1975 of the Christian Democrat Leader, Bernardo Leighton.

Two extreme right-wing Cubans were convicted in their absence for the murder of Mr Letelier and Mr Moffitt, and Michael Townley, an American citizen working for the Chilean secret services, was sentenced to 62 months imprisonment for his part in the affair. The Chilean dictatorship has consistently refused to extradite people who occupy high positions in the Chilean security services, especially those working for DINA.

On 4 February 1987, Mr Armando Fernández Larios, a captain in the Chilean secret police who had defected, appeared before a federal court in Washington and gave public testimony concerning the involvement of Chilean officials and General Pinochet himself in the carrying out of operations of state terrorism abroad.

Have the Foreign Ministers, and their colleagues in the TREVI Group, been informed of the fresh accusations made by Mr Fernandez and Federal Prosecutor Joseph Digenova in relation to the Chilean state terrorism and are they cooperating on these matters with the US Justice Department, particularly with a view to shedding light on the assassination attempt against Mr Leighton in Rome and to taking now and in the future the concerted action which is clearly necessary?

Answer:

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs meeting in political cooperation are aware of the charges levelled by Mr Fernández Larios.

It is a matter of principle that no information can be given on whatever cooperation may have taken place in the TREVI Group or between Member States of the Community and third countries on specific criminal cases.

The Honourable Member is doubtless aware of the very clear stand taken by the Twelve on Chile and on international terrorism.

87/405. Question No 532/87 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E) Concerning the Murder of a Member of the Libyan Opposition

Date of Issue: 20 October 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 12 June 1987

Following the murder in Athens on 7 January 1987 of Muhammed Fehaina, a member of the Libyan National Opposition Organization who had been in exile in the United States of America since 1982, have the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation taken any action against the 'physical elimination' of political opponents in Libya, a policy which has been in force since 1980?

Answer:

In their declaration on human rights of 21 July 1986, the Twelve have stated that 'respect for human rights is an important element in relations between third countries and the Twelve'.

87/406. Question No 723/87 by Mr Pordea (DR-F) Concerning the Defence of the National Identity of European Peoples Subjected to Foreign Rule and the Protection of Elements of Europe's Cultural Heritage which Are at Risk

Date of Issue: 20 October 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 29 June 1987

The Turkish forces occupying the northern part of Cyprus are subverting the national identity of the Republic of Cyprus (a country linked to the Community by an association agreement, whose population is 80% Greek). Since their invasion, the Turkish forces have been endeavouring to change the ethnic composition of the population by settling Anatolian Turks on the island, while at the same time destroying the rich Greek archaeological, cultural and religious heritage.

An analogous policy has been systematically pursued by the Soviet (or Ukranian) occupying forces in the Baltic countries and on Polish, Czechoslovak and Romanian territory invaded or annexed in the aftermath of the Second World War.

Do not the Ministers consider that they have a duty to act in this matter, and notably to protest to the non-European powers implicated which, in defiance of morality, international law and international treaties, are jeopardizing the national identity of millions of Europeans, Europe's cultural heritage and peace?

Answer:

Concerning the problem of Cyprus, the Twelve have repeatedly stated that they fully support the Secretary-General of the United Nations in his mission of good offices which they consider represents the best hope of making progress towards a just and viable solution. They have rejected the declaration purporting to establish a 'Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus' as an independent State, which disregarded successive resolutions of the United Nations. They have, on many occasions, reiterated their unconditional support for the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and unity of the Republic of Cyprus. They will continue to stress the need for all concerned to avoid actions which might make progress towards a just solution more difficult.

87/407. Question No 765/87 by Ms Lizin (S-B) Concerning the Situation of the Tamils in Sri Lanka

Date of Issue: 20 October 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 9 July 1987

What action do the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation intend to take so as to help find a means of stopping the extermination of the Tamil minority in Sri Lanka?

Answer:

The situation in Sri Lanka has been of particular concern for the Twelve during the last years and months. They have repeatedly expressed their concern in declarations and in their contacts with the Government of Sri Lanka as well as with the Government of India. In their declaration of 27 April 1987, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs condemned again the outbreaks of violence and terrorist actions and exhorted all parties to bring about a political settlement guaranteeing the unity of the country. On 5 June 1987, Governments of India and Sri Lanka have been asked by the Twelve to avoid any increase of tension in the region². The Twelve made clear their strong wish for improvement in Indo-Sri Lankan relations, without which the central problem, i.e. the ethnic conflict within Sri Lanka, could not be resolved. The peace agreement signed on 29 July 1987 between the Indian Prime Minister Ghandi and the President of Sri Lanka, Mr Jayewardene, seems a significant step in the right direction. This is confirmed by the initial positive reactions of Tamil Groups to this agreement. In their declaration of 20 August 1987 the Twelve urged all parties concerned to comply with the provisions of the agreement and refrain from any action intended to endanger it ³.

EPC Bulletin, Doc. 87/163.
 EPC Bulletin, Doc. 87/203.
 EPC Bulletin, Doc. 87/291.

87/408. Statement in the Second Committee of the UN General Assembly: Development and International Cooperation — Effective Mobilization and Integration of Women in Development — Science and Technology for Development ¹

Date of Issue: 23 October 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Mr Chairman, today I have the honour to address the Committee on behalf of the European Community and its twelve Member States on agenda item 82 [C]: Effective Mobilization of Women in Development and agenda item 82 [H]: Science and Technology for Development.

Mr Chairman, I am very pleased to state that we have been able to register distinct progress as regards the instituting of measures to ensure full integration of women into the development process since the last time we considered this item two years ago. It is evident that considerable efforts have been displayed at the national, regional and international levels in order to fulfil the commitments undertaken in Nairobi to translate the Forward-Looking Strategies into concrete action.

We fully support these efforts and participate actively in them as individual donor countries and at Community level. At a forthcoming meeting of the Council of Development Ministers of the European Community, women in development will be on the agenda and the Council will discuss how we can

improve and speed up the Community's integration of women in its development activities. It is our firm belief that unless the international community succeeds in this respect, the quality of our total development cooperation efforts will be seriously hampered.

Mr Chairman, I am sure this Committee will agree that the political will is present at the national, regional and international level. Development organizations at all of these three levels have devised plans of action for the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies.

The Secretary-General's report now before us bears witness to the United Nations commitment to strengthen the effective integration of women in the organization's development programmes and activities.

The report was discussed at the ECOSOC second regular session this summer and I shall not go into too much detail. Suffice to say that we fully agree with the points of view reflected in the resolution adopted by consensus at the session on this issue.

We are particularly looking forward to seeing the requested addendum containing a compilation of all legislative mandates governing the integration of women in economic development. This compilation will, I hope, constitute an important tool not only for the Commission on the Status of Women, but also for individual governments in their national development programmes.

The Community also welcomes the identification of all major programmes and sub-programmes in the proposed budget for the biennium 1988-89 which contain activities related to the integration of women in economic development. We are of course aware of the serious financial constraints of the Organization. We, nevertheless, fully support the proposal of the Secretary-General to give priority to the strengthening of the role of women in the 1988-89 budget.

Mr Chairman, at this point I should like to say a few words about the proposed System Wide Medium-Term Plan for Women and Development for the period 1990-95, which was also discussed at the ECOSOC summer session. We recognize the significant contribution made by the formulation of this plan. In our view, the Medium-Term Plan for Women and Development was *de facto* endorsed by the adoption of Resolution E/1987/87 even though this was not explicitly mentioned in the resolution text.

It is therefore our understanding that the resolution constitutes a legislative decision which provides the United Nations with a mandate in the area of women and development. This is very important because the medium-term plan will now have to be taken into account in the preparation of medium-term plans or equivalent documents and programme budgets for all the organizations of the United Nations system. The implementation of the Forward-Looking Strategies is thereby, we hope, well under way.

Mr Chairman, allow me to make a few comments on the other document before us, namely the Secretary-General's progress report on the preparation of the first regular update of the world survey on the role of women in development.

The first world survey dates back to 1985 and is still a very valuable and useful document that contains a wealth of information on the role of women in development. However, as we have seen particularly over the last few years, the issue of women in development has gained many facets as we have come to realize and understand women's decisive role in the economic development of their societies.

It is therefore of utmost importance that relevant data, research findings and new ideas are collected, made comparable and registered on a continuing basis so that the international community can take these into account and adjust their policies in accordance with these findings.

The Community consequently welcomes the planned update of the World Survey and are very pleased with the preparations as reflected in the Secretary-General's report, which makes the prospects for the update truly promising.

We particularly look forward to the analysis of the impact of macro-economic policies on women's participation in development. There are thus some indications that the inevitable process of structural adjustment in recent years in many developing countries has had a disproportionately adverse effect on women, particularly on patterns of employment, income opportunities, health situation and role in the family. We think it is high time that such factors are documented so as to ensure that necessary measures are taken. Although this is certainly an important area we do, however, hope that the other areas mentioned in the report also will receive equal attention.

Other new elements in the updated world survey will be to try to establish priorities among problems and to emphasize and suggest innovative policies to address them. We feel that the concerted efforts and experiences of the many organizations responsible for the update might very well produce a truly significant document. We are quite confident that the Commission on the Status of Women at its 32nd Session will receive a useful first draft of the survey based on the valuable outline presented in the Secretary-General's progress report.

Mr Chairman, at the beginning of my statement I mentioned that the quality of our entire development efforts is at stake, if we do not recognize and take account of the decisive role of women in the development process. The Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the advancement of women was an important first step on the road towards world-wide recognition of the need to integrate women in mainstream development and it is encouraging that many national development authorities have designed plans of action to translate the commitments undertaken into concrete action.

We believe that the proposed medium-term plan for women and development for the period 1990-95 leaves the United Nations well equipped for this task too. We are now anxious to see action.

Mr Chairman, the Community and its Member States fully acknowledge the important contribution of science and technology in the development process and the important role the United Nations system performs in assisting developing countries in this field. We were, therefore, happy to register some improvements in the work of the Intergovernmental Committee at its ninth session.

There is, however, a need to make the co-ordination of existing Science and Technology for Development initiatives within the United Nations system more effective and improve the role of the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development in this area.

We think that the main responsibilities of the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development should relate to the co-ordination and the establishment of policy guidelines on science and technology for development, to the Centre and to the various organizations in the United Nations system regarding their Science and Technology for Development strategy and the selection of projects. The policy guidelines to the United Nations Fund for Science and Technology for Development should be given through the UNDP. In this context special attention should be given to avoid any duplication of efforts between the Centre and the Fund.

We feel that to fully justify its role in the future, the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development should carry out its tasks in a more rational and efficient manner, by targeting its action more effectively and exploiting its research expertise to the full.

As far as the work of the Centre is concerned we would first of all like to commend the efforts of its Executive Director, Mr Trindade, for his efforts in improving the quality and the relevance of the work of the Centre.

In particular, we would like to stress our support for the new orientation of the work towards the identification of concrete activities and the improvement of information systems, especially at national level. We think that particular attention should be paid to the task of co-ordination and harmonization on which the Centre should concentrate as priority in 1988 and 1989. We are also positive to the idea of implementing pilot projects on endogenous research capacities.

We see an important role for the Centre in co-ordination and harmonization of the work done by the other agencies of the United Nations system as a whole. Many organizations are concerned in science and technology with their own separate purposes and the risk of duplication is high. In our view, co-ordination of activities of this kind is best handled at the national level in the first instance, where suitable programmes can be devised with the collaboration of all organizations concerned, rather than initially at the Centre with bodies collaborating in theory rather than in practice. Where UN multilateral aid matters are concerned, the responsibility of the resident coordinator in the country concerned should be ensured and activities should be co-ordinated within the framework set by the United Nations bodies and the receiving governments between them.

As previously mentioned, we also support the development of endogenous capacity in developing countries themselves and feel that the Centre should concentrate much of its activities in this very practical area, on the basis of inputs that developing countries and the cooperation networks set up by the agencies will supply.

The role of women must be borne very much in mind. One of the main objectives in this field should be to put the general principles into practice, particularly through encouraging the access of women to scientific and technical education.

Finally, with regard to the two substantive themes dealt with during the ninth session of the Intergovernmental Committee I would like to say that we found the discussions constructive and useful.

Concerning drought and desertification, aspects more directly related to research should be stressed. Each of the countries concerned should in accordance with national priorities have its own research capacities in the different fields of special importance to it, and at the same time co-ordinate its programmes and exchange results inside the relevant cooperation networks set up by the agencies in their respective fields of competence. Such networks are to be found or need to be expanded in particular in FAO, UNEP, WMO, UNESCO, with special emphasis on the countries concerned in Africa.

On the other substantive theme – impact of new and emerging areas of science and technology – we find it advisable for the countries concerned to be selective and to concentrate on those areas of the new technologies – such as bio-technology and renewable energy – that seem to be the most promising to meet their immediate needs. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

$87/409.\;$ Statement in the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly: Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women to the Year $2000^{\,1}$

Date of Issue: 23 October 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Ms Esper Larsen: Mr Chairman, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community on agenda item 96, Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women to the year 2000.

The successful conclusion of the World Conference in Nairobi in 1985 and the consensus adoption of the Forward-Looking Strategies was a highly important culmination to the UN Decade for Women. The Decade itself was an unprecedented effort on the part of the international community to improve the situation of women. The consensus adoption of the Forward-Looking Strategies-document provides us with a solid basis for further action in the years until 2000 at the national, regional and international levels in order to establish better conditions for women throughout the world.

The Decade and the Conference should not to be seen as an end, but rather as a beginning to concerted efforts in this field. The true value of the Forward-Looking Strategies can only be fully realized when they have been translated into concrete action. We must preserve the achievement and momentum of the Decade and the Conference by ensuring expeditious and universal application of the Strategies. This will be an essential and difficult task, not only for the United Nations, but also — indeed especially — for all governments, who should take full account of the Forward-Looking Strategies in the various fields of their national policies with a view to obtaining the goals of the UN Decade for Women.

The Special Session of the Commission on the Status of Women held in January this year was convened because the Commission at its previous session had not fully lived up to the expectations concerning its role as the focal organ in the implementation of the Forward-Looking Strategies. Against this background, the Special Session was called upon by ECOSOC to begin the urgent task of integrating the goals of the Strategies into the programme budget of the United Nations. The Commission was also requested to consider ways and means of improving its working methods and to elaborate a plan for its future activities.

The Twelve welcome the fact that the Commission at its Special Session was able to fulfil its mandate. The determination of all participants to achieve concrete results, and the constructive and positive spirit

Agenda item 82 [C] and [H].

which prevailed throughout the Special Session, made it possible to adopt consensus resolutions of great importance, not only for the Commission, but for the continued efforts of the United Nations in this field — and thus ultimately for the women of the world.

The main task of the Special Session was the integration of the Forward-Looking Strategies into the Medium-Term Plan for Women in Development for the period 1990-95. The results include concrete recommendations for different and extensive actions within the whole United Nations system to deal with women's role in development and to translate the Nairobi Strategies into all programmes, which will be carried out by the United Nations system in this period. This plan is very extensive. Established in 6 large programmes and 23 subprogrammes the plan will, we hope, provide an important impetus to the role of women in development. The Twelve welcome the significant results achieved in this regard. However, we underline the need for continuous review and follow-up by all organizations concerned in order to ensure implementation.

The Commission dealt also with its method of work and its agenda. We believe that the restructured agenda for future sessions will improve the functioning of the Commission, allowing for in-depth discussion of priority themes, while enabling it to develop the necessary framework for coordinating, programming and monitoring the implementation of the Forward-Looking Strategies through the United Nations system.

The Twelve find the adoption of priority themes for the Commission's next five sessions a major step towards the implementation of the Forward-Looking Strategies, which corresponds well with the recommendation from the 41st UN General Assembly. This should allow the Commission to devote detailed attention to each question, to avoid repetitions and to put forward concrete suggestions for action-oriented policies. We further welcome the idea of establishing sessional working groups, which we hope will facilitate the work of the Commission.

The Twelve welcome the Commission's return to its previous practice of adopting all decisions by consensus. Only if there is united support for future efforts will there be prospects for success.

The Twelve will follow with keen interest the future work of the Commission and will support further consolidation as well as progress of its work. We believe that the Special Session was a very good new beginning which should serve as the guiding example for future sessions. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

87/410. Question No 3004/86 by Mr Hughes (S-UK) Concerning Afghan Refugees in Military Service

Date of Issue: 23 October 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 27 March 1987

Further to my Written Question No 2107/86¹ concerning Afghan refugees living around Isfahan in Iran who are being forcibly conscripted into the Iranian army for use in the Iraq/Iran war, will the Twelve outline what action they have taken or propose to take to substantiate persistent reports that such forced conscription is taking place?

Answer:

The questions raised by the Honourable Member have not been discussed within the framework of European political cooperation.

¹ Agenda item 96.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 87/075.

87/411. Question No 534/87 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E) Concerning Political Prisoners in Cuba

Date of Issue: 23 October 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Parliamentary Question of 12 June 1987

Are the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation aware of the situation of political prisoners in Cuba, including the engineer Andres José Solares Teseiro, who is serving an eight-year prison sentence, is forbidden to send or receive any kind of correspondence and is allowed only one visit a week?

Have they made any political or humanitarian approach in the last six months?

Answer:

The specific case of Mr Solares Teseiro has not been discussed in European political cooperation. However, the Twelve are continuing their efforts to safeguard human rights worldwide and, *inter alia*, in the case of persistent violations of individual freedom. They have, moreover, stated on a number of occasions, in particular in their declaration of 21 July 1986¹, that neither a person's convictions nor his ideology can serve as a justification for the refusal of political and civil rights.

87/412. Question No 1015/87 by Mr Robles Piquer (ED-E) Concerning the Agreement Signed by the Governments of Mozambique and South Africa

Date of Issue: 23 October 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 30 July 1987

Can the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation evaluate the agreement signed on 13 May 1987 by the Governments of Mozambique and South Africa, under which the latter will help finance the improvement and development of the bay of Maputo, the capital of Mozambique?

Do the Ministers consider that this agreement indicates a certain improvement in the relations between the two Governments, and that it might help the greatly weakened Mozambique economy?

Answer:

The Twelve welcome genuine cooperation between the governments of Southern Africa and attach great importance to strengthening the transport infrastructure of South Africa's neighbours. This applies particularly to Mozambique because of this country's geographical position.

In the Twelve's view the agreement signed on 13 May 1987 could contribute to an improvement in relations between Mozambique and South Africa. In this connection, they underline the vital need for both countries to comply fully with the undertakings made in the Nkomati Accord, in particular the commitment not to support armed opposition to each other's governments. They strongly believe that Mozambique must be allowed to live in peace and enjoy the fruits of economic development.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 86/230.

87/413. Question No 1089/87 by Mr Romera I Alcazar (ED-E) Concerning the Possible Connection of the Austrian President, Kurt Waldheim, with the German Army During the Nazi Period

Date of Issue: 23 October 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 1 September 1987

The Austrian President, Kurt Waldheim, has been questioned at international level about his supposed Nazi past, which has been mentioned in a report put out by the United States Justice Department on the basis of proofs in its possession.

It is publicly known that for this reason he has been denied entry to that country as a private individual. Canada has taken the same attitude.

Have the Foreign Ministers adopted a position on this matter, opening investigations or requesting the United States of America or Canadian Governments to furnish the evidence which would enable the Council to pass judgement on the Austrian President's past?

Answer:

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Twelve have not discussed the questions raised by the Honourable Member within the framework of political cooperation.

87/414. Statement in the Special Political Committee of the UN General Assembly: United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)¹

Date of Issue: 26 October 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Mr Chairman, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Community and its twelve Member States.

UNRWA has, since its creation thirty-seven years ago, proved itself to be an indispensable organization whose work on behalf of the more than two million Palestinian refugees in the Near East is of great value from a humanitarian as well as a political point of view. As long as the Palestinian problem has not found a solution within the framework of a global political settlement of the conflict in the Middle East, UNRWA will continue to play an essential role. Its contributions to the productive developmental tasks of educating children, furnishing advanced training, maintaining an effective public health care service and providing a basic welfare service to a nevertheless largely industrious and self-supporting refugee population are of vital importance and should receive the full support of the international community.

The excellent report which the Commissioner-General has submitted to the General Assembly this year has once again drawn our attention to the difficulties faced in maintaining services to refugees. In Lebanon the fighting around camps in Beirut and the Tyre area at the beginning of 1987 created a situation where UNRWA's attempts to bring supplies to Palestinian refugees were met with at times almost insurmountable difficulties. This situation has been of deep concern to the Twelve. When on 12 February the Security Council made an appeal for a cease-fire around the camps and for the rapid distribution of supplies to the refugees, the Foreign Ministers of the Twelve issued a statement of support in which they, in a humanitarian spirit, strongly urged the parties involved to ensure that the civilian population should receive the regular supply of food, clothing and medicine which they needed. The

European Community also took an immediate decision on emergency aid to the refugees and confirmed the Community's readiness to grant further aid. We are pleased to note that, as it has been pointed out in the Commissioner-General's report, it has been much easier to carry out operations since February and March.

The continuing tragic situation in Lebanon has not only brought further suffering to the Palestinian refugees residing there but has also severely hit the people of Lebanon. The Twelve have profound sympathy for the civilian population caught up in the violence in Lebanon. They have consistently called for every effort to be made to end the bloodshed and for the sovereignty, unity, independence and territorial integrity of Lebanon to be respected.

The Twelve take a serious view of the continued unjustified destruction of refugee shelters and the violation of the privileges and immunities of the Agency and its premises by the authorities of the occupying power on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. We are also concerned at the sporadic incidents and pervasive tension in those territories which according to the report of the Commissioner-General have created a difficult atmosphere within which to conduct operations.

The Twelve have been saddened at the report that, during the period under review, seven staff members were killed and scores were wounded. We wish to express our deep sympathy to the bereaved and we pay a special tribute to the devoted staff members who, often at great personal risk, have maintained the flow of services to the refugees. Of special concern to us is the case of Mr Alec Collett, a British journalist working for UNRWA, who was abducted in 1985 and about whom there has been no news since 1986 when his kidnappers claimed that he had been killed. We appeal once again for news of his whereabouts and for news of his release without further delay.

The Twelve are pleased to note that the financial situation of UNRWA has improved during the past year and that there has even been an excess of income over expenditures in the Agency's General Fund in 1986 due to increased contributions from donors. However, this improvement which is due not least to the efforts of the Commissioner-General himself should not lead us to ignore the fact that funding for the construction programme remains insufficient and that the outlook for 1988 is uncertain. Expenditure in 1988 will be slightly higher than in 1987, mainly to take care of the natural increase in the refugee population. Thus, the need for continued fund-raising efforts and for generous responses by donors will remain.

Mr Chairman, I would like to take this opportunity to recall that the European Community signed last July a new Convention with UNRWA, the sixth of its kind, which covers the period 1987-1989. Under its provisions, the European Community has agreed to increase its cash contribution to the education programme of UNRWA by 20 per cent, i.e. 20 million ECU, equivalent to 34 million US dollars for 1987, 1988 and 1989 each. Together with the contributions to UNRWA's feeding programmes the total value of European Community aid to UNRWA in the current year is expected to reach some 35 million ECU or 60 million US dollars.

It was encouraging that the League of Arab States in April 1987 called upon its member States, as part of the international community and in keeping with the actions taken by other contributing States, to increase the level of their contributions to that of 1981, i.e. 7.73 per cent of the Agency's total budget in that year. The Twelve have in the past stressed that financial support for the Agency is a commitment assumed logically by all those who voted and who continued to vote in favour of the relevant resolutions. While we fully appreciate the valuable services that the host governments continue to provide for the Palestinian refugees we remain concerned at the narrow funding base for UNRWA. A number of Western countries, including the European Community and its Member States, continue to provide close to 90 per cent of the Agency's total budget. Meanwhile, countries within the international community, which have expressed their concern for the plight of the Palestinian people, and which have the resources, have contributed little or in some cases nothing to UNRWA.

The Twelve share the concern expressed by the Commissioner-General that reduced employment opportunities for refugees in the occupied territories have contributed to a deterioration in their economic situation. At the end of last year, the European Community decided to give tariff-free access for the occupied territories for all the manufactured products exported to the Community as well as

preferential access for some agricultural products. We hope that this measure will help to improve the difficult economic situation in the territories and contribute to the reduction of unemployment and under-employment.

Mr Chairman, in conclusion we would like to record our thanks to the Commissioner-General for the dedicated manner in which he and his staff have carried out the mandate given to UNRWA under conditions of difficulty and danger. UNRWA remains a political and humanitarian necessity pending a solution to the conflict in the Middle East. While the Twelve are actively engaged in the search for peace they also remain committed to UNRWA's continued activities. We encourage other member States to join in the political and financial support of UNRWA. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

87/415. Statement in the Plenary Session of the UN General Assembly: Cooperation Between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity (OAU)¹

Date of Issue: 28 October 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Mr President, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Community and its twelve Member States.

The Twelve are pleased to speak once again in the debate on cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity and to reaffirm the importance which we attach to the relationship between the two organizations.

The close historical and geographical links between European countries and Africa give that continent a special place in our considerations. Based on our own practical experience of regional cooperation we realize the very great benefits it can bring and therefore wish to encourage it. The Twelve believe that the way in which African countries are working together to deal with the serious and complex problems of the continent deserves the support of the United Nations. We are pleased to note — as the Secretary-General's report demonstrates — that the links between OAU and the United Nations have intensified over the years.

The Twelve believe that the Organization of African Unity has an important role to play in consolidating the national independence of its members both politically and economically. Where there are conflicts we believe that the countries most directly concerned should be encouraged to find solutions to the conflict. This applies whether the problems are political, economic, social or environmental. African problems are best settled by African solutions. We are pleased to note the work of the OAU in a number of such difficult areas and we particularly welcome the close cooperation between the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the current Chairman of the OAU over the Western Sahara. In general, the OAU has an important role to play in ensuring that African peoples are able freely to determine their own future without outside interference.

In spite of its vast potential resources, Africa still contains more than half the world's economically least developed countries. The Twelve wish to cooperate as much as possible with all African countries and to assist in finding solutions to their present economic and social problems. The European Community and its Member States have in recent years contributed almost 50% of the total aid received by African countries. The European Community played an active role in the UN Special Session on the Critical Economic Situation in Africa in 1986 and we also play our full part in the planned midterm review of the Programme of Action foreseen to take place at the 43rd General Assembly next year. African countries face particular difficulties and need additional resources. We stand by our commitment given at the Special Session to participate in the efforts to provide these resources.

Agenda item 79.

The Twelve intend to use their commitment to Africa in all these different areas to safeguard the stability of the continent and to broaden our cooperation, both with African governments themselves and with regional organizations and the Organization of African Unity.

We are convinced that the OAU will continue to play an important role in African and world affairs consistent with the principles guiding the United Nations and in pursuit of the goals of that organization. We are confident that the close ties of friendship and cooperation which exist between the Twelve and all members of the Organization of African Unity will be even further strengthened in the year ahead. Thank you, Mr President.

87/416. Explanation of Vote at the Plenary Session of the UN General Assembly: Year of Peace — Report of the Secretary-General ¹

Date of Issue: 28 October 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Mr Bierring: Mr President, on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community I should like to make some comments on the resolution on which the General Assembly has just taken action.

It is well known that our delegations welcomed the sentiments behind Costa Rica's initiative to establish 1986 as the International Year of Peace. The final report of the Secretary-General on the International Year of Peace helped to focus international attention on a primary goal of the United Nations, namely to strengthen the maintenance of international peace and security.

On 24 October 1986 the twelve Member States of the European Community in a statement on Resolution 41/9 on the International Year of Peace stressed that

the need for the international community to continue the search for practical measures which will contribute to a strengthening of international peace and security remains....

It was in this spirit and on the understanding that the resolution did not detract from the guidelines, endorsed by consensus by the General Assembly in 1980, regarding International Years in general, that the Twelve agreed to the inclusion of this item on the agenda of the 42nd session of the General Assembly in order to enable the Secretary-General to present his final report. We believe that the reinscription of the item at a future session of the United Nations General Assembly would be contrary to the spirit of the 1980 guidelines regarding International Years.

Nevertheless, the Twelve have joined the consensus in the hope that hereafter other ways of presenting information on activities undertaken in connection with the goals of the International Year of Peace can be found.

Mr President, let me conclude by reiterating the commitment of the twelve Member States of the European Community to international peace and our determination to strive for a more peaceful and secure world. Thank you, Mr President.

¹ Agenda item 25.

Agenda item 26.

87/417. Statement in the First Committee of the UN General Assembly: Reduction of Military Budgets¹

Date of Issue: 28 October 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Mr Jæger: I am taking the floor today on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community, in order to make some comments on agenda item 60, Reduction of Military Budgets.

The Twelve have consistently and actively supported endeavours towards international agreements on effective disarmament measures that could contribute to reducing military budgets. Such agreements should lead to tangible measures of arms limitation and arms reduction and to increased security at the lowest possible level of military capability.

The global military spending is absorbing a substantial proportion of the human, financial and technological resources of the world and real and effective reductions in military expenditures could have far-reaching beneficial effects on domestic, social and economic conditions in all countries.

As the military budgets are a heavy burden on the economies of all countries it is obvious that for governments in industrialized as well as in developing countries there should be a strong mutual interest in seeking to reduce the high military spending without diminishing security, thereby increasing the allocation of national financial resources for a number of urgent humanitarian needs. The benefits which might be obtained by reduction of military budgets were also considered at the recent UN Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development.

The Twelve have for many years emphasized the necessity of establishing agreed methods of measuring and comparing military expenditures. Transparency and comparability are necessary prerequisites for starting negotiations of agreements on their reduction.

An important step in this direction was the recommendation in General Assembly Resolution 35/142 [B] which provides a universal framework whereby States can report to the Secretary-General about their military expenditures in a standardized form. The standardized international reporting instrument of the United Nations has proved to be a valuable first step which makes it possible for member States all over the world with different budgeting systems to supply useful information on their military expenditures, thereby contributing to greater transparency in this field. We therefore urge other countries, and especially countries where information on military budgets is not fully available in public sources, to make use of the United Nations reporting system.

The United Nations should play a central role in stimulating negotiations on disarmament measures that could lead to the reduction of military expenditures. All member States should therefore cooperate with the Organization with a view to discussing and solving the problems related to this process.

By supplying the Secretary-General with information about their military expenditures, member States would support the Organization in carrying out its role within this field.

Since 1980 the Disarmament Commission has considered the principles which should govern further actions of States in the field of freezing and reduction of military budgets. To our regret only very limited progress was made during this year's session of the UNDC. The momentum achieved at its preceding session was thus not maintained. The Twelve, however, hope that the Disarmament Commission at its 1988 session will be able to finalize the draft principles and solve the outstanding issues concerning the vital principles of transparency and comparability. The reduction of military budgets should, furthermore, be considered at the Third Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. The Twelve hope that the outcome of the Committee's consideration of this subject will reflect these points of view.

Agenda item 60.

87/418. Statement in the First Committee of the UN General Assembly: Conventional Disarmament ¹

Date of Issue: 28 October 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Mr Jæger: I have the honour to speak on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community on item 62 [C] of our agenda, Conventional Disarmament.

While nuclear arms reduction remains one of the highest priorities for the countries on whose behalf I speak, the Twelve have consistently stressed that conventional disarmament is an integral and essential part of the overall disarmament process. We welcome, therefore, the widespread and growing feeling in the international community of the pressing need to achieve concrete results in the field of conventional arms limitation and disarmament. This has also been clearly illustrated in this Committee by the number of statements from a wide range of countries, commenting on this subject and by the number of draft resolutions tabled.

The Twelve believe that the aim of the process of conventional disarmament should be to seek effectively verifiable arms control agreements leading to a more stable and secure balance of forces at the lowest possible level.

It is conventional weapons which have been the cause of many millions of lost lives in countries throughout the world. Due to the proliferation of conventional arms on a global basis and to the technical developments in this area, the devastating power of these arms now exceeds anything the world has seen before in the conventional field. Furthermore, the expenditure on conventional weapons is a serious economic strain on a large number of countries. As almost 90% of all military spending goes on conventional armaments and forces, not only the major powers, but all the States of the world have to become involved in the process of conventional disarmament in order to release the sums needed to make a major impact on the world's special and economic problems.

Efforts to achieve conventional disarmament should be pursued on a global as well as on a regional level. The latter approach may well prove to be the most practical for achieving progress in the foreseeable future. In this context we support the draft resolution on regional disarmament put forward by some Members of the Twelve.

The Stockholm Document adopted by the Conference on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe in September 1986 was a major contribution in the building of trust between States. The concrete confidence- and security-building measures embodied in this document represent a significant contribution to European security as well as to international peace and security in general. We hope to see further progress in this field.

Conventional disarmament is particularly important in Europe as our continent is the geographical area where there is the heaviest concentration of armed forces in the world. The Twelve attach the greatest importance to achieving further steps to promote stability through the establishment in Europe of a stable and secure balance of conventional forces at lower levels. We support the draft proposal tabled by Member States of the Twelve on confidence-building and security-building measures and conventional disarmament.

At the request of the General Assembly the Disarmament Commission considered the question of conventional disarmament at its 1987 session. We have noted with satisfaction the report by the Chairman of the Disarmament Commission on the substantive consideration of the question of conventional disarmament. The Twelve participated actively in the deliberations in the working group on this item chaired by a member of the Twelve, and although no final conclusions were agreed upon, we think that the report of the working group constitutes a solid basis for further negotiations at next year's meeting of the Commission. We support the draft resolution in document A/C.1/42/L.12 introduced by a Member State of the Twelve on this issue.

In conventional disarmament, as in other areas of disarmament, increased information, openness and transparency are prerequisites for achieving agreements on reductions of armed forces. The Twelve have

consistently advocated a more free and open flow of objective information on military matters. The need for transparency, openness and reliable data is reflected in the draft resolution in document A/C.1/42/L.22 by some members of the Twelve. We, of course, support that resolution.

The Twelve also note with interest the draft resolutions introduced by other States, including those tabled by China and Peru, which we are studying carefully and positively.

In looking ahead to the Third Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, we believe that the Special Session on Disarmament III should offer an opportunity to expand the area of consensus with regard to conventional disarmament in the light of developments in this field in recent years.

87/419. Explanation of Vote in the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly: Resolution A/C.3/42/L.12¹

Date of Issue: 28 October 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Mr Hoppe: I have asked for the floor to make an explanation of vote on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community on draft resolution L.12.

The Twelve firmly support the right of self-determination in accordance with the Charter and the International Covenants on Human Rights.

But we are unable to support the draft resolution in document L.12. There are several elements in the text which the Twelve consider raise substantial difficulties or are even unacceptable. And we have to note yet again that the draft has been put forward without any attempt to consult all the groups represented in this Committee. The text overall is negative and unbalanced.

It is curious that the text should refer to certain individual cases where the right of self-determination is violated, but omits any reference to the flagrant violations of this right which continue to be committed in Afghanistan and Cambodia on which resolutions are adopted by this Assembly each year by an overwhelming majority.

As regards South Africa, the Twelve have repeatedly condemned the system of apartheid, and demanded that it should be abolished. We have also repeatedly called for the unconditional release of Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners. But we wish to reiterate our view that the United Nations should above all encourage peaceful solutions to international problems in accordance with the principles of the Charter. Furthermore, we cannot accept the assertion that the maintenance of relations with a State implies encouragement or approval of that State's policies.

As regards Namibia, we take this opportunity to reaffirm our conviction that its people should be enabled to exercise its inalienable right to self-determination by means of free elections under United Nations supervision, in accordance with Security Council Resolution 435.

As regards the Middle East, the Twelve continue to take the view that peace in that region can only be guaranteed if the security and legitimate interests of all States and peoples in that region are taken into account. Lasting peace in the Middle East can only be achieved if the right of all States in the region to exist within secure and recognized frontiers is confirmed and if the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, with all that that implies, is also fully recognized.

With respect to the other questions dealt with in the draft, the Danish Minister for Foreign Affairs has explained in detail the views of the Twelve in his statement in the general debate on 22 September 1987.

Finally, Mr Chairman, we should like to associate ourselves fully with the appeal in operative paragraph I2 for the immediate and unconditional release of Nelson Mandela and Zephania Mothopeng

¹ Agenda item 62 [C].

and all other political prisoners. We have demanded such action by the South African authorities on numerous occasions, most recently in our statement under item 87 in this Committee. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

87/420. Explanation of Vote in the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly: Resolution A/C.3/42/L.9¹

Date of Issue: 28 October 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Mr Hoppe: Mr Chairman, I have asked for the floor to make an explanation of vote on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community on the draft resolution in L.9 which is now before the Committee.

Our votes on this resolution have no connection with our views on apartheid itself. The Twelve have repeatedly condemned the system of apartheid, which we regard as a flagrant violation of the most basic human rights, and we have called for it to be abolished. But we continue to take the view that this Convention makes no contribution to the elimination of apartheid. We support the stated aim of the Convention, but we have grave reservations about the means envisaged in the Convention which in our view raise serious legal difficulties.

The Convention is defective on a number of legal grounds. Our reservations, which are well known, are compounded by the fact that the Convention defines the violations covered by it only very imprecisely.

As regards the draft resolution in L.9, we have a number of major difficulties, of which these are the most important:

As regards preambular paragraph 5, genocide is clearly defined in the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. We do not accept that a resolution adopted by this Assembly can purport to extend that definition, or the area of application of that Convention. Only the States parties to the Convention or the appropriate international organs are competent to pronounce on its interpretation.

As regard operative paragraphs 5 and 8, this Convention, like other international agreements, is applicable only to States which have ratified it and to the citizens of those States. To act otherwise would be contrary to the generally accepted principle that treaties have no legal effects on States which are not party to them.

Finally, we have also noted the continuing tendency to include new, unacceptable elements in this resolution

The Twelve will therefore cast negative votes in the separate votes. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

87/421. Statement in the Sixth Committee of the UN General Assembly: Measures to Prevent International Terrorism¹

Date of Issue: 28 October 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Mr Skibsted: I have the honour to speak on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community.

Agenda item 91.

Agenda item 92 [B].

1. The upsurge of terrorism during the last decades represents an alarming development on the international scene. It leads to loss of human life and constitutes a threat to orderly and friendly relations between nations.

It is a regrettable fact that, because of the universal character of the problem, the item has had to appear on our agenda for far too many years.

The role of the United Nations in this area is clearly set out in General Assembly Resolution 40/61 of 9 December 1985. It was particularly gratifying that it was possible to adopt this resolution by consensus. The message sent out by the General Assembly, that it condemned unequivocally all acts of terrorism, wherever and by whomever committed, was therefore especially effective. The Twelve believe that this resolution is a significant step forward in international cooperation against terrorism.

Resolution 40/61 signals that the international community is prepared to take firm action against the terrorist threat. That resolution, together with Security Council Resolution 579 (1985), is fully consistent with the view stressed by the Twelve on many occasions, that however legitimate a cause may be, it can never justify a resort to acts of terrorism, and that such acts damage whatever cause the perpetrators claim to be pursuing.

In the view of the Twelve, Resolution 40/61 adopted by consensus must be the basis for our future work, and its implementation should be the main subject-matter of the present debate. In this respect I wish to recall the views and comments of the Twelve circulated in document A/42/201 of 31 March 1987². As mentioned in that document the Twelve have repeatedly stressed their commitment to combat terrorism. While strongly and unequivocally condemning all acts of terrorism and adopting a variety of measures to prevent such acts, the Twelve have reiterated their readiness to cooperate with all States sharing their concern and their wish to further constructive international cooperation.

2. We have studied carefully the proposal presented under agenda item 126 [B] to 'convene, under the auspices of the United Nations, an international conference to define terrorism and to differentiate it from the struggle of peoples for national liberation'.

We would like to state that it is our firm belief that the ability of peoples to exercise their right to self-determination under the Charter of the United Nations would be ill served if it is considered within an international conference meant to define terrorism. Such an exercise would only contribute to further give credit to the false idea, which we have always opposed, that there is a link between terrorism and the exercise of the right to self-determination.

Defining terrorism presents unsurmountable difficulties as experience has shown and as the distinguished representative of Canada explained in detail in his intervention on 21 October. Attempts to reach consensus on a definition are bound to fail.

Although there should be no doubt about our readiness to take part in constructive and practical international cooperation in rooting out terrorism and eliminating its underlying causes, we are convinced that the negative consequences of holding such a conference would be overwhelming and therefore we should not embark upon such an exercise. This would be inconsistent with the approach taken in Resolution 40/61 and would destroy the consensus on this important and sensitive subject constructed with such difficulty in 1985. Consequently, we are against the proposed conference.

3. Mr Chairman, in the view of the Twelve this Committee should rather focus its attention on effective measures against terrorism as suggested in draft resolution A/C.6/42/L.2 to which all of the Twelve are co-sponsors.

First of all, it is essential that States live up to their obligations to refrain from instigating or supporting terrorist acts in other States, or encouraging activities within their territory directed towards the commission of such acts. This fundamental rule of international law is referred to in the Friendly Relations Declaration of 1970 and has been repeated in various resolutions adopted under the item presently under debate, *inter alia* in operative paragraph 6 of Resolution 40/61. Strict compliance with this principle is at the very centre of constructive cooperation among States.

Furthermore, States should intensify their cooperation with a view to ensuring the effective protection of the public against terrorist acts. In accordance with applicable law and through agreed international machinery they should exchange the information necessary to strengthen the capability of governments

to prevent acts of terrorism and to apprehend, prosecute or extradite the perpetrators. The Twelve also wish to refer to operative paragraph 4 of Resolution 40/61. This contains an appeal to all States which have not yet done so to consider becoming a party to the existing multilateral convention relating to various aspects of international terrorism, certain of which are listed in the sixth preambular paragraph of the draft resolution presented in document A/C.6/42/L.2. Adherence by States to these conventions is one of the means by which an important contribution can be made to the main objectives of Resolution 40/61, one of which is that there must be no safe haven for terrorists.

And equally important, Mr Chairman, and in accordance with the basic rule of international law, pacta sunt servanda. States must perform in good faith their international obligations in this field, inter alia by ensuring that appropriate law enforcement measures are taken by them in connection with the offences addressed in these conventions.

4. As to elaboration of new multilateral conventions, the Twelve wish to confirm their view that the best results can be obtained by avoiding generalities and focusing on specific acts of terrorism. The three conventions on the security of civil aviation and others, such as that on the taking of hostages, are examples of this approach, the usefulness of which is confirmed by the wide support given to these conventions by the large number of States that have become parties to them.

With this in mind, the Twelve have read with interest section III (on pages 11-21) of the report of the Secretary-General of 8 September 1987 (document A/42/519) and noted with appreciation the useful comments of the Legal Counsel in his introduction of it on 21 October. They welcome the ongoing work within the International Civil Aviation Organization and the International Maritime Organization. Both organizations have responded positively to the requests contained in General Assembly's Resolution 40/61 and have been working on the elaboration of new international instruments dealing with specific aspects of terrorism whose alarming and dangerous character has been evidenced by recent episodes.

The International Civil Aviation Organization is preparing a Protocol on the Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence at Airports Serving International Civil Aviation, which we hope will be adopted at a Diplomatic Conference to be held at Montreal next February.

The International Maritime Organization has been working, within an *ad hoc* preparatory committee, as well as within its Council and, during the last few days, its Legal Committee, on the preparation of a Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Maritime Navigation and a Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf. We are confident that these two new international instruments will also be adopted at the diplomatic conference to be held in Rome next March.

It is particularly encouraging to note that both in ICAO and IMO work has proceeded by consensus. I have already referred to the Twelve's view that the best results can be obtained by avoiding generalities and focusing on specific acts of terrorism. All participants coming from every geographical and political group recognized the wisdom of the approach adopted in the preparation of the new instruments. They are cooperating actively towards the successful conclusion of the two exercises. The Twelve are of the opinion that this approach is the right one, and that these new instruments will assist in the fight against terrorism. There may be other aspects of terrorism that should be dealt with in a similar fashion. In that respect operative paragraph 9 of draft resolution A/C.6/42/L.2 would request the Universal Postal Union and the World Tourism Organization, within their respective competences, to consider what further measures can usefully be taken to combat and eliminate terrorism.

5. Mr Chairman, in closing, the Twelve repeat that it is their earnest hope that the consensus at the 40th session of the General Assembly with its unequivocal condemnation of all acts of international terrorism, can be preserved this year. It is essential that the General Assembly demonstrates once again a unanimous position against international terrorism. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

¹ Agenda item 126.

² EPC Bulletin, Doc. 87/146.

87/422. Question No H-422/87 by Mr Ephremidis Concerning the Elections in Turkey

Date of Issue: 28 October 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

The Ozal Government in Turkey has announced general elections for 1 November 1987 involving an amendment to the electoral law whereby the duration of the campaign has been cut back from three to two months. The electoral lists have not been updated. The elections are being held one week before the voting ban lapses for 2.4 million Turks who did not vote in the 1982 referendum.

Do the Foreign Ministers meeting in European political cooperation consider elections of this kind a step in the direction of democratization or the reverse?

Mr Tygesen, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: On the question of elections in Turkey. I can say that the Twelve will continue to follow closely the democratization process in Turkey. We consider the holding of parliamentary elections in Turkey in November this year to be a step in the right direction. Since the Honourable Member tabled his question new developments have taken place — as I am sure he himself is aware — in connection with the forthcoming elections in Turkey. Certain provisions in the new Turkish electoral law have been set aside by the Turkish Constitutional Court. This has led to a postponement of the elections, which had been set for 1 November 1987. The elections will now be held 29 days later, i.e. on 29 November. This postponement will, amongst other things, have the effect of enabling the large number of voters to whom the Honourable Member refers to cast their votes in the elections after all.

Mr Ephremidis (COM): It is true that the election date has been changed and that the 2.5 million people who as things were before would not have been able to vote will now be able to. And this decision of the Constitutional Court has been ratified by the National Assembly.

But let me ask the Minister what he thinks about the fact that, at the same time, the National Assembly extended martial law to nine Turkish provinces, to nine electoral areas that is, and about the fact that the Turkish Communist Party and the Labour Party and other parties are still banned, that the biggest trade union, DISK, is also banned and that its leaders and executive are in jail and being tortured, and that other measures of a similar kind are also still in force? What does Political Cooperation think about this? Under such circumstances can we possibly say that the fact that elections of a sort are taking place is a step in the right direction? Let the Minister ask himself whether, if such a minute change were to occur in his own country, he could possibly claim that free elections were taking place, and whether he would acquiesce in such a situation or denounce it. So why does Political Cooperation not do just this?

Mr Tygesen: I should like to say at the outset that it is indeed gratifying to note that Turkey has now advanced to a stage at which the firm will of the Government can be set aside by the Constitutional Court and the Government accepts the Court's decision. It is that form of traditional power-sharing which characterizes democracies. But, as the Honourable Member himself points out in his question, we are talking about a democratization process, and such a process is a continuous development which must necessarily take time. There are still situations in Turkey in which the Twelve would like to see improvements, but we hope and believe — and I assume the questioner shares our hopes — that this development is proceeding in the right direction. The recent referendum on the right of former politicians to engage in politics and the elections which will now take place under the conditions I have just indicated are, in spite of everything, signs that progress is being made.

Mr Marshall (ED): Would the Foreign Minister not agree that the fact that the Constitutional Court made a decision that was different from the decision the Government wished indicates that the judiciary in Turkey is independent of the Government and that this is one of the necessary criteria for a democratic State? However, can we have an assurance from the Foreign Minister that he will monitor the Turkish

elections and constantly remind the Turkish applicants for membership of this Community that the European Community is a democratic club and that any applicant country which cannot show that its democratic credentials are 100% will not be allowed to join the Community?

Mr Tygesen: With regard to the first part of the question, I can do no more than refer back to what I have just said. To the second part I would say that no Member State — at least no Member State I am aware of — is discussing the Turkish application for membership with Turkey in the present circumstances. We have dealt with the membership application in the Council strictly according to the rules. It is now in the hands of the Commission, which will be giving its opinion in due course. But I would draw the Honourable Member's attention to the fact that under the Single European Act — and this is something people are very conscious of in Turkey — this House will also have its say on the matter when the time comes.

Mr Ulburghs (NI): I do not know if the President-in-Office of the Council has been informed of the discussions that took place in the enlarged Bureau yesterday. At this meeting the enlarged Bureau considered the possibility of sending a delegation from the European Parliament to Turkey to observe the elections to be held there on 29 November. If a delegation is sent to Turkey — and I hope to be a member of it — to what extent will the President of the Council and his staff help to ensure that it enjoys complete freedom of movement and is allowed to visit the many political and social prisoners held in Turkish prisons?

Mr Tygesen: It is my considered opinion that the Council will not do anything, and it is my considered opinion that the Council should not do anything. But I assume that should such a delegation become a reality — and of course it is not for me to make any pronouncement on that — the European Parliament itself would take steps to ensure that the people sent out would also have the best conditions under which to work. I might add — I know this because I have contacts with the Turkish Government myself from time to time on other matters — that Turkish Government circles are well aware that there is also a European Parliament.

Mr Von Nostitz (ARC): Does the Minister welcome the fact that, by planning to send a delegation to Turkey, Parliament rates the process of democratization in Turkey highly enough for it to regard the resumption of a dialogue between the European Parliament and the Turkish Parliament as appropriate and as a worthwhile reinforcement of the democratic forces in Turkey? Or does the Minister feel that the process of democratization has not yet reached the stage where it would be appropriate to enter into a dialogue?

Mr Tygesen: I would repeat that I do not really think it is for me to stand here in the European Parliament and pronounce on such a matter. But I do not mind revealing that, when I was asked by a Turkish Minister whether he should seek contact with the European Parliament, I answered that it would be a good idea. Anything at all that can be done to bring about better understanding between the peoples of Europe, and that applies to all peoples of Europe, is of course all to the good.

Mr Plaskovitis (S): I should like to ask the Minister if he can speculate as to when it would be possible for the political parties which are still outlawed eventually to participate in election, when it would be possible for the 4 500 detainees, of whom, according to Amnesty International, some 136 have already committed suicide or died in incarceration, to be released, and when, given that the military dictatorship has only now, after eight years, reached the point of allowing elections of this sort, he believes that free conditions will be restored so that elections in Turkey can be seen as a genuine exercise in democracy rather than as a fraud against world public opinion?

Could the Minister give us an approximate idea of his thinking, or at least of the thinking of those he represents, concerning these conditions which continue to exist in Turkey.

Mr Tygesen: I must say in all honesty that it is not because I do not want to answer it, but quite simply because I cannot answer it. I think it is in the nature of things that I should not be able to answer that kind of question. As far as the holding of the elections is concerned, we in the governments will be investigating how things were done once the elections have taken place. I do not think that we should discredit a step of this kind in advance before it has been taken because, in spite of everything, it is an

important step. It must be judged on its own merits or demerits once it has taken place. But I can say that it is my firm impression that the Turkish Government is in no doubt that the European Community is made up of democratic States.

87/423. Question No H-517/87 by Mr Cabezón Alonso Concerning Aid for the Nicaraguan Contras

Date of Issue: 28 October 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

Fortunately, the Nicaraguan Government has authorized the reopening of the 'La Prensa' newspaper and 'Radio Católica' as necessary and important steps in the process of democratic normalization in Nicaragua.

Do the Foreign Ministers meeting in European political cooperation take the view that the US President should respond to these actions by putting an immediate end to aid to the Nicaraguan Contras?

Mr Tygesen, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: The Twelve have already given their full support to the efforts to establish lasting peace and real democracy in Central America. As the Honourable Member is doubtless very well aware, the Twelve have expressed their continuing support to the Contadora peace process and the Guatemala agreement, which is in line with the objectives of that process. In that connection we are of course happy with any positive step in the direction of full implementation of the agreement entered into by the Presidents of the Central American countries on 6-7 August 1987. For the sake of completeness I should perhaps refer you to the answer we gave in October to a question from Mr Adamou on the peace efforts in Central America.

Mr Cabezón Alonso (S): It is now more desirable than ever before, for the governments involved in conflict, the Reagan Government and the Governments of the Central American States, to act in a united way with the aim of restoring normality to the democratic life of those countries. I did not hear a reply to the actual question asked, that is, whether the Foreign Ministers of the EEC take the view that at this time and in the light of the positive steps taken by the Nicaraguan Government, the United States ought to respond by putting an immediate end to aid to the Contras. I do not want the European Community to be an accomplice now — or ever — to the errors of other governments which, at a historic moment, are standing in the way of normalization and pacification, the democratic solution to the problems of this region of the world. I repeat that I would like to hear a specific reply to the question about ending United States aid to the Nicaraguan Contras at this time.

Mr Tygesen: I assume that the questioner is aware of the statement issued by the twelve European Community countries on 13 August this year² on the agreement between the five Central American countries to conclude a peace accord. Even so, I wonder whether you have also read the last section, which says:

The Twelve appeal to the five Central American countries and to all countries with ties and interests in the area to cooperate constructively in securing the implementation of the agreement concluded on lasting peace and genuine democracy in Central America.

I think this answers the question.

Mr McMalhon (S): Month after month we come here and we get the same inane answers from the Council. All we hear are fine words! When is the Council going to take concrete action to get the trigger-happy cowboy who sits in the White House to withdraw his guerillas from Nicaragua? Has the Council agreed that the concession should always be on the part of the Sandinistas? When is it going to take positive steps? Month after month I have heard Minister after Minister representing the Council

repeating the same statements. When is the Council going to take a positive lead to ensure that there is genuine peace? What steps is it going to take to protect Community investment? The European Community has spent a considerable amount of money on health centres and the like. What protection will it offer these centres should the Contras attack them?

Mr Tygesen: With respect I will merely say that what motivates the Community in this matter is not concern for European investment. I also do not think it proper to suggest that pecuniary considerations of that kind should motivate us. Of course we do what we can to protect our investments, but it is not that which motivates us. What we are concerned with is to create a lasting peace in an area in which the Member States themselves have found the preconditions for peace. To the first part of the question I would say that I cannot be expected here to discuss the Head of State of a foreign country in the terms which have just been used.

Mr Habsburg (PPE): Mr President, I shall not suggest that you should force Mr Reagan to his knees with an emergency motion, but I should like to ask a question. Mr President of the Council, are you prepared to apply the same criteria to Nicaragua as you have just demanded be applied to Turkey? That will mean, for example, that 'Radio Católica' is at last allowed to broadcast news and not just music.

Mr Tygesen: I can only say to the Honourable Member that for the governments of the Community human rights are indivisible and must be upheld without distinction.

Mr Arbeloa Muru (S): Mr President, while we are on the subject of Central America I would like, very briefly, to pay my heartfelt respects to the memory of the Chairman of the Human Rights Committee, who was assassinated the day before yesterday in El Salvador, possibly by the Death Squads.

Now to my question: do the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation think there are fundamental differences, in the context of peace negotiations in Central America, between the armed opposition in Nicaragua and the armed opposition in El Salvador and in Guatemala?

Mr Tygesen: All the information I have on the matter referred to — and I suspect the same goes for the questioner — comes from newspapers. But I think that the questioner and myself are of one mind in deploring such an event.

87/424. Question No H-520/87 by Sir Peter Vanneck Concerning Freedom of Navigation in the Gulf

Date of Issue: 28 October 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

Are the Foreign Ministers satisfied with cooperation among Member States in protecting shipping transporting the Community's imports and exports?

Mr Tygesen, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: I assume that the Honourable Member is aware of the statement issued by the Twelve on 3 September this year ¹ in which they vigorously condemned the recent attacks on merchant ships in the Persian Gulf. We also repeated our full support for the basic principle of freedom of navigation, which is of the utmost importance to the international community as a whole. However, I must say to the Honourable Member that the protection of merchant shipping falls within the field of competence of the individual Member States. It is for them to take whatever action they consider appropriate.

Mr Vanneck (ED): Denmark, of course, is not a member of the Western European Union and, therefore, the Western European Union declaration which we have been reading about in our papers today is irrelevant to the current Presidency. But, I must ask whether the Foreign Ministers representing all the Twelve are considering pressing those not yet concerned to play their part by their presence in

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 87/375. ² EPC Bulletin, Doc. 87/283.

maintaining freedom of passage for international trade in international waters. Will the Foreign Ministers inform those Member States which are unable to protect their imports and exports in the Gulf as to what the costs are to those that do? In other words, if they cannot be present — and I do not expect Luxembourg mine-sweepers to be sent there in the immediate future — will they be aware of what it costs with a view perhaps later on to sharing those costs amongst the Twelve?

Mr Tygesen: To begin with I must point out, in case anyone should think differently, that there can be no doubt as to the firm line taken by the Twelve on the question of protecting freedom of navigation in the Gulf. It has been reaffirmed many times. I would say more directly to the questioner that those Member States — when I say 'Member States' I mean the Twelve and not the WEU — which have taken special steps to protect their merchant shipping in the area and which have also been magnanimous enough to protect the ships of other countries there have stressed, firstly, that their decisions are purely national ones and, secondly, that the question of the practical coordination of operations is also a national affair.

Mr Alavanos (COM): As recent events show, the presence, above all, of American naval forces, but also of similar forces from certain Community countries, rather than helping to protect freedom of navigation in the Gulf is actually raising the tension to breaking point and maximizing the danger to shipping. Given this, does not the President-in-Office believe that the Community could make a significant contribution to the reduction of tension by withdrawing its own forces from the Gulf and interceding with the United States to do likewise, and by working for implementation of the relevant Security Council resolution through the cooperation of all of the Security Council's members? Does he not think, that is, that the course we are presently on is fraught with danger, and that the withdrawal of the naval forces of the Community's own member countries would help to reduce the tension?

Mr Tygesen: I do not think we are moving down a dangerous road. I think others have taken a dangerous road. I would point out that, when the questioner refers to the naval forces of the Community countries, there is no such thing. There are naval forces from certain of the twelve Member States in the area. I could of course turn the speaker's question round and say: what conditions would ships have to sail under if no one took on the role of protecting shipping? It is a hypothetical question, but one thing is certain: we should once more have seen right bow before might.

87/425. Question No H-519/87 by Mr Vandemeulenbroucke Concerning European Political Cooperation and the Role of European Parliament

Date of Issue: 28 October 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

The European Parliament's resolution of 18 June 1987 on a political solution to the Armenian question lays down the main lines of Community policy towards Turkey and specifically with regard to Turkey's application for membership of the Community (paragraph 4 of the resolution). However, in its answer of 16 September 1987 to oral Question No [H-400/87] by Mr Alavanos², the Presidency of European political cooperation (EPC) stated that neither the EPC nor the Member States were bound by the European Parliament's resolutions.

Does the EPC Presidency not consider that this statement is contrary to the Single European Act, which stipulates that the Presidency of European political cooperation 'shall ensure that the views of the European Parliament are duly taken into consideration' in the establishment of Community foreign policy?

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 87/306.

Answer:

The statement of the EPC Presidency in its reply to Oral Question No H-400/87 is in no way contrary to the Single European Act. The latter, as the Honourable Member rightly points out, stipulates that the 'views of the European Parliament are duly taken into consideration', which is different from considering European Parliament resolutions as 'binding'. I can assure the Honourable Member that — in strict compliance with the Single European Act — the Presidency ensures that these resolutions are brought to the attention of all the partners and that the Twelve are well aware of, and take into due consideration, the views expressed by the European Parliament.

87/426. Question No H-518/87 by Mr Marshall Concerning Russia's Inhumanity

Date of Issue: 28 October 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

Mr and Ms Vladimir Tufeld first applied to leave Russia for Israel in 1977. Their son and daughter-in-law are living in Israel. As they have suffered from ill health, is not this case yet another example of Russia's inhumanity? Does the failure of the Russians to honour the commitments made at Helsinki cause the Foreign Ministers to question the worth of Russian signatures on other documents?

Mr Tygesen, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: Both individually and collectively the Twelve take every opportunity which presents itself to remind the Soviet Union of the obligations it entered into voluntarily on signing the Helsinki Final Act and other CSCE documents. The Twelve follow very attentively developments in the Soviet Union's attitude to emigration. They note that in recent times there has been a certain increase in the number of Jews and members of other ethnic minorities who have been allowed to leave the Soviet Union. The Twelve attach great importance to the upholding of the right of every human being to leave his country and return to his country. In Vienna, at the current meeting which is a follow-up to the CSCE, they have presented a proposal aimed at securing better observance of precisely this right. And the Twelve expect that all countries which voluntarily enter into international obligations unstintingly honour those obligations and fulfil them.

Mr Marshall (ED): Would the Foreign Minister agree that this particular case will lead many outside observers to believe that glasnost is nothing other than a sham? Does he not regard it as disgraceful that a family should be divided for more than ten years, that grandparents should have been prevented for five years from seeing their grandchild and that a couple should have to wait ten years for an exit visa from the Soviet Union despite ill health? Can we have a guarantee from him that he will make representations to the Russian authorities asking that this particular family be given an exit visa posthaste?

Mr Tygesen: I would like to say at the outset that my earlier answer should not be misinterpreted, because I fully understand Mr Marshall's scepticism over progress in the CSCE process and East-West relations generally. On the other hand, we ourselves should remember that we have become involved in a long-range process. We must exert pressure and continue to exert pressure. It may occasionally seem as though our arguments are lost on the other side, but experience has shown that our arguments do have an effect — if they are properly formulated and presented. I will not comment on the concrete instance raised by Mr Marshall, but I would remind him that the movement we have seen just recently in Soviet policy is, amongst other things, the result of pressure from world public opinion. The Soviet leaders certainly did not make this change of course for our sake. They made it because we were apparently successful in convincing them that their past practice was not in their own interest.

OJ No C 283 of 10 November 1986, pp. 13-16.
 EPC Bulletin, Doc. 87/321.

Mr Arbeloa Muru (S): As a member of what will, I hope, soon be the Delegation of the European Parliament to the Soviet Union, I took part in various meetings with their delegation when they made a welcome visit here a few days ago.

Do the Foreign Ministers know of any humanitarian gesture or the announcement of any humanitarian gesture on the part of the Soviet authorities which may be regarded as the fruit of this official visit to the European Parliament?

Mr Tygesen: It was only a fortnight ago that this visit took place, and I am not acquainted with any specific action which resulted from it. But I would also remind the questioner that we are speaking here of a country which does not have a tradition of advancing in leaps and bounds. It is a country in which — as I said earlier — the process unfolds very slowly and, if we want the process to continue in the direction we desire, we have to sustain our pressure.

Mr Habsburg (PPE): I should first like to thank the Council representative for his wise words on the deep sense of constant pressure and then ask him if, in addition to the fully justified action being taken to enable the Jews to emigrate, where pressure can continue to be exerted, the Council could not draw greater attention to the fact that certain Christian denominations, such as the Baptists, are still being persecuted in the most inhumane manner, and if it would not be appropriate for us to exert pressure in such cases as well, if only to indicate a way to remedy the situation.

Mr Tygesen: I would say to Mr Habsburg that the entire CSCE process also comprises an element which is concerned with religious freedom and that this points precisely in the direction you ask about. On the second point I would say that I think we should see the entire Vienna Conference in this perspective as the place at which we maintain our pressure on the Soviet Union for more humanitarian conditions.

Mr Duetoft (PPE): I should like to ask Mr Tygesen whether the Foreign Ministers have considered making better adherence to the Helsinki Accords a condition for increased cooperation between the EEC and COMECON and/or the EEC and the Soviet Union.

Mr Tygesen: The way Mr Duetoft puts his question obliges me to say: No, we have not conducted negotiations on those lines. As Mr Duetoft is no doubt aware, it has taken the Soviet Union an incredible number of years to recognize that the Community exists. When the Soviet Union realized that the Community was a living reality which needed to be recognized, we entered into negotiations on that basis on the mutual recognition of the Community on the one hand and COMECON on the other hand, and that is a process which has taken its own course. But, as may be noted from the other answers I have given, we keep up our pressure on the Soviet Union, independently of this process, to guarantee more human conditions for the country's own citizens and to honour in full the promises it has made of its own accord and which it must therefore fulfil.

87/427. Question No H-515/87 by Mr Ulburghs Concerning the Continuing Imprisonment of Hélène Passtoors in South Africa

Date of Issue: 28 October 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

At the start of September, the Dutch national Klaas De Jonge was released in an exchange of prisoners. His former wife, Helene Passtoors, is still serving a ten-year gaol sentence in South Africa, however. I am strongly inclined to believe that the Belgian Foreign Ministry has done its utmost to do nothing.

Cannot, therefore, the Foreign Ministers meeting in European political cooperation take concerted action to compel South Africa to release Helene Passtoors at long last?

Mr Tygesen, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: My answer will be very brief because the matter raised by the Honourable Member was not discussed in European political cooperation. I should add that the party most directly concerned, and the questioner knows very well who that is, has informed his national parliament on the matter. I cannot say any more about this.

Mr Ulburghs (NI): Does the President-in-Office of the Council take the view that Hélène Passtoors has committed punishable acts, and what representations does he intend to make to the Foreign Minister in Belgium with a view to obtaining her release?

Mr Tygesen: I find it invidious to be questioned in this manner because I am not familiar with Ms Passtoors' case. It does not behove me as President-in-Office to have an opinion on the matter. When I am asked about the matter in this way it is as though the answer, which I am of course bound to give, conveys indifference. We are not indifferent, but it is not the Council's job to interfere in national affairs of this kind.

Mr McMahon (S): At the inaugural meeting, the Danish Presidency informed the House they were going to take a vociferous stand against apartheid in South Africa. What representations has the Council made about the state of emergency in that country? Has it campaigned for the release of Nelson Mandela and some of the other detainees? What action has it taken to safeguard Community citizens such as the Cabisco Trust which was set up with Community funds? The priest who organized it had his office raided and his files searched by the South African secret police. What action will the Council take to safeguard investments for humanitarian reasons voted by the Community in the Republic of South Africa?

Mr Tygesen: This question is such a long one that it is hardly possible to deal with it in this format. Certain steps have been taken on human rights questions, under the Danish Presidency too, and certain limited sanctions have also been applied. Finally, a number of positive measures have been adopted designed to ease conditions for the victims of apartheid. It is really the best answer I can give at the present time. I cannot go into detail on the very specific questions which have been put to me.

87/428. Question No H-189/87 by Mr Arbeloa Muru Concerning the Investigation into the Events of June 1986 in Peru

Date of Issue: 28 October 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

Have the Foreign Ministers meeting in European political cooperation asked the Peruvian authorities to make a full investigation into the human rights violations committed during and after the prison riots of June 1986 and, above all, to explain the 'disappearance' of the prisoners of *El Frontón*? Have the Ministers asked the Peruvian Government to guarantee the safety of all prisoners still being held in secret, to order a thorough investigation into the 'discovery' of more bodies, to carry out exhaustive and independent forensic examinations, and to enquire into the causes and circumstances of the deaths?

Mr Tygesen, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: This is what I might call a 'repeater', and I have to refer the Honourable Member to the answer given to his Written Question No 3029/86¹. To do a little more than simply refer to the old answer, I can say that the report of the independent committee on the El Frontón circumstances will, according to our information, be available at the beginning of November.

87/429. Question No H-374/87 by Mr Pearce Concerning Disinvestment in South Africa

Date of Issue: 28 October 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

Do the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation agree with the recent statement by Dr Oscar Dhlomo, Secretary-General of Inkatha, the political arm of the Zulu people in South Africa, criticizing

EPC Bulletin, Doc. 87/346.

Western countries disinvesting in South Africa as having benefited from the apartheid system hitherto and taking their profits with them; do they agree with Dr Dhlomo's call to companies to stay on as 'our comrades in the struggle to dismantle apartheid'?

Answer:

I would like to clarify the Twelve's joint position on investment in South Africa. We agreed last September on a ban on new investment in South Africa and this has been implemented.

Those European Community companies which have decided to disinvest or to withdraw from South Africa have done so of their own volition.

As far as the continued presence of European companies in South Africa is concerned, the Twelve believe the Code of Conduct for European companies with branches or subsidiaries in South Africa plays an important role in helping to generate a process of reform in South Africa, especially in the area of labour relations.

87/430. Question No H-545/87 by Mr Andrews Concerning the Support for Renamo by Member States

Date of Issue: 28 October 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

Have the Ministers acted on the Resolution Document B 2-1298/86 ¹ adopted by the Parliament on 11 December 1986, which demanded that all Member States cease giving any form of support to the Renamo movement, particularly by ceasing to give them refuge on their national territories?

Answer:

The Twelve do not give any support to Renamo. We have frequently condemned military actions undertaken in Mozambique by those opposed to the legitimate government. We have also made very clear, most recently in a statement issued on 3 June, that such violence aggravates the situation in Southern Africa and makes it more difficult to find a solution to the region's problems.

87/431. Statement in the First Committee of the UN General Assembly: Chemical and Bacteriological (Biological) Weapons¹

Date of Issue: 29 October 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Mr Jæger: I wish on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community to address agenda item 61 concerning chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons.

The Twelve are committed to the goal of reaching an early conclusion of an effective convention to outlaw chemical weapons for all time. We see the total elimination of these particularly repugnant weapons as one of the top priorities in the field of disarmament.

The multilateral negotiations on a Chemical Weapons Convention, which is one of the most urgent questions on the agenda of the Conference on Disarmament, have made significant progress since the

Resolution of 11 December 1986 on the situation of prisoners held hostage by Renamo in Mozambique, OJ No C 134 of 12 January 1987, pp. 134-135.

mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee was agreed upon in 1984. Intensive negotiations have taken place during this year's session of the Conference on Disarmament and the rolling text of a draft convention has been further elaborated.

The Twelve welcome the progress made in the Conference on Disarmament this year with regard to the vital element of incorporating a stringent verification regime in a convention. Solutions to sensitive political and complicated technical issues are still outstanding.

Members of the Twelve have contributed substantially to the negotiations on a multilateral convention. We hope that further constructive steps will make it possible to move closer towards an early agreement on a comprehensive, world-wide and effectively verifiable treaty embracing the total destruction of existing stockpiles of chemical weapons within an agreed time-frame.

The Twelve welcome the various ongoing discussions, including the talks between the United States and the Soviet Union on issues related to the prohibition of chemical weapons, including the question of verification. These discussions have positively contributed to the negotiating process in the Conference of Disarmament.

The urgent need for an effective global ban on chemical weapons has been clearly demonstrated by the reports on renewed use of chemical weapons in the conflict between Iran and Iraq. The Twelve are deeply concerned by the unanimous conclusions reached by the experts sent to the region by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, which were contained in the President of the Security Council's declaration of 14 May 1987.

This makes it clear that the dispositions of the 1925 Geneva Protocol have been repeatedly violated, despite pressing appeals from the Security Council and the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The Twelve, as expressed by the Foreign Ministers in their declaration of 25 May², strongly condemn these flagrant breaches. The Twelve maintain that it is the responsibility of the world community as a whole to ensure that the Protocol is respected and urgently appeal for an immediate end to the use of chemical weapons in the conflict involving these two countries.

While actively pursuing the objective of a global and effective convention and in an effort to reduce chemical weapons production and prevent as far as possible further proliferation of chemical weapons, Member States of the European Community have together with other countries imposed export control on certain compounds that could be misused for production of chemical weapons. National chemical industries have also been alerted to the possibilities of inadvertent assistance in the manufacture of chemical weapons.

The Twelve welcome the outcome of the Bacteriological Weapons Convention Review Conference Experts' Meeting held earlier this year in Geneva. It worked out a series of realistic confidence-building measures designed to help strengthen the Bacteriological Weapons Convention. These are practical and useful measures, which deserve the fullest support.

Several draft resolution texts have been submitted concerning the agenda item I am addressing. It is the hope of the Twelve that it will prove possible to obtain consensus on this very important subject.

87/432. Statement in the First Committee of the UN General Assembly: Review of the Role of the United Nations in the Field of Disarmament ¹

Date of Issue: 29 October 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Agenda item 61.

² EPC Bulletin, Doc. 87/189.

Mr Jæger: I wish to make some comments on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community on agenda item 62 [I], entitled: 'Review of the Role of the United Nations in the Field of Disarmament'.

The Twelve have continuously supported endeavours aimed at strengthening the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament, consistent with the purposes and principles of the Charter. We welcomed when this question was put on the agenda of the United Nations at the initiative of a group of African countries led by Cameroon at the 39th General Assembly. We support the draft resolution by Cameroon which is co-sponsored by some Members of the Twelve.

The twelve Member States of the European Community have submitted their detailed views on this important subject in document A/CN.10/69/Add.1. In our view serious efforts should be continued with the aim of organizing the work within the United Nations in the field of disarmament in a more efficient way.

The General Assembly and in particular the First Committee are central fora for the consideration of disarmament problems. In the First Committee all members of the United Nations can participate in the deliberations of disarmament issues and the contributions of a great number of States with different geographical, economic and security backgrounds give the work of the Committee a truly global character. It is, however, important that we look for solutions to create a work situation for the First Committee in which it can optimally perform its duty in helping the international community to achieve progress in the field of disarmament.

As it was pointed out in the statement by Denmark on behalf of the Twelve in the general debate on 13 October² the repetition over the years of resolutions has led to a proliferation of resolutions, which has increased the workload of this Committee close to the limit, where serious and careful considerations of the many proposals may no longer be possible. A continuation of this situation does undermine the credibility of the Committee. We should all make serious efforts to expand the area of meaningful consensus as this would increase the influence of this Committee, and the Twelve will continue to make active contributions to this end.

The subject was considered by the Disarmament Commission at its 1987 session and constructive proposals for a more effective organization of work of this Committee were discussed, but no agreement was reached. In this connection we would like to refer to the constructive proposals made by a Member of the Twelve at that session in working paper A/CN.10/99. We would further bring to your attention the work of the Group of Eighteen and their recommendations in document A/41/48, in which it is suggested *inter alia* that the agenda of the General Assembly should be rationalized by grouping or merging, to the extent possible, related items and by setting an interval of two or more years for the discussion of certain items. We also welcome the efforts undertaken by former and present chairmen and bureau members of the First Committee and other distinguished personalities.

The Twelve have noted with interest the recommendations concerning the work of the First Committee contained in the draft resolution tabled by Cameroon, which deserve our fullest consideration.

The Twelve consider that the Disarmament Commission makes a useful contribution to deliberations on disarmament problems, allowing for in-depth examination of specific issues which cannot be undertaken elsewhere. Members of the Twelve will continue to participate actively in the work of the UNDC.

The Member States of the European Community have always attached great importance to the work of the Conference on Disarmament as the permanent multilateral negotiating body. We consider that the earliest possible conclusion of a comprehensive, effectively verifiable ban on chemical weapons remains one of the most urgent priorities in the Conference on Disarmament. The successful conclusion of such a convention would make a direct and lasting contribution to international security and would greatly improve the authority of the Conference. We also hope to see the agreed enlargement of the Conference on Disarmament implemented at an early date.

In light of the financial problems of the United Nations it is more essential than ever that in all areas of United Nations activity on disarmament issues we should strive for the best possible use of resources and avoid unnecessary duplication of work. The Twelve see the Department for Disarmament Affairs as

having a primary co-ordinating role in this respect and appreciate very much the value of the work done by the Department. Studies conducted under United Nations auspices should be related to specific practical objectives and be the subject of proper consultation. The Secretary-General's Advisory Board has an important role in co-ordinating studies in order to avoid overlapping with other studies. We support the draft resolution tabled by some Members of the Twelve on the subject of United Nations disarmament studies.

In conclusion, the Twelve believe that the Third Special Session devoted to disarmament should consider the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament. Improvements in the United Nations handling of disarmament issues should enhance the possibilities of offering constructive and stimulating contributions to the new developments in the field of disarmament.

87/433. Explanation of Vote in the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly: Importance of the Universal Realization of the Right of Peoples to Self-Determination ¹

Date of Issue: 29 October 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Mr Chairman, I have asked for the floor on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community to make an explanation of vote on the draft resolution in document L.14 which is now before the Committee.

The Twelve condemn unequivocally the recruitment, use or financing of mercenaries, and we well understand the concerns which led to the submission of this proposal. The Twelve are nevertheless unable to support the text for reasons of both substance and principle.

We have listened carefully to the comments of the distinguished representative of Nigeria. Nevertheless, we continue to regret that the co-sponsors of this text have ignored the fact that this question is regularly on the agenda of the Sixth Committee. At a time of financial crisis for our Organization, it is particularly regrettable that, so far from working to rationalize the Assembly's business, the co-sponsors should be duplicating it.

We also regret that the co-sponsors have moved away from the consensus language which has been achieved in the past. In our view, this will again seriously undermine the chances of maintaining consensus on this question in the Sixth Committee. Nor will it facilitate the drafting of an international convention on this question in the *Ad Hoc* Committee, work in which the Twelve are actively participating.

The Twelve have particular difficulties with preambular paragraph 4, which purports to define and characterize the word 'mercenarism' when, not only is there no agreed definition of this term, but there is no general agreement that any such concept should form the basis of a convention.

In the continuing absence of even an agreed definition of a mercenary for the purposes of the draft Convention, the Twelve further regard it as inappropriate that a Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights has been appointed to deal with this question.

But we have even more profound objections to the framework in which this question is now being discussed. The question of mercenaries is primarily a matter concerning relations between States, rather than a human rights issue.

It is a matter of considerable regret to the Twelve that the co-sponsors have again been unwilling to listen to our concerns on the draft, and that the tradition in this Committee of wide consultation among all groups should again have been set aside. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Agenda item 62 [I].

² EPC Bulletin, Doc. 87/371.

Agenda item 91.

87/434. Statement in the Fifth Committee of the UN General Assembly: Budgetary Questions and Financial Problems ¹

Date of Issue: 29 October 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Mr Kastoft: Mr Chairman, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community.

This year's debate on the proposed programme budget is crucial in that not only do we have to agree on a programme budget for 1988-1989, but in doing so we must include in our deliberations the aim of enhancing the efficiency of the United Nations and we must do both in circumstances of the continuing financial crisis. We are grateful to the Secretary-General for personally introducing these items in the Fifth Committee as well as for his dedication to the effective functioning of the Organization. We also wish to thank the Chairman of the ACABQ and the Chairman of the CPC for their introductory statements at the outset of the debate.

At the very end of the 41st General Assembly, Mr Chairman, we, the member States, took an important step towards the strengthening of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations, in adopting Resolution 41/213. This was not an easy task and there is no doubt in our minds that many obstacles still lie ahead. But I wish to reaffirm the dedication of the Twelve to the reform process as well as our intention to do our utmost to carry this process through to a successful conclusion.

An important element in the reform process is the new budget procedure. Unfortunately, the preparation of the proposed programme budget had to be initiated before the resolution on the reform was adopted. Thus, those involved in preparing the proposed budget for 1988-1989 have had to face unusual difficulties and we could not immediately benefit from all the elements of the new budget procedure.

Furthermore, the CPC – in a development which we consider a set-back to the process of the reform set out in Resolution 41/213 – was not able to reach consensus on central issues like the overall budget figure and the modalities of the contingency fund. I would, furthermore, stress the importance the Twelve attach to reaching agreement also on this transitional budget, which will lead to greater predictability of contributions for the years 1988 and 1989. It is now up to the Fifth Committee to discuss the proposals of the Secretary-General concerning these issues with a view to arriving at the broadest possible agreement.

Another unusual difficulty for those preparing the proposed programme budget has been that the budget was proposed — and I quote the Secretary-General: 'during a period marked both by threats to the financial viability of the organization and by a reassessment of its role and activities'.

We, all the member States, also find ourselves in an unusual and difficult situation. Not only is the proposed budget transitional in nature. We also know that as the reform process gathers speed many of the initial budget estimates will have to be revised in the course of the budget period. To the extent that this is the case, the fascicles before us represent budgetary history rather than the budgetary future. The outcome of the work of the Special Commission set up by ECOSOC to study the structure and functioning of the intergovernmental machinery in the economic and social fields could also be important. Finally, the financial situation of the United Nations is at present anything but clear.

Mr Chairman, for a number of years the Member States of the European Community have advocated improvement in the presentation and format of the budget. We have noted some limited progress with respect to increased programmatic content in some of the fascicles. We accept that further progress this time was hampered by the unusual circumstances surrounding the preparation of the budget. We also note the proposal made by the CPC for improving the presentation of the priorities in the budget sections. We hope that due attention will again be given to this matter in the future.

Chapter B in the Secretary-General's introduction to the budget, entitled 'Significant Programmatic Aspects' calls for some remarks.

In noting the methodological changes incorporated in the proposed budget we note also the Secretary-General's assurance that the proposed budget is a complete inventory of the mandated activities.

We appreciate the Secretary-General's efforts to maintain mandated activities despite the reduced level of resources. We note that the volume of outputs has not been scaled down in proportion to the resource reductions for each programme. While the Secretary-General observes that the quality of some of these outputs may suffer from continued resource shortage, the Twelve hope that careful attention to priorities, tighter management and improved productivity will minimize any ill effects.

We note that the Secretary-General's proposals for the first time include two principal priorities for the proposed programme budget: African economic recovery and development, and the advancement of women. We are glad to see that in line with the new budgetary process set out in Resolution 41/213 provisions for temporary assistance for meetings at the three major conference centres of the United Nations have been included in the initial budget estimates, and that add-ons are not envisaged, provided there is no change in the proposed pattern of conferences. We further welcome the new procedure whereby activities of a perennial nature are included in the initial estimates. We note the basis on which the estimates are calculated, and the fact that the level of resources suggested is lower than in previous bienniums.

We have also noted with satisfaction that priority designations have now been provided for in an additional budget section, though there is still room for improvement. On the other hand, the list of programme outputs judged to be obsolete, of marginal usefulness or ineffective, and hence terminated on that basis, is disappointingly modest. Member States should in their own interest to an increasing extent be able to agree to terminate activities of low priority; this would provide increased flexibility for higher priority or new activities.

Mr Chairman, turning now to the financial aspects of the proposed programme budget I shall refrain from mentioning a lot of figures nor shall I undertake comparisons whose validity might be questioned at this stage.

When we try to assess the full meaning of the total expenditure estimates for 1988-89 we encounter a number of substantial difficulties. The Secretary-General's proposals on initial estimates are only a starting point. The ACABQ has recommended certain significant reductions. The impact of currency fluctuations is of course not predictable. Adjustments will also be necessary to reflect inflation changes. We will also have to consider revised estimates; there is, moreover, the possibility of the implementation of a contingency fund, something the Twelve would like to see.

However, Mr Chairman, the total expenditure estimates for 1988-89 proposed by the Secretary-General are lower than the revised appropriations for 1986-87, notwithstanding the provision for perennial activities normally excluded from initial proposals. Thus, the familiar trend of approving higher budget levels each biennium is, apparently, being reversed. As the Organization improves the efficiency of its administrative and financial functioning, in accordance with Resolution 41/213 we expect momentum in this new direction to be maintained as the Secretary-General's remarks in his foreword to the proposed programme budget indicate. The Twelve need hardly underline the importance they attach to increasing efficiency, which will allow all mandated activities to be carried out at a reduced cost to member States.

The lower level of expected expenditures is mainly due to the reduction in the size of the Secretariat in accordance with Resolution 41/213. But we note also with satisfaction the reduction in the estimated expenditures for travel and consultants, on which ACABQ has made further recommendations.

Mr Chairman, the report of the ACABQ on the proposed programme budget for 1988-89 is of great help in understanding many of the intricacies involved in the exercise we are now undertaking. The report also contains a number of recommendations. At this juncture we shall not comment on the recommendations pertaining to individual sections of the budget.

The ACABQ, however, has made a recommendation of a more general character related to recommendation 15 of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts, dealing with a substantial reduction in the number of staff members at all levels. The Secretary-General has already suggested an upward adjustment in standard turnover deduction rates. The ACABQ suggests a further upward

adjustment. In view of the existing vacancy rates as of now we find the recommendation by the ACABQ warranted. We have noted from the statement by the Chairman of ACABQ, that the across-the-board reductions under each section resulting from the increase in the turnover deduction are merely indicative.

Mr Chairman, many of us present here took part either as members or observers in the resumed 27th session of CPC last month. A good deal of attention was directed to the suggestion by the Secretary-General that it would be desirable to include in the programme budget for 1988-1989 a contingency fund at the level of 0.75 per cent of the initial programme budget. The Twelve regret that the Committee was not able to reach agreement on a recommendation to the General Assembly concerning this proposal. I shall not in this general statement discuss the pros and cons of this proposal or go into details with respect to what kind of expenditures should be financed by the fund. But let me make the following remarks:

We are all familiar with the decision in Resolution 41/213 establishing a contingency fund. We realize that there are a number of questions relating to the operation of a contingency fund which will have to be addressed before the fund can be implemented on a definitive basis. We have noted the comments of the ACABQ on this subject and recognize that it is important to give due consideration to the elaboration of the precise rules and procedures to govern the use of the contingency fund in order to complete full implementation of the new budgetary procedure in accordance with Resolution 41/213.

In his report A/42/225 the Secretary-General outlined for us a procedure that could be followed for the implementation and administration of such a fund for the forthcoming budget cycle 1988-89.

In the CPC proposals were made for the implementation of a contingency fund in the context of the biennium 1988-1989 on an experimental or *ad hoc* basis. This would have the advantage of allowing all of us to gain some experience with that admittedly complex part of the new budget procedure.

We believe that implementation of a contingency fund for the cycle 1988-1989 on an experimental basis and without prejudice to the future would be compatible with the orderly implementation of Resolution 41/213. The Twelve hope that our deliberations during this session of the General Assembly will lead to agreement — again without prejudice to the future — with respect to the modalities, which will have to be in place even for a contingency fund on an experimental basis.

We have noted, Mr Chairman, that the CPC reached agreement on the proposal to extend the current Medium-Term Plan by two years and we support that proposal.

Mr Chairman, the Secretary-General in his presentation of the proposed budget 1988-1989 devoted much time to the impact of the continuing financial uncertainty of the United Nations on good management generally and on the orderly implementation of Resolution 41/213. We fully share the Secretary-General's concern in this respect.

Attention has quite rightly been focused on the fact that two of the major contributors have failed seriously in meeting their assessed contributions. We regard the withholding of assessed contributions as a breach of Charter obligations. We have learned that one of them is now taking steps to correct this situation and we look forward to receiving precise information in this respect. We also look forward to hearing from the other major contributor similar news with respect to payment of its arrears and its contribution for 1987.

But these two major contributors are not the only ones whose payment performance should be mentioned. As the Secretary-General has pointed out, even now, shortly before the end of the year, only half of the member States have paid their 1987-assessments in full.

While we commend the small minority who pay early and in full, the rest of the membership must make an effort to improve their payment performance.

There is another aspect to the sad fact that many member States are not meeting their obligations. In current circumstances, the failure of so many member States, and amongst them major contributors, to pay in time means in fact that those member States who meet their obligations in time are carrying a larger share of the actual expenditure of the United Nations than is reflected in their assessed share.

Mr Chairman, I have already touched on certain aspects of the reform process initiated by Resolution 41/213. We welcome the energy and dedication of the Secretary-General in carrying out those parts of the reform process which lie within his competence. To put it in more popular terms: the Secretary-General has done his bit. It is now up to us member States to do our bit.

We realize of course that matters relating to item 41 – Reform Process – to item 116 – Programme Planning – and to item 43 – Current Financial Crisis – are closely linked to the budget proposal. It is our considered opinion that as soon as we have heard all statements in this general debate on the budget 1988-1989 we should proceed in the normal fashion to the first reading of the individual sections of that budget proposal.

The Secretary-General appealed to us — the Fifth Committee — to arrive at a decision on the content, scope and level of the biennial budget on the basis of the broadest possible agreement. We, the Twelve, pledge that we collectively and individually shall spare no effort to reach that goal.

The Secretary-General in his introduction also made forceful statements with respect to personnel matters. We will revert to these subjects under the appropriate item of our agenda.

More generally, I would reserve the right of the Twelve — whether jointly or individually — to take the floor in our further deliberations on the items under consideration. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

87/435. Questions No 2755/86 and No 804/87 by Mr Cot (S-F) Concerning the Planned US-EEC Anti-Terrorism Meeting and Plans for a Meeting Between the United States and the EEC on Measures to Combat Terrorism

Date of Issue: 30 October 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Questions of 27 February and 10 July 1987

Question No 2755/86:

There were recent reports in the press on a US initiative to hold a meeting in Rome of those responsible for the fight against terrorism. The meeting is said to have fallen through because of opposition from the French and British Governments.

- 1. Can the Ministers say whether the Community and the TREVI Group were involved in this initiative?
- 2. Do they think that cooperation in this field with non-Community States falls within the powers of the Community or of the Ministers meeting in political cooperation?

Question No 804/87:

The press recently referred to plans for a meeting to be held in Rome, at the initiative of the United States Government, of certain persons responsible for the anti-terrorism campaign. It was reported that these plans failed as a result of opposition from the British and French Governments.

- 1. Will the Foreign Ministers state whether the Community institutions and particularly the TREVI Group were involved in this initiative?
- 2. Do they believe that cooperation in this area with States outside the Community falls within the sphere of activities of the Community or the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation?

Answer:

The initiative referred to by the Honourable Member took place in an international forum separate from that of the Twelve, who in consequence were not involved in it.

Discussions with non-Community Member States on combating international terrorism are held in accordance with the procedures agreed by the Twelve within the framework of political cooperation and in meetings of Ministers in the TREVI Group.

¹ Agenda items 115, 116, 41, 43.

87/436. Question No 3030/86 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E) Concerning Torture in Afghanistan

Date of Issue: 30 October 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 30 March 1987

Are the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation aware of the Amnesty International report 'Afghanistan: Torture of Political Prisoners'?

Have the Ministers taken any action to prevent the tortures carried out by the KHAD in its interrogation centres, prisons and military garrisons?

Answer:

The Twelve are aware of the Amnesty International report referred to by the Honourable Member. They are following the human rights situation in Afghanistan with close attention.

For several years the United Nations Commission on Human Rights and the General Assembly have each year adopted, at the initiative of one of the Twelve, a resolution on this matter. In this resolution, co-sponsored by the twelve Member States, the United Nations states *inter alia* that it is deeply shocked and alarmed, in particular by the many violations of the right to life and to freedom and security of the individual, including the habitual practice of torture. As a follow-up to the resolution, the Commission on Human Rights designated a Special Rapporteur whose brief is to look at the human rights situation in Afghanistan with a view to making proposals towards ensuring the complete protection of the human rights of all the inhabitants of that country. The rapporteur was asked to make a report to the competent bodies. The Twelve play a very active part every year in the discussion of the report by the Special Rapporteur, Mr Ermacora.

Since Mr Ermacora has recently travelled to Afghanistan, having been given permission for the first time in four years to go there, the Twelve await with great interest the new report he is to submit to the General Assembly.

87/437. Question No 178/87 by Ms Lizin (S-B) Concerning Political Refugees

Date of Issue: 30 October 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 13 April 1987

Could the Foreign Ministers state how they intend to implement the principles of the Vetter report on political refugees' right of asylum?

Do the Ministers not consider that these principles are threatened in Belgium by the adoption of the Gol law on political refugees?

Answer:

The report referred to has not been forwarded to the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Member States meeting in political cooperation. At their meeting in Brussels on 28 April 1987, the Ministers for Justice and for the Interior of the European Community recalled the duty of Member States to receive persecuted people, and emphasized their desire to comply in full with the Geneva Convention relating to the status of refugees. They also considered that States could, on humanitarian grounds, grant residence to foreigners who do not satisfy the conditions laid down by that convention.

87/438. Question No 326/87 by Mr Pordea (DR-F) Concerning East-West Negotiations and European Security

Date of Issue: 30 October 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 6 May 1987

The negotiations on relations between the EEC and CMEA, the CSCE follow-up conference and the Soviet-US negotiations on the reduction of conventional forces (NATO-Warsaw Pact), have provided an opportunity to reaffirm the concern — on the Western side — to safeguard European security in order to consolidate peace.

Do the Foreign Ministers recognize, firstly, that the division of Europe following the Soviet occupation of the countries of Eastern Europe makes this prudent objective extremely difficult to achieve, and secondly, that the negotiations referred to above provide them with a number of opportunities to reaffirm explicitly — in the interests of security and peace — their solidarity with the peoples of Eastern Europe and their determination to work for their release from Soviet domination?

Answer:

The Twelve have on numerous occasions expressed their concern with regard to the consequences of the division of Europe, the result of a process begun after the end of the Second World War. Peacefully and with a long-term perspective, they have made a point of insisting on the common traditions and history of the countries of Eastern and Western Europe. Within the context of the CSCE in particular, the Twelve are taking action to overcome the consequences of the division of Europe. This is by no means an easy objective to attain, and is a long-term undertaking. The attitude of the Twelve towards the countries of Eastern Europe, taken both individually and as participants in the CSCE and other international fora, is informed by this approach. They never fail to reaffirm that respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms on the part of all the countries participating in the CSCE is an essential factor in ensuring peace and security, justice and well-being in Europe.

87/439. Question No 505/87 by Mr Robles Piquer (ED-E) Concerning Toledo as a Venue for the Dialogue on the Middle East

Date of Issue: 30 October 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 11 June 1987

The Spanish city of Toledo was one of the main centres of cultural influence in medieval Europe. It was the home of three great religions and cultures and played a key role in transmitting the scientific and cultural heritage of classical antiquity.

Do the Ministers meeting in political cooperation believe that Toledo would be a particularly appropriate place to hold the projected dialogue on the Middle East?

If Toledo were chosen this would certainly help combat the 'allure of oblivion' recently referred to in Toledo itself by Ms Simone Veil, Honorary President of the European Foundation of Science, Art and Culture.

Answer:

In their statement of 23 February 1987¹, the Twelve stated that they were in favour of an International Peace Conference on the Middle East to be held under the auspices of the United Nations.

At this stage the Twelve do not consider it appropriate to address the question of where such a Conference should be held.

87/440. Question No 881/87 by Sir Peter Vanneck (ED-UK) Concerning the Protection of Navigation in International Waters Through the Gulf

Date of Issue: 30 October 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 23 July 1987

What is the estimated cost to date of the deployment of British and French naval units in the Gulf for the protection of navigation in international waters since the start of the Iran-Iraq war? How does this statistic compare with the cost of the deployment of US naval forces for the same purpose since the outbreak of hostilities?

Answer:

The questions referred to by the Honourable Member fall outside the scope of European political cooperation, and should be addressed to the individual governments concerned.

87/441. Question No 968/87 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E) Concerning Imprisoned and Missing Persons in Peru

Date of Issue: 30 October 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 27 July 1987

Are the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation aware of the death, in February 1987, of an unarmed policeman and the imprisonment of 800 persons as a result of a wide-ranging operation carried out by the police in various Peruvian universities, and which has also led to 34 persons being accused of terrorism?

Can they shed any light on the fate suffered by Angel Francisco Pérez Ali, who was arrested in February of this year at the University of San Marcos in Lima and of whose whereabouts there is no news, and that of Dionisia Huamani Tineo, Humberto Orozco and Jesus Quispe, members of the farming community of Huhuapuquio, Cangallo, in Ayachucho province, who were arrested on 12 April by members of the army?

Answer:

The Twelve are following the human rights situation in Peru closely. They welcome President Garcia's commitment to observe human rights.

They have no information, however, on the specific cases raised by the Honourable Member.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 87/114.

87/442. Question No 1180/87 by Mr Glinne (S-B) Concerning the International Monetary Fund Loan to the Chilean Regime

Date of Issue: 30 October 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 1 September 1987

Some time ago the International Monetary Fund granted a three-year loan — said to be considerable — to the government with which Chile is afflicted. I should like to know whether the Twelve, meeting in political cooperation, have considered this matter in view of the recommendations expressed by the Chilean democratic opposition movement concerning the granting of such a loan under the present political circumstances. What is the size of this loan and what conditions are attached thereto, bearing in mind the requirements which the IMF generally imposes in respect of the heavily-indebted Latin American countries? What were the views expressed by those Member States which are senior partners in the IMF concerning the loan granted to Chile? Did they, on that occasion, express their concern at the nature of the current political regime and the need to replace it with a government based on the principle of democratic consensus?

Answer:

The Honourable Member's question has not been discussed in the context of European political cooperation.

87/443. Statement in the First Committee of the UN General Assembly: Objective Information on Military Matters¹

Date of Issue: 2 November 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Mr Korsgaard-Pedersen: Mr Chairman, I should like on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community to address some comments on agenda item 62 [B], 'Objective Information on Military Matters'.

The Twelve remain convinced that a better flow of objective information on military capabilities could help relieve international tension and contribute to the building of confidence among States on a global, regional or sub-regional level. It is at the same time an important prerequisite for the conclusion of verifiable arms control and disarmament agreements.

In the final document of the tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, the first Special Session devoted to disarmament, member States are encouraged to ensure a better flow of information with regard to the various aspects of disarmament.

The Twelve have consistently supported a freer and more open flow of useful and objective information on military matters. The need for a better flow of objective information on military capabilities is reflected in the draft resolution in document A/C.1/42/L.22 co-sponsored by some Members of the Twelve. We, of course, support that resolution. As part of the natural contribution by democratic governments to a free and open debate on military matters Member States of the Twelve have consistently implemented a wide variety of measures, whose aim is to contribute to the widest possible level of openness in military matters in general. Extensive objective and publicly available information on military matters is thus provided for in the Member States of the Twelve.

The adoption of measures contributing to greater openness and transparency helps to prevent misperceptions of the military capabilities and the intentions of others and constitut practical and concrete confidence-building measures of a military nature.

An important and valuable first step towards greater openness and transparency in this field is the international system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures, adopted under the auspices of the United Nations. The reporting matrix of the United Nations, established through General Assembly Resolution 35/142 [B] provides a universal framework, whereby States with different social and economic systems can supply information about their military expenditures in a comparable and non-prejudicial form. An increasing number of States have provided annual reports on military expenditures in conformity with the international system for the standardized reporting, as can be seen in the latest report of the Secretary-General on this issue.

We wish to reiterate the importance we attach to the completion of the reporting instrument by the broadest possible number of States, and in particular by the major military powers, but also by a variety of countries from different regions and with different budgeting and accounting systems.

The outcome of the Bacteriological Weapons Convention Review Conference experts' meeting held earlier this year in Geneva is a noteworthy contribution to the international endeavours to increase the flow of information in the disarmament field. The adoption of a number of measures for the exchange of information in matters related to the Convention will help enhance the implementation of the provisions of the Convention and contribute to strengthen its authority. This exchange of information includes data about laboratories and research centres, biological research related to the Convention and outbreaks of unusual diseases. The exchange of such information is a useful contribution to greater openness in military matters. It is also a significant confidence-building measure which deserves full support.

87/444. Statement in the First Committee of the UN General Assembly: Advisory Board on Disarmament Studies and United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research 1

Date of Issue: 2 November 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Mr Korsgaard-Pedersen: I would like to take the floor on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community in order to address agenda item 66 [D] and [E] concerning the Advisory Board on Disarmament Studies and the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research.

The Twelve have a long and consistent record of supporting the concept and objectives of the United Nations disarmament studies programme as we consider that United Nations studies can make a valuable contribution to the discussion and consideration of disarmament issues.

The twelve Members of the European Community have submitted their views and proposals on how the work of the United Nations in the field of disarmament studies can be further improved in response to General Assembly Resolution 41/866. I would like to refer to document A/42/363.

In its Resolution 40/152 [K], which was introduced by two members of the Twelve, the General Assembly, inter alia requested the Secretary-General to invite the Advisory Board on Disarmament Studies to prepare a comprehensive report on United Nations disarmament studies for submission to the General Assembly at its forty-second session. The Twelve are pleased to note that the Advisory Board was able to agree upon a report which is contained in document A/42/300 and welcome the comprehensive and detailed conclusions and recommendations proposed by the Board. In the introduction of the report, it is pointed out that the establishment of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research makes available new machinery that in appropriate circumstances provides useful opportunities for other ways of carrying out disarmament studies and research. As the Advisory Board on Disarmament Studies also acts as the Board of Trustees of UNIDIR, the report addresses the coordinating role that the Board might play in order to facilitate study and research activities. In this connection, and as also mentioned in the conclusions of the report, the question of careful selection of

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subjects for study and the matter of costs are of special importance, taking into account the increase in recent years of resolutions calling for studies. The recommendation made by the Board that member States are requested to present proposals for disarmament studies or research to the Secretary-General by 1 September annually is welcomed by the Twelve. On the basis of the proposals received, the Board should recommend whether a study should be carried out by a group of experts appointed by the Secretary-General, or as part of the ongoing work programme of UNIDIR, or as an additional task of UNIDIR requiring an allocation of funds by the General Assembly.

The Twelve have noted with satisfaction that the Board has found that it is important to maintain the consensus rule in the drafting of studies, but that this does not necessarily mean that there must be consensus on every sentence of a study. As also previously stated by the Twelve, there may be occasions on which it is preferable for differing views to receive equal weight and attention in the body of the report without the need to resort to the lowest common denominator of agreement at every point.

Before concluding, Mr Chairman, I would like to express the support of the Twelve of the draft resolution in document A/C.1/42/L.60 tabled by some Member States of the Twelve.

Mr Chairman, the Twelve welcome Mr Jayantha Dhanapala as new Director of the Institute. In chapter III of the report of the Secretary-General regarding the Advisory Board and the UNIDIR (A/42/61I) it is stated that the circumstances of the former Director of UNIDIR, Mr Liviu Bota, have remained unchanged since the submission of the Board's previous report. The Twelve would like to recall that we have taken and maintain to have a strong interest in the case of Mr Bota and support the continuing efforts of the Secretary-General to bring this matter to a speedy and satisfactory conclusion.

87/445. Statement in the First Committee of the UN General Assembly: Relationship Between Disarmament and Development¹

Date of Issue: 2 November 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Mr Korsgaard-Pedersen: Speaking on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community, I should like to address the subject of the relationship between disarmament and development. For the Twelve, disarmament and development both constitute fundamental objectives. We would like to see military expenditure restrained to the levels justified by security needs and greater efforts to meet the demands for social and economic development. We share the widespread concern over the disproportion between arms expenditure and development efforts. The cost involved in the high levels of military expenditure all over the world is difficult to reconcile with the unacceptable conditions in which a significant proportion of the population of the globe now lives, particularly in the developing countries.

The consideration of the relationship between disarmament and development has for many years been on the international agenda. The convening of the international conference on the subject in August/September this year was, in our view, a significant event. The conference gave the international community an opportunity to address at a high political level the complex relationship between disarmament, development and security and to move towards a more substantial and comprehensive understanding of the subject matter.

The Twelve participated actively and constructively in that process, and we welcomed the fact that it proved possible to strike a balance that enabled the conference to adopt a final document by consensus. A document which *inter alia* states that

disarmament and development are two of the most urgent challenges facing the world today. They constitute priority concerns of the international community in which all nations — developed and developing, big and small,

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nuclear and non-nuclear — have a common and equal stake. Disarmament and development are two pillars on which international peace and security can be built.

The conference reaffirmed and expanded the international understanding of the crucial importance of the question of security in any detailed analysis of the relationship between disarmament and development; security understood as a concept encompassing social, humanitarian, environmental, developmental as well as military aspects.

The reference in the final document to the importance of greater openness, transparency, and confidence among nations to facilitating progress in both disarmament and development is, in our view, very pertinent. Likewise we welcome the recognition of the need for an improved data base on military expenditures and the call to this end for the broadest possible number of States to provide objective information on their military budgets using the standardized reporting system of the United Nations. We hope to see the implicit willingness that lay behind the acceptance of the relevant formulations in the action programme on these questions carried out, *inter alia*, through a larger participation in the reporting system and finding expression also in the work of the UNDC on the outstanding paragraphs of the guidelines for the reduction of military budgets. In the field of military spending, from the point of view of the Twelve, it could be useful to utilize the expertise of UNIDIR.

Mr Chairman, the relationship between disarmament and development is often seen, first and foremost, in the perspective of international financial reallocations. This, in our view, is a simplification. While we should all promote the transfer of any resources released through arms control and disarmament measures for economic and social development, especially in the developing countries, it should be recognized that disarmament measures will not automatically lead to savings, particularly in the short run.

The Twelve believe that the reallocation most likely to have an early impact on development is the reallocation at the national level of resources from the military to the civilian sector where the assessment of the local or regional security situation permits a country to move towards disarmament. It is a huge challenge to the world community to create conditions enabling the present negative relationship of arms build-up and unmet development to be turned into a positive interaction between security, disarmament and development.

We are encouraged that it is stated so clearly in the final document that disarmament and development are two distinct processes and that each should be pursued vigorously regardless of progress in the other. Thus, lack of progress in the disarmament field can never justify not living up to internationally agreed commitments in the development field. One of the achievements of the conference, therefore, was the focusing on the complexity of the relationship and the attempt to give a more comprehensive description of its dimensions.

The conference showed a remarkable will to compromise. The final document thus constitutes a delicate balance of differing interests and viewpoints. When receiving that document the General Assembly should bear this in mind. It is important to preserve what has been achieved.

87/446. Statement in the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly: Drugs¹

Date of Issue: 2 November 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Community and its Member States on item 104 concerning drugs.

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It should be obvious to everyone that drug abuse is a major problem for the world. In its report for 1986 the International Narcotics Control Board points out that drug abuse over the last two decades has shown a deplorable negative trend. Today virtually all countries in the world are affected. The illicit markets are growing and drugs are easily accessible. New and dangerous drugs have become available. With the pandemic spread of AIDS, abuse of drugs by injection poses new and serious dangers.

The main responsibility for action against drugs rests with the *individual countries*. Every country has an obligation to prevent illegal production, distribution and consumption of drugs. There must be adequate legislation and effective action by police and customs against illegal production, refining, trafficking and pushing of drugs. Producer and transit countries bear a special responsibility. It is also essential to have national programmes for care and rehabilitation of drug abusers. Equally important are preventive measures such as information campaigns and social programmes aiming at the elimination of the social background for drug abuse. Reduction of demand for drugs is an essential element of drug policy.

National efforts are not enough. Drugs do not stop at borders. There is an obvious need for extensive *international cooperation* to combat drug abuse and trafficking both at the regional and the global level.

For more than forty years the *United Nations* has been engaged in attempts at *the global level* to combat drug abuse and trafficking. Important progress has been made. The Single Convention on Narcotics was adopted in 1961. In 1971 it was supplemented by the adoption of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances.

We are now in the process of preparing a new draft convention on illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. The Twelve welcome this work. We think that the draft puts emphasis on exactly those areas where increased efforts are most needed. I am referring to search, seizure and confiscation not only of drugs but also of profits from illegal trade, better arrangements to ensure prosecution of drug traffickers wherever in the world they commit their crimes and arrangements for better cooperation between law enforcement and judiciary authorities. The Twelve will continue to play an active and constructive role in the efforts to complete the draft as soon as possible. But we realize that the task at hand is not an easy one. There is a need for careful drafting. The convention will be effective only if it is accepted by a large number of countries.

The drafting expert group which is currently working on the draft convention has just met in Vienna. We understand that the group has made good progress at this meeting. For instance, it appears that the group for the present has reached an agreement on the provisions in the draft which would oblige States parties to make the receiving of proceeds from drug trafficking a criminal offence. However, as the matters dealt with in the draft convention are very complex and affect in various areas the different national legal systems in an important and in some cases fundamental way, the group has not yet been able to finish their examination of the draft.

In consequence, a new meeting should be scheduled to be held within existing resources at the beginning of 1988, just before the 10th special session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. As for the further work on the drafting of the convention, the Twelve find that any decision on the timetable for the completion of the draft convention should be left to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its 1988 session.

Last summer the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking was held in Vienna. The Twelve are very pleased with the outcome of the conference. The success was to a considerable extent due to competent and careful preparation by the Secretariat, but the success would not have been possible without the impressive spirit of cooperation which was shown by the participating countries.

The Twelve found it very encouraging that it was possible for the conference to adopt a unanimous declaration on areas deserving special priority in our efforts to combat drug abuse. We see this declaration as an expression of a growing political will to face the menace of drug abuse and eventually take the measures which are required for its elimination. The declaration expressed the increased priority which the international community attaches to the fight against drug abuse, with the United Nations seen as a forum for international cooperation of growing importance. We support the declaration in its request to the Secretary-General to propose in the context of the programme and budget and within available

resources how the priority attached to the field of drug abuse control can best be carried out. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs should examine the most suitable modalities for following up these activities, as appropriate, at the international level.

The Twelve consider that the declaration deserves to receive more attention in the future from governments, non-governmental organizations and the mass media. The public awareness of the dangers of drugs is an important component of the strategy to fight them.

Despite the differing traditions and concepts of law among the many participating States the conference succeeded in adopting also an extensive compendium of proposals for future action. This Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline contains in a balanced and comprehensive manner recommendations concerning all important drug issues, that is, preventive education, illicit demand reduction, eradication of illicit sources of raw materials, control of production, distribution and consumption and rehabilitation of abusers and their social integration. It will be a very important task for the United Nations and the member States to see how far it will be possible in the coming years to translate these suggestions into concrete cooperation and action. The Twelve welcome the efforts of the Secretary-General to improve the coordination within the United Nations system pertaining to activities related to narcotic drugs. We expect that this coordination will take place bearing in mind the specialist functions in this field and ECOSOC Resolution 1987/29.

The Member States, too, will have to take the ideas and proposals contained in the programme into consideration in their future drug policy. The authorities involved in drug policy at the national level are numerous. They may have to adjust to new needs and strengthen their cooperation in the light of the ideas which have emerged from the Vienna Conference.

The Secretary-General has recently issued a report on the conference. The Twelve welcome this report and appreciate the comprehensive picture it gives of the many ideas discussed at the conference. We expect a substantive discussion of its proposals at the next session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, which is the focal organ within the United Nations in the elaboration and implementation of policies regarding drugs.

In the preparation of new activities one should not forget the important work already going on in the existing drugs agencies. The importance attached by the Twelve to the work of [the] United Nations Fund for Drugs Abuse Control is well expressed in our financial contributions. Currently Member States are considering to strengthen their support for projects aiming at better control of production and abuse of drugs.

We should also remember the International Narcotics Control Board. It plays an important role in assessing the problems relating to drug abuse and trafficking and monitoring the implementation of the existing conventions on narcotic drugs.

Last but not least, I would like to mention the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. Since it was established in 1946 it has performed an important policy-making role in the field of drugs. Undoubtedly, this role will become even more important in the future, particularly in following up the work of the conference in Vienna. The expertise which the Commission can offer is needed in our common efforts within the United Nations.

Mr Chairman, after these comments on the work of the United Nations in the field of drugs, I should like to offer some remarks on *regional cooperation*. It is our experience that much can be accomplished at the regional level.

The broadest forum for European cooperation on drugs is the so-called *Pompidou Group*, which is established under the Council of Europe. Members of this group are the twelve members of the European Community and five other European countries. The Pompidou Group met at ministerial level in London in January of this year. The group adopted a comprehensive plan for further cooperation. Let me mention four points of particularly high priority:

First: effective implementation of legislation to confiscate the proceeds of drug trafficking,

Second: improved coordination of controls including maritime surveillance,

Third: role of the media in shaping attitudes against abuse and

Fourth: exchange of information on the effects of methadone in treatment.

In addition, the twelve Member States of the European Community have established the so-called *TREVI Group*. It consists of the ministers and senior civil servants responsible for the police in the twelve countries. They attach high priority to the fight against drug-related crime. At a TREVI Group meeting in April of this year the ministers decided that all twelve Member States should have immediate access to the service of the drug-liaison-officers which are presently posted in third countries. We are now preparing a convention on further development of this kind of cooperation among the Twelve. We expect this convention to be ready for adoption by the TREVI Group at the next meeting of ministers in Copenhagen later this year.

In addition to this cooperation in the framework of the TREVI Group, the Twelve have also made some practical arrangements to facilitate existing efforts to combat drug abuse. Our diplomatic representatives abroad cooperate closely on reporting regarding production and abuse of drugs in afflicted parts of the world.

The European Community and its Member States have initiated a dialogue with developing countries, which are producers or consumers of drugs, as well as with their regional organizations for cooperation, on national and regional strategies concerning the combat against illegal production and abuse of drugs. The Community is also responding to urgent needs for cooperation expressed by those developing countries most concerned. This cooperation is in conformity with the principles and decisions on the Community's policy on development aid. The projects in our development programmes are, where appropriate, designed with the drug problem taken into consideration. In 1987, the budget of the Community contains for the first time an experimental allocation amounting to the equivalent of approximately \$ 6 million, which are aimed at measures and programmes in the field of reducing illegal drug production, *inter alia* through crop replacement programmes and diversification of the agricultural sector. We also cooperate and coordinate with other donors, in particular the United Nations Fund for Drugs Abuse Control, on the basis of a memorandum of understanding signed in Vienna on 9 June 1987.

Mr Chairman, the Twelve make these points to illustrate that we are determined to add our collective weight to the struggle against drugs in which we represent only a few of the participants. We recognize and are deeply impressed by the efforts others are making. We warmly welcome the efforts of certain producer countries, often in very difficult circumstances, to expand crop eradication activities and promote alternative means for poppy and coca farmers to earn their living. And we also welcome the increasingly firm commitment of governments at the highest level to attacking the problem of trafficking.

In conclusion, Mr Chairman, I would like once again to stress the importance of the item under discussion. Drug abuse leads to human misery of unknown dimensions. It is our common interest to fight it as best we can. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

87/447. Statement in the First Committee of the UN General Assembly: Third Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament¹

Date of Issue: 3 November 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Mr Korsgaard-Pedersen: On behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community I would like to speak on agenda item 64 concerning the third Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament

The Twelve welcome the decision by the General Assembly to convene a third Special Session devoted to disarmament and we support the draft resolution in document L.68 tabled on the subject. We have participated actively in the work of the Preparatory Committee and look forward to the coming Special

¹ Agenda item 104.

Session as a significant opportunity for a balanced and constructive deliberation with a view to widening the mutual understanding among member States on all the main questions related to the disarmament process.

The third Special Session will take place within the framework of a constructive international dialogue and at a time when the intensive bilateral negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union have given rise to expectations that real progress may be achieved in the reduction of nuclear arsenals. The third Special Session will be an opportunity for the General Assembly to evaluate, on behalf of the world community, the state of affairs in the current arms control and disarmament negotiations and to contribute in a constructive and positive manner to this process. Multilateral negotiations and deliberations are supplementary and complementary to the bilateral process. We hope that the Special Session will confirm the unique and central role of the United Nations as a forum for debate, reflecting world opinion and stimulating new ideas related to disarmament.

We should be conscious that though the prospect of a real breakthrough in arms control and disarmament negotiations seems within near reach, this will only cover part of the large spectrum of disarmament topics on the international agenda. The third Special Session will need careful and thorough preparations. The task before us is by no means an easy one. It will demand a realistic approach as well as flexibility and commitment to ensure the overall success of the session.

The final document of the first Special Session devoted to disarmament represents the most comprehensive document on disarmament ever adopted by consensus by the international community. The General Assembly at its third Special Session should reaffirm the validity of this document. Its recommendations and decisions should provide an important basis for the work at the Special Session.

While it would be natural to have a review of the implementation of the results of the previous Special Sessions as well as an assessment of recent developments, the principal part of the considerations at the third Special Session should, in our view, be to explore ways and means of widening the area of consensus with the aim of drawing up a list of practical and realistic measures and actions designed to contribute to disarmament. The areas to which a Special Session on disarmament might devote its attention are many. The Twelve believe, however, that the best result will be achieved if the considerations are concentrated upon carefully selected subjects. Our firm hope is that the deliberations at the third Special Session should be realistic and aim at concluding a final document to which all delegations can fully subscribe.

It will be of importance for the success of the third Special Session that the discussion be guided by a forward-looking result-oriented approach.

The Twelve will contribute in a positive and constructive manner to a successful outcome of the Special Session, which will be a significant contribution to the disarmament debate.

87/448. Statement at the Plenary Session of the UN General Assembly: Question of Namibia 1

Date of Issue: 4 November 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark

European Community.

Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Mr Bierring: Mr President, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the twelve Member States of the

It is a sad fact that the Question of Namibia remains on the agenda of the United Nations. The territory has been an acknowledged international responsibility since the time of the League of Nations and has been before the United Nations virtually since its inception. Despite considerable efforts by the

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international community to bring Namibia to independence the people of the territory are still prevented from exercising their right to self-determination. The Twelve share the grave concern and frustration felt by the international community at the long lasting impasse over Namibia's future.

The responsibility of the United Nations – and in particular the Security Council – for Namibia's independence has been clearly established. Security Council Resolutions 385 (1976) and 435 (1978), as confirmed by subsequent resolutions of the Council, remain the essential basis for a lasting solution. The Settlement Plan endorsed by Resolution 435 (1978) embodies the only internationally acceptable framework for Namibian independence through free and fair elections under the supervision and control of the United Nations.

Over the years the policy of the Twelve on the question of Namibia has been clear and unequivocal. The Twelve have repeatedly condemned South Africa's illegal occupation of Namibia and demanded that it be brought to an end. We firmly believe that the people of Namibia must be allowed to exercise their right to self-determination and remain committed to a peaceful solution through the implementation, without preconditions or pretext, of the provisions of the Settlement Plan. We note with deep concern that South Africa has chosen to maintain its illegal occupation of Namibia and in so doing to delay the implementation of Security Council Resolution 435 (1978) which has been accepted *inter alia* by the South African Government and the South-West African People's Organization (SWAPO).

The Twelve once more urge the Government of South Africa to cease its illegal occupation of Namibia immediately and to cooperate in the implementation of the Settlement Plan. We categorically reject any unilateral move by South Africa to transfer power in Namibia contrary to the Settlement Plan. In particular, the Twelve consider as null and void the establishment by the South African authorities of a so-called transitional government in Namibia in violation of Security Council Resolution 435 (1978). That resolution does not authorize the South African Government to delegate its responsibilities in the implementation of the Settlement Plan in any way. Any unilateral South African manœuvre designed to circumvent the United Nations or exclude the United Nations from the settlement process is unacceptable. Similarly, the Twelve do not accept that the Settlement Plan should be delayed or set aside for extraneous reasons or for arrangements inconsistent with Resolution 435 (1978).

While maintaining its illegal occupation of Namibia in defiance of the international community South Africa continues its policy of repression against the people of Namibia and its aggression against neighbouring States. Within Namibia itself South Africa is pursuing its policy of intimidation and oppression. Apartheid is still enshrined in the legislation in force in the territory and serious abuses of basic human rights and fundamental freedoms continue to take place. The Twelve particularly deplore the practice of arbitrary arrests and detention without trial, including the arrest of a number of SWAPO and trade union leaders in August this year, and forced conscription of Namibian adults into the occupation army.

The Twelve strongly condemn South Africa's armed incursions into neighbouring States, particularly those launched from Namibian territory into Angola. South Africa's policy of destabilization, including the use of direct or indirect armed actions against neighbouring States, seriously undermines peace and stability in the region. It makes even more necessary the maintenance of the general and primary duty of the United Nations to promote peaceful solutions in conformity with the Charter, thus avoiding any encouragement of the use of force.

Mr President, for our part, the Twelve will continue to press South Africa to cooperate in finding peaceful solutions to the problems of the region in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations, to terminate its illegal occupation of Namibia, and to cooperate in the early implementation of Security Council Resolution 435 (1978). The European Community and its Member States remain ready to assist in the development of a free and independent Namibia. Meanwhile, we will continue our aid to the Namibian people, in particular through our support for the United Nations Institute for Namibia.

Since 1978 strenuous efforts have been made by the Secretary-General and his Special Representative, the Contact Group, the Front-Line States and SWAPO to achieve the implementation of the Settlement Plan. The Twelve will continue to give their strong support for these efforts and hope that the endeavours of the Secretary-General and his Special Representative will finally result in a just and lasting solution. In

this context we welcome the adoption of Security Council Resolution 601 (1987) and hope that the Secretary-General's negotiations to arrange a cease-fire will meet with success.

Namibia's independence is long overdue and the world community must spare no effort to bring peace and freedom to this troubled territory. Thank you, Mr President.

87/449. Explanation of Vote in the Special Political Committee of the UN General Assembly: United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)¹

Date of Issue: 4 November 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Mr Chairman, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community.

During the debate the Twelve have expressed their firm support for UNRWA and its indispensable work on behalf of Palestinian refugees. The fact that we have in a few cases not been able to vote in favour of the resolutions just adopted by this Committee should in no way detract from this positive stand.

Our positions on the draft resolutions are well known to the Members of this Committee. However, we do wish to comment on L.14 [I] relating to the protection of Palestinian refugees, on which the Twelve have abstained.

The Twelve are deeply concerned about the safety and security and juridical and human rights of the Palestinian refugees. While the Twelve thus support the general aim of L.14 they have chosen to abstain since the resolution does not, in our view, present a fully balanced picture of the situation of the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, whose suffering is a result of a complex reality and cannot be ascribed to a single factor.

Regarding operative paragraph 2 of L.14 the Twelve consider it improper to place on the Secretary-General a responsibility of guaranteeing the safety of the refugees. Furthermore, it is important to avoid bringing into question Israel's responsibility as an occupying power with regard to the civilian population.

Finally, Mr Chairman, concerning the financial situation of UNRWA, I would like to reiterate what was said in the statement of the Twelve during the debate, namely that in spite of an improvement during the past year, funding for the construction programme remains insufficient and the outlook for 1988 is uncertain. For this reason we question the advisability of placing unrealistic demands on the Commissioner-General even though on a humanitarian and political basis we support the development of the various services that UNRWA may extend to Palestinian refugees. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

87/450. Statement in the Special Political Committee of the UN General Assembly: International Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space¹

Date of Issue: 5 November 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

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Mr Poulsen: Mr Chairman, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community.

The Twelve attach great importance to the international cooperation within the framework of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. Eight Member States of the Community are full members of the committee which, in our view, has made outstanding contributions to the formulation of a solid framework of principles to govern space activities.

Over the last 26 years the committee has produced a series of international legal instruments covering space activities — the most notable being the Outer Space Treaty of 1967, which constitutes the fundamental instrument of space law and establishes the basic principles observed by all States in their space activities. Among its important provisions are the principles that space is free for use by all countries and not subject to national appropriation, that space activities shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interest of all countries, and that nuclear weapons may not be placed in orbit around the earth. Nevertheless, the committee will undoubtedly have to address many difficult legal issues, old as well as new, in the future. The development of new rules regarding the peaceful utilization of outer space can only be carried out on the basis of an intensive and constructive international cooperation which has the support of the entire international community.

The exploration of outer space constitutes an impressive challenge to humanity. It has already brought important scientific and technological advances and continues at a pace that requires an intensification of the level of international cooperation in this field. Given the international nature of outer space, many space activities, such as satellite communications, require international coordination. Moreover, a number of space operations have better chances of success or can be carried out with fewer resources if they are the subject of international cooperation. Given the magnitude of many space operations, most countries will not be able to participate in the exploration or various peaceful uses of outer space unless in cooperation with other countries. For this reason it is essential that all States cooperate actively so as to ensure the maximum benefit to all.

We welcome the recognition by the committee at its session in New York earlier this year of the need to maintain outer space for peaceful purposes and the agreement within the committee that this could be achieved through a strengthening of the international cooperation in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space. The committee also noted that this could be done through multilateral, regional and bilateral cooperative efforts and through the promotion of specific projects to assist all countries, in particular developing countries.

As regards the substantial items under discussion, the Twelve believe that the elaboration of principles relevant to the use of NPS in outer space continues to be an important task for both sub-committees. While taking note of the fact that so far there has been no agreement on the choice of a new item for the Legal Sub-Committee the Twelve are prepared to discuss any constructive proposal for a new item. They consider the maintenance of consensus to be of prime importance and appeal to all to cooperate to achieve this.

The maintenance of a fruitful climate within the committee and its two sub-committees and the adherence to efficient and practical modes of cooperation is essential if success is to be achieved. It is important, particularly in light of [the] present financial difficulties within the United Nations system, to increase our efforts to organize the discussions as efficiently as possible. The proposals which have been made by some member States in this regard require further consideration.

With regard to proposals for the establishment of new institutions, the Twelve are of the view that instead of creating new and potentially costly bureaucratic machinery the possibilities of existing mechanisms of international cooperation should be further reviewed and discussed within COPUOS.

It is also important that the committee is allowed to concentrate its efforts on questions within its competence. While the Twelve acknowledge that there is a general desire to avoid an arms race in outer space we do not believe that a discussion of this issue in COPUOS is appropriate. There exist within the United Nations bodies specifically designed to deal with disarmament questions such as the First Committee of the General Assembly and the Conference on Disarmament. In this as well as in many other cases a cause is ill-served by being subjected to overlapping discussions in a variety of bodies, whose areas of competence are in fact distinct and clearly separated.

The twelve Member States of the European Community have committed themselves firmly to international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space. Over the years we have engaged in numerous space programmes. Some of these have involved countries outside our region and certain programmes have been particularly designed to meet the needs of developing countries. We intend to continue these efforts in order to enhance international cooperation which will become even more essential in the future as the scientific and technological challenges are bound to become more complex. Hopefully, the wisdom of this approach will be appreciated by future generations who are likely to benefit from the kind of very long-term investments that are required in this field. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

87/451. Statement in the Plenary Session of the UN General Assembly: Question of Namibia ¹

Date of Issue: 6 November 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community to the draft resolutions now before the General Assembly.

A number of familiar but controversial elements remain in the increasingly lengthy draft resolutions before us. We are concerned, firstly, at the unbalanced approach taken by the Council for Namibia in initiating certain activities and, secondly, at the introduction of a number of paragraphs which are of doubtful relevance to the central aim of securing Namibia's independence. The introduction of such elements makes unanimous approval of the draft resolutions by the General Assembly impossible. Indeed, it risks accentuating divisions among the membership of the United Nations when there is, more than ever, a need to mobilize the full support of the international community in pursuit of the common goal of internationally recognized independence for Namibia.

The Twelve cannot endorse calls for member States to render increased military assistance for SWAPO as a means of bringing Namibia to independence. Similarly, we cannot agree to lend our support to armed struggle as a means to this end, in spite of the impatience and frustration felt by the Namibian people owing to South Africa's continuing occupation of their country. In the view of the Twelve the general and primary duty of the United Nations is to promote peaceful solutions in conformity with the Charter, thus avoiding any encouragement of the use of force.

The Twelve consider that under the provisions of the Settlement Plan, the constitution of an independent Namibia must be worked out by a constituent Assembly appointed as a result of elections in which all political groups are able to participate. None of these groups should therefore be designated in advance as the sole and authentic representative of the Namibian people.

The Twelve wish to reaffirm their commitment to the principle of universality of membership of the United Nations. We cannot accept that it should be called into question or that the autonomy of the international financial institutions should be compromised. The total isolation of South Africa would, in our view, hinder efforts to secure the implementation of the United Nations Settlement Plan.

The Twelve reject any arbitrary and selective singling out of individual countries or groups of countries.

Our respect for the division of competence among the main bodies of the Organization remains unchanged. The Security Council alone is authorized to take decisions binding upon member States.

I must also register our concern at the financial implications of some of the draft resolutions now before us. A more thorough scrutiny of the programme of work of the Council for Namibia would have enabled the financial implication to be reduced, without endangering the goals we all seek. As with any new expenditure in the current financial situation the position will need to be carefully monitored in the light of developments.

¹ Agenda item 76.

As we have already stated, we remain firmly and unequivocally committed to the independence of Namibia. The illegal occupation of Namibia by South Africa must be brought to an end. The only acceptable basis for a peaceful and lasting solution to the problem is the implementation without preconditions or pretext of Security Council Resolutions 385 (1976) and 435 (1978). The Settlement Plan endorsed by the second of these resolutions — which has been accepted both by the Government of South Africa and by SWAPO — embodies the only universally accepted framework for a peaceful transition to independence in a manner which is guaranteed to be free and fair. We wish to see the plan implemented without delay and in its entirety, so that the Namibian people can move forward to the internationally recognized independence which is their due. Thank you, Mr President.

87/452. Statement at the Plenary Session of the UN General Assembly: Situation in Afghanistan¹

Date of Issue: 9 November 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Mr Bierring: Mr President, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community.

The issue before us today is a tragic reminder of one of the most serious violations of the Charter of the United Nations. The large scale military intervention by the Soviet Union in Afghanistan in 1979 represented the beginning of an era of unprecedented hardship and suffering for the Afghan people.

The Soviet occupation has continued for nearly eight years. The Afghan people are still deprived of their fundamental human and political rights by a regime set up and kept in power by military force. An overwhelming majority in the General Assembly has each and every year condemned the occupation and called for the immediate withdrawal of all foreign troops and a negotiated settlement which would make it possible to restore to Afghanistan its independent and non-aligned status.

For many years the Soviet Union has turned a deaf ear to the clearly expressed demands of the international community that it should end the occupation. Recently, there have been some indications of a more open and flexible attitude. We welcome indications that the Soviet Union would like to find an early political solution. But we have yet to see deeds to match these words. More than 110 000 Soviet troops remain in Afghanistan against the will of the Afghan people. Their military operations are not confined to Afghanistan itself. Attacks on Pakistani territory, including the refugee camps, have continued and escalated; and we have recently seen a campaign of terrorist incidents in Pakistan.

The Twelve once more urge the Soviet Union to agree to a rapid and complete withdrawal of their troops according to an irrevocable timetable. We utterly condemn the continued bombings of Pakistani territory which constitute a clear threat to peace and stability in the region as a whole.

The Soviet Union must realize by now that the war it is waging in Afghanistan cannot be won. Despite the hardship and human misery endured during the occupation there is no sign of any weakening of the resolve on the part of the Afghan people. In fact, the reverse is true, as recent developments on the military front have shown. The alliance of resistance parties formed two years ago continues to inform the international community of what is taking place inside Afghanistan.

The endurance of the Afghan people during eight years of indiscriminate warfare is indeed admirable. Over one million Afghans have died. As the occupying forces attempt to suppress a most courageous resistance, innocent men and women continue to lose their lives and homes. Brutal attacks, especially from the air, against the civilian population continue to lead to the destruction of villages, rural infrastructure and crops. Hundreds of thousands remain displaced and millions still live as refugees abroad. The Twelve strongly condemn the attacks on the civilian population which are irreconcilable with the norms of international behaviour and violate fundamental human rights.

¹ Agenda item 36.

The massive exodus of refugees to neighbouring countries is yet another reflection of the harsh realities of the war in Afghanistan. Nearly five million Afghan refugees — approximately a third of the population — have been forced to find sanctuary in neighbouring countries and there are close to one million displaced people within Afghanistan itself. The greatest concentration of refugees in the world today is to be found in Pakistan. It is self-evident that this places a heavy burden on its limited resources.

The Twelve once more wish to pay tribute to the hospitality and generous assistance provided to the refugees by the Government of Pakistan and to their fortitude in the face of continued and grave violation of their international borders. We also pay tribute to other countries providing assistance through the relevant international relief organizations. For their part, the European Community and its Member States will continue their significant contribution to international relief efforts for as long as it is necessary. However, the international assistance is no alternative to the return of the refugees to their homeland. The Twelve urge the Soviet Union to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan immediately and thus to create the conditions necessary to allow the refugees to return in peace and safety.

The Twelve have consistently supported proposals for a political solution to the problems of Afghanistan based on the principles of United Nations resolutions. We have read with great interest the report presented to the General Assembly by the Secretary-General on 29 September 1987. We wish to reaffirm our continued support for the efforts of the Secretary-General and his Personal Representative, Mr Diego Cordovez, and to express the hope that their untiring endeavours will result in early agreement on the outstanding issues. The Secretary-General's report makes it clear that agreement on the timetable for the withdrawal of all Soviet troops will provide a decisive impetus to a final solution.

This remains the key element of a settlement. The last round of Geneva talks in September was called by the Kabul regime. We regret that the offer it put forward on the troop withdrawal timetable did not match the expectations this had raised. We call upon the Soviet Union to demonstrate the innovative diplomatic approach needed to close the gap on the withdrawal timetable.

For eight years the Soviet Union has attempted to impose on the Afghan people a government dominated by the Peoples Democratic Party of Afghanistan but they have clearly rejected it. The Twelve believe that the Afghan Resistance must be part of a comprehensive solution of the Afghanistan problem. In recent months the regime in Kabul [has] made much of its so-called 'peace initiatives'. In reality, however, these proposals seem primarily designed to do no more than keep the present regime in power against the clearly expressed wishes of the Afghan people. The Twelve hope that the Soviet Union and Kabul will reassess their positions and work for genuine reconciliation in Afghanistan, including arrangements leading to an act of self-determination enabling the Afghan people to decide their own future. We stand ready to support any move in this direction.

Mr President, the continuing occupation of Afghanistan is a threat to the stability of the region and a constant danger to international peace and security. The Soviet Union cannot escape its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations.

The Twelve are confident that the General Assembly will once again vote to confirm its rejection of aggression and foreign occupation and its support for a genuine solution to the Afghanistan problem. The Soviet Union must now demonstrate in deed its commitment to international peace and security by complying with the United Nations resolutions and honouring its proclaimed commitment to the principles of international law by withdrawing all its troops from Afghanistan. Thank you, Mr President.

87/453. Explanation of Vote in the First Committee of the UN General Assembly: Draft Resolution L.56 Concerning the Reduction of Military Budgets ¹

Date of Issue: 9 November 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

¹ Agenda item 31.

I am speaking on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community in explanation of our vote on draft resolution L.56, entitled 'Reduction of Military Budgets'. The Twelve have already addressed this agenda item on 28 October² and I shall only make a few remarks at this time.

The Twelve support the draft resolution.

Members of the Twelve have contributed substantially to the negotiations in the Disarmament Commission and we have consistently supported the endeavours to reach agreement on principles which should govern further actions of States in the field of freezing and reduction of military budgets.

Accordingly, we welcome the recommendation contained in operative paragraph 4 in resolution L.56 that the Disarmament Commission should continue the considerations of the item and, in this context, conclude its work on the last outstanding paragraph at its 1988 substantive session.

As stated by the Twelve on several occasions, it is essential that the principles of transparency and comparability are accepted by all parties to any negotiation before there can be meaningful negotiations on the freezing and reduction of military budgets. The elaboration of agreed methods of measuring and comparing military expenditures between different periods of time and between countries representing different regions and different budgeting systems are important prerequisites for achieving agreements on reductions. The United Nations reporting matrix as established through General Assembly Resolution 35/142 [B] provides a framework whereby States can supply information about their military expenditures in a standardized form. We welcome that since 1986 another five States participate in this reporting system. In the interest of greater transparency and comparability we urgently call upon all States to participate in the standardized reporting system.

We hope that the UNDC will be able to finalize the draft principles at its 1988 session and solve the outstanding issues concerning the principles of transparency and comparability. We assume that the UNDC can complete this question in time and will be able to transmit its recommendations to the third Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament.

The Twelve consider that it is important that this question is included in the agenda of the coming Special Session.

87/454. Explanation of Vote in the First Committee of the UN General Assembly: Draft Resolution L.46 Concerning the Disarmament Week ¹

Date of Issue: 10 November 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

I wish to make a statement on behalf on the twelve Member States of the European Community on resolution L.46 regarding the Disarmament Week.

In the view of the Twelve, an informed public opinion on disarmament issues, and in particular on their inter-relationship with factors concerning international stability and security and on their consideration within the framework of the United Nations and in other fora, is an important element in the pursuit of progress within the fields of arms control and disarmament. The wider circulation in all member countries of objective information on military matters and on arms control and disarmament questions would contribute towards a better understanding of these complex issues.

It is against this background that the Twelve can support the objectives of the Disarmament Week which has this year as in previous years been marked in member countries of the Twelve by non-governmental activities.

The Twelve are, however, not able to support the draft resolution contained in L.46. We recognize that attempts have been made to improve the text compared to last year's resolution. We still have

¹ Agenda item 60.

² EPC Bulletin, Doc. 87/417.

problems, however, among others with operative paragraph 5 of the resolution, where the relevant and other agencies are invited to intensify activities within their areas of competence, to disseminate information on the consequences of the arms race.

The Twelve have on a number of occasions emphasized that the United Nations disarmament activities should contribute to concrete measures of arms control and disarmament. Specific deliberative and negotiating bodies have been established within the United Nations system for this purpose.

Rather than encouraging the Specialized Agencies to engage in activities that are likely to detract from the important tasks for which they have been specifically mandated and which are frequently of particular benefit to developing countries, the General Assembly should, in our view, concentrate on ways of making maximum use of the United Nations' existing disarmament machinery.

For these reasons, Mr Chairman, the twelve Member States of the European Community will abstain on draft resolution L.46.

87/455. Statement in the Second Committee of the UN General Assembly: Note of the Secretary-General on Some Perspectives of the Work of the United Nations in the 1990s

Date of Issue: 9 November 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

We had expected a rather informal exchange of views on the note of the Secretary-General, not a formal discussion. Accordingly, I shall only share with the Committee a few observations in light of the debate that has taken place.

- 1. The Member States of the Community share the view expressed by CPC that the main committees of the General Assembly should be involved in the process of preparing the introduction to the next medium-term plan.
- 2. We have in this respect noticed with interest the thought-provoking note of the Secretary-General on 'Some Perspectives of the Work of the United Nations in the 1990s', which was subject to a preliminary discussion in CPC. A paper like this could provide the basis for a useful debate in the committees on the directions to be given to the United Nations ahead.
- 3. The spokesman of the Group of 77 said in his intervention of November 4 that the group did not see the paper as a comprehensive definitive document. We share the view that it is not a definitive paper. Otherwise a discussion of it in the main committee would have been without purpose. We see the paper as a rough outline for the introduction to the medium-term plan that needs further precision and discussion as to whether all the issues have been adequately addressed. An outline can by its very nature only be expected to cover in broad terms important long-term issues facing the United Nations in the 1990s. The entire activities of the Organization will continue to cover a very broad range of issues and we should therefore not blame an introduction for brushing over many of those issues, leaving the detailed description to the specific chapters of the plan.
- 4. We listened with interest to the statements of the Group of 77 and a number of developing countries. We recognized in these comprehensive statements most of the political programmes contained in the ministerial declaration of September 28/30 of the Group of 77. The Secretary-General was criticized, *inter alia* for not taking into account a deteriorating world economic situation and its adverse impact on developing countries. These issues are important but they are immediate. The introduction should deal with long-term issues that are of concern to the whole international community rather than goals which may be sought by a country or group of countries. Furthermore, the priorities listed by the Group of 77 cover a very broad field and may not quite take into account what the United Nations can

Agenda item 66 [1].

realistically do in the 1990s. We recognize, however, that some of the priorities mentioned by [the] Group of 77 and reflected in the present medium-term plan are of such importance and long-term nature that they evidently will have to be carried over into the next medium-term plan.

- 5. This brings me to the general question of priorities, where I think it is worth noting that the Secretary-General's paper underlines the need to set priorities and to observe them more rigorously than in the past. The three established criteria for determining the priorities remain valid and should be more forcefully applied. The fourth criterion suggested by the Secretary-General, namely that the objective sought by an activity is of a nature that multilateral action is demonstrably important to its achievements is to be welcomed.
- 6. We have for our part not formulated a comprehensive position paper like the Group of 77, but we have tried to present our views on the same issues in the many debates in this Committee since the beginning of the 42nd General Assembly.
- 7. A discussion focusing more specifically on the long-term development of the Organization and emerging trends in the 1990s is therefore desirable, as stated by the Director-General. Such a discussion needs thorough preparation, and it should take place at a time where it will have the greatest impact on the preparation of the medium-term plan. We have in this respect noticed that CPC also recommends to the General Assembly that the present medium-term plan be extended through 1991 and that the next medium-term plan to cover the period starting in 1992 will be considered by the General Assembly at its 45th session in 1990.
- 8. We welcome that a preliminary discussion of the Secretary-General's note [has] taken place at this General Assembly. This discussion should continue at next year's General Assembly where we will be a little closer to the period to be covered by the new plan. Furthermore, we may know more about the conditions under which United Nations will work in the 1990s. The reform process will thus have been under way for a longer time and among other things we will hopefully benefit from the results of the work of the Special Commission for the review of the economic and social sectors.
- 9. Some thoughts should be given to the procedural question of how to formulate the views expressed in the committee into a considered view by the Second Committee which will give true guidance to the Secretary-General.
- 10. Whatever we decide, however, it is important that all main committees follow the same approach and we will therefore have to rely on our Bureau to ensure a close coordination with the other committees.

87/456. Explanation of Vote in the Second Committee of the UN General Assembly: Development and International Economic Cooperation — Human Settlements ¹

Date of Issue: 9 November 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Mr Chairman, the Community and its twelve Member States have just supported resolution A/C.2/42/L.23 entitled 'Living Conditions of the Palestinian People in the Occupied Palestinian Territories'.

I should like to point out that it is our understanding that the study, which the Secretary-General is requested to carry out in operative paragraph 6 of the resolution, will be on infrastructure related to basic living conditions and will take into account studies mandated by other relevant resolutions and decisions. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Agenda item 82 [G].

87/457. Explanation of Vote in the Second Committee of the UN General Assembly: Report of the Economic and Social Council — Assistance to the Palestinian People¹

Date of Issue: 11 November 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

The European Community and its Member States have just supported Resolution A/C.2/42/L.22 entitled 'Assistance to the Palestinian People'.

I should like to take this opportunity to confirm that the European Community and its Member States continue to provide humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people by various means. This assistance includes the supply of foodstuffs and emergency assistance as well as the co-financing, through non-governmental organizations, of projects which will benefit the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and elsewhere.

Such assistance will continue to be provided bilaterally and through the Community, as well as through the competent institutions and agencies of the United Nations system. The Community has approved a separate programme of aid to Palestinians which will bring together all existing EC technical and financial assistance and decided that there should be preferential access to our markets for the Palestinians' industrial exports and for their most important agricultural exports. It is our belief that the implementation of the programme can be done expeditiously.

I believe this indicates our continuing concern to respond in the best way possible to the urgent needs of the Palestinian people.

87/458. Explanation of Vote in the Plenary Session of the UN General Assembly: Adoption of the Agenda and the Organization of Work ¹

Date of Issue: 12 November 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Mr President, I would like to explain the vote of the twelve Member States of the European Community on this issue. The Twelve adhere to the basic principle that the General Assembly should grant all requests for the inscription of an item on its agenda provided it is not incompatible with the Charter. They do not believe that anything in Art. 52 of the Charter affects this basic right. It is, moreover, for the country requesting inscription to determine the wording of the item in question. Thank you, Mr President.

87/459. Explanation of Vote in the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly: Resolution on Alternative Approaches and Ways and Means Within the United Nations System for Improving the Effective Enjoyment of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms¹

Date of Issue: 12 November 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Agenda item 12.

Agenda item 8.

Mr Chairman, I have asked for the floor to make an explanation of vote on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community on the draft resolution contained in document L.38/Rev.1 which is now before the Committee.

The Twelve will again this year abstain on the draft resolution. The Twelve attach particular importance to the pursuit of ways and means within the United Nations for the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. But we doubt whether this draft resolution, or indeed any of the resolutions referred to in the preamble, are helpful in the search for such ways and means.

We regret the tendency to emphasize collective entities in a draft resolution on human rights, when it is the individual human being who is the beneficiary of these rights. We must avoid diluting or distorting the concept of human rights by confusing it with other categories of rights, as is done in L.38/Rev.1.

The absence of a direct and unequivocal statement that violations of human rights, wherever they occur, are of concern to the United Nations, is, in our view, a fundamental flaw in the draft.

The draft deals with issues such as international economic questions and questions concerning disarmament which do not fall within the competence of this Committee and are being dealt with elsewhere in this Assembly.

We cannot agree with language which implies that there are preconditions for the enjoyment of human rights.

87/460. Statement on the Attack by the Eritrean People's Liberation Front on a United Nations Convoy in Ethiopia

Date of Issue: 13 November 1987 Place of Issue: Copenhagen Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: The Twelve Status of Document: Declaration

The Twelve deplore the attack on and destruction of a convoy of 23 lorries, which were travelling under the protection of the United Nations on 23 October. They were carrying 540 tonnes of cereals destined for the population of northern Ethiopia. This convoy did not represent a military target and was travelling without armed escort.

The Twelve condemn such acts, which affect, in the first place, those victims of the famine who were to receive the aid.

The Twelve wish to continue their humanitarian activities designed to help those affected by the drought in Ethiopia and hope that no obstacle will be put in the way of the transportation of food aid.

87/461. Statement in the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly: Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)¹

Date of Issue: 13 November 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Mr Chairman, I have the honour to address the Committee on behalf of the European Community and its Member States on item 103: the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

The Twelve have studied the report of the High Commissioner with keen interest. The report contains solid evidence of the increasingly complex character of the task which is facing the Office.

Agenda item 105.

Having listened to the introductory statement of the High Commissioner we are indeed convinced that, while further improvements are still required, the Office and its dedicated staff deserve our appreciation for the way in which they carry out their important task of alleviating the plight and suffering of the world's refugees.

In the far from perfect world in which we live, it is indeed encouraging to realize that this world organization has at its disposal a dedicated non-political humanitarian institution on which refugees can rely for their protection and which can assist them in finding an appropriate durable solution; be it the ability to return home voluntarily and in dignity, the possibility of integration on an equal footing in a hospitable neighbouring country or of resettlement in a third country.

As mentioned in the statement by the Danish Foreign Minister on behalf of the European Community and its Member States in the Plenary on September 22², we feel obliged to alleviate the plight of those people who are suffering from violations of their human rights, not least those who have been forced to leave their country, and efforts to improve the protection of the world's refugees should be undertaken on the basis of international solidarity. In that statement the Twelve also reaffirmed the role of the UNHCR as the international focal point to promote durable solutions to refugees in all parts of the world. We shall for our part continue to support the UNHCR in that task.

Our total contribution of 124 million US dollars in 1986 towards the UNHCR budget bears witness of this commitment. Apart from our national contributions the European Community as such contributed more than 50 million US dollars to the UNHCR including food and emergency aid as well as aid to promote self-sufficiency of refugees in many regions of the world.

The Twelve fully support the aims and objectives of the reorganization of the Office carried out since May 1986, which will enable the UNHCR at short notice to respond effectively to new refugee situations that may arise and at the same time ensure that best use of available resources is made *inter alia* by setting priorities. The Twelve wholeheartedly endorse the conclusion on management, programme support and administration, which the Executive Committee was able to adopt at its 38th Session, and will be closely following its implementation.

The High Commissioner has stated that financial contributions alone, however generous, are no longer enough.

The Twelve for their part wish to point out that their contribution as that of many other countries has never been limited to money alone. Increasingly large numbers of refugees have been granted asylum in their countries over the years. The Twelve are taking all possible measures to sustain and preserve their traditional generous policy towards refugees.

The world refugee problem has now acquired such a complex character that the UNHCR must continue to play an active and constructive role in finding durable solutions. Special attention must also be given to preserving the traditional consensus approach in this field.

We must realize that only through concerted action by the whole international community — where each member State of this Organization makes its own contribution in a spirit of solidarity with the unfortunate refugee and fellow member States — can we nourish any hope of finding durable solutions to the problem the UNHCR was created to address.

Strict compliance by all States with the obligations which they have freely undertaken in the United Nations Charter and international instruments in the field of human rights would not only prevent many new flows of refugees, but would indeed also help to create the conditions which would allow refugees to return home.

Until this goal can be achieved, the Twelve will continue to support the efforts of the UNHCR to provide protection and to promote durable solutions for refugees.

We remain convinced that voluntary repatriation is the best solution to any refugee situation, although it is often also the solution which is the most difficult to obtain. We are encouraged, however, to learn that this solution was reached for 250 000 refugees during 1986 and 1987. We strongly support the High Commissioner's efforts within his mandate leading towards voluntary repatriation of the world's refugees.

Turning to the other durable solution, local integration, the Twelve pay tribute to the generosity of many countries of first arrival, particularly those with limited resources of their own. We admire their

unselfish role in providing shelter and food to refugees arriving in their territory. They need the increased support of the world community and we warmly welcome the efforts undertaken by the UNHCR to assist these countries in a developing cooperation between the UNHCR and other United Nations organizations.

Mr Chairman, we have taken due note of the High Commissioner's concern that resettlement opportunities for a growing number of refugees in need of resettlement continue to diminish.

The Twelve remain committed to playing a constructive role in supporting the UNHCR's role to promote resettlement as a durable solution; a solution which in our opinion the international community should be able to make available to refugees to whom no other durable solution is within reach.

There are other problems which must also be faced. One is the increasing abuse of asylum procedures by persons with economic or other motives. The Twelve recognize the need to address these issues. We wish to express support for the High Commissioner's efforts to solve the problem of irregular movements of refugees and asylum seekers from countries where they had already found protection to other countries. These movements have indeed put the established systems in our countries for an orderly reception of refugees under severe strain. The Twelve find it of utmost importance that a satisfactory solution to this problem is found so that proper and full attention again can be directed at providing assistance and protection to those most in need. The Twelve therefore actively support the High Commissioner's endeavours in consultations with interested governments, to develop a concerted approach which will create the necessary conditions for satisfactory solutions.

Finally, Mr Chairman, I should like to draw attention to the result reached during the 38th Session of the UNHCR's Executive Committee with regard to the vital issue of protecting refugees from military and armed attacks on refugee camps and settlements. The Twelve congratulate all those who have helped to reach a consensus on these conclusions, and express the hope that this demonstration of the international community's ability to work towards an important goal could set an example of pragmatic approaches to other vital issues confronting the UNHCR.

The Twelve are prepared to work actively with the UNHCR to achieve constructive results to the benefit of the world's refugees. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

87/462. Statement in the Fifth Committee of the UN General Assembly: Personnel Question¹

Date of Issue: 13 November 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Mr Chairman, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community.

At the outset, allow me to thank the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Resources Management, Mr Kofi Annan, for his introductory statement. Allow me also to thank Assistant Secretary-General, Ms Pulido De Briceno.

In the view of the Twelve the importance of the agenda item 'Personnel Questions' is more significant than is normal in a budget-year due to the changes the Organization is presently undergoing. In our view, it is the responsibility of all member States to see that the process of reform which was initiated by General Assembly Resolution 41/213 is carried out in an orderly manner and with a view to increasing the efficiency of the Secretariat. But it is of course the Secretary-General, with the Secretariat, who has to implement reform in the field of personnel management. The Twelve therefore welcome Mr Kofi Annan's remark to the Fifth Committee that the Secretariat is giving urgent consideration to the task of implementing the recommendations of Resolution 41/213 relating to personnel issues.

¹ Agenda item 103.

² EPC Bulletin, Doc. 87/333.

Mr Chairman, the Secretariat staff plays a key role in the efforts being made by the United Nations to solve the major problems which confront us today. One of the conditions for the United Nations to play its full role is an efficient and competent staff committed to its work. The current financial crisis inescapably places extra burdens on the shoulders of the staff, and complicates the process of sound personnel management. If these circumstances too long prevail, the United Nations will progressively lose its ability to attract and retain the high quality staff it needs, in which event we shall all be the losers.

Mr Chairman, in our consideration of personnel policy the Twelve want to reiterate their commitment to an international civil service which is truly independent and of the highest level of competence. We want to re-emphasize the importance we attach to the principle formulated in Article 100 of the Charter that member States have undertaken not to influence the staff in the discharge of their responsibilities and that staff refrain from seeking instruction from any authority external to the Organization.

We also must remember that the Charter lays down certain standards of recruitment as stated in Article 101, paragraph 3:

The paramount consideration in the employment of the staff and in the determination of the conditions of service shall be the necessity of securing the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity. Due regard shall be paid to the importance of recruiting the staff on as wide a geographical basis as possible.

Recruitment by the Secretary-General should continue to be based on these principles. Provided that the paramount requirement for efficiency, competence and integrity is met then in cases of equal competence, priority should be given to candidates from un- or underrepresented countries.

From the general principles embodied in the Charter it follows that no post should be considered the exclusive preserve of any member State. Recruitment to all posts, both fixed-term and permanent, should be open to nationals of all member States. Particular attention could be given, as we said before, to nationals of un- or underrepresented countries and with due regard to geographical distribution.

The Twelve wish to point to the fact that the holding of competitive examinations can improve the quality of the Secretariat. We therefore request that again in 1988 such competitive examinations will be held with a view as far as possible to recruit personnel from un- or underrepresented countries in order to have the broadest possible geographical representation.

The Twelve, Mr Chairman, have taken note of the Secretary-General's report on the composition of the Secretariat (A/42/636) and on the system of desirable ranges for the geographical distribution of staff in the professional category and above (A/C.5/42/7). As requested by the General Assembly in its Resolution 41/206 [C], the latter report contains various alternative methods for the calculation of desirable ranges.

As stated in the report, 42/7, a broad agreement was reached in the Fifth Committee during the 41st General Assembly on the desirability of relating the base figure to the actual number of posts subject to geographical distribution. The Twelve therefore endorse the Secretary-General's decision to base the new interim ranges for 1987 on a figure of 2 700 posts, a reduction of 10 per cent from the base figure used in 1986. In order to have an appropriate basis for calculating the desirable ranges of member States, as the overall number of regular budget posts is reduced in accordance with section I of General Assembly Resolution 41/213, the Twelve also wish to support the Secretary-General's suggestion that the base figure should be reduced further so that the base figure continues to be not much higher than the actual number of posts occupied. Otherwise, the ranges would not serve their purpose.

At the 41st session the appropriateness of incorporating a share of the population factor directly into the range of each member State was considered. The Twelve have studied the Secretary-General's calculations in document A/C.5/42/7 of the effect of such a change. We note the observation in this document to the effect that such a change in the way the ranges are calculated will make the system of ranges much more rigid and give less flexibility to the Secretary-General in their application. This aspect should be given careful consideration.

During the 41st General Assembly the Fifth Committee continued its deliberations on the questions of the relative weight to be given to the membership and contribution factors. The Twelve wish to draw

attention to the fact stated in paragraph 9 and 10 in the Secretary-General's report that since the adoption of General Assembly Resolution 34/219 of 20 December 1979 the membership factor has increased from 25.2 to 36.83 per cent. The contribution factor has declined from 65.9 to 56.01 per cent.

The Twelve reserve their positions with respect to further changes in the relative weight of the two factors.

Mr Chairman, in Resolution 41/205 the General Assembly expressed concern about the deterioration in the situation with regard to the respect for the privileges and immunities of officials of the United Nations and the specialized agencies and related organizations. The Twelve have taken note with appreciation of the Secretary-General's endeavours, and his diligence in taking every possible opportunity to press the issue with the responsible governments. In spite of the Secretary-General's efforts, however, no improvement in the overall situation is apparent. As reported in document A/C.5/42/14, some member States have violated and continue to violate the immunity of United Nations officials. The Twelve wish to express their continuing concern about these violations, particularly the violations relating to arbitrary detention and arrest, and appeal once more to the governments responsible to put an end to such acts. As stated here in the Fifth Committee by the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Resources Management, Mr Kofi Annan, we need to ensure that the Organization continues to be in a position to discharge its responsibilities without having the safety and sometimes the lives of any of its officials endangered.

The Twelve wish to express their particular concern about the fact that Mr Liviu Bota, the former Director of UNIDIR, is still being prevented by the authorities of Romania from resuming his service with the United Nations. By their action, the Romanian authorities have for almost two years violated the immunities granted United Nations officials in article 105, paragraph 2, of the Charter. The Twelve urge these authorities to cooperate with the Secretary-General and make it possible for Mr Bota to resume his duties without further delay.

The Twelve also wish again to express their particular concern over the case of Mr Alec Collett, kidnapped in Lebanon in March 1985, over two years ago. His fate is still unknown.

The fact that we mention these two cases should in no way be interpreted as detracting from the importance of the other cases reported on (A/C.5/42/14).

Mr Chairman, the Twelve are glad to see the Secretary-General's remark that the improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat has been one of his highest priorities for action. As stated in document A/C.5/42/24 the percentage of women in posts subject to geographical distribution has risen since the Programme of Action was approved by the General Assembly in 1985. Further, the Twelve have taken note of the fact that over the same period there has been a marked improvement in the representation of women at the senior levels. The Twelve would like to see that this trend continues so that a further amelioration of the status of women in the Secretariat — both qualitatively and quantitatively — can take place in order to achieve the General Assembly's target for representation of women in posts subject to geographical distribution by the year 1990. A condition is, of course, that member States identify and nominate qualified women candidates.

We have taken note of the intention of the Secretary-General to extend the functions of the Co-ordinator for the Improvement of the Status of Women in the Secretariat for a period of six months in order to complete certain important aspects of her work programme. We have also noted that the extension will then facilitate the smooth transfer of the Co-ordinator's functions and responsibilities to the Office of Human Resources Management.

Mr Chairman, the Twelve have taken note of the Secretary-General's report on the Establishment of an Office of Ombudsman in the Secretariat and Streamlining of the Appeals Procedures (A/C.5/42/28). We welcome the priority attention that has been given to reform the processes of internal justice and that suggestions and practical steps to that effect have been made. The Twelve wish to encourage the Secretary-General to continue these endeavours and are looking forward to his report and new suggestions thereon at the 43rd session of the General Assembly.

Mr Chairman, we appreciate the difficult circumstances in which the Assistant General-Secretary is carrying out his task. We note that in the present transitional stage a vacancy management plan has been developed to limit the impact of the recruitment freeze and the consequent uneven distribution of

vacancies. We look forward to hearing further details of this plan, and of its impact, in due course. In the course of reshaping the structure of the Secretariat staff, the Secretary-General should also be working on a more coherent career development scheme, related on the promotion system. Provided the scheme is based on merit, this should be an important management tool, which will also respond to the reasonable aspirations of the staff. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

87/463. Statement in the Special Political Committee of the UN General Assembly: Questions Relating to Information ¹

Date of Issue: 16 November 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Mr Chairman, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community.

Mr Chairman, on the 14 December 1946 the United Nations General Assembly unanimously adopted Resolution 59/I which states, and I quote:

Freedom of information is a fundamental human right and is the touchstone of all freedoms to which the United Nations is consecrated.

The principles contained in that resolution are still valid, and it is against this background that the Twelve once again participate in the Special Political Committee annual debate on information.

Freedom of thought, opinion and expression as well as the free flow of information and ideas are basic principles of our societies. They form cornerstones of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

To us, this means in particular a free press, which may seek and disseminate information without interference from authorities or governments. It means freedom for all individuals to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers. We wish to be able to buy and sell all kinds of newspapers, representing the widest range of opinions and to have a variety of television and radio channels as well as to have and to ensure access to publications of all sorts of political and cultural shades.

These are our principles, and we will spare no effort to uphold them. We will meet all those who work in the same direction with a spirit of cooperation and good will.

It is against this background, Mr Chairman, that the Twelve view the work of the United Nations in the field of information, including in particular its efforts to promote a new world information and communication order seen as an evolving and continuous process.

The Twelve see this process as aimed at gradually eliminating existing imbalances in the field of communications, particularly with respect to the development of infrastructures and production capacities, and at encouraging a free flow and a wider and better balanced dissemination of information.

It goes without saying that we see freedom of information as the underlying principle of this process.

Mr Chairman, as everyone on this Committee will recognize there have always been and will always be cultural diversity in our world. It is important to foster an awareness of and respect for such cultural differences and the way in which they interact, given their contribution to the richness of human society.

However, the Twelve are aware that for a variety of historic and economic reasons there still exists an imbalance in the field of information and communication. The Twelve have throughout the years actively worked towards redressing this situation.

In doing so, the Twelve have constantly advocated their firm attachment to the improvement and facilitation of a free flow of information.

¹ Agenda item 122.

We must seek to redress these imbalances, not by creating but by removing obstacles and restrictions to the free press.

Those of us within UNESCO support a large number of its programmes, aiming at developing resources for communication and information in many regions of the world. The Twelve welcomed the formation of the International Programme for the Development of Communication, comprising programmes of a technical, infrastructural and educational nature.

Mr Chairman, the Twelve firmly believe that in order to advance our work we have to put our priorities into place. Within the United Nations system, in our opinion, this can only be done by placing our confidence in those bodies which have been entrusted with a specific mandate. It is important to our future work that we recognize and respect the particular mandate of UNESCO. We extend our best wishes to the new Director-General for success in the task that lies ahead of him.

Likewise, it is equally important that we recognize and respect the specific mandate of the DPI.

DPI should contribute to the information and communication capabilities of the developing world, bearing in mind that its primary task derives from the work of the United Nations itself.

The original ideas and aspirations of the United Nations are still valid. This should underlie the message which the DPI should carry to its audience, the peoples of the world. The DPI should strive to provide a flow of accurate information about the work of the United Nations, ensuring that the Organization receives due credit for its achievements.

It is a challenge, which the DPI is trying to overcome through a series of structural changes.

Mr Chairman, the Twelve follow with great interest the reorganization of the department being carried out by the Under-Secretary-General, Mme Paquet-Sévigny.

We recognize that the task before her is not an easy one, taking into consideration the financial restraint under which she is working. The Twelve wish to assure the Under-Secretary-General of our continuous understanding and wholehearted support. We also express our appreciation to the former Under-Secretary-General, Mr Akashi, for the way in which he carried out his work.

Mr Chairman, turning now to the report before us from the Committee on Information, the Twelve were disappointed by the outcome of the Committee's Session this summer. Intensive negotiations between the regional groups and China came close to a result, acceptable to almost everyone, and yet they failed.

In our opinion, the Committee on Information should concentrate on developing guidelines for the DPI. Instead of formulating excessively selective and at times costly priorities for the DPI, the Committee on Information should help it by streamlining its own recommendations in order to help the department fulfil its obligations.

Once again we are faced with a shopping list of issues, and the Committee again has focused on those subjects which tend to provoke an unproductive debate, which has neither contributed to an effective United Nations information policy nor enhanced the image of the United Nations.

Mr Chairman, let there be no doubt that the Twelve will work in a cooperative spirit towards bringing the Committee on Information back onto the path which leads to consensus. We took steps along that path this summer and we believe we can do so again.

Let us therefore set aside what divides us. Let us try to enlarge the common ground. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

87/464. Statement at the Plenary Session of the UN General Assembly: Policies of Apartheid of the Government of South Africa¹

Date of Issue: 18 November 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Agenda item 78.

Mr Bierring: I have the honour to speak on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community and to reiterate our views with respect to apartheid in South Africa.

The Twelve have repeatedly and unequivocally condemned apartheid and have demanded that it be abolished. Apartheid is an institutionalized system of State racism which deprives the majority of the people of South Africa of their civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. It is a flagrant violation of the human rights and fundamental freedoms set out in the Charter of the United Nations and in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to which the Twelve attach the highest importance. It is an insult to the dignity of those it affects and has bred hatred and violence. Indeed violence is inherent in the system.

Today apartheid only survives by the ruthless application of draconian measures against the great majority of the population by the South African Government. The state of emergency has worsened the prospects for peaceful change by stifling the voices of opposition and by the detention and imprisonment without trial of thousands of people, including women and children. Some reforms have been introduced by the South African Government but they have been too few and too slow. The Twelve are gravely concerned about the continuation of the violence and oppression.

The Twelve share the widespread anxiety felt by the international community over the conditions in which some detainees are being held. The detentions without charge and ill treatment of children are particularly abhorrent. We once again condemn arbitrary arrests and detention without trial and call for the release of all those imprisoned or deprived of their freedom because of their opposition to the apartheid system.

The Twelve call once again for an end to the state of emergency and to all other repressive measures being taken by the South African authorities. We view the continued curtailment of press freedom under the state of emergency with serious concern. Freedom of information is a principle of fundamental importance and part and parcel of the democratic process. We urge the South African Government to lift the restrictions on the press without delay.

Mr President, let there be no doubt that the Twelve want the complete abolition of apartheid. For this to be achieved there is an urgent need for an end to violence and for peaceful change through a genuine national dialogue, across lines of colour, politics and religion. Only broad-based negotiations, involving the genuine representatives of the various components of the South African population, can bring about a lasting settlement. The aim of the negotiations should be the emergence of a free, democratic, non-racial and united South Africa which takes into account the diversity of its society.

Dialogue, however, is impossible while black leaders remain imprisoned or detained and anti-apartheid organizations proscribed. We welcome the release of Govan Mbeki but regard this as only a first step. The Twelve urge the South African Government to release unconditionally Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners and to lift the ban on the African National Congress and other political parties. We deplore the South African Government's opposition to recent efforts to make a genuine dialogue possible.

Nevertheless, the meeting between a courageous group of individual South Africans and ANC leaders this summer illustrated that common ground can still be found.

In September 1985 and 1986 the Twelve agreed on a series of restrictive measures designed to impress on the South African Government the inescapable need for fundamental reform. These comprised:

- a ban on new investments:
- a ban on the import of iron, steel and gold coins from South Africa;
- an embargo on the export of arms and paramilitary equipment to South Africa;
- an embargo on imports of arms and paramilitary equipment from South Africa;
- a refusal to cooperate in the military sphere;
- the cessation of exports of sensitive equipment to the South African police and armed forces;
- the prohibition of oil exports to South Africa;
- the recall of military attachés accredited to South Africa and a refusal to grant accreditation to military attachés from South Africa;
- the freezing of official contacts and agreements in sporting and security matters;
- prohibition of all new collaboration in the nuclear sector;
- the discouragement of scientific and cultural agreements except where they might contribute towards the ending of apartheid or have no role in supporting it.

Coupled with these restrictive measures the European Community and its twelve Member States have embarked on concerted programmes of positive measures designed to help the victims of apartheid, both individually and collectively. Special emphasis is put on helping those arrested under the state of emergency and on programmes of training and education for black South Africans. The Code of Conduct for Companies Having Branches, Offices or Representatives in South Africa, which has been in operation since 1977, has been strengthened and new reporting guidelines adopted. Greater emphasis has now been given to the role of independent trade unions representing black African workers; and companies have been asked to pay greater attention to education, training, black career development and wider community projects. The aim of the code remains to make a practical contribution towards the abolition of apartheid and to promote substantial improvements in the living and working conditions of as large a number as possible of African workers.

The inability of the South African Government to resolve the problems created by the system of apartheid affects South Africa's neighbours and contributes to the political, military and economic difficulties of Southern Africa. The Twelve view this situation with great concern. The Twelve and the European Community provide substantial assistance to South Africa's neighbours. A major priority is to reduce the latter's dependence on South Africa by improving transport facilities in the region, a programme which is being carried out largely under the aegis of the Southern Africa Development Cooperation Conference. The SADCC countries also receive development assistance within the framework of the Third Lome Convention and food assistance from the European Community. In the past few years they have received about \$1 billion a year of assistance of all sorts from the European Community and under programmes of bilateral cooperation with its Member States.

Mr President, on the face of it the outcome of the white elections in South Africa in May was a victory for those in the minority community opposed to fundamental change. But in reality it was a defeat for everybody. The white minority community voted for the continued exclusion of the majority of the South Africans from having any say. For the time being, the South African Government may be able to suppress opposition by force. But it cannot stop the clock of history.

The Twelve will continue to monitor every aspect of the effects of apartheid, including human rights violations and other abuses committed under cover of the state of emergency. We will continue to use pressure to bring about peaceful change. In the absence of significant progress in the abolition of apartheid the attitude of the Twelve to South Africa remains under constant review.

The Twelve have made clear on many occasions their abhorrence of apartheid. That evil system is doomed, and the sooner the South African Government comes to terms with this fact, the better. Our goal — which is shared by the entire community of nations — is to secure an end to that intolerable system and a South African society with freedom and justice for all. Thank you, Mr President.

87/465. Statement in the Special Political Committee of the UN General Assembly: Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Rights of the Population in the Occupied Territories ¹

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Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community.

The Twelve attach as a matter of principle the greatest importance to all matters affecting the rights of the population of the Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967. We follow developments in these territories with deep concern and we have often expressed our commitment to the respect for international law and human rights, which are of universal application, in the occupied territories.

¹ Agenda item 33.

Any violation of these fundamental rights must be viewed seriously by the international community. It is not only the well-being of the population itself that is at stake. Progress towards a peaceful settlement in the Middle East is also negatively affected by aggravating tensions and unrest throughout the area.

The Twelve have taken due note of the latest report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices in the Occupied Territories presented by its distinguished Chairman, Ambassador Wijewardane. We have also noted that, in spite of repeated requests of the Secretary-General, the Government of Israel continues to maintain its position with regard to the Special Committee. Therefore, the report, in spite of the effort made by the Committee to provide us with as full and objective data as possible, does not present a complete picture of the situation. Consequently, the Twelve have availed themselves of other sources of information and we shall also take note of the views expressed by Israel as well as by other delegations.

The Twelve are of the firm opinion that the provisions of the Fourth Hague Convention of 1907 and the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 relative to the protection of civilian persons in time of war are applicable to the Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967. Israel's persistent refusal to acknowledge this can in no way be justified and is a matter of great concern to the Twelve.

The Twelve have repeatedly rejected the Israeli practice and policy of settlements and other measures affecting the demographic structure of these territories. There can be no doubt that these practices are contrary to international law, including, in particular, the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war. All member States are under the obligation to abide by this binding principle which is enshrined in the Charter and is referred to in Resolution 242 of the Security Council.

The Twelve continue to be seriously concerned at this particular aspect of the Israeli policy in the occupied territories. During the last year there has been a disturbing move towards the opening of new settlements while at the same time the number of settlers in existing ones [has] continued to increase in a manner which has naturally led to friction with the local inhabitants who have the right to oppose measures so clearly illegal under international law. We continue to be disturbed by reports of harassment and illegal acts committed by the settlers towards the Palestinian population — such as the recent tragic event in Gaza — in spite of efforts made by the military authorities to curb them.

Any increase of the number of settlements is bound to set back prospects for a comprehensive and lasting peace in the area. Establishing new settlements and enlarging existing ones are indeed the reverse of the kind of confidence-building measures which could contribute to a peaceful solution. Our position is clear. In a statement of 14 September 1987² the Foreign Ministers of the Twelve declared that every new and every existing settlement is a clear violation of international law. They also repeated their call on Israel to put an end to this illegal policy.

The Twelve are deeply concerned at the many reports that have reached us from different quarters on the increasing climate of tension and the serious deterioration of the situation in general in the occupied territories. These reports have pointed out numerous arbitrary acts on the part of the Israeli occupying authorities, notably cases of arbitrary arrests or detention without charge or trial, town arrests, house arrests, deportations, demolition and sealing of houses as well as restrictions on freedom of movements.

The Twelve have followed with particular attention the tragic events at Bir Zeit University last December and at Bethlehem University less than a month ago where the opening of fire by the Israeli security forces has resulted in the death and wounding of defenceless students. We see again particular cause for concern in the methods used to control demonstrations by students and others, and the increasing frequency and duration of university closures as a form of collective punishment.

We are also concerned at the disturbing reports on interrogation methods and at the unsatisfactory prison conditions which led earlier this year to a hunger strike by around 4000 Palestinian prisoners and which was followed by a cycle of violent confrontations between Palestinians and the occupying power.

We naturally deplore all acts of violence in the occupied territories, from whatever quarter they come. However, we cannot fail to note that the more or less chronic unrest is to a large extent due to spontaneous reactions arising from legitimate sentiments among the Palestinians as well as to frustration and rancour within the context of a long-lasting occupation and to the policy of the 'iron fist'.

The Twelve wish to reiterate their position on the policy of imposing Israeli civil administration on the Arab occupied territories. A military occupation can only be regarded as a temporary situation and

cannot confer upon the occupying power rights of annexation or disposal, or of extending its law, jurisdiction or administration in the occupied area. Such an extension is tantamount to annexation and the Twelve consider that, as it is contrary to international law, it is also invalid.

The Twelve view with particular concern the question of the status of Jerusalem, which is a holy city for three religions and of extreme importance to all the parties concerned. The Twelve will not accept any unilateral initiative designed to change the status of Jerusalem. The freedom of access for everyone to the holy places must be guaranteed in any future agreement on Jerusalem.

We continue to condemn Israel's decision to extend Israeli law, jurisdiction and administration to occupied Syrian territory in the Golan Heights. Such an extension, which is tantamount to annexation, is contrary to international law, and therefore invalid. This decision prejudices the possibility of the implementation of Security Council Resolution 242 and further complicates the search for a comprehensive peace settlement in the Middle East.

Mr Chairman, the Twelve have often recalled their commitment to respect for human rights in the occupied territories. Lately, in their Declaration Concerning the Middle East, adopted by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Twelve on 13 July 1987³ they furthermore agreed that the deterioration of the economic and social situation in these territories, as well as in the region as a whole, threatens to complicate the search for peace. They also stated that for this reason the Twelve will continue to contribute to economic and social development, although this cannot be a substitute for a political solution.

Without prejudging future political solutions, the Twelve wish to see an improvement in the living conditions of the inhabitants of the occupied territories, particularly regarding their economic, social, cultural and administrative affairs. The European Community has since 1981 granted aid to the Palestinian population of the occupied territories and has decided at the end of 1986 to give tariff-free access for the occupied territories for all the manufactured products exported to the Community as well as preferential access for some agricultural products. We hope that the Palestinian population will be enabled to take full advantage of these arrangements, as agreed by the parties concerned.

In conclusion, we wish to reiterate that the serious and at times explosive situation in the occupied territories continues to inflict unacceptable sufferings on the local population and poses an obstacle to the creation of an atmosphere of mutual trust and confidence that could contribute to the overall peace efforts. The Twelve's views on key elements which must make up a solution to the Arab-Israeli dispute are well known and need not be repeated in this instance. Through our long-standing contacts with all parties to the conflict we are closely following all efforts to bring about a lasting peace. Our firm commitment to the respect for human rights and international law in the occupied territories and indeed everywhere is but one expression of our ardent desire to see a just and comprehensive peace settlement in the Middle East, which can be achieved only through negotiation. All parties should clearly and unambiguously accept two principles: the right to existence and security of all States in the area, including Israel, and the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination with all that this implies. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

87/466. Statement in the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly: Report of the Economic and Social Council¹

Date of Issue: 18 November 1987 Place of Issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Mr Bierring: Mr Chairman, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community on the human rights aspects of the report of the Economic and Social Council.

Agenda item 75.

² EPC Bulletin, Doc. 87/312.

³ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 87/260.

In the Charter, our Organization has pledged itself to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights and the dignity and worth of the human person. The promotion and encouragement of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all is one of the fundamental objectives of the United Nations. Thus, by accepting the Charter, States assume an obligation to promote human rights. Therefore, they also accept that violations of human rights are a legitimate concern of the United Nations — indeed a necessary one if the Organization is to fulfil its purposes and preserve its credibility. This concern must be universal and evenhanded. It must extend to all violations, wherever and whenever they occur, under whatever political or social system.

In recent years a number of States have returned to the values of human rights, democracy and pluralism. Their representatives have stressed the importance of the involvement of the United Nations in the protection of human rights in their countries during the time in which these rights were grievously violated. The testimony of such countries is further evidence that examination by the United Nations of the human rights situation in individual countries cannot be regarded as interference in their internal affairs. All too often, however, some States, members of the United Nations, work actively in favour of and vote for resolutions regarding the human rights situation in certain States, while claiming interference and voting against resolutions regarding others. Such conduct speaks for itself. At this Assembly we look for a more consistent approach from the States in question.

The concept of human rights first and foremost denotes protection of the individual against the State, not the other way around. Over the years, however, suggestions and proposals have often been made to extend the concept of human rights so as to cover various categories of rights which do not concern relations between the individual and the State.

States, nations and peoples, as well as individuals, have certain rights. While the concept of human rights is dynamic, it is always the individual human being who is the beneficiary of those rights. We must therefore avoid diluting or distorting the concept of human rights by confusing it with other categories of rights. The rights of States are, and always have been, an important field of international law, but they obviously do not belong under the label of human rights. It follows from the very term 'human rights' that it is the individual human being who must be not only at the centre of our attention, but the principal object of our preoccupation. If it is not, the way is open to totalitarian regimes, where the individual is entirely subservient to the arbitrary power of the State. Whatever ideological banner such regimes go under, of left or of right, they display contempt for the individual and a denial of the inherent dignity and equality of all human beings. They invoke the language of human rights in an attempt to protect the State against the individual. The best defence against totalitarian and other repressive practices which pose a threat to individual rights is scrupulous adherence by States to the provisions of the Universal Declaration and to the obligations they have freely undertaken under the Charter and the Covenants.

The proclamation of universally accepted human rights standards has been a signal achievement for our Organization. Implementation is now the essential task. In accordance with the Charter's explicit provision for its creation, the Commission on Human Rights has a crucial role in carrying out the purpose of the United Nations in the field of human rights. The role of the Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and the Protection of Minorities is to complement the work of the Commission. The machinery which exists to monitor implementation of the International Covenants on Human Rights, and other human rights instruments, including the various optional procedures provided for in those instruments, also needs to be used to best effect.

The Twelve regard it as essential that the necessary resources should continue to be made available to maintain and strengthen the United Nations' machinery for the protection of human rights in order to make our activities in this field more effective. Human rights programmes constitute less than 1% of overall expenditure by the United Nations. Any cuts in so small a programme risk causing disproportionate harm to its objectives.

The system of special rapporteurs and special representatives of the Commission on Human Rights plays an essential and growing part in making the international community better informed of and thus better equipped to deal with a wide range of both specific human rights situations and of certain grave violations of human rights world-wide. It is incumbent upon all governments to extend their full

cooperation to the special rapporteurs. It is important to recall, however, that cooperation, while an important step, does not in itself mean that the situation of human rights has improved.

At its 43rd session, the Commission had before it 'thematic' reports on torture, forced or involuntary disappearances, summary or arbitrary executions and intolerance or discrimination based on religion or belief. The Twelve express their deep appreciation to the individuals who prepared these reports; the documents in question are of great benefit to the work of this organization in the field of human rights. In future we would find it appropriate to make these reports available to the General Assembly as well in order to improve our deliberations on these issues.

We deeply regret that many governments refuse to cooperate with the special rapporteurs on thematic issues or even to respond to written communications and urgent appeals. However, refusal to cooperate only serves to underscore the need for more intensive investigation.

I have referred to the importance the Twelve attach to the elaboration of universally accepted human rights standards. The adoption by this Assembly in 1984 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment was a major advance in the codification of universal human rights standards. The Twelve welcome the fact that 26 States have now become party to the Convention and that the Convention has entered into force. We expect many more States to follow soon. We look forward to the forthcoming establishment of the Committee on Torture following the first meeting of States parties to the Convention.

The appointment by the Commission in 1985 of a Special Rapporteur on Torture, and the extension of his mandate by consensus in 1987, testifies to the will of the Commission to take an active part in efforts to eradicate this evil practice.

While torture continues to be practised, it is right that the international community should also take steps to assist its victims. The Twelve therefore appeal again to all governments, non-governmental organizations and individuals to contribute to the Voluntary Fund for the Victims of Torture.

The appointment last year of a Special Rapporteur on religious intolerance added an important new mechanism to the Commission's thematic approach to its examination of human rights violations. The Twelve welcome his first report, which includes an excellent analysis of the problem and which provides a good basis for further work in this field.

In a very large number of countries there continue to be instances of summary or arbitrary executions, in violation of the inherent right to life. The Twelve commend the Special Rapporteur's efforts on behalf of some of those threatened with summary executions. We agree with the Special Rapporteur that the urgency of the problem requires that the international community should continue to monitor the situation. As all member States support the annual resolution on this issue, we call on them in good faith to implement what they have freely accepted by bringing an end to summary or arbitrary executions.

The practice of disappearances continues to cause untold suffering in many parts of the world to the victims and their families. We commend the responsible approach of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances to its mandate, and welcome the progress it has made. We urge all governments concerned to respond favourably to the group's request for visits, so that the effectiveness of its work may increase further. We are satisfied that this year the group has been able to maintain its normal schedule of work. We call on the Secretariat to ensure that this will also be the case in future.

Mr Chairman, in line with their commitment to the promotion of human rights, our governments are all party to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, the earliest regional arrangement for the protection of human rights. The European Convention, which brings together the countries of Western Europe, is far-reaching, not only in its scope, but in particular in its enforcement machinery. It is in that framework that complaints of violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the Republic of Cyprus are being dealt with. This machinery, and the optional procedure, to which all the Twelve have acceded, recognizing the right of individual petition, have enabled the European Convention to play an important part in the guaranteeing of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Our experience with the European Convention strengthens our firm conviction that ratification of human rights instruments alone is not enough. Implementation is essential.

Mr Chairman, in the USSR and the other States of Eastern Europe, although human rights are in theory guaranteed in their constitutions, and although they highlight their adherence to all international

human rights instruments, in practice fundamental rights and freedoms are not duly respected. We look to all governments of that region to respect the rights which they claim to guarantee. Although some progress has been made in specific cases in a number of the countries of this region, many situations continue to give rise to grave concern, notably that of Romania which has recently been the subject of a number of disturbing reports. We have noted with interest the release of some prisoners of conscience and various public declarations of good intent made over the past year by the authorities of the Soviet Union and some Eastern European States. However, much more has to be done to translate these declarations into concrete and comprehensive action to secure lasting improvement in the field of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

At the Follow-up Meeting of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe in Vienna, the Twelve continue to press for the sort of steps which everyone in our countries can see and understand: for the right to be reunited with one's family, for freedom of movement within each country, and for freedom to leave and return to one's own country, for the right freely to profess and practise a religion or belief, for the right freely to receive and disseminate information, for the right to exercise and defend human rights without harassment or persecution.

Mr Chairman, the Twelve wish to underline the particular importance they attach to the right to set up free and democratic trade unions. It is of fundamental importance for the establishment and preservation of a democratic society that strong and independent organizations are in a position to defend, without interference, the interests of all those for whom they act and speak. In many countries, trade unionists are perhaps particularly vulnerable because they defend not only their own rights but also those of others. It is our duty as an international community to see to it that they and all others who are seeking to defend these rights, in all countries, whatever their political, economic and social system, are protected against harassment, detention or worse.

Mr Chairman, violations of human rights in South Africa have long been one of the central issues dealt with in the report of the Economic and Social Council. On several occasions at this Assembly, including our recent statement under item 87 concerning the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, the Twelve have expressed in detail their revulsion at apartheid, and their conviction that it must be abolished. We have continually made clear our views to the South African Government, and have worked to promote a genuine national dialogue, conducive to the achievement of liberty and social justice for all in that country. The Twelve deplore all violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms in South Africa. We are particularly disturbed by arbitrary mass arrests, forced resettlement, the practice of detention without trial under the state of emergency, and by the use of torture against many individuals, including children. Recent releases of some political prisoners may perhaps allow us to hope that the South African Government is beginning to see that its repressive policies can only lead to further tragedy for all South Africans. The deepening in the last two years of the cycle of violence, from wherever it may come, and of repression in South Africa has tragically worsened the prospects for peaceful change. The Twelve will continue to work for rapid and peaceful change so that South Africa can become a fully democratic country in which all citizens can exercise their human rights.

Fundamental change is inevitable, not only in South Africa but also in Namibia, which the Pretoria Government continues to occupy illegally in defiance of international law. The Twelve take this opportunity to reiterate their view that the people of Namibia must be enabled to enjoy the human rights and fundamental freedoms which are the common birthright of us all. In the first instance they must be allowed to exercise their right of self-determination. Until apartheid has been abolished there and Namibia has achieved independence in accordance with the United Nations plan in Security Council Resolution 435, it will not be possible to secure stability and peace in Southern Africa.

Mr Chairman, the report of the Economic and Social Council also deals with the question of human rights in the Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967. Our views on this question were set out in detail in my delegation's intervention on behalf of the Twelve in the Special Political Committee.

The Twelve have consistently attached importance to all matters affecting the human rights of the inhabitants of the occupied territories. The Twelve are deeply concerned at the many reports that have reached us from different quarters on the increasing climate of tension and the serious deterioration of the situation in general in the occupied territories. These reports have pointed out numerous arbitrary

acts on the part of the Israeli occupying authorities, notably cases of arbitrary arrests or detention, without charge or trial, town arrests, house arrests, deportations, demolition and sealing of houses as well as restrictions on freedom of movement. The Twelve have followed with particular attention the tragic events at Bir Zeit University last December and at Bethlehem University less than a month ago where the opening of fire by the Israeli army has resulted in the death and wounding of defenceless students. We see again particular cause for concern in the methods used to control demonstrations by students and others, and the increasing frequency and duration of university closures as a form of collective punishment.

We are also concerned at the disturbing reports on interrogation methods and at the unsatisfactory prison conditions which led earlier this year to a hunger strike by around 4 000 Palestinian prisoners and which was followed by a cycle of violent confrontations between Palestinians and the occupying power. We naturally deplore all acts of violence in the occupied territories, from whatever quarter they come. However, we cannot fail to note that the more or less chronic unrest is to a large extent due to spontaneous reactions arising from legitimate sentiments among the Palestinians.

Mr Chairman, the General Assembly has again before it a report on the human rights situation in Afghanistan prepared by the Special Rapporteur. The Twelve welcome that this year, for the first time, the Afghan authorities have begun to extend cooperation to the Special Rapporteur, inviting him to visit the country.

In the report before the Committee, the Special Rapporteur refers to a reduction in the number of political prisoners and the release of some prisoners as a result of limited amnesties. Sadly, however, this does not alter the fundamentally horrifying picture of the continued denial of the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the Afghan people, both by the authorities in Kabul and by the occupying forces. Millions of Afghans, well over a quarter of the population, have now fled the country; thousands more flee every month. Close to a million are displaced inside the country. All opposition and suspected opposition to the regime and to the Soviet occupation is punished with great severity, with no respect for human rights obligations. Torture continues to be practised systematically on prisoners and brutal reprisals are common against any village suspected even of sympathizing with the Resistance.

The war has brought massive destruction and suffering to Afghanistan. Severe suffering has been caused to the civilian population through the indiscriminate bombardment of villages, aimed at destroying the agricultural infrastructure. Hundreds of thousands of people are being displaced against their will. The use of certain incendiary weapons, anti-personnel mines and booby-trap toys are all reported to continue. Nor have the cultural traditions of the country been spared. There are reports of the destruction of cultural property, particularly of mosques, and there is increasing evidence that the educational system is being based on non-traditional ideas and enforced indoctrination, contrary to Article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, with children being sent abroad to be educated, against their parents' will.

The scale of human rights violations revealed in this and previous reports leaves no doubt that the General Assembly should retain this question on its agenda, so that the situation is kept under review. Even more critical is the need for the Soviet occupying forces to withdraw immediately, and for them and the Afghan authorities to stop the abuses. We are still awaiting significant progress in this respect. We welcome the fact that the regime established some contact with the International Committee of the Red Cross. We stress that it must now allow Red Cross representatives to have access to political prisoners and to be able to carry out protection work.

We urge the authorities in Afghanistan to extend their full cooperation to the Commission on Human Rights and its Special Rapporteur, in particular by permitting the Special Rapporteur access to all the places he wishes to visit.

Mr Chairman, the General Assembly voted last month by a record majority for the withdrawal of foreign forces from Cambodia and the restoration to the people of that country of the fundamental right to determine their own destiny. The Twelve share the abhorrence felt by the world community at the terrible abuses inflicted in the past by Pol Pot and his *Khmer rouge*. The fact that this Organization took no action against the Pol Pot regime continues to be a blot on its record. But that is no justification for Vietnam's illegal occupation of Cambodia or its imposition of an illegitimate regime. Hundreds of

thousands of Cambodians have been forced to flee, and now lead a precarious existence in camps in border areas, totally dependent on whatever international humanitarian relief and protection can be extended to them.

The Twelve are also concerned about human rights violations in Vietnam. Many thousands have been detained without trial in Vietnam since 1975 on an indefinite basis, in flagrant violation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Vietnam has been party since 1982. The Twelve remain disturbed by continuing reports that these detainees are subject to harsh treatment. We welcome the recent amnesty and subsequent release of prisoners and hope that all political prisoners will be released. The thousands of Vietnamese who continue each year to flee oppression in their country are a living reproach to the Vietnamese Government.

Mr Chairman, this Committee again has before it a report on Iran. We note that the Government of Iran has entered into limited contact with the Special Representative, but also that this has not entailed any real cooperation on human rights issues. We regret this *de facto* lack of cooperation, as evidenced by the blanket refusal by the Government of Iran to respond in detail to specific allegations of human rights violations. We further regret the refusal to allow the Special Representative to visit Iran.

The Twelve remain gravely concerned at the human rights situation in Iran. We reiterate once again our view that Iran is legally bound to respect all provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights, and the other human rights instruments to which it is party. There can be no justification for failing to live up to all these obligations. International law cannot tolerate a selective approach to obligations prescribed in internationally binding instruments. Unfortunately, there continue to be reports of summary and arbitrary executions, of the use of torture, and of arbitrary detention. Persons perceived as opponents of the regime are subjected to persecution. Such treatment is accorded in particular to minority groups, such as the Baha'is, who are subjected to systematic and harsh discrimination solely because of their faith. The situation is further aggravated by the lack of an independent judiciary and the widespread absence of a fair trial. The Twelve are also concerned that children are conscripted and sent into battle.

According to the report of the Special Representative there remain specific and detailed allegations of human rights violations, related in particular to the right to life, the right to freedom from torture, the right to liberty and security of person, and the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, and to freedom of expression. In this connection we draw attention to the Special Rapporteur's faith in the credibility of his witnesses. The Twelve, therefore, again urge the Iranian Government to extend its full cooperation to the Special Representative, and, in particular, to invite him to visit Iran in order to make it possible for him to prepare a first hand report on the human rights situation in the country. The international community must be able to continue its consideration of the human rights situation in Iran on the basis of the established international standards in the fields of human rights. In particular, we call on the Iranian Government to live up to its obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

The Twelve are also concerned about violations of human rights in certain other countries in that region. The absence of reports on these situations before this Committee does not mean that human rights and fundamental freedoms are fully respected in that region.

Mr Chairman, the Twelve have made clear their wish to contribute to the establishment of peace and to the economic development of Central America. The European Community and its Member States have established a political dialogue with the countries of Central America to underline our support for the peace process in the interests of stability, pluralist democracy, and human rights.

The Twelve believe that the Esquipulas II Agreement, based on a proposal by the President of Costa Rica within the framework of the Contadora process, constitutes a very important step towards the establishment of a climate of mutual trust necessary for the peaceful development of that region and for the protection of political freedom, social justice and human rights.

The Twelve urge the five Central American countries as well as all countries with links to and interests in the region to cooperate constructively in translating the agreement reached into lasting peace and

pluralist democracy in all Central American countries, with full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. No effort to achieve lasting peace can flourish unless it pays full attention to human rights.

The question of human rights in two countries of that region is on this Committee's agenda.

I should like to express the appreciation of the Twelve for the full cooperation which the Government of El Salvador has continued to extend to the Special Representative. We attach considerable importance to this cooperation.

The Special Representative's report concludes that the constitutional authorities of the Republic of El Salvador, as part of the process of democratic normalization, continue to be firmly committed to a policy of respect for human rights. This is reflected particularly in the progressive decline in the number of attacks on human life.

The Special Representative notes that political assassinations continue, but that the number has decreased. He states, further, that although the Salvadorian regular army is generally endeavouring to apply humanitarian standards in the conduct of hostilities, this has not prevented unjustifiable cases of civilian casualties. Although the number of such deaths is difficult to establish, it is appreciably lower than in 1985 and previous years. On the other hand, there are, regrettably, indications of a resurgence of 'death squad' activities; in this connection the Twelve deplore the recent assassination of the leader of the Independent Human Rights Commission, Herbert Anaya, and we urge the Government of El Salvador to spare no efforts to apprehend and prosecute the perpetrators of this horrible act of violence.

According to the Special Representative, the number of political prisoners has decreased. We welcome this. We are deeply concerned, however, at reports of strong psychological pressure, equivalent to inhumane or degrading treatment, on some of these prisoners. The Special Representative also states that the criminal justice system to investigate and punish serious human rights violations remains highly unsatisfactory. We strongly encourage the Government to ensure the proper effectiveness of the judiciary as quickly as possible.

The Twelve welcome the recent release of political prisoners in the framework of the amnesty which is being implemented. At the same time, the Twelve urge the Salvadorian Government to implement the amnesty in a way which guarantees that all past human rights violations be investigated and that the perpetrators be brought to justice.

The report of the Special Representative notes that the guerrilla forces are responsible for acts which seriously contravene the norms of humanitarian law. They have continued their systematic attacks against the country's economic infrastructure, and engage in summary executions and abductions of civilians. The report also refers to the large and disturbing numbers killed by the explosion of mines, most of which, in the view of the Special Representative, were laid by FMLN forces. In fact, he notes that the guerilla organizations, with their mines, were the ones responsible for the highest number of casualties among the non-combatant population.

The Twelve call upon both sides to observe scrupulously the relevant international norms of humanitarian treatment as set out in the Geneva Conventions and the Additional Protocols thereto.

The Twelve strongly urge that the measures recommended by the Special Representative be implemented by the interested parties. In this respect, we welcome the resumption in October of this year of the dialogue between the government and opposition forces within the framework of Esquipulas II. We hope that the recent suspension by the FDR/FMLN of this dialogue is only temporary and that it will be resumed soon in order to facilitate a process which will lead to the end of all human rights violations at an early date.

Mr Chairman, as regards the situation in Guatemala, the mandate of the Special Representative has now been brought to an end and an expert has been appointed by the Secretary-General to assist the Government of Guatemala in taking the necessary action for the further restoration of human rights. This does not mean, however, that violations of human rights no longer occur. President Cerezo and his government have undoubtedly set themselves the objective of improving the human rights situation. We welcome this determination. When President Cerezo took office he was faced with a generalized climate of violence and abuse. There is no report from a Special Representative before this Committee. Unfortunately, reports continue to be submitted to the Commission on Human Rights which indicate

that grave violations of human rights, though reduced in number, continue to occur, and, in particular, that death squads continue to operate. The Twelve express their concern at these violations. We acknowledge the good intentions of and the efforts made by the Government so far, but we also urge it to spare no effort to fully implement the commitments it has made in the field of human rights. We hope that all sections of Guatemalan society will play their part in this. We look forward to receiving next year the report and recommendations of the expert appointed by the Secretary-General.

Mr Chairman, on many occasions the Twelve have made plain their particular concern about human rights abuses in Chile. We welcome the cooperation which the Chilean Government has extended to the Special Rapporteur, in particular by allowing him to visit Chile and to have contact with a considerable number of relevant persons. The Twelve urge the Government of Chile to continue its cooperation with the Special Rapporteur.

Nevertheless, the report of the Special Rapporteur bears testimony to the fact that the situation in Chile remains a matter for deep concern. There continue to be many allegations of violations of the right to life, to liberty and security, the right to a fair trial, the right to freedom of movement. There has been no significant change in the basic political or legal structures in Chile, which enable the violation of human rights.

While the state of siege imposed in September last year was lifted in early January this year, the state of emergency remains in force, under which the right of assembly continues to be restricted by the Government. Significant numbers of political prisoners remain in detention. There continue to be reports of torture and ill-treatment of those detained on suspicion of breaking the security laws, and of abductions. The re-emergence of right-wing death squads is an alarming feature of the present situation, the more so since their activities have so far gone unpunished. More generally, the Twelve condemn violence from whatever quarter and for whatever reason.

The Twelve continue to find this situation unacceptable. Indeed, we believe that the measures taken by the Government are being used also to harass and intimidate its democratic opponents. Moreover, we consider that these measures will intensify political polarization and increase the risk of further violence.

The Twelve reiterate their hope that the Government will charge or release all those arbitrarily detained. We call on the Chilean authorities to establish and publish without further delay the full facts about the cases of Sr. Rojas and Srta. Quintana, who were brutally burned, allegedly at the hands of an army patrol, in early July last year. These individual cases of violations of human rights and the many other cases listed by the Special Rapporteur call for explanation by the Government of Chile and they illustrate the need for an improvement of the human rights situation in that country.

The Twelve underline the necessity for the Chilean judiciary to work effectively and to recover the independence it once enjoyed.

An improvement in the human rights situation would be the first concrete step towards fulfilling the Chilean Government's declared intention to restore Chile to democracy. For fourteen years now the exercise of democratic rights has been denied. The Twelve consider that an unconditional political dialogue between government and democratic opposition and free elections are essential elements in the process of a peaceful and orderly transition to full democracy under which human rights are guaranteed.

Mr Chairman, this statement is not a complete catalogue of human rights violations in the world. There are reports on numerous additional violations in documents from other sources of information, in particular the main non-governmental organizations, such as Amnesty International, the International League for Human Rights, and the International Commission of Jurists and its affiliates. These organizations perform an important service for the world community in bringing these issues to public attention, in particular since their independence of national interest is an important element of their credibility. The available information makes it clear that the list of countries in which serious human rights violations are reported is depressingly long.

This Assembly cannot remain indifferent in the face of the systematic violations of individual liberties, of the tyranny, oppression and indiscriminate violence which persist in many countries.

It is a sad fact that the human rights set forth in various international instruments remain a distant goal for many, if not most, people in the world. We must, therefore, intensify our efforts to improve the capacity of the United Nations to respond promptly and effectively to all violations of human rights,

wherever they occur. This requires political will. Above all, it requires the full respect by governments of their obligations under the Charter to protect and promote the rights of each and every person. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

87/467. Statement in the Fifth Committee of the UN General Assembly: UN Pension System¹

Date of Issue: 18 November 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community.

First of all, allow me to thank Mr Fulcheri, the Chairman of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board, for his introductory statement. Allow me also to thank Assistant Secretary-General Foran for his statement.

Mr Chairman, the Twelve have studied with interest the report of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board, document A/42/9, and the report of the ACABQ, document A/42/682. We would like to comment on the questions concerning the rate of contribution to the Fund, the two-track pension adjustment system, the investments of the Fund, the size and composition of the Board, the administrative expenses and the Emergency Fund.

Mr Chairman, the Twelve have taken note with concern of the fact that the nineteenth actuarial valuation of the Fund as of 31 December 1986 shows a reversal of the trend of progressive reductions in the actuarial imbalance of the Fund. As stated in the Board's report, various factors have contributed to this development. Their negative impact has more than offset the positive effect of the Board's investment performance. As a consequence, the actuarial imbalance has increased from 3.01 to 4.40 per cent on the assumption of a zero growth in the number of participants, and the Board's report contains a unanimous recommendation to increase the rate of contribution to 22.5 per cent as of 1 January 1988. In the view of the Twelve, the present and estimated future assets of the Fund should broadly correspond to its projected lialibities. They have taken note of the fact that such an increase in the rate of contribution is also recommended by the ACABQ. In spite of the current financial situation and the requirement for financial restraint, the Twelve recognize the grounds for the Board's recommendation. In the light of the effects of this increase in the rate of contributions we may later decide whether or to what extent further increases will be necessary.

Mr Chairman, pursuant to General Assembly Resolution 41/208 the Board was requested to continue to monitor the two-track pension adjustment system and to keep under review the situation of inequalities of benefits caused by different dates of separation.

The Twelve can support the recommendation made by the Board and the ACABQ that the '120 per cent cap' should be maintained and the situation continue to be monitored. As concluded by the Board, a lowering of the 'cap' would yield minimal financial savings and the implementation of a change would require additional transitional measures and time-consuming procedures.

As stated by the Board, interim measures are necessary to cope with the problem of inequality of benefits caused by different dates of separation in a period of rapid decline in the value of the United States dollar in relation to other major currencies during a period of declining or static dollar pensions. Accordingly, as an interim measure to be applied to the professional and higher categories, the Board has recommended the establishment of a 'floor', for the relationship between the base amount of the United States dollar pension and the initial local-currency-track pension at those locations where the 36-month average exchange rates have shown an overall decline during the last two years (1986 and 1987). The ACABQ has concurred with the interim measures recommended by the Board. With this

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background, the Twelve wish to give their support to the Board's recommendation. They note that this measure will increase the actuarial imbalance, and express the hope that by reducing the number of early retirements, there will be some offsetting savings.

Mr Chairman, the Twelve have taken note with satisfaction of the Secretary-General's annual report on the management of the investments of the Fund (A/C.5/42/13) and the update on this document given to this Committee by Mr Richard Foran. Even when the latest events on the stock market are taken into consideration the management of the investments of the Fund has for the last five years been remarkably successful. For that performance we would like to give the investment management team our warmest congratulations. We have, however, taken note of the fact that the favourable conditions which have prevailed are not likely to continue. Accordingly, slower growth and lower rates of return are to be expected in the future.

Mr Chairman, turning to the question of the expenses relating to the administration of the Fund, the Twelve have taken note of the Board's revised estimates of expenses for 1986-1987 and the estimates of expenses for the biennium 1988-1989.

The revised estimates of expenses for 1986-1987 are 472 900 dollars higher than the initially approved estimates for the biennium. As this increase is due to contractual obligations in relation to the advisory and custodial fees, the Twelve do not disagree with the ACABQ recommendation to approve the revised estimates.

With regard to the estimates of expenses for the biennium 1988-1989, the Twelve note that the resource growth is again due to mainly the same factor: A rise in the advisory and custodial fees, based on a projection of the market value of the Fund's investment portfolio, to which those fees are contractually linked. While the Twelve can approve the estimates of expenses for 1988-1989, they agree with the ACABQ that only 100 000 dollars should be provided for consultant services.

The Twelve have studied with interest the review made by the Board on its size and composition and its recommendation to expand the size of the Board to 33 seats. The Twelve have noted the fact that the recommendation reflects a consensus in the Board. Further, the Twelve have taken note of the principles and objectives on which the Board has based its recommendations and that due consideration has been given to the views previously expressed by this Committee. On this background, the Twelve are ready to favourably consider the Board's suggestion that a decision should be taken this year by the Fifth Committee to increase the number of the members of the Board from 21 to 33 and that the additional seats should be allocated as suggested by the Board.

In conclusion, Mr Chairman, let me say that the Twelve have no objection to the recommendation of the Board that it be authorized to contribute up to 200 000 dollars to the Emergency Fund in the biennium 1988-1989. This was also the viewpoint expressed by the ACABQ. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

87/468. Statement in the Sixth Committee of the UN General Assembly: Development and Strengthening of Good-Neighbourliness Between States¹

Date of Issue: 18 November 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Ms Rechnagel: Mr Chairman, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community.

As stressed earlier by the Twelve on this agenda item, we believe in the necessity of friendly relations with all States and consider that an enhancement of such relations between States bordering each other can make an important contribution to promoting peace. Consequently, we attach great importance to

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the strengthening and development of these relations based on principles and norms which govern international relations such as the respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and non-interference in the domestic affairs of States.

For our part it may be pointed out that the process of European integration as evidenced by the creation of the European Community is, among its other benefits, an illustration of good-neighbourly relations in practice.

However, while the Twelve recognize that the concept of good-neighbourliness implies respect for and implementation of important rules of international law, which are already well established, we persist in questioning whether the notion itself corresponds to any specific principle or principles of international law. Thus, in its examination of possible elements pertaining to good-neighbourliness the Sub-Committee addressed too wide a range of topics, most of which are already being dealt with in other fora, either within the United Nations itself, or in other international fora. The discussion consisted largely of a debate on the classification and arrangement of the many elements and areas of cooperation identified in the consultations and still general agreement has not been reached on any of these elements despite the commendable efforts of the Chairman of the Sub-Committee, Mr Mikulka.

Even if there are issues such as environmental protection and mutual assistance in case of emergency where there may be a need for increased cooperation, the experience of the Sub-Committee has, in our view, shown that continued attempts to identify a concept that could somehow be considered as the basis for a new legal principle could only result in misconceptions.

In considering aspects connected with good-neighbourly relations between States the Sixth Committee must be careful not to duplicate work which has already been carried out or is currently in progress within the United Nations or other fora. Above all, the Twelve believe that this exercise should not consist of repeating or reformulating existing principles and rules already adequately reflected in the Charter of the United Nations, in the Friendly Relations Declaration, in the Definition of Aggression and in the Declaration on Non-Use of Force adopted at this session of the General Assembly.

In other words, Mr Chairman: three years of discussion have highlighted the elusive nature of the subject presented to the Sub-Committee, as reflected in paragraph 7 of its report which emphasizes that there is still no general agreement on the elements that might enter into the concept of good neighbourliness. We have doubts as to the wisdom of further pursuing this task. This conclusion is not necessarily negative in nature. It often happens that a subject after having been considered in good faith for some years in a particular Committee turns out not to be ripe for fruitful consideration. And that is exactly what, in our view, may have happened with the subject matter before us. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

87/469. Question No H-570/87 by Mr Vandemeulebroucke Concerning the Arrest of the French Tourist Guide Michel Caraminot in Turkey and Question No H-590/87 by Mr Dessylas Concerning Trials and Legal Proceedings Against Member States' Citizens in Turkey

Date of Issue: 18 November 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

Question No H-570/87:

The Ministers are doubtless aware of the fact that, on 17 June, the thirty-year-old French tourist guide, Mr Michel Caraminot, was arrested in Turkey on the charge of pro-Kurd and pro-Armenian propaganda. They are perhaps also aware that fellow travellers have emphatically stated that these accusations were unfounded.

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At the same time, the fact remains that the European Parliament had recently adopted the resolution on the Armenian question ¹, very much contrary to the wishes of Turkey, with the result that Turkey is evidently to some extent out for revenge against those who draw attention to the Armenian minority in Turkey.

Whatever the case may be, I should like to know from the Foreign Ministers whether they have already decided to bring pressure to bear on Turkey through European political cooperation, with a view to obtaining the release of this innocent guide as quickly as possible and also at the same time to securing an undertaking from Turkey that it will in future refrain from such undemocratic actions?

Question No H-590/87:

More and more arbitrary steps are being taken against citizens of European Community countries by the Turkish Government (the trial of the tourist guide Michel Caraminot, the detention of a German tourist guide for many months in Diyarbakir, the trial of the deputy manager of Lufthansa in Istanbul, the trial of the publishers of the Turkish edition of the 'Encyclopaedia Britannica'), on the grounds that they do not subscribe to the official Turkish views regarding the history of Armenia and Kurdistan. What is the attitude of the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation to this situation?

Mr Ellemann-Jensen, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: With regard to the first question, I only need to inform the Honourable Member that the matter is no longer topical, since Mr Michel Caraminot has returned to France. To the question from Mr Dessylas, I will first say that assistance to individual citizens of Member States falls within the powers of the Member State concerned. But the Honourable Member can rest assured that the Twelve fully support the Member States in their initiatives to ensure that their citizens are given proper treatment.

Mr Bonde (ARC): Now that the question of Turkey has been raised, I would ask the President-in-Office of the Council of Ministers meeting in political cooperation to confirm that the provision of the European Convention on Human Rights stipulating that detainees must be informed of the charge against them and are entitled to a lawyer also applies to Turkey. When I raise the question now, it is because we have just returned from Ankara, where the State Prosecutor had informed us that two party leaders, from the Labour Party and the Communist Party respectively, were to be held without any right to a lawyer. They were to be held initially for fifteen days. The investigations would then be handed over to the civilian police, after which investigations would be pursued by the State Prosecutor himself. And throughout that period the two party leaders will not have the services of a lawyer available to them. Hence my question, Mr President-in-Office.

Mr Ellemann-Jensen: In answer to this question, which relates to a case in progress, I will say that there is good reason to check very carefully whether, for example, the rules under the Convention on Human Rights regarding access for lawyers to prisoners and requiring that persons charged be brought before a judge are being adhered to. In this current case we will undertake to follow developments very closely, and it will of course not go unchallenged if we should find that the clear rules laid down in the Convention on Human Rights have not been properly applied.

Mr Alavanos (COM): I think the answer given to Mr Bonde by the President-in-Office contains a positive element, and I would like more particularly, especially since we heard today precisely that the Secretary of the Turkish Communist Party has suffered a heart attack during his imprisonment, to ask the President to what extent the Twelve would be disposed, in the face of these developments and of their great importance for the very survival of those internees, in other words from a humanitarian point of view, to make some approach to the Turkish Government for the release of the two leaders of the United Communist Party of Turkey.

Mr Ellemann-Jensen: I have just this afternoon received a report of the information referred to in this question. I have instructed the Presidency's embassy in Turkey to investigate the matter more closely. Clearly, we will follow further developments very closely.

Mr Newens (S): Even if Mr Caraminot has now been released, the fact that he was arrested for expressing an opinion which was not accepted by the Turkish authorities on the Armenian issue surely makes it clear that it is quite impossible in Turkey for Turkish nationals to express such opinions when they are different from those approved by the government.

Accordingly, will the Minister make it clear to the Turkish authorities that if that is the situation, we cannot accept that Turkey has returned to an acceptable state of democracy and that we shall not, in any circumstances, be prepared to give further consideration to the Turkish application to join the European Community or to other issues that Turkey wishes to pursue with the European Community until Turkey puts its house in order. It will not have put its house in order until people are free to express opinions which differ from those of the authorities.

Mr Ellemann-Jensen: I do not have much to add to what I have already said. I can only stress that, when it is a question of protection for the Member States' own citizens, it is up to the individual Member State to react. But I will add, and emphasize very strongly, that the Twelve will naturally support these endeavours on the part of Member States. I will also add that we are following these matters very closely and, if there is any question of violations of the rules on human rights, they will, of course, be challenged.

87/470. Question No H-638/87 by Mr Pranchère Concerning the Destruction of Armenian Monuments in Turkey

Date of Issue: 18 November 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

Can the Ministers confirm the veracity of reports in the French press at the end of October 1987 which quoted 'Kommunist', the newspaper of the Communist Party of the Armenian Soviet Republic, that Turkey is committing cultural genocide against the Armenians by destroying the architectural vestiges of their civilization? The newspaper stated, for instance, that again very recently 120 metres of the historic wall of the fortress of Ani was blown up.

Will the Ministers use their influence to urge the Ankara Government to put an end to such practices, which are an attack on the memory of the Armenians, and thus infringe human rights, although Turkey has an association agreement with the European Community?

Do the Ministers not feel that such practices also conflict with the Lausanne Treaty and with the European Parliament's resolution of 18 June 1987 on a political solution to the Armenian question ¹?

Answer:

The question of the Honourable Member has not been the subject of discussion within European political cooperation.

undemocratic and arbitrary steps against the democratic opposition forces, involving arrests,

87/471. Question No H-587/87 by Mr Alavanos Concerning Human Rights in Saudi Arabia

Date of Issue: 18 November 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

Following the bloody events in Mecca, the Saudi Arabian Government has recently taken a series of

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Resolution of 18 June 1987 on a political situation to the Armenian question, OJ No C 190 of 20 July 1987, p. 119-121.

¹ Resolution of 18 June 1987 on a political situation to the Armenian question, OJ No C 190 of 20 July 1987, p. 119-121.

interrogation, illegal detention, confiscation of passports, threats, etc. Last August, Zaafar Hussein Huood died from torture to which he was subjected while in detention; he was found dead with a fractured jaw and ribs.

Will the Foreign Ministers make representations to the Saudi Arabian authorities with a view to saving the lives of political prisoners, putting a stop to torture, securing their immediate release, and ensuring respect for human rights?

Answer-

The Twelve have stated on various occasions that the protection of human rights is the legitimate and continuous duty of the world community and of nations individually. Respect for human rights is an important element in relations between third countries and the Europe of the Twelve.

The Twelve make representations on human rights cases whenever they are persuaded that this will have the desired effect and will be in the interest of the persons involved. The specific case mentioned by the Honourable Member has not been discussed within European political cooperation.

87/472. Question No H-592/87 by Mr Ephremidis Concerning European Defence

Date of Issue: 18 November 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

At the meeting between the Prime Ministers of Belgium and the Federal Republic of Germany on 30 September, the Prime Minister of Belgium declared that 'the forthcoming European Union would be neither complete nor real unless it also encompassed defence'. As the subject of 'European defence' has recently been under discussion among the Member States' governments, will the Foreign Ministers say what their current decisions on the matter are?

Answer:

- 1. It is not incumbent upon the Presidency to comment on statements made by Member States on the future European Union. The position of the Twelve on cooperation on questions concerning European security is determined by the Single European Act.
- 2. As the Honourable Member no doubt knows, it states in Article 30 of the Single European Act that close cooperation on questions of European security would contribute in an essential way to the development of a European identity in external policy matters. Article 30 lists, among the competences of the EPC, political and economic aspects of security. These aspects are thus regularly discussed by the Twelve.
- 3. Defence matters fall accordingly outside the scope of European political cooperation and have not been the subject of discussions between the governments of the EC Member States in that context.

87/473. Question No H-599/87 by Sir Peter Vanneck Concerning European Defence

Date of Issue: 18 November 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

Is the Danish Presidency satisfied with the efforts by individual Member States to ensure their national defence contribution to European defence so that Soviet proposals on European security can be addressed from a position of strength in the West?

Answer:

As the Honourable Member is no doubt aware, the military aspects of security, including the national contribution to European defence, fall outside the scope of European political cooperation. The Honourable Member is also referred to the answer to Question No H-592/87 by Mr Ephremidis ¹.

87/474. Question No H-619/87 by Mr Selva Concerning Arms Sales and Exports to Persian Gulf Countries

Date of Issue: 18 November 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

Will the Foreign Ministers let me know the quantities and kinds of arms sold by EEC countries to Persian Gulf countries since the Iran-Iraq war began, giving as well the amounts of such sales and the conditions of payments, in financial terms, for each country which has sold or bought these arms?

Answer:

The question of arms sales falls within the competence of national governments.

87/475. Question No H-547/87 by Mr Boesmans Concerning Esquipulas II

Date of Issue: 18 November 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

The five Central American Presidents have requested the European Parliament and the Pope to act as guarantors for the implementation of the agreement recently concluded in Guatemala, as provided for in the peace plan drawn up by President Arias. To date, only Nicaragua and Costa Rica have adhered strictly to the letter of this agreement. In El Salvador and Guatemala, the signs are favourable. In Honduras, however, the Government seems to have no intention of setting up a joint commission to monitor the agreement.

In view of the involvement of the European Community in Esquipulas II, do the Foreign Ministers not regard it as their duty to make immediate representations to the Honduran authorities, urging them to comply with the terms of the agreement?

Answer:

The Twelve have, on many occasions, expressed their full support for the implementation of the Peace Plan adopted by the Presidents of Central America in Guatemala on 7 August 1987.

In their recent meetings in New York with the countries of Central America and with the countries of the Contadora and Support Groups, the Twelve have reiterated their support for the peace process and

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 87/472.

have urged the five Central American countries to cooperate constructively in translating the agreement reached into lasting peace and true democracy in Central America.

Furthermore, the Twelve have made démarches to that effect in the Central American capitals.

87/476. Question No H-567/87 By Mr Papoutsis Concerning the Illegal Detention of Clodorimo Almeida

Date of Issue: 18 November 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

On 27 March 1987, Clodorimo Almeida, one-time Foreign Minister in Allende's Government of National Unity and currently General Secretary of the Chilean Socialist Party and President of the United Left, was arrested after returning without a permit following twelve years in exile. He has been held illegally to this day, with no date yet announced for his trial, and faces three charges: illegal return, fomenting terrorism, and conducting propaganda for violence and the totalitarian State. Bearing in mind the European Parliament's professed standpoints in favour of the democratization of Chile and respect for civil and individual rights, what action have the Ministers meeting in political cooperation taken, and what steps do they propose to take, to bring to an end the illegal detention of Clodorimo Almeida and, more generally, that of the militant Chilean democrats being held illegally or after rigged trials in the jails of the fascist Pinochet regime?

Answer:

The Twelve are keeping a very close watch on the situation of Mr Clodorimo Almeida and they are doing what they can to stop any prosecution of the former Minister. Furthermore, the Twelve have on numerous occasions called on the Chilean Government to revive as quickly as possible and to accelerate the process of restoring democracy and to release immediately opposition politicians, trade unionists and other people who have been summarily detained.

87/477. Question No H-291/87 by Mr Arbeloa Muru Concerning the European Court to Deal with Crimes of Terrorism

Date of Issue: 18 November 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

What difficulties do the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation see in setting up a European court, as various politicians have suggested, to deal with crimes of terrorism in the Community countries?

Answer:

The creation of a European Court to deal with terrorist crimes perpetrated within the territory of the Twelve has not been discussed within European political cooperation.

87/478. Question No H-428/87 by Mr Pearce Concerning South Africa

Date of Issue: 18 November 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

What developments in South Africa of a kind favourable to the interests of black South Africans have been reported to the Foreign Ministers since the elections for the white South Africans in May of this year?

Answer:

There have been few encouraging developments since the white elections of 6 May. The basic structures of apartheid remain in place. There is no sign that the South African Government is yet prepared to set in hand a process of dialogue which would lead to the elimination of apartheid through peaceful negotiation with acknowledged leaders of the black community. As the Honourable Member will be well aware, the Twelve continue to press the South African Government to take steps identified in the Hague communique of June 1985 to create a climate in which such dialogue could begin.

Despite the lack of progress on the central issue of ending apartheid, the Twelve have noted the following developments:

- i) the State President has announced his intention to set up a National Council. No credible black leader has indicated willingness to join such a body;
- ii) a report by the President's Council proposed adjustments to the Group Areas Act and repeal of the Separate Amenities Act. Given the very guarded response of the South African Government (who rejected repeal of the Separate Amenities Act) the prospect of early significant change in these fields appears dim. In any event, the major anti-apartheid opposition groups have rejected both proposals as inadequate;
- iii) the Twelve have noted the release on 5 November of Govan Mbeki as a positive development, and hope that it will signal the start of a continuing process on the part of the South African Government of releasing all political prisoners, including Nelson Mandela and unbanning political parties;
- iv) the Twelve have also noted the continuing growth of the black trade union movement in South Africa. The Twelve welcome this development. They believe that improved education and labour organization for Blacks in South Africa will be a major force for fundamental change;
- v) the Twelve have also noted the recent decline in the numbers of those illegally detained without charge. They continue to condemn the practice of such detentions by the South African Security Forces and call for the release of all remaining detainees.

87/479. Question No H-431/87 by Mr Mavros Concerning the EEC's Role vis-à-vis the 1 619 Missing Persons in Cyprus

Date of Issue: 18 November 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

How does the EEC perceive its role *vis-à-vis* the 1 619 missing Greeks and Greek Cypriots who were the victims of the Turkish invasion against the independent and sovereign democratic State of Cyprus in 1974?

Answer:

The position of the Twelve concerning the problem of Cyprus will be elaborated in the answers to the question (H-448/87) by Mr Bombard ¹.

The question of those persons from both communities who have gone missing in Cyprus is being dealt with by the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus which was established under the aegis of the United Nations with the consent of both communities in Cyprus. The Twelve wholeheartedly support the work of the committee and call upon the two sides to cooperate fully with it in order to obtain a resolution of this humanitarian problem.

87/480. Question No H-446/87 by Mr Glinne Concerning the Turkish Colonization of the Occupied Territories of the Republic of Cyprus

Date of Issue: 18 November 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

By what means does the Council of Foreign Ministers feel it may be able to resolve the problem of colonization of Cyprus by the Turkish occupying forces?

Answer:

This question will be answered together with the question (H-448/87) by Mr Bombard 1.

87/481. Question No H-448/87 by Mr Bombard Concerning the Role of the EEC in the Cypriot Problem

Date of Issue: 18 November 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

How can the EEC play a role in the Cypriot problem?

Answer:

In my speech on behalf of the Twelve at the United Nations General Assembly on 22 September 1987, I took the opportunity to state again the concern and the commitment of the Twelve to find a just and viable solution for the problem of Cyprus. I expressed our regret that the tragic division of the island continues. I also reaffirmed our strong backing for the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and unity of the Republic of Cyprus in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions. In this context I confirmed that the Twelve reject any action which purports to establish an independent State within Cyprus. I also expressed our support to the Secretary-General, in his mission of good offices and asked those concerned to cooperate with him in the search for a solution of this problem of international concern and to refrain from words or actions that might adversely affect the prospects of a solution by peaceful means.

FPC Bulletin, Doc. 87/481.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 87/481.

87/482. Question No H-630/87¹ by Mr McMahon Concerning the Increase in Imports of Iron and Steel Products from the Republic of South Africa into the Community

Date of Issue: 18 November 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

Given the repeated statements by the President-in-Office at part-sessions of the European Parliament in Strasbourg that the Council of Ministers intends to maintain sanctions against the Republic of South Africa, what action does the President-in-Office propose to take to ensure that Member States carry out Community policy and is he aware that the Community imports of iron and steel products notably from the South African Republic, have increased in recent months?

Answer:

The restrictive measures agreed by the Twelve in September 1985 and September 1986 have been put into force. As far as imports of South African iron and steel products into the Community are concerned, the Honourable Member will be aware, first, that the measures agreed in Brussels on 16 September 1986 covered only certain iron and steel products and, secondly, that the existing contracts were specifically excluded from the measures. The Twelve are monitoring carefully the pattern of their trade with South Africa in order to ensure that the restrictive measures agreed upon are being implemented effectively.

87/483. Statement in the First Committee of the UN General Assembly: General Debate on International Security¹

Date of Issue: 19 November 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Mr Bierring: Mr Chairman, I have the honour to make a statement on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community in order to address items 71, 72 and 73 on our agenda concerning international security.

More than four decades ago, the United Nations Charter laid the groundwork for peace among nations. Built on the ruins that were the tragic result of a devastating World War, the United Nations was established in order to secure peace and security for future generations.

Although refraining from the threat or use of force in international relations obviously was a primary objective for such an endeavour, the prerequisite and — in the last resort — the key to peace and security is cooperation and trust. The acknowledgement and the subsequent realization of this fundamental premise, as embodied in the Charter, may be the most far-reaching consequence of the visionary work done by the original drafters of the United Nations Charter.

However, the drafters also understood that vision had to be tempered with realism. Throughout the history of mankind there has never been a shortage of high-flown ideas and recipes on how the world should be. However, the gap between aspiration and reality has often sealed the fate of many good intentions. With this in mind, the drafters concentrated their efforts on providing the basic elements of a safe, secure, and civilized world, as reflected in chapter I of the Charter on the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

¹ Former Oral Question without debate (O-103/87) converted into a question for Question Time.

Arms control and disarmament have a very important role in the achievement of the goals in the Charter. The prospects for the international security situation a few weeks before the American-Soviet summit in Washington seem very encouraging.

The United States and the Soviet Union are at present engaged in an intense dialogue covering major issues that affect all people, notably including disarmament, human rights, and regional conflicts. The Twelve warmly welcome this development. We hope that the summit meeting between President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev will lead to constructive progress and concrete results both in the field of arms control and disarmament and in other critical areas in their overall relationship. In our view, it is important to maintain a broad scope for the dialogue as we know from experience that tangible and durable progress in one area is difficult to achieve if the situation in other areas is not developing in a satisfactory way. On the other, hand it is also obvious that positive results in one area strengthen mutual confidence and thus enhance possibilities of progress in other areas.

The United Nations may not always have lived up to the hopes of its founders. Nonetheless, the Charter sets the standards and goals after which we must all strive and the principles that all member States have pledged to strictly observe. Its provisions remain the best basis for maintaining international peace and security — provided member States live up to their obligations according to the Charter.

One of the basic ingredients of the Charter — and among the most essential of them all — is the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. Respect for human rights is an essential factor for international peace. There is no doubt that the record in this regard has often fallen seriously short of expectations. However, the fault does not lie in any inadequacy of the United Nations Charter, but rather in the unwillingness of many States to see to it that deeds follow words. The Charter imposes clear and unequivocal obligations on all member States which they should and must live up to. The discrepancy between what some say they do and what they actually do may in effect constitute the greatest obstacle to the fulfilment of the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter: when such discrepancies exist it is difficult to lend credence to benevolent statements, however well-intentioned they may sound. The elimination of all violations of the fundamental rights established in the Charter and the international instruments that flow from it is essential for the enhancement of international peace and security.

Ensuring the effective implementation of the fundamental obligations of the Charter should therefore be our essential objective rather than referring to comprehensive systems, as proposed by a group of member States by introducing agenda item 73. The Twelve are ready to collaborate on ways and means to implement the security system provided for in the Charter. The Twelve see no need for any other comprehensive system. We are of the opinion that the Charter of the United Nations is sufficient for this purpose and that a reformulation or redefinition, directly or by implication, must be avoided.

Mr Chairman, one of the fundamental principles of the Charter is the obligation of all member States to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations. The persistence of regional conflicts, foreign interventions, and the horrifying phenomenon of terrorism also threaten the fabric of international security and must be tackled collectively and implacably.

In our search for a strengthening of international peace and security we should not overlook that regional approaches can open up promising avenues. The CSCE process is an example, and, we think, a very positive one, of what can be achieved through multilateral cooperation within a regional context. The CSCE has played a major role in promoting respect for human rights and furthering confidence and security in Europe. The Helsinki, Madrid and Stockholm Conferences have produced substantive and concrete documents. However, compliance with the freely accepted commitments, in particular in the field of human rights and fundamental freedoms, has largely remained unsatisfactory. The Twelve therefore attach great weight to achieving real progress at the ongoing meeting in Vienna. By progress we think not only of improvement of unsatisfactory or uneven implementation of already existing provisions, but also of new and substantially improved measures within all main areas of the CSCE process, in particular its human dimension. The Twelve remain committed to working steadfastly for this goal. We consider the CSCE process also as positively influencing the global security situation and, thus, a contribution to the maintenance of international peace and security.

The Twelve support and encourage efforts in other parts of the world which can contribute to a lessening of tensions and promote multilateral cooperation in a regional context.

Mr Chairman, the Security Council has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. We are encouraged by the unanimity which was achieved in the Council recently with the adoption of its Resolution 598. An effective Security Council is essential for the operation of the security system created by the United Nations. We attach great importance to enhancing and strengthening the authority and role of the Security Council, and to the necessity of implementing the decisions adopted by this organ as provided by the Charter. We support the Council and the Secretary-General in their efforts to this end. It remains essential to enable the Council to deal with potential conflicts before they break out into open hostilities.

We should not overlook either other, less visible ways in which the United Nations can be used effectively in promoting international peace and security, in particular the Secretary-General's own brand of 'quiet diplomacy'. His patient, sustained and discreet efforts constitute an important element in the process of trying to resolve disputes peacefully. The Twelve would like to pay tribute to the Secretary-General and his staff for their endeavours, which have often borne fruit.

The Organization itself is an indispensable forum in which countries, no matter how large or small, can come together on an equal footing to exchange views, bring their problems and seek to settle disputes peacefully in accordance with the Charter. Moreover, the technical and regional bodies, and Specialized Agencies established under United Nations auspices, provide a network through which the purposes and principles of the Charter can be realized in the humanitarian, social, economic and development spheres, which are intimately related to the question of security.

United Nations peace-keeping operations have greatly assisted in the maintenance of international peace and security. The Twelve are strong supporters of these operations and Member States of the European Community have in fact taken part in all but one of the thirteen operations that have been mounted over the years. There can be no doubt that peace-keeping has proven an effective instrument in bringing stability to conflict areas and maintaining the delicate balance of international peace. The Twelve wish to express their appreciation and respect to all those who have taken part, and in some cases given their lives, in United Nations peace-keeping operations. We welcome the increased international interest in this important instrument which, hopefully, may find wider application.

The Twelve are also interested in further strengthening the ways and means of judicial settlement of international disputes in accordance with the Charter. The Twelve belong to the category of States which in many different contexts of international cooperation have accepted binding third party dispute settlement procedures, both at the European and global level.

Mr Chairman, the rights and privileges of membership of the United Nations go hand in hand with obligations to uphold the purposes and principles of the Charter. These obligations are freely entered into and should not be taken lightly. For their part the Twelve remain prepared to effectively strengthen international peace and security within the framework of the Charter. We, thus, are ready to consider any proposals to this end in the appropriate United Nations fora.

87/484. Statement in the Plenary Session of the UN General Assembly: Policies of Apartheid of the Government of South Africa 1

Date of Issue: 20 November 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Mr Bierring: Mr President, the twelve Member States of the European Community have made clear during this debate their utter revulsion at apartheid. We have repeatedly and unequivocally condemned it

¹ Agenda items 71, 71 and 73.

many times, both here and at the United Nations and in many other fora. There should be no doubt about our objective, which is quite simply the eradication of this pernicious system, and of our determination to contribute to the abolition of apartheid. The United Nations has a primary role to play in this endeavour.

Mr President, an effort has clearly been made this year to streamline the draft resolutions before us and to remove contentious language. We welcome this. However, some of the draft resolutions continue to contain elements which cause us problems of principle.

The Twelve believe that the division of competence between the General Assembly and the Security Council laid down in the Charter must be respected. Only the Security Council is empowered to adopt decisions binding on the member States.

We wish to reaffirm once again our commitment to the principle of universality of membership of the United Nations. We cannot support calls for the total isolation of South Africa since this would not, in our view, further the goal we all share — the abolition of apartheid. Channels of communication with South Africa must remain open, in order to enable the outside world to maintain and increase its pressure on the South African Government for the establishment of a free and democratic society without racial oppression.

As we said in our statement in the debate, the Twelve are gravely concerned about the continuation of violence and repression in South Africa. We remain convinced, however, that a process of peaceful change is still possible and that the United Nations has the obligation to promote change by peaceful means in accordance with the Charter. Although we share the frustration felt by the majority of the people of South Africa at their predicament we cannot agree that resolutions adopted by the General Assembly should endorse the use of force.

The Twelve reject all forms of apartheid in sports and continue firmly to discourage all sporting contacts that have any implication of racial discrimination. Sports activities are, however, organized in our respective countries at private initiative. Sports organizations within our countries are aware of the opposition of their governments to sports competitions that violate the olympic ideal of non-discrimination.

The Twelve reject once again all arbitrary, selective and unjustified singling out, whether by name or implicitly, of member States or groups of countries.

Mr President, we regret that, for the reasons I have just stated, we will not be able to vote in favour of all the draft resolutions before us today.

I should like, however, to repeat our commitment to act both collectively and individually to impress on the South African Government the inescapable need for fundamental reform. The South African Government must be brought to see that the only way forward lies in the abolition of apartheid and the introduction of the basic changes demanded by the international community. Thank you, Mr President.

87/485. Explanation of Vote in the Second Committee of the UN General Assembly: Trade and Development: Economic Measures as a Means of Political and Economic Coercion Against Developing Countries ¹

Date of Issue: 20 November 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Mr Chairman, the Community and its twelve Member States have not been able to support the draft resolution contained in document L.50 concerning economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries. This resolution is a mere reproduction of the

Agenda item 33.

Resolution 41/165 that was adopted last year and that we were not able to support. Once again we question the usefulness of bringing before this Committee a repetitious draft resolution on which it is known in advance that consensus is not possible, and which is simply voted through. We do not believe it benefits the credibility of our Committee.

We cannot support the substance of the resolution, because it deals in a sweeping and biased way with the rights and obligations of countries and international economic relations. The non-universal approach in the resolution gives rise to particular concern for us.

87/486. Explanation of Vote in the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly: International Covenants on Human Rights — Draft Resolution L.49/Rev.1 on the Indivisibility and Interdependence of Economic, Social, Cultural, Civil and Political Rights ¹

Date of Issue: 20 November 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Mr Hoppe: I have asked for the floor to make an Explanation of Vote on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community on draft resolution L.49/Rev.1.

Although we recognize that the text has improved somewhat compared to last year's resolution, we will abstain on the draft resolution. We attach great importance to the implementation of both Covenants, but we have a number of serious reservations about the text.

Firstly, the Twelve cannot accept the assertion made in preambular paragraph 5 and in the title of the draft that all human rights are 'inter-dependent'. While we agree that certain rights are inter-related, and the enjoyment of some may contribute to the enjoyment of others, we cannot accept any implication that the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights, the implementation of which is gradual, can be a pre-condition for the enjoyment of civil and political rights, which in contrast must be implemented in full and immediately. Nor can we accept the implicit claim in preambular paragraph 7 that the principle obstacles to the full realization of human rights are those listed in the paragraph. If there were to be a complete list, other elements, such as totalitarian practices, would certainly have to appear in it.

The Twelve are unable to support preambular paragraph 8 since the language of that paragraph does not correspond to the language of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The Twelve also have difficulties with preambular paragraph 9 which paints an over-simple picture of what is in fact a complex triangular relationship between disarmament, security and development, and which has no place in a resolution tabled under this item.

Finally, the Twelve wish to express the view that one, comprehensive resolution on the Covenants, as contained in L.51, is quite sufficient to deal with the issues arising in this regard. We see little need for separate resolutions which deal with only certain aspects in a rather selective fashion.

87/487. Statement in the Fifth Committee of the UN General Assembly: United Nations Common System — Report of the International Civil Service Commission¹

Date of Issue: 20 November 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Agenda item 82 [A].

Agenda item 101.

Mr Kastoft: I have the honour to speak on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community.

Let me first express our thanks to the International Civil Service Commission for its report and the Commission's Chairman, Mr Akwei, for his introductory statement to this Committee.

In our statement today we shall comment on a number of recommendations which we find in the report of the ICSC for the year 1987. Before doing so I wish to make some observations with regard to the presentation of the report. This year the report is more detailed than usual and -I venture to add - even more complex. We realize that it is technically a very complex subject matter. The choice often is whether to give a short, transparent report which may in the opinion of some delegations not give a complete basis for decisions or to give a detailed report which may not give the transparency needed to fully understand the problem.

We feel that more can be done to enhance the transparency of the report. One way might be to prepare a much shorter report which concisely presents the problems and then describes the recommendations or conclusions supported by sound technical argumentation. The fuller description could then follow separately. We wish in this regard to recall Resolution 37/14 [C] concerning the 32-page limit for reports of subsidiary organs. We cannot help feeling that the problem of presentation reflects the fact that the whole scheme of entitlements has grown so complex and complicated. Time has come to envisage a much simpler scheme.

Mr Chairman, the Twelve have always regarded the staff members of this Organization as indispensable to the success of its endeavours. The efficiency of the United Nations depends to a large extent on the performance of its Secretariat and other organs. It is in that context that we recognize that the total remuneration to staff members must be fixed at a level which should be sufficient to attract well-qualified civil servants to the Organization from whatever country they may be recruited. It is, of course, only to be expected that staff members and their organizations on the one hand and the management and the intergovernmental organs on the other should not have identical opinions of what the right level of remunerations and entitlements is. Here, the ICSC has an important role to play as an expert body, responsible to the General Assembly and dealing with the regulation and coordination of the conditions of service.

Part of the statement of the Secretary-General to the Fifth Committee on October 16 was dedicated to questions pertaining to the staff. We believe it important to give the Secretary-General the time needed to implement his part of Resolution 41/213 without undue interference, building not least on the spirit of dedication and pride among staff members. In this connection we wish to point to the very pertinent remarks of the Group of Eighteen, in paragraphs 45-49 of its report.

Let me now turn to the question of the mandate of ICSC – recommendation 53 in the Group of Eighteen's report – regarding the monitoring of implementation of standards in matters dealing with personnel management. We can agree with the Commission that monitoring is already covered by the ICSC-statute. We would, however, at the same time, like to be informed of planned monitoring initiatives as well as any adjustment which might be needed in the way in which the monitoring is actually carried out.

The Group of Eighteen further recommended that the total entitlements of staff members should be reduced – recommendation 61 – and in accordance with the General Assembly's request the ICSC has made its recommendation on this matter. We would have appreciated a more substantiated argumentation from the Commission in support of its recommendation. However, we can accept the recommendation of the ICSC not to reduce these entitlements.

In recommendation 42 the Group of Eighteen underlined the necessity of clear, coherent and transparent rules in personnel management, and suggested the introduction of revised staff rules and regulations on personnel policy, which should be applied to all bodies in the United Nations system. We note that the ICSC has already initiated a study on the harmonization of staff rules and regulations. We are looking forward to learning about the findings of the ICSC in this respect.

Mr Chairman, last year the Commission was requested by the General Assembly to make recommendations on the methodology for calculating the margin based on a comparison of United Nations and United States net remuneration, including the question of the cost-of-living differential between New York and Washington DC. In this report we certainly have a very long account of the opposing views of different members of the Commission, leading to a recommendation by a majority that some parts of the methodology be changed with immediate effect but that the most controversial element, the inclusion of the cost-of-living differential, be retained until a further review is made in three years' time. The position of the four dissenting members who would have preferred all components of the margin calculation methodology to have been reviewed and changed at the same time would appear to the Twelve to have some merit. However, the Twelve recognize the need to avoid a selective approach in determining the level of remuneration of United Nations staff in relation to the comparator civil service. We would like to have a clarification from the Chairman of the Commission as to whether the post adjustment in New York would increase during 1988 if no components of the current margin methodology were changed. If so, what would be the consequent financial implications for the common system in 1988?

Mr Chairman, it is important for the United Nations organizations to be able to rely on well-qualified field staffs, who carry out important tasks, often under difficult conditions. The ICSC has always closely followed the conditions of service in the field. We have studied the recommendations of the ICSC, which aim at providing financial incentives for recruitment and retention of staff at duty stations where living and working conditions are very difficult. We agree that organizations with staff in the field should not be hampered by the lack of a well-qualified staff.

On the other hand, as mentioned earlier, we are of the opinion that the system for remuneration of staff members is too complex and we are consequently reluctant to accept modifications that would add further to the complexity, especially with regard to short-term remedies. We are not convinced that the modifications recommended to the General Assembly or decided upon by the ICSC themselves will solve the long-term problems. Further, we should appreciate more detailed information during this session about the problems that some organizations are facing before we take a final stand on the recommended interim measures. We welcome the fact that the ICSC has now initiated a comprehensive study of the conditions of service in the field and that the results of this study will be discussed by the Commission at its 28th session. We expect the ICSC to report to the 43rd General Assembly on its findings.

Mr Chairman, the Twelve regard the question of mobility as important. We have noted the decision of ICSC to introduce a supplement for mobility in the assignments allowance to encourage staff to take up field assignments. We hope this supplement will prove a useful incentive and we take it that experience that can be drawn from this incentive will be useful in the general study of the conditions of the service in the field. We have studied with interest the discussions of the Commission, based on the report from the Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions and we agree with the Commission that more inter-organizational mobility as well as mobility from headquarters to field locations is desirable.

Financial incentives are one way to promote mobility, but we agree with the Commission that there are other measures which could have the same effect. We had hoped for more concrete results this year of the deliberations of the Commission and we concur with the decision to further analyse this matter. In this context it might be interesting for the Commission to consider the possibility of increasing the importance of the mobility factor in career development.

On another matter pertaining to field service, ICSC has recommended adjustment of the education grant for staff serving at locations where educational facilities are not available or are deemed to be inadequate. The Twelve note that this is a temporary measure as the Commission has decided to consider the overall level of the grant and related provisions of its July 1988 session. We wish to reiterate our preference for a relatively simple system without modification or temporary measures which all add to the complexity, and lack of transparency of the system. Having in mind that the consideration was originally scheduled for ICSC's 24th session in 1986 we cannot help feeling that this problem could have been solved without having to adopt temporary measures. Nevertheless, we feel that an adjustment is timely.

Mr Chairman, let me now turn to the question of consolidating post adjustment into base salary. We understand the concern of the United Nations, i.e. that the United Nations Tax Equalization Fund faces a deficit because of the introduction of new rates of staff assessment, which have been effective since 1 January and 1 April 1987. We have to agree that measures must be taken to avoid this situation, but the

lack of transparency and the highly technical nature of the discussion leaves us a little uncertain as to the consequences of the recommendation of the Commission. The ICSC-report states that this modification will have no financial implication now or in the future. The Twelve would like to draw attention to the fact, however, that the modification serves the purpose of replenishing the Tax Equalization Fund and that such a replenishment, because of its connection to the financial contributions of the member States to the United Nations, will at least indirectly result in a higher financial burden on member States in the field of personnel expenditures. We would also ask the ICSC to clarify whether the United States Tax Reform Act of 1986 as referred to in paragraph 48 of the report will have any impact on the administration of the Tax Equalization Fund. We wish to associate ourselves once again with the request made in Resolution 39/27 to member States to exempt their nationals who are staff members of the United Nations from income taxation, in which case the Tax Equalization Fund would no longer be necessary.

We further note the decision of the Commission to the effect that actual rent-to-income ratios without any adjustment should be used effective 1 August 1987 in determining rental subsidies to staff members at some duty stations. We also note that the decision has no financial implications.

Mr Chairman, the Twelve would like at this point to express their support for the preservation of the common system. We listened carefully and with concern to the Chairman of the Commission's comments about overcompensation of staff in the professional and higher categories in WIPO. The preservation and strengthening of the common system is an important matter on which the General Assembly has been taking a strong position every year in its resolutions on the Commission's annual reports. We therefore trust that this particular problem can be addressed properly and expediently.

Mr Chairman, a final and concluding remark. We have in this statement frequently referred to the complexity of the common system and its lack of transparency. Perhaps the time has come for a comprehensive consideration of the methodological basis and the conditions of service which constitute the Common System.

87/488. Statement at the Plenary Session of the UN General Assembly: Question of Palestine ¹

Date of Issue: 23 November 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Mr Bierring: Mr President, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community.

The question of Palestine has been on the agenda of the General Assembly since its 3rd Session in 1948. For more than four decades it has been at the core of the continued tension in the Middle East. The prolongation of the Arab-Israeli conflict endangers peace and security in the region and makes it harder for peace efforts to succeed to the extent that attitudes tend to become more entrenched and new problems are added to existing ones.

Since the question of Palestine was last debated by the General Assembly, serious efforts have been made by a number of concerned parties in order to bring about a greater convergence of views on how to promote the negotiating process. The Twelve are profoundly concerned that in spite of these efforts there is still a lack of real progress towards a solution, and, in particular, that a breakthrough in the efforts to reach agreement on an international peace conference has not been made. The Twelve continue to place hope in the willingness of the parties directly involved to renew their attempts to reach a just, comprehensive and lasting settlement. It is they who have the chief responsibility and means for doing so.

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The Twelve's views on the key elements which must make up a solution to this conflict are well known. Our position has been elaborated in the Venice Declaration of 13 June 1980 and in subsequent statements on this issue. It is based on Resolutions 242 and 338 of the Security Council and the following two fundamental principles: the right of all States in the area, including Israel, to exist within secure frontiers; and the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination with all that this implies. These principles must be respected by all the parties concerned, and thus by the Palestinian people, and by the Palestine Liberation Organization, which will have to be associated with the negotiations. Thus, the essence of a settlement must be a full, just and lasting accommodation between Israel and the Palestinian people, so that they can live together in peace and security.

In his statement during the General Debate the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Denmark, speaking on behalf of the European Community and its twelve Member States, called upon the parties of the Arab-Israeli conflict to open the doors to peace by recognizing each other's rights. The Twelve continue to believe that it is neither wise nor just for a party to seek to deny the other the rights which it claims for itself. We have repeatedly stressed that Israel will only obtain the security and recognition which it has a right to by seeking a negotiated settlement and by satisfying the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people. The Twelve wish to see the Palestinian people in a position to pursue their demands by political means, and consider that the achievement of these should take account of the need to recognize and respect the right to existence and security of all. The search for a solution should be carried out without recourse to violence, and in particular, terrorism. Such activities are clearly contrary to international law and can only impede the achievement of a peaceful solution. What is required now is positive steps towards the creation of an atmosphere of mutual trust and understanding. The General Assembly can, by avoiding needlessly harsh and divisive language and by allowing a fruitful dialogue to take place, contribute directly to this end.

The solution of the problems between Israel and its neighbours should be based on the principles, enshrined in the United Nations Charter and in international law, of non-recourse to the use of force and of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force. This implies that Israel must put an end to the territorial occupation it has maintained since the conflict of 1967 and give up its illegal policy of settlements. We reaffirm our position that any change in the status and demographic structure of the occupied territories is illegal under international law and constitutes a serious obstacle to peace efforts. Moreover, the Twelve reiterate that the Israeli policy concerning East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights is contrary to international law and, therefore, invalid.

The Twelve are deeply concerned at the excessively severe application of some Israeli policies in the area and the consequences for the human rights situation in the occupied territories. The provisions of the Hague Convention of 1907 (IV) and of the 4th Geneva Convention of 1949 are applicable to all these territories until such time as the territorial occupation which Israeli has maintained since 1967 is ended, within the framework of a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement. The Twelve renew their call on Israel, to fulfil its obligations as the occupying power, pending its withdrawal, to lift restrictions on political and economic activities and, as we have reiterated recently in our declaration of 14 September 1987, to put an end to the illegal policy of settlements.

Mr President, the Twelve have in numerous concrete ways expressed their commitment to contribute towards the achievement of a peaceful solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. An example of this is the aid which the European Community has provided to the occupied territories since 1981. In order to help improve the living conditions of the Palestinians, the Community and its Member States will continue to provide economic assistance directly to the Palestinians, designed to allow the territories to enjoy the fruits of normal economic development. Furthermore, as a contribution towards their economic development, the European Community decided at the end of last year to give tariff-free access for the occupied territories for all the manufactured products exported to the Community as well as preferential access for some agricultural products. We hope that the Palestinian population will be enabled to take full advantage of these arrangements, as agreed by the parties concerned.

Furthermore, the Community and its Member States continue to play a major part in supporting UNRWA. In addition to contributions from individual Member States, the EC has recently decided to increase its cash contribution to UNRWA's education programme to the level of 20 million ECU,

equivalent to 24 million US dollars, for 1987, 1988 and 1989 each. This increase is a result of a new convention signed last July between the European Community and UNRWA covering the period 1987-1989, under which the total value of the EC aid, including food programmes, will reach 35 million ECU, equivalent to 42 million US dollars, this year.

Mr President, the measures I have just described, being essentially humanitarian in their purpose and economic in their nature, are not intended to be and can never be a substitute for determined efforts to seek a political solution to the question of Palestine — but may nevertheless help the situation pending such a settlement. The Twelve firmly believe that a solution can only be found, in accordance with the principles set out in the Venice Declaration and in subsequent statements by the Twelve, in a comprehensive, just and lasting peace achieved through peaceful negotiations. We recognize the urgency of this task. In our declarations of 23 February 1987 and of 13 July 1987 we stated that we are in favour of an international conference, held under the auspices of the United Nations, with the participation of interested parties as well as any party able to make a direct and positive contribution to the restoration and maintenance of peace and to the region's economic and social developments. Such a conference would provide a suitable framework for the necessary negotiations between the parties directly concerned and is at present the only formula to allow the peace process to move forward.

In his latest report to the General Assembly in accordance with Resolution 41/43 [D] on an International Conference, the Secretary-General noted the increased interest on the part of the international community in the idea of a conference that would be convened under United Nations auspices on a basis acceptable to all. He also noted, however, that views differed both on the form the conference should take and on how it should be prepared, but that there appeared to be a general readiness to consider options for an acceptable negotiating formula. In this regard the Twelve have taken due note of the position of the Arab countries in favour of the proposal for an international conference as it has been expressed at the outcome of the summit meeting in Amman.

The Twelve fully support the Secretary-General in his efforts to strengthen the resolve of those who seek a peaceful solution. The Twelve will for their part continue their close contacts with all the parties concerned and will do all in their power to encourage them to bring the positions sufficiently close together for an international conference to be held in order to achieve a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement in the Middle East. Thank you, Mr President.

87/489. Explanation of Vote in the Sixth Committee of the UN General Assembly: Peaceful Settlement of Disputes Between States¹

Date of Issue: 23 November 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Mr Bernhard: Mr Chairman, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community.

We belong to the — unfortunately rather small — category of States which in different contexts of international cooperation have accepted obligatory and binding dispute settlement procedures, be it at the European Court of justice in Luxembourg, the Human Rights Commission and Court in Strasbourg or other international judicial bodies, for example the International Court of Justice at the Hague.

This attitude to peaceful settlement of disputes is a fundamental and natural part of the Twelve's view on international relations and it is well known to everybody that we are strongly in favour of any constructive step which may strengthen the principle of peaceful settlement at the universal level. Nevertheless, due to the contents of operative paragraphs 4 and 5, most of us have been unable to support the resolution just adopted.

¹ Agenda item 38.

With regard to operative paragraph 4, I should like to recall that we joined in the consensus adoption of the Manila Declaration and have not changed our position in that regard. But most of us fail to see the merits of establishing a questionnaire procedure on the implementation of a Declaration that was adopted only five years ago and in particular on ways and means to increase its effectiveness. It is obvious that such written replies could not remedy the real problem, namely the widespread lack of political will to use already well established procedures for peaceful settlement of international disputes.

What is needed and should be repeated time and again is a strong appeal to governments to be aware of and to utilize the many existing procedures for settling international disputes that are referred to in the Charter. The logical place for such an appeal is in the resolution on the Charter Committee which already deals with problems relating to dispute settlement. Thus, a separate agenda item and a separate resolution concerning this subject as envisaged in operative paragraph 5 seem to be superfluous.

The reasons stated above have led most of our delegations not to support the resolution, and in particular paragraphs 4 and 5. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

87/490. Statement in the Sixth Committee of the UN General Assembly: Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Drafting of an International Convention Against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries ¹

Date of Issue: 23 November 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Mr Bernhard: Mr Chairman, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community.

Our statement of 5 October 1987² left no doubt as to our strong condemnation of the activities of mercenaries and our will to continue taking an active part in the *Ad Hoc* Committee's work towards a universally acceptable convention.

At the same time, however, we wish to recall our disappointment and concern with developments in other fora. The overlapping between activities in the Economic and Social Council and the Third Committee on the one hand and the Sixth Committee on the other hand is unfortunate in itself and obviously also creates a danger of conflict between these activities.

In addition, the Twelve wish to repeat the view expressed on previous occasions concerning the fourth preambular paragraph of the resolution which states that the activities of mercenaries are contrary to fundamental principles of international law. Of course, such activities may be contrary to international law when, for example, they involve interference in the internal affairs of a State at the instigation or with the assistance of another State. In other cases, however, while the crimes of individuals acting on their own behalf are clearly reprehensible, the Twelve do not accept that such activities can be imputed to States or regarded as violations of international law.

In spite of the difficulties encountered, the Twelve maintain their positive attitude to the work of the Ad Hoc Committee and have therefore been content to see the draft resolution adopted without a vote also this year. It is our hope that it will be possible to continue this work in a constructive way in the forum which, in our view, is the proper one. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

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² EPC Bulletin, Doc. 87/350.

87/491. Statement on South Africa's Intervention in Angola

Date of Issue: 23 November 1987

Place of Issue: Brussels

Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Foreign Ministers Status of Document: Declaration

The Foreign Ministers of the twelve Member States of the European Community discussed developments in southern Angola. They noted with deep concern South Africa's armed incursions and, in connection herewith, visits to the South African troops inside Angola by President Botha and other prominent South African Government figures. Such provocative action can only aggravate the situation in Southern Africa and impede the development of a regional dialogue.

In addition to seriously violating international law and the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Angola, South Africa's armed incursions violate the specific commitment of non-intervention that South Africa made in Lusaka in February 1984.

The Twelve vigorously condemn South African military activities in Angola and repeat their previous demands that the South African Government do its utmost to establish peace and security in the region. The Twelve appeal to the South African Government to cease hostilities immediately and to withdraw all its troops from Angola.

87/492. Statement on the Situation in Haiti

Date of Issue: 23 November 1987

Place of Issue: Brussels

Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Foreign Ministers Status of Document: Declaration

In the context of the elections due to take place in Haiti, the Twelve express their support for the process of re-establishing democracy in that country. After years of dictatorship and against the background of the difficulties they are still experiencing as a result of the very serious economic situation, the Haitian people are hoping to recover the freedom to express their wishes. The Twelve call upon all the parties concerned to unite their efforts to overcome the obstacles inherited from the past and thus permit the forthcoming elections to take place in a calm and orderly fashion.

87/493. Statement on Central America

Date of Issue: 23 November 1987 Place of Issue: Brussels Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: The Twelve Status of Document: Declaration

The Twelve, in the light of their declaration of 13 August 1987 welcoming the peace plan adopted by the Presidents of Central America in Guatemala on 7 August 1987, and wishing to see the plan implemented as soon as possible, are following closely the efforts made to this end by the countries of the region supported by the Contadora and support groups.

The Twelve consider that, three months after the adoption of the Guatemala peace plan, there are grounds for some optimism. Despite the difficulties and obstacles which remain to be overcome, the Twelve welcome and have been encouraged by the measures taken so far in fulfilment of the agreement and urge the Central American countries to pursue their efforts to carry the peace process forward.

The Twelve express their firm support and encouragement to the International Committee on Verification and Monitoring.

They call on all the parties in the region to contribute positively to the fulfilment of the aspirations of the Central American peoples for peace, democracy, independence, self-determination, social and economic development, as well as respect for human rights. They condemn all acts of violence which put the peace process in jeopardy.

The Twelve urge the international community and, in particular, those countries with links to and interests in Central America, to contribute to the region's efforts to achieve peace, democracy, and economic development.

They hope that their next ministerial meeting with the countries of Central America and the Contadora Group, scheduled for February 1988 in Hamburg, will take place against the background of peace and democracy in Central America. This will allow the dialogue to better address the urgently needed economic development of Central America.

87/494. Statement in the First Committee of the UN General Assembly: Comprehensive System of International Peace and Security¹

Date of Issue: 24 November 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Mr Bierring: Mr Chairman, I am speaking on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community on agenda item 73 on a 'Comprehensive System of International Peace and Security'.

In our statement of November 19 on international security we briefly referred to this agenda item which was introduced for the first time at United Nations General Assembly 41.

From the outset the Twelve have welcomed the renewed interest in the United Nations which the originators have demonstrated through this initiative. We agree that in the light of the many problems facing the world, a strengthening of multilateral cooperation in all fields remains indispensable.

The Twelve would again underline that the United Nations, as set out in the Charter, has the central role to play in connection with the maintenance of international peace and security, the development of friendly relations among nations and for the promotion of international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character with respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. We are convinced that this is the fundamental approach which should be universally shared.

As reiterated in our statement of November 19, it is the objective of the Twelve to strengthen the role of the United Nations in all these fields.

The Twelve, however, were not convinced of the value of the approach reflected in the draft resolution submitted last year under this agenda item, and we were unable to support it.

Since then we have continued to study with great care and attention a number of subsequent texts and statements relating to the subject of a 'comprehensive system of international peace and security'. We have also listened carefully to the statements made by co-sponsors of draft resolution L.89.

However, the further commentaries made by the co-sponsors have not brought elucidation on the meaning and intent of this initiative. None of the views we have heard have persuaded us that it is necessary or even useful to establish a comprehensive system of international peace and security, nor - in consequence - to set up an expert group to study the matter.

The United Nations Charter already provides the basis for maintenance of international peace and security and the Twelve remain prepared to co-operate with a view to ensuring that the security system constituted by the Charter is fully implemented. We believe that the existing United Nations system provides ample scope for considering and implementing detailed proposals to this end. The problem does not lie in the system but in the effective implementation of the obligations of the Charter by all member States.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 87/283.

Consequently, we hold the firm view that there is no need for any alternative or complementary system nor for an expert group to study it. At best this would divert attention from the problem of inadequate implementation of existing Charter commitments. At worst, we fear it would lead to a reformulation or redefinition, directly or by implication, of the United Nations Charter.

We share the preoccupation voiced by others in regard to a group of experts as is proposed. To consign this issue to an expert group would call in question the system of security found in the Charter which has served us for over four decades. For the Twelve this is not acceptable. Indeed, we are obliged to wonder whether such an exercise would be warranted, given that the United Nations system itself has the capability and the flexibility to examine and develop proposals aimed at strengthening the role of the Organization, in particular in the area of maintenance of international peace and security in all its aspects. The Twelve remain fully committed to the operation of these existing mechanisms. Our commitment to cooperate with all other member States of the United Nations to this end remains undiminished.

As we said in our statement last Thursday, we welcome a constructive and purposeful discussion to this effect and drew attention to specific areas.

In pursuing this initiative, the co-sponsors of this draft may be doing injustice to the founders of this Organization. Those who wrote the Charter fully appreciated the interrelationship between problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian nature, as well as the need to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms. Indeed, the very first article of the Charter spells this out.

In conclusion, Mr Chairman, we would like to reiterate our welcome for the renewed interest that the co-sponsors have demonstrated in the United Nations.

The fact that the Twelve see no need for establishing such a comprehensive system nor — in consequence — for an expert group to prepare a study on the matter or the assistance of eminent personalities does not mean that the debate has been unproductive in that it has focused attention on the importance of ensuring the effective implementation of the fundamental obligations of the Charter. The Twelve are ready to consider constructively all concrete proposals formally introduced in the appropriate organs and contexts, with a view to strengthening international peace and security within the framework of the United Nations and its Charter. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

87/495. Statement in the Sixth Committee of the UN General Assembly: Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country¹

Date of Issue: 24 November 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Mr Bernhard: Mr Chairman, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community.

Since the General Assembly decided to establish the Committee on Relations with the Host Country in 1971, the Committee has proved to be an able and useful body to deal with the often difficult matters which are presented for its consideration. For this purpose both the Committee's way of work and its composition, which takes due and just account of the need for regional representation, are satisfactory in the view of the Twelve. Both the smooth solution of concrete problems and the existence of a general legal framework in accordance with relevant international instruments are of great importance for the functioning of the United Nations and for the working conditions at the Headquarters.

In this connection the Twelve wish to express their appreciation of the work done throughout the Committee's existence and especially for the results achieved under the efficient chairmanship of Ambassador Constantine Moushoutas of the Republic of Cyprus. We wish equally to express our

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appreciation of the cooperation and good will shown by the various bodies which contribute to accommodate the needs, interests and requirements of the diplomatic community in the host country, in particular the US Mission to the United Nations, the New York City Commission for the United Nations and Consular Corps and the New York City Police Department.

Mr Chairman, without going into details with the many questions discussed in the Committee, we should like to comment on the question of the presence of a PLO Observer Office in New York.

On this matter, the Twelve fully share the views already expressed by both the Legal Counsel of the United Nations and US Secretary of State George Shultz to the effect that the United States are under an obligation to permit PLO Observer Mission Personnel to enter and remain in the United States to carry out their official functions at the United Nations. The Twelve hope that this matter can be resolved in a satisfactory manner.

Mr Chairman, during the 41st session of the General Assembly, the Committee made a useful and successful effort by establishing a number of recommendations concerning its field of work. These recommendations which with minor amendments, appear also in this year's report offer, in the view of the Twelve, a very adequate framework for a satisfactory solution of the problems brought to the attention of the Committee. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

87/496. Question No 2873/86 by Mr Cervetti and Others (COM-I) Concerning the Reykjavik Summit

Date of Issue: 24 November 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 10 March 1987

Although significant progress on security and disarmament was made at the Reykjavik summit, no concrete agreements were drawn up. In view of this, can the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation state what specific joint proposals they intend to submit on security and disarmament and on Euro-missiles in particular, so that Europe may make a constructive contribution to the progress of negotiations currently being held in various places, especially in Geneva?

Answer:

- 1. The Twelve wish to see the achievement of substantial and balanced reductions in the global level of Soviet and American nuclear weapons. In their Declaration on East-West Relations, issued on 13 July 1987, the Foreign Ministers of the Twelve 'noted with satisfaction that the dialogue between the United States and the Soviet Union on arms control has been intensified and that there are more favourable perspectives as regards an agreement on Soviet and United States INF'. The making of joint proposals on the issues under discussion between the superpowers falls outside the scope of European political cooperation. However, the Twelve look to the Soviet Union and the United States to persist in their search for agreement in those areas of the Geneva negotiations where common ground exists. In this respect they find it very encouraging that these bilateral talks now have brought the parties close to a concrete agreement on the global elimination of all American and Soviet land-based intermediate range nuclear missiles, with a range of between 500 and 5 500 kilometres, i.e. the world-wide elimination of a whole class of nuclear weapons. They also recall the objective which the leaders of the USA and the USSR set for themselves at the Reykjavik Summit Meeting of reducing their strategic arsenals by 50%. The Twelve hold the view that the aim should be to achieve balanced and verifiable agreements taking into account the security interests of the European countries.
- 2. They believe that the process of arms control and disarmament should not give exclusive priority to nuclear disarmament, but should be applied also to conventional and chemical forces. For that reason

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they attach great importance to seeing that progress continues to be pursued within these fields. The Twelve in their declaration of 13 July reaffirmed their commitment to the total elimination of chemical weapons. They favour a stable and verifiable balance of conventional forces at a lower level of forces in the whole of Europe. They will contribute, as far as they can, to the attainment of these goals.

- 3. The Twelve believe that all nations should continue to give support to the efforts the two superpowers are engaged in. They underline the importance of existing arms control agreements which must be strictly complied with by the parties.
- 4. Questions related to the security of Europe are currently being addressed at the CSCE Follow-Up Meeting which is taking place in Vienna and where the achievements of Stockholm are at present being assessed. The improvement in the field of confidence- and security-building measures should remain one of the objectives of this meeting. At the same time, in the view of the Twelve, more ambitious measures to promote the establishment of a more secure and stable conventional balance in Europe should equally be pursued in Vienna.

87/497. Question No 2961/86 by Ms Crawley (S-UK) Concerning Malik Al-Asad

Date of Issue: 24 November 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 18 March 1987

In the light of the fact that the Syrian authorities are detaining Malik Al-Asad under the 1962 state of emergency legislation, without formally charging him, without acknowledging where he is being held and without allowing him any visiting rights for his family or lawyer, will the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation make immediate representations to the Syrian authorities calling for a speedy end to these unjustifiable breaches of human justice?

Answer:

In their declaration on human rights of 21 July 1986¹, the Twelve have stated that 'respect for human rights is an important element in relations between third countries and the Europe of the Twelve'.

The Syrian authorities are well aware of this position. The Twelve intervene in cases of alleged human rights abuse when they believe an approach would be likely to have the desired effect and would be in the interests of those involved.

The specific question referred to by the Honourable Member of the European Parliament has not been discussed in the framework of European political cooperation.

87/498. Report of the European Council on European Union – EPC Aspects

Date of Issue: 24 November 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Progress Report on European Union

European political cooperation (EPC)

1987 was marked by a major institutional aspect with the entry into force of the Single European Act on 1 July, after its ratification by all twelve Member States. The Single Act puts European political cooperation on a treaty basis for the first time and codifies and formalizes existing practices and procedures.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 87/259.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 86/230.

1987 also saw the establishment of a Secretariat in Brussels, as provided for in Title III of the Single Act, which started work on I January. It is housed in the Charlemagne building. In addition to its Head, the Secretariat consists of five diplomats seconded from national administrations, plus support staff. Its task is to help the Presidency in preparing and implementing the activities of European political cooperation and in administrative matters. Virtually all European political cooperation meetings at expert level have taken place in the Secretariat's premises.

The European Parliament's close association with European political cooperation has been assured, as in the past, by addresses to the Parliament at the beginning and end of each Presidency, by four colloquies with the Presidency Foreign Minister, a monthly Question Time in Strasbourg and participation by the Presidency in major debates on foreign policy issues, as well as by the answers provided to numerous Written Questions.

Joint efforts by the Twelve to formulate and implement a European foreign policy have been intensified. The exchange of information, the scope and the frequency of consultations have increased. The Twelve are increasingly regarded as an entity putting forward common European positions in international affairs.

One measure of the progress being made by European political cooperation is the increasing number of requests from third countries for contacts and consultations with the Twelve.

East/West relations

Throughout 1987 East/West relations remained a matter of central concern to European political cooperation. It was a year which witnessed significant developments.

The United States of America and the Soviet Union reached agreement in principle on the global elimination of their land-based nuclear missiles with a range between 500 and 5 500 kilometres. This agreement could have significant implications for the climate of East-West relations in other fields. The Presidency Foreign Minister in his statement on behalf of the Twelve to the United Nations General Assembly on 22 September, welcomed the indications at that time that such an agreement was near. He said that it would be a major achievement and that the Twelve hoped that such an agreement would help to reduce tensions and to enhance international security. The Twelve also hope that success in INF negotiations will give new impetus to the bilateral negotiations on other nuclear missile and space systems.

The Twelve believe that progress must also be achieved in other areas of arms control and disarmament. They support a global ban on chemical weapons and have followed closely efforts under way in Geneva to reach agreement on such a ban. They wish to build on the achievements of the CDE in Stockholm in order to strengthen mutual confidence in Europe. They have made clear their interest in the discussions on further steps to promote the establishment in Europe of a stable and secure balance of conventional forces at a lower level. They hope that the third Special Session on disarmament will see progress on arms control and disarmament, including agreement on effective measures to establish the necessary transparency in military budgets, on the basis of objective criteria.

The Twelve also followed developments within the Soviet Union closely. They noted with interest that new language had been used by the Soviet Union. They noted too, that the Soviet Union had changed its international behaviour in certain, limited fields. The Twelve continued throughout the year to look, however, for deeds that could give substance to the Soviet Union's new foreign policy style. Afghanistan was a particular case in point.

The Twelve have also followed closely the reaction of Eastern European countries to developments in the USSR.

For the Twelve, the CSCE process has a particular significance. The President-in-office said in his statement to the United Nations General Assembly on 22 September, that 'As Europeans, we cannot ignore the artificial barriers which divide our continent ... The Helsinki Final Act has laid a solid foundation to overcome these barriers'.

At the Vienna Follow-Up Meeting, the Twelve have submitted major proposals within the main areas of the CSCE process, especially concerning its human dimension. They have also contributed to a thorough review of compliance with existing commitments. The Twelve wish in particular to increase the

impact of the CSCE process for the citizens of the thirty-five countries involved — by facilitating contacts between individuals across the East/West divide in Europe, by creating and strengthening guarantees of individual rights and freedoms and by ensuring the free flow of information, ideas and people. The Twelve continue to press for a successful conclusion of the CSCE follow-up meeting in Vienna by the adoption of a substantial and balanced concluding document.

In contacts with the Governments of the Soviet Union and the other countries of Eastern Europe, the Twelve have continued to underline their collective voice in international affairs by conveying joint statements of position, and by making joint *démarches*, e.g. on human rights. It is their clear impression that, to an increasing extent, the Soviet Union and other Eastern European countries now perceive European political cooperation as a significant entity and a force in international politics.

Middle East

Peace process

The Twelve have continued to follow developments in the Middle East peace process closely. They continued to demonstrate their interest in the search for negotiated solutions to bring a just, global and lasting peace to the region. In a declaration issued on 23 February, Foreign Ministers of the Twelve stated that they were in favour of an international peace conference on the Middle East to be held under the auspices of the United Nations, with the participation of the parties concerned and of any party able to make a direct and positive contribution to the restoration and maintenance of peace. On 13 July, Ministers reiterated their support for such a conference and stated that it seemed the only formula which would allow the peace process to move forward.

The Twelve have endeavoured to make an active contribution to bringing the position of the parties concerned closer to one another with a view to an international conference being convened. As stated in their declaration of 13 July, the Twelve have decided to pursue, both via the Presidency and bilaterally, their contacts at all levels with all the interested parties to this end.

Occupied Territories

Human rights and the increasing erosion of the living conditions of the inhabitants of the occupied territories remain a constant preoccupation of the Twelve. Without prejudging future political solutions, they have continued to contribute to the economic and social development of the occupied territories. The Twelve attach importance to the full implementation of Community measures for improved aid to the occupied territories and for preferential access to the Community market for industrial products and certain agricultural products.

In a statement issued on 14 September the Twelve reiterated their concern about Israel's settlement policy in the occupied territories and its likely implications for the peace process. In addition, on 14 October, the Twelve conveyed to the Israeli authorities their concern about the Herodian Water Diversion Project.

Lebanon

The Twelve have vigorously condemned the continuation of violence and further hostage-taking in Lebanon, and have called for renewed political dialogue in the country. On 16 February, the Twelve strongly urged the parties involved to respect a cease-fire around the Palestinian camps and to allow the rapid distribution of supplies to the refugees. In this context, emergency aid was provided by the Community as well as by individual Member States.

In their declaration of 15 July the Twelve expressed the hope that all interested parties would show moderation in order to allow the political dialogue to recommence with a view to national reconciliation based on respect for the sovereignty, unity, independence and territorial integrity of Lebanon. They furthermore reaffirmed their support for UNIFIL and urged that it be allowed to fulfil its mandate, in the best possible security conditions for its members.

Iraq-Iran conflict

The Twelve have followed with concern the serious escalation of the Iraq-Iran conflict and the resulting increase in tension in the Gulf. They have continued strongly to support the mediation efforts of the United Nations Secretary-General. They have on several occasions appealed to the belligerents to comply with the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions. The Twelve have called for the early implementation in full of Resolution 598, appealed to the belligerents to exercise the utmost restraint and condemned all acts contrary to the resolution.

The Twelve have also vigorously condemned the use of chemical weapons in the conflict, and urged strict compliance with the 1925 Geneva Protocol. They also stated that they would continue to develop their internal arrangements in order to ensure that the Geneva Protocol is respected.

Furthermore, the Twelve have made known their concern at attacks on civilian targets and have reiterated their firm support for the fundamental principle of freedom of navigation in international waters.

The Twelve had valuable discussions with the members of the Gulf Cooperation Council in June in Brussels, and in September, in New York, when both the Iraq-Iran conflict and the Middle East peace process were discussed.

Southern Africa

The Twelve have continued to follow developments in Southern Africa with concern. They have strongly condemned South Africa's continuing illegal occupation of Namibia and its repeated efforts to destabilize its neighbours. In this context, the Twelve made a *démarche* to the South African authorities in April underlining their total opposition to any armed incursions which would threaten the territorial integrity of the countries of the region and they issued a statement about South Africa's military intervention in Zambia on 25 April, condemning it as a serious violation of Zambia's sovereignty and a grave threat to peace and stability in the region. The Twelve also condemned the military action undertaken in Maputo on 28 May.

The Twelve have continued to press for early progress in the dismantlement of apartheid. In the wake of the whites-only elections held in South Africa on 6 May, Foreign Ministers issued a statement on 25 May in which they expressed their deep concern about the danger of further polarization in South Africa. They underlined the need for the whole system of apartheid to be dismantled and replaced by a genuinely democratic, non-racial system of government. They urged the South African Government to take the steps necessary to allow a national dialogue, involving the authentic leaders of the majority community, to begin.

During 1987, the Twelve made a number of *démarches* to the Government in Pretoria about human rights abuses — in particular detention without charge and the imprisonment of children and young people under the state of emergency. The Twelve have also appealed for clemency for prisoners awaiting execution.

The Twelve have completed during 1987 the implementation of the two packages of restrictive measures agreed in 1985 and 1986. They have also increased their assistance to those who suffer as a result of apartheid — both inside South Africa and in the region. 20 million ECU have been allocated for the Community's Special Programme of Positive Measures in 1987. The Twelve also continue to operate a Code of Conduct for EC Companies with branches or subsidiaries in South Africa: this is designed to ensure that European companies lead the way in banishing apartheid from the workplace and improving the pay and conditions of black workers.

As stated in their 25 May declaration, the Twelve's policy towards South Africa remains under constant review in the absence of significant progress in the abolition of apartheid.

Latin America

In June the Community and its Member States approved a set of guidelines on relations with Latin America. These underlined the importance the Twelve attach to improving and strengthening relations

with the region for historical, political, economic and cultural reasons. Ministers agreed that the Twelve should continue to work to support democracy in the region, to encourage inter-parliamentary links, to increase mutual understanding and to intensify relations as a whole.

Central America

The Twelve have continued to support the peace process in Central America. They held a ministerial meeting with the countries of Central America and the Contadora Group in Guatemala on 9 and 10 February. Despite the signs of tension prevailing in the region at that time, the Guatemala Conference took place in an atmosphere of cooperation and moderation. In this constructive climate a consensus was reached on a Political Communiqué including the basic principles (independence, self-determination, non-interference, non-use of force, pluralist democracy, respect for human rights, etc.) which the Twelve believe are central to the achievement of a lasting and peaceful solution to the region's problems. The meeting was a success, both for the Twelve and for the Central American countries. It was decided to continue the dialogue between the two regions at annual ministerial meetings. The next meeting is scheduled to take place in Hamburg on 29 February and 1 March 1988.

Shortly after the ministerial meeting in Guatemala on 15 February, President Arias of Costa Rica launched an initiative designed to take forward the peace process in Central America. At their meeting in June, Ministers issued a declaration welcoming the Arias Plan, as a significant contribution to progress within the framework of the Contadora process.

On 6 and 7 August the five Central American Presidents met in Guatemala and agreed to a plan for peace and democracy based on the proposal submitted by President Arias. The Twelve expressed their full support for this peace initiative in three declarations issued on 5 and 13 August and on 23 November. They urged the five Central American countries, as well as all countries having links with or interests in the region, to cooperate constructively in translating the agreement reached into lasting peace and true democracy in Central America. The Twelve are following closely the implementation of the Guatemala Agreement and they are ready, as stated on many occasions, to support — to the extent that they are able and if so requested — the action of the States responsible for implementing the terms of the peace plan.

In the context of their active role in the dialogue established in San Jose, in 1984, the Twelve held meetings at ministerial level with the Contadora and Support Group, in New York, on 23 September and with the five Central American countries, on 25 September. Further meetings with the Central American and Contadora countries are planned at expert level, in order to start the preparations for the Hamburg Conference.

On 14 October the Presidency Foreign Minister sent a message of congratulation, in the name of the Twelve, to President Arias after it was announced that he had been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. The message underlined the Twelve's firm support for his efforts and reiterated the hope that these would be crowned with success.

Chile

The Twelve have throughout the year continued to press the Chilean Government to respect human rights fully and to restore democracy. In this context *démarches* have been undertaken on specific human rights cases and a statement calling for free elections in Chile was issued on 9 October. In this statement, the Twelve expressed their firm belief that it is essential for Chile to return to truly democratic government if peace and respect for human rights are to be restored. They stressed the need for the Chilean people to have complete freedom of information and opinion and to be able to elect their President and the members of their Parliament in a ballot guaranteeing the free expression of their will. The Twelve have restated their condemnation of violence, whatever its source, and expressed the hope that the Government, the institutions and all the political forces in Chile will take the necessary steps in order that the forthcoming elections may be conducted in accordance with the international instruments to which Chile is party.

The Twelve will continue to monitor the political situation in Chile and to explore ways of helping the democratic opposition to increase their solidarity and credibility.

Cyprus

The Twelve remain concerned by the tragic division of Cyprus, a member of the European family. In the course of 1987 they have continued to make clear their support for the United Nations Secretary-General's efforts to find a peaceful, just and lasting settlement in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions which would guarantee the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and unity of Cyprus. They have underlined that they stand fully by their previous statements and have continued to take a firm stand against any action which purports to establish an independent State within Cyprus. They have emphasized the need for all concerned to cooperate with the United Nations Secretary General in his mission of good offices and to refrain from words or actions that might adversely affect the prospects for a solution by peaceful means.

Asia

Afghanistan

In the course of 1987 the Twelve made clear on numerous occasions that the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan continues to be as unacceptable to the international community as was the case in 1979. They emphasized that the rapid and unconditional withdrawal of all Soviet troops, according to an irrevocable timetable, and the respect of the legitimate right of the Afghan people to decide freely their own future and government are the key elements in a lasting, peaceful solution. The Twelve therefore continue to support the efforts of the United Nations Secretary-General to bring about an early negotiated settlement based on the principles contained in the United Nations resolutions. In a declaration issued on 13 July, Ministers made it clear that for the Twelve Afghanistan is a concrete test of Soviet goodwill.

At the 42nd United Nations General Assembly, the Twelve have actively supported the resolution on the situation in Afghanistan. They have noted with satisfaction that the overwhelming majority of votes in favour of the resolution has been increased this year.

A meeting in New York in November between representatives of the Twelve and a delegation of Afghan resistance leaders enabled the Twelve to reiterate their support for the efforts of the resistance alliance to bring home to the international community the reality of the situation in Afghanistan.

By once again sponsoring the resolution on human rights in Afghanistan, the Twelve emphasized their continuing concern and the importance which they attach to this question.

Philippines

The Twelve have firmly condemned attempts by the military to overthrow the legitimate Government of President Aquino and to eliminate democracy in the Philippines. They have continued to express strong political support for Ms Aquino's Government. The presence of members of national parliaments of Member States as well as of the European Parliament at the inauguration of the new Philippine Parliament has visibly demonstrated European support for the forces of democracy in the Philippines.

EC-ASEAN

On the occasion of the twentieth Post-Ministerial Conference with ASEAN on 18-20 June 1987 in Singapore, the Twelve, represented by the Troika, had an intensive exchange of views with the ASEAN countries. One of the subjects of particular concern to ASEAN countries was the continuing Vietnamese occupation of Kampuchea. The two sides also agreed to cooperate closely in combating international terrorism and in tackling all aspects of drugs production, trafficking and misuse. The success of the meeting demonstrated the continuing strength and value of the EC-ASEAN dialogue.

Sri Lanka

Developments in Sri Lanka have been followed closely by the Twelve. In a number of declarations they have advocated a negotiated settlement to the ethnic conflict on the island and they therefore welcomed

the agreement signed on 29 July 1987 between Sri Lanka and India. The Twelve stressed, however, that such an agreement would only work through the goodwill of all concerned and they consequently urged the parties to comply fully with the provisions of the agreement.

Kampuchea

The continuing Vietnamese occupation of Kampuchea, in violation of the fundamental principles of the United Nations and international law, remains an issue of deep concern to the Twelve. In their common statements at the United Nations, they made it clear that Kampuchea must be free both from foreign troops and from any prospect of a return to the appalling activities of the *Khmer rouge*. They called upon the new leadership in Hanoi to end the Vietnamese military intervention in Kampuchea in order to contribute to a rapid peaceful solution of this tragic conflict in accordance with repeated United Nations resolutions. The Twelve expressed, in particular, their firm support for the constructive efforts made by ASEAN to this end.

Korea

The Twelve have followed closely the situation in South Korea, as made clear in their declaration of 2 July, and have been encouraged by the progress made towards democratic reforms. The Presidency made clear, in its statement at the 42nd United Nations General Assembly, the Twelve's views on the division of the Korean peninsula and continuing tension there. They see a resumption of the suspended direct dialogue between North and South as the only way to reach a solution by peaceful means. The Twelve also expressed the hope that, on the basis of the principle of universality, the people of Korea may soon gain full membership of the United Nations. They extended their best wishes for the success of the forthcoming olympic games.

Human rights

Human rights remain of central importance for the Twelve and they have continued to monitor closely developments around the world. They have undertaken numerous *démarches* both on general issues and on specific cases. They have welcomed the entry into force of the United Nations Convention Against Torture, in June this year, as an important step in the right direction.

The Twelve continue to see human rights as an integral part of their relations with third countries: when these rights are ignored or abused the Twelve, as made clear in their statement of 21 July 1986, feel free to raise the matter. In order further to coordinate their policy on human rights and to establish general guidelines for action in this field, the Twelve have decided to create a Human Rights Working Group in the European political cooperation framework.

United Nations

With the entry into force of the Single European Act, the Twelve have further intensified their cooperation in all fields of the United Nations Organization. Harmonization of positions and joint votes by the Twelve in the United Nations continue to be important aspects of European political cooperation. Member States are committed to consult each other with a view to seeking common positions on all important foreign policy questions which are of concern to them. Delegations of the Twelve in New York report regularly on all aspects of promoting further cohesion of the Twelve in the United Nations. The Twelve remain committed to support for a strong and effective United Nations operating on the basis of the principles laid down in the Charter. They believe that greater budgetary discipline, improved coordination and careful attention to priorities can only strengthen the Organization and ensure its future stability and vigour.

During the opening week of the United Nations General Assembly, the Twelve had contacts at ministerial level with a large number of third countries and groups of countries which, in combination with the very substantial common statement made in the General Assembly, served to emphasize EPC's highly visible profile in New York.

At the United Nations Conference held in New York on Disarmament and Development, the Twelve made a joint statement on 25 August underlining that these were both fundamental objectives for the Twelve, but noting that they were distinct and that both must be pursued vigorously and on their own merits.

In the course of this conference, the Twelve made a major effort of co-ordination to reach a common position, an effort which allowed them to exercise a stronger influence in the final stages of the conference, and particularly in the adoption by consensus of a final declaration.

Cooperation to combat international terrorism

The Twelve responded firmly to a series of terrorist incidents in 1986. Europe has not suffered in the same way from the scourge of international terrorism in 1987, but this subject has remained an important preoccupation in European political cooperation. The Twelve have continued to develop and strengthen their cooperation to combat international terrorism, on the basis of the principles laid down in their statements of 27 January and 14 April 1986 and in the conclusions of the London European Council in December 1986. As agreed by Ministers in January 1986, the Twelve's experts have met regularly to take this cooperation forward.

The Twelve have participated actively in all efforts within various international fora to strengthen measures against terrorism in all its forms. They remain firmly committed to enhancing the capability of governments to prevent acts of terrorism and to apprehend, prosecute or extradite the perpetrators.

Judicial cooperation

On 25 May, three international instruments aimed at promoting the creation of a European legal space were opened for signature in Brussels. These instruments, which concern the transfer of sentenced persons, the application of the 'ne bis in idem' principle and the elimination of the certification of acts in the EEC Member States, have resulted from initiatives taken under the Italian Presidency in 1985 and were finalized under the Belgian Presidency.

Contacts with third countries

The Twelve continue to attach importance to developing their political dialogue with third countries, in particular those which share the Twelve's ideals and objectives. They therefore welcomed the opportunity of a meeting between the United States Secretary of State and the twelve Foreign Ministers in New York in September. This was an important step in the further strengthening of contacts with the United States. 1987 also saw a continuation of the political dialogue with other key countries (in particular Japan, China and non-EC members of the Council of Europe) and groups of countries. In the latter category, the Twelve had discussions with ASEAN, the Central American countries, the Contadora and Support Group countries and the Gulf Cooperation Council and those Council of Europe countries outside the EC.

87/499. Explanation of Vote in the First Committee of the UN General Assembly: Draft Resolution L.89/Rev.1 Concerning a Comprehensive System of International Peace and Security 1

Date of Issue: 25 November 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Mr Chairman, speaking on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community I will briefly explain our vote on draft resolution L.89 as revised and orally amended.

First of all, we would like to thank the co-sponsors of the draft resolution for their willingness to seek changes in the text. The present draft certainly contains elements to which the Twelve can easily subscribe. From the outset, the Twelve have welcomed the renewed interest in the United Nations which the originators have demonstrated through this initiative. We remain ready to join with the co-sponsors and all other member States in practical efforts in the relevant United Nations fora, directed towards strengthening international peace and security.

The changes, however, have not taken account of our fundamental problems with the draft which relate to the notion of a comprehensive system of international peace and security. Consequently, and for the reasons set out fully in our previous statements of 19 November and of yesterday we are unable to support the draft resolution before us. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

87/500. Explanation of Vote in the Special Political Committee of the UN General Assembly: UN Peace-Keeping Operations 1

Date of Issue: 25 November 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Mr Chairman, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community.

The Twelve have often expressed their strong support for United Nations peace-keeping operations established in accordance with the Charter and conducted with the consent of the host countries. In our statement during the debate we also expressed our regret that the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations had continued to find no basis for reactivating its work and had for the last year not called a single meeting. Moreover, we stressed the great importance of the tasks that have been conferred on the Committee.

Accordingly, the Twelve welcome the wider international interest in United Nations peace-keeping operations which has made possible the adoption today by consensus of Resolution L.30 requesting the Special Committee to assume in 1988 its work for a comprehensive review of the whole question of peace-keeping operations in all their aspects with a view to strengthening the role of the United Nations in this field, taking into account the difficult financial situation, and submit to a report to the General Assembly at its 43rd session.

The Twelve take this opportunity to reiterate the importance they attach to the principle of collective responsibility for the financing of United Nations peace-keeping operations.

The six Members of the Twelve represented on the Committee are looking forward to taking part in consultations on how work in the Committee may be reactivated and rationalized.

87/501. Statement at the Occasion of the Summit Meeting of the Heads of State of Eight Latin American Countries

Date of Issue: 27 November 1987 Place of Issue: Copenhagen Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: The Twelve Status of Document: Message

The twelve Member States of the European Community welcome the holding, on 27 and 28 November in Acapulco, of a summit meeting of the Heads of State of eight Latin American countries.

They wish on this occasion to pay tribute to the efforts made by these countries in the Contadora process, supported since its inception by the Twelve, to achieve a negotiated settlement in Central America.

The Twelve, linked to these countries by so many cultural affinities and historical links, express the hope that this first summit meeting of eight democratic countries of Latin America will open up new paths for regional consultation such as to promote the progress of peace and liberty throughout the continent.

Agenda item 73.

Agenda item 77.

Following the dialogue already begun with the Group of Eight at the level of Ministers for Foreign Affairs, the Twelve reiterate their wish to strengthen their relations with those countries in Latin America which, like the Eight, share their democratic principles.

87/502. Explanation of Vote in the Second Committee of the UN General Assembly: Report of the Economic and Social Council on International Economic Security¹

Date of Issue: 27 November 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Mr Chairman, the twelve Member States of the European Community have not been able to support the resolution contained in document L.38/Rev.2 concerning International Economic Security. This is consistent with the positions we took on General Assembly Resolution 41/184.

The Twelve agree that a continuous dialogue on international economic issues is necessary and desirable, but not that the purpose of the dialogue is fundamental changes in the principles of the existing international economic system.

Improvements in coherence, stability and predictability of economic policies and relations, including special measures in favour of developing countries, is a shared objective that has been aimed at in multilateral cooperation for years. The Twelve continue to support such efforts, which reduce the uncertainties countries may be exposed to, thereby enhancing growth and development. While recognizing the economic dimensions of security it is the view of the Twelve that the use of the concept of security in economic relations introduces alien connotations.

Given the divergency of views on this issue any establishment of a group of eminent persons would, in view of the Twelve, be inappropriate.

We recognize that efforts have been made to adapt the text but the changes, however, have not taken account of our fundamental problems with the draft.

The Twelve remain ready to collaborate with all parties to promote common approaches to fostering economic growth and development, particularly for developing countries, and are prepared to consider concrete proposals introduced in the appropriate bodies.

87/503. Message to the Summit Meeting of the Group of Eight on 27 and 28 November 1987

Date of Issue: 29 November 1987 Place of Issue: Copenhagen Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: The Twelve Status of Document: Message

The twelve Member States of the European Community welcome the holding, on 27 and 28 November in Acapulco, of a summit meeting of the Heads of State of eight Latin American countries.

They wish on this occasion to pay tribute to the efforts made by these countries in the Contadora process, supported since its inception by the Twelve, to achieve a negotiated settlement in Central America.

The Twelve, linked to these countries by so many cultural affinities and historical links, express the hope that this first summit meeting of eight democratic countries of Latin America will open up new paths for regional consultation such as to promote the progress of peace and liberty throughout the continent.

¹ Agenda item 12.

Following the dialogue already begun with the Group of Eight at the level of Ministers for Foreign Affairs, the Twelve reiterate their wish to strengthen their relations with those countries in Latin America which, like the Eight, share their democratic principles.

87/504. Press Release on the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

Date of Issue: 30 November 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Press Release

The recent debate in the General Assembly on the question of Palestine confirmed the international community's sincere interest in the plight of the Palestinian people and the strong support that exists for its cause.

In their statement during the debate, the Twelve reaffirmed that a comprehensive, just and lasting solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict must be based on Resolutions 242 and 338 of the Security Council and the following two fundamental principles: the right of all States in the area, including Israel, to exist within secure frontiers; and the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination with all that this implies. These principles must be respected by all the parties concerned, and thus by the Palestinian People, and by the Palestine Liberation Organization, which will have to be associated with the negotiations. Thus, the essence of a settlement must be a full, just and lasting accommodation between Israel and the Palestinian people, so that they can live together in peace and security.

The solution of the Arab-Israeli dispute should be based on the principles, enshrined in the United Nations Charter and in international law, of non-recourse to the use of force and of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force. This implies that Israel must put an end to the territorial occupation it has maintained since the conflict of 1967. Furthermore, pending a withdrawal, Israel must, in accordance with the provisions of the Hague Convention of 1907 (IV) and of the 4th Geneva Convention of 1949, fulfil its obligations as the occupying power to lift restrictions on political and economic activities and, as the Twelve have reiterated recently in their declaration of 14 September 1987, put an end to the illegal policy of settlements.

The Twelve remain committed to help bring a lasting political settlement nearer. They have in their declarations of 23 February and of 13 July 1987 expressed their support for an international conference which is at present the only formula to allow the peace process to move forward. The Twelve have welcomed the fact that the idea of such a conference has been strongly supported by the Arab summit meeting in Amman where important efforts were made to adopt common positions and to foster the unity of the Arab world.

Pending a settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict, the European Community and its Member States will continue to help the situation of the Palestinian people by providing economic assistance directly to the Palestinians, as they have done in the past, and by giving effect to their recent decision to give tariff-free access for the occupied territories for all the manufactured products exported to the Community as well as preferential access for some agricultural products. Moreover, the Twelve are major contributors to UNRWA both individually and through the EC. The total value of EC aid alone will, as a result of a new convention between the European Community and UNRWA, reach some 42 million US dollars this year.

87/505. Statement in the Plenary Session of the UN General Assembly: Situation in the Middle East ¹

Date of Issue: 1 December 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Mr Bierring: Mr President, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community.

The Twelve remain deeply preoccupied by the serious situation in the Middle East and have over the last year on several occasions expressed their concern in declarations on the Arab-Israeli conflict, the conflict between Iran and Iraq and the situation in Lebanon. The political, historical, economic and cultural links between Europe and the Middle East are strong and firmly rooted. The Twelve are gravely concerned at the suffering of which the civilian population in the Middle East continues to be victim as a result of regional tensions and armed confrontations in the area. While the problems of the Middle East are complex and costly to the region itself they also have serious repercussions for international peace and stability in a way which directly affects the Member States of the European Community.

The Twelve have long advocated the need for negotiated solutions for these problems. The aim must be to bring just, global and lasting peace to the region and good relations between neighbours and to allow the economic, social and cultural development which has been too long neglected.

In our statement during the debate on the question of Palestine a few days ago we reaffirmed that a comprehensive, just and lasting solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict must be based on Resolutions 242 and 338 of the Security Council and the following two fundamental principles: the right of all States in the area, including Israel, to exist within secure frontiers; and the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination with all that this implies. These principles must be respected by all the parties concerned, and thus by the Palestinian people, and by the Palestine Liberation Organization, which will have to be associated with the negotiations. Thus, the essence of a settlement must be a full, just and lasting accommodation between Israel and the Palestinian people, so that they can live together in peace and security.

The solution of the Arab-Israeli dispute should be based on the principles, enshrined in the United Nations Charter and in international law, of non-recourse to the use of force and of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force. This implies that Israel must put an end to the territorial occupation it has maintained since the conflict of 1967. Furthermore, pending a withdrawal Israel must, in accordance with the provisions of the Hague Convention of 1907 and of the 4th Geneva Convention of 1949, fulfil its obligations as the occupying power to lift restrictions on political and economic activities. Human rights and the living conditions of the inhabitants of the occupied territories remain a constant preoccupation of the Twelve, who continue to contribute to the economic and social development of these territories.

In their declaration of 14 September 1987 the Twelve reiterated their call on Israel to put an end to the illegal policy of settlements. Not only is this policy illegal, it also poses an obstacle to the peace process due to the ensuing tension in the occupied territories.

In this connection the Twelve wish to reaffirm that Israel's policy in East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights is contrary to international law and that therefore all measures taken within the framework of this policy are to be considered null and void.

Mr President, the Twelve ardently wish to see progress towards a peaceful settlement in the Middle East and we are prepared to support any peace-initiative that may ensure the cooperation of all parties. Over the past year increasing attention has been paid to the idea of an international peace conference to be held under the auspices of the United Nations. Regrettably, a final breakthrough in these efforts does not seem to be within immediate reach. However, the Twelve continue to support this approach and we are in close contact with the parties concerned and shall do all in our power to encourage them to bring their positions sufficiently close together to allow an international conference to be held. We have noted the observation made by the Secretary-General in his report on the situation in the Middle East dated 13 November 1987 that while the gaps between the parties remain wide, they should not be regarded as insurmountable, for they reflect differences between parties who accept the principle that an international conference is the only practical way of reaching a comprehensive settlement of the conflict. The Twelve fully support the Secretary-General in his efforts to find ways of bridging the gaps between the parties and agree with him on the need to consolidate and build on the foundation that has so far been established.

In their declaration of 23 February 1987 the Twelve made clear their view regarding such a conference with the participation of the parties concerned and of any party able to make a direct and positive

contribution to the restoration and maintenance of peace and to the region's economic and social developments. For their part, the Twelve would be prepared to play their part with respect to an international conference on peace in the Middle East. Such a conference would provide a suitable framework for the necessary negotiations between the parties directly concerned and is at present the only formula to allow the peace process to move forward. The Twelve express the hope that conditions allowing an international peace conference to be held can be established rapidly upon the basis of an agreement between the parties to it.

The Twelve welcome the fact that the idea of such a conference has been strongly supported by the Arab summit meeting in Amman where — under the able chairmanship of His Majesty King Hussein of Jordan — important efforts were made to adopt common positions and to foster the unity of the Arab world.

Mr President, the devastating war between Iran and Iraq now in its eighth year causes the Twelve the deepest concern. The fighting has lasted for longer than either of the two World Wars and has taken an extraordinary toll in human life. It has been estimated that more than a million people have been killed or wounded. This gruesome conflict combines some of the worst aspects of past conflicts such as the bombing of civilian targets and the use of chemical weapons. Cities have been razed and the economic infrastructure of both countries has been laid waste. Most importantly, a generation of youth have given their lives in a war that should never have been started, nor been allowed to continue.

This conflict represents an increasingly serious threat to security both in the region and more widely, and to the freedom of navigation in the Gulf. Tension in the Gulf threatens the interests of many nations and attacks on shipping, including our own, in contravention of established international law, are a cause of deep concern. The Twelve attach great importance to the freedom of navigation and commerce in international waters and urge both parties to respect the relevant international conventions and law.

It is indeed imperative that both parties respect all relevant international legal instruments, including the four Geneva conventions of 1949 and the 1925 Geneva Protocol banning the use of chemical weapons. The Twelve were deeply concerned by the unanimous conclusions reached by the experts sent to the region by the Secretary-General earlier this year. According to their report, Iraqi forces had once again used chemical weapons against Iranian troops. Furthermore, the experts established both that Iraqi troops had suffered losses caused by this type of weapon and that civilian population in Iran has been subjected to attacks with chemical weapons. The Twelve strongly condemn these flagrant breaches of the 1925 Geneva Protocol.

The Twelve also deeply deplore the frequent attacks on civilian targets and urge the parties to refrain immediately from any such action.

They express in particular their grave concern at the possibility of a resumption of large scale military operations.

Mr President, since this debate last took place the Security Council has intensified its efforts to bring a rapid and peaceful end to the conflict. By adopting in July Resolution 598 the Council made an historic effort to provide a balanced framework for a comprehensive, just, honourable and durable settlement.

The Twelve are convinced that a peaceful and comprehensive solution can be found within the framework of the United Nations. They reaffirm their wholehearted support for Resolution 598 of the Security Council and again strongly call for its early implementation in full. In the current critical phase, they reiterate their urgent call for a speedy implementation of the resolution and for the immediate observance of a cease-fire on land, sea and in the air, and reaffirm their determination strongly to support the United Nations Secretary-General's efforts towards a peaceful solution and the implementation of Resolution 598 in its entirety.

Mr President, the situation in Lebanon is another area of tension in the Middle East which has for many years been of great concern to the Twelve. A worsened cycle of violence is bound to lead to a further deterioration of the situation. Whether it is a matter of acts of resistance against foreign occupation, countermeasures by the Israeli forces and their associates or shelling across the border, innocent civilians will always be among the victims. This year we have witnessed a very serious situation in and around some of the Palestinian camps in Lebanon alongside a continuation of violence, further

hostage-taking and an escalation of killings in south Lebanon. Once again we express our grave concern for the fate of all hostages held in Lebanon and appeal strongly on humanitarian grounds for their release as soon as possible.

The Twelve express the hope that all interested parties will show moderation in order to allow the political dialogue to recommence with a view to national reconciliation based on respect for the sovereignty, unity, independence and territorial integrity of Lebanon. This also requires a total Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon. The so-called security zone and the continued presence of Israeli forces in south Lebanon, contrary to Security Council resolutions, can only hinder the restoration of stability to the area.

Bearing this in mind, the Twelve firmly support the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon and urge that it be enabled to fulfil its mandate, in the best possible security conditions for its members, three of whom belong to the Twelve. We reaffirm the obligation of all member States to pay their assessed contributions to United Nations peace-keeping operations and express our hope that a solution of the serious financial difficulties of UNIFIL may soon be found. We appeal to all parties to cooperate with the force in its effort to carry out its mandate and its work to maintain stable conditions and protect the civilian population in its area of operation.

Mr President, the Twelve follow developments in all areas of conflict in the Middle East with great attention and concern. In almost all fields they have close ties with the region and its peoples. Peace in the Middle East is of vital importance to the region itself, to Europe and indeed to international peace and security at large. The Twelve remain committed to the pursuit of peaceful settlements to the Arab-Israeli conflict, to the conflict between Iran and Iraq and in Lebanon, and we shall continue our efforts to help all realistic and reasonable peace initiatives. Thank you, Mr President.

87/506. Statement in the Sixth Committee of the UN General Assembly: Measures to Prevent International Terrorism¹

Date of Issue: 1 December 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Mr Bernhard: Mr Chairman, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community.

As underlined in our statement during the debate we earnestly hoped that the consensus established at the 40th session of the General Assembly with its unequivocal condemnation of all acts of international terrorism, wherever and by whomever committed, could be preserved. The Twelve hope that this will be achieved in a few minutes, or at least that almost the whole membership will be able to support the draft resolution contained in L.24 with the reiteration of this condemnation.

The result contained in this draft resolution has been reached after many hours of hard work during which both good faith and flexibility have been demonstrated. We have good reason for being encouraged by the outcome of our efforts. In particular, the draft resolution reaffirms Resolution 40/61, which was a milestone in the consideration of this subject in the United Nations.

Finally, I should like to comment on operative paragraph 14 of the draft resolution. It goes without saying that nothing in the resolution could prejudice or otherwise affect the right to self-determination which pertains to all peoples. We therefore have serious doubts as to the appropriateness of including this paragraph in the resolution as it may give the false impression that there is somehow a link between terrorism and the exercise of the right to self-determination. We would like to make two points clear in this connection. First, terrorist acts can never be justified in any circumstances regardless of the motives.

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Secondly, the right of peoples to struggle for self-determination, freedom and independence as mentioned in paragraph 14 does not include the right to resort to acts of terrorism. We firmly believe that paragraph 14 cannot be interpreted to the contrary. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

87/507. Explanation of Vote at the Plenary Session of the UN General Assembly: Question of Palestine¹

Date of Issue: 2 December 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Mr Poulsen: Mr President, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community.

In their statement on the question of Palestine on 23 November 1987 the Twelve made clear their views on the key elements which must make up a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

On that occasion we also referred to our declarations of 23 February 1987 and of 13 July 1987 where we stated that we are in favour of an international conference, held under the auspices of the United Nations with the participation of the parties concerned and of any party able to make a direct and positive contribution to the restoration and maintenance of peace and to the region's economic and social developments. In our view, such a conference would provide a suitable framework for the necessary negotiations between the parties directly concerned and is at present the only formula to allow the peace process to move forward.

The Twelve have taken note with appreciation of the reports of the Secretary-General relative to the question of an international conference (A/42/277 and A/42/714). We have recently in this Assembly expressed our full support for the Secretary-General in his efforts to find ways of bridging the gaps between the parties and agree with him on the need to consolidate and build on the foundation that has so far been established.

The Twelve share the satisfaction expressed in draft resolution A/42/L.40 at the increasing international consensus in favour of the early convening of an international peace conference under the auspices of the United Nations. We are not, however, convinced that the draft reflects the consensus in its most widely accepted terms. This is particularly so in relation to the call made in the draft for the convening of a pre-determined form of international conference. For negotiations to have any chance of success it is essential to avoid prejudging the form in which they may be held, which should be agreed upon by the parties directly concerned.

Finally, Mr President, with regard to the draft resolutions contained in documents A/42/L.33-35, which remain largely unchanged from last year, the Twelve have previously explained their position and have *inter alia* stressed the need to take duly into consideration the financial difficulties currently facing the Organization in determining the tasks of the bodies concerned. Thank you, Mr President.

87/508. Explanation of Vote in the Fifth Committee of the UN General Assembly: Appointment of Members to the UN Administrative Tribunal ¹

Date of Issue: 3 December 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

¹ Agenda item 126.

¹ Agenda item 38.

Mr Chairman, I have asked for the floor to make a statement on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community on the item now under consideration, i.e. appointment of members to the United Nations Administrative Tribunal.

Let me recall, Mr Chairman, that the Twelve in a recent statement on personnel questions made their position clear as far as violations of immunities of United Nations officials are concerned. We expressed our particular concern at the fact that one member State, Romania, for almost two years has violated these immunities since the Romanian Government did not and still does not allow Mr Liviu Bota, formerly Director of UNIDIR, to resume his duties with the United Nations. The same member State now presents the candidature of one of its nationals to the United Nations Administrative Tribunal which hears and passes judgement on applications from staff who allege non-observance of their contracts of employment by the United Nations administration.

Mr Chairman, the Administrative Tribunal is an important body of the United Nations. Both management and staff must have complete confidence in members of the Tribunal. We fail to see how any candidate from a member State which itself violates provisions of the Charter rules regarding privileges and immunities can inspire this confidence.

Mr Chairman, we are not challenging the wish of the Group of East European States to have a national from one of those States appointed to the Tribunal and we do not in any way wish to question the existing practice as regards candidates endorsed by regional groups. Under other circumstances we would have welcomed a nomination of a Romanian national to the administrative tribunal. However, in the present circumstances we cannot support this nomination.

In the absence of another nominee from the group of East European States the Twelve see, though with deep regret, no other choice than to dissociate ourselves from the decision on this particular nomination. We request that this position be reflected in the Records. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

87/509. Statement on the Middle East

Date of Issue: 5 December 1987 Place of Issue: Copenhagen Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: European Council

Status of Document: Conclusions of the European Council

- 1. The European Council deplores the continuing absence of resolution of the crises in the Middle East.
- 2. The Twelve reaffirm their willingness to develop their political dialogue with all States in the Middle East. They also wish economic cooperation to progress and in particular the current negotiations on an agreement between the European Community and the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council to be completed rapidly.
- 3. The European Council expresses its profound concern about the continuation of the war between Iraq and Iran and reiterates its firm and wholehearted support for Security Council Resolution 598 as the means to bring an end to this armed conflict. The Twelve continue to give their unreserved and strong support to the efforts of the United Nations Security Council and the Secretary-General to obtain the immediate and full implementation of this resolution. Continued non-compliance with this mandatory resolution is not acceptable to the world community and the appropriate action should now be taken to enforce its implementation by means of a follow-up resolution.
- 4. The Twelve confirm their desire for a negotiated solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict which would bring to the region a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in accordance with the principles set out in the Venice Declaration, and reiterate their support for an international peace conference under the auspices of the United Nations. They welcome the endorsement given to such a conference by the Arab

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League Summit in Amman under the chairmanship of King Hussein of Jordan. They call for renewed efforts by all concerned to reach agreement on arrangements for the conference to be held as soon as possible.

The Twelve reiterate their preoccupation about human rights and living conditions in the occupied territories. Without prejudging future political solutions they will continue to contribute to the economic and social development of those territories.

The European Council remains deeply concerned about the situation in Lebanon. It calls for a peaceful solution to the Lebanese crisis which should be based on the independence, unity, sovereignty, territorial integrity and national reconciliation of that country. The Twelve reaffirm their support for UNIFIL and call on all concerned to support the force and to allow it to fulfil its mandate unobstructed. They reiterate their condemnation of the continuing detention of hostages and victims of kidnapping in Lebanon, and call for their immediate release.

87/510. Statement on East-West Relations

Date of Issue: 5 December 1987 Place of Issue: Copenhagen Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: European Council

Status of Document: Conclusions of the European Council

- The European Council welcomes the important prospects of an improvement in East-West relations and acknowledges that the forthcoming Summit in Washington will mark a significant step forward in these relations.
- 2. The agreement on global elimination of United States and Soviet land-based intermediate-range nuclear missiles will be a milestone, eliminating for the first time an entire class of weapons. The Twelve hope that this agreement will enter into force soon.

They consider it essential that this achievement in nuclear arms control should give further impetus to substantive progress in the whole range of present and future bilateral US/Soviet and multilateral negotiations on arms control and disarmament.

The Twelve will continue to seek through the CSCE process more secure and more cooperative relations between the participating States. All the undertakings made in Helsinki and Madrid should be fully implemented.

Respect for human rights and freedom is a prerequisite for confidence, understanding and cooperation. The Twelve are determined that the Vienna meeting should benefit all individuals in the 35 countries involved.

The Twelve wish to build upon the achievements of the Stockholm Conference (CDE) and will contribute to the elaboration of a further set of confidence- and security-building measures. They will work resolutely towards a stable and secure balance of conventional forces in Europe at a lower level.

In all this, the Twelve will cooperate closely with other countries which share their ideals, values and objectives.

international tension eight years after the invasion by Soviet troops. The Twelve pay tribute to the Afghan

87/511. Statement on Afghanistan

Date of Issue: 5 December 1987 Place of Issue: Copenhagen Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: European Council

Status of Document: Conclusions of the European Council

The European Council examined the situation in Afghanistan, which remains an important source of

people's spirit of independence. They also acknowledge the courage of the people of Pakistan, which has suffered so much as a result of this conflict, and the generous assistance provided by the country to more than three million Afghan refugees.

The Twelve support the persistent efforts by the United Nations Secretary-General and his personal representative to find a negotiated solution which would put an end to the tragic human suffering and the continuing violations of human rights in Afghanistan, allow the refugees to return and restore Afghanistan as a genuinely independent and non-aligned country. The principles which must underlie a settlement have once more been overwhelmingly endorsed at this year's United Nations General Assembly.

The Twelve take note that Soviet leaders have announced their intention to find a political solution in Afghanistan. They believe there should now be an urgent new impetus in the peace negotiations and call on the Soviet Union to:

- i) withdraw all its troops by a date in 1988 according to a fixed timetable;
- ii) agree to the establishment of a transitional government, whose independence could not be contested, to make preparations for a new constitution and a genuine act of self-determination;
- iii) recognize that the participation of the Afghan resistance is essential to a comprehensive political settlement.

The Twelve remain ready to contribute constructively towards the achievement of an acceptable settlement, which would bring about a significant improvement in international relations.

87/512. Statement on Haiti

Date of Issue: 8 December 1987 Place of Issue: Copenhagen Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: The Twelve Status of Document: Declaration

The Twelve have publicly expressed their hope that, after many years of dictatorship, the elections in Haiti scheduled for 29 November 1987 would finally allow the Haitian people to choose their representatives freely. They are deeply concerned by the bloodshed which led to the suspension of the electoral process.

The Twelve strongly condemn the acts of violence, which are the responsibility of the adherents of the former dictatorship. If they are not met by firmness on the part of the security forces, they will undermine hopes of a return to democracy.

The Twelve hope that free elections, respecting the procedures laid down in the Constitution, can be held in the very near future. To this end, they urge all those involved to support a genuinely democratic election to be organized and held in an atmosphere of peace and stability.

87/513. Statement in the Fifth Committee of the UN General Assembly: Current Financial Crisis of the United Nations ¹

Date of Issue: 10 December 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Mr Chairman, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community.

First of all, allow me to convey our thanks to the Secretary-General for his introductory statement to the Fifth Committee. Let me also thank the ACABQ for its report and Ambassador M'selle for his presentation.

Already at the resumed 40th Session, April 28, 1986 it was stated by the Twelve that we were 'deeply concerned' about the United Nations' financial situation. Today the situation and the outlook are still worse.

I might mention that the Twelve together are assessed for 29,8 per cent of the total contributions for 1987 or an amount of \$ 215 million. This amount has been fully paid and nearly two-thirds thereof was paid by the end of January this year.

Mr Chairman, the viability of our Organization is threatened and the reasons are well known. Again, as we said more than eighteen months ago, the 'crisis is caused by the blatant disregard by certain member States for their financial obligations under the Charter'. The Secretary-General points out that at 16 November, only 66 of the 159 member States had fully paid up.

We have studied very carefully the report of the Secretary-General contained in document A/42/841. We have also studied carefully the report of the ACABQ contained in document A/42/861.

The analysis of the situation up to the present is clear and unambiguous. The United Nations face a substantial cash shortfall in the third and fourth quarter of 1988 unless certain member States improve their payment performance.

We fully concur with the statement by the Secretary-General in paragraph 20 of his report to the effect that the only durable solution to the current financial crisis of the Organization is the payment by all member States of their assessed contributions in full and on time.

Mr Chairman, we can understand why in the face of the projected funding shortfall in 1988 the Secretary-General has requested authorization for certain measures. These measures, though, would not solve the problem but only amount to a short-term remedy and they would at the same time make the financing even less equitable that it already is under current circumstances. The proposals for an increase in the Working Capital Fund and for commercial borrowing are not new; they have been considered and rejected before. We have noted that they did not meet with the approval of the ACABQ. The idea of certificates of indebtedness, while novel, is in fact a new channel for voluntary contributions. It is hardly objectionable and the ACABQ had no objection in principle to this proposal, provided certain conditions were fulfilled. However, we find it unlikely that such a measure would produce the desired effects.

In all cases, the Secretary-General's suggested solutions amount to increasing the burden on those member States which do meet their Charter obligations to make up for others who have failed to meet their obligations. This is unacceptable. Those States which have fully paid are already, because of the 1986 and 1987 economy measures, bearing more than their fair share of current expenditure.

We noted that the Secretary-General in his presentation of his report indicated his willingness to consider other possible measures. We stand ready to study any realistic proposals in this respect.

We also noted the Secretary-General's strong appeal to the Fifth Committee that it decides on the content and level of the programme budget, including a contingency fund, for 1988-89. Once again we, the Twelve, pledge that we collectively and individually shall spare no effort to reach that goal.

Mr Chairman, last year by the adoption of Resolution 41/213, a reform process was initiated. We have experienced during this Session difficulties over the implementation of that resolution. Reform was never going to be easy, but the predictable difficulties can only be compounded by the current financial situation of the United Nations and the gloomy outlook for the second half of 1988.

We appeal to all member States who have not already done so to pay their outstanding contributions in full, and for 1988 to pay promptly. As noted above, the Twelve have good record of payment. I should mention that one Member State of the Community has already paid part of its 1988 contribution and that some other Member States intend to make payments on their assessed contributions for 1988 in early January next year.

Mr Chairman, if the appeal of the Secretary-General and the Twelve and undoubtedly many other member States is not significantly heeded by member States in arrears we will have to face an unprecedented situation. We hope that such a situation will not arise. In the event that it does, the Twelve stand ready to cooperate with the Secretary-General and other member States with a view to arriving at appropriate solutions. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Agenda item 43.

87/514. Explanation of Vote in the Plenary Session of the UN General Assembly: Report of the Economic and Social Council — Resolution L.89 Concerning the Implementation of Resolution 41/213¹ in the Economic and Social Fields²

Date of Issue: 11 December 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Mr President, the twelve Member States of the European Community have been pleased to join in the adoption without a vote of the resolution entitled 'Implementation of Resolution 41/213 in the Economic and Social Fields'.

I should, however, like to state for the record that it would, in our view, have been more in line with the established division of labour of the General Assembly had this resolution been introduced in the Fifth Committee since Resolution 41/213 is rightly within the purview of that Committee.

Finally, Mr Chairman, the Committee welcomes the fact that the resolution stresses the need to continue to implement fully all aspects of Resolution 41/213. Thank you, Mr President.

Agenda item 12.

87/515. Explanation of Vote in the Plenary Session of the UN General Assembly: Situation in the Middle East¹

Date of Issue: 11 December 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Mr President, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community.

We have considered most carefully our position on draft resolution A/42/L.41/Rev.1.

Our views on the principles which need to be applied to secure peace in the Middle East are well known and were again set out in our statement on this item on 1 December 1987.

We strongly support all moves likely to improve the prospects for an early convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East. On 5 December 1987 the Heads of State or Government of the Twelve assembled in Copenhagen welcomed the endorsement given to such a conference by the Arab League Summit in Amman under the chairmanship of King Hussein of Jordan, and called for renewed efforts by all concerned to reach agreement on arrangements for the conference to be held as soon as possible.

We urge all the parties concerned to reach agreement on the way in which this could be done.

While we welcome the clear intention of the authors of this draft resolution to facilitate the convening of a conference, we are unable, in the absence of agreement by all the parties concerned, fully to endorse the terms of A/42/L.41/Rev.1.

Regarding draft resolutions A/42/L.42, A/42/L.43 and A/42/L.44, which remain largely unchanged from last year, the Twelve have previously made their position known. Thank you, Mr President.

United Nations General Assembly Resolution of 19 December 1986 on the review of the efficiency of the administrative and final functioning of the United Nations.

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87/516. Statement at the Occasion of the Twentieth Anniversary of the Foundation of ASEAN

Date of Issue: 14 December 1987 Place of Issue: Copenhagen Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: The Twelve Status of Document: Message

On the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the foundation of the Association of South East Asian Nations and its third summit conference, the twelve Member States of the European Community send their warmest congratulations to the Presidency of ASEAN and convey their best wishes for success to the Heads of State or Government assembled in Manila.

Twenty years of ASEAN means twenty years of peace and solidarity among its member States, twenty years of increasing political and economic influence for ASEAN both regionally and worldwide, and twenty years of cooperation and prosperity.

The Twelve are confident that the proceedings of the summit conference will contribute to further progress and stability in South-East Asia and foster fruitful regional and international relations. They hope the summit will succeed in its endeavours to add impetus to the economic cooperation within ASEAN.

They welcome the increasingly intensive dialogue which has developed between the European Community and ASEAN. They are looking forward to their next ministerial meeting in May 1988 in Düsseldorf, which they are convinced will further intensify the political and economic cooperation between the two regional organizations.

87/517. Statement on the Copenhagen Summit of 4 and 5 December

Date of Issue: 16 December 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Report on European Council

Mr Schlüter, President-in-Office of the European Council: Mr President, [...] Following the dinner on the first day of the meeting, the Heads of State or Government together with the Foreign Ministers discussed a series of current foreign policy matters. The Heads of State or Government had a detailed discussion of East-West relations in the light of the Summit in Washington. Prior to this we had a fruitful discussion on the world economic situation on the basis of a proposal from Mr Delors. It was disappointing that there was not the necessary political will at the European Council to solve the fundamental problems of the Community. On the other hand, it was gratifying to see that political cooperation between the twelve Member States has now progressed enough to make it possible even in the present situation to reach agreement on a number of major declarations on fundamental international questions which are of immediate importance to the Twelve.

The first declaration concerns East-West relations. The European Council declares that the United States-Soviet summit in Washington will make a significant step forward in East-West relations. It is also stated that agreement on global elimination of United States and Soviet land-based intermediate-range nuclear missiles is a milestone and the declaration expresses hope that this agreement will enter into force soon.

The second declaration deals with Afghanistan and pays tribute to the Afghan people's spirit of independence. We urge the Soviet Union to withdraw all its troops by a date in 1988, to agree to the establishment of a transitional government whose independence could not be contested and to recognize that the participation of the Afghan resistance is essential to a comprehensive political settlement.

In the third declaration, which concerns the Middle East, we express the wish that political dialogue and economic cooperation between the European Community and the States of the Middle East should

be developed. In the declaration we also support Security Council Resolution 598 as the means to bring an end to the war between Iran and Iraq. We emphasize in the declaration that continued non-compliance with this mandatory resolution is not acceptable to the world community and that it is now necessary to discuss appropriate action to implement the resolution by means of a follow-up resolution.

In these three declarations the Heads of Government of the Twelve highlight their views on current foreign policy problems. By this means they are helping to influence international developments in accordance with European points of view. [...]

87/518. Question No H-565/87 by Mr McMahon Concerning Détente and East-West Relations

Date of Issue: 16 December 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

Given the recent successful agreement reached between Mr Gorbachev of the USSR and President Reagan of the USA, what discussions have the Ministers meeting in political cooperation had on the USA/USSR talks and what proposals will the President-in-Office put forward on behalf of the Council of Ministers to encourage *détente* between the USSR and the USA?

Mr Ellemann-Jensen, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: The Honourable Member is doubtless aware that East-West relations were discussed at the European Council meeting in Copenhagen, and the statement on East-West relations which was issued at that meeting has been sent to Parliament. The statement says that the agreement on the global removal of land-based middle-range nuclear missiles will be a milestone. For the first time a whole category of weapons has been removed, and the Twelve hope that this agreement will soon come into force.

An aspect of crucial importance in the attainment of such a result in the field of nuclear weapons control is that it constitutes added incentive to the achievement of substantial progress in the whole range of ongoing and future negotiations on arms control and disarmament, both on a bilateral basis between the two super-powers and on a multilateral basis. The Twelve will continue to work within the CSCE process for sounder and more cooperative relations between the participating States and to ensure that all the undertakings entered into by these countries in Helsinki and subsequently in Madrid are honoured in full. I stress this because the upholding of human rights and liberties is a precondition of trust, understanding and cooperation. The Twelve are firmly resolved that the Vienna meeting should benefit all the people in the 35 countries affected.

The Twelve also wish to build further on the results of the Stockholm Conference and will contribute to the working out of a further set of measures to establish confidence and security. They will also work resolutely towards a lasting and secure balance of conventional forces in Europe at a lower level. On all these questions the Twelve will cooperate closely with other countries which share their ideals, values and objectives. I will not go into greater detail here on the positions of the Twelve with regard to many of the other questions raised. Allow me to refer the Honourable Member to the section on European political cooperation in the report on European integration which is being sent to the European Parliament, together with the statement which I gave on behalf of the Twelve at the United Nations General Assembly on 22 September.

Mr McMahon (S): Would the President-in-Office not agree that the recent détente agreement signed by President Reagan and Mr Gorbachev is a very, very small step along a very long road which the United States, the Soviet Union and the other countries involved have to progress? Would he further consider that the recent visit of a delegation from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the Community institutions and in particular to this Parliament is the beginning of a new era in East-West relations? Would the Council of Ministers give an assurance that they will seek to accelerate détente between East and West?

Mr Ellemann-Jensen: We agree that, when we look at the proportion of the total world arsenal of nuclear weapons which is covered by this INF agreement, it is a very small step but, as the Chinese so wisely say, a journey of many miles has to be started with a single step. The important thing is that this step has been taken. It is indeed a historic step. It was taken for the reasons I have mentioned and because of the perspectives which are inherent in it. I entirely agree with the Honourable Member that the Twelve should do what they can to contribute to détente between East and West. I am well aware of the contacts Parliament has had, and I would point out to the Honourable Member that intense negotiating activity has been taking place between the Community and COMECON on a cooperation agreement and that discussions are in progress between the Community and a number of individual Eastern European countries on trading agreements and economic cooperation agreements, agreements which we hope will be ready for signature in the very near future.

Mr De Courcy Ling (ED): Has the President-in-Office studied the recent statement by the Secretary-General of NATO that if the United States cuts its expenditure on forces in Europe, Europe will be obliged to make good the deficiency? Would he agree that the Foreign Ministers meeting in European political cooperation would do well in the new year to draw up plans for the reduction of Warsaw Pact conventional forces and the increase of Western European conventional forces, bearing in mind that the United States and the Soviet Union are proceeding to talks about the dismantling of strategic missiles and that this will create a very dangerous situation in Europe unless we ourselves face up to the problem of conventional armaments?

Mr Ellemann-Jensen: Questions such as the strengthening of Western defence and the sharing of the burden between the USA and Europe are questions which fall entirely outside the scope of European political cooperation. They are questions which a number of the Twelve are dealing with in another context, namely, in NATO. But we also concern ourselves with such matters in the context of what is known as establishing a better balance in Europe. And in that context we are well aware that, as the role of nuclear weapons is reduced, the importance of conventional weapons increases and, hence, also the risk to our part of the world from a conventional imbalance in Europe. It is in our interest, therefore, to secure an improvement in the conventional balance, and indeed to ensure at the same time that it is improved at a lower level than we have today. That is why we hold out great hopes from the negotiations about to begin in Vienna on the very question of conventional disarmament in Europe. Indeed, we hope that the Soviet Union, which has accepted the principle of disparity in the INF negotiations, will be prepared to accept the same principle when we come to discuss conventional disarmament in Europe. If it is not, it will be quite simply mathematically impossible to establish an improved balance at a lower level.

Mr Boesmans (S): In his earlier answer I understood the President-in-Office to say that in the framework of the CSCE negotiations proposals could be put forward by the Twelve and are in fact being put forward. Could the President-in-Office say something more concrete about the position adopted up to now by the Twelve at the Vienna Conference? Did I understand him correctly as saying that further negotiations on conventional disarmament will have to take place between the 35 countries when the second phase of the European Conference on Disarmament comes along?

Mr Ellemann-Jensen: With regard to the CSCE negotiations in Vienna, the Twelve have cooperated very closely in preparing their positions and in seeking to coordinate their approaches. But the question of conventional disarmament in Europe, as the questioner quite rightly says, belongs in another forum. It will be the two alliances in Europe, namely, the Warsaw Pact and NATO, which will take part in the conference due to take place in Vienna on questions of conventional disarmament. There have been a number of purely practical problems concerning the venue and procedure for the conference, but we hope that agreement is imminent, so that the final mandate for a conference will also be finalized.

Mr Cryer (S): Could I ask the Minister concerned to be aware of the siren calls from Members of the Conservative Party suggesting that, now that the agreement between Gorbachev and Reagan has taken place on the INF Agreement to reduce nuclear weapons in the world for the first time since 1945, there should be some sort of replacement? They are most likely to come from Ms Thatcher, who is very reluctant in her view of the agreement, is a consistent supporter of nuclear weapons and, indeed, is proposing further growth of nuclear weapons by the United Kingdom. Could he set his face — within the

limits of the common market which I accept are there — against suggestions for a Euro-bomb or for air-mounted or sea-mounted cruise missiles, so that the real support which has been expressed worldwide by millions of people for the INF Treaty is the beginning of more nuclear disarmament and not seeking for a replacement?

Mr Ellemann-Jensen: I am not at all certain where I am. Am I in the Parliamentary Assembly of NATO? Because that is not a question we should be discussing in the European Community. Moreover, the Honourable Member seems to be prey to some awful fantasies. I can refer him to the East-West Statement adopted at the European Council meeting in Copenhagen by all twelve governments, in which we expressed in very clear terms our satisfaction that a whole class of nuclear weapons had now been removed from the face of the earth.

87/519. Question No H-706/87 by Mr Papakyriazis Concerning Improving EEC-COMECON Relations

Date of Issue: 16 December 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

Having regard to the recent changes in the USSR's domestic and foreign policy and the mutual interest of the EEC and COMECON in improving their political and economic relations (as emerged, for instance, in the meetings of the USSR's representative with the European Parliament), could the President-in-Office of the Council of Ministers of the European Community meeting in political cooperation inform Parliament what progress has been made and what measures are being taken to improve EEC-COMECON political and economic relations?

Mr Ellemann-Jensen, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: I already touched upon the subject in my answer to the previous question, but I can say that within European political cooperation we follow very closely developments in both home affairs and foreign policy in the Soviet Union and other COMECON countries. In a great many contacts with these countries the Twelve have emphasized that they speak with one voice in international affairs by issuing joint statements and taking joint steps, for example in the field of human rights. It is the clear impression of the Twelve that the Soviet Union and other Eastern European countries increasingly consider European political cooperation to be a significant entity which is emerging as a force in international politics. The Twelve keep their policy on the Soviet Union and the countries of Eastern Europe under constant review in order to ensure that it is the correct one to pursue.

Mr Papakyriazis (S): I welcome the spirit of the reply, which is indeed positive. However, I did not receive a specific answer to the question of what specific progress has been made towards strengthening relations between the EEC and COMECON. As you just told us, as we all know, and as numerous indications demonstrate, there is goodwill on all sides. But since you made no reference at all to this point in your statement today either, I am asking whether there is still anything which prevents you from doing so? Or will you try to give a more specific answer to the question? What is the way forward, the procedure and the prospects for EEC-COMECON relations?

Mr Ellemann-Jensen: I think that will be the next important point in this development and our cooperation: the conclusion of a cooperation agreement between COMECON and the European Community. There are some points on which we have not yet completed the negotiations. I think it is well known that there are a few points on which the COMECON side has tried to get us to abandon certain principles which we have defended hitherto and will not cease to defend. That is what has delayed a settlement, and it will continue to delay a settlement until the COMECON side accepts that we take account of the interests of our Member States and of important principles relating to sovereignty, etc. But I am certain that, once those problems are out of the way, we shall be ready to sign the agreement, and I consider it to be of the utmost importance that we seek at the same time to extend bilateral contacts with the small and medium-sized COMECON countries in Eastern Europe.

It is very important, not least because of the difference between COMECON and the EC, which is a structural one, not to create the impression, and not to believe, that we have sorted out our relations with those countries by establishing relations with COMECON, because, as I have said, there is a difference. The difference is that in COMECON there is one big partner who determines a whole series of matters, and then there are a number of small partners. We on the other hand can rejoice in the fact that, while a few big partners think that they settle most issues, a whole series of small partners actually have a better time of it than the small countries in so many other international organizations. Precisely out of respect for that difference in structure, which I think reflects something very important and valuable about our Community, we should take great care not to deprive ourselves of contacts with the individual Eastern European countries.

87/520. Question No H-662/87 by Mr Cano Pinto Concerning the Community Contribution to Disarmament

Date of Issue: 16 December 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

At their recent meeting in Monterey (USA) the Defence Ministers of the majority of Community countries officially supported the treaty on European-based missiles between the Soviet Union and the United States, and the treaty which may be signed on strategic arms limitation.

How do the Foreign Ministers justify the Community's Defence Ministers' support for nuclear missiles in Europe with a range of less than 500 km, and conventional weapons systems? Can the Foreign Ministers state specifically what contribution is being made by the Community in the new climate of disarmament which appears to have developed?

Answer:

The President might remind the Honourable Member that military aspects of security fall outside the scope of European political cooperation. Furthermore, the forum to which he refers does not comprise all of the twelve EC countries.

As far as the Twelve are concerned, the European Council at its meeting in Copenhagen on 4 and 5 December stated that the agreement on global elimination of United States and Soviet land-based intermediate-range nuclear missiles will be a milestone, eliminating for the first time an entire class of nuclear weapons. The Twelve hope that this agreement will enter into force soon.

In the said declaration, the European Council also addressed other issues relating to arms control and disarmament issues. Thus, the Twelve consider it essential that the achievement of an INF agreement should give further impetus to substantive progress in the whole range of present and future bilateral US-Soviet and multilateral negotiations on arms control and disarmament. Likewise, the Twelve wish to build upon the achievement of the Stockholm Conference (CDE) and will contribute to the elaboration of a further set of confidence- and security-building measures. They will work resolutely towards a stable and secure balance of conventional forces in Europe at a lower level.

87/521. Question No H-751/87¹ by Mr Bru Puron Concerning the International Conference on the Middle East

Date of Issue: 16 December 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

The Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation recently agreed that an international conference should be convened so as to seek ways of resolving the crisis in the Middle East and that it should be attended by the parties involved — including representatives of the Palestinians — and the major powers.

Was this merely a declaration, or will the Ministers in fact take specific steps with a view to the convening of such a conference? Do the Ministers intend to take specific action to overcome resistance, if there is any, from the United States or Israel to participation by the Soviet Union in this conference?

Answer:

At its meeting in Copenhagen on 4 and 5 December the European Council confirmed the support of the Twelve for an international peace conference on the Middle East to be held under the auspices of the United Nations. It also called for renewed efforts by all concerned to reach agreement on arrangements for the conference to be held as soon as possible.

In their statements on 23 February and 13 July 1987 Foreign Ministers of the Twelve had already made clear their views regarding certain aspects of such a conference.

In their contacts, both via the Presidency and bilaterally, the Twelve have never failed to raise the matter of the conference and to indicate their willingness to contribute actively to bringing the positions of the parties concerned closer to one another with a view to its being convened.

87/522. Question No H-670/87 by Ms Lizin Concerning the Arab Summit in Amman

Date of Issue: 16 December 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

How do the Foreign Ministers meeting in European political cooperation view the Arab summit in Amman and, in particular, do they believe that the prospects for an international conference on the Middle East warrant renewed activity by the Presidency?

Answer:

In a statement issued by the European Council in Copenhagen on 5 December 1987, the Twelve welcomed the endorsement given to an international peace conference on the Middle East by the Arab League summit in Amman under the chairmanship of King Hussein of Jordan. The Twelve have over the last months taken every opportunity to make known their views on an international peace conference on the Middle East. Through the Presidency as well as bilaterally, the Twelve are maintaining contacts with all the parties concerned in order to contribute to the search for a just, global and lasting settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the Palestinian problem, in accordance with the Venice Declaration.

87/523. Question No H-732/87 by Mr Dessylas Concerning the South African Invasion of Angolan Territory

Date of Issue: 16 December 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

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Former Oral Question without debate (O-112/87) converted into a question for Question Time.

What steps have the Ministers meeting in political cooperation taken in respect of the deep penetration of Angolan territory by South African troops, and do they also propose to pursue a policy of genuine sanctions against South Africa in connection with the continuation of apartheid?

Answer:

On 23 November the Foreign Ministers of the Twelve issued a declaration in which South Africa's recent military activities in Angola were strongly condemned and a call was made for the immediate withdrawal of all South African troops. It was made clear, as had been done on previous occasions, that such provocative actions were totally illegal and could only exacerbate tensions in the region and make a peaceful resolution of the problems facing Southern Africa more difficult. The Foreign Ministers repeated their previous demand that the South African Government should do its utmost to contribute to the establishment of peace and security in the region.

87/524. Question No H-593/87 by Mr Ephremidis Concerning the Mass Displacement of Kurds

Date of Issue: 16 December 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

A recent Turkish Government law on protecting forests is being adduced as the reason for pushing ahead with the mass displacement of Kurds to the western regions of Turkey. This has already happened in Dersim prefecture in Kurdistan, according to information released by the Socialist Party of Turkish Kurdistan. What approaches have the Foreign Ministers made or do they propose to make to the Turkish Government in connection with this extremely serious humanitarian issue?

Answer:

The question raised by the Honourable Member has not been discussed by the Twelve in the context of political cooperation. The Twelve have on numerous occasions stressed the importance they attach to human rights. It goes without saying that this is also the case in the Twelve's relations with Turkey.

87/525. Question No H-646/87 by Mr Ulburghs Concerning the Imprisonment of Rita Ceuppens in Chile

Date of Issue: 16 December 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

Rita Ceuppens, an official of the Chamber of Trade at the Belgian Consulate in Chile, her husband, Ricardo Bravo Meyer, and his father and the seventeen-year-old Hector Loyola Royas were arrested on 22 October. Rita Ceuppens was charged by the Chilean authorities of illegal possession of weapons. The police wounded her husband in the leg and, according to our information, he suffered further maltreatment on the way to the hospital.

Have the Foreign Ministers considered ways of encouraging the Chilean authorities to ensure more humane treatment in prison and to release Rita Ceuppens and the two Chileans still in detention?

Answer:

The Honourable Member will be aware that Ms Ceuppens was released on bail on 4 December 1987. This will also be commented on in the reply to Question No H-665/87. The Twelve have on numerous occasions issued declarations and made representations to the Chilean authorities, in which they stated their deep concern about the detention and treatment of political prisoners.

87/526. Question No H-651/87 by Mr Lomas Concerning the Detention of Over Fifty Politicians and Community Activists in Malaysia

Date of Issue: 16 December 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

In Malaysia, according to the BBC World Service, over fifty politicians and community activists were detained on Tuesday, 27 October, under the provisions for detention without trial which are contained in the Internal Security Act. Prominent among those arrested are: Mr Lim Kit Siang MP, leader of the Opposition Democratic Action Party (DAP), Mr Karpal Singh MP, Vice-Chairman of the DAP, Mr Hu Se Pang and Mr Lim Guan Eng, both DAP MPs. What action have the Foreign Ministers taken with regard to these people?

Answer:

As the Honourable Member rightly points out, the detentions to which he refers were made according to the Malaysian Constitution, under the provisions of Malaysia's Internal Security Act. The Twelve are nonetheless monitoring developments in Malaysia closely. The Malaysian authorities are well aware of our view that despite internal difficulties human rights should be scrupulously observed.

87/527. Questions No H-709/87 by Mr McMillan-Scott Concerning the Ratification by the Community Member States of the Council of Europe Convention of 24 November 1983 on Compensation for Victims of Violent Crimes, and Question No H-657/87 by Mr Arbeloa Muru Concerning the Ratification of the Convention on Compensation for Victims of Terrorism

Date of Issue: 16 December 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Questions

Question No H-709/87:

In recent years the Community has seen an alarming rise in the number of terrorist attacks within its borders, leading to deaths and horrific injuries such as those suffered by the authors of Petition No 24/86, Mr and Ms W.D. Hunter and Mr and Ms P. Smith, and also the authors of Petitions Nos 39/87 and 167/87, without expectation of compensation.

The victims in such cases are unable to rely on insurance contracts, which in most cases contain a general exclusion in respect of terrorist activities, unless the incident takes place in a Member State with comprehensive compensation provisions.

In order to meet victims' needs in such cases the Council of Europe has at the request of the European Parliament drawn up a convention providing for the compensation of the victims of violent crimes. This, however, has not yet entered into force because ratification by three of the contracting parties is required and, to date, it has been ratified by only two.

Will the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation agree to examine this question in the context of their continuing discussions on common measures against terrorism and urge their respective governments to set in motion the relevant ratification procedures?

Question No H-657/87:

How many Community Member States have ratified the Council of Europe's Convention of 24 November 1983 on the compensation of victims of violent crimes? Are any Member States intending to ratify it in the near future?

Answer:

The Presidency would like to inform the Honourable Member that the Council of Europe convention of 24 November 1983 on compensation for victims of violent crimes has already been ratified by three Member States and, consequently, will enter into force, in accordance with its relevant provisions.

87/528. Question No H-649/87 by Mr Saby Concerning the Parliament's Resolution of 18 June 1987 on a Political Solution to the Armenian Ouestion

Date of Issue: 16 December 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

In its resolution of 18 June 1987 on a political solution to the Armenian question ¹, Parliament called upon the Council 'to obtain from the present Turkish Government an acknowledgement of the genocide perpetrated against the Armenians in 1915-17 and to promote the establishment of a dialogue between Turkey and the representatives of the Armenians'.

In the context of political cooperation as provided for in the Single Act, and in view of the possible enlargement of the EEC to include Turkey, would the Foreign Ministers state what measures have been taken to date with regard to Turkey's acknowledgement of the genocide perpetrated against the Armenians and to the establishment of a necessary dialogue?

Answer:

The Honourable Member will wish to refer to the answer given to Oral Question No H-400 tabled by Mr Alavanos, No H-519 tabled by Mr Vandemeulebroucke and No H-638 tabled by Mr Pranchère².

87/529. Question No H-661/87 by Mr Raftery Concerning the Recent Events in Tibet

Date of Issue: 16 December 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

Resolution of 18 June 1987 on a political solution to the Armenian question, OJ No C 190 of 20 July 1987, pp. 119-121.

² EPC Bulletin, Docs. 87/321, 87/425 and 87/470.

Could the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation state clearly whether they have discussed the recent riots in Tibet and the implications of the Chinese Government's reaction to these disturbances for human rights, especially the freedom of religion of the Tibetan people, and have they taken any account of the joint resolution of the European Parliament on Tibet which was passed on 15 October 1987 1?

Answer:

The specific issues raised by the Honourable Member have not been discussed by the Foreign Ministers of the Twelve. However, the Twelve have followed developments in Tibet with concern and the Chinese authorities are well aware of the importance the Twelve attach to human rights being scrupulously respected. The views of the European Parliament are duly taken note of by the Twelve.

87/530. Question No H-665/87 by Mr Boesmans Concerning the Arrest in Chile of Rita Ceuppens and her Husband

Date of Issue: 16 December 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

On 22 October 1987 a Belgian woman, Rita Ceuppens, and her Chilean husband, Ricardo Bravo, were arrested by the Chilean police. Ricardo Bravo has been charged with shooting at the police, and weapons have reportedly been found at their home. Both are to appear before a military court. What steps have the Foreign Ministers meeting in European political cooperation taken to uncover the true facts of this case, and with what outcome, and what action is being taken to secure the release of Rita Ceuppens?

Answer:

As the Honourable Member will be aware, Ms Ceuppens was released on bail from San Miguel prison in Santiago de Chile on 4 December 1987. She arrived in Belgium two days later. The Belgian authorities have followed this case very closely, and their *démarches* finally led to her release.

87/531. Question No H-697/87 by Mr Balfe Concerning the European Convention on Human Rights

Date of Issue: 16 December 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

I am told that the European political cooperation procedure has sometimes been misused in the context of joint actions taken by Member States in attempting to avoid being condemned by the organs of the European Convention on Human Rights.

Is this true, and is the Presidency aware of this situation and, does it intend to prevent such abuses taking place in the future?

Answer:

The Presidency is not aware of such incidents.

¹ Joint Resolution of 15 October 1987 on the situation in Tibet, OJ No C 305 of 16 November 1987, p. 114.

87/532. Question No H-730/87 by Mr Alavanos Concerning Human Rights in Saudi Arabia

Date of Issue: 16 December 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

Have the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation considered the charges concerning human rights violations in Saudi Arabia which I referred to in Question No H-587/87¹ and which the President-in-Office answered at the November part-session?

Has the Danish Presidency taken the initiative of placing this item on the agenda, and if not, why not?

Answer:

The Honourable Member's question No H-587/87 regarding the human rights situation in Saudi Arabia was among the EPC questions which were regretably not answered at Parliament's part-session on 18 November 1987 and which — in accordance with the normal procedures — were subsequently answered in writing. The Honourable Member is therefore referred to the answer to his question No H-587/87², to which there is nothing to add.

² EPC Bulletin, Doc. 87/471.

87/533. Statement on the Term of Office of the Danish Presidency

Date of Issue: 16 December 1987 Place of Issue: Strasbourg Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Balance Speech to European Parliament

Mr Ellemann-Jensen, President-in-Office of the Council and of the Foreign Ministers: Mr President, [...] On the same day that Denmark took over Presidency, I July 1987, the Single European Act entered into force. The Single Act contains treaty provisions on Member States' cooperation in the sphere of foreign policy, European political cooperation. Over the last six months we in the Danish Presidency have been striving consistently to strengthen this cooperation through close and frequent consultations at ministerial and official level on the many foreign policy issues confronting us. Political cooperation is coming on — and has come on strongly in recent years. It has given Europe influence in a whole series of international questions. A sound measure of its success is the ever-increasing interest in contacts and consultations with the Twelve which we encounter on the part of third countries both inside and outside Europe and amongst regional groupings.

The Twelve have gone a long way towards realizing the objective of framing and implementing a European foreign policy. European political cooperation has thereby acquired a significance per se—independently of the Member States' temporary problems in taking decisions on Community matters. Our goal has been to increase the Twelve's collective influence on international issues. And we can look back over a six-month period characterized, in a long succession of areas, by joint positions, joint action, joint approaches and joint declarations. Close cooperation among the Twelve is today a political reality, both between Community capitals and between the Twelve's diplomatic representations to international organizations and their ambassadors around the world.

Let me now single out some of the areas in which cooperation among the Twelve has been significant under the Danish Presidency.

No one can be in any doubt that East-West relations have entered a more constructive phase. This has just been demonstrated at the US-Soviet summit meeting in Washington this week, when the INF

¹ Verbatim report of proceedings of 18 November 1987, Annex, provisional edition.

agreement was signed. The Twelve welcomed this development, most recently at the European Council meeting in Copenhagen on 4 and 5 December, where the INF agreement was described as a milestone and the Twelve expressed the hope that the agreement would quickly enter into force. The Twelve have expressed their wish to make their own contribution to achieving progress in the East-West process in the widest sense. This goes not only for arms control but for all those matters covered by the CSCE process: human rights, human contacts, economic and cultural cooperation along with the CSCE's own fundamental contribution in the military sphere with the confidence- and security-building measures and discussions in Vienna on a mandate for negotiating a stable and secure balance of conventional forces in Europe. The CSCE follow-up conference in Vienna has special significance in the current phase of East-West relations. The Twelve have therefore made a major collective effort in Vienna to achieve progress, notably within the human dimension. *Ostpolitik* and the Twelve's relations with the Soviet Union and the East European countries have therefore loomed large in political cooperation over the last six months. We have considered our possibilities and options in the *Ostpolitik* area in the light of our desire to exploit all opportunities for constructive progress in East-West relations.

The Member States' declarations and the voting patterns that emerge every year in the course of the United Nations General Assembly in New York enable a highly concentrated image of the Twelve's relations to be drawn. In the general debate I made a comprehensive and substantive contribution on behalf of the Twelve which gave clear expression to a common position of the Twelve on a very large number of the problems preoccupying the United Nations. When I think of the last time we had the Presidency five years ago, I was then able to give a much shorter speech at the United Nations. It is significant that it was longer this time because more common positions have been obtained. Normally they say in the United Nations that the smaller the country the longer the speech. This is not true of the European Community, of course. This time the situation was very pleasant, because the joint speech on behalf of the Twelve contained so many common positions. Moreover, during the later stages of the Assembly we expressed our common viewpoints, whenever the need arose, in a large number of joint statements and voting declarations.

During the opening of the United Nations General Assembly in New York the Twelve's increasingly high profile found its expression in a series of meetings with members of the governments of other countries: the Twelve had meetings with the Foreign Ministers from Japan, China, the Gulf States, the Contadora and supporting countries and the countries of Central America. I would, however, single out the meeting in New York between the Twelve and the US Secretary of State as an innovation which will add a new dimension to the dialogue between the Twelve and our American friends. The Foreign Ministers of the Twelve had a very frank dialogue with Secretary of State Shultz. We were pleased to note that the Americans would like this first meeting in New York to become a regular event. With the significance which from the start of European political cooperation has been attached to the Twelve's relations with the USA, the New York meeting and the prospect of such meetings between the Twelve and the US Secretary of State becoming a regular occurrence may be regarded as significant progress.

These and other political contacts with a number of third countries have shown the extent to which European political cooperation has developed. It has been an inspiration and heartening to discover the weight that other countries and groups of countries attach to their contacts with the Twelve in foreign policy matters. Cooperation among the Twelve at the United Nations 42nd General Assembly on disarmament questions was marked by a continuing trend towards greater coordination and consultation, although it must at the same time be recognized that the scope for further rapprochement between the Twelve in the matter of voting is limited by the various countries' positions on security and disarmament.

In connection with the discussion at the 42nd United Nations General Assembly of international security questions, and particularly in relation to the Soviet Union's proposal for a comprehensive system for international peace and security, the Twelve made a significant contribution towards safeguarding and maintaining the absolute primacy of the United Nations pact and the United Nations system. During the United Nations Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development in the summer of 1987 the Twelve made a crucial contribution to its satisfactory outcome in the consensus adoption of a final document.

In the Middle East the continuing war between Iraq and Iran has, most of all, been a cause of serious concern. In several declarations the Twelve have expressed their full support for Security Council Resolution No 598. Even though the resolution is binding on both sides, it has regrettably failed so far to result in a cease-fire. The Twelve therefore appreciate the United Nations Secretary-General's efforts to secure implementation of the resolution. We have demanded its full implementation, we have condemned any action in breach of the resolution and we have called on the parties to exercise the utmost caution and to call a temporary halt to hostilities. In the declaration from the European Council meeting in Copenhagen on 4 and 5 December we concluded that there should be discussion of appropriate measures to implement the resolution by means of a follow-up resolution.

The Twelve have repudiated the adversaries' serious violation of international humanitarian standards, repeatedly condemning attacks on towns and on civilian and neutral targets and the use of chemical weapons. The Twelve have also consistently stressed their support for the principle of the freedom of the seas, which we consider to be of the greatest importance for the international community. We have strongly condemned attacks on neutral shipping in the Gulf and called on the two warring factions not to disrupt other countries' commercial shipping in international waters.

The peace process in the Arab-Israeli conflict over the last year has unfortunately not progressed as we had hoped. The Twelve are still convinced that an international peace conference under United Nations auspices, where the parties involved in the conflict can discuss and solve the problems in direct negotiation, for the time being offers the only realistic possibility of further progress. We are pleased to note that the Twelve's statements on this matter have been well received. The principle of holding a peace conference has won support from nearly all the parties to the conflict. In this connection we note with satisfaction that at its extraordinary summit meeting in Amman from 9 to 11 November 1987 the Arab League expressed joint Arab approval for just such a conference proposal. We also welcome the decision at the same time to leave the member States free to resume diplomatic relations with Egypt — the only Arab country so far to have concluded a peace treaty with Israel — and the fact that a large number of countries have already re-established relations with Egypt.

What the Twelve can do to promote the conference proposal, and the Danish Presidency has set store by this, is above all else to keep us fully informed of the parties' views and, on that basis, try to help bring these views closer together. We have tried to perform this difficult task as far as possible by keeping in close contact with the parties in the widest sense. In this connection the Twelve decided at the Foreign Ministers meeting on 13 July this year to remove the ban on high-level contacts with Syria, and that decision has been put into effect.

In connection with Afghanistan let me say that the Twelve have stepped up the international pressure on the Soviet Union. This was done partly through two forthright declarations, the latter of these from the European Council meeting in Copenhagen, and partly by means of an energetic diplomatic effort on the part of the Twelve in advance of this year's United Nations resolution on the situation in Afghanistan. That effort helped to ensure that the United Nations resolution received wider support than ever before. There are also signs that it has made an impression in Moscow and Kabul, which throughout 1987 have been making significant, albeit vain attempts to win acceptance for the quite inadequate 'national policy of reconciliation'.

The Twelve have sought to consolidate the democratic development in Latin America and to strengthen relations with that region. To that end we held a meeting at Foreign Minister level in New York on 23 September 1987 between the Twelve and the eight Latin American countries which make up the Contadora and the Support Group. This was preceded by a major negotiating breakthrough, when on 6 and 7 August 1987 the five Central American countries reached agreement on a peace agreement for Central America. Within European political cooperation the Twelve have welcomed the peace agreement and urged the Central American countries to continue their endeavours to pursue the peace process. We hope that our next ministerial meeting with the Central American countries and the Contadora countries scheduled for February 1988 in Hamburg can take place against a background of further progress towards peace and democracy in Central America.

The Twelve have continued their efforts to put pressure on the South African Government to bring about the complete dismantling of the apartheid system and an end to South Africa's unlawful

occupation of Namibia and its constant attempts to destabilize the neighbouring States. We have appealed to the South African Government to initiate without further delay a national dialogue with the real leaders of the majority population, in the hope that it is still possible to achieve a peaceful transition to a democratic, non-racialist South Africa. The precondition for this is the Government's release of all political prisoners and removal of the ban on parties like the ANC and the PAC. In addition, the Twelve have time and again protested to the South African Government against the repressive measures used by the authorities during the state of emergency, including mass imprisonments without charge — of the children and young people too. South Africa's armed incursion into Angola was condemned in the strongest terms in the Foreign Ministers' statement in November.

The Twelve have continued their policy with increased funding for positive measures and have deployed special efforts to ensure the effective implementation of the restrictive measures. In this connection the Foreign Ministers have instituted investigations during the Danish Presidency with a view to establishing that there is no undermining of these measures.

The Twelve have continued to cooperate closely on human rights. In a large number of cases they have made confidential representations to governments of third countries urging greater respect for human rights in concrete matters. The basis for some of these instances were joint reports from the embassies of the Twelve on the spot concerning the human rights situation in the country concerned. At the Presidency's initiative the Foreign Ministers of the Twelve decided in October that a special working party on human rights should be set up within the European political cooperation. In so doing the Foreign Ministers were responding to a request contained in the European Parliament's resolution of 12 March 1987 ¹. The working party is to draft guidelines for joint action by the Twelve, take charge of the collection and evaluation of information on human rights violations and put forward proposals on general aspects of the Twelve's human rights policy.

Let me also in this connection call your attention to relations with the European Parliament. Through the holding of two symposia with Parliament's Political Affairs Committee and replies to questions from Members of the Parliament it is my impression that the ties between European political cooperation and the European Parliament have been further strengthened during the period of Denmark's Presidency. [...]

87/534. Statement at the Closing of the Fourth Session of the Vienna CSCE Meeting: the CSCE, CDE and Other Aspects of the Helsinki Final Act

Date of Issue: 18 December 1987 Place of Issue: Vienna, Austria Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Mr Chairman, the delegations of the twelve Member States of the European Community are convinced that they share a feeling of some bewilderment with all other delegations in this room at the realization that the Vienna follow-up meeting has now kept us busy for more than a year. What in the eyes of the twelve delegations is even more startling is the meagre harvest so far reaped from all our labours.

From the very beginning of the debates in Vienna the delegations of the Twelve have — collectively and individually — repeatedly underlined what in their view are the essential tasks of this meeting:

- re-establishment of faith in the CSCE process through precise and unambiguous commitments here to improvements in the implementation of existing CSCE texts, particularly in areas like the human dimension of the process which present real problems,
- to proceed further along the road mapped out for all delegations in the documents agreed in Helsinki and Madrid, that is, further to develop the integrated and balanced concept of security and cooperation in Europe expressed in those documents.

¹ Resolution of 12 March 1987 on human rights in the world for the year 1985/1986 and Community policy on human rights, OJ No C 99 of 13 April 1987, pp. 157-167, in particular p. 162.

Those objectives have found their most recent confirmation in the declaration issued by the European Council on 5 December 1987 ¹.

From the beginning of this meeting the delegations of the Twelve thought that this reasonable view with regard to their responsibilities in Vienna was shared by most, if not all, delegations. Never have they suspected — nor would they like to suspect — that anyone could have the aim of twisting the consensus which we are all called upon to strengthen and improve to the detriment of one of its important component parts. From the beginning as well they felt encouraged by developments at the international level and at the national level in a number of participating States to believe that the road towards a consensus here would be reasonably short and smooth. They are surprised that this expectation should be proven wrong by the number and depth of the potholes they have encountered all along the uphill trek of the proceedings so far.

On occasion — and such occasions seem to have multiplied over the last several weeks — the delegations of the Twelve have been told by some partners to be realistic in their expectations with regard to what can be achieved at this meeting. In some of the drafting groups and contact groups this counsel on occasion adopts the shape of proposals for inserting into the concluding document of Vienna of references to laws and regulations in existence in participating States.

One reason why the delegations of the Twelve cannot heed the advice of this kind of realism is that it is a call for resignation in the face of an unsatisfactory situation. They never saw this meeting as intended to produce a realistic picture of existing conditions within and among participating States. They have confidence that scholars and learned institutions are acquitting themselves honourably of this arduous task wherever they are free to do so. Instead they thought — and persist in thinking — that the CSCE process, including the Vienna meeting, is there not in order to describe reality but in order to change reality first and foremost by establishing conformity between reality and commitments.

This brings me to the other reason why the delegations of the Twelve feel reluctant to heed the counsel of this kind of realism. What is the reality in CSCE terms that they are told to accept as their aim at this meeting?

As all reality, it presents both bright and sombre elements, salient features of black and white and a good deal of grevish twilight.

In the course of the last several months developments in a number of participating States have taken place which are relevant in terms of CSCE commitments. Divided families, including spouses, have been united in the country of their choice. In one country the number of exit permits for the purpose of emigration has increased substantially if still not adequately. In another country there was a dramatic increase in the number of visits abroad. The margin for tolerated public debate and enquiry has broadened. An effort is being made to establish truth as the yardstick of quality in the science of history. The abuse of psychiatry is now publicly condemned. There is less jamming of foreign radio broadcasts than there used to be. The Twelve have unreservedly welcomed all these developments.

At the same time, however, they continue to receive reports about abuse of power, in some cases in the form of physical violence, against people whose offense was simply that of expressing an opinion. In some instances people who gathered peacefully to honour the memory of a particulary painful day of their national history were subjected to police brutality. Students who took part in a demonstration with the aim of drawing their authorities' attention to the need to do more for the protection of the environment are reportedly being advised by the police that they may not be allowed to graduate from high school or college. A demonstration for the fundamental human right to leave one's country was the origin of yet another occasion of police brutality. Abuse of authority was the reaction of another State in the face of a group of people active in the promotion of environmental protection and international understanding. In yet another country workers demonstrating against their harsh treatment and the deprivation of the citizens' right to free expression have been subject [to] particularly severe repressive measures affecting a large number of them and their families.

In recent days a gathering of individual citizens in the capital of one country, a gathering called to explore the government's attachment to its declared new policies on human rights, have been harassed by the authorities. This is a strange spectacle in a capital which is being offered as site for a CSCE conference on humanitarian issues.

Reports of this nature are not untypical, nor are reports about people who continue to languish in jails, camps and psychiatric institutions for no other reason than their personal convictions. Equally, the number of unresolved family and marriage cases involving some participating States in particular is still far too large. The access of the public of many participating States to broadcast and printed information from abroad is still tightly restricted. These facts among others provide an illustration of the distance still separating reality from commitments, word from deed. Before such States press others to adhere to the United Nations Covenants on Human Rights they should first ask themselves whether they sound credible to the rest of us. Are participating States who so clearly are seen to honour the legal obligations of those covenants more in the breach than the observance really a proper source of such advice?

Against this background it should be understandable that the Twelve see some difficulty in accepting present reality as the limit for the ambition of the Vienna meeting.

The delegations of the Twelve would like to hope that they will not have to dwell upon facts of this nature in future follow-up meetings. What is so badly needed are legal and institutional guarantees that the present trends in some participating States are, indeed, irreversible and that those trends will be adopted by those participating States where so far only limited developments have taken place. The Twelve see a challenge and an opportunity before this meeting in endeavouring to contribute to the establishment of such guarantees in the form of clear commitments here.

As I said a while ago, progress on the path towards this goal is far from satisfactory at this stage. Only to a very limited extent has it been possible to engage the delegations of the East in a cooperative effort to secure language in the concluding document of the Vienna meeting that would contribute to confidence that the fundamental concepts of Helsinki are still the basis of the CSCE process.

The delegations of the Twelve deplore the slowness of the proceedings. So far, they fail to see in what way it contributes to the good standing of the CSCE process in the eyes of the public. They are themselves displaying flexibility and ingenuity both in terms of substance and working methods with a view to overcoming any artificial obstacle in the way of progress.

They want to dispel any possible misunderstanding: their flexibility has limits. Commitments of practical significance for the individual citizens of participating States are one of the fundamental requirements for a concluding document of the Vienna meeting worthy of the CSCE label. They fail to understand why progress towards such commitments should be held up for so long. They do wish to see much more rapid progress. The limits of their patience have, however, not yet been reached nor are they likely to be so any time soon.

The economic dimension of the CSCE process is also very important.

We all agree that the present state of East-West economic relations is unsatisfactory. Despite this, it is proving very difficult to achieve a common understanding that increased economic transparency and better conditions for the conduct of trade and cooperation in general and for the activities of businessmen in particular are necessary.

Many words have been spoken about economic reform. It would be a sad outcome of the Vienna meeting if there were to be no trace left of these promising words in the concluding document.

The protection of the environment is another important area, where from the beginning of the Vienna meeting the participating States in many and very convincing words have underlined the need for new commitments.

The Vienna concluding document should demonstrate clearly that all these expressions of goodwill and intentions were to be taken seriously.

Regarding the Mediterranean chapter, work seems to be progressing. Let me point out today that in the opinion of the Twelve the ecological problems proposed for discussion at the expert meeting in Spain do not, as has been argued, belong to the agenda of any eventual Basket II 'follow-up' meeting on the environment. These relate to the specific geographical and climatic nature of the Mediterranean region and as such affect first and foremost all the countries bordering the Mediterranean though they are also, of course, of concern to all participating States.

There are some among us whose patience, endurance, skills and imagination have been put to a particularly severe test over a considerable length of time now. The delegations of the Twelve want to

express their gratitude to the coordinators for the dedication and level-headed stewardship they have displayed in dealing with their unenviable task. Now as always the delegations of the Twelve stand ready to offer any assistance within their power to help the coordinators achieve a successful result.

The delegations of the Twelve would not forgive me if I did not express their gratitude to the Executive Secretary and to all the members of the Secretariat. It is well known that a sure sign that things are going wrong is background static from a secretariat. Nothing of this kind is ever heard from our Secretariat and the delegations of the Twelve know well that hard work, wisdom, kindness and professional skill explain our seemingly quiet life here in Vienna.

The delegations of the Twelve extend their very warmest wishes to all present for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. They hope that the pause for reflection now before us coinciding as it does with the celebration of its message of peace and goodwill will provide a source of inspiration for a much more generous attitude towards important elements of the work before this meeting. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

87/535. Statement on the Situation in the Occupied Territories

Date of Issue: 18 December 1987 Place of Issue: Copenhagen Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: The Twelve Status of Document: Press Statement

On instruction by the governments of the twelve Member States of the European Community, the Danish Ambassador in Tel Aviv, accompanied by his Belgian and German colleagues and the representative of the Commission, today expressed to the Israeli Government the deep concern of the Twelve about the rapidly and seriously deteriorating situation on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip.

The Twelve urgently called upon the Israeli authorities to assure the immediate protection of the inhabitants of the occupied territories, in compliance with international law and human rights standards.

87/536. Statement on Ethiopia

Date of Issue: 18 December 1987 Place of Issue: Copenhagen Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: The Twelve Status of Document: Declaration

In their declaration of 13 November the Twelve expressed their concern over the obstacles facing the distribution of food aid in Ethiopia. While welcoming the recent establishment of the emergency air-lift, they recognize that the smooth and uninterrupted movement of humanitarian supplies by land remains essential. In this context and in the light of renewed attacks on food convoys, they appeal to all concerned to take the necessary actions to secure free passage for international relief in the drought-affected areas of Ethiopia, in order to feed those most seriously affected as close as possible to their homes and to avoid the creation of refugee flows. The Twelve also reiterate their call, in the Foreign Ministers' statement of 21 July 1986, for further steps to be taken by the governments concerned in the Horn of Africa to achieve the peaceful settlement of internal conflicts and the full respect of human rights.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 87/510.

87/537. Explanation of Vote in the Fifth Committee of the UN General Assembly: Review of the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations¹

Date of Issue: 19 December 1987 Place of Issue: New York Country of Presidency: Denmark

Source of Document: Danish Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

I have the honour to make this Explanation of position on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community.

We welcome the fact that it was possible to reach consensus on the resolution we have just approved. The implementation of Resolution 41/213 was always likely to be as difficult and controversial as the initial agreement on the resolution itself. While opinions in the Fifth Committee may differ as to the quality of implementation so far, the Twelve would have welcomed some recognition in the text of the resolution just approved of the efforts made by the Secretary-General and his staff to proceed with the reform process, particularly in the current difficult financial circumstances. We wish to place on record our recognition of those efforts and our encouragement to continue them.

87/538. Statement at the Occasion of the Presidential Election in the Republic of Korea on 16 December 1987

Date of Issue: 19 December 1987 Place of Issue: Copenhagen Country of Presidency: Denmark Source of Document: The Twelve Status of Document: Message

On the occasion of the presidential election in the Republic of Korea on 16 December the twelve Member States of the European Community convey their congratulations to the President designate, Mr Roh Tae Woo.

The Twelve see the presidential election with universal suffrage as a further step forward in the process of democratization of Korean society. They welcome the progress made in this respect since last summer.

They expect that as President, Mr Roh will work relentlessly to fulfil the aspirations of his countrymen for genuine democracy and respect of human rights when he assumes responsibility next February.

Agenda item 47.

UN Voting

This section contains:

- a voting-chart of resolutions adopted by the UN General Assembly, displaying information from the
 electronic score-board in the General Assembly hall (this excludes corrections to the scoreboard
 votes which may have been submitted by the countries concerned and which should be gathered from
 the verbatim records of the plenary meetings),
- a list of resolutions adopted by the General Assembly without having resort to voting,
- a voting chart of resolutions adopted by the UN Security Council, displaying votes as indicated in the provisional verbatim records of the Security Council.

For resolutions adopted by resort to voting, the charts report first of all the attitudes of the Member States of the Community. In the case of the Security Council it reports the attitudes of those member States which are represented in that organ in the period under consideration. The charts report also the attitudes of the United States and the Soviet Union and, for resolutions adopted by vote, the 'total vote' indicating the distribution of the votes cast by all members of the organ on the resolution in question.

The symbols Y, N, A indicate respectively a positive vote, a negative vote and an abstention. The asterisk (*) means that no vote has been recored for a particular country.

Voting chart of resolutions adopted during the 42nd Session of the UN General Assembly

A/RES/42	Subject	Date	Total vote			B	D K	F	D	G R	I R	ī	L	N	P	S	U	U	U S
	Subject		Yes	No	Ab.	Б	K			R	L		ا ا	L		P	K	A	S R
3 5 7 14[A] 14[B]	Kampuchea — Situation Arab League — UN Cooperation Cultural Property — Restitution Namibia — Situation — Occupation Namibia — Resolution 435 (1978)	14.10 15.10 22.10 06.11 06.11	117 153 103 131 130	21 2 0 0 0	16 0 15 24 24	Y Y A A	Y Y A A	Y Y A A A	Y Y A A	Y Y Y A A	Y Y A A	Y Y A A	Y Y A A A	Y Y A A A	Y Y A A	Y Y A A	Y Y A A A	Y N A A	N Y Y Y Y
14[C] 14[D] 14[E] 15 16	UN Council for Namibia — Programme Namibia — Public Information Namibia — UN Fund Afghanistan — Situation — Security South Atlantic — Zone of Peace Comores — Island of Mayotte —	06.11 06.11 06.11 10.11 10.11	149 133 149 123 122	0 0 0 19	6 22 5 11 8	Y A Y Y A	Y A Y Y	A A A Y A	A A A Y A	Y A Y Y	Y A Y Y	Y A Y Y A	Y A Y Y A	A A Y Y A	Y A Y Y A	Y A Y Y Y	A A A Y Y	A A A Y N	Y Y Y N Y
18 19	Question Nicaragua – ICJ – Compliance Falkland Islands (Malvinas) –	11.11 12.11	128 94	1 2	22 48	A A	A Y	N A	A A	A Y	A Y	A A	A A	A Y	A A	A Y	A A	A N	Y Y
20 23{A}	Question Law of the Sea South Africa – Liberation	17.11 18.11	114	5 2	36 6	A Y	A Y	Y Y	A A	Y Y	A Y	Y Y	A Y	Y Y	A Y	Y Y	N A	Y N	Y Y
23[B] 23[C]	Movements South Africa — Measures South Africa — Comprehensive	20.11	129	3	22 24	A	A	A A	N	A	A	A	Α	Α	N A	A		N	Y
23[D] 23[E]	Sanctions South Africa-Israel — Relations Special Committee Against Apartheid	20.11 20.11 20.11	126 103 145	11 29 1	17 23 10	N N A	A N Y	N N A	N N A	A N Y	A N Y	N N A	N N A	N N A	N N A	A N Y	N N A	N N N	Y Y

A /DEC/A2	Subject	Date -	T	otal vo	te	В	D	-	_	G	i	,		N	n	S	U	U	U S
A/RES/42			Yes	No	Ab.	В	K	F	D	R	R L	I	L	L	P	P	K	S A	S R
23[F]	South Africa - Oil Embargo	20.11	138	4	12	A	Y	N	Ņ	A	Y	Y	A	A	A	Y	N	N	Y
23[G] 25	Apartheid - Concerted Action	20.11 30.11	149	2 0	4 7	Y	Y Y	Y A	A Y	Y Y	Y Y	Y Y	Y Y	Y Y	Y Y	Y Y	N Y	N Y	Y Y
26[A]	Nuclear Arms – Latin America Nuclear Tests	30.11	137	3	14	A	Y	N	A	Y	Y	I A	A	A	I A	I A	N N	I N	Y
26[B]	Nuclear Tests	30.11	128	3	22	Â	A	N	A	À	À	A	A	A	A	A	N	N	Ϋ́
27	Nuclear Test Ban Treaty -	30.11	1.20	J		1			′•			′•	1.		′•	1.	1,		•
	Urgent Need	30.11	143	2	8	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Α	N	Y
29	Nuclear Weapon Free Zone -		1																
	S. Asia	30.11	114	3	36	Y	Α	Α	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Α
31	Non-Nuclear States - Security	30.11	112	18	20	N	N	N	N	Α	Α	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y
32	Non-Nuclear States	30.11	151	0	3	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Α	Y
33	Militarization of Space	30.11	154	1	0	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
34{A}	Denuclearization of Africa -	20.11		^		3,	17		17	37	37	.,	37	37	17	17			.,
14501	Declaration	30.11	151	0	4	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	A	Y
34[B]	South Afric – Nuclear Capability	30.11	140	4	13	Α	Y	N	Α	Y	Y	A	Α	Α	Α	Α	N	N	Y
35	Mass Destruction Weapons -	20.11	125	1	18					v	v							M	v
14 100	Prohibition	30.11 30.11	135	1 0	39	Α Υ	A Y	A Y	A Y	Y Y	Y Y	A Y	A Y	A Y	A Y	A Y	A Y	N Y	Y Y
38[A] 38[C]	Nuclear Arms — Bilateral Negot. Nuclear Tests — Notification	30.11	147	1	8	Y	Y	N	Y	Ϋ́	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	A	A	Y
38[D]	Nuclear Arms - Bilateral Negot.	30.11	143	0	13	A	Ϋ́	A	A	Ý	Ý	Ā	A	A	Å	A	A	A	Y
38[F]	Radiological Weapons	30.11	119	2	32	Â	Å	A	Â	À	A	Â	A	Â	A	A	A	N	Ý
38[1]	Military Matters — Objective	30.11	'''	~	32	, ,	11	,,	11	11	11	11	11	,,	**	,,	,,	.,	•
30[1]	Information	30.11	133	0	12	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
38[J]	Arms Control - UNGA Resolutions	30.11	128	2	24	À	À	À	À	À	À	À	À	À	À	À	À	Ñ	Ÿ
38[K]	Naval Arms	30.11	154	Ī	2	Y	Y	Ÿ	Ÿ	Y	Ÿ	Y	Y	Y	Ÿ	Y	Y	N	Ý
38[L]	Fissionable Material - Weapons	30.11	149	1	6	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Α	Y
38[N]	Disarmament - Conventional -					}													
	Regional	30.11	154	0	0	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
39[A]	12th Special Session -																		
	Concluding Doc.	30.11	129	I	23	Α	Α	Α	A	Α	Α	A	A	Α	A	Α	Α	N	Y
39[B]	Nuclear Weapons - Freeze	30.11	139	12	4	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	Α	N	N	Y
39[C]	Nuclear Weapons - Non-Use -	20.11		. ~			.,												.,
201.01	Convention	30.11	135	17	4	N	N	N	N	A	A	Ņ	Ņ	N	N	N	N	N	Y
39[G]	Disarmament – World Campaign	30.11	146	1	9	Α	Y	Α	Α	Y	Y	A	A	Α	Α	Y	Α	N	Y
39[H]	Nuclear Arms — Freeze —	30.11	140	13	2	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	٨	N	N	Y
39[I]	UNGA Res. 41/60[1] Disarmament — UN Fellowships	30.11	156	13	0	Ϋ́	Ý	Y	Y	Ϋ́	Ϋ́	Y	N Y	Y	Y	A Y	Y	N	Y
42[A]	Nuclear Weapons — Non-Use —	30.11	130	1	U	ļ '	1			1	1	•			1		•	14	1
42[A]	Nuclear War	30.11	125	17	12	N	N	N	N	Α	Α	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y
42[B]	UNGA - 10th Special Session	30.11	137	1	14	A	Y	Y	A	Ÿ	Ÿ	A	A	A	A	Y	A	A	Ý
42[C]	Nuclear Arms Control	30.11	137	13	7	N	A	Ň	N	A	Ÿ	N	N	N	N	À	N	N	Ÿ
42[D]	Nuclear War - Prevention	30.11	140	3	14	Α	A	N	Α	Y	Y	A	Α	Α	A	Α	N	N	Y
42[E]	Disarmament - Cooperation	30.11	118	18	14	N	N	N	N	Α	Α	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y
42[H]	Disarmament Week	30.11	133	0	21	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Y
42[K]	Disarmament Conference - Report	30.11	127	0	28	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Α	Y
42[L]	Disarmament Conference – Report	30.11	135	5	15	N	Α	Ŋ	A	Y	Y	Α	A	A	N	Α	N	N	Y
42[M]	UNGA - 10th Special Session	30.11	142	12	3	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	A	N	N	Y
42[N]	Disarmamament – First Committee	30.11	134	0	20	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
44	Isael - Nuclear Armament	30.11	97	2	52	A	Y	A *	Ą	A *	A	A	A	A	A	A *	Ą	Ņ	Y
46[A]	Antarctica — Question	30.11	122	0	9		:	*	*		A	*	A	*	A	:	*	*	Y *
46[B]	Antarctica — Question	30.11	100	0	10	1	v				A		A		A		Ţ	NT.	
50	Social Progress Youth - Education - Work	30.11	144	1	10 0	A Y	Y Y	Y Y	A	Y Y	Y Y	Y Y	A Y	A	Y Y	Y Y	A	N N	Y Y
52 56	Apartheid – Convention	30.11 30.11	156	1 1	27	A	I A	Y A	Y A	A	i A	I A	I A	Y A	r A	i A	Y A	N	Y
66[A]	Palestine Question	02.12	131	2	22	A	A	A	A	Y	A	A	A	A	A	Y	A	N	Y
66[B]	Palestine Question	02.12	133	2	20	A	A	A	A	Y	A	A	A	A		Y	A		Y
66[C]	Palestine Question	02.12	133	3	18	Â	A	Â	A	Ý	A		Ā	A	Ā		Ā		Y
	- massing Queenon					Ľ.	··			<u>.</u>				•••				•••	<u> </u>

A /DEC/AD	Subject	Date	Т	Total vote		В	D	r	D	G]	J	L	N	P	S	U	U	U S
A/RES/42		Date	Yes	No	Ab.	Б	K	F	ען	R	R L	,		L	r	P	K	A	S R
66[D]	Palestine Question	02.12	129	2	24	Α	A	A	A	Y	A	A	A	Α	A	Y	A	N	Y
69[A]	Palestinian Refugees - Assistance	02.12	153	0	1	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
69[D]	Palestinian Refugees – Scholarships	02.12	154	0	1	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
69[E] 69[F]	Palestinian Refugees – Gaza Strip Palestinian Refugees –	02.12	150	2	3	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
07[1]	Ration Distribution	02.12	131	20	4	N	N	N	N	Α	N	N	N	N	N	Α	N	N	Y
69[G]	Persons Displaced Since 1967	02.12	125	2	27	À	A	A	Ä	Y	A	Α	A	A	A	Y	A	N	Ŷ
69[H]	Palestinian Refugees -					1													
	Revenues Property	02.12	123	2	28	Α	Α	Α	Α	Y	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Y	A	N	Y
69[1]	Palestinian Refugees - Protection	02.12	124	2	27	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	N	Y
69[J]	Palestinian Refugees - West Bank	02.12	145	2	7	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
69[K]	Palestinian Refugees – University Al Quds	02.12	151	2	1	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Υ	Y	N	Y
70[A]	UNDOF — Financing	03.12	94	3	5	Ý	Ŷ	Ý	Ý	Ŷ	Ŷ	*	Ŷ	Ŷ	Ý	Ý	Ý	Y	Ý
70[B]	UNDOF - Financing	03.12	94	3	5	Y	Ÿ	Ý	Y	Y	Ÿ	*	Ÿ	Y	Ÿ	Ÿ	Ÿ	Y	Y
71	Independence - Implementation		ļ			1													
	of Declaration	04.12	131	2	7	Α	Y	*	A	Y	Y	Α	A	Α	Y	Y	N	N	Y
72	Decolonization – Information	04.12	135	2	6	Α	Y	*	Α	Y	Y	A	Α	A	Y	Y	N	N	Y
73	Non-Selfgov. Territories — Information	04.12	154	0	3	Y	Y	Α	Y	Y	γ	Y	γ	Y	Υ	Υ	Α	A	Y
74	Independence - Activities Impeding	04.12	154	U	3	1	I	А	I	I	I	I	I	1	I	I	А	А	1
7.1	Implementation of Declaration	04.12	133	10	12	N	Α	N	N	Α	Α	N	N	N	N	Α	N	N	Y
75	Independence - Implementation			•		1		•	•	• • •		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
	of Declaration	04.12	130	3	23	Α	Α	Α	Α	Y	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	N	N	Y
78	Western Sahara - Question	04.12	93	0	50	Α	Α	A	Α	Y	Y	A	A	Α	A	Y	Α	Α	Y
79	New Caledonia – Question	04.12	69	29	47	N	Α	N	N	Α	Α	N	N	N	N	N	Α	Α	Y
91	Societies for Life in Peace – Declaration	07.12	128	0	24									A					Y
92	Security – Declaration –	07.12	120	U	24	Α	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	Α	A	Α	A	I
72	Implementation	07.12	131	1	23	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	N	Υ
93	Peace - Security - Comprehensive	*****		•			•		•	•	••	••	•	•	•	••	•		•
	System	07.12	76	12	63	N	Α	N	Α	Α	Α	Α	N	N	N	Α	N	N	Y
95	Human Rights - Independence	07.12	126	17	10	N	N	N	N	Α	Α	N	N	N	N	Α	N	N	Y
96	Mercenaries	07.12	125	10	19	N	Ą	N	N	A	A	N	Ņ	N	N	A	N	N	Y
99 100	Human Rights - Use of Science Human Rights - Use of Science	07.12 07.12	129	9	15 24	N A	A A	N A	N A	A A	A A	N A	A A	N A	N A	A A	N A	N A	Y Y
101	Human Rights - Child -	07.12	131	U	24	A	А	А	А	А	А	А	А	А	А	А	А	А	1
101	Convention	07.12	154	0	1	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Α	Y
102	Human Rights - Indivisible	07.12	129	ĺ	22	À	À	À	À	À	À	À	À	Ā	À	Ā	Ā	N	Ŷ
115	Human Rights - Property	07.12	124	24	2	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y
119	Human Rights - UN System	07.12	129	1	24	A	A	A	Α	A	Α	A	A	Α	A	Α	Α	N	Y
134	Family	07.12	145	2	8	Y	A	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
135	Human Rights - Afghanistan	07.12	94	22	31	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Ņ
136 139	Human Rights – Iran Ethiopia – Displaced Persons – Aid	07.12 07.12	153	22 0	45 2	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y A	Y
140	Human Rights – Migrant Workers	07.12	150	ĺ	3	Ŷ	Ŷ	Ý	À	Ý	Ý	Ÿ	Ŷ	Ý	Ÿ	Ý	Â	N	Ÿ
145	Social Life	07.12	129	17	8	N	N	N	N	À	À	N	Ñ	N	Ñ	Ā	N	N	Ÿ
146	Right to Housing	07.12	156	0	1	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Α	Y
147	Human Rights - Chile	07.12	93	5	53	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Α	Y
149	NIEO – International Law	07.12	131	0	24	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	Y
150 151	Peaceful Settlement of Disputes Offences Against Peace —	07.12	136	0	20	A	A	A	A	Y	Y	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	Y
131	Draft Code	07.12	136	5	14	A	Α	N	N	Y	Y	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	N	N	Y
153	Bills of Exchange - Convention	07.12	114	0	40	Y	A	Y	Ä	Ý	Á	Y	Ϋ́	A	Y	Ϋ́	A	A	Å
158	Good Neighbourliness	07.12	133	0	22	A	A	Ā	A	Ý	A	À	À	Α	À	À	Α	Α	Y
159	Terrorism	07.12	153	2	i	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
160[A]	Israeli Practices Occupied Territories	08.12	111	2	36	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	A	Α	Α	N	Y

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190 198 199 200 201 202 203 204	Palestinian People – Living Conditions External Debt Problem Lebanon – Reconstruction – Aid Chad – Special Assistance Front-Line States – Special Aid Maldives – Special Assistance El Salvador – Assistance	11.12 11.12 11.12 11.12 11.12 11.12	151 154 152 150 154 153 154	1 1 0 0 0	0 0 0 1 1	Y Y Y Y Y Y	Y Y Y Y Y Y	Y Y Y Y Y Y	Y Y Y Y Y Y	Y Y Y Y Y Y	Y Y Y Y Y Y	Y Y Y Y Y Y	Y Y Y Y Y Y	Y Y Y Y Y Y	Y Y Y Y Y Y	Y Y Y Y Y Y	Y Y Y Y Y Y	N N A A A	Y Y Y Y Y
205 209[A] 209[B] 209[C] 209[D] 210[B] 223	Central America — Special Assistance Benin a.o. — Assistance Middle East — Situation Middle East — Situation Middle East — Situation Middle East — Situation Host Country — Report UNIFIL — Financing	11.12 11.12 11.12 11.12 11.12 11.12 17.12 21.12	154 154 124 99 82 140 145 133	0 1 3 19 23 3 1 3	1 0 22 33 43 7 0 9	Y Y A A Y Y	Y Y A A Y Y Y	Y Y A A Y Y Y	Y Y A A Y Y Y	Y Y Y Y Y Y Y	Y Y A A Y Y	Y Y A A A Y Y	Y Y A A Y Y	Y Y A A A Y Y	Y Y A A Y Y Y	Y Y A A Y Y	Y Y A A Y Y Y	A N N A A A Y	Y Y Y Y Y Y
224 226[A] 229[A] 229[B] 230 232	Troop-Contributing States — Refunds UN-Budget — Appropriat. 1988/89 Host Country — Report	21.12 21.12 02.03 02.03 23.03 13.05	133 146 143 143 148 136	3 1 1 0 2 2	10 3 0 0 0	Y Y Y Y Y	Y Y Y Y Y	Y Y Y Y Y	Y Y Y Y Y	Y Y Y Y Y	Y Y Y Y Y	Y Y Y Y Y	Y Y Y Y	Y Y Y Y Y	Y Y Y Y Y	Y Y Y Y Y	Y Y Y Y Y	Y A * * N N	Y Y Y Y Y

Source: Index to Proceedings of the General Assembly (ST/LIB/Ser.B/A.41).

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2[B] (11.12.87)	Credentials Committee - Second Report
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6 (20.10.87)	IAEA Report
8 (26.10.87)	AIDS-Prevention
9 (28.10.87)	UN/OAU - Cooperation
10 (28.10.87)	UNGA/African Development Bank - Observer
11 (28.10.87)	UN/OAS — Cooperation
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Source: Index to Proceedings of the General Assembly (ST/LIB/Ser.B/A.41).

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