

PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE OF THE ASSOCIATION

NINTH ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE OF THE ASSOCIATION

SUMMARY REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 29 March 1973

Part I

KINSHASA

IN THE CHAIR: MR BERKHOUWER

PRESIDENT

The sitting was opened at 11 a.m. in the Congress Hall of the Palais de la Nation, Kinshasa.

Opening of the Annual Meeting of the Conference

THE PRESIDENT declared the ninth annual meeting of the Parliamentary Conference of the Association open.

Composition of the Conference

THE PRESIDENT stated that the Presidents of the Parliaments of the Associated African States and Madagascar and the President of the European Parliament had submitted a list of their representatives to the Conference, appointed in accordance with the provisions of the Association Convention and the rules of procedure of the Conference.

The list of members and delegates present at the Conference would be appended to the minutes of this sitting.

Admission of Observers to the Conference

THE PRESIDENT proposed that the Conference admit representatives of Mauritius and the Member States of the East African Community (Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda) as observers.

The Conference agreed.

The Chairman welcomed the observers who, though not authorized to participate directly in the proceedings of the Conference, would nevertheless be able to note the excellent atmosphere in which they were conducted. He regretted that, owing to delays in ratification by the member parliaments, he could not yet admit the Mauritian representatives as full members of the Conference.

Enlargement of the EEC

THE PRESIDENT recalled that Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom had become members of the European Economic Community and welcomed their representatives. He hoped that this enlargement would encourage other

countries to join in the common task of cooperation.

On behalf of the Irish members, Mr MACDONALD thanked the President for his welcome to representatives from the new Member States of the Community.

He expressed his pleasure at being able, for the first time, to participate in the proceedings of the Conference with his European, African and Malagasy colleagues.

Ireland has a long tradition of involvement in development aid. It was largely through the Marshall plan that Ireland had been able to conquer tuberculosis and develop her agriculture. In addition, Irish missionaries had always been very active in Africa.

Mr MacDonald concluded by expressing his conviction that the representatives of the Community's new Member States would follow the proceedings of the Conference with great interest.

(Applause)

On behalf of the British delegates, Lord REAY thanked the President for his friendly words and said he considered it an honour and a pleasure to visit Zaïre on this occasion.

The new European members had come above all to listen and learn about the Association which was an institution of great importance.

In Europe, the Nine Member States were involved in the dynamic and constructive political process of unification. This was an irreversible and irresistible movement, stemming from problems which created the need for growing political unity on a continental scale. Thus Africa must maintain contacts with Europe and other continents. He hoped that other States would join in the common task. Positive associations freely agreed upon would certainly be welcome.

(Applause)

Election of the President

THE PRESIDENT said that the African and Malagasy representatives had nominated Mr Philippe YACE.

(Applause)

The Congress unanimously elected Mr Philippe YACE who was declared president of the Parliamentary Conference of the Association and took the chair.

IN THE CHAIR : MR PHILIPPE YACE

PRESIDENT

THE PRESIDENT thanked the African and Malagasy representatives for the trust they had placed in him. On the eve of negotiations for renewal of the Association, such trust seemed particularly significant.

Election of Vice-Presidents

The Conference unanimously appointed the following Vice-Presidents :

Mr BERKHOUWER
Mr BO-BOLIKO LOKONGO
Mr Giovanni BERSANI
Mr Marcel MARIGOH M'BOUA
Mr CORONA
Mr DA OULD SIDI HAIBA
Mr Louis BRIOT
Mr BAGARAGAZA
Mr Heinrich AIGNER

The meeting was adjourned at 11.30 a.m.

IN THE CHAIR: MR PHILIPPE YACE

PRESIDENT

The meeting was resumed at 11.40 a.m.

Address by Mr KAPWASA KILISHINGA, 1st Vice-President of the National
Legislative Council of the Republic of Zaïre

Mr KAPWASA KILISHINGA, 1st Vice-President of the National Legislative Council, made the following speech :

Mr President,
Delegates,
Citizen Political Commissioners,
Citizen State Commissioners,
Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Citizens,

At a time when wars in a number of countries are becoming increasingly bloody and deadly, when certain foolhardy peoples are bent on oppressing and subjugating others, when famine, misery and poverty seriously threaten a large part of our planet, it is reassuring that certain European and African nations have realised in time that they must form a genuine association, on the basis of cooperation.

In the name of such cooperation, the Republic of Zaïre, which today, for the first time, has the honour of receiving one of the most important institutions of the EEC/AASM Association, has pleasure in greeting its visitors from the Association and European Community institutions and the worthy representatives of the Association's member states.

We extend a warm welcome to you all and hope that your stay in Zaïre will be agreeable.

The National Legislative Council, for its part, is glad to be able to house the Conference.

The choice of a parliament as the venue of this Conference reflects the democratic spirit in which its sittings and discussions will be conducted. In addition, we hope that the coolness of the great Zaïre river and the calm of its adjacent lawns will moderate the tropical heat, so that the climate will be as temperate as that to which our European friends are accustomed.

Mr President,
Delegates,

In wishing you every success in your work, we invite you to discover the authenticity of Zaïre during your brief stay amongst us.

Thank you.

(Applause)

Address by Mr BERKHOUWER, President of the European Parliament and
1st Vice-President of the Parliamentary Conference of
the Association

Mr BERKHOUWER, President of the European Parliament and 1st Vice-President of the Parliamentary Conference of the EEC/AASM Association, made the following speech :

Mr President, Your Excellencies, Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Six languages have been used in the Community since its enlargement. One of these is my mother tongue. As the motto of the Netherlands is 'I shall not give in' allow me first to say a few words in my own language.

It was Blaise Pascal who said 'the heart has its reasons which reason knoweth not'. My first observation will draw its inspiration from this thought.

Indeed, the first thing we must listen to on arriving in Africa is the beating of hearts. And where better do our African hosts show their hearts than in their hospitality? That is why I should like first of all to express my warmest thanks to our Zaïre hosts, represented here in particular by President Bo-Boliko Lokonga. His attention to our welfare since we set foot in Africa has been incomparable. (Applause)

My second comment will be devoted to a national Zaïre matter.

Yesterday, when listening to the radio, I discovered that the first lady citizen of the State, Madame Mobutu, was celebrating her birthday. On behalf of our Conference, I should like to add our congratulations to all those she has already received. We hope that she will be able to work for the good of her country for many years more. (Applause)

Mr President, since our Conference is almost entirely French-speaking, permit me to continue in my adopted tongue.

We are meeting, as we do each year, to reflect together, exchange views and propose solutions to the many problems of our Association.

During this meeting, we shall be considering excellent reports by Mr PERRET, Mr BOUDA, Mr GLINNE, Mr AIGNER and Mr BRIOT and I am sure that they will provide the opportunity for a particularly constructive exchange of views.

In fact, many important events have occurred since the Association's Parliamentary Conference last met at The Hague in January 1972.

In January 1972, our meeting was held in the 'Ridderzaal' (the Hall of Counts) which, for more than seven centuries, has been at the heart of the history of the Netherlands. In 1969, the very same hall housed the Summit Conference of Heads of State or Government which gave

new impetus to the Community's development and led to the accession of the United Kingdom, Denmark and Ireland.

Last year, therefore, our meeting ended in an atmosphere of history but also of innovation, enlargement and progress.

Today, we are in the heart of Africa, in a marvellous country which covers a larger area than the Europe of Nine, and has a vast potential, with its balanced economy of agriculture, forestry and mining.

We are in a country which, through its potential, has an important part to play in our Association.

Zaire is a dynamic young state, building its future while respecting its traditions.

We particularly appreciated the invitation to hold our Ninth Annual Meeting in this beautiful town of Kinshasa, the largest of all Black Africa's cities.

In The Hague, old and new gave us food for thought. I am sure that Africa's seething activity and great generosity will help us make further progress towards real achievement.

At this opening sitting, I should also like to greet everyone here and thank all those who expressed their support and friendship for me on my election to the Presidency of the European Parliament, in particular, Mr Philippe YACE whose devotion to the cause of our Association is well known.

Mr President, your Excellencies, ladies, gentlemen, colleagues,

A few moments ago I said that important events had occurred since our last Conference.

In fact the enlargement of the European Communities became effective on 1 January 1973. Though this enlargement does not change the existing Yaoundé Convention due to be renewed in January 1975, there is no doubt that it will have important direct and indirect consequences for the workings of our Association.

In the first place, the African States and Madagascar now have nine partners in Europe, instead of six. Secondly, and most important, many Commonwealth countries will be able to establish ties with the Common Market by acceding to the Yaoundé Convention, concluding Arusha-type agreements or signing simple trade agreements.

At one time, it was feared that the latter aspect might to some extent weaken relations between the Community and the AASM.

As the Treaty of Accession explicitly acknowledged that this was out of the question, such fears are without foundation. I shall therefore quote Mr Perret's excellent report which states that enlargement opens the

door to the future, pointing to new African groupings around the 18. In other words, the time has come to fill out the Association's commercial aspects, rightly so dear to our African and Malagasy friends.

I should like to stress that this enlargement not only provides an opportunity to consolidate the Association's commercial aspects but also creates the possibility of reaching a size which will enable all our aims to be achieved.

The second very important event of last year was the Paris Summit Conference. While this Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Member States gave new impetus to the building of Europe, it also paid particular attention to the needs of the developing countries and clearly confirmed Europe's attachment to the policy of association.

I think it is worth stressing this last point to reassure all those who may be worried about the way the industrialized countries are evolving.

As Baroness von Suttner said, 'Helping comes second only to loving as the most beautiful word in the world'. Europe has a major role to play in this field. Our African and Malagasy friends may be sure that she will not shirk her responsibilities.

Another noteworthy event which took place last year was the third UNCTAD Conference held in Santiago, Chile.

The meeting certainly did not achieve as much as the countries of the Third World might have hoped. I regret this personally, but the problems are so complex that we can only proceed slowly.

Nevertheless the Conference was useful in providing an opportunity for reflection.

It must, however, be stressed that far from negligible progress was made, particularly in agreeing on the need for developing countries to participate more effectively in the major negotiations on the reform of the international monetary system and the development of international trade.

This is an important, though preliminary, step and puts us on the right road.

1972 also saw the accession of Mauritius to the Yaoundé Convention, confirming the significance and dynamism of our Association.

May I take this opportunity to greet the representatives of our sympathetic new member.

The past year was thus rich in events. We are gathered together in this room in the Palais de la Nation to take our bearings in the light of the Eighth Report on the Activities of the Association Council.

I know that our African and Malagasy friends have many problems on their minds, especially the deterioration in the terms of trade and more effective utilization of the EDF.

It is not for me to go into details in this opening sitting, because that is the object of our Conference. In the new few days, we shall have an opportunity to discuss them fully. I am sure that our efforts will be fruitful and I am glad that the African Parliamentary Conference includes cooperation and development because it is the only international institution in which these problems are discussed on an equal footing.

It is time for us to begin our work. Each one of us must contribute to the lofty task of strengthening our Association because, as an old Asian proverb says, 'tomorrow's flowers grow from today's seed'.

(Applause)

Address by Mr PHILIPPE YACE, President of the Parliamentary Conference
of the Association

Mr YACE, President of the Parliamentary Conference of the Association,
made the following speech:

'Mr President of the Legislative Council, representing the President
of the Public of Zaïre,

Our meeting today in Kinshasa represents the realization of a dream
long held by the Parliamentary Conference of the Association. Our efforts
date from 1965 when, at the Conference's Second Meeting in Rome, your
city was unanimously chosen. This reflects the immense pleasure it gives
us to be meeting in Kinshasa, that vast and beautiful capital of a vast
and beautiful country crowned by President Mobuto Sese Seko's enlightened
achievement in involving all her inhabitants in an effort springing from
the depths of Africa.

(Applause)

Members of the MPR, Political Bureau,
Commissioners of State,
Your excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I should like to greet all the Zaïre authorities and thank you in
person, Mr President of the Legislative Council, for your considerable
part in organizing these proceedings. I am sure that I reflect the
unanimous feeling of the Conference when I include our friend Mr Kasongo
in this tribute, to whom I once again convey our gratitude.

(Applause)

I should like to greet all the European, African, Malagasy and
Mauritian representatives and say how much we appreciate the presence of
the President of the Association Council and in particular that of
Madame Petry, the President of the EEC Council of Ministers and of Commissioner
Deniau whom I have great pleasure in congratulating on the renewal of
his post in the Commission. On behalf of the AASM, I should also like to
congratulate Mr Berkhouver, the new President of the European Parliament
and first Vice-President of the Parliamentary Conference.

(Applause)

I am sure that you will all join with me in welcoming our English,
Irish and Danish friends to our sittings. Our new colleagues may rely
on us and be sure that we are entirely at their disposal, just as we depend
on them to make the Association known in their respective countries.
I therefore hope that they will look deeply and objectively into the facts

of the Association and find out how it works, what it really is - an undertaking directed towards mutual aid and good sense, an institution that is certainly unique in putting the recipients on an equal footing with the donors, while recognizing the independence of both sides.

Before the Conference starts on its agenda by discussing Mr Perret's general report, it seems timely to recall the purpose of the association.

The fundamental significance of our Association is political, implying a decision by each African signatory to enter into formal partnership with the European Economic Community as such, without jeopardizing their national sovereignty.

This decision, as has often been said, is based on an awareness of the economic interests of both sides, as well as on similarities and cultural, historical and geographical links. We cannot deny these age-long links with Europe. History is not to be denied - it has a lesson to teach us.

Need I remind you that the signatories of the Treaty of Rome establishing the European Economic Community, decided in 1958 that the overseas countries with which they had special relations should be associated with the Community, thus confirming the solidarity between African and Europe. The Association's aims were the economic and social development of these countries and the establishment of privileged economic relations between them and the whole Community.

There is no doubt that developments since 1958 have strengthened this solidarity while adapting it to the new circumstances. It is also true that, after achieving independence, the countries newly associated with Europe decided to organize their relations with the European Economic Community on a contractual basis, safeguarding each partner's sovereignty and individuality. An institutional dialogue enabled their points of view to be reconciled.

The EEC proposed an Association based on the principle of overall cooperation - technical and financial - and on a preferential trade policy characterized by free trade agreements.

In short, a framework of cooperation, which is exemplary from every angle, has enabled a group of developing countries and a group of developed countries to make their contribution to the development of the Third World, which may be considered the main problem of our century. As a result of Britain's entry into the Community, the possibility of association, in various forms, with enlarged Europe has been opened up to 20 Commonwealth states. We cannot but be glad of this and hope that everyone will appreciate the political, economic and cultural importance of such an event.

As to trade, we know that, under the Association Agreements, African products are protected on the Community market by the common external tariff and European products have duty-free access to our respective markets, though

we can reimpose quantitative restrictions on imports from the Community States if our development or balance of payments difficulties require this.

It is very important to remember that this commercial policy is based on free trade area agreements giving advantages to both sides. I should like to remind you in the recent words of President Senghor that 'reciprocity or exchange is the basis of any association in African civilization. We intend to continue granting Europe preferential access to our markets for commercial and legal reasons and in consideration of our self-respect and sovereignty. As much for what we desire as for what we are'.

It is left to our individual discretion whether or not to grant preferences to the Member States of the European Community. Most of us do give such tariff preferences, others do not; but we must be allowed to make our own choice.

On the European side, the Paris Summit Conference demonstrated Europe's wish not to shirk the special responsibilities inherent in her history. The Heads of Government formally declared that Europe must 'without detracting from the advantages enjoyed by countries with which it has special relations, respond even more than in the past to the expectations of all the developing countries'. In other words, the Heads of State or Government declared that they 'attach essential importance to the policy of association'.

We take note of this.

But, as frank partners, we cannot pretend that the Association is perfect. In particular, we acknowledge the existence of the conflicts in economic interest echoed by our friend Perret's brilliant general report. But what association or multinational body has not met with similar differences of opinion regarding conflicting economic interests? The truth is that division provokes spectacular dramas, while unity progresses slowly out of the limelight, almost unnoticed.

But, as actors in these dramas, we know that the important thing is to initiate a formal dialogue between equal partners to bring a solution to this problem. Besides, we learn from experience that it is always possible to resolve our differences.

I should now like to address myself more specifically to our European friends and explain our current worries to them. We are glad that three new countries have joined the Common Market, in that, amongst other things, this will give potential associates among the English-speaking African states an opportunity to consider the expediency of new relations with Europe. We do not doubt that this will also create additional conditions conducive to the formation of an African common market. We think, in fact, that an Association of the largest possible Europe with the largest possible African would be a factor of progress in the world.

We therefore take interest in everything which happens in Europe -

developments in the international monetary crisis, the reactions of the Member States of the Common Market to the effects of these monetary shocks on the European edifice and hence on the future of Europe herself. We are paying close attention to the United States' commercial demands and wonder if Europe will be able to resist insistent American pressures to bring an end to the Association's preferential arrangements and to give American products, particularly secondary agricultural products, the same treatment afforded by Europe to the developing countries.

We hope that our European partners will be strong and united and respect their commitments to us.

We have many aims and deadlines before us: renewal and widening of the Yaoundé Convention and implementation of its express provisions by strengthening African solidarity.

We must seize the opportunity for improvement provided by the Yaoundé Convention's renewal. Its commercial aspect has indeed been indirectly affected by the lowering of the common external tariff, the policy of generalized preferences and the common agricultural policy as shown by the Associated States' trade losses.

Some help can certainly be provided by applying Article 20 of the Yaoundé Convention and introducing guaranteed prices for the products most important to the economy of each Associated State but would it not be simpler and wiser to attack the causes of the Associated States' loss of revenue rather than its consequences? The sums used to guarantee prices or revenue are deducted from the European Development Fund's resources which might otherwise be allocated to other projects.

As to the Association's enlargement, I can affirm that the associated states are ready to widen their family circle and will do all they can to bring this about.

The new EDF must clearly be endowed with sufficient funds to enable it, on the one hand, to maintain the level of financial aid to the present associated states and, on the other, to grant a similar level of aid to potential associates.

After all, increased African solidarity is a common end and our Heads of State do their best to actively contribute to it. The general rapporteur reminded us that a first step has been taken, namely the creation of the West African Economic Community in Bamako on 3 June 1972, pursuant to the decisions taken by the West African Heads of State at the Monrovia Conference in April 1968.

This solidarity must be as wide as possible. It seems to us that the accession of the greatest number of associable states to the future Yaoundé Convention must contribute to the 'grand design' laid down by the

Monrovia Conference. But it is self-evident that no one has the slightest intention of forcing any African state's choice between the formulas offered. The important thing is to ensure that they are fully informed. These states will voluntarily choose the formula most suited to them in the light of their interests which only they can judge. Meanwhile, we veteran associates, who are convinced that the tide of events is often stronger than Man's will, must on the basis of acquired experience continue to uphold and strengthen the essential principles of the Yaoundé Convention - its commercial aspect, its elements of financial and technical cooperation and its Institutions.

Since we are bent on continuing and strengthening the Association, I think the next step should be for the AASM to acquire a solid foundation. They will only be able to do this by overcoming the inevitable divergencies between their individual points of view and, everywhere and in all circumstances, presenting a resolutely united front in the face of the difficulties which will inevitably follow the Association's enlargement.

But perhaps we should also put our own house in order: however necessary it may seem in our eyes to develop trade with Europe, it is important for us to apply ourselves to developing real horizontal solidarity by introducing measures, such as tariff reductions, to encourage inter-African trade.

To return to the Community, I would like to stress that, before negotiations for the renewal of the Association Convention open on 1 August, we expect her to make definite and realistic proposals which preserve the best features of the Community achievements and help us to find new formulas suited to the reality of wider cooperation, so that, in future, the new Association may afford an example of fruitful cooperation between equal, though different, and responsible partners.'

(Applause)

Address by Mr BO-BOLIKO LOKONGA MONSE MIHOMO, President of the National
Legislative Council, representing the Head of State

Mr BO-BOLIKO LOKONGA MONSE MIHOMO, President of the National Legislative Council, representing the Head of State, made the following speech :

Mr Chairman,
Delegates,
Political Commissioners,
State Commissioners,
Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Citizens,

The President of our Republic, Head of the Armed Forces, General MOBUTU SESE SEKO KUKU NGBENDU WAZA BANGA, has given me the honour of representing him at the opening ceremony of the Ninth Meeting of the Annual Parliamentary Conference of the EEC/AASM Association, which the Zaïre Republic has great pleasure in welcoming on its territory for the first time.

Given the importance of this gathering, we imagine that you all hoped to see the host country's highest dignitary at this opening ceremony, as is usual in such cases.

Until just a few days ago such was the full intention of our Head of State. Thus, it is with the greatest regret that he asks us to tell you that he cannot be amongst us today, because of unavoidable business in another country. Nevertheless, you may be sure that, though far away, the Head of State is with us in spirit and wishes complete success in our work, whose progress he will follow from day to day with the attention for which he is renowned.

Before turning to the business of our conference, may we, on behalf of the people, its Party (the Popular Revolutionary Movement) and the President of Zaïre whom we have the honour to represent here, once more welcome the representatives of the Association and European Community Institutions and the distinguished delegates (members of Parliament, ministers, diplomats and senior officials) of the Member States of the EEC/AASM Association.

It gives us especial pleasure to greet the new Community members, participating for the first time in the meetings of one of the most important political institutions of the Association, as well as the Mauritian delegation and the observers from the East African Community.

We thank all those who, despite their many other commitments, have honoured this opening ceremony with their presence.

Mr President,
Delegates,

The Association's aim, as set out in the First Article of the Yaoundé Convention, is to establish economic and commercial cooperation between the Member States of the Common Market and the Associated African States and Madagascar to facilitate the latter's economic development and strengthen their structure and economic independence.

I am sure you will agree that, after the end of the era of colonial empires, the Association represents a new stage in the evolution of relations forged during many decades between the old colonial powers and their former colonies.

In fact, since Yaoundé I in 1963, the Community and the AASM have been able to create a new type of relationship with one another based on cooperation freely defined by the parties involved.

In Zaïre, we are convinced that there is no country in the world, be she small or large, weak or strong, rich or poor that can stand alone.

In other words, Mr President, regional or international cooperation, insofar as it does not encroach upon the state's national sovereignty and political, economic or cultural independence, is the surest road to universal solidarity and, hence, to peace and a better quality of life for the people.

The Association did well to embody this principle in the text and spirit of the Yaoundé Convention and has undoubtedly helped to bring the people of one part of Europe closer to the people of one part of Africa.

However, we are convinced that cooperation, as we conceive it, cannot be confined to relations between one part of Europe and one part of Africa.

The Zaïre Republic therefore maintains an open door policy, and will continue to do so.

Our only concern in bringing about this opening onto the outside world is to freely choose and diversify our trade partners for the greatest good of our economy.

The Popular Revolutionary Movement's first annual congress, held in Kinshasa in May 1972, strongly upheld this position.

Despite our open door policy and the diversification of our trade partners, the Zaïre Republic intends to maintain and respect the commitments linking it to the Association.

Mr Chairman,
Delegates,

You know as well as we do that the strength of any human organization depends not only on the efficiency and dedication of those directing it but

also, and above all, on respect for the rules or principles on which it is based.

I am sure you will also agree that if the organization is not to be exposed to the risk of disintegration, immobility or inefficiency, these rules and principles must be accompanied by regulatory instruments capable of constantly adapting our Association to the irreversible evolution of our age. In such a shifting field as cooperation, this aspect of the problem must not be ignored.

If it is true to say that the Association has functioned to everyone's satisfaction, it is no less true to say that, as in any human product, defects have appeared in certain areas.

Take trade for example. We all know that the AASM economies are largely dependent on the revenue derived from exporting their primary commodities to the EEC.

Despite the temporary increase in the price of certain primary commodities noted at present, the AASM have for some years been powerless to halt substantial decline in the volume of their exports to the EEC, followed by a continuous fall in the prices of primary commodities.

At the same time, the prices of their manufactured imports from the EEC have continued to rise, so that the AASM have run up considerable deficits, first in their balance of trade and then in their balance of payments.

The first step taken in an attempt to alleviate this problem has unfortunately been to incur public debts. In our opinion, the answer lies, on one hand, in stabilizing the prices of primary commodities and, on the other, in following a policy of processing raw materials locally, in other words, industrializing the country.

As to cooperation in general, there is no harmonization between the EEC and the AASM on the pressing issues of the moment.

Let us take the monetary problem as an example. In this sphere, we all know that the Community states are trying to resolve the problems alone, without expecting or asking any contribution from the Associated States who will simply suffer the unfortunate consequences of their decisions.

The present trend is towards a tacit revaluation. This implies a rise in the prices of the manufactured products imported by our countries.

It follows that the monetary crisis has serious repercussions on our young economies and, therefore, that all countries must participate in negotiations on the reform of the international monetary system. In any case, we in

Zaire are convinced that it is only through concerted action that an equitable and lasting solution will be found.

As to the training of personnel, we very much hope that the EEC will take greater account of the priorities established by the AASM.

At present, it is obvious that the developed countries lend qualified personnel to the less developed ones. That is to say that, until the AASM 'take off', the assistance of foreign experts is indispensable.

But it is a question of providing an initial emergency team, until local personnel can take over, rather than of using technical cooperation as a means of preserving a zone of influence for ever. Having said that, it is important to dwell particularly on the human factor which is one of the important elements in national development.

This factor is decisive at national level, since man is not a marketable asset and it is he who remains the architect of development. Everyone realizes that no capital is worth anything without man's knowledge.

For us in Zaire, technical cooperation must be aimed at faster training of personnel rather than providing a relay system in which one cooperator simply replaces another.

Besides, though most Community countries consider the associated states responsible for their own development, it must be noted that cooperation, in which the real profit goes to the industrialized states while underdeveloped countries have to be content with illusory gain, may sometimes frustrate their intentions.

In fact, technical cooperation which seeks above all to achieve a balance of interests for the sole benefit of the Community states exposes us to the risk of suffering the sad fate of one of our countries' institutions, the National Transport Office, known as ONATRA.

Rather than criticizing the present system governing investments, we shall suggest possible improvements to it.

Experience shows that a fairly long period elapses between the opening of files and the settling of projects. This regrettable circumstance is due to the fact that there are different criteria for the two parties involved.

In the case of projects submitted to the EDF, we must stress that cooperation between the experts of the EDF and those in the beneficiary country respectively could prevent some set-backs.

Mr Chairman,

Delegates,

Two of the questions due to be discussed during this Conference have attracted our attention - the question of the Community's and Association's enlargement, and the question of developing African tourism and turning the AASM's tourist resources to account.

The EEC's enlargement is a no less important event in the life of the Association. The Zaïre Republic considers Europe's enlargement to be first and foremost an internal matter for Europe to resolve as she wishes. As to the Association's enlargement, Zaïre, as a supporter of new groupings of African states, has no objection to other Third World countries joining the Association and enjoying its benefits.

However, as regards the legal impact of the EEC's enlargement on the working of the Association's institutions, Zaïre supports the arrangements made by the AASM Co-ordination Committee, according to which relations between the EEC and the AASM will remain unchanged and the Association arrangement will not be binding on the new Member States until 31 January 1975.

Nevertheless, we firmly believe that the new Member States' accession to the EEC and the possible extension of the Association will in no way jeopardise the Community's achievements.

As to tourism, there can be no question that the African continent as a whole possesses a range of tourist riches as yet but little exploited.

The African tourist industry's expansion requires considerable capital, setting up an organisation to meet tourists' standards and development of the infrastructure.

Zaïre with her many parks, covering an area of 71,000 square kilometres, volcanoes, waterfalls, lakes, varied fauna, abundant flora and customary hospitality, seems favourably endowed for the development of her tourist industry.

To develop the existing infrastructure our Tourist Commissariat has already prepared a plan to lay down 3,000 kilometres of main roads, while the two new international airports being built in the north and east of the country will, in the short term, supplement the present inadequate air traffic infrastructure, taking account of the vast extent of our national territory.

With pleasure boats on the majestic Zaïre River and the marvellous Kivu Lake our reception facilities will, we believe, be quite complete.

At the same time, we are striving to expand our hotel trade in the awareness that this is an indispensable prop of tourism.

Given the means at our disposal, we sincerely believe that African tourism will be able to make a great leap forward if our European partners allow us to profit from their experience in this field, particularly in regard to staff training and organisation as such, though we must not neglect the financial and publicity sides.

Mr Chairman,
Delegates,

At the present time it would be difficult to talk about development without referring to the proceedings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

Unfortunately UNCTAD, in which all the under-developed countries had placed their hopes, did not reach any practical solution to the present difficulties of international trade.

For the sake of our States' development and our peoples' wellbeing we must find a just and equitable solution to the problem of regularizing the prices of the main primary commodities.

The AASM therefore feel that, in the name of Euro-African solidarity, they have a right to count on the unconditional support of their European partners in the major multilateral commercial negotiations in GATT due to open in September in Geneva, and in the intensive intergovernmental consultations on primary commodities in UNCTAD. The AASM should not have to be a permanent burden on the developed world in general and on the Common Market, in particular.

In our opinion, the EEC's financial aid to the AASM should only be a complement helping them to face the inevitable struggle for development and improvement of the lot of their people.

Besides, the AASM's concentration on marketing their primary commodities cannot be considered by other under-developed countries of the third world as a step which is against the world trend in the development of international trade.

The Zaïre Republic, like the other AASM countries, does not oppose the principle of extending generalized preferences, provided that the beneficiaries are countries belonging to the group of 77 and that certain privileged countries follow the same policy.

Mr President, the Zaïre Republic, once called the Congo, which today has the honour of receiving the Ninth Conference of the EEC/AASM Association, has undergone far-reaching changes since the head of the

armed forces, MOBUTU SESE SEKO KUKU NGBENDU WAZA BANGA, came to power on 24 November 1965 and has become the land of three Zs: Zaïre our country, Zaïre our river, Zaïre our currency.

And so you are being received by a country in the throes of a revolution. This revolution is the work of our great Party, the Popular Revolutionary Movement, personally led by its founding president, our Head of State.

The Popular Revolutionary Movement, which unites all the vital forces of our nation, is the crucible in which our fundamental doctrine, AUTHENTIC ZAIRE NATIONALISM, was forged. This doctrine, as the head of the armed forces MOBUTU SESE SEKO has said, is an aggressive humanism, a community humanism, a step forward that may involve sacrifices to ensure the national community's survival.

At the centre of this humanism is the Zaïre citizen, who must be authentic in himself - hence our policy of RESORT TO AUTHENTICITY.

For us in Zaïre, authenticity is the source of our inspiration which, deeply rooted in our tradition, enables us to develop whilst adapting to the requirements of the modern world.

In a general sense, Zaïre authenticity means discovering and asserting our personality while remaining true to ourselves on every occasion. It is the factor which lends a unique character to our thoughts and actions. This uniqueness is the fruit of the inspiration belonging to the Zaïre people and distinguishes them from others.

As you see, Zaïre authenticity involves no idea of racism, egocentricity or rejection of other peoples' cultural values.

Through our policy of resort to authenticity, the first exponent of which will always be the head of the armed forces Mobutu Sese Seko Kuku Ngbendu Waza Banga, the Zaïre people have been able to obtain remarkable results in many fields.

Through this policy, the people of Zaïre have been able to regain their unity and dignity and develop their national conscience.

The change in the names of some of our country's institutions is not a mere formality but indicates a change of mentality involving a new vision of man and things.

When we say National Legislative Council rather than National Assembly, or National Executive Council rather than Government, we aim to give our institutions a new dimension corresponding to our own personality, moulded by our revolution.

Nevertheless, we must stress the fact that the Popular Revolutionary Movement has made the sons of this country truly responsible for their political, economic, social and cultural development.

In the context of economic development, we have just instituted a development strategy, known as SALONGO, capable of effectively contributing to the improvement of our peoples' wellbeing.

By SALONGO - a hymn in praise of work - we intend to inspire all sectors of national life with a new dynamism, teaching the Zaïre people to rely on their own efforts before seeking outside assistance.

We are aware that it needs immense energy resources to set up industries so we have concentrated our efforts on building the great Inga Dam which, once fitted out and equipped, will be able to produce 30,000,000 kilowatts representing a potential of more than 280 thousand million kilowatt hours per year for the indefinite future.

There is no need for us to enumerate at length on this occasion the Second Republic's achievements. Nevertheless, we hope that you will be able to put your stay in the Republic of Zaïre to good purpose by observing the results of our revolution.

Mr Chairman,
Delegates,

I shall end by expressing the hope that this Kinshasa gathering will, like the 1968 meeting, provide a decisive start to the speedy and successful renewal of the Association Convention, our common task.

We, the people of Zaïre, remain confident of the future and the consolidation of co-operation between Europe and Africa.

Long live the EEC/AASM Association.

(Applause)

The meeting was adjourned at 1 p.m.