

European Community

News Release

EAST - WEST RELATIONS:

DECLARATION OF THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE
EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, AS WELL AS OF SPAIN AND PORTUGAL

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Ten, as well as Spain and Portugal, meeting in Brussels on 16-17 December 1985, expressed their satisfaction at the much-awaited meeting between President Reagan and Secretary-General Gorbachov in Geneva from 19 to 21 November.

They welcome the fact that, after Mr. Gorbachov's visit to Paris and the Geneva Summit, a process has now begun which will include further meetings at the highest level. They hope that it will lead to an improvement in the international situation and to progress towards a fresh dialogue in all fields, including regional questions and those concerning human rights.

The Twelve have noted in particular the reaffirmation of the joint American-Soviet declaration of 8 January 1985 concerning the elaboration of effective agreements aiming at preventing an arms race in space, terminating it on Earth, at limiting and reducing nuclear arms and at strengthening strategic stability. They hope that this process will reach reasonable, balanced and verifiable compromises in all these fields in order to allow a reduction of the nuclear arms of these two countries, medium-range weapons included, at the lowest possible level with due regard to the security of the European countries.

They also attach a high importance to the disarmament work under way in the multilateral fora, dealing, in particular, with conventional and chemical armaments.

As to the CSCE process as a whole, the Twelve will, despite certain disappointments, continue to work for positive results in all its aspects, in particular at the Conference of Stockholm and at the forthcoming Berne meeting, with a view to achieving a balanced outcome at the Vienna conference, beginning in November 1986.

The Twelve reiterate their own determination to make every effort to contribute to greater stability in East - West relations as a basis for wide-ranging and far-reaching cooperation with all the countries of Eastern Europe.

 **Delegation of the Commission
of the European Communities**
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