

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

477th meeting of the Council

- Research -

Luxembourg, 25 October 1977

President: Mr Henri SIMONET,
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Kingdom of Belgium

25.X.77

Netherlands:

Mr R.P.M. LUBBERS

Minister for Economic Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr Tony BENN

Secretary of State for Energy

Mr Alexander EADIE

Parliamentary Under Secretary
of State,
Department of Energy

Commission:

Mr Roy JENKINS

President

Mr Guido BRUNNER

Member

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After the Council had recorded that the majority of its members were in favour of Culham as the site for the JET 1 project and that no delegation was opposed to such majority being recorded, the site of the project was fixed as Culham.

During its discussions on the choice of site for the JET project, the Council unanimously agreed that

- all the Member States as well as the Joint Research Centre would be eligible for selection as the site for the JET 1 project;
- if the Council were to decide in the future on the construction of a JET 2, all the Member States as well as the Joint Research Centre, with the exception of the Member State or Centre chosen as the site for the JET 1 project, would be eligible for selection as the site for the new project;
- this decision in no way prejudices any Council decision that may be taken to construct a JET 2 or the nature of such a project.

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MONSIEUR RUGGIERO

COPIE : MM. COLLOWALD, PRYCE, HUGHES, HIJZEN ET OPITZ

NOTE BIO (77) 363 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC. AUX MEMBRES DU GPP, AU DG DE LA DG I ET A M. OPITZ, DG VIII

RESEARCH COUNCIL

THE MINISTERS OF RESEARCH BEGAN THEIR MEETING AT 10H20 UNDER THE PRESIDENCY OF MR. HENRY SIMONET AS PLANNED. MR SIMONET SAID HE HOPED THIS WOULD BE "ONE OF THE LAST ACTS" IN BRINGING ABOUT THE COMMUNITY'S JET PROJECT. HE THEN SAID THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO FOLLOW THE RULES LAID DOWN BY THE COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS WHICH WAS TO HAVE IN THE ROOM SMALL DELEGATIONS CONSISTING OF ONE MINISTER AND THREE AIDES. THE MEETING THUS WENT INTO RESTRICTED SESSION, DURING WHICH MINISTERS QUICKLY AGREED ON THE METHOD OF TAKING DECISIONS BOTH ON JET I AND ON THE JET II PROJECT. AFTER 15 MINUTES THE SESSION BROKE UP TO ENABLE MR SIMONET TO TAKE SOUNDINGS AMONG THE INDIVIDUAL DELEGATIONS WITH A VIEW TO FINDING A CONCENSUS FOR THE SITE OF JET I. THE TWO CANDIDATE SITES ARE CULHAM (ENGLAND) AND GARCHING (GERMANY). MORE LATER.

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PRIERE DE FAIRE LA DIFFUSION HABITUELLE A PARTIR DE BRUXELLES

MONSIEUR RUGGIERO

COPIE : MM. COLLOWALD, PRYCE, HUGHES, HIJZEN ET OPITZ

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RESEARCH COUNCIL

JET TO CULHAM

M. HENRI SIMONET TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE LATER THAT THE MINISTERS HAD AGREED TO SITE THE JET PROJECT AT CULHAM IN ENGLAND. THE VOTING WAS HE SAID FIVE FOR CULHAM, TWO FOR GARCHING AND TWO ABSTENTIONS. THEN THE MINIROTY RALLIED TO THE MAJORITY GIVING THE DECISION FOR CULHAM WITHOUT A VOTE AGAINST. M. SIMONET HAD CONSULTED EACH MINISTER IN TURN PRIVATELY BEFORE CALLING A FURTHER RESTRICTED SESSION TOWARDS MIDDAY. FINALLY AFTER A FURTHER HOUR (AT 13.15 HE CALLED HIS PRESS CONFERENCE TO GIVE THE FINAL RESULT). M. SIMONET COMMENTED THAT EVEN IF THE PROCESS OF GETTING THE JET SITE CONFIRMED HAD BEEN LONG AND DIFFICULT, IT HAD BEEN DEMONSTRATED THAT IN THE END IT WAS POSSIBLE TO GET A DECISION ON THIS ESSENTIALLY COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE. THE COMMISSIONER RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PROJECT MR GUIDO BRUNNER SAID THE COMMUNITY WAS AT THE END OF A LONG ROAD. THIS WAS THE SIXTH COUNCIL OF RESEARCH MINISTERS TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM WHICH HAD ALSO BEEN CONSIDERED BY THE FOREIGN MINISTERS AND THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL. THIS WOULD BE THE FIRST EUROPEAN UNDERTAKING UNDER ARTICLE 45 OF THE EURATOM TREATY. IT WAS A DIFFICULT JOB AND NOBODY KNEW WHAT WOULD RESULT, ALTHOUGH WE KNOW THAT IT WAS ESSENTIAL IF THE COMMUNITY WAS TO ENSURE EUROPEANS RELIABLE SOURCES OF ENERGY. ON THE METHOD OF TAKING THE CONCENSUS, M. SIMONET STRESSED THAT NO POINT OF EUROPEAN LAW WAS ONVOLVED. METHODS USED WOULD NOT BE REGARDED AS A PRECEDENT FOR OTHER DECISIONS. QUESTIONED BY JOURNALISTS ABOUT THE JET PROJECT MR. BRUNNER SAID THAT ON PAPER JET WAS MORE ADVANCED THAN ANY OTHER PROJECT IN THE UNITED STATES OR

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THE SOVIET UNION, ALTHOUGH THE LOST TIME IT HAD TAKEN TO BRING THE PROJECT TO THE POINT OF DECISION WAS A SETBACK. IT WOULD TAKE ABOUT FOUR MONTHS TO DECIDE ON THE STATUTES FOR A JOINT PROJECT AFTER WHICH HE EXPECTED THE BUILDING STAGE TO BEGIN. PART OF THE MATERIALS WERE ALREADY ON THE SITE AD CULHAM. THE FACT THEY HAD BEEN ORDERED BEFORE THE DECISION WAS TAKEN MERELY PROVED HOW PRUDENT THE COMMISSION WAS. THE HEAD OF THE PROJECT WOULD BE SELECTED QUICKLY BY THE JET COUNCIL. EARLIER MR. SIMONET HAD REVEALED THE SUBSTANCE OF THE DECISION THE MINISTERS HAD TAKEN ON JET ONE AND JET TWO. THIS WAS ESSENTIALLY THAT THE SITE CHOSEN FOR JET ONE WOULD NOT BE A CANDIDATE FOR JET TWO IF THAT WAS EVER BROUGHT TO REALITY IN LATER YEARS.

COUNCIL CONTD.

RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA.

MR. SIMONET ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT IN AGREEMENT WITH HIS COLLEAGUES HE HAD ORDERED THE BELGIAN AMBASSADOR TO APPROACH THE AUTHORITIES IN PRETORIA TO EXPRESS CONCERN AND WORRY CAUSED BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS MEASURES AGAINST THE BLACK LEADERS. HE SAID THE AMBASSADOR WAS INSTRUCTED TO SAY THAT HE HOPED THE MEASURES WOULD BE LIFTED AND THAT SOUTH AFRICA WOULD REFRAIN FROM SUCH MEASURES IN FUTURE. IN EXPRESSING BELGIIUMS OWN CONCERN, M. SIMONET SAID HE HAD ALSO RECALLED HIS AMBASSADOR TO BRUSSELS FOR CONSULTATIONS TO CONSIDER WHAT FURTHER MEASURES TO TAKE. HE HAD ASKED HIS COLLEAGUE IN THE COMMUNITY TO AGREE ON A JOINT APPROACH TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN AUTHORITIES AND A POLITICAL COMMITTEE MEETING WAS BEING CONCENED ON NOVEMBER 11 TO REVIEW ACTION.

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