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PRESS RELEASE

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EC PRESIDENT DISSATISFIED WITH SUMMIT ACCESS

President Roy Jenkins of the European Commission today described as an "important advance" his participation in the London Summit as the representative of the European Commission.

He said this was the first time that the European Community as such had taken part in a Summit, and that, at those parts of the meetings he had attended, the role and the responsibilities of the Community were fully recognized by members and non-members of the Community alike.

But Mr. Jenkins went on to say that the arrangements for the representation of the Community were neither logical nor entirely satisfactory.

He said that he was able to play a full part in discussions on Trade and the North / South Dialogue, and to a lesser extent on Energy, but that he was not present for the general economic debate when such vital questions as growth, inflation and employment were discussed. Mr. Jenkins said that given the range of the Community's responsibilities, attempts to distinguish between the general and specific aspects of our economic problems are inevitably artificial and difficult. He added, "I hope that we shall be able to get a better arrangement next time."

Reviewing some of the decisions of the Summit, Mr. Jenkins welcomed the objective of a new impetus for the Multilateral Trade Negotiations and the progress made in the approach towards relations with the Developing World. He also hoped that the EC would be able to play its part in the work on terms of reference for an evaluation of the international nuclear fuel cycle, and underlined the importance of nuclear energy for the Community.

Mr. Jenkins ended by echoing the Summit message of a need for "a restoration of confidence in the continuing strength of our societies and in the proven democratic principles upon which they are based."

(A full text of Mr. Jenkins' statement is attached to this release)

Full Text of the Statement by the President of the European Commission to the European Parliament : 11 May 1977.

As the House well knows, the European Community was represented during part of the Downing Street Summit last weekend by the British Prime Minister as President of the Council of Ministers and by myself as President of the European Commission. This was the first time that the Community as such had played any part at a Western Summit Meeting, and I greatly welcome this important advance. I should add that, at those parts of the meeting I attended, the role and responsibilities of the Community were fully recognized by members and non-members of the Community alike.

At the same time I cannot pretend that the arrangements for the representation of the Community were either logical or entirely satisfactory. I was able to play a full part in the discussions on Trade and the North / South Dialogue, and to a limited extent that on Energy. My staff helped in the preparation of these parts of the Declaration and its Appendix, and I contributed to the discussion of the final texts.

But I was not present for the general economic debate, on which such vital questions as growth, inflation and employment, particularly among young people, were discussed. The House will recall that these were the subject of a statement at the last European Council when the European Commission was charged with certain tasks.

I was present at most of the discussion on Energy, although I recognize that here there was overlapping with the wider question of the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. Given the range of the Community's responsibilities, attempts to distinguish between the general and specific aspects of our economic problems are inevitably artificial and difficult. I hope that we shall be able to get a better arrangement next time.

The Declaration with its Appendix speaks for itself. But I should like to say a brief word about certain parts of it. I deal first with Trade. As you will have seen all those at Downing Street endorsed the giving of a new impetus to the Tokyo Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations. In the circumstances which prevail our explicit rejection of protectionism was not an automatic and platitudinous reflex. The world has changed since the Multilateral Trade Negotiations began in 1973, and each of the participating governments is exposed to heavy protectionist pressure. But all concerned recognized that the return to growth and stability lay in expansion of trade and the strengthening of the open trading system rather than through protectionism. Thus we agreed on certain objectives in the forthcoming negotiations which we in the Community can only welcome: not just reduction of tariffs but tariff harmonization, reduction of non-tariff barriers, the reduction of counter-productive competition in officially supported export credits, and the outlawing of those irregular practices and improper conduct which recently have disfigured our trading system. I emphasize that in working for comprehensive and balanced agreements we shall seek to ensure that special benefits go to the non-industrial countries.

I particularly welcome the progress made in our approach towards relations with the Developing World. The participants agreed to do all in their power to achieve the successful conclusion of the Conference on International Economic Cooperation which culminates at the end of this month. They pledged themselves to increase the flow of aid and other real resources, to facilitate the access of non-industrial

countries to sources of international finance, to support such lending institutions as the World Bank and increase its lending capacity, and to secure productive results from negotiations about the stabilization of commodity prices and the creation of a common fund for individual buffer stock agreements. I lay particular emphasis on the agreement to consider the problems of the stabilization of export earnings, a point to which, as you know, the Community and its members attach particular importance, based in part upon the success of our own schemes under the Lome Convention. Commodity prices and export earnings must be seen as two sides of the same coin. The weight given to the importance of creating more security for private investment to foster world economic progress is also welcome. Last under this heading I draw attention to the appeal to the COMECON countries to join us in increasing the flow of aid and other real resources to the non-industrial world.

I also welcome the emphasis in the Declaration and its Appendix on the need to conserve energy, increase and diversify its production, and reduce our dependence on oil. In the Appendix the participants stated explicitly that increasing reliance would have to be placed on nuclear energy to satisfy our growing energy requirements. This is of particular importance to the Community whose dependence on imported supplies is very great. Here we come up against the familiar dilemma of how to promote peaceful uses of nuclear energy while avoiding the spread of nuclear weapons. There is to be a study of these issues, including work on terms of reference for an evaluation of the international nuclear fuel cycle. As I said at the meeting itself, I trust that the Community, which has much to contribute to such an evaluation, will be able to play its part in it. We greatly welcome the Summit commitment to greater exchanges of technology and joint research, more efficient energy use, improved recovery and use of coal and other conventional resources, and the development of new sources of energy. How we now tackle the energy problem will shape much of the future of the Community and our peoples. Not only must we expound to them the urgent nature of our needs in the nuclear field but also be prepared to respond to their doubts and anxieties

Finally I echo the message of the Summit as set out in the last paragraph of the Declaration: the need for a restoration of confidence in the continuing strength of our societies and in the proven democratic principles upon which they are based.

