

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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ORAL QUESTION (0-166/79/rev./II

with debate, pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

by Mr d'ORMESSON, Mr KLEPSCH, Mr VERGEER,

Mr TINDEMANS, Mr FISCHBACH,

Mr von BISMARCK, Mr DILIGENT, Mr DIANA, Mrs WALZ,

Mrs MOREAU, Mr BARBI, Mr SIMONNET, Mrs RABBETHGE,

Mr MODIANO and Mr PFLIMLIN

on behalf of the Group of the European People's Party (Christian-Democratic Group)

to the Commission of the European Community

Subject: Surveillance and protection of shipping routes for supplies of energy and strategic materials to the countries of the European Community.

- whereas the European Community is obliged to import from third countries almost all the oil and strategic materials necessary to its economic life,
- recalling that most of its supplies from the Middle East, Africa and the two Americas are transported by sea,

- whereas this is also true of its shipments to third countries, which represent 50% of its exports,
- whereas the tense international situation, which has been aggravated by Soviet incursions into Africa and central Asia, gives rise to uncertainty about the strategy of the Soviet Union,
- whereas, for several years, the Soviet Union has been spending a considerable part of its military budget, which is the largest of any state, on strengthening naval forces designed for attack and external intervention rather than coastal surveillance,
- having regard to the disastrous effects that a break in its marine lines of communication would have on the EEC,
- emphasizing the importance for its security and for the cohesion of the Atlantic nations of freedom of shipping in the Atlantic Ocean, the Indian Ocean, the Mediterranean and particularly around straits and strategic islands, at a time when the coming accession of Greece, Spain and Portugal will lengthen the EEC's coastline,
- recalling that the intervention zone covered by the North Atlantic Treaty stops south of the Tropic of Cancer, while 90% of the oil tankers pass around the Cape of Good Hope,

the authors of this question ask whether the common interests of the nine countries of the Community, which share responsibility for the development of the international situation, do not call for :

1. consideration by the Council meeting in political cooperation of the means to be employed henceforth to safeguard the shipping routes to Europe,
2. the reinforcement of these means through concerted diplomatic and military action by the members of the Atlantic Alliance possessing naval forces,
3. the setting up of an operational structure to coordinate in times of crisis the various external measures the Member States would need to take to safeguard their vital maritime interests, and particularly the pooling of detection methods (radar) and surveillance methods (coastguards).