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ORAL QUESTION (O-55/78)

with debate pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

by Mr FELLERMAIER, Mr SIEGLERSCHMIDT and Mr COT on behalf of the Socialist Group

to the foreign ministers of the nine Member States of the European Community meeting in political cooperation

Subject: Arms supplies from Community Member States

The authors of the question

- are pleased that on 25 May 1978 the Member States, through the Danish delegate, then President-in-Office of the Council of Ministers, presented a united position at the UN General Assembly's special session on disarmament,
- note, however, that the joint position adopted by the Nine on the problem of arms supplies is not at all satisfactory,
- are disturbed that, as the President-in-Office of the foreign ministers bluntly stated at the sitting of the European Parliament of 12 April 1978, there is no common EEC policy on exports to third countries,

- look, therefore, to the foreign ministers meeting in political cooperation to do their utmost to find a solution to this difficult problem and accordingly ask the following questions:

1. Are not arms supplies to areas of tension fundamentally incompatible with the peace policy pursued by all the Member States?
2. What prevents the foreign ministers from designating - where necessary - areas of tension in respect of which the individual Member States will not approve arms supplies unless, exceptionally, it has been otherwise decided in prior consultation with the other Member States?
3. Could the foreign ministers not make a joint effort to arrange meetings between buyers and sellers, in the form of regional conferences, in order to restrict the arms race in areas of tension?
4. Do the foreign ministers intend to prohibit arms supplies to countries where basic human rights are flagrantly violated?
5. What other ways do the foreign ministers see of pursuing a credible common policy in this sphere?