

## EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

# Working Documents

198<sub>3</sub>-198<sub>4</sub>

---

8 NOVEMBER 1983

1-1011/83

### MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr COTTRELL, Mr BEYER de RYKE, Mr d'ORMESSON, Mr PFENNIG, Mr ALBERS, Mr NIELSEN, Mr MAHER, Mr WEDEKIND, Mr LAGAKOS, Mrs CLYWD, Mr BROK, Mrs EWING, Mr JD TAYLOR, Mr JM TAYLOR, Mr MEGAHY, Mr JONKER, Mr DAVERN, Mr CURRY, Mr HARRIS, Mr DEGUCHT, Mr JOHNSON, Mr JACOBSEN, Mr BERKHOUWER, Mr FLANAGAN, Mr JANSSEN VAN RAAY, Mr HORD, Mr PEARCE, Lord BETHELL, Mr ENRIGHT, Mr SIEGLERSCHMIDT, Mr COLLINS, Mr IRMER, Mr NORD, Mr HERMAN and Mr NYBORG

with request for topical and urgent debate

pursuant to Rule 48 of the Rules of Procedure

on REUTERS

'The European Parliament,

- A. conscious of the necessity to maintain freedom of the press and the widest possible diversity of information within the European Community,
- B. considering that the role of the REUTERS International News Agency established in 1851, is paramount in that respect,
- C. observes that REUTERS enjoys an unparalleled reputation as a supplier of accurate news and information throughout the world, and is respected for its unchallenged independence and integrity,
- D. aware that since 1941 REUTERS has operated under a Trust intended to preserve the company's integrity, independence and freedom from bias, and to protect the company and its journalists in perpetuity,
- E. noting that because of developments in new information technology, REUTERS has become an extremely profitable company through the supply of specialized financial information, in addition to its long-established news gathering activities, and that its market worth is probably near £1,000 millions,
- F. aware that proposals are now being discussed by some of the current Trustees of REUTERS to dispose of their interest in the company and therefore effectively 'float' the company for public subscription,
- G. alarmed that in so doing, the principles and objectives which have guided REUTERS for well over a century may be placed at risk,
  - 1. regrets any proposal which might damage the value of REUTERS as an international news agency with an unrivalled worldwide reputation, at the cost of limited short-term financial gain;
  - 2. Requests the present Trustees of the Company to reconsider proposals to dispose of their shares in a way which could effectively end the Trust;
  - 3. Instructs the Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, Information and Sport to undertake a full inquiry into the future of REUTERS as a matter of urgency.'