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STATEMENT BY MR WILHELM HAFERKAMP
VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
IN CHARGE OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS
ON THE OCCASION OF THE POST-DIALOGUE MEETING OF ASEAN MINISTERS
IN JAKARTA ON 12 JULY 1984



Mr. Chairman,

Coming to ASEAN countries to attend the Post-Dialogue Meeting of ASEAN Ministers

is now for me a familiar and always friendly occasion.

1984 has been a favourable year for both our groupings of countries.

ASEAN has been enlarged and has welcomed in its ranks a 6th member country, Brunei.

It will increase ASEAN's strength

and we will be very pleased to see it included soon in our cooperation agreement with ASEAN countries.

We in the Community have succeeded in overcoming our internal difficulties

and have emerged stronger from a crisis which had monopolised too much of our energy for too long.

But this was a necessary prelude to the next phase of our enlargement

which will take us to 12 members and a single market with a population of some 315 million.

We are also now on firm ground

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to develop future common policies to deal with the challenge of the third industrial revolution.

On the economic front,

we have managed to reduce inflation,

growth is firmly established even if at a modest 2 % p.a.

and although unemployment remains a major concern for us and our Member States,

economic prospects are clearly more reassuring than they were last year.

Against this more favourable background,

we are obviously in a stronger position to resist protectionist pressures

and indeed the Community has moved on to the offensive,

proposing the acceleration of final Tokyo Round tariff reductions.

We know the importance of commodities for the economies of ASEAN countries

and we will continue to support the negotiation and implementation of commodity agreements

which will ensure a fair deal for both producers and consumers.

There was little change

There was little change in the political situation in your region.

In spite of repeated efforts to solve the Kampuchean crisis,
no global solution seems in sight for the close future.

We know the suffering it entails for the local population,
in particular in the border areas.

I wish today to confirm our commitment to assist these populations.

We have just granted an emergency aid of 300 000 ECU's
for the refugees in the border area

and the decision to allocate more than 2 m ECU's
of food aid should be taken very soon.

As far as our bilateral relations are concerned,
the first five years of our cooperation agreement
come to an end in March 1985,
and it will soon be time
to look back and make an assessment
of what has been achieved
and draw guidelines for the future.

We already know

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that the record will be a positive one,
and this is true for all aspects of our cooperation,
in the field of trade,
economic collaboration,
development
and our political relations.

Our market in the Community has been open enough

to allow the share of imports of ASEAN manufactured products
in overall ASEAN exports to the Community

to grow from 25 % in 1973
to 41 % in 1983.

I could add

that 30 % of ASEAN exports of textile and clothing
now go to the Community

compared with 18 % to the United States
and only 4.3 % to Japan.

We are proud of these results

We are proud of these results

which indicate better than any speech against protectionism,
that access to the Community market remains open
to those who want to try.

We like to think also

that we have helped ASEAN countries to achieve such good results
by our programmes of trade promotion
and through our Generalised Scheme of Preferences,
which will be renewed in 1986 for the second 5 year
period to which we are committed.

We used to hear

that European investments in ASEAN countries were inadequate
considering the economic potential of your countries.

Recent figures seem to prove

that this state of affairs is gradually changing.

At least in two ASEAN countries,

the Community is the biggest foreign investor.

The European private sector's interest for South East Asia
has certainly increased in recent years.

We will continue

We will continue to make every effort
to encourage small and medium sized European companies
for forge links with their ASEAN counterparts.

Our next action in this direction will be a Conference
of Food Processing in Manilla in 1985.

On the development side,

we have made considerable progress in terms of financial assistance

The Community and its Member States are,

according to OECD statistics,

the main donor in the ASEAN countries as far as grants are concerned.

For Community assistance only,

the symbolic figure of 200 m ECU's for ASEAN countries since 1976
was reached in 1983.

After some delays in implementation due to budgetary constraints,

programmes for 1984 are well underway,

and we are reinforcing our team of people in the region

to ensure a better utilisation of the projects.

New sectors have appeared in our cooperation:

science and technology,

insurance and maritime transport,

to mention only a few.

But, however positive

But, however positive the balance sheet is,
we must explore new ways of cooperation
and increase contacts at all levels.

Industrial collaboration,
training and scientific and technological cooperation
should be our priorities for the years to come.

I am confident, Mr Chairman,

that the future of ASEAN and Community relations is very bright.

The close relationship

we have developed over recent years,
is beginning to bear fruit.

We see definite signs of renewed interest in Europe
for trading, investing and being present in ASEAN
and we have shown
how open we are to you.

With imagination and commitment more can be done
to confirm and strengthen the uniqueness of our region
to region cooperation.

