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COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

[REDACTED]

PRESS RELEASE

538th meeting of the Council

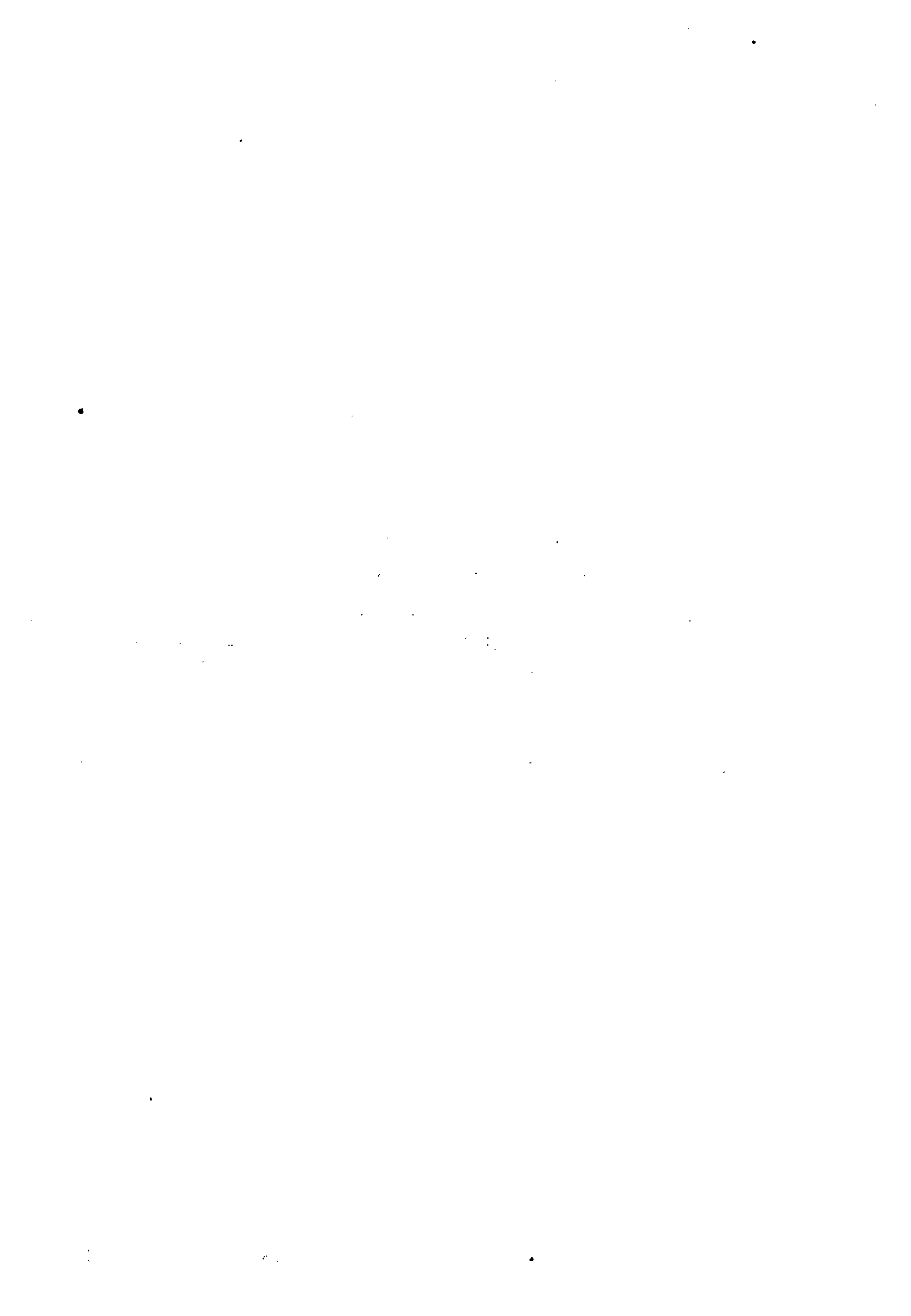
- Development Co-operation -

Luxembourg, 10 October 1978

President:

Mr Rainer OFFERGELD,

Federal Minister for Economic Co-operation
of the Federal Republic of Germany



10.X.78

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean DONDELINGER

Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

Netherlands:

Mr J. de KONING

Minister for Development
Co-operation

United Kingdom:

Mrs Judith HART

Minister for Overseas
Development

Commission:

Mr Claude CHEYSSON

Member

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AID TO NON-ASSOCIATED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

1978 programme

The Council discussed the financing programme proposed by the Commission for use of the appropriation earmarked for aid to non-associated countries under the 1978 budget (70 MEUA). This programme was submitted by the Commission in the context of the general guidelines which the Council debated at its meeting on 25 April 1978.

The programme met with the Council's approval, on the understanding that a final position on one project and on the allocation of the balance of the reserve would be adopted in the very near future on the basis of additional information to be supplied by the Commission to the Permanent Representatives Committee.

The Council's discussions thus enable the Commission to commit the appropriations in good time before the end of the year.

At the end of its discussion the Council emphasized the importance it attaches to the early entry into force of the framework Regulation relating to non-associated developing countries, so that as from the next financial year discussions can take place on the basis of the procedure laid down in that Regulation rather than on the basis of the present ad hoc procedure.

General guidelines for the 1979 programme

The Council discussed general guidelines for the 1979 aid programme on the basis of the suggestions submitted by the Commission.

The Council found itself in agreement on some of the Commission's suggestions and noted that on others (the amount of the reserve and an indicative geographical allocation) the Commission felt it should uphold its suggestions which it regarded as a middle road between the positions put forward.

The Council also discussed the amount of aid for 1979, enabling delegations to give their views on this subject. The Budget Authority is to take a final decision on this at the end of 1978.

In connection with the discussion on the volume of aid, the Commission said it intended to submit to the Council a communication taking stock of Community action to help non-associated developing countries and stating its views on the multiannual estimates of the volume of aid for such countries.

THIRD INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY DECADE

In the context of the preparatory stages which are to lead to adoption of the International Development Strategy by the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly in 1980 and in the light of the various events on the international calendar between now and then in the framework of the North-South Dialogue, the Council held a preliminary political discussion on the lines which the Community should follow in working out its substantive position. It had before it for this purpose a communication from the Commission.

The communication was very favourably received by the Council and was felt to provide a most useful working basis for further discussions. In the Council's present discussions it was found that there was already a considerable measure of agreement on the main lines of approach suggested by the Commission.

POLICY ON CO-FINANCING

The Council approved a report on the policy to be pursued on co-financing as regards resources administered by the Commission.

CIEC SPECIAL ACTION

The Council took stock of the progress of the procedures for ratifying the Agreement with the IDA on the putting into effect of the Community contribution to the special action agreed upon in the CIEC. It expressed the strong hope that these procedures could be concluded as soon as possible in those Member States where this had not yet been done.

RECIPROCAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION
POLICY AND OTHER COMMUNITY POLICIES

The Council agreed to discuss this item at its next meeting on development co-operation.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Accession of Tuvalu to the Lomé Convention

The Council recorded the agreement of the European Economic Community to the draft Decision of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers approving the accession of Tuvalu to the ACP-EEC Convention of Lomé.

Tuvalu, a former United Kingdom territory which became independent on 1 October 1978, will thus become the 55th State under the Lomé Convention when the ACP States have also signified their agreement, within the framework of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers, to the draft Decision and when Tuvalu has deposited its instrument of accession.

So that Tuvalu does not lose certain advantages, particularly financial ones, which it enjoys by virtue of the association of the overseas countries and territories with the Community, the Council also adopted the Decision on the provisional application to Tuvalu after its independence of the arrangements provided for in Decision 76/568/EEC, which relates to that Association.

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Opening of Commission delegations

The Council gave its agreement to the opening by the Commission of delegations in the Mashreq countries (Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria) and Israel. It also approved the opening of a Commission delegation in Vienna.

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Commercial policy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities:

- Decisions

- amending the quotas for the importation into the Federal Republic of Germany of textile products originating in Hungary and Poland;
- opening an additional quota for the importation into the United Kingdom of 110,000 items of outer garments and clothing accessories originating in Hungary;

- Regulations

- amending Regulation (EEC) No 2898/77 maintaining in force the rules whereby imports into Italy of electric filament lamps originating in certain European State-trading countries are subject to import authorizations (increasing import authorizations from 3,350,000 to 4,668,000 items originating in the German Democratic Republic);
- maintaining in force until 31 December 1978 the arrangements for the authorization of imports into the United Kingdom of certain textile products originating in Argentina, Singapore and the Philippines.

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The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Directive amending for the sixth time Directive 73/241/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to cocoa and chocolate products intended for human consumption.

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The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision amending Decision 74/642/Euratom adopting a research and training programme for the European Atomic Energy Community (indirect nuclear projects) on plutonium recycling in light-water reactors (extension of the programme by one year).

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The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision adapting Decision 77/359/EEC fixing the economic policy conditions to be observed by the Italian Republic, and the Directive adapting the conditions laid down for the grant of medium-term financial assistance to the Italian Republic.



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DE LUXEMBOURG :

NOTE BIO (78) 360 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
C.C. AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE, A M. BURGHARDT DG I ET A
M. OPITZ DG VIII

CONSEIL DEVELOPPEMENT

LE CONSEIL A ADOPTE L'ENSEMBLE DES POINTS A A L'EXCEPTION DE L'OUVERTURE D'UNE DELEGATION DE LA COMMISSION A BANGKOK QUI EST RENVOYE A UN EXAMEN ULTERIEUR. PARMIS LES POINTS ON PEUT RELEVER NOTAMMENT, L'APPROBATION DE L'ACCESSION DE TUVALU A LA CONVENTION DE LOME ET L'OUVERTURE DES DELEGATIONS DE LA COMMISSION SUIVANTS: VIENNE (AUPRES DE L'ONUDI), EGYPTE, LIBAN, JORDANIE, SYRIE ET ISRAEL.

LA DISCUSSION A PORTE SUR LES POINTS SUIVANTS:

1. AIDE FINANCIERE ET TECHNIQUE AUX PAYS EN VOIE DE DEVELOPPEMENT NON- ASSOCIES.

A. UTILISATION DES 70 MUCE INSCRITS AU BUDGET 1978 (DONT 65,0

MUCE PROJETS ET 5 MUCE RESERVE POUR IMPREVISIBLE):

- LE PROGRAMME DANS SON ENSEMBLE A RECUEILLI LE CONSENSUS GENERAL DES MINISTRES. LE PROGRAMME RETENU PAR LA COMMISSION EST DONC DEFINITIF AVEC LES RESERVES SUIVANTES:

- UN PROJET DE DEVELOPPEMENT RURAL DANS LA VALLEE DU MEKONG AU VIETNAM (3,5 MUC) SERA PRECISE LORS D'UNE MISSION DE LA COMMISSION QUI SE RENDRE A HANOI LE 17 OCTOBRE PROCHAIN.

-L'AFFECTATION DEFINITIVE DE 2,5 MUCE DE LA RESERVE SERA DECIDEE AVEC UNE PRIORITE AUX BESOINS D'URGENCE DU VIETNAM A LA SUITE DES RECENTES INONDATIONS QUI SERONT EGALEMENT EXAMINES SUR PLACE PAR LA MISSION. LE RESTE SERA REPARTI SUR GOBLPRMJETS DEJA ADOPTES.

A L'OCCASION DE LA DISCUSSION DE CET ASPECT M. CHEYSSON A INDIQUE AUX MINISTRES QU'A LA DEMANDE DU VIETNAM LA COMMISSION ENVISAGE DE FINANCER AS TITRE D'AIDE EN CAS DE CATASTROPHES LA FOURNITURE D'INSECTICIDES PAR L'INTERMEDIAIRE DE LA FAO. (EN DEHORS DES 70 MUCE: ART. 950 BUDGET)

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UNE PREMIERE TRANCHE DE 50.000 UCE SERA DECIDEE ENCORE CETTE SEMAINE. L'ENVOI DE 2.000 T DE CEREALES A TITRE D'AIDE ALIMENTAIRE D'URGENCE EST EGALEMENT EN PREPARATION.

A NOTER QUE :

- LE PLUS GRAND MONTANT EST RESERVE A L'INDE (15,52 MUC PROJETS ET 2 MUC AIDES D'URGENCE).

- LE MOZAMBIQUE RECEVRA 3,5 ET L'ANGOLA 0,5 MUCE.

- LA REPARTITION REGIONALE S'ETABLIT APPROXIMATIVEMENT COMME SUIVANT :

75 0/0 ASIE
20 0/0 AMERIQUE LATINE
5 0/0SAFRIQUE

B. ORIENTATION DU PROGRAMME 1979

EN ATTENDANT LA DECISION DE L'AUTORITE BUDGETAIRE SUR LE MONTANT (LA COMMISSION A PROPOSE 110 MUCE), LES MINISTRES ONT DISCUTE, SANS CONCLUSION, LA REPARTITION GEOGRAPHIQUE (PROPOSITION DE LA COMMISSION: 73 0/0 ASIE, 20 0/0 AMERIQUE LATINE , 7 0/0 AFRIQUE) ET DE L'IMPORTANCE DE LA RESERVE POUR SITUATION D'URGENCE (ENTRE 5 ET 10 0/0 DU TOTAL).

C. LES MINISTRES ONT REGRETTE L'ABSENCE D'UN REGLEMENT FINANCIER (C.A.D. UNE BASE JURIDIQUE POUR CETTE FORME D'AIDE) QUI FAIT TOUJOURS L'OBJET D'UNE CONCERTATION ENTRE LE PARLEMENT ET LE CONSEIL.

2. PREPARATION D'UNE NOUVELLE STRATEGIE INTERNATIONALE DU DEVELOPPEMENT (COM 421 FIN. DU 8.9.1978)

TOUTES LES DELEGATIONS ONT EXPRIME LEUR SATISFACTION SUR LA MANIERE DONT LA COMMISSION A ABORDE LE PROBLEME DE LA POSITION DE LA COMMUNAUTE DANS LE CADRE DU DIALOGUE NORD-SUD EN VUE D'UNE RELANCE ECONOMIQUE MONDIALE. ILS ONT NOTAMMENT RECONNU LA NECESSITE DANS L'INTERET PROPRE DE L'EUROPE DE FIXER DES OBJECTIFS PRECIS AFIN D'ABOUTIR A DES SOLUTIONS CONCRETES. M. CHEYSSON A NOTAMMENT SOULIGNE LA NECESSITE DE TROUVER DES STRUCTURES ADAPTEES DE NEGOCIATION ET DE DECISION PERMETTANT LA CONSULTATION NON SEULEMENT DE TOUS LES PAYS (Y COMPRIS DE L'EST) MAIS AUSSI DE TOUS LES MILIEUX INTERESSES. IL A CONSTATE UNE CONVERGENCE DE VUES REMARQUABLE PARMIS LES NEUF ET EXPRIME LE SOUHAIT QUE LES 9 AMBASSADEURS AUPRES DE L'ONU QUI PREPARENT UNE RESOLUTION COMMUNE A CE SUJET POUR LA 33EME ASSEMBLEE GENERALE DES NATIONS UNIES ACTUELLEMENT EN COURS PUISSENT ETRE INFORMES DE CE DEBAT. CELUI-CI SERA POURSUIVI ET APPROFONDI DANS LES PROCHAINS MOIS.

A M. CHEYSSON A REMIS AUX DELEGATIONS LE " DOSSIER SUR L'INTERDEPENDANCE EUROPE-TIERS MONDE" QUI VIENT D'ETRE PUBLIE PAR LA DG X EN FRANCAIS (TRADUCTIONS ANGLAIS ET ALLEMAND PREVUES) ET QUI SERA ENVOYE PAR COURRIER SEPRE.

3. L'OPOLITIQUE EN MATIERE DE COFINANCEMENT POUR LES RESSOURCES DONT LA COMMISSION ASSURE LA GESTION (DONT A L'EXCLUSION DE LA BEI).

LE CONSEIL A APPROUVE LE RAPPORT QUE LUI AVAIT SOUMIS LE COREPER A CE SUJET. LA FORMULE DE CO-FINANCEMENT A FAIT SES PREUVES DANS LES PAYS ACP, COMME L'A SOULIGNE. M. CHEYSSON DANS SA PRESENTATION. ON PEUT ESTIMER QUE LA CONFIANCE QU'INSPIRE LA COMMUNAUTE NOTAMMENT PAR LA PRESENCE DES DELEGUES A ENTRAINE DES RESSOURCES SUPPLEMENTAIRES ENTRE 1 ET 1,5 MILLIARD DE DOLLARS. LE RAPPORT SOULIGNE SURTOUT 4 AVANTAGES DE CETTE FORMULE.

- ELLE FAVORISE LE RAPPROCHEMENT ENTRE LES DIVERS ORGANISMES D'AIDE, NOTAMMENT AUSSI A L'INTERIEUR DE LA COMMUNAUTE.
- ELLE FACILITE LA REALISATION DE GRANDS PROJETS DONT LE COUT EST SUPERIEUR AUX POSSIBILITES D'UN SEUL BAILLEUR DE FONDS.
- ELLE EVITE DE DOUBLE-EMPLOIS AU NIVEAU DE LA PREPARATION, DE L'EXECUTION ET DE L'EVALUATION DES PROJETS EN CAUSE.

FIN

AMITIES

K. VON HELLDORFF COMEUR

10.10.1978

