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COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES  
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

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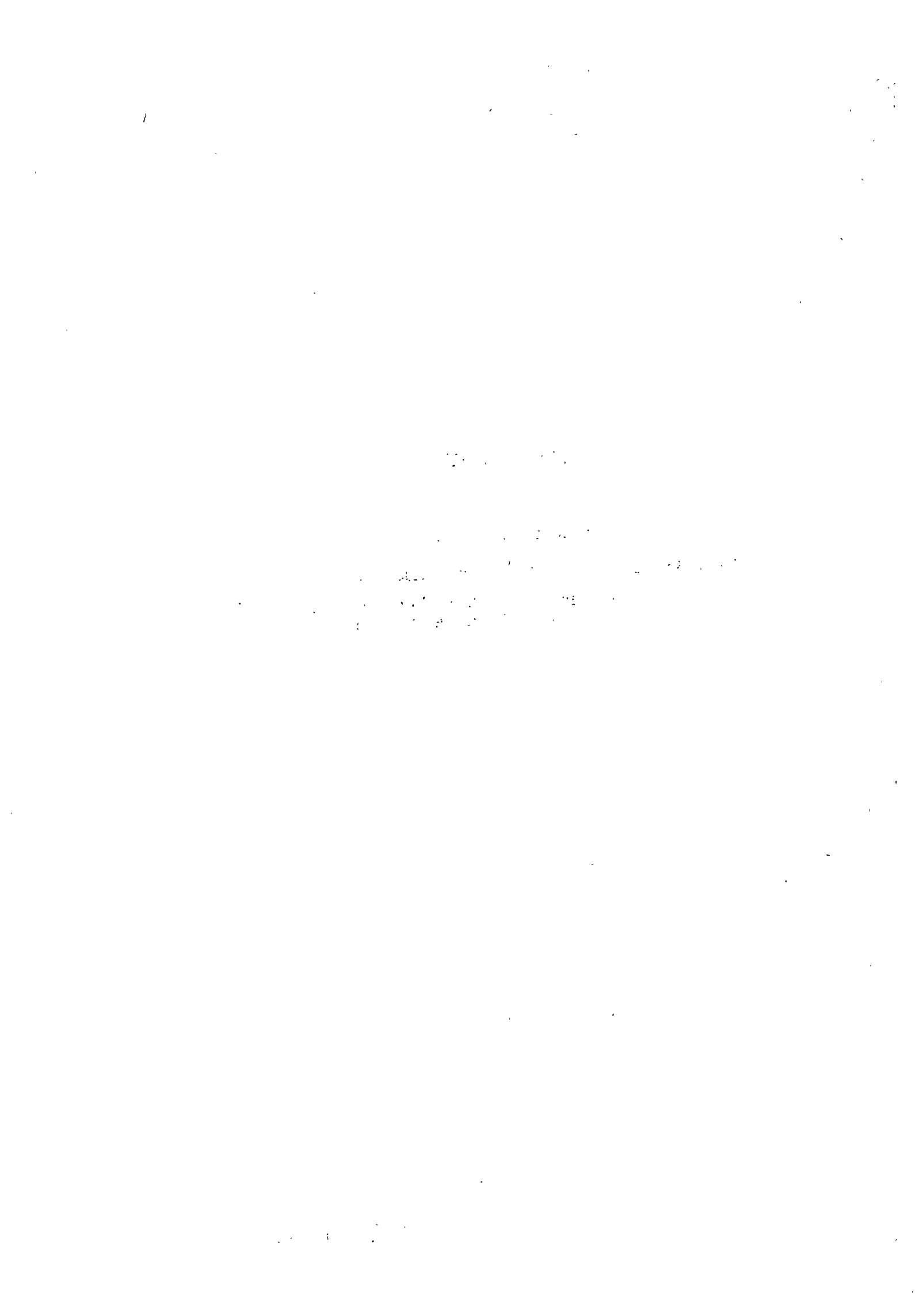
PRESS RELEASE

541st Council meeting

- Energy -

Luxembourg, 30 October 1978

President: Otto Graf LAMBSDORFF,  
Federal Minister for Economic Affairs  
of the Federal Republic of Germany



The Governments of the Member States and the Commission of the European Communities were represented as follows:

Belgium:

Mr Willy CLAES Minister for Economic Affairs

Denmark:

Mr Arne CHRISTIANSEN Minister for Commerce

Germany:

Otto Graf LAMBSDORFF Federal Minister for Economic Affairs

France:

Mr André GIRAUD Minister for Industry

Ireland:

Mr Desmond O'MALLEY Minister for Industry, Commerce and Energy

Italy:

Mr Giuseppe SINESIO Deputy State Secretary,  
Ministry of Industry, Trade and  
Craft Trades

Luxembourg:

Mr Josy BARTHEL Minister for Energy

Netherlands:

Mr G.M.V. van AARDENNE

Minister for Economic Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr Tony BENN

Secretary of State for Energy

Mr Dickson MABON

Minister of State for Energy

Commission:

Mr Guido BRUNNER

Member

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SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY PROJECTS IN THE HYDROCARBONS SECTOR

The Council adopted a Decision concerning support measures for 49 Community projects in the hydrocarbons sector, which are in addition to the 95 projects for which Community support totalling 128 MEUA was granted between 1974 and 1977.

Under this Decision, subsidies - repayable if the results are commercially exploited - up to a maximum amount of 39,687,507 EUA will be granted, for the period 1978-1980, for the implementation of 49 projects which are of fundamental importance in ensuring the Community's supply of hydrocarbons and particularly likely to expedite the exploitation of resources and improve the storage and transport conditions for hydrocarbons in the Community.

The projects in this 4th batch to benefit from Community support concern, particularly, geophysics and prospecting (five projects), drilling (four), new production systems (fourteen), secondary recovery (five), different methods and techniques of transport (twelve), subsea power production (one), storage (four) and materials testing (four).

CO-OPERATION WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN THE FIELD OF ENERGY

On the basis of the Commission communication of 1 August 1978, the Council discussed certain questions relating to co-operation with developing countries in the field of energy. The discussion was to be seen in the context of the follow-up to the conclusions of the Bremen and Bonn summits, which committed the participant countries to fostering co-operation with the developing countries in this area.

After emphasizing the close interdependence between the economies of the developing countries and those of the industrialized countries in the energy sector and the need for world-wide co-operation in this area, the Council reached certain conclusions in accordance with which the Member States and the Community would attribute increased importance to energy questions in their development aid programmes. They would participate in co-ordinated efforts aimed at enabling renewable energy sources to be made use of in the developing countries, thereby meeting the needs expressed by those countries.

In this context, the Council asked the Commission, initially in consultation with the developing countries concerned, to prepare inventories and analyses of needs, resources and instruments for the developing countries, on the understanding that such analyses could represent a Community contribution to the discussion which would have to take place at world level.

The Council also invited the Commission to submit a study of aid granted in respect of energy through the various existing Community instruments and of the measures being studied in international organizations and to examine the advisability of additional Community action.

DISCUSSION ON THE SITING OF POWER STATIONS

The Council adopted a Resolution concerning the mutual exchange of information at Community level on the siting of power stations:

"THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having noted the communication from the Commission of 13 December 1976 concerning Community action on the siting of power stations,

Having noted the Opinions of the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee,

Having regard to the Resolutions adopted by it on 17 December 1974 and 13 February 1975 defining the role of electric power in the context of a Community energy policy,

Having regard to the Resolution adopted by it on energy and the environment on 3 March 1975,

Whereas the selection of sites for new power stations, whether nuclear or conventional, is one of the important problems raised by the development of electric power;

Whereas decisions on the siting of power stations are the responsibility of the Member States and whereas exchanges of information between the Member States on matters relating to the siting of power stations are thus likely to make it easier to find solutions to the problems involved,

1. emphasizes the need to intensify, at Community level, mutual exchanges of information on matters relating to the siting of power stations;
2. takes note of the intention of the Commission to organize, in a group of representatives nominated by the Member States and sitting under the aegis of the Energy Committee, this mutual exchange of information on problems arising out of the siting of power stations, taking into account the diversity of local situations;
3. takes note of the fact that, after consulting the Energy Committee, the Commission will submit a report to the Council on the results obtained from this exchange of information.



ENERGY SITUATION IN THE COMMUNITY

Having received a Commission communication on 22 September 1978 on the energy situation in the Community, the Council held a general discussion on the prospects and policy to be followed with regard to energy.

The discussion allowed delegations to state their opinions and assessments of the need and possibilities for joint action in this area, in the light of the objectives adopted by the European Council and taking account of existing data in the various sectors: oil, coal, nuclear energy, new energy sources and the rational and economic use of energy.

In this connection, the President referred to the positive aspects of the Community's energy policy - taking national and Community policies together - compared with the efforts of other major consumer countries.

The President of the Council also noted that there was agreement that the easing of the energy situation in the short-term should not obscure the problems which continued to arise in the long term and required adherence to the basic objectives that the Community had set itself, viz.:

- the reduction of the share of oil in overall energy consumption and of the Community's dependence on imports of oil,
- the optimum use of Community energy production,
- the rational and economic use of energy in general.

The President noted that there was also a common assessment of the need to present these problems in such a way as to convince the public of the need to accept the restrictions demanded by the situation.

As regards the specific measures in the various sectors, the Council, and the Commission in those areas within its competence, expressed their determination to make every effort to achieve progress in the preparatory work so as to enable the Council to adopt concrete decisions at its meeting in December.

SUPPORT FOR JOINT HYDROCARBON EXPLORATION PROJECTS

As regards the Commission proposal for Community support measures for joint hydrocarbon exploration projects, the Council examined the question of setting up a study group to examine the exploration possibilities in the Community which have not yet been exploited by industry.

In this connection, the Council requested the Permanent Representatives Committee to finalize a draft Resolution with a view to its adoption by the Council as soon as possible.



MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation maintaining in force the arrangements for the authorization of imports into France of gloves originating in Malaysia.

Appointments

Acting on a proposal by the United Kingdom Government, the Council appointed Mr J.I.P. BULL member of the Advisory Committee on Freedom of Movement for Workers to replace Mr R. CONNELL, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, i.e. until 10 October 1979.

Acting on a proposal by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Council also appointed Mr Wolfgang BECHTHOLDT, Präsident der Landesärztekammer Hessen, alternate member of the Advisory Committee on Medical Training to replace Mr Horst BOURMER, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, i.e. until 5 April 1979.

In addition, acting on a proposal by the Irish Government, the Council appointed Mr Christopher DEVINE, General Secretary of the Teachers Union of Ireland, alternate member of the Advisory Committee on Vocational Training to replace Mr Harold O'SULLIVAN, who has resigned as alternate member following his appointment as a full member, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, i.e. until 15 October 1980.

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NOTE BIO(78)390 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX  
C.C. AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE, A M. BURGHARDT DG I ET  
M. LECOMTE DG VIII

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OBJET: PREPARATION CONSEIL ENERGIE(R. ELPHICK)

LE CONSEIL DE MINISTRES DE L'ENERGIE SE REUNIRA LUNDI A LUXEM-  
BOURG A 10H30. IL S'AGIT DE LA PREMIERE DES DEUX REUNIONS DU  
CONSEIL ENERGIE QUI AURONT LIEU AVANT LA FIN DE L'ANNEE SOUS  
LA PRESIDENCE ALLEMANDE. A L'ORDRE DU JOUR FIGURENT DEUX THEMES  
D'INTERET GENERAL: LA COOPERATION AVEC LES PAYS EN VOIE DE DE-  
VELOPPEMENT DANS LE DOMAINE ENERGETIQUE, ET LA SITUATION ENER-  
GETIQUE DANS LA COMMUNAUTE DANS SON ENSEMBLE, AINSI QUE TROIS  
PROJETS DE DECISIONS CONCRETES.

QUANT AU PREMIER THEME, QUI RELEVE DES DECISIONS PRISES PAR LES  
CONFERENCES DE BREME ET DE BONN, LE CONSEIL VA EXAMINER LA PRO-  
POSITION DE LA COMMISSION SUR LES PERSPECTIVES D'UNE  
COOPERATION AVEC LES PVD EN PARTANT D'INVENTAIRES DES BESOINS  
ET DE LA MISE EN VALEUR DES RESSOURCES POTENTIELLES DANS DIFFE-  
RENTS SECTEURS DE L'ENERGIE (VOIR P-85). NOUS AVONS PROPOSE  
LE SOUTIEN D'UNE ACTION COMMUNAUTAIRE DANS CE DOMAINE CHIFFREE  
A TITRE INDICATIF A 10 MUCE. NOUS ATTENDONS DU CONSEIL UNE REAC-  
TION POSITIVE A LA PROPOSITION EN TANT QUE TELLE, SINON LEUR  
ACCORD IMMEDIAT SUR L'OCTROI DES DIX MUCE.

SUR LE DEUXIEME THEME: (SITUATION ENERGETIQUE - VOIR P-96) NOUS  
ESPERONS QUE LA DISCUSSION AU SEIN DU CONSEIL POURRAIT CONTRIBUER  
A L'ELABORATION D'UN BILAN DES OPPORTUNITES POUR UNE POLITIQUE  
COMMUNE DANS LE DOMAINE ENERGETIQUE. IL EST A VOIR SI LE DE-  
BAT POURRAIT MENER A UN DEBLOQUAGE DES DOSSIER DANS LE CONSEIL  
ET A MIEUX PREPARER LES DECISIONS A PREVOIR LORS DE LA  
REUNION DU CONSEIL EN DECEMBRE.

EN CE QUI CONCERNE LES TROIS AUTRES POINTS A L'ODRE DU JOUR, LE  
CONSEIL VA PREMIEREMENT DECIDER DE L'OCTROI DE LA QUATRIEME  
TRANCHE DE MESURES DE SOUTIEN DANS LE SECTEUR DES HYDROCARBURES  
(VOIR P-93). 49 NOUVEAUX PROJETS SE TROUVENT SUR LA LISTE POUR  
UN MONTANT DE QUELQUES 39 MILLIONS D'UNITES DE COMPTE. IL S'AGIT  
D'UNE NOUVELLE TECHNOLOGIE POUR L'EXPLORATION, LA PRODUCTION,  
LE STOCKAGE ET LE TRANSPORT DES HYDROCARBURES.

DEUXIEMEMENT, LE CONSEIL VA EXAMINER LA PROPOSITION DE LA COM-  
MISSION SUR UNE CONCERTATION ET DES CONSULTATIONS POUR L'IMPLAN-  
TATION DE CENTRALES ELECTRIQUES, PARTICULIEREMENT EN CE QUI  
CONCERNE LES CENTRALES SUSCEPTIBLES D'AFFECTER LE TERRITOIRE  
D'UN AUTRE ETAT MEMBRE. A L'ORIGINE LA COMMISSION A PROPOSE  
(VOIR P-97 DE DECEMBRE 1976) UN PROJET DE RESOLUTION SUR  
LA NECESSITE D'UN ECHANGE D'INFORMATIONS DANS CE DOMAINE, ET  
AUSSI UN REGLEMENT CONCERNANT L'INSTAURATION D'UNE PROCEDURE DE

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M. PERLOT

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DE CONSULTATIONS COMMUNAUTAIRES. IL EST EVIDENT QUE LE CONSEIL SE LIMITE A UNE DECISION SUR L'ECHANGE D'INFORMATIONS, MAIS IL EXISTE TOUJOURS UNE RESERVE GENERALE DE LA PART DES BRITANNIQUES.

TROISIEMEMENT, EN CE QUI CONCERNE LA PROPOSITION DE REGLEMENT DU CONSEIL CONCERNANT LE SOUTIEN DE PROJETS COMMUNS D'EXPLORATION D'HYDROCARBURES (VOIR IP-251 D'OCTOBRE 1977), IL EXISTE LA AUSSI UNE RESERVE GENERALE DE LA PART DU ROYAUME UNI.

10H40

AMITIES,

~~REED PERLOREDDDEED~~

PAUL CERF COMEUR

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NOTE BIO(78)390 (SUITE 1) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX  
C.C. AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE, A M. BURGHARDT DG I ET A  
M. LECOMTE DG VIII

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SUBJECT: PREPARATION OF ENERGY COUNCIL (R. ELPHICK)

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PRESENTING THE COUNCIL'S AGENDA AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY,  
COMMISSIONER GUIDO BRUNNER CALLED ON THE ENERGY MINISTERS TO  
DEMONSTRATE THEIR POLITICAL WILL IN FAVOUR OF ENERGY SAVING  
MEASURES IN ADVANCE OF THE OPEC MEETING IN ABU DHABI IN DECEM-  
BER. HE ALSO CALLED ON PRESIDENT CARTER TO DO MORE BY ADMINI-  
STRATIVE MEASURES IF NECESSARY TO MAKE GOOD THE PROMISES HE  
MADE TO THE EUROPEANS AND THE JAPANESE IN BONN LAST SUMMER.  
THE PRESIDENT HAD SAID THE UNITED STATES WOULD TRY TO SAVE  
2.5 MILLION BARRELS A DAY. THE LATEST ENERGY BILL PASSED BY  
CONGRESS FORESAW SAVING OF 2.4 TO 2.9 MILLION BARRELS A DAY,  
YET THE LATEST UNOFFICIAL FIGURES FOR CONSUMPTION REVEALED A  
2.1 PERCENT JUMP FOR NEXT YEAR. MR. BRUNNER SUGGESTED MR. CARTER  
MIGHT HAVE TO TAKE ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION TO RAISE PRICES AT  
HOME AND TO PERSUADE AMERICANS OF THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE PROBLEM.  
MR. BRUNNER SAID THE OPEC MEETING IN DECEMBER WOULD BE DISCUS-  
SING RAISING PRICES ONCE AGAIN. HE DID NOT BELIEVE THE MARKET  
SITUATION JUSTIFIED ANY PRICE RISE AT THIS TIME. DEMAND HAD  
SUNK IN THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THIS YEAR FROM 31 MILLION  
BARRELS A DAY TO 29 MBD, WHICH WAS FAR BENEATH OPEC PRODUCTION  
CAPACITY OF 41 MBD. IN ADDITION HE POINTED TO THE PARLOUS STATE  
OF THE EUROPEAN REFINERY INDUSTRY, WHERE OVERCAPACITY AMOUNTED  
TO 80 MILLION TONNES AND PROFITABILITY HAD TO BE RESTORED. THE  
FALL IN THE VALUE OF THE DOLLAR AMOUNTING TO 23 PERCENT THIS YEAR  
WAS ALSO NO CAUSE FOR A RISE IN OIL PRICES. RAISING PRICES  
WOULD ONLY MEAN MORE PRESSURE ON THE DOLLAR AND LESS STABILITY  
WHILE WHAT WAS WANTED WAS STRONGER ACTION BY THE AMERICANS AND  
MORE STABILITY ON CURRENCY MARKETS WHICH WOULD BE HELPED BY THE  
MEASURES ENVISAGED IN THE EUROPEAN MONETARY SYSTEM.  
AS FOR THE ENERGY COUNCIL, MR. BRUNNER SAID THE OUTCOME OF THE  
DEBATE ON THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSALS TO HELP LESS DEVELOPED  
COUNTRIES HELP THEMSELVES IN THE ENERGY FIELD WOULD BE AN IM-  
PORTANT SIGNAL FOR OPEC AND FOR THE WORLD.  
QUESTIONED ABOUT A POSSIBLE CHANGE IN THE BASIS BY WHICH OPEC  
MIGHT CALCULATE PRICES IN THE FUTURE, MR. BRUNNER SAID HE DID  
NOT BELIEVE A CHANGE FROM A DOLLAR BASIS TO A CURRENCY  
BASKET WOULD PRODUCE MORE STABILITY. IT MIGHT RATHER BE THE  
CAUSE OF GREATER DETERIORATION FOR THE DOLLAR AND MAKE  
THINGS WORSE. HE COULD NOT GIVE A FIGURE FOR HOW MUCH HE THOUGHT  
THE AMERICANS SHOULD RAISE PRICES TO BRING HOME TO A SCEPTICAL  
PUBLIC THE NEED FOR ENERGY SAVING. (15H40)  
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ENZO PERLOT COMEUR

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CONNEXION AVEC ORDINATEUR, NE PAS COUPER S.V.P.

NOTRE REFERENCE:

124122

BRUXELLES, LE 30.10.78

REF. NR. 124122 MEE

DE LUXEMBOURG :

NOTE B I O (78) 390 (SUITE 2) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX  
C.C. AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE, A M. BURGHARDT DG I ET A M. LECOMTE DG VIII

C O N S E I L E N E R G I E

COOPERATION WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN ENERGY

THE ENERGY COUNCIL BEGAN ITS WORK UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF OTTO VAN LAMBSDORF AT 10.30 WITH AN EXAMINATION OF THE COMMISSIONS PROPOSAL FOR COOPERATION WITH THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN THE FIELD OF ENERGY. INTRODUCED BY COMMISSIONER GUIDO BRUNNER, THE COMMISSIONS PROPOSAL RECEIVED GENERALLY FAVOURABLE COMMENTS ALTHOUGH THE MINISTERS WERE NOT INCLINED TO SANCTION ANY PARTICULAR EXPENDITURE AT THIS MOMENT. INSTAED THEY CALLED ON THE COMMISSION TO UNDERTAKE MORE WORK AND RETURN WITH PROPOSALS FOR SPECIFIC ACTION AT THE DECEMBER COUNCIL IF POSSIBLE.

ENERGY SITUATION IN THE COMMUNITY

THE REST OF THE MORNING WAS TAKEN UP WITH A LENGTHY DEBATE ON THE COMMISSIONS COMMUNICATION ON THE ENERGY SITUATION IN THE COMMUNITY. IT WAS MARKED BY A PLEA FROM TONY BENN (UK) THAT ENERGY POLICY WAS THE PRESERVE OF MEMBER STATES, THIS THESIS BEING THAT WHAT WAS GOOD FOR EACH MEMBER STATE MUST BE GOOD FOR THE COMMUNITY. A MORE GENERAL VIEW HOWEVER WAS ENUNCIATED BY M. GIRAUD OF FRANCE WHO WILL BE THE COUNCILS NEXT CHAIRMAN. HE SUGGESTED THAT WHAT WAS NEEDED AT THE VERY LEAST WAS A MINIMUM OF SOLIDARITY AND THAT WAS WHAT THE HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT SIGNALLED AT BREMEN AND BONN.

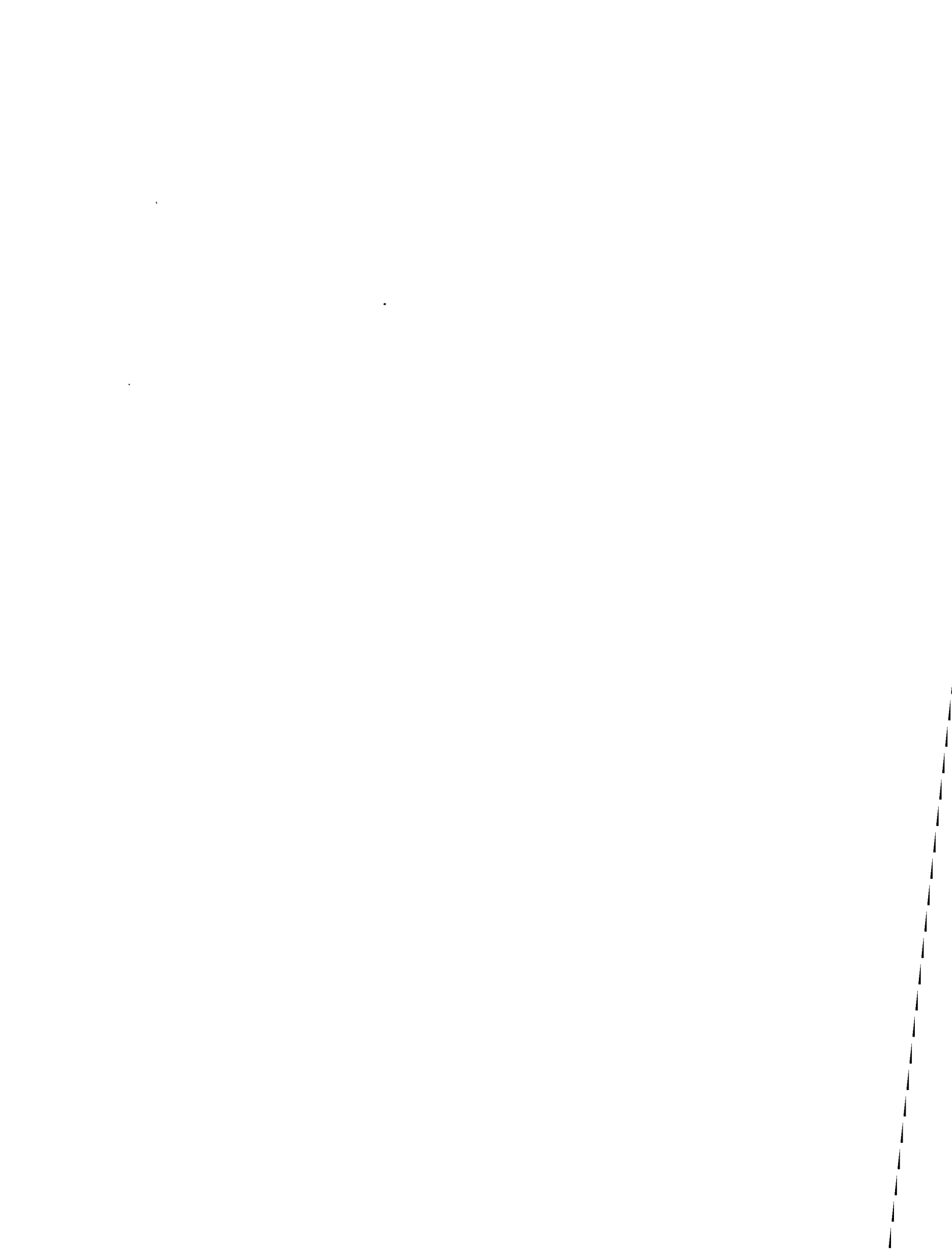
MORE LATER

AMITIES,

R. ELPHICK

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CONNEXION AVEC ORDINATEUR, NE PAS COUPER S.V.P.  
NOTRE REFERENCE:  
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BRUXELLES LE 30.10.1978

REF NR. 124346-FAN

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DE LUXEMBOURG :

NOTE BIO (78) 390 (SUITE 3) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX  
C.C. AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE, A M. BURGHARDTHBG I ET A M. LECOMTE  
DG VIII

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CONSEIL ENERGIE( ELPHICK)  
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Reply via RCA: call 212-248-7000

AFTER THE LUNCHBREAK MR. BRUNNER INTERVENED TO DEFEND THE PRINCIPLE OF A COMMUNITY ENERGY POLICY. THERE HAD BEEN MUCH MISUNDERSTANDING OF THE CONCEPT AND AN UNFAIR COMPARISON MADE WITH THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY. THAT WAS AN IMPOSSIBLE YARDSTICK. IN ENERGY THE COMMUNITY HAD TO IDENTIFY THEIR INTERESTS AND DEFEND THOSE INTERESTS IN ORDER TO GAIN CREDIBILITY AND TO DO SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY'S INDUSTRIAL AND ECONOMIC POTENTIAL. THERE WAS A CLOSE LINK BETWEEN ENERGY, MONETARY AND ECONOMIC POLICY. DEPENDENCE ON OUTSIDE SOURCES HAD TO BE REDUCED; ENERGY SAVING MEASURES INTRODUCED. THE COMMISSION HAD TO HELP THE REFINERY INDUSTRY; ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES SHOULD BE EXPLORED.

THE MAIN POINT WAS THAT THE COMMUNITY WOULD BE WORKING WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK WE SET OURSELVES. HE WAS RATHER OPTIMISTIC.

THE CHAIRMAN, SUMMING UP, SAID THE COMMUNITY'S ENERGY POLICY AS THE SUM OF NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY POLICIES DID NOT LOOK TOO BAD. THE BASIC AIMS WERE AS ALWAYS TO REDUCE IMPORT DEPENDENCE AND THE OIL SHARE OF IT: OPTIMAL USE OF THE COMMUNITY'S OWN PRODUCTION, AND RATIONAL AND ECONOMIC USE OF ENERGY.

THERE WAS AGREEMENT ON THE NEED TO CONVINCHE THE PUBLIC OF THE PROBLEMS. ON OIL, IMPROVEMENTS IN THE REFINING SECTOR WERE AGREED BASICALLY FOR THE INDUSTRY ITSELF ALTHOUGH THERE WERE DIFFERENCES OVER THE RESPECTIVE NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY COMPETENCES. THE COMMISSION WAS ASKED TO SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE DECEMBER COUNCIL.

COAL: THERE WAS AGREEMENT THAT COAL MUST MAKE A GREAT CONTRIBUTION.

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THE COMPETITIVE POSITION OF THE COMMUNITY HAD WORSENERD AND THE COMMISSION AGAIN WAS ASKED TO REPORT TO THE DECEMBER COUNCIL ON THE COMMISSION'S NEW PROPOSALS.

NUCLEAR ENERGY:

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THE BREMEN COUNCIL AND THE BONN SUMMIT HAD AGREED TO THE NECESSITY OF NUCLEAR ENERGY. IN THE LONG TERM NUCLEAR SECURITY OF FUEL SUPPLY AND WASTE DISPOSAL WAS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT. EFFORTS HAD TO BE MADE TO PERSUADE PUBLIC OPINION OF ITS ACCEPTABILITY.

Reply via RCA: call 212-248-7000

Over

Global Telegram

NEW SOURCES:

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THIS WAS PARTICULARLY A MATTER FOR NATIONAL COMPETENCE. ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY EFFORTS WERE SENSIBLE. THE COMMISSION PROPOSALS HAD TO BE CAREFULLY EXAMINED AND IF POSSIBLE DECISIONS ARRIVED AT DURING THE DECEMBER COUNCIL.

RATIONAL AND ECONOMIC USE OF ENERGY :

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THIS WAS ALSO PRIMARILY A MATTER FOR NATIONAL COMPETENCE. COORDINATION WAS IMPORTANT AND ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY MEASURES ALSO SENSIBLE. COMMISSION'S PROPOSALS ON DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS, LABELLING OF HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCES, MODERNIZATION OF OLD BUILDINGS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WITH CARE AND IF POSSIBLE AGREEMENTS REACHED IN DECEMBER.

ENERGY TARGETS:

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ALL AGREED ON THE HIGH DEGREE OF UNCERTAINTY OF ALL FORECASTS. HOWEVER, TARGETS WERE NECESSARY, AND THE CHAIRMAN SAID HE HOPED FOR A DISCUSSION IN DECEMBER ON THE BASIS OF FORECASTS FOR 1990.

COORDINATION:

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THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT BY MINISTERS THAT COORDINATION OF NATIONAL POLICIES WAS SPECIALLY IMPORTANT AND SHOULD BE STRENGTHENED.

HYDROCARBON PROJECTS:

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THE COUNCIL ACCEPTED WITHOUT DEBATE THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSAL TO FUND 49 PROJECTS AT A COST OF 39 MILLION UNITS OF ACCOUNT.

SITING OF POWER STATIONS:

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THE COUNCIL ALSO ACCEPTED PART OF THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSAL THAT POWER STATION SITING SHOULD BE DISCUSSED BY MEMBER STATES. THE MINISTERS AGREED TO SET UP A CONSULTATIVE BODY.

MORE LATER

AMITIES

R. ELPHICK

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CONNEXION AVEC ORDINATEUR, NE PAS COUPER S.V.P.  
NOTRE REFERENCE:  
124369

BRUXELLES LE 30.10.78

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N O T E B I O (78) 390 (SUITE 4) ET FIN AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX  
C.C AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE, A M. BURGHARDT DG I ET A M. LECOMTE DG  
VIII

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CONSEIL ENERGIE (ELPHICK)  
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COMMISSION'S PROPOSAL FOR AID FOR HYDROCARBON EXPLORATION.  
MR. BENN INTRODUCED A LAST MINUTE AMENDMENT EXPLAINING HE WAS  
CONCERNED THAT THE WORDING AS PROPOSED MIGHT GIVE NEW COMPETENCES  
TO THE COMMISSION IN AN AREA WHICH WAS THE EXCLUSIVE CONCERN OF  
NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS.

MR. BRUNNER EXPLAINED THAT THIS WAS NOT, REPEAT NOT THE INTENTION,  
HOWEVER THE AFFAIRS WAS REMITTED BACK FOR EXPERT EXAMINATION AND  
WILL BE RESUBMITTED AT ANOTHER COUNCIL.

AT THEIR JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE AFTERWARDS BOTH COUNT LAMBSDORF  
AND MR BRUNNER WERE QUESTIONED ABOUT THE EXPRESSION OF POLITICAL  
WILL, WHICH MR. BRUNNER HAD MENTIONED ON FRIDAY, WOULD BE WHAT  
HE WANTED TO COME FROM THE COUNCIL. THE COMMISSIONER SUGGESTED THEN  
THIS WOULD SERVE AS A SIGNAL TO THE AMERICANS AND ALSO TO THE OPEC  
COUNTRIES IN ADVANCE OF THEIR MEETING IN ABU DHABI WHERE THEY WOULD  
BE DISCUSSING PRICE RISES.

MR. LAMBSDORF SAID A POLITICAL STATEMENT OF THE COUNCIL'S WILL  
COULD BE INFERRED FROM WHAT HAD BEEN DECIDED. HE ASSUMED THE OPEC  
COUNTRIES WOULD CAREFULLY CONSIDER ALL THAT HAD BEEN DONE, BEFORE  
THEY TOOK ANY DECISIONS. THE RESULTS OF TODAY'S MEETING THEREFORE  
WOULD PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE.

MR. BRUNNER SAID THE COUNCIL'S DECISIONS TODAY MEANT THAT THE COMMU-  
NITY NOW HAD OBJECTIVES IN THE ENERGY FIELD WHICH WERE PRECISE,  
PARTICULARLY AS REGARDS THE NEED FOR REDUCTION OF IMPORT DEPENDENCE  
AND THE SHARE OF OIL IN THAT DEPENDENCE. THE WHOLE PACKAGE OF  
MEASURES INCLUDING ENERGY SAVINGS, COAL, NUCLEAR AND ALTERNATIVE SOUR-  
CES WAS IMPROVED AND THIS WAS A VERY IMPORTANT RESULT, AND PRECISELY  
WHAT HE HAD LOOKED FOR. THE COMMISSION'S VIEW WAS THAT IT WAS HAPPY  
WITH THESE RESULTS AND WITH THE SUMMARY GIVEN BY THE PRESIDENCY.

QUESTIONED ABOUT HIS APPEAL TO THE AMERICAN ON FRIDAY TO MAKE  
GOOD THEIR PROMISES IN OIL CONSERVATION, MR. BRUNNER SAID THAT  
THERE WAS NO INTENTION TODAY TO POINT THE FINGER AT ANYONE. THE  
EXPRESSION OF OUR POLITICAL WILL REFERRED TO WHAT WE OURSELVES  
WERE DOING AND WHAT WE WERE PREPARING TO DO IN THE FUTURE.

END

AMITIES.

R. ELPHICK





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Reply via RCA: cal

CONNEXION AVEC ORDINATEUR, NE PAS COUPER S.V.P.  
NOTRE REFERENCE:  
124944  
BRUXELLES LE 31.10.78

REF. 124944 / VLI

MR. ANDREW MULLIGAN  
WASHINGTON OFFICE (248455 COMEUR)

SORRY WAS NOT HERE YESTERDAY TO ANSWER YOUR CABLE, BUT HOPE YOU HAVE BY NOW SEEN ME LENGTHY BIO FROM LUXEMBOURG ON THE ENERGY COUNCIL. AS FOR TEXT OF BRUNNER PRESSER, THIS UNFORTUNATELY NOT AVAILABLE AS THERE IS NO DRILL HERE FOR MAKING THESE ROUTINE-  
LY OR BY SPECIAL REQUEST. MY ORIGINAL BIO OF LAST FRIDAY IS REASONABLY COMPREHENSIVE IN RELAYING THE MAIN POINTS. INFORMATIONALLY ASSOCIATED PRESS GAVE A GOOD AND FULL REPORT OF WHAT WAS SAID.

IN ADDITION TO THESE TWO SOURCES CAN ALSO SAY THAT COMMUNITY ENERGY POLICY REMAINS WHAT IT HAS BEEN FOR SOME TIME. WE DO NOT EXPECT ANY GREAT LEAPS FORWARDS BUT RATHER STEADY PLODDING TOWARDS GOALS WHICH ARE NOW FIXED OF REDUCING ENERGY DEPENDENCE TO FIFTY PERCENT BY 1985 AND REDUCING THE SHARE OF OIL IN THAT DEPENDENCE. IN ADDITION WE HAVE SERIOUS GOALS FOR ENERGY SAVING, INVESTMENT INTO NEW TECHNIQUES AND PROPOSALS ARE ALREADY ON THE TABLE FOR MORE COMMUNITY SOLIDARITY IN SUCH FIELDS AS COAL PRODUCTION AND BETTER USE OF OWN RESOURCES.

BACKGROUNDWISE, BRUNNER S PROPOSAL FOR STATEMENT OF POLITICAL WILL TOWARDS OUTSIDEWORLTD WAS DISCUSSED BY MINISTERS DURING LUNCH YESTERDAY. MINISTERS GENERALLY THOUGHT WELL OF INITIATIVE, BUT CONSIDERED ENOUGH HAD BEEN DONE TO MAKE FOINT VIS A VIS AMERICANS AND OPEC. PRIVATE CONTACTS BWITH BOTH OPEC AND USA ARE GOING AHEAD, IN HOPE OF CALMING OPEC AND AVOIDING PRICE RISE. LAMBS-DORFF IN FACT WAS IN TEHERAN OVER WEEKEND WHERE APART FROM SEEING SHAH, HE ALSO TALKED WITH RICHARD COOPER OF STATE DEPARTMENT. COMMISSION STILL BELIEVES UNISTATES NOT DOING ENOUGH BUT BRUNNER GAVE MESSAGE WE WANTED TO IMPART FRIDAY AND WE FEEL THAT IS ENOUGH FOR TIME BEING.

BEST HALLOWEEN AND ALLSAINTS WISHES,

ROBERT ELPHICK COMEUR  
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