



COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES  
GENERAL SECRETARIAT



PRESS RELEASE

6486/81 (Presse 59)

703rd Council meeting  
- Development Co-operation -  
Luxembourg, 28 April 1981

President: Mr J. de KONING  
Minister for Development Co-operation  
of the Kingdom of the Netherlands



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Netherlands:

Mr J. de KONING

Minister for Development  
Co-operation

United Kingdom:

Mr Neil MARTEN

Minister of State, Foreign  
and Commonwealth Office

Commission:

Mr Claude CHEYSSON

Member

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NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE

On the basis of an introductory statement by Mr CHEYSSON, Member of the Commission, the Council held a wide-ranging exchange of views on the present state of the North/South Dialogue and on the preparation of the Community's basic position. During this exchange of views, it was emphasized, among other things, that the Community should continue to play a constructive role both in the discussions in the UN in New York with a view to launching the global negotiations and in the other international negotiations in the field of the global North/South Dialogue.

As regards the preparation of the Community's basic position, the Council noted that, in accordance with the conclusions of the European Council in Maastricht, the preparatory work was well under way on the basis of the proposals made by the Commission, and that the General Affairs Council meeting on 22 June 1981 would be examining this file. The Development Co-operation Council, for its part, will hold a further exchange of views on the North/South Dialogue before that General Affairs Council meeting.

HUNGER IN THE WORLD

In the light, in particular, of the European Parliament's debates on hunger in the world, and on the basis of a report from the Permanent Representatives Committee, the Council held a detailed exchange of views on the important and serious matter of the world food supply situation, a topic of great concern to all the delegations in view of the persistence of considerable imbalances to the detriment of the developing countries and the alarming developments in the food supply situation in several areas of the world.

Following a detailed discussion, during which it reaffirmed the Community's determination to contribute very actively towards resolving these problems, the Council adopted

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the following Resolution which must furthermore be considered in the context of the important Resolution already adopted by the Development Co-operation Council at its meeting on this subject on 18 November 1980. In addition, the Council agreed to include the problem of hunger in the world on the agenda for its future meetings on development.

"The Council again discussed the world food situation and expressed its very grave concern on the matter. The food-supply situation is characterized by the persistence of major imbalances to the detriment of the poorest developing countries and the worst-off groups of people and by increasingly intolerable rises in both the volume and cost of food imports for most developing countries.

It noted with particular concern the unfavourable trends in the food situation in certain regions of the world, particularly in the African countries party to the Lomé Convention, and hopes that the joint awareness of the seriousness of the problems facing those countries will lead to increased co-operation between the Community and the ACP States concerned in order to overcome a situation which, in addition to its unacceptable human aspects, poses a serious threat to the economic and social development of the latter.

These considerations led the Council to reaffirm its determination that the Community should make a very positive contribution towards solving the problems and it reiterated the guidelines laid down in the Resolutions it adopted on 18 November 1980 defining the Community's overall approach to the fight against hunger in the world and on the use of Community food aid to attain food-security objectives in the developing countries.

After examining the Community's follow-up to this Resolution and to the European Parliament's Resolution on hunger in the world, the Council:

- took note of the decision to extend the Wheat Trade Convention for 2 years. It hopes, nevertheless, that negotiations for a new Convention can be resumed in the near future;
- was pleased that the Food Aid Convention had been extended: this meant that the Community had extended for the next two years its 1980 commitment to increase its cereals-aid commitments to 1,650,000 tonnes for 1980-1981;
- reaffirmed its support for measures which might be developed as part of Community financial and technical aid to assist those countries which so wished to work out and introduce national food strategies. It reaffirmed its intention to use food aid together with other Community aid instruments to help achieve the conditions necessary to realize recipients' plans for greater food and agricultural production;
- took note of the Commission proposals indicating the place which the topic of agriculture and food should occupy in the North/South discussions and expressed the hope that the current work in the Council on these proposals might lead as soon as possible to a common position on the various aspects of this subject."

FOOD AID

The Council examined the Commission proposals concerning the Community's food aid programmes in 1981. These proposals provide, as regards the Community, for the grant of 927,663 tonnes of cereals, 150,000 tonnes of skimmed-milk powder and 45,000 tonnes of butteroil, to be allocated among the developing countries on the basis of various criteria such as basic nutritional requirements, economic development and external finance. As in the case of the previous programmes, part of the aid will be channelled to the beneficiaries through international agencies, particularly non-governmental organizations.

During this discussion, it was stressed that food aid should not be an end in itself, but that the Community's aim should primarily be to provide assistance for the drawing up of food supply strategies in those countries which wanted this assistance. At the request of various delegations, Mr CHEYSSON also explained the Commission's ideas on certain problems of implementation such as quality control, multiannual programming and storage.

The formal decisions on these programmes will be taken as soon as possible by the Council in the light of the Opinion expected from the European Parliament.

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The Council held a discussion on the draft framework Regulation on food aid policy and food aid management, following which it instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine certain outstanding difficulties of an institutional nature, in order to arrive at a common position by the Council meeting on 22 June 1981. It should be noted that this common position will have to be forwarded to the European Parliament, which has requested the opening of the conciliation procedure on this Regulation.

PARIS CONFERENCE ON THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

Following its discussions on preparations for the Paris Conference on the least developed countries, the Council stressed that, in the context of its development co-operation policy, the specific problems of the least developed countries have always been of particular concern to the Community, and that accordingly it attaches great importance to the Paris Conference on account of the nature and significance of the questions to be discussed.

It agreed that the Community as such should participate in the Conference, alongside the Member States, and instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to work on this matter to enable the Community to play a constructive role at the Conference, and to report to the Development Co-operation Council in good time.

It noted that the Commission intends to submit proposals to this effect.



COMMUNITY CO-OPERATION WITH AND AID TO THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

At the end of its discussions on the assessment of Community co-operation with and aid to developing countries, the Council adopted the following Resolution:

"The Community's co-operation with developing countries is both an important aspect of its activities and a practical effort to contribute towards solving the problems of the third world.

The Community undertakes this co-operation in various legal forms and by various procedures:

- by contractual policies (such as the Lomé Convention or the Agreements with Mediterranean countries);
- by regional or bilateral co-operation agreements (agreements with ASEAN or with other countries);
- by unilateral assistance (such as financial and technical aid to non-associated countries, food aid programmes, the generalized preferences scheme and emergency aid).

The main types of Community financial aid are grants and loans. Loans are either special loans or loans from the European Investment Bank's own resources (with interest rate subsidies where appropriate). The sources of finance are the European Development Fund (contributions from the Member States), the Community budget and the European Investment Bank.

Records, reports and assessments of the various types of Community aid are drawn up both by Community bodies and by joint bodies:

- reports by the Commission and the European Investment Bank under the Lomé Convention and reports by the Committee set up under Article 108 of that Convention;
- report on aid to the Maghreb and Mashreq countries;
- progress report on aid to non-associated countries;
- sectoral assessment studies drawn up by the Commission;
- report by the Commission to the Development Assistance Committee;
- annual report by the Court of Auditors of the European Communities.

This great diversity means that it is difficult to obtain an overall picture of Community aid.

Such an overall picture is essential, however, to assess the extent to which aid effectively fulfils the Community's objectives.

These records and reports are studied by different bodies, but have not so far been used to make an overall and systematic assessment of the effectiveness of Community aid.

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The Council of Ministers responsible for Development Co-operation accordingly agrees to undertake such an overall assesment periodically on the basis of the abovementioned reports and studies. This assessment should result in a Resolution containing a number of recommendations on the future implementation of Community aid. This Resolution would be forwarded to the European Parliament for information.

The Commission will take account of the Council's willingness to undertake such an assessment when it draws up its annual report on Community development policy."

COMMUNITY AID TO REFUGEES

The Council held an initial exchange of views which opened with a statement by Mr CHEYSSON, Member of the Commission, who, in the light of the outcome of the recent discussions of the United Nations Conference on Assistance to African Refugees, laid particular emphasis on the inadequacy of the instruments and means available to the international community for dealing with refugee rehabilitation.

The delegations expressed their reactions and the Council noted that the Commission intended to submit a communication on this subject shortly, with particular reference to the comments made during today's exchange of views.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The Development Co-operation Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to work out an appropriate date for the Council's next meeting so that it could be held before the meeting of the General Affairs Council on 22 June. At its next meeting, the Development Co-operation Council will, among other things, hold a further exchange of views on the North/South Dialogue and prepare for the Nairobi Conference on new and renewable sources of energy (Nairobi, 10-21 August 1981) and the Paris Conference on the least-developed countries (Paris, 1-12 September 1981).

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MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Relations with the ACP States and the OCT

In the context of its relations with the ACP States and the OCT the Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Decision adopting the rules of procedure of the Article 22 Committee, provided for in the second ACP-EEC Convention, set up under the auspices of the European Investment Bank and dealing with industrial co-operation and financial and technical co-operation.

The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation regarding the application of Decision No 2/81 of the ACP-EEC Customs Co-operation Committee derogating from the definition of the concept of "originating products" to take into account the special situation of Mauritius with regard to the export to the Community of 1,000 tonnes of canned tuna during a period ending on 29 January 1982.

Finally, the Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the ECSC, pending the negotiation and signature by the Community and the ACP States of an adapting and transitional Protocol, adopted measures extending until 30 June 1981 the time limit of the provisional arrangements applicable to trade between the Hellenic Republic and the ACP States.

Aid to shipbuilding

The Council adopted the fifth Directive on aid to shipbuilding.

As the continuing crisis in this sector entails serious consequences which make it impossible to abolish aid in the immediate future, this Directive is aimed - like the fourth Directive of April 1978, from which it takes over - at providing a framework for aid in order to continue reorganizing and increasing the efficiency of the Community shipbuilding industry.

To this end, and in accordance with the OECD Council Resolution of 30 January 1980, it discourages aid aimed at increasing capacity. Only under certain conditions does it allow aid for rescuing an undertaking, aid designed to cope with the social or regional consequences of restructuring, and aid intended to meet the crisis.

The Directive applies until 31 December 1982.

Relations with Yugoslavia

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation on the conclusion of an EEC/Yugoslavia Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters and the corrigendum to Annex A to the Interim Agreement between the EEC and Yugoslavia on trade and trade co-operation.

The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision on the conclusion of a voluntary restraint agreement with Yugoslavia in the sheepmeat and goatmeat sector.

Commercial policy

The Council, on the one hand, and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the ECSC, on the other hand, adopted in the official languages of the Communities two Decisions concerning negotiations under Article XXIV(6) of the GATT (following Greece's accession to the Communities).

The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision on the conclusion of voluntary restraint agreements with Austria, Iceland, Poland and Romania in the sheepmeat and goatmeat sector.

Emergency aid for Lebanon

The Council agreed to the Community making an amount of 300,000 ECU, charged against Article 950 of the 1981 budget, available to the International Committee of the Red Cross as a contribution to the emergency programme for Lebanon. The ICRC's emergency programme, which involves 1,300,000 ECU for the period April-August 1981, was worked out following the considerable worsening of the situation in the eastern and southern regions of Lebanon, especially the Zahle region, and is intended to cover the population's urgent food and medical requirements.

Food aid for El Salvador

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation amending Regulations (EEC) Nos 1311/80 and 1313/80 on the supply of skimmed-milk powder and milk fats respectively to certain developing countries and specialized bodies under the food aid programmes. The effect of this amendment is to re-allocate the direct food aid earmarked for El Salvador in the form of 700 t of skimmed-milk powder and 200t of butteroil to the Catholic Relief Service and to the International Committee of the Red Cross, humanitarian bodies operating in that country which are able to distribute these foodstuffs equitably to the whole population affected.

Emergency food aid for China

Further to the decision of principle of 17 March 1981 to grant food aid to the People's Republic of China, the Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation allocating 2,000 tonnes of skimmed-milk powder as emergency food aid. This is in addition to the allocation of 8,000 tonnes of colza oil decided on previously.



Agricultural policy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a series of Regulations resulting from the fixing of agricultural prices for 1981/1982 and related measures, namely the Regulations:

- establishing a system of aid for bee-keeping in respect of the 1981/1982, 1982/1983 and 1983/1984 marketing years;
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 2511/69 in respect of lemons and Regulation (EEC) No 1035/72 in respect of lemons and preventive withdrawals of apples and pears;
- fixing certain prices and other amounts applicable in the fruit and vegetable sector for the 1981/1982 marketing year;
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 516/77 on the common organization of the market in products processed from fruit and vegetables;
- limiting the production aid granted in respect of certain products processed from fruit and vegetables;
- laying down general rules for applying the minimum price for table wine;
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 2727/75 on the common organization of the market in cereals;
- laying down general rules for granting adjusted refunds in the case of cereals exported in the form of certain spirituous beverages and the criteria for fixing the amount of such refunds and amending Regulation (EEC) No 3035/80 concerning certain products not covered by Annex II to the Treaty;
- fixing, for the period 1 November 1981 to 31 October 1982, the basic price and the standard quality for slaughtered pigs;
- determining the Community scale for the classification of carcasses of adult bovine animals;
- on the grant of a premium for the birth of calves in Italy;
- continuing, for the 1981/1982 marketing year, the premium for the slaughter of certain adult bovine animals provided for in Regulation (EEC) No 870/77.

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Other decisions

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision concerning the conclusion of the OECD Understanding on export credits for ships and laying down arrangements for its application.

The Council gave the assent requested by the Commission under Article 55(2)(c) of the ECSC Treaty to a research programme in the field of mining engineering and a research programme in the field of product beneficiation in the mining industry.

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision amending Decision 78/264/Euratom adopting a programme of research and development: uranium exploration and extraction.

The Council also gave the consultation requested by the Commission under Article 6(1) of Commission Decision 528/76/ECSC on the matter of whether the financial aid awarded by the Member States to the coal industry in 1980 was compatible with the provisions of the Decision in question.

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NOTE BIO (81) 169 (SUITE 1 ET FIN) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX  
CC/ AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE DU PORTE PAROLE  
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CONSEIL DEVELOPPEMENT DU 28.4.1981 A LUXEMBOURG (K.V.HELLDORFF)  
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LE CONSEIL A SIEGE JUSQU A 17.00 HEURES. IL A ABORDE LES  
SUJETS SUIVANTS :

1. NORD-SUD  
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M. CHEYSSON A INTRODUIT LE SUJET EN SE FELICITANT DE LA QUALITE  
DES TRAVAUX DU GROUPE COMMUNAUTAIRE A HAUT NIVEAU NORD SUD QUI  
A EU UNE PREMIERE DISCUSSION DE LA COMMUNICATION AU CONSEIL LE  
2 AVRIL ET QUI A EN MEME TEMPS EU UN ECHANGE DE VUES AVEC  
M. VON WECHMAR, PRESIDENT DE L ASSEMBLEE GENERALE DES NATIONS  
UNIES, SUR LA NECESSITE ET LES PERSPECTIVES DE LA REPRISE  
DES NEGOCIATIONS GLOBALES NORD-SUD. LORS DU DEBAT, LES MINISTRES  
ONT EXPRIME LEURS POSITIONS DE FONDS QUI ONT, COMME L'A  
CONSTATE M. CHEYSSON, MONTRE UN TRES LARGE CONSENSUS AU SEIN  
DE LA COMMUNAUTE. CECI EST D'AUTANT PLUS IMPORTANT QUE CELLE-CI  
A ELLE-MEME UN GRAND INTERET A CE QUE LES NEGOCIATIONS PUISSENT  
REPRENDRE BIENTOT ET PERMETTRE AUX INSTANCES SPECIALISEES,  
COMPETENTES POUR LES DIFFERENTS SUJET D'ABOUTIR A DES RESULTATS  
TANGIBLES.

LES MINISTRES, TOUT EN RECONNAISSANT LE ROLE TRES IMPORTANT  
QU'AURONT A JOUER LES ETATS UNIS, ETAIENT D ACCORD AVEC LA  
CONSTATATION DE M. CHEYSSON QUE LES PRISES DE POSITION DE LA  
CEE REVENTENT D UNE IMPORTANCE CERTAINE POUR D AUTRES PAYS  
INDUSTRIALISES, NOTAMMENT LE CANADA, LA SUEDE ET AUSSI LE JAPON.

2. FAIM DANS LE MONDE  
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M. CHEYSSON A FAIT ETAT DE L'EVOLUTION DES DIFFERENTS POINTS  
CONTENUS DANS LA RESOLUTION DU CONSEIL DU 18.11.1980. LORS DU  
DEBAT IL A ETE NOTAMMENT CONFIRME QUE L'AIDE ALIMENTAIRE NE  
CONSTITUE QU'UN DES INSTRUMENTS, EST TRANSITOIRE POUR LUTTER  
CONTRE LA FAIM. ELLE DOIT ETRE UTILISEE DE MANIERE A NE PAS  
COMPROMETTRE LES EFFORTS - PRIMORDIAUX - DES PVD POUR METTRE  
EN OEUVRE LEUR PROPRE STRATEGIE ALIMENTAIRE. M. CHEYSSON, EN  
REPOSE A DES QUESTIONS, A CONFIRME QUE LES CEREALES FOURNIS  
A TITRE D'AIDE DE LA CEE, NOTAMMENT PAR CERTAINES ENTREPRISES,  
N'ONT PAS TOUJOURS ETE APTE A LA CONSOMMATION HUMAINE. LA  
COMMISSION S'EFFORCE D'EVITER DE TELS ENVOIS  
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K.V.HELLDORFF GPP B 1/9 2306 29.4.81 X X

P. CERF

PCF

SCANDALEUX, BIEN QUE LE CONTROLE DIRECTE DES ACHATS EFFECTUES PAR LES ORGANISMES NATIONAUX D INTERVENTION LUI ECHAPPE.

LE PROBLEME DE L'ECOULEMENT ET DU STOCKAGE DE LA RECOLTE EXCEPTIONNELLE DE MAIS AU ZIMBABWE CETTE ANNEE A ETE EGALEMENT EVOQUE (1 A 1,5 MIO TONNES DISPONIBLES A L EXPORTATION). LES MINISTRES ETAIENT D ACCORD QU IL CONVIENT D ASSISTER LE ZIMBABWE DANS TOUTE LA MESURE DU POSSIBLE A RESOUDRE CE PROBLEME.

ILS ONT ENSUITE ADOPTE UNE RESOLUTION QUI PREND NOTAMMENT ACTE DES PROPOSITIONS DE LA COMMISSION, MARQUANT LA PLACE QUE DOIT OCCUPER LE THEME DE L AGRICULTURE ET DE L ALIMENTATION DANS LA DISCUSSION NORD SUD.

### ■3. AIDE ALIMENTAIRE

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A) LE PROGRAMME 1981 A ETE APPROUVE A UNANIMITE ET POURRA ETRE  
 ■ ADOPTE FORMELLEMENT APRES DISCUSSION AU PARLEMENT EUROPEEN  
 ■ LORS DE SA PROCHAINE SESSION EN MAI.

B) REGLEMENT RELATIF A LA POLITIQUE ET A LA GESTION DE  
 ■ L AIDE ALIMENTAIRE.  
 ■ FAUTE D'ACCORD DE LA DELEGATION FRANCAISE SUR LE  
 ■ COMPROMIS ELABORE PAR LA PRESIDENCE, LA QUESTION A ETE  
 ■ RENVOYE AU COREPER QUI EST PRIE DE SOUMETTRE UNE PROPOSITION  
 ■ AU PROCHAIN CONSEIL DES MINISTRES DES AFFAIRES ETRANGERES  
 ■ LES 22 ET 23 JUIN 1981.

### ■4. AIDE AUX REFUGIES

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M. CHEYSSON A INTRODUIT LE SUJET EN SE REFERANT A LA CONFERENCE SUR LES REFUGIES EN AFRIQUE QUI S EST TENUE A GENEVE LES 9 ET 10 AVRIL 1981. IL A SOULIGNE QU IL FAUT DEPASSER LE STADE DE L AIDE D URGENCE ET TROUVER DES SOLUTIONS DEFINITIVES POUR LES REFUGIES, DONT LE NOMBRE ACCROIT PARTOUT DANS LE TIERS MONDE. CES SOLUTIONS NE DOIVENT SURTOUT PAS PORTEES PREJUDICE AUX EFFORTS DE DEVELOPPEMENT DES POPULATIONS DES PAYS D'ACCUEIL, AFIN D EVITER DES SITUATIONS AUSSI INTOLERABLES QUE CELLES QUE SUBISSENT LES REFUGIES PALESTINIENS DEPUIS DE LONGUES ANNEES. M. CHEYSSON A ANNONCE ■■ UNE COMMUNICATION DE LA COMMISSION A CE SUJET DANS LES SEMAINES A VENIR.

### ■5. APPRECIATIONS DE LA COOPERATION ET DE L AIDE DE LA CEE

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UNE RESOLUTION A ETE ADOPTE QUI PREVOIT DES DEBATS ■■■■■■■■ D APPRECIATION GLOBALE SUR L AIDE COMMUNAUTAIRE ET SUR LA BASE D ETUDES ET DE RAPPORTS, NOTAMMENT ■■■■■■■■ UN RAPPORT ANNUEL QU ETABLIRA LA COMMISSION. CE PREMIER DEBAT POURRAIT AVOIR

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DANS LE SECOND SEMESTRE 1981.

■6. CONFERENCE SUR LES PAYS LES MOINS DEVELOPPES (PARIS,  
■ SEPTEMBRE 1981)

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LE CONSEIL A CONFIRME L'IMPORTANCE DU PROBLEME DANS CES PAYS,  
■''PRINCIPAUX VICTIMES DE LA CRISE ECONOMIQUE MONDIALE'',  
COMME LES A QUALIFIES M. CHEYSSON DANS UNE RESOLUTION QU IL A  
ADOPTEE. A CE SUJET, LE CONSEIL A CONFIRME QUE LA COMMUNAUTE,  
A COTE DES ETATS MEMBRES, DOIT JOUER UN ROLE CONSTRUCTIF LORS  
DE CETTE CONFERENCE.

■7. DATE DE LA PROCHAINE REUNION

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LE COREPER A ETE CHARGE DE TROUVER UNE DATE EN JUIN, AVANT LA  
REUNION DU CONSEIL AFFAIRES ETRANGERES LE 22 DU MEME MOIS.

AMITIES,  
P. CERF COMEUR  
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