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EUROPEAN POLITICAL CO-OPERATION

MINISTERIAL MEETING: BRUSSELS: 15 SEPTEMBER 1986

STATEMENT ON SOUTH AFRICA

1. The Foreign Ministers of the Twelve reviewed their policy towards South Africa in the light of decisions adopted at The Hague European Council on 26/27 June. They heard a report from Sir Geoffrey Howe on the mission to the region which he undertook at the request of Heads of State and Government.
  
2. Ministers expressed their grave concern that the situation in South Africa appeared to have entered a new phase of increased tension under the State of Emergency. They shared the widespread anxiety within the Member States over reports of the conditions in which some detainees are being held. They once again condemned the practice of detention without trial. They called for the release of all people so detained under the State of Emergency, which they wished to see brought to an end.
  
3. The Ministers underlined the importance they attached to the strengthening and more effective co-ordination of the positive measures being taken to assist the victims of apartheid both by Member States and by the Community itself. They noted that the draft Community Budget for 1987 forwarded to the European Parliament by the Council on 10 September contained an increased provision for the Community programme, with particular emphasis on training.

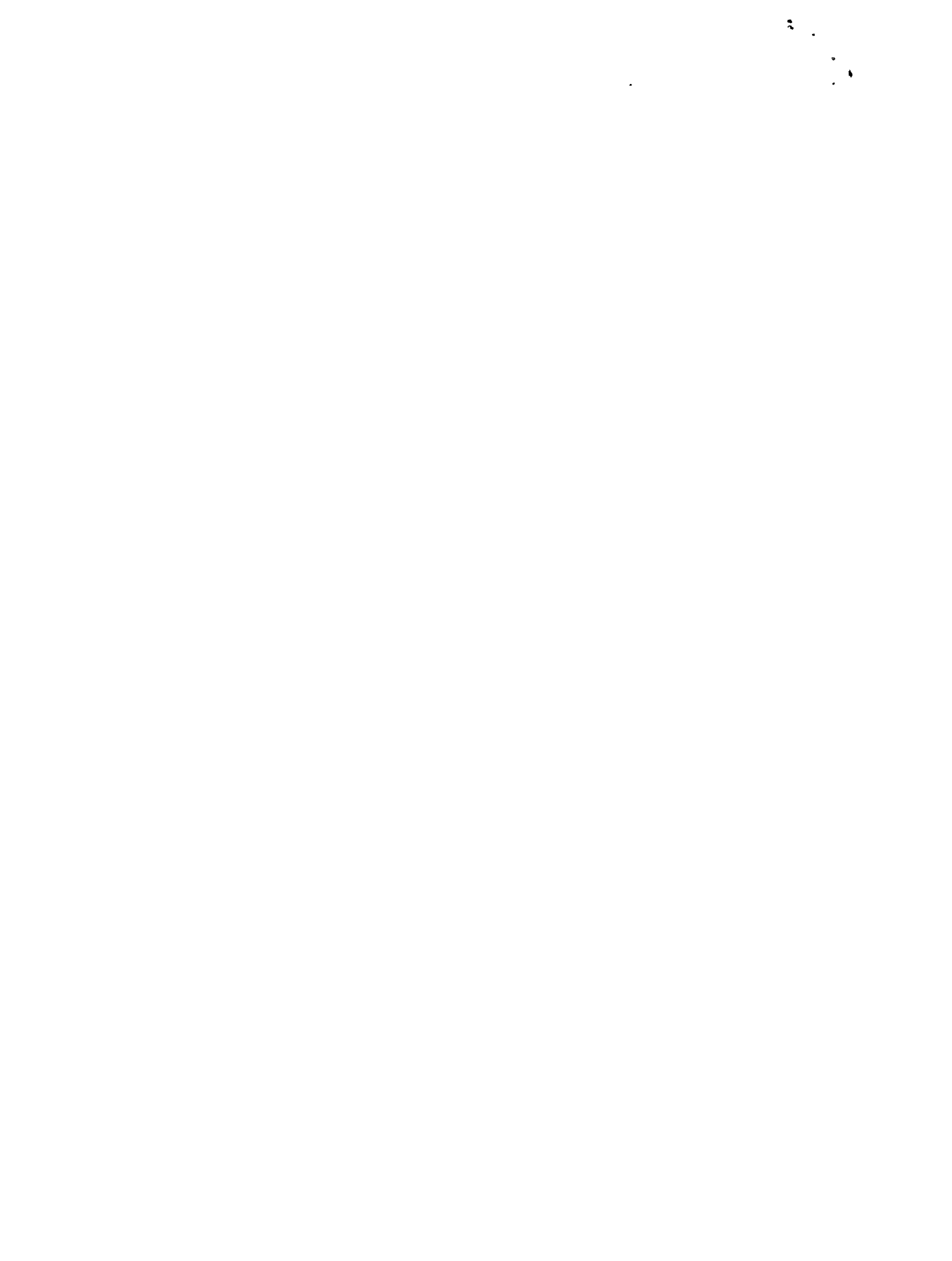


4. Ministers reaffirmed the urgent need for a genuine national dialogue, across lines of colour, politics and religion. They deplored the fact that the South African Government was not yet prepared to take the steps necessary to make this possible. Two steps in particular were identified at The Hague:

- the unconditional release of Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners.
- the lifting of the ban on the African National Congress, the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania and other political parties.

They undertook to work towards a programme of political action designed to promote the achievement of these objectives.

5. In view of the South African Government's failure to respond and after consultation with other industrialised countries Ministers decided that the Twelve should now proceed to adopt a package of restrictive measures on the lines envisaged at The Hague. This consists of bans on new investment and on the import of iron, steel and gold coins from South Africa. On implementation, they took an immediate decision to suspend imports of iron and steel in the framework of the ECSC Council with effect from 27 September.



Ministers also decided to ban the import of gold coins originating in South Africa and new investments in that country, without prejudice to the means of implementation of these measures which will be the subject of further examination by the Committee of Permanent Representatives and the Political Committee.

6. Most partners were also willing to implement a ban on the import of coal from South Africa if a consensus on this could be achieved. On this question, the Presidency will continue to seek consensus on the basis of the statement made by The Hague European Council.

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