

BRUXELLES LE 05/01/81

NOTE BIO(81) 3 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
C.C. AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE

432

STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT JENKINS AT HIS FAREWELL PRESS CONFERENCE
5 JANUARY 1981

I LEAVE MY PRESENT RESPONSIBILITIES WITH A MIXTURE OF PERSONAL
SADNESS AND PUBLIC OPTIMISM. THE OPTIMISM IS FOR THE POSITION
OF THE COMMISSION IN EUROPE. I WILL TELL YOU IN A MOMENT WHY.
THE SADNESS OF COURSE ARISES FROM PARTING FOR THE LAST TIME
IN MY PRESENT CAPACITY FROM SO MANY FAMILIAR SCENES AND FAMI-
LIAR FACES. IT WOULD BE VERY ODD IF I WOULD NOT FEEL THAT.
I LOOK BACK ON THE LAST FOUR YEARS WITH SOME MEMORIES WHICH
ARE BETTER THAN OTHERS. THAT IS ALWAYS SO OF ANY PERIOD OF
ONE'S LIFE. THERE ARE TIMES OF ACHIEVEMENT AND TIMES OF DIS-
APPOINTMENT AND SETBACK. SO IT HAS BEEN HERE. BUT I AM GLAD
THAT I CAME, GLAD THAT I DID THE JOB AND THAT I WOULD NOT HAVE
WISHED TO SPEND THE PAST FOUR YEARS OTHERWISE.

AT THE SAME TIME I BELIEVE THAT FOUR YEARS IS THE RIGHT PERIOD
NOT FOR A COMMISSIONER BUT FOR A PRESIDENT. THIS FIFTH,
SIXTH AND SEVENTH TIMES ROUND THE SAME ANNUAL COURSE WOULD MEAN
HE LOST IN STALENESS MORE
THAN HE GAINED IN WISDOM. THEREFORE WHATEVER THE FUTURE MAY
OR MAY NOT HOLD FOR ME, MY TERM HAS IN MY VIEW BEEN OF THE
RIGHT LENGTH, NEITHER TOO SHORT NOR TOO LONG.

I PART HOWEVER WITH PARTICULAR SADNESS FROM MY FELLOW-COMMIS-
SIONERS. THERE HAVE OF COURSE BEEN SOME DIFFERENCES OF VIEW,
EVEN OCCASIONS OF TENSION. THAT IS INEVITABLE IN ANY BODY OF
13, EVEN IF THEY DID NOT COME FROM DIFFERENT POLITICAL BACK-
GROUNDS AND NINE DIFFERENT COUNTRIES. BUT I CAN SAY WITH AB-
SOLUTE HONESTY THAT I HAVE ENJOYED WORKING WITH EACH ONE OF
THEM, AND I REGARD THE GENERAL LEVEL OF INFORMED DISCUSSION AND
OF FRIENDSHIP AS BEING HIGHER THAN THAT IN ANY BRITISH CABINET
IN WHICH I HAVE SERVED.

LET IT BE NOTED THAT WE LOST NO MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION FOR
THE FIRST THREE YEARS AND TEN MONTHS - AND ONLY ONE FOR
ELECTORAL REASON THEN. THIS IS A MUCH GREATER RECORD OF STAY-
ING TOGETHER THAN YOU CAN FIND IN ALMOST ANY NATIONAL GOVERN-
MENT OR ANY OTHER GROUP OF COMPARABLE SIZE. WE HAVEN'T EVEN
DRIVEN EACH OTHER INTO PERMANENT ILL HEALTH. LET IT BE NOTED
ALSO THAT A VERY HIGH PROPORTION OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION
ARE ANXIOUS TO STAY ON FOR THE FUTURE. MOST OF THEM COULD FIND
PLENTY OF OTHER THINGS TO DO. THIS WOULD NOT HAPPEN IF WE WERE
FULL OF DISCONTENT OR LOW MORALE. I PAY HIGH TRIBUTE TO MY
TWELVE COLLEAGUES OF THE LAST COMMISSION.

I COME NOW TO MY REASONS FOR PUBLIC OPTIMISM. I AM NOT GOING
TO ATTEMPT A DETAILED CATALOGUED BALANCE-SHEET. IN ANY EVENT
YOU HAVE MOST OF YOU QUITE RIGHTLY ALREADY DRAWN UP AND PUBLISH-
ED YOUR OWN. I TRIED IN A SERIES OF SPEECHES DURING THE AUTUMN
TO INDICATE THE WAY FORWARD.

WHAT I BELIEVE, LOOKING BACK, IS THAT THE COMMISSION WITH LUCK
HAS NOW SURVIVED ITS MOST DIFFICULT PERIOD. OF COURSE IT HAS
GRADUALLY OVER THE PAST 15 YEARS OR PERHPAS MORE BEEN DISAP-
POINTING THE HOPES OF THOSE WHO THOUGHT IT WAS AN EMBRYO
GOVERNMENT OF EUROPE. I DOUBT IF I EVER THOUGHT THAT. NOR DO
I THINK THERE OUGHT TO BE A NOMINATED AS OPPOSED TO AN ELECTED
GOVERNMENT OF ANYTHING. BUT THE REAL DANGER WAS FAILING TO
ACHIEVE THAT ALWAYS OVER-AMBITIOUS AND SOMEWHAT
IMAGINARY ROLE, IT WOULD BE LEFT WITH THE DANGEROUS ROLE OF
BEING A SECRETARIAT OF GOVERNMENTS, A VIEW WHICH I HAVE ALWAYS
RESOLUTELY RESISTED.

1	RK-CH
TR.	HVM
I.S.	✓
FIN.	✓
AGR.	✓
ENE.	✓
R.D.	✓
ADM.	
S.A.	✓

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OVER

I BELIEVE THAT DANGER IS PAST. WE HAVE IN A SENSE COME OF AGE ARITHMETICALLY AND METAPHORICALLY. WE HAVE NOW TO LEARN TO LIVE WITH A HARSHER CLIMATE - ECONOMICALLY OBVIOUSLY. WE HAVE TO DEAL IN THIS HARSHER CLIMATE WITH A WIDER AND LESS COHERENT EUROPE THAN THAT OF THE ORIGINAL SIX - AND THIS WILL BECOME MORE SO AS ENLARGEMENT PROGRESSES. WE HAVE HAD TO LIVE IN A CLIMATE OF PUBLIC OPINION IN WHICH MUCH OF THE ORIGINAL, EXCITING, DEEPLY FELT AND EMOTIONAL ENTHUSIASM FOR A UNITED EUROPE, A LOT OF WHICH SPANG FROM THE HORRORS OF THE THEN RECENT PAST, HAS RECEDED.

WE HAVE HAD TO ADJUST TO CERTAIN CHANGES IN THE INSTITUTIONAL BALANCE - TO THE INCREASING EMERGENCE OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL AS A FOCUS OF COMMUNITY DECISION-MAKING, AND TO LIFE WITH THE NEW DIRECTLY ELECTED PARLIAMENT. THE POSITION OF THE COMMISSION WAS TO BEGIN WITH MUCH LESS SECURE IN THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL THAN IN THE TREATY-BASED COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. THAT I BELIEVE HAS BEEN RECTIFIED. EQUALLY I THINK WE HAVE SO FAR ACHIEVED A GOOD AND IMPORTANT RELATIONSHIP WITH THE NEW PARLIAMENT.

THE COMMISSION ITSELF NEEDS FLEXIBILITY IN THESE CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES. I HOPE THAT GOVERNMENTS WILL NOT ALLOW IT TO BECOME TOO BIG AFTER THE INCLUSION OF SPAIN AND PORTUGAL. IN MY VIEW 17 WOULD BE TOO BIG. I HOPE THAT THE FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SPIERENBURG REPORT - WE HAVE DONE WHAT IS WITHIN OUR INTERNAL POWER - WILL BE CARRIED OUT QUICKLY. THE CHANGES IT RECOMMENDED WILL IMPROVE THE EFFECTIVENESS AND MORALE OF OUR RELATIVELY SMALL STAFF, FOR WHOSE DEDICATION, AND IN THE GREAT MAJORITY OF CASES, VERY HARD WORK, I OFFER MY GRATEFUL THANKS.

I WISH THE NEW COMMISSION AND PARTICULARLY MY SUCCESSOR GASTON THORN THE BEST OF GOOD FORTUNE. I MIGHT SAY HE WILL NEED IT. HE WILL FACE DAUNTING BUT NOT IMPOSSIBLE TASKS. I BELIEVE HE WILL SURMOUNT THEM. THE MANDATE OFFERS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY.

IN CONCLUSION, I THANK YOU ALL FOR THE JOB YOU DO IN PRESENTING THE ALWAYS COMPLEX, SOMETIMES HUMDRUM, OCCASIONALLY QUARRELSOME BUSINESS OF THE COMMUNITY TO THE EUROPEAN PUBLIC. I DON'T ALWAYS AGREE WITH THE JUDGMENTS OF ALL OF YOU, BUT I GREATLY RESPECT YOUR PROFESSIONAL SKILL AND INTEGRITY. I THANK YOU AND I WISH YOU WELL IN THE FUTURE.'

POINTS IN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS :

1. THE 1980/81 BUDGETARY ARGUMENT : THE PROBLEM IS A MIXTURE OF POLITICAL AND LEGAL ISSUES. THE COMMISSION'S POLITICAL JUDGMENT IS THAT PARLIAMENT HAS APPROVED THE BUDGET, AND ACCEPTS THAT THERE IS A BUDGET. IT WILL BE FOR THE NEW COMMISSION TO DECIDE HOW TO PROCEED FROM HERE AND HOW TO PURSUE THE LEGAL ASPECTS.

2. BUDGETARY BALANCE : I DO NOT BELIEVE A PROPERLY BALANCED BUDGET SERVING THE INTERESTS OF ALL MEMBER STATES, AND RECOGNISING THAT THE COMMUNITY IS MORE THAN AN AGRICULTURAL ONE, CAN BE ACHIEVED WITHIN THE PRESENT LIMIT OF OWN RESOURCES.

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