

OFFICIAL VISIT OF PRESIDENT THORN IN JAPAN

(9-12 May)

SUBJECT: PRESS LUNCHEON OF PRESIDENT THORN - TOKYO 11 MAY 1984

1. PRESIDENT THORN WAS THE GUEST OF HONOUR OF A PRESS LUNCHEON ORGANIZED TODAY BY THE JAPAN NATIONAL PRESS CLUB; WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF MORE THAN HUNDRED JOURNALISTS.

2. IN HIS SPEECH; MR THORN SAID THAT HE DID NOT SET OUT TO JAPAN CAP IN HAND FOR CONSESSIONS OR TO RECITE A LONG OF COMPLAINTS'. THE BASIC PURPOSE FOR HIS VIST TO TOKYO IS THREE-FOLD:

'TO PROMOTE COOPERATION AND PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN JAPAN AND EUROPE; AND TO ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT JAPAN IN HER AMBITION FULLY TO LIVE UP TO THE NEW RESPONSIBILITIES WHICH ATTACH TO WHAT IS NOW HER MAJOR POSITION IN THE WORLD ECONOMY.'

THEN HE INSISTED ON THE NEED FOR JAPAN 'TO ASSUME TO THE FULL THE OBLIGATIONS WHICH ARE NOW THE INESCAPABLE COROLLARY OF HER ACHIEVEMENTS. SUCCESS CARRIES WITH IT ITS OWN RESPONSIBILITIES. I WILL GIVE TWO EXAMPLES; ONE IN REGARD TO NORTH/SOUTH COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT; THE OTHER IN REGARD TO TRADE AND THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SYSTEM AS A WHOLE. BOTH OF THEM CALL FOR A GREATER DEGREE OF INTERNATIONAL BURDEN-SHARING BY JAPAN'.

AND PRESIDENT THORN COMPARED THE RESPECTIVE ACHIEVEMENTS; IN BOTH FIELDS; OF THE EC AND JAPAN;

SHOWING CLEARLY THAT THE LATTER IS NOT TAKING ON HER SIMILAR BURDEN AS THE FORMER.

HE ADDED:

2. ON OF THE THINGS WHICH WE EUROPEANS HOPE FOR FROM JAPAN IS A SIGNIFICANTLY GREATER CONTRIBUTION TO THE MAIN STREAM OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRADING ORDER BY MEANS OF A HIGHER LEVEL OF IMPORTS; NOTABLY OF MANUFACTURES; AND OF A HOME MARKET OPEN IN PRACTICE AS WELL AS THEORY TO FULL TWO-WAY TRADE; NOT ONLY FOR GOODS BUT ALSO FOR SERVICES. IN THIS WAY; THE TRADITIONAL AUTARCHY OF THE JAPANESE ECONOMY CAN PROGRESSIVELY GIVE WAY TO THE INTERDEPENDENCE AND COMPLEMENTARITY WHICH CHARACTERISE THE ECONOMIC RELATIONS PREVAILING ELSEWHERE IN THE OECE AREA. WHAT IS CLEARLY REQUIRED IS A FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE OF JAPANESE ATTITUDE. I HAVE CONFIDENCE IN PRIME MINISTER NAKASONE AND HIS CABINET COLLEAGUES TO DO ALL THAT IS REASONBLY WITHIN THEIR POWER TO SERVE THIS GENERAL OBJECTIVE. THE MOST RECENT PACKAGE OF MARKET-OPENING MEASURES IS A FURTHER STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION. WHAT MATTERS IS NOT THE MEANS BUT THE END; NOT THE MEASURES THEMSELVES BUT THE CONCRETE RESULTS TO WHICH THEY ARE INTENDED TO LEAD.'

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THEN PRESIDENT THORN TURNED TO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY; STRESSING THE NECESSITY OF A UNITED EUROPE FOR THE WORLD ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL BALANCE AND THAT; AFTER SOLVING HER PENDING PROBLEMS; THE EC "SHALL BE ABLE TO ENTER A DYNAMIC PHASE OF DEVELOPMENT" AS ALREADY EMPHIFIED - IN TWO VERY DIFFERENT FIELDS - BY THE ESPRIT PROGRAMME OR THE EUROPEAN MONETARY SYSTEM.

FROM THESE PREMISES MR THORN CONCLUDED THE NECESSITY FOR A FURHTER DEVELOPMENT OF EC-JAPAN COOPERATION IN INDUSTRY AND CROSS-INVESTMENT; SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; AID TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES; FINANCIAL AND MONETARY PROBLEMS.

FINALLY; PRESIDENT THORN "EXTENDED AN INVITATION TO JAPAN"; "YOU ARE NOW A FULL "MEMBER" OF THE CLUB; A PILLAR OF THE FREE WORLD; AND IN CERTAIN RESPECTS AN INSPIRATION TO US ALL IN THE WEST. WE WANT TO SOLVE OUR PROBLEMS WITH YOU; NOT BY FRICTION BUT THROUGH COOPERATION. WE WANT TO ADDRESS OURSELVES TO THE WORLD'S PROBLEMS IN YOUR COMPANY; AND WITH YOUR HELP, WE BELIEVE YOU RECIPROCATE THAT WISH. NOW IS THE TIME TO PUT OUR PARTNERSHIP TO THE ONLY TRUE TEST - THE ACHIEVEMENT OF CONCRETE AND LASTING RESULTS."