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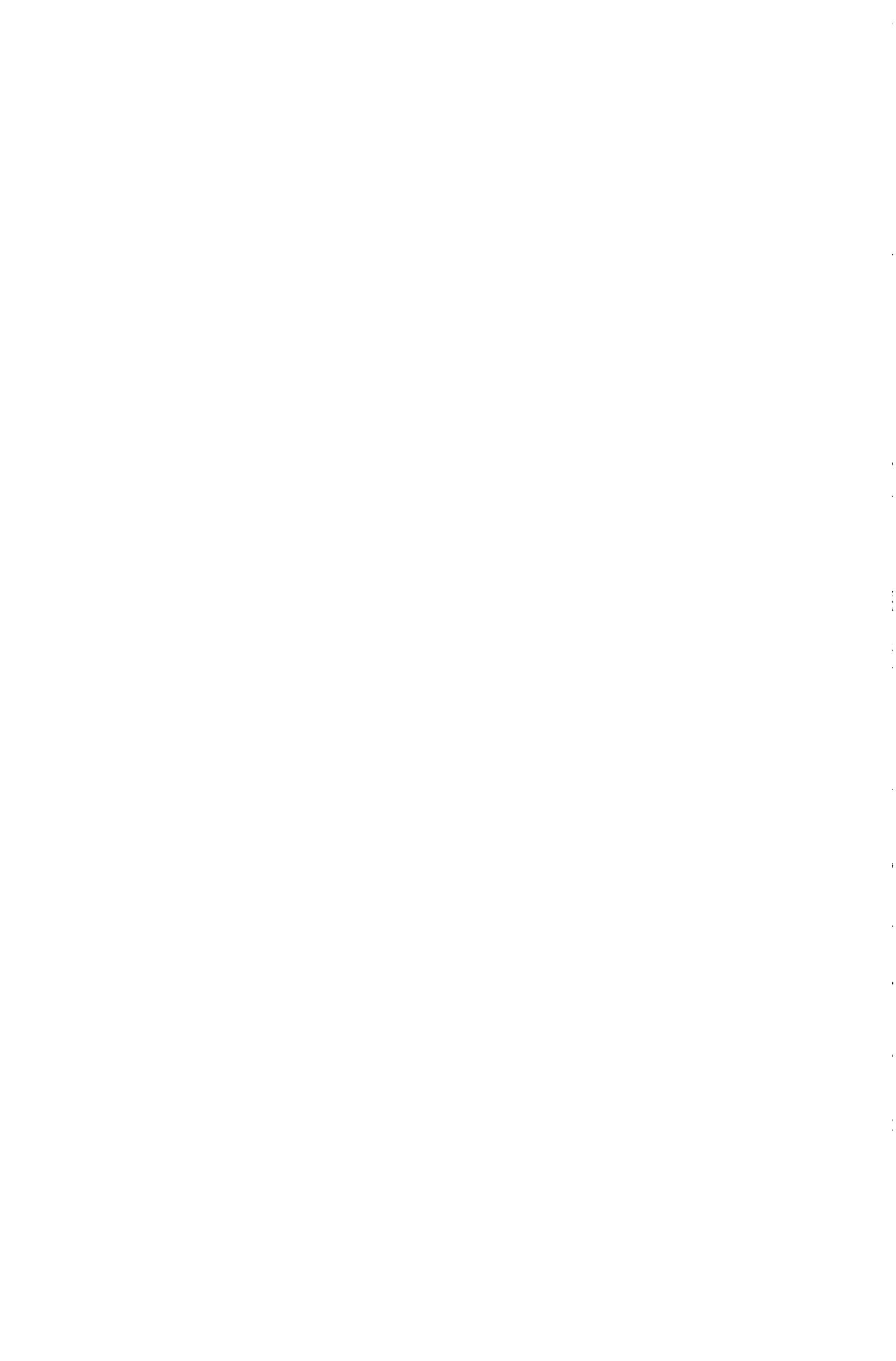
Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on
Development and Cooperation

on the outcome of the work of the ACP-EEC
Joint Committee and Consultative Assembly

Rapporteur: Mr G. ISRAEL

PE 87.617/fin.



In pursuance of paragraph 3 of the resolution contained in the Sablé report adopted by the European Parliament on 21 November 1980¹, the Committee on Development and Cooperation has drawn up a report on the outcome of the work of the ACP-EEC Joint Committee and Consultative Assembly.

On 29 September 1983 the Committee on Development and Cooperation appointed Mr Israel rapporteur.

At its meeting of 3 November 1983 the Committee on Development and Cooperation considered the draft report. It adopted the motion for a resolution as a whole on 30 November 1983 by 7 votes to 0 with 5 abstentions.

The following took part in the vote : Mr Deschamps, oldest member, acting chairman; Mr Israel, rapporteur; Mrs Carettoni Romagnoli, Mrs Castellina, Mr Cohen, Mrs Dury, Mr Fellermaier, Mr Ferrero, Mr Johnson (deputizing for Mr Sherlock), Mr Loo, Mrs Rabbethge, Mr Konrad Schön (deputizing for Mr Luster), Mr Vanerkhoven and Mr Wawrzik.

The report was tabled on 2 December 1983.

¹ OJ No C 327, p. 79

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The Committee on Development and Cooperation hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution together with explanatory statement:

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

on the outcome of the work of the ACP-EEC Joint Committee and Consultative Assembly

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the following resolutions adopted by the Joint Committee and the Consultative Assembly:
 - resolution taking account of the annual report of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers for 1982, and looking towards the imminent negotiations for a successor convention to Lomé II (Doc. ACP-EEC 57/83),¹
 - resolution on ACP-EEC industrial cooperation and the impact of the Lomé Convention (Doc. ACP-EEC 55/83),¹
 - resolution on hunger in the world (Doc. ACP-EEC 61/83),¹
 - interim resolution on the development of fisheries in the ACP States (Doc. CA/CP/350),²
 - resolution on cultural cooperation between the ACP States and the EEC (Doc. ACP-EEC 49/83),¹
 - resolutions on illegal immigration (Doc. ACP-EEC 59/83)¹ and on the situation of ACP students and migrant workers (Doc. ACP-EEC 60/83)¹,
 - resolution on the parliamentary institutional system to be established under the new ACP-EEC Convention (Doc. ACP-EEC 58/83/rev.),¹

¹ OJ No C 300, 7.11.1983

² CA/CP/370, 13.5.1983

- resolution on the situation in Southern Africa (Doc. ACP-EEC 44/83)¹,
- resolution on world population and development (Doc. ACP-EEC 42/83)¹,
- resolution on ecology and development (Doc. CA/CP/360)²,
- resolution on the functioning of ACP-EEC cooperation (Doc. ACP-EEC 43/83)¹,
- resolution on the needs and interests of the Caribbean states (Doc. ACP-EEC 45/83)¹,
- resolution on sugar (Doc. ACP-EEC 46/83)¹,
- resolution on the problems arising in the tourist sector in the ACP countries (Doc. ACP-EEC 47/83)¹,
- resolution on hunger in the world and the next ACP-EEC Convention (Doc. ACP-EEC 48/83)¹,
- resolution on the preparations for the forthcoming ACP-EEC negotiations (Doc. ACP-EEC 50/83)²,
- resolution on the meeting with the economic and social partners on 3 June 1983 in Geneva (Doc. CA/CP/362)²,
- having regard to the motion for a resolution tabled by Mrs Dury on improving the living conditions of women in the Third World by developing and introducing appropriate technologies referred to the Bureau of the Joint Committee (CA/CP/346),
- having regard to the report by the Committee on Development and Cooperation (Doc. 1-1143/83),
- whereas the ACP-EEC Consultative Assembly and the European Parliament must keep each other informed of the positions they adopt within their respective spheres of competence if cooperation between the ACP States and the EEC is to function soundly and credibly,

¹ OJ No C 300, 7.11.1983

² CA/CP/370, 13.5.1983

1. Notes the resolutions adopted by the ACP-EEC Consultative Assembly at its meeting of 21-23 September 1983,
2. Instructs its committees responsible to include consideration of those resolutions in their proceedings;
3. Notes with satisfaction the decision to propose that a single parliamentary body known as the 'Joint Assembly' be created under the new Convention, thus bringing to an end the duplication of work that occurred under the old system and increasing efficiency;
4. Hopes that the new institution will be endowed with its own budget, as called for by the Consultative Assembly in its resolution, in order to remove the obstacles that have prevented such institutions from functioning properly in the past;
5. Welcomes the increase in the number of parliamentary delegations from the ACP countries to the Assembly, which will as a result become more democratic and more representative of the peoples covered by the Lomé Convention;
6. Is in favour of having this process generalized in preparation for the new Convention;
7. Welcomes the fact that intensive consultations have been held between the representatives of the two sides on general policy questions, particularly on the situation in Southern Africa and the protection of human rights; hopes that this cooperation will be continued and strengthened;
8. Welcomes the creation of two new working parties to examine
 - the protection of the environment and
 - the role of women in the development process,subjects which are recognized as highly important for the developing countries;
9. Is gratified that, in preparation for the negotiations on the new ACP-EEC Convention, the European Parliament, the Joint Committee and the Consultative Assembly have collaborated on and accomplished a thorough-

-going piece of work resulting in clear-cut proposals, and calls for the results of this work to be incorporated in the new Convention by the negotiators;

10. Notes with satisfaction the participation of the representative of Angola as an observer at the Assembly's proceedings;
11. Welcomes the fact that the governments of Angola and Mozambique have expressed interest in acceding to the new ACP-EEC Convention;
12. Points out that as a result all the independent states in sub-Saharan Africa will henceforth be associated with the European Community;
13. Reiterates the concern it has frequently expressed in the past that the European Parliament and the ACP-EEC parliamentary institutions should adopt positions that are as convergent as possible so as not to jeopardize the sound functioning of the Association, or the climate of mutual confidence that should prevail;
14. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Consultative Assembly, the Joint Committee, the Co-Presidents of the ACP/EEC Council of Ministers and the Secretariat-General of the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENTINTRODUCTION

1. The year which is drawing to a close may be legitimately regarded as marking a significant turning point for the ACP-EEC parliamentary institutions set up under the Lomé Convention. There are two reasons for this.
2. The first is that the Consultative Assembly and the Joint Committee have given their considered and careful attention to key development issues, such as that of hunger in the world, for several years now and have concluded that part of their work on the matter. The era ushered in by the direct elections of the European Parliament, which made the fight against hunger in the world one of its major priorities, has come to an end. This does not mean that the Consultative Assembly and Joint Committee no longer regard it as a major problem; however, it is now felt that their role will henceforth consist in exercising parliamentary control and scrutiny over the Commission's executions of policy proposals put forward by the ACP-EEC Working Party on Hunger in the World.
3. The second is that 1983 heralds the beginning of a new phase in the relationship between the ACP and the EEC. This is not just a direct consequence of the formal opening of negotiations for the successor convention, which took place shortly after the September meeting of the Consultative Assembly. It is primarily because both sides concur with the view forcefully put forward by Commissioner Pisani in his Memorandum on the Community's Development Policy that the past two decades of development aid have failed to improve the lot of the people of the Third World. There is now widespread recognition that the primary aim of development aid and cooperation is to help developing countries become more, as opposed to less, self-reliant. The members of the European Parliament came to the Consultative Assembly meeting after the Parliament had expressed its views on the future of the EEC's development policy as well as on the association with the ACPs in the Jackson Report on the Pisani Memorandum, and in the Irmer Report on the context of the successor convention. The presence of Commissioner Pisani allowed the ACP side to engage him in a wide ranging discussion of the Memorandum and its potential application in the future Convention.

4. This year's meetings thus provided a final opportunity for a series of frank and wide ranging debates on many aspects of relations between the ACP and the EEC before the beginning of the negotiations. The three Working Parties set up by the Assembly - which dealt with hunger in the world, cultural cooperation, and industrial cooperation - came forward with concrete proposals for the successor convention in fulfillment of their mandate. This year's annual report, presented by H.E. Josua Cavalevu, sought to take stock of the implementation of Lomé II and to look beyond it to the next convention. The debate on the annual report, and the discussions with Commissioner Pisani, allowed the ACP to make their own views heard.
5. Last year's report to the European Parliament noted that the Joint Committee and Consultative Assembly have paid increasing attention to political issues of mutual concern that affect the good working of cooperation. At this year's Kingston and Berlin meetings new ground was broken by the adoption of a resolution which stated that, "... the respect and application of human rights are closely connected with the improvement of social and economic conditions," and considered that, "... a frank dialogue on the mutual respect of human rights may well enhance relations between partners to the Lomé Convention".
6. The situation in Southern Africa continued to be the object of grave concern. The Joint Committee and Consultative Assembly discussed the report on the second stage of the ACP-EEC Fact Finding Mission to the Front-Line States, and passed a resolution condemning the recent South African raids against neighbouring states, and in particular Lesotho. There was a renewed call for the EEC and its member states to take measures putting pressure on the Republic of South Africa.
7. This year's membership of the Joint Committee and of the Consultative Assembly confirmed the trend, highlighted in last year's report, towards strengthening the parliamentary nature of these institutions. A little more than half of the ACP delegations at the Consultative Assembly were led by parliamentarians. This development has been noted and welcomed, and it is hoped that it will gather pace in future. This process may benefit if it were to rest on an institutional basis.

8. The main role of the Joint Committee and Consultative Assembly continues to be to exercise democratic control over the implementation of the Lomé Convention, to provide a parliamentary forum for debate, and to launch new initiatives to enhance cooperation. This year's annual report noted yet again how the position of the ACP countries in the world economy has deteriorated in spite of the Lomé Convention, especially when measured against the gains made by other developing countries, even on the Community market. The reasons for this decline continue to be controversial, and inevitably this controversy spilled over into the discussions on the future convention. Proceedings show that there is already an ongoing "policy dialogue" of sorts between the ACPs and the EEC in the Consultative Assembly and Joint Committee.
9. Recent international economic and political developments could not be ignored, and lent a special urgency to the meetings. The IMF's financial crisis, the almost certain prospect of a drastic reduction in IDA lending, and worst of all, the persistence of depressed raw materials prices provided a sombre background to discussions. Indebtedness and commodity price stabilisation do not come under the purview of the Lomé Convention, nonetheless they are currently the most important single cause determining the situation of the ACP countries. These urgent and topical issues - as well as those of Stabex and sugar, added to the Joint Committee's agenda at the request of the ACPs - came up time and time again in debate.
10. Frankness, as well as the desire to gain a better understanding of the other sides's point of view, are the hallmark of the debates held at the Joint Committee and Consultative Assembly. Lomé has been put under a magnifying glass and found to be wanting in some respects, while equally some of the policies pursued by countries have come in for their share of criticism. At a time when the North-South dialogue is completely deadlocked and unlikely to be revived, the ACPs and the EEC are still actively engaged in a common search for an intelligent way to manage their inter-dependence for the benefit of all.

I. THE WORK OF THE ACP-EEC JOINT COMMITTEE

At its meeting from 21 to 25 February 1983, in Kingston (Jamaica), the Joint Committee adopted:

- a resolution on cultural cooperation, rapporteur H.E. Mr Chasle (CA/CP/348);
- a resolution on ACP students and migrant workers in the EC, rapporteur H.E. Mr Chasle (CA/CP/349);
- a resolution on ACP-EEC cooperation for the development of fisheries in the ACP States, co-rapporteurs: H.E. Mr A.K. Ould Cheikh Sifiya, and H.E. Mr Malingur (CA/CP/350);
- a resolution on the operation of the parliamentary institutions under the two Lomé Conventions, tabled by the Bureau of the Joint Committee (CA/CP/343);
- a resolution on the situation in Southern Africa (CA/CP/359);
- a resolution on the functioning of ACP-EEC cooperation (CA/CP/358);
- a resolution on ecology and development (CA/CP/360);
- a resolution on world population and development (CA/CP/355);
- a resolution on the meeting with the economic and social partners (CA/CP/362);
- a resolution on the needs and interests of Caribbean States (CA/CP/363);
- a resolution on sugar (CA/CP/365);
- a resolution on tourism in ACP countries (CA/CP/366);
- a resolution on world hunger (CA/CP/367);
- a resolution on the forthcoming ACP-EEC negotiations (CA/CP/368).

The Joint Committee also discussed:

- an introductory statement on Lomé II and beyond by the general rapporteur on the VIIth annual report of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers, H.E. Mr Cavalevu;
- the situation in Southern Africa with particular reference to the recent South African raid on Maseru, Lesotho;
- the Commission's Memorandum on the Community's development policy;
- the annual Geneva meeting with ACP and EEC representatives of the social and economic sectors.

There was a Question Time with Commissioner Pisani, and the Committee heard a statement by Mr Mertès, President-in-office of the EEC Council of Ministers.

At its meeting from 19 to 21 September 1983 in Berlin, the Joint Committee considered and adopted:

- the draft general report by H.E. Mr Cavalevu taking account of the Annual Report of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers (1982) and looking towards the imminent negotiations for a successor Convention to Lomé II (CA/CP/403);
- the draft report by Mr Gérard Fuchs on ACP-EEC industrial cooperation and the impact of the Lomé Convention (CA/CP/400);
- the final draft resolution by Mr Ferrero on hunger in the world (CA/CP/411);
- the final draft report by H.E. Mr Chasle on ACP-EEC cultural cooperation and its integration in the future ACP-EEC Convention (CA/CP/384/fin);
- the draft resolution tabled by H.E. Mr Chasle on illegal immigration (CA/CP/408);
- the draft resolution tabled by H.E. Mr Chasle on the situation of the ACP students and migrant workers residing in the Member States of the Community (CA/CP/410);
- the draft resolution tabled by the Bureau of the Joint Committee on the Parliamentary institutional system to be established under the new ACP-EEC Convention (CA/CP/413).

All the reports and resolutions adopted by the Joint Committee were forwarded to the Consultative Assembly.

The Joint Committee also discussed the results of the Geneva meeting between the economic and social partners contained in a report (CA/CP/402).

It also held discussions on the following matters:

- current problems in respect of sugar and Stabex;
- the report on the second phase of the fact-finding visit to the Front-Line countries of Southern Africa (CA/184).

Finally there was a Question Time with the Commission.

II. THE WORK OF THE ACP-EEC CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY

At its meeting from 21 to 23 September 1983 in Berlin, the ACP-EEC Consultative Assembly adopted:

- the report on the VIIth Annual Report by the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers (the Cavalevu report);
- the report on ACP-EEC industrial cooperation (the Fuchs report);
- the resolution on hunger in the world;
- the report on ACP-EEC cultural cooperation (Chasle report) and the resolutions on illegal immigration and ACP students and migrant workers in the Community by the same author;

- the resolution on the parliamentary institutional system to be established under the new ACP-EEC Convention;
- a resolution on the situation in Southern Africa;
- a resolution on world population and development;
- a resolution on the functioning of ACP-EEC cooperation;
- a resolution on the needs and interests of the Caribbean States;
- a resolution on sugar;
- a resolution on the problems arising in the tourist sector;
- a resolution on hunger in the world and the next ACP-EEC Convention, and finally,
- a resolution on the forthcoming ACP-EEC negotiations.

An oral question was put to the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers.

III. MAIN POINTS IN THE TEXTS ADOPTED BY THE CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY

- (a) Report taking account of the Annual Report of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers (1982) and looking towards the imminent negotiations for a successor convention to Lomé II, rapporteur: H.E. Mr Cavalevu

This year's resolution departed from earlier ones by seeking to draw broad conclusions from the experience acquired under Lomé, rather than undertaking a detailed chapter by chapter analysis of the Convention. The fact that the halfway mark in the life of the Convention has coincided with the opening of negotiations for the successor agreement prompted the rapporteur to step back and take a fresh look at the long-term aims of the relationship entered into by the ACPs and the EEC, and at the effects that this cooperation has had on the some 600 million people living in the signatory states.

The report recalls that man, and the improvement of his welfare as well as the safeguarding of his fundamental rights, is the subject of development. The historical relationship between the ACPs and the EEC could, if the necessary political determination and good will obtained, provide a positive basis for transforming a relationship traditionally based on domination into one rooted on mutual benefit, equality, and solidarity.

The report notes how the Lomé Convention has not halted the progressive slide of many ACP countries into the category of the least developed; of more immediate concern is the fact that the growing ACP group continues to lose ground as a Community supplier and market. The report recalls that the promised Community financial help for the least developed had failed to materialise in spite of

the fact that the EEC has supported the conclusions of the 1981 Paris Conference on the Least Developed Countries.

The funds allocated under Lomé II have not only failed to keep up with inflation and to account for new signatory countries, they have in fact registered a 20% decline in terms of aid per capita.

The report emphasises that the future Convention must aim to promote self-reliant development, an objective many ACP countries have already made their own through regional economic development programmes, such as the Lagos Plan.

This means that agricultural and rural development, manpower training, regional cooperation and the encouragement of South South trade must become more than catchphrases. Many of the ACP countries are island or landlocked states, a fact which is all too often neglected. They face daunting and unique economic, transport, and communication problems which the present convention does not fully take into account. Success in achieving these aims is a very long way off unless considerable funds are provided under the next Convention.

A special reference to the problems which have dogged Stabex is made; the report states that imaginative steps must be taken to ensure that funds be put to productive use, and that adequate funding needs to be provided.

The report notes the importance of the resolutions adopted in Kingston on the subject of human rights as well as emphasizing the cultural dimension of the development process, and concludes by calling on both parties to enter into genuine consultations which will set the political priorities the next Convention should fulfill.

(b) Report on ACP-EEC industrial cooperation and the impact of the Lomé Convention, rapporteur: Mr Gérard Fuchs

The report notes that the ACP countries currently account for a negligible proportion of world manufacturing output, and that they will continue to do so unless policy changes are put into effect by both the developed as well as the developing countries.

The report does not subscribe to the view that the industrialisation of the ACP countries, which will by its very nature be a gradual process, is bound to threaten production and employment in the EEC. To the contrary, the industrialisation of the ACP countries would be to our mutual advantage. It notes that

the present recession has been deeper and longer than any previous ones because the drop in demand for raw materials and the resulting fall in prices hit the developing countries very hard. This has virtually wiped out their demand for developed countries' exports.

The report points to the effects of the heritage of colonialism, and in particular the fact that the ACP countries continue to be exporters of raw materials, carrying out little local processing. It carefully analyses the external as well as internal constraints they face as they seek to industrialise, the most important being:

- the small size of their markets, especially for island countries and small states;
- the lack of purchasing power, and domestic saving;
- the lack of adequate transport and communications facilities, and
- the absence of trained manpower.

The report seeks to go beyond a technocratic approach to industrialisation, and looks at its broader socio-economic context. Industrialisation is not just a matter of building factories. Its primary aim must be to meet the basic needs of the people, and to make them and the country more self-reliant. It is therefore obvious that ACP-EEC industrial cooperation can only be successful and speed up the industrialisation of the ACP countries if it is seen as part of a comprehensive strategy.

The report is somewhat critical of what has been achieved under both Lomé I and Lomé II; it emphasises that if financing for energy and mining projects is deducted from the overall figures, only about 14% of Lomé I and some 18% of Lomé II funds have been committed for industrial cooperation.

It concludes by mapping out a broad strategy for the pursuance of industrial cooperation now, and under the future Convention. Its most important features are:

- a considerable increase in the financial resources for industrial cooperation;
- increased ACP participation in decision making procedures for industrial cooperation; this is the only way of putting an end to the sterile debate between the EEC and the ACPs over whether the lack of viable projects or adequate funds is the cause for present inadequate financing levels;

- the need for steps to encourage ACP processing of their raw materials, e.g. by extending Stabex product coverage to include certain processed agricultural products;
- free access for ACP processed products, including sensitive products, to be stepped up;
- rules of origin should be revised and relaxed, especially for island, land-locked, and least developed ACP states;
- further assistance for training;
- global loans for the establishment of small and medium sized undertakings;
- the EEC should study the creation of an ACP-EEC Development Bank, modeled on the World Bank.

(c) Resolution on Hunger in the World, rapporteur: Mr Bruno Ferrero

This resolution marks the culmination of the work carried out by the Ad Hoc Working Party on Hunger in the World since it was set up in 1980, and fulfills the mandate given to the Group by the Consultative Assembly to come forward with concrete proposals for the successor agreement to Lomé II.

The report emphasizes that agricultural and rural development must be the backbone of the self-reliant strategy which should be the centrepiece of the next Convention. It reminds governments that they have given a public undertaking to increase their official development aid (ODA) to 0.7% of GNP, and 0.15% of GNP for the least developed countries by 1985, and asks that these targets provide a vital reference point for determining the financial resources of the next Convention.

The report endorses the application of food strategies or policies, and calls for the following principles to be applied, even where there is no food strategy in the strict sense:

- an adequate increase in human and material resources;
- revision of current procedures for projects and project financing;
- effective and genuine coordination between donor countries.

The last point is absolutely vital in view of the fact that the Community's total development budget accounts for only 10% of total member state expenditure.

The Convention should set up the instruments, and allocate the funds necessary for the application of other long-term strategies to:

- protect the natural environment and halt encroaching desertification;
- develop research and development in the fields of agriculture, health, and the environment.

It should finally give proper recognition to the importance of fisheries, both in inland waters and on the high seas, as a means of attaining food self-sufficiency as well as providing employment and export revenues.

The resolution also issues an urgent call on the EEC institutions to draw up an emergency programme, and to release special funds to alleviate the effects of the drought currently affecting the Sahel countries.

(d) Resolutions on Cultural Cooperation, Illegal Immigration, and ACP Students and Migrant Workers Residing in the Community, rapporteur and author: H.E. Mr Chasle

The ACP-EEC Working Party wound up its work on cultural cooperation by issuing a report which asks that there be a separate chapter on cultural cooperation in the next Convention, and that the cultural dimension to the development process be fully taken into account in the various sectors of activity. The neglect of the latter has often tolled the death knell for projects which were perfectly good on paper, but which were not fully executed, or once executed, could not be maintained.

Thus the report regards cultural cooperation as embracing not only support for traditional cultural activities, but as an expression of the recognition that each ACP country's socio-historical traditions will, and indeed should, have a bearing on its development.

The Consultative Assembly also expressed its concern over the situation of ACP students and migrant workers residing in the Community.

(e) Resolution on the Parliamentary Institutional System to be Established under the new ACP-EEC Convention, tabled by the Bureau of the Joint Committee

The Lomé Convention instituted an ACP-EEC Consultative Assembly, and also contained a provision enabling the Assembly to set up a Committee to prepare its deliberations and proceedings and to provide continuity. The Joint Committee subsequently developed into an assembly-like body of its own,

resulting in the duplication of the two parliamentary bodies' work.

It is now proposed that there be only one parliamentary institution under the next Convention, to be called the ACP-EEC Joint Assembly, and consisting of one representative from each ACP country of an equal number of members of the European Parliament.

The resolution clearly states that this institution is set up by an international convention, and therefore should enjoy the full budgetary autonomy which its legal origins confer upon it.

Reference is also made to the need to maintain current provisions concerning the setting up of working parties, and it is asked that the next Convention must deal with the question of involving the economic and social partners as presently stipulated by Lomé II.

(f) Resolution on the Situation in Southern Africa

The Consultative Assembly took note of the report submitted by the Fact-Finding Mission to the Front-Line States on the second stage of its work, and held a wide ranging debate on Southern Africa. At the outcome of this debate, the Co-President of the Consultative Assembly and President of the European Parliament, Mr Piet Dankert, made a public statement that Mr Jonas Savimbi had not received an invitation from the European Parliament.

The Consultative Assembly is aware of the continuing deterioration of the situation in Southern Africa, and feels that it is largely a result of continuing South African acts of military and economic aggression and harassment against neighbouring countries, especially Angola and Lesotho. These have been amply documented in the second Fact-Finding Mission Report (Doc. CA/CP/393). It therefore urges the implementation of measures called for in its 1982 Rome resolution, and in particular:

- economic and humanitarian support for the Front Line States, and
- concrete measures putting pressure on the South African regime.

(g) Resolutions tabled by the Members of the Joint Committee

A series of resolutions presented by members were adopted by the Joint Committee at its Kingston meeting, and subsequently adopted by the Consultative Assembly at its Berlin meeting. They can be found in the minutes of the Consultative Assembly (Doc. CA/204).

Of these the most important concerns human rights, and will be discussed separately.

(h) Dialogue on human rights

The ACP-EEC Consultative Assembly determines its own agenda. Since the meeting of its Joint Committee in Kingston (February 1983) it must not hesitate to tackle human rights questions in a spirit of frankness and mutual understanding.

It was in fact in February 1983 that the tragic incident of the expulsion of some hundreds of thousands of people from Nigeria took place.

The European Parliament had requested that the matter be discussed at the next ACP-EEC meeting, and so the subject was taken up in Kingston. Objections were naturally raised by ACP colleagues who wanted the matter to be settled by the Africans themselves. Following numerous discussions it was agreed that Mr BUTAGIRA, Co-Chairman of the Joint Committee, would make a statement on behalf of the ACP group expressing understanding for the European Parliament's concern. The gist of the statement is as follows:

'The ACP understand the concern demonstrated by the members of our committee for the human suffering that might have arisen from the action taken by Nigeria under its own sovereignty concerning unauthorized aliens.

The ACP appreciate the aid provided by the Commission and the EEC countries to the states affected by these measures ...

After mature consideration, the ACP side, in the spirit of cooperation and friendship in which the Joint Committee works, wishes to say that the European Parliament's message has been understood, and asks you to trust the OAU, ECOWAS and the countries directly concerned to find a humanitarian and fair solution in conformity with our common ideals.'

The ACP-EEC dialogue on human rights at joint parliamentary level dates from this time.

This is all the more significant since resolution No. 43/83 calling for the opening of an ACP-EEC dialogue on human rights was tabled by Mr PENDERS at the Kingston meeting. The resolution was adopted by the Consultative Assembly in Berlin together with two ACP amendments excluding the human rights issue from any economic negotiations.

It was also emphasized that a country's regime should not be taken into consideration in economic negotiations.

The European Community and in particular Members of the European Parliament can thus take up any human rights issues on the basis of the PENDERS resolution as amended by the ACP group at ACP-EEC Consultative Assemblies.

That is why the resolution attached to this report welcomes the opening of the human rights dialogue and is aimed at reinforcing it.

CONCLUSIONS

The ACP-EEC Consultative Assembly and its Joint Committee have been able to bring to fruition this year the work they undertook in common, shortly after the direct election of the European Parliament, on hunger in the world and on cultural cooperation, as well as in other areas of activity.

They have fulfilled their mandate to make concrete proposals for the successor ACP-EEC Convention.

They have broadened their dialogue to include matters of major political interest and concern such as the situation in southern Africa, and are agreed to engage in a frank and open dialogue on human rights.

