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Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on
Development and Cooperation

on the outcome of the proceedings of the ACP-EEC
Joint Committee and Consultative Assembly in 1981

Rapporteur: Mr J.-J. CLÉMENT

PE 75.675/fin.

By letter of 23 October 1981 the Committee on Development and Cooperation requested authorization to draw up a report on the outcome of the proceedings of the ACP-EEC Joint Committee and Consultative Assembly in 1981.

On 23 October 1981 authorization was duly given by the enlarged Bureau.

On 23 November 1981 the Committee on Development and Cooperation appointed Mr Clément rapporteur.

It considered the draft report at its meeting of 1 December 1981 and adopted the motion for a resolution and the explanatory statement with one abstention.

Present: Mr PONIATOWSKI, chairman; Mr BERSANI, vice-chairman (deputizing for the rapporteur); Mrs CASSANMAGNAGO CERRETTI (deputizing for Mr NARDUCCI), Mr COHEN, Mr ENRIGHT, Mr FERRERO, Mrs FOCKE, Mr C. JACKSON, Mr MICHEL, Mr VITALE (deputizing for Mr VERGES) and Mr WAWRZIK

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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 proceedings of the ACP-EEC Joint Committee and Consultative Assembly in 1981

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the report of the Committee on Development and Cooperation (Doc. 1-824/81),
 - drawing attention to the need for mutual exchanges of information between the ACP-EEC Consultative Assembly and the European Parliament on the positions adopted by each body.
1. Takes note of the resolutions adopted by the ACP-EEC Consultative Assembly meeting from 28 to 30 September 1981, namely
 - the resolution on the Fifth Annual Report of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers and an analysis of the early experience of the Second Lomé Convention with recommendations for its optimal implementation¹,
 - the resolution on cultural cooperation between the ACP States and the European Economic Community²,
 - the resolution on the amendments to be made to the Consultative Assembly's Rules of Procedure³,
 - the resolution on hunger in the world, presented by Mr Kassé, (Mali) chairman, and Mr Ferrero, rapporteur of the working party on hunger⁴,
 - The resolution on the situation in southern Africa, presented by the Joint Committee⁵;
 2. Welcomes the accession of Vanuatu and Zimbabwe to the Second Convention of Lomé;

¹Doc. ACP-EEC 29/81

²Doc. ACP-EEC 27/81

³Doc. ACP-EEC 28/81

⁴Doc. ACP-EEC 30/81

⁵Doc. ACP-EEC 31/81

3. Stresses the need for consistency between the deliberations of the ACP-EEC parliamentary bodies and those of the European Parliament, and urges the relevant committees of the European Parliament to take account of this requirement in their work;
4. Stresses the need for consultation with the economic and social partners and hopes that they will be more closely involved in the implementation of the Convention;
5. Asks that, prior to the accession of Spain and Portugal to the Community, the consultations provided for in the Second Convention of Lomé be held at a sufficiently early stage;
6. Reaffirms the validity of the principles of the Second Convention of Lomé but regrets that their application has encountered a number of obstacles;
7. Calls, in particular, for an adequate allocation of financial resources to STABEX and SYSMIN, draws special attention to the requests of the ACP countries concerning sugar and stresses the need to set up the Technical Centre for Agricultural Development;
8. Recalls its numerous commitments to the alleviation of hunger and reaffirms the priority which must be given to agricultural development and fish-farming;
9. Considers that particular attention should be paid to resolving the serious problems afflicting the least developed, landlocked and island ACP States and takes note in this connection of the resolutions of the United Nations' Paris Conference on the least developed countries;
10. Takes note of the activities of the various working parties, particularly in the energy sector, which is of fundamental importance, and hopes that their work will receive greater support;
11. Hopes that the resolution on cultural cooperation will lead to specific results within the framework of the Convention;
12. Hopes that the Consultative Assmely and Joint Committee will keep it regularly informed of their decisions;
13. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers, the ACP-EEC Consultative Assembly and Joint Committee and to the Commission and Council of the European Communities.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENTINTRODUCTION

In 1980, for the first time since the creation of the ACP-EEC joint parliamentary bodies, a report¹ was submitted to the European Parliament on the outcome of the proceedings of the Joint Committee and Consultative Assembly during that year. Article 3 of the resolution attached to that report, which was adopted by the European Parliament on 21 November 1980, expressed the hope that the Consultative Assembly and its Joint Committee would keep it regularly informed of their decisions. It should be noted that prior to November 1980 the European Parliament had been given no information on the positions adopted by the ACP-EEC Consultative Assembly and Joint Committee. Furthermore, occasions had arisen on which the European Parliament had adopted resolutions completely at variance with decisions of the Consultative Assembly and Joint Committee.

Such divergence was embarrassing for European members of the ACP-EEC parliamentary bodies, and led ACP members of these institutions to question the good faith of commitments made by their European counterparts.

The report at present under consideration continues the precedent created last year by the Sablé report, in the hope that the positions adopted by the European Parliament and the ACP-EEC parliamentary bodies can, in the future, be harmonized. Otherwise the long-term credibility of the ACP-EEC Joint Committee and Consultative Assembly will be endangered.

I. THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE ACP-EEC JOINT COMMITTEE

At its meeting in Freetown (Sierra Leone) from 23 to 26 February 1981, the Joint Committee adopted:

- (i) a final declaration (CA/CP/215/fin.);
- (ii) a declaration on the situation in southern Africa (CA/CP/216/fin.).

It held exchanges of views on:

- the current situation of the Lomé Convention, following an oral statement by the general rapporteur, Ambassador Insanally of Guyana;
- ACP/EEC cooperation in the fishing sector, following an introductory statement on his draft report by the rapporteur, Ambassador Kanu of Sierra Leone;

¹Report of Mr Sablé, Doc. 1-522/80, OJ No. C327 of 15.12.1980, p.79

Oral reports were given on progress made by the working parties on:

- Cultural Cooperation, by Ambassador Chasle of Mauritius, the rapporteur;
- World Hunger, by Mr Ferrero, the rapporteur;
- Energy, by Ambassador Siddig of the Sudan, the rapporteur.

The Joint Committee also considered the preparations for the 1981 hearing with representatives of the economic and social sectors in the ACP States and the European Community, and held a question time with Commissioner Cheysson.

At its meeting in Strasbourg from 23 to 25 September 1981 the Joint Committee considered and adopted:

- the draft general report (CA/CP/232) by Ambassador Insanally (Guyana) on the Fifth Annual Report of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers;
- the draft report (CA/CP/186/rev.) by Ambassador Chasle (Mauritius) on cultural cooperation between the ACP and the European Community;
- the draft report (CA/CP/234) by Mr Jaquet on amendments to the rules of procedure of the Consultative Assembly;
- a motion for a resolution on the situation in southern Africa (CA/CP/246/rev.);
- a motion for a resolution on hunger in the world (CA/CP/254) tabled by Mr Kassé, chairman, and Mr Ferrero, rapporteur of the working group on hunger in the world.

All of these reports and resolutions were forwarded to the Consultative Assembly.

In addition, the Joint Committee heard statements

- by Mr Ferrero, rapporteur, on the progress of the ad hoc working party on hunger in the world,
- by Ambassador Siddig (Sudan), rapporteur, on the progress of the ad hoc working party on energy,
- by Mr Bersani, co-chairman of the Joint Committee, on the hearing with economic and social partners in the ACP States and the European Community held in Geneva on 1 and 2 June 1981.

Each of these was followed by a discussion.

A question time was held with Commissioner Pisani.

II. - THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE ACP-EEC CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY

The ACP-EEC Consultative Assembly, meeting in Luxembourg from 28 to 30 September 1981, adopted:

- a report on the Fifth Annual Report of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers and an analysis of the early experience of the Second Lomé Convention with recommendations for its optimal implementation, rapporteur Ambassador Insanally (Guyana), (Doc. ACP-EEC 29/81);
- a report on cultural cooperation between the ACP States and the European Economic Community, rapporteur Ambassador Chasle (Mauritius) (Doc. ACP-EEC 27/81);
- a report on the amendments to be made to the Consultative Assembly's Rules of Procedure, rapporteur Mr Jaquet, (Doc. ACP-EEC 28/81);
- a motion for a resolution on hunger in the world, presented by Mr Kassé, (Mali) chairman, and Mr Ferrero, rapporteur of the working party on hunger, (Doc. ACP-EEC 30/81);
- a motion for a resolution on the situation in southern Africa, presented by the Joint Committee, (Doc. ACP-EEC 31/81).

III. - OUTLINE OF TEXTS ADOPTED BY THE CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY

- (i) A report on the Fifth Annual Report of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers and an analysis of the early experience of the Second Lomé Convention with recommendations for its optimal implementation, rapporteur: Ambassador Insanally

This far-reaching and in many ways very critical report dealt with the whole gamut of ACP-EEC relations. It began by welcoming the entry into force of the new Convention and the completion of programming missions, and regretting the tardy presentation by the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers of its annual report.

Enlargement of the ACP and of the EEC

With regard to the enlargement of the ACP and the EEC, the accession of Vanuatu and Zimbabwe to the Convention was welcomed, and hope expressed that the Zimbabwean accession agreement would be ratified by all Community Member States with the least possible delay. The Consultative Assembly was pleased to note that Belize had indicated a desire to accede to the Convention.

The resolution welcomed the imminent signature by Greece of the Second Lomé Convention while regretting what it termed "the inadequate nature of consultation with the ACP partners concerning the accession of Greece". The effect of Greek accession on ACP trade with the Community was referred to and the importance of keeping the ACP appropriately informed of developments

in the negotiations for the later accession of Spain and Portugal was emphasised. Of particular importance was the call on the Community to initiate, in good time, real negotiations with the ACP for the appropriate measures of adaptation and transition that would be required because of the enlargement of the Community.

Trade cooperation

The next section of the resolution tabled by Mr Insanally concerned trade cooperation. It noted with concern that, though the nominal value of trade between the ACP and the Community increased during the period under review, and that while the trade balance was in favour of the ACP, nevertheless the pattern of ACP-EEC trade had remained largely unchanged since 1975, and the decline of exports of raw materials other than oil in total ACP exports to the Community had not been compensated by a corresponding increase in the export of manufactured goods. In his explanatory statement, though not in the resolution, Mr Insanally's detailed analysis of ACP-EEC trade showed that the ACP's favourable trade balance was largely due to the volume of petroleum exports to the Community emanating from 4 ACP States. Of particular significance is the fact that Community imports of petroleum from these 4 States alone account for 51% of ACP trade with the Community.

This resolution emphasised the principle of free access to the Community market for ACP industrial products, including textiles, noting that ACP textiles account for only 1.8% of total EEC textile imports. Protectionist measures were strongly condemned, and the value of consultation procedures was stressed.

The resolution also gave due attention to the importance of trade promotion and called on the ACP and the EEC to undertake a detailed study of the root causes of the poor results obtained so far in ACP-EEC trade cooperation and to take appropriate remedial action.

Agricultural products

The resolution called for ACP agricultural products to be granted the greatest possible access to Community markets, while hoping that the re-organization of the common agricultural policy would take account of ACP interests. In addition, it requested the Council and Commission to examine the means whereby the Community could supply available agricultural products to the ACP on a regular basis and on preferential terms. Such arrangements would be commercial in nature and should not be confused with food aid.

Food aid

The Consultative Assembly insisted on Community food aid being increased and diversified to a larger range of products, taking more account of the

nutritional habits of recipient countries. It also hoped that food aid in sugar would be increased.

System of generalised tariff preferences

The potential value of the system of generalised tariff preferences for developing countries was recognised, and the hope was expressed that the position accorded by the Convention to the ACP group would not be eroded by the extension of the GSP. The resolution also called for the early activation of the ACP-EEC joint working party on the GSP.

Stabex and sysmin

The financial difficulties at present encountered by the Stabex system constituted one of the central themes of the meetings of both the Joint Committee and the Consultative Assembly. The view was taken that the resources made available for Stabex under the new Convention had proved to be quite inadequate and a call made for the provision of additional resources. A request was made once again to the Commission for a report assessing the impact of Stabex on the development of ACP economies, and the creation of world commodity agreements aimed at stabilising prices was suggested as a means of preventing too rapid a depletion of Stabex resources. Furthermore, the Consultative Assembly felt that the resources provided for Sysmin could also be quickly depleted.

Sugar

With Stabex, the other major topic considered by the Joint Committee and Consultative Assembly was sugar. ACP sugar producers are currently undergoing difficulties and consequently are determined that the Sugar Protocol attached to the Conventions of Lomé I and II be implemented fully in the spirit in which it was drawn up. Their anxiety focused on two issues:

- (i) The European Community's internal sugar regime which, despite recent modification, has not stemmed the steady increase over recent years in Community beet sugar production;
- (ii) The 1981/82 guaranteed price offered by the Community for raw sugar represented an increase of only 7½% over the previous year's price, while the price increase applicable to white sugar amounted to 8½%. As more than 90% of ACP sugar exports to the Community take the form of unrefined sugar, the ACP maintained that the Community's proposal constituted a clear discrimination and, as no real negotiations had taken place, could not be considered a reasonable interpretation of the Sugar Protocol.

These two preoccupations were reflected in the sixteen paragraphs of the

resolution devoted to sugar. In addition, the hope was expressed that European cane sugar refining capacity would continue in the medium term to be sufficient to process ACP sugar exports to the Community. Attention was also drawn to the negative effect of high shipping freight costs on the profitability of ACP sugar exports.

The resolution urged the Community, inter alia:

- to maintain its contractual obligations under the Sugar Protocol,
- to agree to consultations at the highest political level so that an agreed price increase for raw sugar could be negotiated for the 1981/82 campaign,
- to undertake real negotiations in future years with regard to the guaranteed price for ACP sugar,
- to interpret the force majeure provisions of the Sugar Protocol more flexibly,
and
- to participate in the near future in the International Sugar Agreement.

Industrial cooperation

The resolution presented by Mr Insanally noted the failure so far to achieve significant results in ACP-EEC industrial cooperation, and hoped that means would be found whereby additional impetus and capital, including bank, private and public capital, could be mobilised for industrial development in the ACP States. The Joint Committee was requested to set up a working group on industrial cooperation and an appeal was made to the Community, after consulting the economic and social sectors, to take greater account of the needs of ACP economies in determining its internal restructuring measures. The Centre for Industrial Development, Commission and EIB were called on to encourage the setting up of industrial projects in the ACP and the transfer of suitable technology.

Energy cooperation

As an ad hoc working group of the Joint Committee is at present considering this topic, it was the subject of only two paragraphs of the resolution. Nevertheless, the concern of the ACP States faced with greatly increased energy costs was expressed, and the importance of the Nairobi Conference on new and renewable sources of energy was highlighted, along with an appeal that full use be made, both by the ACP and the Community, of the articles dealing with energy cooperation in Lomé II.

Agricultural cooperation and the alleviation of hunger

This topic was also the subject of an ad hoc working group set up by the Joint Committee. The Consultative Assembly recognised that priority should be given to increasing agricultural and food production in the ACP States, and called for regional aid programmes for ACP refugees. Attention was drawn to areas afflicted by drought, notably in the Sahel region and the Horn of Africa, and the importance of the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation being operational with the least possible delay was emphasised.

The resolution devoted three paragraphs to cooperation in the fisheries sector. It called for bilateral agreements between the Community and interested ACP States or groups of States, recognised the importance of fish farming, and regretted the failure of the EEC to conclude an internal Community fisheries agreement.

Financial and technical cooperation

Coming as it does at the beginning of the period of operation of Lomé II, Mr Insanally's resolution devoted relatively little attention to financial and technical cooperation, the effectiveness of which will only be perceived during the coming years. The resolution did, however, express the hope that appropriations under the 5th EDF would be more quickly committed and disbursed than was the case under its predecessor, while calling for more efficient administrative procedures for the management and control of aid funds.

The new Convention's important provisions on co-financing were welcomed and the Consultative Assembly reaffirmed the crucial role to be played by the Community in encouraging and facilitating the participation of other donors.

Regional cooperation

The resolution acknowledged the importance of regional cooperation and welcomed the increased funds made available for this purpose under Lomé II.

Least-developed, landlocked and island ACP States

The Joint Committee reaffirmed its concern at the growing difficulties of the least-developed countries, particularly those that were landlocked or insular. It noted the resolutions of the UN Conference on the least-developed countries (Paris, 1-14 September 1981) and the positive role played by the Community and its Member States at that Conference. It called on the Community and its Member States to implement the Substantial New Programme of Action and the Minimum Programme of Action adopted by that Conference

while hoping that the Community Member States involved would use all their influence to promote these efforts at the Cancun meeting.

Institutional aspects of the Convention

The general rapporteur, Mr Insanally, was particularly concerned with the institutional aspects of the Convention, and took the view in his explanatory statement that many of the difficulties which had arisen between the Community and the ACP could have been obviated by more effective institutional provisions. Particular efforts should be made to expedite and facilitate the work of the Council of Ministers by providing for consultations and regular exchanges of view by the co-presidents during the period between the ACP-EEC Council meetings. The general rapporteur, and the Consultative Assembly through his resolution, saw the need for greater political effort in all ACP-EEC institutions.

Global development policy, situation and trends

The resolution maintained that multilateral cooperation between developing and developed countries would be of mutual advantage, and consequently stressed the importance of an early resumption of global North/South negotiations. It condemned the waste of material and human resources involved in the arms race, and reiterated the need to attain as soon possible the respective aims of 0.7% and 1% of the GNP of the developed countries being devoted to public development aid, while at the same time highlighting the minimum aim of providing 0.15% of GNP for the least developed countries. The resolution noted with concern the threat of certain major industrial countries to reduce development aid commitments, and appealed to donors to guarantee the volume of aid to developing countries, and more particularly to the least developed.

- (ii) A report on cultural cooperation between the ACP States and the European Economic Community, rapporteur: Ambassador Chasle (Mauritius)
(Doc. ACP-EEC 27/81)

The Convention of Lomé is primarily an economic and commercial agreement and contains no provisions relating directly to cultural cooperation. Accordingly the resolution and report drawn up by Mr Chasle, on behalf of the ad hoc Working Group on Cultural Cooperation, broke new ground and, for the first time, proposed an approach to cultural cooperation between the Community and the ACP. While EEC Member States have organised cultural exchanges with ACP countries, these have generally tended to be one sided. The resolution set out to redress this balance.

Mr Chasle's resolution welcomed the fact that cultural cooperation was being given attention for the first time within the framework of ACP-EEC cooperation, and maintained that a cultural dimension should be included in ACP-EEC cooperation. The resolution felt that cultural relations

should be regarded as a source of mutual spiritual enrichment.

Through the resolution, the Consultative Assembly considered that increased cultural cooperation between the ACP States and the Community as such would improve the coordination and integration of cooperation schemes in the development process, would be more neutral than bilateral cultural cooperation, would enable the ACP countries as a whole to take advantage of Community aid in this sector and would enable certain cultural events and arrangements to reach a wider public. The resolution requested that greater attention should be paid to the cultural aspects of development. Furthermore the cultural identities and socio-cultural environment of the ACP countries should be taken into account when carrying out financial projects under the EDF.

Socio-cultural sphere

This section of the resolution favoured joint research on the impact of development programmes on the physical and socio-cultural environment of the recipient countries; it called on the Community to help ACP States to devise development models in keeping with their own genius that would meet the aspirations of their peoples, and stressed the importance of ACP countries striking a balance between tradition and modernism. In this respect the important role of NGOs was noted, and an appeal made for increased Community funds for such organisations.

Training

The ACP States and the EEC were encouraged to step up their training efforts, and a request was made that a large share of EDF aid be devoted to training. It was recommended that the Community and the Member States should grant aid to universities and institutes in Europe and in the ACP countries so that specialised study courses on the history, geography and culture of developing countries could be taught. At the same time, the Member States of the Community should encourage a better understanding of the ACP and other countries through the orientation of school courses.

Interesting proposals in this report included a recommendation that university study periods for European students should be arranged in the ACP countries in order to enable students to familiarise themselves with the realities of those countries, and a recommendation that inter-university student exchange programmes be organised between the Community and ACP States. In addition, an appeal was made to the Member States to continue financial support to students from ACP countries, and to readjust student grants to a reasonable level. At the same time ACP students and trainees should be encouraged to return to their country of origin on completion of their training.

The attention of the Community and its Member States was drawn to the

social and cultural situation of ACP immigrant workers, and the Community was called on to finance literacy courses in ACP countries.

Information

It was hoped that cultural cooperation between the ACP and the Community would include cooperation in the area of information, with the primary aim of correcting the imbalance in the flow of information between the ACP and the EEC. Furthermore, an appeal was made to the Community to place scientific and technical knowledge at the disposal of the research workers and economic and political leaders of the ACP, and the suggestion was made that the EURONET system and other data bank networks in Europe could be extended to ACP countries.

Cultural exchanges

An original recommendation was for the creation of a cultural data bank establishing in one place the archives on the ACP countries which are at present scattered throughout the Member States. The Community was encouraged to help make the culture of the ACP countries more widely known to Europeans and to develop more open attitudes towards ACP cultural values through the establishment of a foundation for the promotion and popularisation of ACP cultures.

Cultural works

The attention of Member States was drawn to UN General Assembly and UNESCO resolutions concerning the return of cultural works to their countries of origin, and Community Member States were asked to consider favourably such moves. It was further recommended that, in the interim, the UN should declare such cultural artefacts universal property or the common heritage of man. The Community was invited to draw up a complete inventory of items of ACP origin in European museums or libraries, to participate in the setting up of museums in ACP States and to make every effort to provide ACP citizens with the widest possible opportunities for access to works of art originating in the ACP States and held in the EEC.

Tourism

The importance of the tourist trade in the economic, cultural and social evolution of the ACP was emphasised, particularly the development of tourism based on a sincere desire to understand others and their way of life so as to avoid "ghetto tourism". In order to achieve this the setting up of a discussion body was proposed, and it was hoped that the appropriate committees of the European Parliament would consider the problems of the tourist trade in ACP countries.

Intra-ACP action

The resolution recommended the ACP and the Community jointly to examine ways and means of providing assistance for an intra-ACP action programme in the area of cultural cooperation, and stressed that ACP-EEC cultural cooperation should enhance cooperation between the ACP States.

Continuation of activities

The report took the view that cultural cooperation would be unlikely to succeed unless the ACP States and the EEC first carried out the necessary preparatory work. To this end it was recommended that the ACP and the Community set up a joint high level working party which would draft provisions on cultural cooperation to be considered during negotiations for the successor arrangement to Lomé II. It was furthermore recommended that this report be carefully considered by other ACP-EEC institutions so that its objectives and principles could be taken into account in the preparation of projects assisted under the EDF. A request was made that this report be widely distributed in both the ACP and EEC Member States. Finally, the Consultative Assembly recommended that the working group of the Joint Committee should continue to monitor "the realisation by the joint institutions of the ACP and the EEC, and other bodies and institutions, of these proposals, and to bring forward some concrete measures for the next meeting of the Joint Committee in Zimbabwe."

- (iii) A report on the amendments to be made to the Consultative Assembly's Rules of Procedure, rapporteur: Mr Jaquet (Doc. ACP-EEC 28/81)

As this report concerned only the internal workings of the Consultative Assembly and its Joint Committee, your rapporteur feels that it is not necessary to draw the attention of the European Parliament to its provisions.

- (iv) A motion for a resolution on hunger in the world, presented by Mr Kassé, (Mali) chairman, and Mr Ferrero, rapporteur of the working party on hunger, (Doc. ACP-EEC 30/81)

The ad hoc working group on hunger in the world hopes to be in a position to present its draft report to the Joint Committee meeting in Zimbabwe in February 1982. However, because of the critical deterioration of the world food situation, particularly in several African ACP countries, the chairman and the rapporteur of this working group deemed it advisable to present a short resolution on hunger to the Consultative Assembly.

This resolution, which contained only three paragraphs, supported the initiatives taken so far to combat hunger and malnutrition, and referred particularly to the plan proposed by the Italian government for an extraordinary campaign against world hunger. In particular, the resolution

encouraged the working group to continue its efforts, and asked it to examine the motions for resolution submitted to the Joint Committee, as well as documents from the EEC and ACP States.

- (v) A motion for a resolution on the situation in southern Africa, presented by the Joint Committee (Doc. ACP-EEC 31/81)

As is now traditional, the Consultative Assembly adopted a resolution on Southern Africa. This resolution reiterated its condemnation of South Africa.

As in the past, attention was drawn to the fact that most of the Community Member States had not yet drawn up reports on the results of the application of the code of conduct for companies operating in South Africa, and Community governments were requested to prevent European and multinational companies from pursuing activities that would be in breach of the undertakings made in the United Nations.

The Consultative Assembly, like the Joint Committee meeting in Freetown, welcomed the suspension of cultural agreements between certain EEC States and the South African government, and called on the remaining EEC States to adopt a similar policy.

The resolution supported the right of the people of Namibia to self-determination in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. It demanded the rapid and full implementation of all sections of UN resolution 435 and appealed in this respect to the contact group on Namibia, and to the governments of the Community Member States meeting in political cooperation.

Special tribute was paid to the people of the frontline States, and the Community was urged to step up the special measures already taken for their benefit. An appeal for aid to the people of Angola was made, and South Africa was condemned for incursions into frontline States.

Of particular note was the decision by the Consultative Assembly to send out as soon as possible a fact-finding mission to the frontline States. This mission should draw up a report for the next meeting of the Joint Committee. The resolution did not consider the modalities for such a mission, and European participation therein would obviously be subject to approval by the competent bodies within the European Parliament. It is thus particularly important that the European Parliament give due consideration to this part of the resolution.

IV. - FRINGE MEETING ON SUGAR

On 29 September 1981, during the meeting of the Consultative Assembly, a meeting was organised between interested members of the Committee on Development and Cooperation and representatives of the ACP Sugar Sub-Committee, at the request of the latter. The preoccupations of the ACP sugar producers were expressed by Ambassador Jackman (Barbados) and Ambassador O'Neil Lewis (Trinidad and Tobago), who also explained to the European members the intricacies of the sugar marketing situation.

The ACP producers were particularly worried by what they regarded as discrimination regarding the different increases in the guaranteed prices for raw and white sugar proposed by the Community (See page 10 supra).

Perhaps the most significant outcome of this meeting, which was considered particularly fruitful by both sides, was the undertaking by Mr Poniatowski, Chairman of the Committee on Development and Cooperation, to initiate an ongoing dialogue between the Committee and the representatives of the ACP Sugar Sub-Committee, in the hope that this could pave the way for a mutually acceptable solution to the present difficulties. It should be noted that this dialogue with the Development Committee is already underway.

V. - CONCLUSIONS

The aim of this report is to provide the European Parliament with information on the work of the ACP-EEC Joint Committee and Consultative Assembly and the resolutions adopted by the latter body. The Committee on Development and Cooperation hopes that the parliamentary committees concerned will give due attention to the positions adopted by the Consultative Assembly and, where possible, take the necessary steps to ensure their implementation.

It is particularly important that efforts be made to prevent the development of serious differences of opinion on fundamental problems between the European Parliament and European members of the Consultative Assembly and Joint Committee. Otherwise the position of these members vis-à-vis their ACP colleagues will be seriously compromised and the credibility of the parliamentary institutions of the Lomé Convention will suffer.

The first report¹ submitted to the European Parliament on the outcome of the proceedings of the Joint Committee and the Consultative Assembly was intended to inform the Parliament of the proceedings of these bodies and to achieve better cooperation between the European Parliament and the European members of the Joint Committee and Consultative Assembly. Experience leads your rapporteur to take the view that a more political report is called for. The present report intends to fulfil this need.

¹Report of Mr Sablé, Doc. 1-522/80, OJ No. C327 of 15.12.1980, p.79

