

ACP - EEC CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY

FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING

SUMMARY REPORT
OF THE PROCEEDINGS
OF 24, 25 and 26 SEPTEMBER 1980

LUXEMBOURG



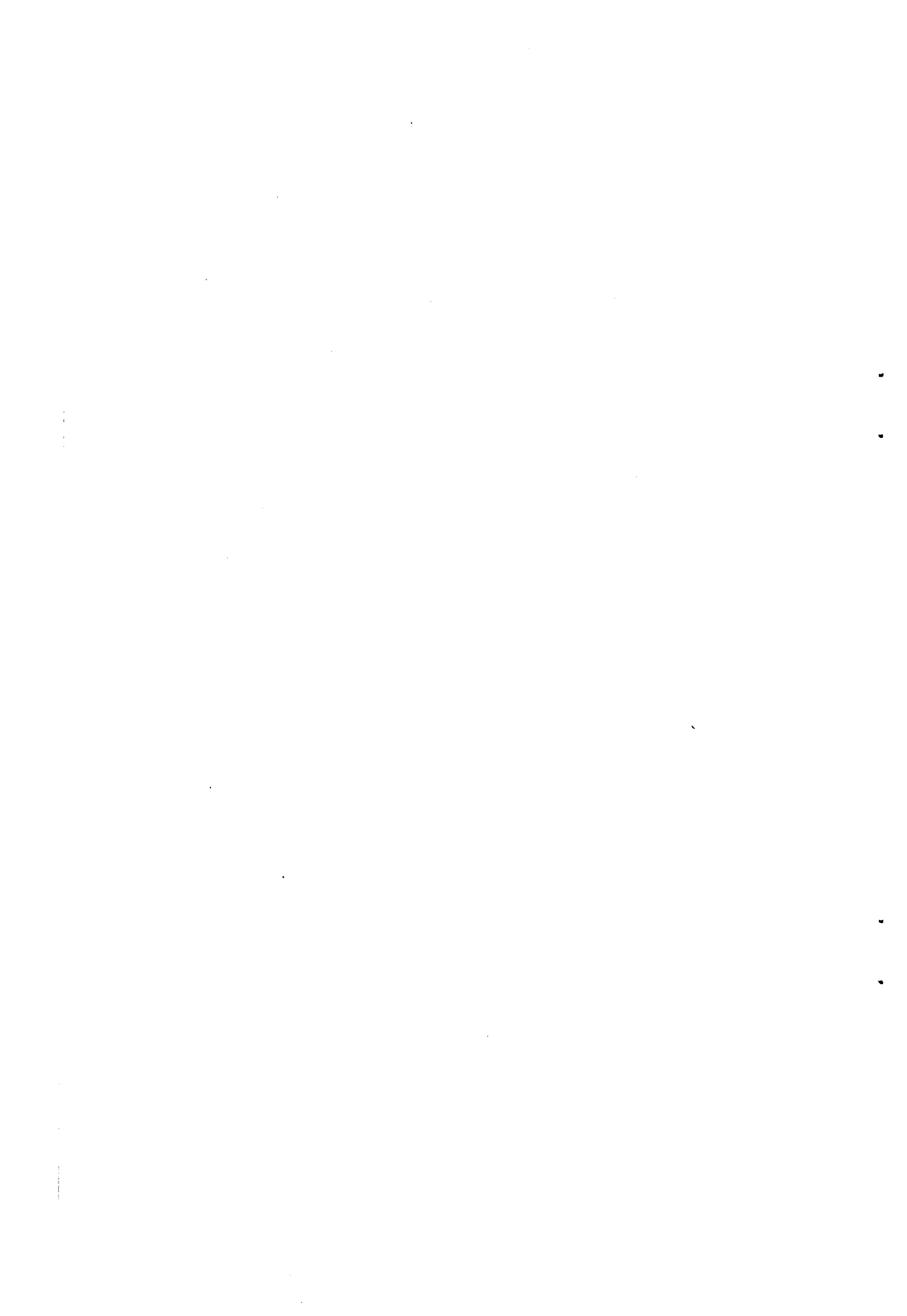
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SITTING OF WEDNESDAY, 24 SEPTEMBER 1980

IN THE CHAIR

Mr Tandeng MUNA
President of the National Assembly
of the United Republic of Cameroon

Mrs Simone VEIL
President of the European Parliament

(The sitting was opened at 3.40 p.m.)

1. Opening of the annual session of the Assembly

Mrs VEIL, President, declared the annual session of the Assembly open.

2. Membership of the Assembly

Pursuant to Article 1(2) of the Rules of Procedure, President VEIL informed the Assembly of the composition of the Assembly.

The list of members is attached to the minutes (Annex I).

3. Election of the Bureau

Pursuant to Article 6(1) of the Rules of Procedure, the Assembly now had to elect its Bureau, which was composed of 12 members.

The President read out the list of candidates:

Presidents:

Mrs VEIL, President of the European
Parliament

Mr MUNA, President of the
National Assembly of the
United Republic of Cameroon

Vice-Presidents:

Mr KÜHN
Mr VANDEWIELE
Mr PEARCE
Mr DENIS
Mr CLEMENT

Mr KASSE
Mr HASKINS

The other candidates would be
announced at a later date

Mr PANNELLA announced his intention of asking for the election to the Bureau to be by secret ballot next year.

The Assembly ratified these appointment.

(The sitting was suspended at 3.45 p.m. and resumed at 4.30 p.m. in formal session)

IN THE CHAIR

Mr Tandeng MUNA
President

Mr Simone VEIL
President

4. Documents received

The President announced that he had received:

the report drawn up by Mr FOCKE, on behalf of the Joint Committee, on the annual report of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers and on an analysis of the results obtained under the First Lomé Convention in the light of the forthcoming entry into force of the Second Lomé Convention (Doc. ACP-EEC/19/80).

5. Order of business

The President announced to Parliament that the Joint Committee proposed that the following agenda should be adopted for its current meeting:

Wednesday, 24 September 1980, until 8 p.m.:

- Introductory speeches by the President-in-Office of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers and the President-in-Office of the Council of Ministers of the European Communities
- JAQUET report on the new institutional provisions of the Lomé II Convention and amendments that might be made to the Rules of Procedure of the ACP-EEC Consultative Assembly
- FOCKE report on the annual report of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers

Thursday, 25 September 1980: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

- Vote on the motion for a resolution contained in the JAQUET report
- Resumption of debate on the FOCKE report
- MICHEL report on the protection of the rights of migrant workers
- KANU motion for a resolution on the development of fisheries in the ACP States
- Motion for a resolution by GHANA and others on cocoa
- Motion for a resolution by GUYANA on Zimbabwe
- Motion for a resolution by Mr DENIS and others and by Mr WAWRZIK and others on the situation in southern Africa

Friday, 26 September 1980: 9 a.m. to 12 Noon:

- possibly, resumption of previous day's agenda
- votes
- any other business

The President announced that he had received a request to the effect that consideration of the report by Mr JAQUET should be postponed to the following day.

Mr PANNELLA stated that he had tabled a motion for a resolution on world hunger.

Mrs EWING spoke on a procedural motion.

The Assembly agreed that the report by Mr JAQUET should be postponed to the following day and, with this exception, approved the agenda proposed by the Joint Committee.

Mrs Simone VEIL, President of the European Parliament and co-President of the ACP-EEC Consultative Assembly extended a warm welcome to all representatives present. She paid tribute to the memory of Mr Seretse KHAMA, President of the Republic of Botswana, who had died recently.

(The Assembly rose to observe one minute's silence)

The opening of this session - likely to be the last - of the Consultative Assembly constituted under Lomé I was a natural opportunity to review the results and future prospects of our cooperation.

The achievements were positive. As to the future, one of the principal objectives would be to assist the poorest countries which were increasingly hard-hit by the deteriorating economic situation. The search for a new international order would require on the part of the various partners an effort which could only be made on the necessary scale if public opinion gave its support: the European Parliament was aware of its responsibilities in this area.

While the new international order was still only a project, the Lomé Convention was a concrete reality: it would be for all the partners to ensure its effective application. The speaker went on to highlight certain important aspects of this future cooperation which required discussion.

To enable the scheduled date - 1 January 1981 - for the entry into force of Lomé II to be respected, the Parliament would call upon the Community Member States to ratify the Convention rapidly.

Our cooperation could also bring progress in the North-South dialogue whose conclusion was vital to the survival of many countries and towards stability.

The proceedings of the Consultative Assembly must make their contribution to closer cooperation and to the rapprochement of our peoples.

(Applause)

Mr Léon BOLLENDORFF, President of the Luxembourg Chamber of Deputies, warmly welcomed to Luxembourg the participants at the plenary sitting of the ACP-EEC Consultative Assembly, which was meeting in his country for the fifth consecutive time. He said that their visit was an honour, because the populations represented by the participants were worthy of esteem and friendship, and a pleasure because he enjoyed meeting the members of the Assembly at the same time each year. The event also bore witness to the fact that the ACP and EEC States were uniting in their efforts to create a better and fairer world.

Once again, on behalf of all the inhabitants of the Grand Duchy, he cordially welcomed the participants and wished them a pleasant stay.

The current session was particularly important because it was the last meeting under Lomé I.

On 8 July 1980, the Chamber of Deputies had been among the first of the parliaments of the Europe of the Nine to approve the bill ratifying the Second Lomé Convention. Lomé II was a precedent for relations between industrialized countries and developing countries because it set an example for continuity and stability in these countries. It should serve as a model for an even more broadly based dialogue between the regions in the north and south of the world.

The speaker felt that Europe was particularly well placed for giving precious and effective support to the advancement of and progress in the developing countries.

Luxembourg had for a long time recognized this obligation both within the framework of the EEC and at bilateral level. The Grand Duchy's 1981 budget for development was 30.6% higher than the 1980 budget. This increase was an expression of Luxembourg's determination to achieve the target of 0.7% of GNP set by the United Nations.

Mr Bollendorff was pleased that the participants would be considering the motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Kanu on fisheries development in the ACP States in addition to the reports tabled by Mrs Focker, Mr Jaquet and Mr Michel analysing the results of Lomé I.

The question of fisheries was very important because fish stocks had a measure of influence on the possible solutions to the problems of hunger in the world.

He hoped that this session of intensive work would give rise to fruitful exchanges of views. Indeed, the psychological and political reasons for greater cooperation between the developed and developing countries were becoming increasingly important in the context of safeguarding the future, i.e. the peace, of the world.

(Applause)

Mrs COLETTE FLESCHE, Mayor of the City of Luxembourg, welcomed the Members of the Assembly.

She stressed the European role of Luxembourg which had become increasingly open to the outside world since the signing of the Yaoundé and Lomé Conventions.

She reiterated her conviction of the need for cooperation between the industrialized and developing countries because of the interdependence which united them.

She stressed that priority should be given to solving the serious problem of world hunger which had been the subject of a debate during the last part-session of the European Parliament in September.

The solidarity which already existed within the Member States must be extended to the world at large and that this would require providing better information for the general public and a change in attitudes.

She concluded by expressing the hope that the proceedings of the Assembly would once again prove successful.

(Applause)

Mr MUNA, Co-President of the Consultative Assembly, expressed his gratitude to the Assembly for his re-election as Co-President and undertook to do his best to live up to the confidence placed in him. He welcomed the representatives present, in particular St Vincent and Grenadine which had become the fifty-ninth Member of the Convention. Zimbabwe would soon be joining also and he hoped that membership of the Convention would 'help to heal the wounds of the war of liberation'.

He thanked the European Parliament for providing such excellent facilities for the meeting and expressed his appreciation for the hospitality of the Luxembourg authorities.

He then reviewed the role of the Lomé Convention in the context of the present difficult world economic situation. In this time of deepening recession, poverty was gaining ground, especially in the ACP countries: here the Lomé Convention could help towards the attainment of an equitable global strategy for the benefit of all the partners. The Convention was based essentially on goodwill and faith in the potentialities of human achievement. He said that he was proud of the Lomé Convention because it was 'in the vanguard of the socio-economic war to save mankind from unfair exploitation, from hunger and disease, from ignorance and poverty'. The aim of the Convention and of the Assembly was to bring about improved conditions in the Member countries and in the world. As a forum for consultations, the Assembly had an important contribution to make to the promotion of mutual understanding. Mrs FOCKE had produced an objective and enlightening report which should help us to avoid the mistakes of the past and progress towards a more satisfying future. Practical work could be done by the Convention in helping to develop industrial skills, promoting internal and intra-ACP trade, generating investment finance and ACP solidarity.

He hoped that Lomé II would continue the work of the previous Convention in a spirit of mutual concern inspired by men and women who looked beyond their national frontiers and regional groupings. 'There can be no real peace or prosperity for the few when the majority are languishing in pain and poverty'.

(Applause)

6. Introductory speeches

Mr ONYONKA, President of the ACP Council of Ministers, began by expressing great pleasure at being able to participate in the present meeting of the ACP-EEC Consultative Assembly and said that the Council was very willing to cooperate with the Assembly in its work.

After thanking the Government of Luxembourg for its hospitality and expressing appreciation for the Joint Committee's work, he outlined the many important meetings that had been held over the previous twelve months, in particular those resulting in Lomé II. He also drew particular attention to the Joint Committee meeting in Arusha.

These events, he said, emphasized the Council's desire to work in collaboration with the Assembly. The Council had seriously taken note of the Joint Committee's criticism of the delay in the submission of the Annual Report. This was due to unforeseen circumstances and steps would be taken to ensure that it did not happen in the future. The speaker felt that the report would be constructive and useful.

Highlighting the deteriorating world situation, with the many problems that had arisen in the economic sphere and in the North-South Dialogue, Mr Onyonka said that vigilance was required against complacency.

Moving on to Lomé II, he pointed out that although more Members ratified the Convention each month, two-thirds of the participating countries had to sign before it could come into force. He appealed to those concerned to deposit the instruments of ratification as quickly as possible.

Lomé I had laid the basic foundations and would be consolidated by Lomé II. More members were now joining the Convention, in particular Zimbabwe. The ACP Group and the ACP-EEC Council warmly welcomed this new country. The speaker felt, however, that enlargement, either of the ACP Group or the EEC, should not prejudice acquired rights. Present advantages should be maintained. Disadvantages should be avoided.

Referring to other problems, the speaker drew attention to the failure of the UN Special Session on Global Negotiations and the failure to reach agreement on cocoa prices. The ACP countries were disappointed at the attitude in Europe, which did not facilitate a solution of the latter problem. Sugar policy was still a cause for concern and he hoped that the Consultative Assembly would help to ensure that the Community acceded to the International Sugar Agreement.

The ACP performance in manufactures was disappointing. Lomé II should be used to provide the necessary boost in this field.

The efforts of the ACP and EEC partners must be viewed in the context of international problems. In this connection the speaker noted with satisfaction the Assembly's attention to such matters, and in particular the European Parliament's concern with world hunger. In the face of mounting deaths from hunger, he said, future generations would blame Assemblies such as ours if we failed to take action.

Lastly, cooperation between the ACP States themselves was also vital to the expansion of trade between these countries and between the ACP States and the EEC.

Concluding on a note of optimism, Mr Onyonka said that although the tasks ahead would be difficult and demanding, they could be dealt with.

(Applause)

Mr HELMINGER, President-in-Office of the Council of the European Communities and co-President of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers, drew attention to the wish of the Community to continue, despite all the difficulties, on the path traced out for the past twenty years in order to lay down an effective joint development policy; he welcomed the new developments and progress represented by the Second Lomé Convention.

Pointing to the need for political determination to implement the Convention effectively, he gave an assurance on behalf of the Council that the Community was perfectly willing to implement all its provisions in a spirit of loyalty and generosity.

He went on to outline the efforts made recently by the ACP-EEC Ministers to ensure that Lomé I was brought to a satisfactory conclusion and that the negotiations on Lomé II could be completed in time for it to enter into force on schedule; he expressed his particular gratitude to the ambassadors of the ACP countries who, through constant personal contacts, had enabled the joint work to continue between the sessions of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers; he also conveyed his appreciation to Commissioner Cheysson who had tirelessly sought solutions to the problems of developing countries.

He then suggested that the Assembly should consider the ACP-EEC Council's report in a constructive and amicable spirit; that report recorded the results and difficulties of the implementation of Lomé I; he felt that Lomé II contained solutions to many of the difficulties encountered in Lomé I. By agreeing to the advanced application of a range of measures, the Council of the Community had already shown evidence of its desire to apply the texts signed recently in Lomé in a flexible manner.

Drawing attention to the unsatisfactory structure of trade between the ACP States and the Community, involving concentration on a limited number of countries and products, Mr Helmingier said that the ACP-EEC Council had instructed the ACP-EEC Committee of Ambassadors to seek ways of improving this situation. The progress made through Lomé II in the area of trade promotion, consultations and agricultural products, should facilitate an improvement in trade relations. There should be a similar improvement in STABEX through the agreements reached in Lomé II on the lists of products and activation thresholds.

SYSMIN was an innovation of vital importance which was generally expected to bring important results.

On the subject of industrial cooperation, Mr Helminger felt that, despite the present difficulties, the improved provisions contained in the new Convention could be expected to bring results in the near future.

After noting the new departure constituted by agricultural cooperation for which provision was made in Title VI, the speaker stressed two new features of financial cooperation: the significant increase in the value of aid and the creation of a Committee for Article 108 responsible for working on further improvements to the implementation of financial and technical cooperation.

Finally, echoing Mr Onyonka's observations on the wish of the ACP countries to see the rapid accession of Zimbabwe to the Lomé Convention, Mr Helminger stated that the Brussels negotiations were progressing satisfactorily.

(Applause)

7. Annual report of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers and analysis of the results of the First Convention of Lomé

Before introducing her report, Mrs FOCKE noted that in this transitional phase between Lomé I and Lomé II it was necessary to take stock of past experience and look at the challenges of the future. Negotiations between the industrialized and the developing countries were currently in a state of deadlock. Difficulties had arisen in the recent UN Special General Assembly because of the inflexible approach adopted by countries such as the USA, the UK and Germany. The world situation, however, was characterized by a state of crisis by which the developing countries were hit particularly hard. The problems of absolute poverty and hunger were getting worse and the rising price of oil had aggravated the balance of payments difficulties of the developing countries. There were, however, certain rays of hope. The Brandt Commission, for example, had made courageous and constructive proposals for action in the food and energy sectors. The recent OAU meeting in Lagos had established a short and medium-term action plan which could lead to the setting up of an African economic community. She drew special attention to the fact that Zimbabwe had at last achieved political independence and become a member country of the UN and hoped that the negotiations over its accession to the Lomé Convention would be swiftly completed.

Taking stock of Lomé I she said that whatever criticisms might be made of the Convention it was still the most progressive North-South agreement in force in the world. She praised the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers for the prompt submission of its report which contained a lucid analysis of Lomé I. She regretted that although transitional measures had been adopted ratification of Lomé II was taking so long and promised that members of the European Parliament would press for its speedy ratification in their countries.

Mrs Focke then proceeded to present the main features of her report on the results achieved by Lomé I and the prospects for Lomé II.

In conclusion, Mrs Focke stressed that we had always to remember that our task was not only to implement provisions, but to create a better life for millions of people. The total expenditure under Lomé II for the next five years was set at 7,100 million dollars, but much more than this was needed if the Brandt Commission's goal of 0.7% by 1985 was to be reached. The World Bank's estimates of the requirements of the developing countries would call for a much higher figure, which is estimated at 30,000 million dollars per year more than is at present being provided.

Mrs FOCKE concluded by saying that Lomé II was a convention with enormous potential, but that it would have to be supplemented by unsparing endeavours to promote the North-South dialogue and further commitments to help the ACP countries with their energy, food and balance of payments problems.

(Applause)

Mr GANGA-ZANZOU, representative of the People's Republic of the Congo, stated that the Second Lomé Convention must enable the Community and the ACP countries to progress further in their cooperation in order to ensure that the efforts made in the past should not be undermined. He was attending the Consultative Assembly for the first time and, as a new Member, he conveyed his cordial and respectful greetings to his colleagues and to the Luxembourg authorities.

He went on to stress the interdependence of the economies and future of all countries of the world. The less-developed economies needed the developed economies and vice versa. In this context, it was however essential for the options taken by each Member State to be respected by the others.

Mr Ganga-Zanzou concluded by saying that the time had come to move on from verbal statements to practical action.

(Applause)

In the chair Mr KUHN, Vice-President

After noting the encouraging results of Lomé I, Mr SARRE stressed the risk of an adverse trend in relations between the EEC and the ACP today; he strongly criticized the strategy of the multinational companies which, given the higher levels of profitability in the ACP countries, relocated their operations in them while retaining control over the technologies used by them and the freedom to utilize their profits elsewhere as they thought fit,

Even though the Lomé Conventions had opened up export markets, we had not managed to loosen the grip of a small number of private operators on the world market: no effective counter-balance to the market mechanisms has as yet been created. Moreover revenue stabilisation mechanisms were liable to result in an overestimation of the share of exports in development resources.

Mr Sarre vigorously stated his belief that Lomé II must not be used as a new Marshall plan to save Europe but should, on the contrary, be placed in the service of independent development of the ACP countries centering on the available resources and existing needs.

Greater priority should be accorded to support for staple food-stuffs production. Over and above food aid - and here the speaker highlighted the paradox between a Malthusian Community agricultural policy and world needs - support for ACP agricultural production must cease to benefit high yield or export crops and give priority instead to crops for domestic consumption.

In the agricultural sector, the Centre for Agricultural Development which would soon be established, must be given more extensive resources and greater possibilities for intervention.

In the agricultural sphere where access to technologies was decisive, the monopoly of the big industrial corporations must be terminated and the link between technology and dependence broken. The Centre for Industrial Development must contribute to this aim without any attempt to gain a dominant position.

In short, Europe seeking its own independence must logically favour ties of solidarity with the countries of the third world which were resolved to forge their own independent future.

(Applause)

Mr PANNELLA expressed the view that technology, like science, jurisprudence and the use made of it in Parliamentary rules of procedure could never be neutral; he believed that technology and low-price energy were positivist myths of this century.

He criticized the nuclear option of all the developed countries which even President Carter had ultimately endorsed after indicating a different approach four years ago. All our countries were increasingly relying on nuclear energy and this deliberate choice was forcing the third world into a state of dependence.

Soft and renewable sources of energy were not being given the attention they deserved. Their use was bound up with a socialist organisation of society. Our countries were investing very little in this sector which was particularly suitable for promoting the development of the ACP countries.

Mr Pannella went on to stress the need for interdependence between the North and South and criticized what he called a regime of 'respective independence'. He said that a political confrontation would be inevitable within the Assembly on the agenda items.

He regretted the absence of a great many European Members especially as the representatives of the ACP countries had participated strongly in the work of the Assembly. He reminded Members that, according to the Rules of Procedure, decisions and resolutions of the Assembly were only valid if one half plus one of the Members were present in the Chamber. He asked the European Members to show a more serious attitude out of respect for their own Assembly and for the representatives of the ACP countries.

(Applause)

The President announced that the debate on the report by Mrs FOCKE would be continued on the following day.

Mr OTENG expressed, on behalf of Botswana, his appreciation for the tribute paid to the memory of Sir Seretse Khama, KBE., who had led his country to economic progress and political stability. He had set an outstanding example for his country to follow and had made many sacrifices in support of the struggle of the people of Zimbabwe for independence. He had lived to see that country freed from minority rule. Zimbabwe must now be given its full quotas for exports to the EEC. (Applause)

8. Agenda for next sitting

The President announced that the agenda for the next sitting, on Thursday 25 September 1980, would be as follows:

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.:

- JAQUET report on the new provisions of the Lomé II Convention and amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Consultative Assembly (debate and vote)
- resumption of debate on FOCKE report on the annual report of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers (vote Friday)
- MICHEL report on the protection of the rights of migrant workers (vote Friday)
- KANU motion for a resolution on fisheries development in the ACP States (vote Friday)
- GUYANA motion for a resolution on Zimbabwe (vote Friday)
- motion for a resolution by GHANA and other countries on cocoa (vote Friday)
- motion for a resolution by Mr DENIS and others and by Mr WAWRZIK and others on the situation in southern Africa (vote Friday)

(The sitting was closed at 7.15 p.m.)

SITTING OF THURSDAY, 25 SEPTEMBER 1980

IN THE CHAIR: MR MUNA

President

The sitting opened at 10.10 a.m.

1. Documents received

The President announced that he had received various documents^x.

2. List of speakers

On a proposal from the President the Assembly decided to set the deadline for entering names on the list of speakers for all items at 12 noon that day. Depending on the number of names on the list the President might propose allocating speaking time.

^x See Minutes

3. New institutional provisions of the Lomé II Convention and amendments that might be made to the Rules of Procedure of the Consultative Assembly (debate and vote)

Mr JAUQUET, rapporteur, pointed out first of all that his report covered two fields, namely the new institutional provisions of Lomé II and amendments that might be made to the Rules of Procedure of the ACP-EEC Consultative Assembly.

He then outlined the main points contained in his document and stressed that the new Convention of Lomé recognised the role of the Committee of Ambassadors. It also expressly acknowledged the existence and functions of the Joint Committee as an organ of the Assembly. There was therefore no longer any ambiguity regarding this matter. The committee would be responsible for preparing and assisting in the work of the Assembly. Progress had also been made in the new Convention as regards the recognition of the Assembly's scope for establishing contact with economic and social bodies.

However, the rapporteur deplored the fact that the new Commission contained no provisions relating to written and oral questions. The motion for a resolution instructed the Bureau to continue negotiations with the ACP-EEC Council with a view to concluding an agreement on this matter.

Mr Jaquet drew particular attention to four facets of the amendments which might be made to the Rules of Procedure. First and foremost, he recommended the creation of an executive body for the Joint Committee. He pointed out that the official institutions of Lomé I had not been able to meet as and when necessary and to monitor the day-to-day application of the Convention itself. For this reason, the Committee of Ambassadors had become the de facto central body for the administration of the Convention. Mr Jaquet proposed an expansion of the current joint chairmanship of the Joint Committee. In addition to the two chairmen provided for under Article 21(2) of the Rules of Procedure, two vice-chairmen from the ACP States and two from the European Member States could be appointed.

As regards the order and conduct of proceedings of the Joint Committee, the speaker proposed the introduction of a procedure for limiting speaking time in connection, in particular, with the consideration of the Council's annual report.

He pointed out that the Rules of Procedure made provision for the setting-up of ad hoc working parties with specific duties. At present, the only working party set up under these provisions was the Joint Committee itself which was not in fact a true ad hoc working party; nor did it have specific duties. The Joint Committee had set up working parties but they were only able to operate during meetings of the committee. Consideration should be given to the creation of ad hoc groups which could operate on a permanent basis. The previous day a working party on hunger in the world had been set up; this body should be able to operate under the conditions outlined above.

Finally, the rapporteur drew attention to the fact that Mr Spénale had suggested limiting the number of European representatives in the Joint Committee. The speaker had himself taken this idea on board although it had met with serious objections at Arusha and had been abandoned.

In conclusion, the rapporteur stressed that the proposals submitted to the Assembly were modest in character, but they could nevertheless make a real improvement in the work of the Assembly.

Mr PANNELLA said that while he supported Mr Jaquet's proposals on the whole, he had tabled some amendments because of certain political problems discernible in the background.

The first of these related to the deletion of Article 21(4a), which was designed to increase the powers of the Bureau in the matter of the organization of debates. This seemed to him to serve no useful purpose, since there seemed no need to impose legal constraints when the President already was empowered to make proposals on this matter and have them adopted. Furthermore - and this was borne out by what he felt to be the anarchical procedures characteristic of the European Parliament - rigid and inflexible Rules of Procedure did not of themselves provide a guarantee that the work would be efficiently carried out. Where people were resolved to work effectively together and where the competence of the Presidency made itself felt in a convincing fashion - and here Mr Pannella paid tribute to President Muna for the manner in which he conducted the proceedings of the Consultative Assembly - it was always possible to reconcile the twin demands of efficiency and frank and serious debates.

Mr Pannella felt that there was ample justification for Mr Jaquet's proposal on the composition of the Bureau of the Committee, but proposed that the number of Vice-Chairmen to be members of this Bureau should be fixed at six rather than four. As far as the representatives elected by the European Parliament were concerned, it was the two majority groupings in that Assembly that were represented on this body. A third Vice-Chairman would enable the smaller political groups to contribute to the greater effectiveness of the Committee and would make that body more representative. He assumed that this change he proposed would also make for better representation of the various political groupings within the ACP countries on the Committee, which was coming to have a more and more dominant function.

Mr Pannella went on to say that because of the European Parliament's unsatisfactory rules on representation, he would no longer be able to take part in future in the proceedings of the Joint Committee.

Mr BERSANI stressed the importance of the debate on the institutional aspect. Indeed this was the first time that an economic agreement had included a concrete democratic component.

Despite certain delays in Convention of Lomé I, substantial progress had been achieved in the application of the principle of democracy although there remained one disappointing aspect, i.e. the problem of questions.

The dialogue with the other institutions had enabled important improvements to be made. Lomé II had thus created the right conditions for the Committee's vital political role.

There remained the delicate matter of questions, the absolute prerogative of a parliamentary institution, but which in this case involved discrimination between Europe and the ACP countries, against which it was necessary to protest.

As for the right of initiative, this was something which needed to be given increasingly concrete form.

On the matter of working parties the speaker said that such bodies made it possible to achieve substantial progress thanks to the meetings they held between sessions.

As regards the strengthening of the collegial body, Mr Bersani expressed his support for the rapporteur's proposal aimed at achieving greater efficiency.

Finally, in connection with relations with the parliamentary system, Mr Bersani expressed his satisfaction at the major political progress achieved and hoped for a strengthening of the links between the EP and the parliaments of the ACP countries.

Mr PULETTI, while thanking Mr Jaquet for his report, wished to make two comments on the speech by Mr Bersani in connection with Article 4A and the proposal to enlarge the Bureau of the Committee. He felt that parliamentarians, given their experience, were able to make an interesting personal contribution to debates and it would therefore be dangerous to try and limit speaking time as this would prevent the various points of view from being expressed. The speaker also expressed his opposition to the enlargement of the Bureau of the Committee which he did not feel would be a useful innovation and considered that it was important not to forget the role of minority groups within Assemblies. On the other hand, he was in favour of the setting up of ad hoc working parties which would be a useful means of consolidating links between Europe and the ACP countries.

Mr JAQUET, rapporteur, was opposed to all Mr Pannella's amendments, especially No 4 on speaking time and the organization of business, Nos 1 and 3 on the election of vice-chairmen and No 2 on the election of the chairman and the Bureau, and maintained his proposals.

The Assembly then voted on the motions for resolutions contained in the report.

It voted first on the amendments tabled to the proposed amendments of the Rules of Procedure.

On Article 21(2), Mr PANNELLA had tabled amendment No. 1 seeking to amend this paragraph.

Again noting the absence of numerous European members, Mr PANNELLA referring to Article 5 of the Rules of Procedure, pointed out that a quorum was not present and proposed a suspension of the sitting in order to remedy this situation, which would be creating a dangerous precedent.

The President stated that it was now too late to ascertain whether a quorum was present.

Mr DENIS agreed that the vote could be deferred but was against a suspension of the sitting as the time available was already extremely limited.

On Article 21(3), Mr PANNELLA had tabled two amendments Nos 2 and 3 seeking to modify this paragraph.

Amendment No 2 was rejected.

Amendment No 3 was rejected.

On Article 21(4a), Mr PANNELLA had tabled amendment No. 4 seeking to delete this paragraph.

Amendment No 4 was rejected.

Giving an explanation of vote, Mr PANNELLA said that he would also be abstaining on the overall vote and moreover that the three preceding votes were null and void.

Mr LUSTER gave an explanation of vote. He expressed his complete confidence in the President's interpretation of Article 5(2). The votes taken by the Assembly were valid.

The Assembly adopted the two resolutions successively^M.

4. Annual report of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers and analysis of the results of the First Lomé Convention (continuation of debate)

The next item was the continuation of the debate on the report by Mrs FOCKE (Doc. ACP-EEC/19/80).

Mr GREMETZ stressed the importance attached by the French Communists to the meetings with the ACP countries. He paid tribute to the valiant struggle waged by the people of Zimbabwe in their fight for freedom and voiced his support for other African peoples still struggling for liberation.

He felt that it was important to establish new relationships between rich and poor countries in order to overcome the problems of hunger and illiteracy, while at the same time meeting the demands of the developing countries for justice, social progress and the preservation of their sovereign rights. The French Communists were totally opposed to the colonial exploitation of Third World countries which resulted in soaring foreign debts.

The peoples of the Third World were being exploited by the multinational concerns which kept them ground down in a condition of dependence and poverty. Only a greater measure of solidarity between the peoples of Europe and the peoples of the Third World in their struggle would enable them to resist the stranglehold of the multinational concerns over the economies of the poorer countries.

Even the United Nations Organization was itself an illustration of the conflict between rich and poor countries. The latest negotiations on development held in UNO give proof of the divergence between the words used and the real policies being pursued by the Member States.

The French Communists proposed practical measures to solve the problems, because they were aware of the deep disappointment of the ACP countries both with the prospects for Lomé II and the results achieved by Lomé I (industrial cooperation, the entire financial package, the 5th EDF, STABEX, SYSMIN, the trade balance deficit of the ACP). The French Communists were putting forward a genuine cooperation policy that would enable them to get to grips with the problems of underdevelopment, hunger and sickness. With this end in view they supported Fidel Castro's proposals for the establishment of a World Development Fund and the proposals of the non-aligned countries for the initiation of global and universal negotiations. They were opposed to the stepping up of the armaments race and favoured the establishment of a common fund for raw materials, the revitalisation of international financial institutions and measures to reduce or even wipe out altogether the debts of the ACP countries.

The French Communists would work unsparingly for mutual cooperation while resolutely resisting any vestiges of neo-colonialism and would favour development on a national basis.

Their proposals translated into practical realities the converging interests of the peoples of the Third World and the peoples of Europe.

In the chair: Mr KASSE,
Vice-President

Mr RAMAZANI congratulated Mrs Focke on her report and her brilliant address in which she had made an objective, realistic assessment of every aspect of cooperation between the ACP countries and the EEC. He drew attention to the fact that the parties to the agreement had, in signing the Convention, declared their willingness to cooperate in a spirit of interdependence and solidarity.

Looking ahead to the implementation of Lomé II, he expressed support for action at three levels - national, regional and inter-regional - which would help to speed up the process of economic and social integration.

On the subject of food security under Lomé II, he felt that it was necessary to revise the concept of aid and distinguish between emergency aid and ordinary aid. Such aid needed to be programmed in conjunction with the restructuring and revival of ACP agriculture. The action taken would have to be of a comprehensive nature and cover food crops, fisheries and stock farming. Food security depended most of all on the promotion of local, regional and national agricultural production.

Turning to the matter of financial and technical cooperation, he said that the concept of commitment should be clarified and deplored the cumbersome nature of Commission procedures. He stressed that industrial cooperation under Lomé I had not been as successful as had been hoped and advocated, under Lomé II, the promotion of small and medium-sized undertakings and closer coordination between the Commission, the EIB, the CID and the NGOs.

Referring to the special circumstances in which his own country, Zaire, was placed, he thanked the Commission, the EP and the Consultative Assembly for the understanding and solidarity which they had shown towards that country. He pointed out that the ACP countries constituted a potential market for energy which represented one of the hopes for genuine cooperation in a field which was of such importance for mankind.

Finally, after reminding the Assembly that Zaire had just ratified the new Convention, he invited the other ACP States to do likewise and by way of conclusion, reiterated his congratulations to the rapporteur and appealed to the European partners to help promote awareness of the work of the Assembly among the political parties and peoples of Europe.

Mr CHEYSSON, Member of the Commission of the European Communities, broadened the scope of the debate by reviewing the present prospects, which were gloomy enough in many regards.

He began by recalling the European Parliament's recent impressive debate on world hunger. The very comprehensive resolution adopted on that occasion was the result of a logical and rational approach, which had earned the resolution virtually unanimous approval.

The document in question gave pride of place to the question of production in the developing countries and stressed that the resources deployed should promote rural development in the broadest sense. Outside aid must be geared to this purpose, and great attention must be paid not only to technological but also to social and economic assistance. Food aid must be planned in advance and adapted to real needs. All of these goals obviously call for appropriate financial resources and for the opening of our markets.

In debates on the tragic problem of hunger all the reasons for the establishment of a new international order have been clearly set out, and all the principles on which it should be founded have been sharply delineated. They include a recognition of the sovereign identity of each country, stability in relationships between countries, careful advance planning, the independence of peoples - in short, all problems of the North-South dialogue. All these problems are related to another major issue. The security that we would like in the matter of our oil supplies calls for a dialogue with the oil-producing countries, which will go to the root of their problems by underwriting the value of their financial assets or, if they wish to translate their oil into development, guaranteeing them access to our markets.

How then are we to make progress? At world level the only forum where this can be done is the United Nations Organization. Is it reasonable to speak of the failure of a meeting which, in fact, only broke down over two words? It must be possible to come to an agreement on an agenda which will consider as matters of urgency food, energy and balance of payment problems, as well as the more fundamental issue of the structural changes that can lead to a new international economic order.

However, the non-participation of the East European countries, the refusal of the United States to include the monetary system in the discussion, and above all, the disagreement on the political significance of the overall North-South issue gave the speaker cause for misgivings.

In order to make progress political pressure had to be maintained as regards the North-South problem. In this respect, the European Parliament deserved congratulations as it had initiated this type of debate. The speaker believed in the usefulness of summit meetings. In addition to this political goodwill, the speaker mentioned the need for progress at every opportunity - for example the next meeting of the Bretton Woods bodies - particularly when the urgent nature of the situation was recognised by everyone concerned.

However, progress was also necessary closer to home. Our cooperation, he said, was global both in terms of the wide variety of fields it covered and in terms of the efforts to involve all the circles concerned.

The principles of Lomé were such as to provide a source of inspiration. Lomé's avant-garde role would be useful only if it could command general support. If there was no progress in the North-South Dialogue, the imbalance would soon be such as to destroy our aspirations towards special relations.

Mr CLEMENT explained the personal convictions and political traditions underlying his sincere friendship for the peoples of the ACP countries. For him, however, the language of friendship was also the language of truth and realism. That was why he had tabled amendments on several points and submitted them to the Joint Committee.

In general, he felt that any analysis of Lomé I should not be put in such terms as to run the risk of creating difficulties for the new Convention, which embodied very many positive features, and putting obstacles in the way of its ratification.

After the way in which the world's economy had been so violently shaken by the increase in the cost of sources of energy, the implementation of Lomé II had to be seen in a totally different context. The oil crisis must not, however, be allowed to serve as the Community's alibi for putting a brake on their efforts to aid the ACP countries. It was essential to maintain dialogue, particularly with the oil-producing countries, and in this connection he referred to the proposal that a triangular development agency be established, within the framework of which the debts owed by the developing countries to the oil-producing countries could be guaranteed by the countries of Europe.

Finally, as regards the overall balance of food supplies, food aid must not be the sole foundation of any development policy, but rather a temporary expedient while awaiting the coming to fruition of rural development policies designed to bring about adequate agricultural production in the developing countries. While the short-term prospects were not very encouraging, the Community must eschew any suspicion of Malthusianism in regard to the agricultural policies to be jointly pursued and must conclude long-term contracts to ensure food supplies for the developing countries. These latter must, of course, be accompanied by diversified aids calculated to meet the requirements of the countries in question.

Mr Clement went on to point out one omission in the report. The Overseas Departments, though part of Europe, were still economically developing countries, for which Lomé II had envisaged an organization of competition for certain sensitive products. Greater attention should be paid to these Departments, particularly in view of the role they could play as a geographical and psychological link between Europe and the ACP countries.

Mr Clement said that as his amendments had been rejected by the Joint Committee, he would not submit them to the Assembly. However, he regretted certain contradictions, reiterated in the report, between the positions adopted at Arusha and in the European Parliament. As he could not accept certain paragraphs of the motion for a resolution, though he approved of most of it, he would be abstaining in the vote.

Mr NORMANTON said that Commissioner Cheysson's speech had been of crucial importance: Mr Cheysson had spoken of the 'logical and rational approach of the European Parliament', and he himself felt that this week's session of the Assembly had been particularly remarkable in that it had concentrate on the real issues facing individuals - the fundamental purpose of all politics. The Assembly had been trying to find constructive ideas to help people. Unfortunately, some of its members insisted on 'posturing' in a manner which was distasteful to the electorate. What the people of the ACP countries wanted was food, medical care, security and decent living conditions. They did not want charity, but sought ways of escaping from near-subsistence levels. Materially, the ACP required financial resources, energy supplies and know-how. The two latter requirements were complementary: energy supplies could not be provided without know-how and management skills adapted to local needs. In the absence of such skills, progress would be impossible. The EEC could make a positive contribution by setting up a special training college for the ACP.

Mr Normanton went on to refer to the desperate shortage of energy in most ACP countries, with an accompanying drain on their financial resources. In the sphere of oil supplies, the EEC could assist by sponsoring surveys to assess the potential and develop extraction. All available sources must be used, but where there was no oil there were alternatives: hydro-electricity must be developed, and solar, biomass and wind energy used for small-scale

projects. These were simple and cheap alternatives which did not need high technology and were practical solutions for the ACP.

In conclusion, Mr Normanton said that the Focke report contained a great many valuable proposals; the members of the Assembly must now persuade their governments to see to the implementation of those proposals.

Mr BOOLELL congratulated Mrs Focke on her report and described Lomé II as an improvement on Lomé I, provided that the expectations raised by it were met. He would concentrate on two issues: trade and sugar. The objective of increased trade in manufactured goods had not been met under the first Convention because there had only been a 1.3% increase in the ACP's already small share of this trade between 1975 and 1978. The situation had not improved since. The ACP countries had only limited scope for industrialization and the main potential was in the labour-intensive sectors. His country was particularly interested in the textile industry where low-cost labour was a great advantage; however, the EEC obviously feared this competition and the rules of origin contained in Lomé I were already illiberal and restrictive. Even so, opposition to textile imports was growing and markets were being lost. Without actually invoking the safeguard clause, devious methods such as delays in customs clearance were being used by EEC countries to hold up imports. Non-tariff barriers were being enforced as a form of protectionism. Lomé II still included a safeguard clause but the onus was now placed on the Community to establish the need to enforce that clause, and provision was made for consultations with the ACP. There was still a risk that this consultation procedure might be used as a disguised obstacle to imports. Consultation must not be a weapon to impose unilaterally predetermined export levels, but, as Mr Cheysson had said, a means of enabling the necessary adjustments to be made on an agreed basis.

Turning to sugar, Mr Boolell said he was disturbed by recent developments. Mr Cheysson had undertaken to defend the sugar protocol and the acquired rights of the ACP exporters. He welcomed the assurance that there would be no renegotiation of this protocol. The protocol was intended as an instrument to facilitate trade but there had been no increase in the ACP quota because the EEC had now generated a vast annual surplus of 2,000,000 tonnes. The increase in sugar beet production in the United Kingdom was a real threat to cane sugar exports from his country. The UK was virtually the only outlet for Mauritian sugar exports and Tate & Lyle had indicated that it might have to close one of its sugar cane refineries because of increased beet production; if this happened, Mauritian sugar would be unmarketable and would have to be sold into intervention: sugar would then no longer be an object of trade but an instrument of aid. Millions of people in the ACP countries were dependent on cane sugar production while the EEC beet producers could easily change to other crops - a structural change which was virtually impossible for many ACP countries for climatic and other reasons.

The EEC had recently entered into negotiations on an international sugar agreement which was vital as a means of stabilizing prices. In recent years fluctuations had been extremely wide with the price per tonne ranging from £600 to £100. The only guarantee against price instability would come from bilateral arrangements.

In conclusion, Lomé II must be viewed in a wider context, since, as Mr Cheysson had said, it could not bring real results without a successful conclusion of the North South Dialogue. The whole world needed this.

Mr PANNELLA made a personal statement strongly criticizing Commissioner Cheysson for passing a value judgement, not on factual matters or guidelines, but on a political group of the European Parliament which he had dismissed as insignificant. That was an expression of arrogance and Mr Pannella reserved the right to make an official protest to the Bureau after reading the summary report of the sitting.

He pointed out that only 190 members of the European Parliament had voted in favour of Mr Ferrero's resolution. Many others had refrained from voting which seemed to suggest that the resolution had not elicited enthusiasm on the scale suggested by Mr Cheysson.

In conclusion, Mr Pannella said that there was one particular context in which his group might rightly be called insignificant: its members belonged to none of the governments responsible for the hypocritical policy pursued towards the Third World by the countries which would shortly be appointing new members of the Commission.

The sitting was suspended at 1.10 p.m. and resumed at 3.05 p.m.

In the chair: Mr PEARCE

Vice-President

Mr KAPOMA pointed out that Madagascar had been one of the first countries associated with the EEC and had adopted in June 1980 the act ratifying the Convention of Lomé. He hoped that all the ACP countries would quickly ratify this convention.

The Malagasy President had taken the initiative in proposing the organization at an early date of an international conference in Madagascar for the purpose of drawing up an International Treaty designating the Indian Ocean as a peace zone thereby guaranteeing peace and the security of essential and important economic activities in the area.

More particularly, Mr Kapoma felt that the problem of development should be seen from an overall point of view and that measures should be taken to go beyond mere resolutions and move on to practical action. The Conventions of Lomé would contribute to this because neither the ACP States nor the EEC wanted the current world order to continue unchanged. Furthermore, from this point of view, the North-South Dialogue had yielded disappointing results.

Mr Kapoma therefore proposed that practical action should be taken as a matter of urgency and that such action should be non-restrictive in nature. For example, the rich countries should agree to a reform of the international monetary system, abolish protectionist measures, grant financial aid to facilitate the industrialization of the poor countries, and wipe out or reduce the debts of the countries most affected by the crisis. In addition, regional cooperation should be expanded and developed into genuine South-South cooperation.

The problem of the elimination of hunger was still more serious than almost any other, and the ACP countries should have access to Community agricultural surpluses.

Mr Kapoma felt that Lomé II could make a contribution to the solution of the crisis, provided that political goodwill was rapidly translated into action.

Finally, he welcomed Zimbabwe's newly-won independence and hoped that that country would soon be able to benefit from the Lomé agreements.

5. Election of Bureau

The President announced that the ACP representatives had informed him that, pursuant to Article 6(1) of the Rules of Procedure, they had put forward Mr SHEIKH OSMAN for membership of the Bureau of the Assembly.

6. Annual report of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers and analysis of the results of the First Lomé Convention (continuation of debate)

Mrs CARETONI ROMAGNOLI said that the Italian members of the Communist group gave their wholehearted support to the report drawn up by Mrs Focke, whom she congratulated both on the text of her resolution and on her courageous and carefully thought out explanatory statement.

The report analysed the shortcomings of Lomé I and pointed in a realistic fashion to the danger that these inadequacies might be repeated in Lomé II. The report also had to be commended for stressing the need for a radical reform of common agricultural policy, in addition to which it spelled out the need to resist firmly protectionist trends within the Community. The Italian Communists would do their utmost to see that these recommendations were acted upon.

The speaker pointed out that for the EEC the Lomé Convention was a kind of 'visiting card'. However, while it was the most advanced instrument in existence at the present time in the matter of cooperation between developed and developing countries, the Convention continued to be inadequate in the face of the real needs of the ACP countries.

The principal merit of the Convention was that it put the developed and developing countries on an equal footing. Furthermore, the Convention's institutional instruments made it possible to have the kind of direct practical dialogue that was generally not possible in other fora in which the partners were not actually present.

Mr Ferrero's resolution on world hunger, which was adopted last week by the European Parliament by an overwhelming majority, highlighted the fact that if you could solve the problem of hunger, you would have achieved development. Taking the broad view, development was a necessary precondition for survival both for the developed and the developing countries. The Ferrero report also stressed the need for Parliament and its subsidiary bodies to keep a very close check on the implementation of Community measures in the area of development policy. The EEC-ACP Consultative Assembly should also keep a similar check.

Mrs Caretoni Romagnoli had no doubts that the Lomé II Convention would enter into force, even though it had yet to be ratified by several countries. However, the all-important factor was how it would be implemented. No effort must be spared to derive every possible advantage from the new Convention. In this way the EEC and the Convention itself would be enabled to play their full part and to bring a profound and unique influence to bear on the North-South dialogue.

Mr SY wished to dispel ambiguity on one point: it was not strictly speaking correct to refer to a 60% increase in the volume of the EDF - the increase in programmable shares was only 25% and the overall effort amounted to only \$2 or so per capita in the ACP. Similarly, it was exaggerated to suggest that STABEX prevented diversification since the ACP were free to make use of the convention as they judged most appropriate.

The effort made by the Europeans was welcome but, in the North-South context, it was no more than a drop in the ocean, and the poor countries would continue to become poorer because of their growing debt levels. The achievements were modest and in any case could it be claimed that the EEC and ACP countries were alone in having made them?

Mr Sy noted that the Assembly was preparing to adopt resolutions in areas on which the Council had already given directives (Zimbabwe) and he wondered what the value of such a procedure was.

In his view the recent UN session in New York had been a real failure.

Since we unanimously recognized the importance and urgency of the underlying problems, why did the Assembly not devote a special session to them instead of holding amicable meetings such as this which provided a few Europeans with an opportunity to let off steam and enable many others to salve their consciences?

Mr Sy said that he chose to speak frankly and criticized the Commission for trimming its sails to the wind: it spoke one language in Lomé, another in international forums while the individual countries sometimes spoke a language of their own. He cited the restrictive policy pursued by France and Belgium towards African students.

'Help us to deal with you on an equal footing or you will merely perpetuate a system which history condemns' Mr Sy said. Parliament must bring its growing influence to bear on the Council in matters relating to the ACP.

In conclusion, Lomé must be seen in its true context if we were not to succumb to the risk of self-satisfaction which inhibited genuine effort.

Mr VERGES welcomed the Focke report, which was a truly comprehensive volume on EEC-ACP relations.

First, the speaker drew attention to the problem of Lomé II in conjunction with Lomé I. These two conventions represented an attempt to organize relations between the developing countries of Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific and the former colonial powers, despite the considerable disparities in revenues (the ratio was 1 to 8). He wondered how in fact the relations between populations with such disparate incomes could be organized. In his view, Lomé I and Lomé II had not fundamentally changed the relations between those concerned.

He felt that the North-South Dialogue implicitly called into question the traditional division of labour and endorsed the views expressed by Mr Sy on the double language used by Europeans.

Secondly, he noted a rapid deterioration in the situation in the developing countries owing to the crisis in the capitalist countries. This deterioration derived from the inequality in terms of trade which, as President Senghor had said, embraced features worse than the slave trade, in the increase in the costs of energy, in the collapse of the balance of payments and in the population increase, accompanied by a rural exodus, which was resulting in urbanization without industrialization in the developing countries, a phenomenon which presented insoluble problems for those countries.

Thirdly, the speaker pointed to the need to avoid recourse to a policy based on the lowest common denominator; it was necessary to face up to reality squarely. European public opinion must be made aware of the magnitude and diversity of these problems. For this reason care should be taken to ensure that the debate was not idealized.

Fourthly, he felt that for the immediate future the main priority was the problem of the debts of the developing countries and, more particularly, the ACP countries. This problem was a determining factor in the solution of all the other problems raised in this Assembly. Indeed, public aid represented only 6% of these debts. The most urgent problem was to find a way of reducing these debts. There could be no equal dialogue if one of the parties was placed at a substantial disadvantage by debts to the other party. The speaker therefore proposed an amendment to the effect that the debts should be reduced.

In conclusion, the speaker noted that the Overseas Territories, of which he was a representative, had increased their imports from the EEC while imports from the ACP States had decreased. These territories must, therefore, be protected by safeguard measures not against the ACP States but against the EEC. He signalled his complete agreement with Zimbabwe's claims relating to the sugar quota, which were in no way prejudicial to the Overseas Countries.

Mr INSANNALLY deplored the EP's rejection of the sugar proposals which had disillusioned the ACP States. He stressed the need for the Community's commitment in respect of ACP sugar to be reaffirmed. He was pleased that the Commission was to produce new proposals and hoped that they would be supported by EEC governments. He urged that there should be no further procrastination in the matter of Community participation in the ISA. In this connection, he stressed the need for a better division of labour as the only means of achieving order in the world's trading systems. The accession of Zimbabwe to the Lomé Convention presented difficulties but these would have to be solved by means of separate arrangements which were not prejudicial to the existing protocol. The conclusions and recommendations contained in the Focke report on the subject of sugar were acceptable to this country.

On the subject of trade in general he warned against the threatened application of the safeguard provisions against ACP exports, textiles for example. Such action would be contradictory since as well as hampering the industrialization of the ACP States it would impede investment by European firms in those countries.

He wound up his address by urging EP representatives on their return home to attempt to persuade their governments to provide tangible assistance, and not just vocal support, for the development of the ACP countries.

Speaking on a point of order, Mr LEZZI asked the President for information on the organization of the Assembly's work. He stressed the need to ensure that sufficient time remained for the debate on the Michel report, which, in his opinion, dealt with a subject of paramount importance to a large number of the citizens of the ACP countries.

Mr COHEN said that the Convention of Lomé not only enshrined various practical commitments, but was also an agreement on ways and means of financing development, ways and means which would become, in course of time, more independent and more automatic in their operation.

He went on to stress that while Africa might be Europe's most important partner within the ranks of the ACP, the Caribbean and Pacific States should not be neglected. Nevertheless, it was in Africa, and particularly in the Sahel countries, that the great scourge of famine was seen at its worst. Perhaps we should devise special provisions for that region.

The Convention of Lomé provided for a great variety of projects, including 'micro-projects', in which the local populations could be involved.

Mr Cohen saw the Convention of Lomé not as a panacea but as a catalyst which could concentrate financial resources, including those of other donors.

He was intrigued by the word 'interdependence', which had cropped up so many times in the course of the debate, but he feared that it did not go all the way to explaining the problem of getting raw materials onto markets where they were needed. In addition to interdependence, the solidarity factor had to be stressed and given full play.

Mr Cohen felt that the Lomé Convention established the principles of a model of development that could be used on a world scale, taking due account of the responsibilities of the richer countries.

He concluded by saying that his group, the Socialist Group, would do its utmost to see that the Convention was implemented on the basis of the principles he had just mentioned.

Mr SANGARE welcomed the achievement of independence for Zimbabwe and hoped that the negotiations for the accession of this country to the Lomé Convention would be brought to a speedy and positive conclusion and that the EEC would make a special effort to assist Zimbabwe.

In the face of the on-going worldwide economic crisis and the many flash-points of tension, caused mainly by the rivalries between the great powers, only concerted action by the world community can ensure social progress, peace and security for all. This was why he regretted the failure of the negotiations to bring about a resumption of the North-South dialogue. This setback should, however, only lead to increased determination. The EEC played a leading role in this field, and the Lomé Convention could be a vital element in any future progress. This Convention has been put squarely in the forefront of world development problems, the same problems that the developing countries want to have considered within the framework of the North-South dialogue.

The European Parliament's debate on world hunger was held at a time when this was becoming an even more tragic problem, particularly in the Sahel countries where the present harvest gave no grounds for optimism. On a world scale, there was a sharp decline in the way in which food requirements were being met. On behalf of his country, Mr Sangare appealed to the EEC to give the Sahel countries the emergency aid which alone could save many lives. In the same context a speedy and satisfactory solution would have to be found to the problem of supplying the ACP countries with agricultural products of which the Community had a surplus.

Mr Sangare concluded by saying that Mali was resolved to cooperate with the EEC and the other ACP countries in making the Convention of Lomé a model of the relations that could be established between developing and industrialized countries.

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The sitting was suspended at 5 p.m. for meetings and resumed at 6.20 p.m.

7. Election of the Bureau

The President announced that the ACP representatives had informed him that, pursuant to Article 6(1) of the Rules of Procedure, they had put forward Mr BRAITHWAITE and Mr NANDAN for membership of the Bureau of the Assembly.

8. Annual report of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers and analysis of the First Lomé Convention (continuation of debate)

Mr PANNELLA asked for further details on the arrangements for the rest of the Assembly's work.

Mrs EWING spoke on the subject of fishery resources. She thought that high priority should be given to fishing as a source of protein to provide food for the local population in the coastal ACP States. In 1970, consumption had been equal to production in the ACP countries; since then production had remained stable despite technical improvements in fishing methods while consumption had risen by 40%. The coastal states must maximize the benefits for their peoples and were the best placed to apply methods of fish conservation. The countries of the Northern Hemisphere had fished their waters dry and the southern countries must not follow this example, especially with the risk from large factory ships.

She explained that she was speaking on behalf of a large sea-faring constituency with many small fishermen who were motivated to maintain fish stocks in the sea. The people in her constituency wished to help the ACP countries, and the Highlands and Islands Development Board - a UK Government Agency - had suggested setting up a training college for the fishing sector in her part of Scotland. Mr Cheysson had said that funds were available for this purpose and Scottish fishermen had hundreds of years of experience of all types of fishing in dangerous seas; they wished to pass their knowledge on to others. They could also provide a pool of instructors on technical aspects for the ACP. Training should be given to small fishermen and cooperatives and also to allied small industries. The training should concentrate on practical skills and must be adapted to local development plans in order to create a qualified work force to meet the real needs. The ultimate aim must be to establish local fishing schools. She would be submitting a memorandum on this matter to Members of the Assembly and would be pleased to take up any suggestions from them.

Mr BARBI stressed the very practical and realistic nature of the Focke report. The major virtue of the two Conventions of Lomé was the establishment of cooperation between partners equal in terms of dignity and political independence and the laying of foundations for the development of such cooperation.

The speaker pointed out that the countries of the Eastern bloc lacked generosity as regards aid to the developing countries. In his opinion, therefore, the parties affiliated to those which dominated the Eastern bloc countries had scarcely any contribution to make in real terms to relations with the developing countries.

Immediate aid measures were certainly extremely important. Above all, it was necessary to solve the urgent problems created by hunger but, in the longer term, the ACP countries should be placed in a position where they were able to develop their economies properly. The Lomé Conventions represented a first substantial step in this direction even though the present provisions were still inadequate.

The major shortcoming at present was the problem of the funds available.

Investments were effective only if they reached a certain level. The speaker was extremely concerned at the modest nature of the EEC's budget in general and, in particular, in the field of aid to the Third World. The 1981 budget was not particularly promising from this point of view. For the sake of consistency declarations of intent and principle should be backed up by adequate financial resources.

Mr SABLE wished to endorse the unanimous expression of praise for Mrs Focke's report. He welcomed the fact that the present motion for a resolution was the same as that adopted in Arusha and that the EEC and ACP were giving a fine example to the world at a time when negotiations, in other international bodies, were deadlocked and the participants were indulging in ideology instead of providing food for the hungry.

He referred to the debate on world hunger held last week in Strasbourg and said that the proceedings on that occasion must not be forgotten since world hunger was the most blatant scandal of our epoch. In the poor countries, food production was not keeping pace with population growth. The means were available but the political will was lacking. He called upon the ACP countries to work together with the EEC towards the establishment of an equitable new economic order.

The common agricultural policy had been the subject of much criticism. But, in his opinion, it was more appropriate to highlight the value of the CAP which could help to meet the needs of the poorest peoples of the world. The Community did not produce too much food but it must concentrate on products which did not compete with the ACP countries. The interests of European farmers and of farmers in the ACP were complementary and not incompatible.

The farming population in our various countries found it easier to understand each other than the urban population and meetings between the social partners in the agricultural sector should therefore be stepped up. In the same spirit, the working party which the Assembly had set up should deal with the problem of world hunger.

Food aid must not be seen as a way of disposing of surpluses. It was illogical to call upon the EEC to reduce production of crops that were useful to the rest of the world. The EEC must agree to make its surpluses available at favourable prices. The machinery of the CAP must be changed and medium to long-term contracts concluded with the developing countries.

Referring to sugar, he observed that this product was a test of the Community's goodwill. In his view the sugar protocol must not be renegotiated because the use of sugar was one means of alleviating the energy crisis: Brazil, for example, was using sugar cane to cover 20% of its alcohol consumption.

In conclusion, he hoped that the meeting of the Assembly would bring practical results: specific, practical objectives must be set, in particular the need to meet the target of 0.7% of GNP. The Lomé Convention was still marred by certain shortcomings but he would vote in favour of the report on behalf of his group.

Mr AFOLABI spoke on the subject of industrial cooperation which he said had had little impact on the ACP States because the relevant instruments had been handicapped by a lack of finance. The last five years had seen a growing trade imbalance to the disadvantage of the ACP and a decline in investment in mining and small and medium-scale industries. The causes were not however to be found in the investment structure of the ACP countries but in the lack of political goodwill by their European partners. He expressed the hope that the lessons of Lomé I would be learnt and that the new provisions would be fully implemented.

The 1980's presented challenges which had to be faced if the international economic order was to be established and world wide conflict avoided. The chances of success in this respect were slim as long as the gap between the rich and poor countries remained so wide. Lomé II had amplified Lomé I but needed to be faithfully implemented. He expressed agreement with the previous speaker's statement that there was a need for an increase in global assistance to the South, particularly in view of the World Bank's assessment of the present situation.

9. Election of members of the Joint Committee

The President announced that he had received the nominations to the Joint Committee from the ACP and European Parliament delegations and that he had been informed of the European Parliament's nominations to the Bureau of the Joint Committee:

- Co-Chairman Mr BERSANI
- Vice-chairmen Mr KUHN and Mr PEARCE

Mr PANNELLA asked for the floor to speak on a point of order. He said that where custom and law did not coincide, one could follow custom provided that the decision to do so was taken unanimously. Article 21 of the Rules of Procedure provided for the election of the Joint Committee. He said that he was against the appointment of members to this committee by acclamation.

He pointed out that the powers of the Joint Committee would be increased and extended under the terms of the new Convention which would come into force as from 1 January next. He felt that the present Assembly should confine itself to appointing a committee that would hold office until the end of the current year. He addressed a formal request along these lines to the President and to the Assembly.

The President replied that the election by acclamation had taken place. He confirmed that he had received a motion for a resolution from Mr Pannella on the Joint Committee, to which it had been referred.

11. Agenda for next sitting

The President announced the agenda for the sitting of Friday, 26 September 1980^x

The sitting closed at 7.05 p.m.

^xSee Minutes

Sitting of Friday, 26 September 1980

In the chair: Mr HASKINS

Vice-President

The sitting opened at 9.30 a.m.

Mr PANELLA expressed his regret at the delay in opening the Assembly's business. Speaking on a point of order, he stated that the previous evening the President had closed the sitting after officially declaring that the Assembly had elected the Joint Committee's members by acclamation. He requested that an entry should be made in the minutes to the effect that this was an error, since no-one had in fact heard any clapping. Moreover, he himself had voted against.

Mr Pannella also pointed out that although he had objected to this interpretation of the Rules of Procedure, the President had on two occasions during the previous day's sitting ruled that a quorum must be established at the beginning of a sitting. In accordance with this interpretation Mr Pannella therefore asked the chair to verify that a quorum was present.

1. Annual report of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers and analysis of the results of the First Lomé Convention (conclusion of debate and vote)

The next item was the continuation and conclusion of the debate and the vote on the reports by Mrs FOCKE (Doc. ACP-EEC/19/80).

Mr PEDINI, Chairman of the Committee on Culture and Youth Affairs, wished to add his congratulations to those already paid to Mrs Focke on her excellent report. He noted that on the whole the Association was developing in a satisfactory manner. It should not, however, be seen solely as a collection of written undertakings. It must also provide States and economic and financial groups with an incentive to take initiatives in the field of investments. The European Community needed to respond to the need to extend its policies beyond the purely European framework. Its agricultural, industrial, monetary and cultural policies needed to be given a worldwide dimension with a view to the establishment of a new international economic order.

The speaker then raised a matter which he felt had not been adequately covered in the Focke report, that of scientific research. Genuine progress would not be possible in the Association unless Europe's scientific circles began to tackle and solve the specific problems of the developing countries.

In conclusion, the speaker expressed the desire that cooperation should become more intensive and more practical.

Mr WOLDEMICHAEL, after congratulating Mrs Focke on her courageous report, proceeded to describe the general world situation which was characterized by inflation, unemployment and an ever-deepening recession which affected the developing countries particularly severely. After the five years of implementation of the first Lomé Convention, the basic issues remained outstanding: access to markets for ACP products and financial and technical cooperation had fallen far short of expectations.

Owing to lack of time the speaker wished to confine himself to four main problems. Firstly, there was the problem of hunger and poverty which endangered world peace and security and therefore urgently needed to be solved by concrete measures. Secondly, he mentioned the least-developed countries for which the action taken so far had had an insignificant impact owing to a lack of political will by the developed countries to provide adequate financial resources. Thirdly, the Lomé Convention would make a more effective contribution to the achievement of a fairer world order if the EEC governments could be persuaded to implement it more fully. Finally, the speaker expressed his disappointment at the results of the recent UN Special Assembly at which no agreement had been reached on global negotiations.

In conclusion, the speaker said that while his delegation was pleased with the goodwill shown by the European members in the Assembly, it was necessary for them to mobilize public opinion and exert pressure on their governments for implementation of Lomé II and the relaunching of global negotiations.

Mr BERSANI welcomed Vanuatu's request to accede to the Convention of Lomé.

He then turned his attention to agricultural problems which affected 82% of the population of the ACP States, and he recommended that the Centre for Agricultural Cooperation should begin operations; this centre would be a body which collected information and liaised with the specialized tropical agricultural centres in Europe and those in the ACP countries. Working on the solid foundations that already existed, it would make it possible to achieve substantial practical progress in this very important field.

In addition, the speaker focussed attention on the problem of financing the development of industries and, in particular, the agri-foodstuffs industry. As an amplification of Lomé I, Lomé II would make use of a wide range of operational instruments. Moreover, co-financing experiments were being carried out in collaboration with the OPEC states and other industrialized countries.

However, a development bank would have to be created on the basis of the principle of cooperation; this bank should be structurally simple and no intervention should be required from national budgets. The only problem would be the guaranteeing of rates of exchange. This instrument would have two main advantages: independence and flexibility.

Mrs CASTELLINA deplored the way in which the proceedings were organized. She pointed out that the same representatives spoke twice on the same subject: once in the Joint Committee and once in the Consultative Assembly. She hoped that this duplication of effort would be remedied in future.

Mr PEARCE highlighted the four priorities which he felt had emerged from the extensive debate on Mrs Focke's report. They were:

- (1) The West must step up its development aid to attain the UN target of 0.7% of GNP. The EEC figure was at present only 0.49%. Similarly the EEC should seek to coordinate their aid with that provided by OPEC.
- (2) The need to consider the effect of exporting Community food surpluses to the Third World and of allowing freer access to Third World agricultural products. Perhaps a community of interest could be found here.
- (3) The vital need for cooperation on energy supplies.
- (4) The risk of protectionism. The EEC must remember that trade was the basis of its prosperity and tariff barriers must be avoided at all costs. On the specific subject of sugar, he felt that the sugar quota granted to Zimbabwe should be increased to meet that country's wishes. Referring to the Mauritian representative's earlier comment on excessively restrictive rules of origin, he explained that, in his view, the rules as they stood requiring extensive local processing were intended to benefit the ACP economies by preventing 'off-shore processing'.

In conclusion, he expressed the view that the Community's development policy was in essence a policy of external relations and as such a vital component of Community foreign policy.

Mrs FOCKE began by thanking all present for their contribution to what had been, in her view, a very frank and comprehensive debate, reflecting credit on the political acumen and commitment of the entire Assembly.

She said, however, that the adoption of the resolution was only a beginning and that the real tasks lay ahead. To use a metaphor from the world of football, it was not enough to play about with the ball - you had to put it in the net. The Assembly had to put the ball in the net by working out long-term strategies, a task which would call for great wisdom and dedication. Their efforts in this common endeavour would, however, pay rich dividends in inspiring mutual trust and confidence and a resolve to work fruitfully together.

It had been a pleasure for her to be the Assembly's rapporteur, and she would continue to devote herself with unsparing energy to the furtherance of their common task. To return to the metaphor she had used, she would 'stay on the ball'.

The Assembly then moved on to the vote on the motion for a resolution^x.

EXPLANATIONS OF VOTE

Paragraph 44

Mr GBAGUIDI took the view that even if procedures were in progress the most important thing was to take account of the situation on the spot. People were dying of hunger at that very moment. It was therefore urgent to provide those who were in need with the surpluses available in the Community. He pointed out that the amendment was being presented by the ACP group as a whole and that the figures given in this paragraph had already been adopted.

^x See minutes

Amendment No. 1/rev. to paragraph 47

Mr PANNELLA pointed out that these amendments had been submitted to the Joint Committee where they had been voted on and that each member would therefore be voting on them 'with a full knowledge of the facts'.

Mr FERRERO expressed his hostility to demagoguery and declarations of principle and demanded practical action. He said he would be abstaining on paragraph 47 since the text made no provision for any realistic action to bring aid to those who needed it.

Amendment No. 6 to paragraph 55

Mr SY said he had abstained because he felt that efforts to attain the 0.7% objective should not be too hasty. It was not realistic to seek to achieve an even more ambitious objective when the present one had still not been attained. Two Member States of the Community had reached 0.7% but for the EEC as a whole the rate was only 0.35%. The Socialist countries on the other hand were well below 0.7%.

He felt that the amendment to paragraph 67 was unrealistic but appealed to the Member States to do everything in their power to attain the objective of 0.7%.

Mr DAGADOU said that his delegation agreed with the view expressed by the Nigerian representative as there was a general feeling on the ACP side that an effort needed to be made to attain the 0.7% objective. He therefore urged the developed countries which had not yet done so to attain this objective and even to exceed it. He also urged the European members to put pressure on the Commission and the Council to ensure that the resolution to be adopted did not sink into oblivion and that the solidarity which had become apparent in the course of the meeting was followed up by action.

Mr BERSANI said he had voted against the amendment so as to dissociate himself from proposals which he felt were irresponsible. When one committed oneself one had to be sure one could remain true to one's word.

The speaker added that an agreement had been reached within the competent bodies on the deadlines referred to in Mrs Focke's resolution.

Amendment No 9 to paragraph 69

Mrs CARETTONI ROMAGNOLI said that it was due to a technical error that her name had been put on the list of authors of this amendment.

She explained that she was in favour of the text of the amendment on the whole, but she felt that the first three and a half lines of paragraph 69 should be retained. She would therefore abstain in the vote.

Motion for a resolution as a whole:

Mr PANNELLA protested vigorously against the infringements of the Rules of Procedure of which he felt the President had been guilty on a number of occasions and last of all by refusing to give him the floor to speak on the Focke report as a whole.

He alone in the entire Assembly had voted against the Focke report, because it was the only way in which he could protest against a policy that was basically hypocritical and involved flagrant contradictions between words and actions.

Mrs POIRIER considered that Mrs Focke's report and Mr Cheysson's speeches contained some highly delicate points. She had tabled 15 amendments in the Joint Committee concerning greater democracy, genuine progress in the field of development, sufficient food supplies for the ACP countries, industrialization and an improvement in the terms of trade. Three amendments relating to the rejection of the food weapon, the dangers of EEC enlargement, and the link between development and disarmament had been included in the final draft. Her other amendments, including the one on surpluses, had been rejected, which she felt was fairly typical.

The speaker deplored the fact that the progressive statements made in the report were not to be found in the resolution and it was the resolution that was binding. As it stood, the resolution was compatible neither with the main demands of the ACP countries nor with the gravity of the situation.

However, out of respect for the ACP countries and the need to encourage them, Mrs Poirier had not voted against the resolution because she knew how vast the needs of those countries were. But for the reasons of substance she had explained the French Communists had decided to abstain.

Mrs CASTELLINA said that she had voted in favour of the Focke report but without enthusiasm and with very little confidence. She appreciated the value of the report, mainly because of the realistic and critical tones in which it was couched. However, she felt that the debates had been marked by a certain note of triumphalism.

She went on to stress the gravity of the present situation. The truth was, in fact, that on the previous day the Council of Ministers had sharply reduced the appropriations for cooperation entered by the Commission in the 1981 budget.

The Assembly's debates should have taken a more practical form. They should have aimed at devising strategies to counter the powerful interests that were lined up to thwart the objectives of cooperation.

Mr WAWRZIK, noting that his name had been put to the motion for a resolution by mistake, proposed that it should be withdrawn from the agenda.

2. Procedure

Owing to the late hour, the President proposed that the rest of the agenda be dealt with by the procedure without debate.

Mr MICHEL protested against the proposal that the debate on his report should be cancelled outright.

The Assembly decided that only the rapporteur or the proposer of the amendment would be allowed to speak, and for five minutes only.

Mr FLANAGAN, who had wanted to speak on the Michel report, regretted that he would not now be able to do so, because of the time wasted by Mr Pannella.

Mr PULETTI felt that given the importance of the Michel report for migrant workers it ought to be the subject of a proper debate, even if it had to be held later.

In reply to a question by Mr PANNELLA, the President said that explanations of vote could be given at the end of the sitting.

Mr BERSANI admitted that the Michel and Kanu reports should have been the subject of a full debate. He added, however, that these reports were of an interim kind and the matters with which they dealt could be developed within the Committee and the Assembly at a later date.

Mr FERRIER proposed that the Assembly should continue its proceedings without taking a break, which would give the representatives a brief experience of what hunger was like!

Mr FLANAGAN, proposed that no explanation of vote should be allowed, on account of Mr Pannella's delaying tactics.

Mr BATTERSBY complained that certain new paragraphs had been improperly inserted into the motion on southern Africa and requested that it be referred back to the Joint Committee.

Mr WAWRZIK, noting that his name appeared erroneously on the motion for a resolution, proposed that it be withdrawn from the agenda.

Mrs POIRIER asked, on behalf of Mr Denis, that the motion for a resolution on the situation in southern Africa should remain on the agenda.

3. Protection of the rights of migrant workers

The next item was the report drawn up by Mr Michel on behalf of the Joint Committee on the proposals designed to ensure respect for and protection of the rights of migrant workers, students and trainees who are nationals of one of the Contracting Parties and regularly resident in a Member State or an ACP State (Doc. ACP-EEC/18/80).

Mr MICHEL, rapporteur, deplored the fact that it was easier for the Assembly to discuss sugar and cocoa than individuals and their rights.

Introducing his report, he stressed the need to respect the basic rights of all persons - especially migrant workers. The report examined the hardships and prejudice suffered by the 400,000 workers from ACP countries living in the Community.

The first part of the report dealt with the problems of migrant workers and the second with students and trainees from the ACP resident in the EEC.

In conclusion, Mr Michel regretted the lack of time to explain his resolution; he stressed the need for the persons concerned to be protected and guaranteed facilities to develop their full human potential.

The Assembly adopted the resolution^{*}.

4. Development of fisheries in the ACP States

The next item was the motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Kanu, on behalf of the Joint Committee on ACP-EEC cooperation in fisheries development in the ACP States (Doc. ACP-EEC/16/80/rev.).

^{*} See minutes

Mr KANU expected that the resolution would find the approval of the Assembly as it was based on behind-the-scenes compromise.

He stressed that the ACP countries attached importance to the development of fisheries in their jurisdiction as a means of alleviating the food problem and boosting their foreign exchange earnings. He asked the Assembly in particular to give favourable attention to paragraph 4 of the motion which called for the drawing up of a report on the subject for the next meetings.

The Assembly adopted the resolution^{*}.

5. Zimbabwe

The next item was the motion for a resolution tabled by Guyana on behalf of the Joint Committee on Zimbabwe (Doc. ACP-EEC/20/80).

Mr INSANALLY, moving the resolution on Zimbabwe, hoped that as a result of the negotiations on its accession to the Lomé Convention Zimbabwe would secure more generous treatment in respect of beef, sugar and tobacco than was granted under the present Convention.

The Assembly adopted the resolution^{*}.

6. Cocoa

The next item was the motion for a resolution tabled on behalf of the Joint Committee by Ghana, the Ivory Coast, Nigeria, Cameroon, Togo, Gabon and Madagascar on cocoa (Doc. ACP-EEC/21/80).

Mr HYDE, moving the resolution on cocoa, reminded the Assembly that the motion had been unanimously adopted in the Joint Committee. He emphasized that much effort and money had been devoted in the ACP countries to growing this crop, which was vital for an increase in their national incomes. He regretted that difficulties had arisen as regards the signing of the new cocoa agreement owing to the reticence of one or two Community countries, which urgently needed to adjust their attitude. He pointed out that if the right price was not achieved for this commodity, the Community would in any case be obliged to make up the shortfall under STABEX.

The Assembly adopted the resolution^{*}.

^{*}See minutes

7. Situation in southern Africa

The next item was the motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Denis and others and Mr Wawrzik and others on behalf of the Joint Committee on the situation in southern Africa (Doc. ACP-EEC/22/80).

The Assembly rejected Mr Wawrzik's request that this document be referred to the Joint Committee², and adopted the resolution¹.

8. Explanations of vote

Mrs CASSANMAGNAGO CERRETTI said that it was important to keep the results of the Copenhagen Conference in mind in relation to all efforts at cooperation between the EEC and the ACP. The working group would have to keep this consideration in mind.

Mr PANNELLA explained why he had abstained on the Michel report. Recalling the deplorable conditions in which ACP citizens often worked in Europe (police harrassment, clandestine labour), he was concerned about the indifference shown towards them.

He said that he had voted in favour of the Denis resolution on southern Africa because it was high time that more was done in this matter.

He then drew attention to the infringements of the Rules of Procedure which had been committed during the debate.

In conclusion, Mr Pannella said he felt that the attitude of the ACP representatives was an encouragement to all those in Europe who were committed to the struggle against war and hunger.

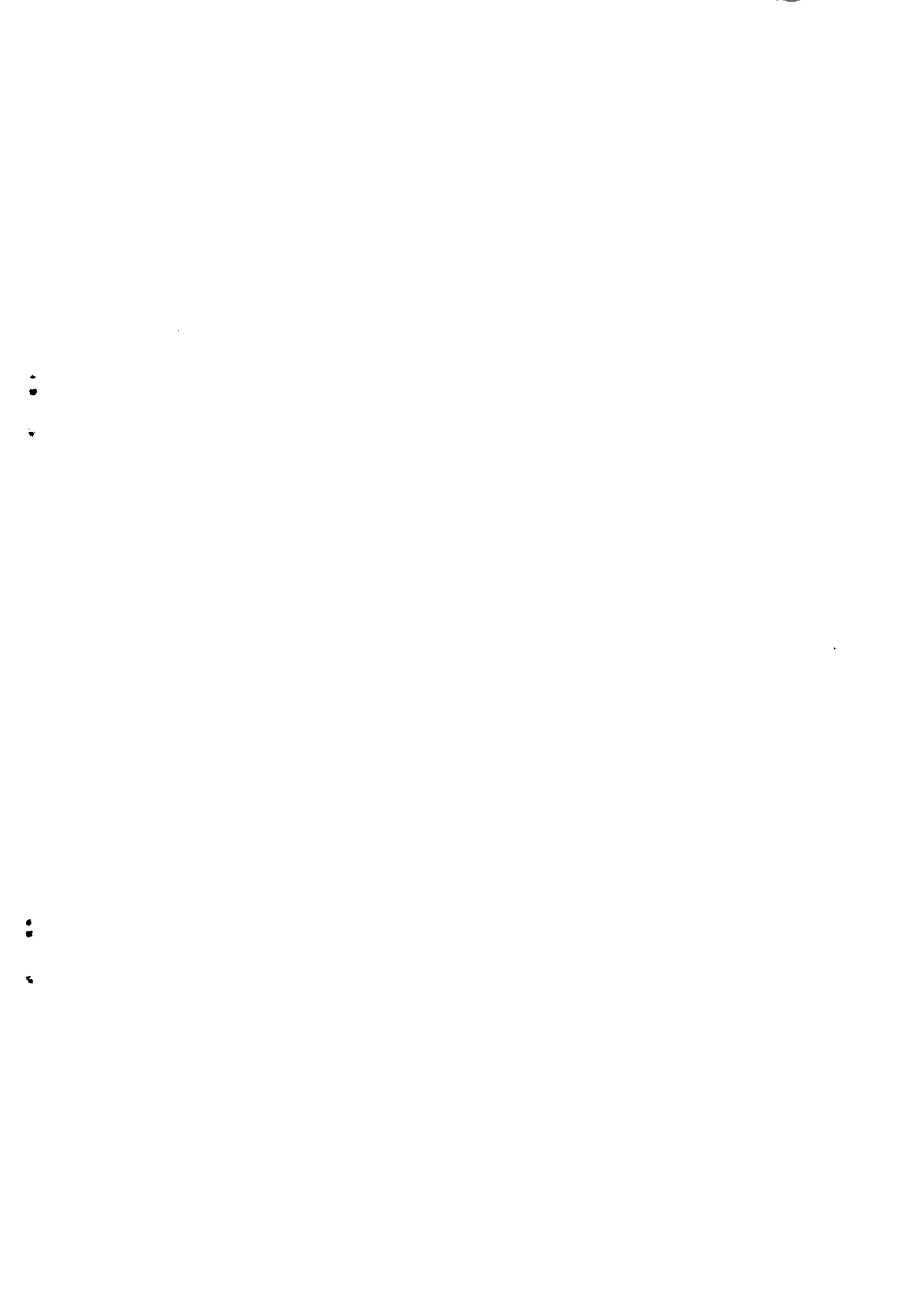
9. Closure of the annual meeting

The President declared the annual meeting closed.

The sitting closed at 1.40 p.m.

¹ See minutes

² See above: Procedure



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