

# ACP - EEC CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY

SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING

SUMMARY REPORT  
OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
OF TUESDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 1981

LUXEMBOURG



SITTING OF TUESDAY, 29 SEPTEMBER 1981

In the Chair: Mr MUNA

President

(The sitting opened at 10.05 a.m.)<sup>1</sup>

1. 5th annual report of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers (continued)

The first item on the agenda was the debate on the report by Mr INSANALLY (Doc. ACP-EEC 29/81).

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<sup>1</sup>Documents received: see Minutes

Mr PISANI, Member of the Commission reminded the Assembly that the Lomé Convention was a model document in which the collaboration of the rich countries in the development efforts of the poor countries was founded on a contract and joint management and a rough sketch which needed to be adjusted continually to a changing world. Although it was an important instrument in the EEC's efforts to create a better world order, it was not the sole factor in the Community's relations with the Third World.

Although as partners the ACP countries form a single coherent unit, real differences existed between them. It would therefore be as absurd to divide them as it would be dangerous to ignore the differences. The political solidarity that existed amongst Third World countries did not obviate the need for technical and economic adaptation in the interests of effectiveness.

The many causes for concern in the international situation and the fears engendered by East-West confrontation had pushed the North-South dialogue, whose results were already disappointing, into the background. The effects of the general upheaval in the international scene over the last ten years had been more severe in the case of the poorer countries than of the rich. In addition, the revival of the ideological conflict could be very damaging. Europe too had changed over the last twenty years. The ACP-EEC dialogue must take account of Europe's uncertainty about itself, an uncertainty which had received official expression in the mandate of 30 May.

The continent of Africa was also threatened. Population growth and increasing desertification were eroding its ability to feed its populations. Although he refrained from blaming anyone in particular, the speaker drew a stark picture of the damage caused by following the mirage of unbalanced industrialization based on unsuitable consumption and production models.

It would be despicable for Europe to give aid for purely selfish reasons, but if it were totally disinterested it would have no future.

What form should development take? What role should each one play in this extremely difficult though not altogether hopeless struggle? The speaker referred to the Socratic method and insisted that development was only possible on the basis of respect by those who had the knowledge for those who still lacked it. It was necessary to provide a potential equal with the means of discovering for himself his own needs, dreams and capacities. Projects should not flatter human vanity but should be an integral part of the global vision of a people's development.

Food strategy should also be global. Moreover, preference should be given to small scale projects which enabled the farmer to continue to live where he had always lived and worked rather than to large-scale spectacular projects. A bad price policy was sufficient to ruin the efforts which had gone into production. Food policy should, through coherent national effort, enable both to move forward in step.

However, this development integrated by an overall effort should lead to a greater appreciation of the role of human culture. It would be wrong to impose from without the artificial instruments designed to promote a form of development foreign to the country.

Mr PISANI called for an energy strategy and stressed that the means suitable for developing countries were not the same as those suitable for industrialized countries. The real goal was not to undertake large-scale investments but to seek the most economic way of establishing a balance between man and nature.

He insisted that his argument was based on the need to begin by laying a foundation which would enable coherent policies in which Europe could play a part to be put in motion.

Obstacles still remained to be overcome. In the first place there were the traditional enemies of demographic imbalance and the lack of adequate and progressive preparation for the use of sophisticated technologies. Then there is the ideological frenzy of the proponents of the market economy who ignore the problems of culture, education etc. and who pretend to have forgotten that they are following the principle that might is right.

Finally, Mr PISANI stated that the Community would shortly present an emergency intervention plan to remedy the most unacceptable situations and to stimulate more rapid development in the poorest countries. Although Lomé is an important contribution Europe has no right to be self-complacent; it must manage its affairs better and prepare for the future.

(Loud applause)

IN THE CHAIR: Mr KÜHN  
Vice-President

Mr COHEN congratulated the rapporteur on the new tone of his work which was realistic and even hard-hitting as regards some weaknesses in the application of the Lomé Convention.

One need only look at Zimbabwe - and here the speaker expressed his indignation and shame at the unacceptable fact that two Community countries had still not ratified the agreement regarding this country's accession - or at the consultation procedures, the inadequacy of which had become apparent when Greece had joined the Community, and which must be reviewed to avoid a recurrence of these difficulties in the future.

Speaking of the institutions, he noted that the business of the Consultative Assembly was generally no more than a repetition of what had happened a few days before in the Joint Committee. Perhaps there should be a longer interval between the two meetings. On the other hand, although the creation of working groups was to be welcomed their needless proliferation was to be avoided and care must be taken to see that they produce, in collaboration with the Commission, more than just new motions for resolutions. Finally, although a quick solution was needed to the problem of sugar, which was doubtless the more important of the two mentioned, this solution did not necessarily have to be the one recommended by Mr Insanally in his report. The Socialist Group would be submitting amendments in this respect. An interpretation which was satisfactory to everyone should be put on record. Perhaps the ACP's wishes were not too clear; sugar aid would only encourage an increase in Community production.

Subscribing to Mr Pisani's pronouncements on the climate of ACP-EEC relations, Mr Cohen stressed that Lomé could not be considered in isolation. The Convention would not be viable if this were so. In the case of STABEX, for example, the exhaustion of the funds, making it impossible to fulfil obligations entered into in this respect, could be more than temporary. At the same time it would not be enough to modify the structure of the joint Fund to restore its harmonious operation since it was the present economic situation which was causing price instability.

It was therefore a question of giving new life to the Lomé Convention in a different set of circumstances. Mr Cohen hoped that it would be possible to make progress again with the ACP along this path.

(Applause)

Mr BUTAGIRA began by expressing his gratitude for the INSANALLY report. He was glad of the opportunity afforded to him to inform participants of the recent elections to the Ugandan Parliament and Members like himself were proud to attend international forums to make their contributions.

The speaker wished to make two points: the first concerned the cooperation fostered by the magnificent Lomé II Convention. It represented a wonderful experiment in international cooperation between the developed and developing countries. However, it was important for the Assembly, in seeking to attain the Convention's objectives, not to take too legalistic an approach to the Convention. A broad interpretation was necessary, particularly in relation to such problems as sugar. The freezing of sugar prices under the Convention had resulted in unfairness towards the developing countries. This was not in keeping with the objectives of the Lomé Convention. Behind this measure lay the fear of competition from the developing countries. Competition was not something to be feared. Rather, it should be seen as an opportunity for mutual benefit.

The speaker's second point concerned agricultural production. He thanked Community Member States for their generous aid in times of crisis and famine. They had been of immense assistance. But it was important that developing countries should be helped to increase food production before it was too late. They needed assistance with inputs and agricultural equipment. The world was a small place and all had to help one another. There was still much to be done if the objectives of the Lomé Convention were to be attained. A sense of realism was required.

(Applause)

Mr Christopher JACKSON congratulated Mr Insanally on his report. He had detected a substantial degree of misunderstanding among the ACP, probably due to lack of communication, about the sugar situation and the coresponsibility levy; the 7.5% increase would in fact mean only about 5.5% for Community farmers after the EEC had clawed back the levy and thus ACP farmers were in fact being offered more than their EEC counterparts. He also pointed out that the EEC's main cane sugar refiner needed the 1% margin to survive - after all, what would happen if Europe lost its cane sugar refining capacity? He thought that special meetings of the Council of Ministers should be reserved for really exceptional circumstances, and hoped for more contacts at presidency level to resolve the STABEX and sugar problems.

He particularly welcomed the section of the report devoted to industrial cooperation. He believed that the EEC put too much emphasis on official aid. The UN Conference in Paris on the LDCs had given him the impression that many ACP countries welcomed private investment. He thought that this was inhibited by two fears - the risk of unfair treatment or expropriation for the investor and the fear of exploitation for the ACP.

The Association, as Mr Insanally had pointed out, had not gone nearly far enough in industrial cooperation. Practical measures were needed to overcome the two fears and it was arguable that the private sector could provide greater resources (cash, technology, trained people). He cited the 7 billion dollars of private funds which had flowed from the UK in 1980: this figure represented more than 1.3% of that country's GNP. He considered that Title IV, Annex 9, of Lomé II was very weak. Joint agreements were needed between the EEC and individual ACP States covering security for investments and codes of conduct, and there must be a boost for the Joint Centre for Industrial Development to enable it to initiate projects in countries which attracted little investment. He agreed with the President of the Council that measures should have a beneficial effect on the individual lives of inhabitants of the Lomé countries. Industrial projects of benefit to both sides should be pursued. He hoped that the working groups would overcome the two fears regarding investment and that the two sides would not overlook the substantial achievements of Lomé which offered a unique opportunity for parliamentarians and diplomats of 71 countries to get together and learn about each other's problems.

(Applause)



Mr RAMAZANI, representing Zaire, thanked Mr Insanally on behalf of his government on his remarkable report and brilliant speech which gave a clearer picture of the state of ACP-EEC relations and the way in which the second Lomé Convention was being implemented.

He also thanked Mr Pisani for his statement, in which the existence of a new Europe had been reflected.

After welcoming the accession of Greece to the European Community and that of Vanuatu and Zimbabwe to the second Lomé Convention, he noted that after only nine months of existence the latter had already run up against several obstacles.

Greek membership of the Community, for example, had highlighted the need to define more closely, in the field of cooperation, the meaning of terms such as consultations or negotiations. Further, Mr Ramazani appealed to the EEC to complete ratification negotiations rapidly so that Zimbabwe and Vanuatu could become full members of the Convention.

Finally, the speaker pointed out that, despite the guarantee arrangements in force and despite financial and technical aid from the Community, the structure of trade, which was the bedrock of cooperation, had deteriorated to the extent that a single ACP product supplied by 4 out of 61 states accounted for over half of all Community imports of ACP products.

These factors were evidence of the dangers besetting the second Lomé Convention which could be saved only if corresponding efforts were made to ward off these perils.

Mr SABLE pointed out that never more than this year had the Assembly's deliberations so gone beyond the framework of the Convention as to fall within the more general context of the North-South dialogue.

He was gratified by this development since the model of cooperation offered by the ACP-EEC would only be coherent if it were placed in the broader perspective of the world economy. STABEX, for instance, would only be truly effective when economic disorders were resolved at international level.

With regard to the problem of sugar, the decision by European producers to freeze production and so to accept the imposition of limits on area under cultivation should be better understood by world producers. It was a first step by the Community towards its accession to the international sugar agreement.

The search for a new model for international relations still did not interest the Soviet Union and the United States. Whilst all the hopes of the developing countries might be pinned on Cancun he felt nonetheless that only Europe could reverse present trends.

He hoped therefore for the advent at world level of a Lomé-style system so that waste might cease and resources be better used. For the moment development aid was nothing compared with the balance of payments deficit of the developing countries.

In conclusion he affirmed that the revival of the world economy necessitated the development of the countries of the South. It was scandalous that last year 550 thousand million dollars had been spent on the arms race whilst the developing countries' foreign debt totalled 425 thousand million dollars. He appealed to members of the Assembly to throw all their energies into the fight against poverty and hunger and to use all appropriate means to ensure its success.

(Applause)

Mr NYAKOTEY, after extending congratulations to Mr Insanally on his report and expressing satisfaction at the accomplishments under Lomé so far, stressed that it was necessary for progress to be maintained. He was concerned at the fact that industrial promotion and cooperation had not hitherto been given serious attention and that STABEX, which was a source of hope for the poorest countries, was not adequate and required more generous funding if the heavier demands of the future were to be met. There was also a danger that SYSMIN could be stillborn as it was too slow in coming into effect. The developing countries were beset by the chronic problems of energy, indebtedness and population growth. After expressing the hope that the supply of agricultural products to ACP countries on favourable terms would be stepped up, he reiterated his faith in the ideals of the Convention and urged that to meet the challenge of pursuing a better tomorrow there should be immediate commitment and disbursement of the relevant financial provisions.

(Applause)

In the opinion of Mr DENIS something had to change, and quickly. World developments demanded a new international economic and political order. But the establishment of such an order was being met by the intransigence of the Old World, but particularly with the capitalist power of the United States. And the speaker branded in passing the odious conduct of South Africa.

The EEC itself pointed up the worsening of the crisis by recognizing that the results of cooperation with the ACP did not meet the objectives: in this connection, the Insanally report issued an urgent appeal. There was no question of deferring for four years the response to be made: the search for fundamental remedies must not exclude immediate action. The usefulness of meetings such as these was that it enabled the Consultative Assembly to exercise its control functions.

After presenting a few specific proposals, including the increase of financial resources devoted by the EEC to development, the speaker declared that a basic necessity was the democratization of the life of the Convention. Cooperation must banish paternalism and exploitation and accord a greater role to trade unions. Advantage must be taken of the great opportunities offered to transform, expand and restore the balance of trade.

The speaker championed the progressive industrialization of the developing countries and hoped to see agricultural cooperatives being set up there. The interests of the peoples of the EEC and ACP were the same; in both cases the difficulties were due to the same moneyed interests.

(Applause)

On a point of order Mr PANNELLA asked why some speakers, including himself, had not been called in the order in which their names had been put down. The President pointed out that it was the usual practice to give the floor alternately to European and ACP speakers; moreover the Rules of Procedure left the President a large measure of discretion in this matter.

Mr AFOLABI began by congratulating Mr Muna on his re-election as Co-President of the Consultative Assembly. All the ACP countries appreciated his wise handling of the affairs of the Assembly in the past and had the utmost confidence in him for the future. Through the acting President he also conveyed his congratulations and best wishes to Mrs Veil.

He also conveyed grateful appreciation to the government and people of Luxembourg for their generous hospitality.

The ACP countries congratulated Mr Pisani on his appointment as the new Commissioner for development and cooperation and looked forward to working with him on the implementation of that sacred agreement which was the Lomé Convention. They also thanked Mr Cheysson for his sterling work in the past and wished him well in his new tasks in the French Government, where his vast experience of Third World affairs would surely stand him in good stead.

Mr AFOLABI congratulated his colleague Mr Insanally on his splendid report and said that he looked forward to its being adopted with acclamation. However, he would single out a few points for special comment. He felt that in the matter of industrial cooperation the report dwelt only on the Centre for Industrial Development and did not devote sufficient attention to the Commission or the European Investment Bank which also had their part to play in ensuring the flow of resources for ACP industrial development. The ACP noted with interest the establishment of the new working committee on industrial cooperation and hoped that it would result in a fresh appraisal of the role of the Commission and the EIB in this area. This new look at industrial cooperation would, he hoped, have the effect of leading to greater efforts towards industrial restructuring and redeployment in the ACP countries. Given the opportunity and the political will on the part of their European partners, the ACP countries could emulate the industrial progress of such countries as Korea, Singapore, Hong Kong, which often seemed to benefit more from EEC aid than its ACP associates.

He complimented Mr Chasle on his excellent report on cultural cooperation, but felt that as long as there was trade and economic cooperation, cultural interaction would follow. The ACP had no complexes about the contribution they had to make to cultural cooperation, but did not want to see excessive emphasis laid on it, since they felt that economic progress would lead to cultural progress.

He felt that the all-important thing was trade. Much had been said on the subject of sugar, but he felt that there needed to be a greater concentration on such matters as the STABEX system and the effect it had on incomes and export earnings. The ACP countries wanted solutions for their most basic problems and sought a share in European experience and know-how in order to better their economic lives.

The resolution on Southern Africa was, he felt, a matter of burning importance to all the ACP countries, especially to Africa. Political developments could not be divorced from economic considerations and the good intentions of the EEC in relation to its ACP partners must always be under a shadow of doubt as long as it went on wining and dining with the iniquitous regime in Pretoria, whose criminal acts both within and without its own territory were assuming alarming dimensions.

He also wished to comment briefly on the fateful influence of the multi-nationals and said that the EEC must put its full weight behind the enforcement of the Code of Conduct.

He concluded by saying that this was an age of action, not of words or resolutions. In the struggle for the achievement of a better world, colonialism, racism and apartheid, particularly in Southern Africa, would have to be destroyed and he hoped that they could count on their European partners to play their full part in this noble struggle.

In the chair: Mr ROBLEH

Vice-President

Mr VERGEER congratulated the general rapporteur and Mr Pisani and Mr Cheysson on behalf of the EPP Group and went on to comment on the motion for a resolution.

He first asked the Council of Ministers to ensure that in future the general report was presented in time for Members to study it properly.

He then welcomed the progress made under Lomé II and called for an expansion of its scope in order to make cooperation more intensive.

Referring to the fact that poverty and hunger were the worst problems, he welcomed the motion for a resolution tabled by the Working Group on Hunger and the fact that his amendment concerning special aid for the Sahel region had been unanimously adopted by the Joint Committee.

Although the North-South dialogue did not seem to be generating much enthusiasm, he thought it nevertheless necessary to concentrate efforts on pursuing this course.

(Applause)

Mr SIDDIG, Ambassador to the European Communities, began by congratulating Mr Insanally on his excellent report. It highlighted the whole process of the Lomé Convention, brought out its concrete and positive achievements and criticized its failings. It also emphasized the duties and responsibilities of all international institutions, including the Assembly. The speaker was particularly appreciative of the Energy and Cooperation section of the report.

In more than a dozen organizations and over more than 12 years there had been much talk of the dangers facing mankind, dangers such as hunger and disease. Various strategies had been devised but in spite of all efforts by the international community the problems were mounting. It was expected that within a few years the death toll would far exceed the birthrate in a number of developing countries. Unless there was full cooperation some of the nations represented at the Assembly would not exist in future.

There was an abundance of agricultural land available: in Mr SIDDIG's own country there were more than 2 million acres of land suitable for crops and animal breeding. This land needed to be properly exploited. The developing countries also needed money, technology and time to develop their own resources and build up self-sufficiency. This could only be done with the help of the Community. It was hurtful to the pride of the developing countries to have to ask for such help, but this was a fact of life that had to be faced.

The ACP States were sometimes accused of putting too much emphasis on cash crops and not enough on food crops. But it had to be remembered that cash crops provided much-needed foreign exchange.

It was not enough to simply provide aid to the developing countries. Trade was necessary and such trade had to be freed from all restrictions.

But the most burning issue of all was energy. The next meeting of the Joint Committee in Zimbabwe would be primarily concerned with that question. As Mrs Veil had already pointed out, the oil bill of the developing countries exceeded the total aid granted to them. This greatly hampered their development programmes. It was in the interests of all nations to bring about an 'energy transition' in an orderly and just manner. A transition was necessary from the traditional hydrocarbons to new and renewable energy sources. It was important that the more prosperous nations should discuss this state of affairs openly. Until the working party on energy had produced its report, it was their duty to give more and more attention to the energy problem.

(Applause)



(The sitting was suspended at 12.45 p.m. and resumed at 3 p.m.)

Mrs FOCKE said that the spirit of Lomé was threatened by six different dangers.

Firstly, there had been a confrontation of irreconcilable views on matters such as sugar prices for which solutions needed to be found rapidly.

Secondly, certain small problems, for example the supply of surplus agricultural products to the ACP countries, were constantly being put off.

Thirdly, routine had set in and cooperation had become more bureaucratic. More imagination was needed and longstanding proposals should be put into effect now.

Fourthly, there was a problem of lack of money. Funds were not adequate, in particular for STABEX.

Fifthly, global developments had been of an adverse nature. World conferences had not been followed up by the necessary action.

Sixthly, the speaker criticized the work of the Convention's institutions. Working parties did not meet often enough or look at problems in sufficient depth.

This danger needed to be tackled effectively to prevent Lomé II from falling in quality. A firm basis for the future could be established only by reforming working methods and becoming more efficient. She urged the Commission and the European Parliament's own Committee on Development to work harder in order to make sure that Mr Pisani's prophecies for the year 2000 did not become a reality. It was essential, she concluded, that development and cooperation received the place they deserved.

(Applause)

In the Chair: Mr Clement

Vice-President

Mr HURD, President of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers took the floor to comment on the remarks made by those who had spoken so far in the debate. He agreed with Commissioner Pisani that the Lomé Convention must be made to work as well as possible and that this implied a need for original thinking. The Assembly had an important role in contributing by its debates to the work of the Commission.

The speaker emphasized the importance of ACP food strategies and the Community's contribution to agricultural production in the ACP countries. The Council of Ministers was currently taking stock of the food aid situation with a view to making recommendations in the near future. The Council had also now agreed on a common position on setting up the Technical Centre for Agricultural Development.

Commenting on various other problems, Mr HURD stressed the Community's concern for trade problems and industrial cooperation, which was an area where instruments needed to work more effectively. The major task here was to inform businessmen and bankers of opportunities for cooperation and private investment, which could play a big part in development if carried out in suitable circumstances. The problem of energy was one on which the Commission would shortly be proposing action as a follow-up to the Nairobi Conference.

On the question of sugar, Mr HURD disputed Mr Insanally's claim that the Community had let European beet producers run riot. In fact they were subject to extremely strict rules. Moreover, it was particularly important that Community refining capacity be maintained.

In conclusion, the speaker reminded the ACP delegates that Europe's politicians had to consider the existence of two conflicting trends in public opinion. On the one hand there was a lively concern for the developing countries' problems but on the other there was introspective anxiety about Europe's own problems, such as unemployment. He was convinced, however, that despite these difficulties there was a will on the part of the Community to help satisfy the practical needs of the developing countries.

Mr PANNELLA considered that respect of parliamentary rules was a precondition without which there was no point in pretending to believe in the statements made to the Assembly and declared that a Member of Parliament had a duty with regard to democracy to ensure that his right to submit proposals was respected and that they were taken into consideration. He stated that he was 'western' in one respect: he believed in parliamentary democracy. He claimed that a certain group within the Committee on Development had succeeded in preventing consideration of the motion for a resolution on the elimination of hunger in the world which he had tabled the year before. Consequently Mr Pannella, declaring himself to be a man of principle, said that he would leave the Assembly and only return when the minimum of rights indispensable to the functioning of democracy had been restored.

He said that Mr Pisani's speech, which was a political rather than a politician's speech, had contained the statement that Europe was no longer what it had been. He was referring to the Europe of good intentions expressing the established disorder. As long as the Assembly allowed itself to be duped by the Rules which it had set itself it would not be possible to speak about Cancun, the Brandt report, the declarations made by Fidel Castro at the UN on behalf of the Group of 77, nor could it be claimed that the Assembly represented a democratic forum.

At the same time there was a hope, thanks to the ACP, that a revolution could be launched against the established disorder. The essential subjects could not be broached but soon the Community institutions would be called on to ensure the survival of millions of people.

(Applause)

Mr WILLIAMS expressed his gratitude for this opportunity to speak on the Insanally report. He placed on record his thanks to all those who had brought the ACP-EEC organization into being. The ideas pooled together in this organization in a spirit of brotherliness, consideration and love could be used to defeat unemployment, poverty, hunger and malnutrition. He strongly supported the motion for a resolution and the suggestion made in the report that an extra meeting of the ACP-EEC Council should be held urgently to deal with sugar prices and STABEX. Greater attention should also be given, he said, to the least-developed, land-locked and island countries. There was an urgent call from many of the inhabitants in distress. He wished to make a suggestion to alleviate the sad plight of the many thousands afflicted by illness. This was that micro-projects in ACP countries should be identified and carried out widely and quickly as a contribution to rural development.

Greater attention should also be paid to non-traditional crops; thousands of farmers in Jamaica were producing crops which could not be consumed locally and which the Common Agricultural Policy kept out of EEC markets. He hoped that the review of the CAP mentioned in Commissioner Pisani's outstanding address would accommodate the surplus production of these crops not covered by the Lomé protocols.

In conclusion, he thanked Ambassador Insanally for his useful, thoughtful and truly excellent report and hoped it would produce the desired results.

(Applause)

Mrs EWING began by saying that she rejected the pessimism of Mr Pannella, preferring to be inspired by Mrs Focke's optimistic call to build a better world. No ACP country had ever left the Association and in fact many countries including Zimbabwe were anxious to join. If this Consultative Assembly, representing such a large portion of the world, could not build a better future for its people then there was no hope for the developing world. Criticisms could be made about how the Lomé Convention was being implemented, but they should be constructive and reasoned.

She went on to compliment Mr Insanally on his excellent report, which was moderate in tone but firm in resolve. Where it had criticisms to make, it made them in a reasonable manner as befitted a diplomat who was also, she was proud to claim, of Scottish ancestry.

The first point in the report she would single out was the question of enlargement, on which she agreed with Mr Insanally. Failure to consult only succeeded in creating a suspicion which retarded progress rather than accelerating it. She hoped that the mistake would not be repeated in the case of Spain and Portugal. On fishing, for example, the ACP countries would have to be adequately consulted on the fishery problems that would be caused by Spanish accession. To take another point, why could the EEC not relax its restrictions on textile imports from the ACP countries, which constituted only 1.8% of all textile imports? The EEC would have to be more generous in its treatment of its ACP partners in this respect.

(Applause)

Paragraph 41 of Mr Insanally's explanatory statement referred to the need to grant ACP countries easier access to EEC food surpluses. Food surpluses were unthinkable in a hungry world, and it was not the Russian housewife but the ACP citizen that should benefit by them. Paragraph 44 argued that the drain on their resources caused by exorbitant oil prices made it essential to help the ACP countries to meet their balance of payment difficulties by allowing them access to EEC food surpluses at concessional prices. This was not the same thing as food aid.

Mrs EWING went on to speak of the problem of fisheries, which could not be seen in isolation from the problem of world hunger. Many of the ACP countries had enormous fish resources, but they would have to be helped with refrigeration, transport and marketing facilities. Their vast reserves of fish could both help them solve the problem of world hunger and give them a strong bargaining position in bilateral agreement with developed countries.

She concluded by stressing that it was essential that the EEC support the stand of its ACP partners on the problem of South Africa. Moreover, it was essential that the European man in the street be given more ample information on this stand as well as on ACP views on a wide range of issues. To this end she urged the ACP, as she had done before, to establish a pool of young volunteers from their countries, enthusiastic and idealistic young men and women, who would come to Europe to the Commission's information offices, to schools and universities, trade unions and Chambers of Commerce and give European citizens in the most direct possible way the information they both lacked and desired about their brothers in distant parts of the world.

(Applause)

After congratulating Mr Insanally on his report, Mr BERSANI, chairman of the Joint Committee, pointed out that in the current difficult world situation it was important not to lose touch with reality.

He believed that ACP-EEC relations should be adjusted or even structurally altered. Lomé II had consolidated the institutional structures of the Convention, for instance by setting up working parties. The latter, however, needed to be made much more effective; indeed they ought perhaps to be seen as 'supervisory bodies' responsible for ensuring that decisions taken were enforced. In addition, relations between the Joint Committee and the Consultative Assembly should be reviewed so as to prevent the mistakes of the past from being repeated. This was the spirit in which preparations for the new Convention should be made.

Mr Bersani then urged that the problem of hunger should become the central feature of the Community's involvement.

As for STABEX, he thought that it was necessary to go back to the system's original philosophy so as to make it more effective.

Finally, Mr Bersani said that it would be necessary to develop the agricultural centres that already existed in various ACP countries.

In conclusion, the speaker observed that the Convention brought together half of the world's countries and that it could secure even greater influence, despite the many obstacles, if everyone concerned demonstrated a high sense of responsibility.

(Applause)

The President proposed that the debate should be interrupted to allow Mr Jaquet, who was unable to be present later, to present his report.

(The Assembly agreed to this amendment to the Agenda)

2. Amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly (JAQUET report, Doc. ACP-CGE 28/84)

Mr JAQUET, rapporteur, commented briefly on his report on the amendments to be made to the Consultative Assembly's Rules of Procedure. The amendments which he was submitting to the Assembly had been adopted by the Joint Committee in Strasbourg and concerned three basic problems. The first of these was the composition of the Joint Committee and the procedure for designating its members; it had been agreed that the number of European Parliament Members should not be increased to ensure that the Joint Committee did not forfeit its own specific character. The proposal that representatives of the ACP States should be designated by name was difficult to apply. As for the procedure for convening meetings of the Joint Committee, the proposal submitted would provide greater flexibility.

The amendment on the second point, the procedure for the organization of debates, had not been adopted by the Joint Committee which wished to retain full powers in this respect.

On the third point, the language provisions applying to the Consultative Assembly and the Joint Committee, the proposed amendment would make it possible to derogate from Article 21(9), removing the obligation to have all texts and documents tabled in the course of a meeting translated into all the official languages.

The rapporteur considered that these proposals were very modest but that it was difficult to do more in view of the institutional arrangements and the wishes of the other participants.

(Applause)



3. Fifth Annual Report of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers (continued)

Mr BABOU OUSMAN JOBE congratulated Mr Insanally on his report. Referring to the plight of the least developed countries he insisted that the improvement of the condition of these countries was a necessary prerequisite for the long-term development of the world economy.

He praised the constructive role of the EEC at the Paris Conference. It had served to alert the international community to the plight of these countries. He regretted that the programme of action adopted at the Conference was not sufficiently substantial. Although many countries had accepted the 1.5% contribution, there had been no commitment on the date for reaching that target. Hence the Conference had only been a qualified success and the programme could best be described as a survival rather than a development programme.

The speaker hoped that the EEC commitment to help the least-developed countries would not mean a reduction in its aid to other developing countries.

(Applause)

IN THE CHAIR: Mr WILLIAMS

Vice-President

Mr ROMUALDI expressed his pleasure at being able to take part in the debates of this great Assembly which brought together the peoples of the Community and Africa with the aim of establishing ever closer cooperation, promoting development and fighting against poverty and hunger in the Third World.

In this light he thought that the initial results of Lomé II were positive and hoped to see in the future a speedier realization of this cooperation. Unfortunately the present economic and social situation in Europe characterized by unemployment, the recession and inflation did not allow the immediate attainment of the objectives set.

Referring to the problem of sugar, he hoped to see not a reduction of production but an increase in consumption especially in the ACP countries afflicted by shortages and even in some cases famine.

Speaking of industrial cooperation, he said that the real objective was to develop as far as possible sectors devoted to indigenous activity, to modernize the development instruments and to create the necessary infrastructure, especially in the energy sector since the ACP had considerable energy potential. Europe's role would be to provide technical assistance in these spheres.

On the more general problem of world political and military balance, he deplored the rivalry of the superpowers in which one exploited its economic and technological potential and the other its revolutionary ideology and arms to bring instability to certain regions, particularly in Africa.

He was concerned at this rivalry between the superpowers which had disastrous consequences for the African peoples whose liberty and independence were being threatened. He concluded by hoping that the African and European peoples would work together, through the Lomé Convention, towards a common pacific human destiny.

(Applause)

Mr JACKMAN, in his capacity as chairman of the ACP Committee on Sugar, wished to emphasize essentially one concern, namely sugar. His remarks reflected the views of both the Community and the ACP States.

The sugar protocol regulated relations with the Community. It entered into force at a time when the EEC was desperately looking for supplies. Europe was now a surplus producer. The political and economic situation had changed. This was a basic political fact.

A second basic fact was that the Tate & Lyle sugar beet refiners had been forced to close down one of their refineries because of overproduction of beet sugar in the UK. This was the result of political decisions. The ACP were therefore bound to call upon the Lomé Convention's highest political organs to remedy this situation. It was true that refiners were going through a difficult time and a cushion had been found at the ACPs' expense. The speaker hoped that it was not the intention of the ACPs' partners to sacrifice their interests in favour of Tate & Lyle. Since the entry into force of the sugar protocol refiners' margins had doubled, whereas ACP margins had increased by a mere 20%.

Turning to the co-responsibility levy, Mr Jackman declared that this measure had been introduced in order to punish beet producers for overproduction. However, ACP production had remained stable - the ACP States were not responsible for the surplus. Statistics on sugar prices were misleading. The ACP countries were not receiving higher prices. Various important factors had to be considered, such as the distance of certain producer countries from their markets.

There was now a deadlock in price negotiation proceedings. A report had been produced which awaited consideration by the Council. If insufficient understanding was shown, it would be necessary to conduct ACP/EEC consultations at the highest political level.

(Applause)

Mr NORMANTON began by referring to Mr Insanally's report which contained some profound and significant observations. One major contribution was the point that the world needed to implement existing ideas and not to develop new proposals. We needed to be acutely conscious of the gulf between promise and performance, the gap between expenditure of money and production of prosperity in the ACP States. Effectiveness in promulgating policies was directly dependent on the efficiency of administrators and public administration. This was true in the spheres of industry, agriculture and commerce.

In the ACP countries there was a dearth of qualified managers and administrators. This contrasted with the situation in Europe where sophisticated institutes turned out highly qualified administrators. However, no matter how brilliant the products of those institutes might be, they had not the requisite expertise for contributing to administration and management in the ACP countries.

It was urgently necessary for the governments of the Community Member States, together with the Council of Ministers and the Community, to take steps in one or other of the ACP States to establish a top-level management training college. Not until then, and with the backing of European experience, would the gulf between the developed and developing countries be reduced.

Mr Normanton felt sure that the House would congratulate Mr Pisani on making this point a key element in his address. He hoped that they could translate this decision of principle into reality over the next four years of the Commissioner's term of office.

(Applause)

Mr KASANGA MULWA said that meetings of the Assembly were a unique opportunity for parliamentarians to exchange views on matters of mutual interest, enabling the European MPs to inform their constituents and governments of the problems of the ACP countries.

The speaker expressed thanks to the Community for the assistance it provided through the Convention, citing the EDF as an instrument which provided direct benefits to people in the ACP countries. He expressed his concern however that the Commission should accelerate the transfer of EDF resources to the ACP States, given that their value tended to be rapidly eroded in these inflationary times. The resources of the STABEX system were also inadequate, although he thanked the French Government for its - so far unsuccessful - efforts to have them increased.

Turning to other items on the Assembly's agenda, he expressed the view that mere resolutions on hunger were not enough and that there was now a need to find practical ways of increasing food production in the ACP countries. In addition, growth in the agricultural sector needed to be accompanied by growth in the industrial and services sectors. The rising energy bill was a serious problem and the prospects of growth for ACP countries were bleak. They needed to diversify their economic base by boosting industry and securing outlets in European markets.

He regretted that no progress had been made in recent years towards the establishment of a new international economic order. In this area change had been resolutely resisted by the developed countries, including the European Community. The speaker concluded by deploring the collaboration between the Community countries and the racist régime in South Africa and calling for an oil and arms embargo and a halt to investment in that country.

(Applause)

Mrs Cassanmagnago-Cerretti, after thanking the rapporteur, stressed the value of the institutional section of his report. She agreed that there was a need to review the relations between the Joint Committee and the Consultative Assembly in order to prevent the errors of the past from being repeated.

Another important point was the meetings with the social partners, at the express request of the latter. At the Geneva meeting, however, it had become clear that they needed to be better organized. For example, a working party of members of the Joint Committee should be set up to establish preliminary contacts with the social and economic groups before the Zimbabwe meeting. This would help a practical content to be given to the conventions of Lomé.

Turning to the matter of STABEX, she said that it should be strengthened, pending the establishment of a genuine free market.

Despite existing obstacles, the speaker urged all concerned to continue along the same path, not to reduce the volume of aid and even to try to reach the oft-mentioned figure of 0.7% of GNP.

In conclusion, Mrs Cassanmagnago-Cerretti said that the first imperative was to meet priority needs and to convince the industrialized countries that social justice implied a respect for the cultural values of every people.

(Applause)

Mr BATTERSBY started by congratulating Ambassador Insanally on the excellence of his statesmanlike report: he felt however that there was room for elaboration on fisheries to avoid the misconception that joint ventures and bilateral agreements were the only ways for the ACP to exploit fishery resources. Nor would the entry of Spain or the provision of refrigerated containers make a dramatic difference. Neither a fisheries agreement nor hard bargaining on limited issues would feed our children. Everyone present was interested in feeding people at a price they could afford and producing the food in the little time left. Coastal and deep sea waters must be fished and the vast potential of inland waters realized. Tropical seas, were, however, often less abundant and northern fishing techniques were not always transferable. He believed that for many ACP States the way ahead lay in joint ventures and the inexpensive development of small fishing units and inland fish farming. The former could supply the hinterland with protein given boats designed for local conditions, research into local stocks and the training of instructors. Work could start at once, producing immediate and beneficial results at relatively low cost. Fish farming also enabled resources to be developed at low cost and high yields were possible in tropical areas - in India enough fish had been produced per hectare to feed 1,000 people for one year. A sound research and development and training basis existed in the EEC and Hull had the finest fishing training complex in the Community - although good facilities were available in all the maritime EEC States. The Commission had been asked for a list of facilities available to EEC fishermen and some of these could be suited to ACP countries. He concluded by saying that the EEC must provide the ACP with expertise and the inexpensive equipment required for coastal fisheries and fish farming and he hoped that the Assembly would support his amendment.

(Applause)

Mr BOUNA considered that a critical analysis of the Convention was necessary since the achievements of Lomé I could be put at risk in the implementation of Lomé II.

Speaking of SYSMIN, Mr BOUNA considered that the Insanally report, which was otherwise excellent, concentrated exclusively on the need to restore the production infrastructure of the ACP countries. It should not, however, be forgotten that the system also served the interests of the Europeans who were looking for long-term security of supplies and although it was regrettable that the inadequacy of the SYSMIN resources could already be foreseen, it should be possible to find, in the framework of the Convention, a way of remedying this by linking the system to co-financing and emergency aid and exploiting Article 55 of the Convention. The speaker therefore asked the Commission whether it intended to resort to this remedy and also whether it intended to explore ways of applying SYSMIN particularly to the mining sector. If the system was interpreted very strictly its impact would be considered insufficient by the ACP countries.

The EIB which was more concerned with financial viability did not take sufficient account of the social aspect of its actions.

On South Africa he thought that the particular sensitivity and frustration of the ACP in the face of the 'indifference' of some European countries was understandable. The European countries did no more than protest while trade between some Member States and South Africa increased. Acts of aggression against Mozambique, Angola and Zambia brought no more than declarations of intent and there was no real action.

(Applause)

Mr BOUNA therefore insisted that a precise date should be fixed for the fact-finding mission in the Joint Committee's resolutions.

On fishing, the speaker noted that the Community had obtained from the ACP countries the fishing licences and authorizations which it wanted whilst the ACP countries were still awaiting the completion of the procedures which would allow them to develop their infrastructures in exchange for this. The Community should not lag behind countries which it often denounced and with which Mauritania had concluded agreements which it deemed satisfactory. The rapid conclusion of



a framework agreement was highly desirable.

After having thanked the Community for the aid which it had granted to his country, which had experienced two droughts, Mr BOUNA said that the projects constructed with Community aid had unfortunately been destroyed by the swollen Senegal river. He was mentioning this problem to the Assembly because the latter was often able to persuade the Commission to take a less restrictive view.

To be useful, food aid should be integrated into a pluriannual programme. The ACP countries should know in advance what aid they could reckon with. It should not be forgotten that Community aid could present problems if the cost of transport exceeded that of the products themselves. Surpluses should be made available to the ACP countries on terms at least as favourable as those applied for countries such as the COMECON States with which the Community had no legal link at all.

(Applause)

Mr FUCHS said that Mr Insanally's report gave a clear insight into the ills from which the second Convention of Lomé suffered and that Mr Pisani had defined the main features of the external environment in which it was set.

A number of remarks needed to be made about this environment. It was essential for the Member States of the European Community and the ACP States to remain aloof from the confrontation between the big power blocs and to avoid giving priority to East-West relations over North-South relations, with all the risks that that involved for the future. They must commit themselves to a policy of non-alignment which attached more importance to the problems of hunger and development than to the arms race and ideological confrontations. Nor should they accept the dangerous spiral of protectionism and reduced aid by the countries of the North hit by the economic crisis and unemployment.

Global negotiations must be started up again as quickly as possible with a view to ensuring the redistribution of wealth and power.

In the Chair: Mr VANDEWIELE

Vice-President

Mr OTENG pointed out that both North and South had problems and must sink or swim together. Wishing to correct a misunderstanding with Mrs Ewing, he said that although beef consumption was higher than fish consumption in Botswana this did not mean that the people of Botswana did not eat any fish at all. He went on to stress that Botswana had its share of problems - drought, foot-and-mouth disease, energy costs, lack of trained personnel - like most other developing countries.

Mrs RABBETHGE stated that her Group had carefully studied the Insanally report and supported it.

Europe knew from its own bitter experience the agony of poverty, hunger and dependence on outside help. However, its own efforts coupled with outside help had enabled Europe to rebuild.

The Paris and Washington Conferences had shown that there were limits to what could be achieved. She insisted on the need for patience, courage and new ideas and approaches. At the same time an effort should be made to find opportunities in the budget to go beyond the strict annual framework, particularly in finding more funds for STABEX.

In conclusion the speaker requested her ACP colleagues to consider the possibility of presenting a report at a future ACP meeting on the position of women in ACP countries similar to the report presented to the European Parliament where many women were already actively employed.

(Applause)

Mr GALLAND, having protested against the demagogic approach of certain Members of the Assembly, said that he was deeply interested both in the problems of Africa and in the energy problem. For this reason he regretted that the rapporteur had devoted only two paragraphs to energy, which after all was the cornerstone of cooperation and called for practical solutions.

With a view to helping to solve the tragic problem of water shortage in many ACP countries, he would recommend the use of solar energy to power water pumps, as they would call for very little in the way of either investment or maintenance.

The Committee on Energy and Research had adopted one of his amendments aimed at multiplying tenfold the appropriations for energy in the developing countries and he hoped that this would be taken on board by the Committee on Budgets.

(Applause)

Mr KASSE considered that the difficulties encountered in implementing the Convention of Lomé were consistent with the magnitude of the task involved. It was important to agree on the balance-sheet of past accomplishments and on the means of achieving future objectives. The speaker endorsed Mrs Focke's proposals regarding the revision of working methods and also expressed the hope that the working parties would be provided with more resources. He wondered in fact whether the Assembly might not instruct the Committee of Ambassadors not only to report to it on past achievements but also to submit proposals concerning the best method of organizing work.

Their action, said the speaker, found its justification in a context which lent itself to daring innovations. Hence the interest aroused in the Mali delegation by Commissioner Pisani's announcement of the preparation of a special programme - partly as a follow-up to the Paris Conference - for the Sahel countries and the landlocked and island countries.

It was only by fostering the development of our respective economies and promoting the development of individual human beings that it would be possible to prevent a destructive deflagration.

The speaker's delegation was disappointed by Mr Pannella's decision but understood the fight he was waging and assured him that it would be continued. This struggle, in which the Convention of Lomé would be a precious asset, was made necessary by the desire to safeguard peace.

Finally, he said that the African delegations were particularly sensitive to the issue of Southern Africa, where Africa's very dignity was at stake. The arrogance of South Africa, however, knew no bounds. He therefore asked the European delegates to give their support to the amendments he had tabled on this matter.

Mr VERGES felt that the chief merit of the Insanally report was that it raised the whole problem of cooperation and emphasized the growing difficulties it was encountering and the blockages it foreshadowed.

Lomé I and Lomé II were not, as was claimed, a model. The structures established were insufficient, inadequate and took no account of the fundamental long-term problems of the ACP countries.

The basic facts of the crisis that affected the ACP countries had been known for a long time: economies based on a few export crops, massive drift from the land, unchecked urbanization, mounting debt and a horrendous increase in population.

There was no historical precedent for the desperate plight of these peoples who, in twenty years time, would represent 80% of the total world population. And yet the collapse of the Third World would bring with it that of the developed world if the gulf between the developing and industrialized countries continued to widen.

After paying tribute to Mr Pisani who, in his exposé, displayed a remarkable loftiness of view and vision, he declared that the Chasle report compelled us to question the development models established by Lomé I and II. Lomé I and Lomé II drew their inspiration from western culture which, for centuries, had subjugated the developing countries and ensured their economic supremacy.

Politicians of the industrialized countries needed to work a veritable 'Copernican revolution' in their approach to Third World problems if the countries making it up were to be offered genuine development options.

After attacking the extreme discrimination suffered by the ACP countries in the matter of sugar prices, the speaker concluded that he wished to see introduced, in order to remedy the errors of Lomé I and II, practical measures which might constitute a test of genuine cooperation between ACP countries and Community Member States since there was no question here of charity or good conscience but of the true interests of all concerned.

(Applause)

Mr CLEMENT felt that one should speak frankly and describe what the Community could do rather than what it should do.

Although all the participants in the debate agreed that EEC aid should be more effective and that there should be a greater degree of justice in ACP-EEC relations, one needed to be realistic and to appreciate the internal and external difficulties facing the Community.

The fact that the EEC had increased to ten Member States and would soon be composed of twelve was causing problems.

Moreover, because of the successive crises, in particular the monetary disorders and energy problems, the Community spirit in which the Lomé Conventions had been concluded was being eroded by national egoism.

No one stood to gain by a weaker European Community. The Community should pursue a policy of independence vis-à-vis the political blocs and of cooperation with the South. It must regain its competitiveness, reduce its dependence on imported energy, increase investments and control inflation. Other priorities included the fight against hunger and development aid.

Turning to Europe the speaker proposed that the ACP countries should receive more information in the interests of more effective joint action.

He concluded by quoting the words of Plato 'one should seek truth with all one's heart'.

(Applause)

Mr PRANCHERE said that the simultaneous increase in world hunger and the arms race constituted a terrible and intolerable problem, to which the EEC had found no real solutions as it had maintained Lomé II within an unsuitable framework.

The French Communists and Allies had three objectives: long-term self-sufficiency in food, short-term security of supply and the expansion of trade.

In practical terms, this implied a need to conclude long-term contracts for the supply of agricultural products on preferential terms. Food aid needed to be doubled and agricultural production would have to be adjusted in the EEC to avoid excessively strong competition with ACP products. However, it was obvious that only the agricultural development of the developing countries would bring about a long-term solution.

The speaker concluded by deploring the fact that the ACP countries were not participating in the negotiations on Spanish and Portuguese accession and that they were being placed before a fait accompli.

(Applause)

#### 4. ACP-EEC cultural cooperation

Mr CHASLE, rapporteur, after stressing the interrelationship of all the items on the agenda, stated that cultural cooperation required a mutual understanding of cultures and respect for the different attitudes and traditions of other countries.

For a long time economic considerations and the problems of hunger and illness had pushed culture into second place. It was now important to situate development problems in a global historical, social and cultural context.

Drawing a parallel between the cultural situation of the ACP countries and the EEC, he noted that despite the different levels of development the two sides were experiencing the same cultural alienation. They should thus conduct a dialogue with the aim of creating a better world. At the same time, the Europeans must accept their historical responsibility.

The Joint Committee's unanimous adoption of this report had given rise to great expectations which now had to be translated into practice if mistrust was to be avoided.

The Lomé Convention offered a unique opportunity for a new kind of development embracing all sectors but with its foundation in the integration of the culture of each of our countries.

(Applause)



Mr PULETTI congratulated Mr Chasle on his report, which demonstrated the close links between culture, society and political commitment. The disastrous consequences of crowding enormous numbers of people into cities, as described by Mr Pisani, and the racist attitude of the South African Government were both in their own way examples of cultural problems. In this hour of crisis the Community should look into its own soul, as Mr Pisani had said. It was obvious that cultural matters had been the poor relations in this Community of ours, which masqueraded under the false appearance of a mere economic free-trade area.

However, the speaker did not agree fully with the Socratic definition of development given by Mr Pisani. Culture was not something to be rediscovered, but rather to be given new expression in everyday life and action. While distancing ourselves from any vainglorious notion of our own cultural superiority, let us not take refuge in the primitive or the naive. To idealize unduly the simple life of a peasant world would be to run the risk of forgetting the scourge of illiteracy.

Mr Chasle's report was obviously the work of a cultured mind and also the fruit of much reflection over a long period of time. It was also a work that required much further thought. After many years we have as yet scarcely been able to define what we mean by culture. It is nevertheless a gratifying and encouraging thought that this whole subject should have been grappled with in this way at a time of economic crisis.

With regard to the ideological conflicts being fought out on the African battlefield, the speaker reminded the Assembly that ideology and utopian ideas went hand in hand. Convinced as he himself was of the superiority of reason, he felt that the report may have erred slightly on the side of emotionalism.

Mr BOUNA believed that cooperation in the cultural field could be mutually enriching but warned against the dangers that such cooperation might involve.

At the present time the developing countries were going through a painful period of destruction by the dominant culture, which was being imposed from outside but also from within the countries themselves by the ruling elites. The destruction of traditional culture might ultimately lead to the disappearance of all culture and to alienation.

Mr BOUNA said that while participating in cooperation the ACP countries wanted to preserve their own identity. The emphasis must therefore be laid on what was enriching and non-destructive and the values which had enabled the Europeans, sometimes in the name of Christ, to 'civilize' pre-Columbian America were to be rejected.

It was therefore necessary to work on the basis of the identity and needs of the ACP peoples and avoid directly importing a totally foreign culture, a point made in the report where it referred to the 'negative impact of the mass media'.

(Applause)

Mr NARDUCCI said that all the aspects of the Chasle report were obviously the fruit of profound and careful thought. The fact that no amendment had been tabled showed that there was a great unanimity in their views on the prospects for cultural cooperation.

The unfavourable aspects of the present economic situation forced us to look more closely at the real meaning of cultural cooperation, which reflected a sounder and more practical philosophy of development that showed greater respect for people, for nations and for different cultures.

There was widespread agreement on the principles enshrined in the motion for a resolution, but the most important and also the most difficult part was yet to come, namely, putting these principles into practice. Only the greatest breadth of vision will enable us to prevent this cooperation from making too many restricting demands.

On behalf of the European People's Party, the speaker pledged that he would do his utmost to see that all the parliamentary committees of the European Parliament took account of this resolution and that the principles enshrined in it were translated into practical actions. It was initiatives of this kind that would promote better cooperation between developed and less developed countries.

(Applause)

Mrs CARETONI ROMAGNOLI viewed as positive the deliberations that had taken place both in the Joint Committee and in the Assembly. She wished to confine herself to the two or three key points which made the CHASLE report the point of departure for a new development policy.

Quoting from a letter from Mr Pisani to Mr Colombo, the speaker affirmed that the failures of the two decades of development policy were due less to a lack of funds than a lack of cultural cooperation. The remedies were to be found in a development model different from that inspired by a western concept, alien to the developing countries.

If the Chasle report constituted an important step, it pointed, however, a difficult way. We were heirs to a past and our conscience did not always follow our reason. We dragged with us, like a ball and chain, our western concepts and tended to impose them on the Third World.

We needed to utilize all the possibilities offered to us, by science, technology, historic and philosophical research if the developing countries were to achieve a progressive development at least expense.

Contrary to what had been said in the Chasle report, European culture was not neutral but one-dimensional. We had to accept as just the equality of cultures and modes of thought. This approach was lacking in the North-South dialogue which sought only a balance of powers and which was therefore doomed to failure.

Lomé II embraced 600 million men and women, the ideas common to so many men and women were destined to win the day. But, if this were to happen, those ideas had to be genuinely shared. Since freedom was the most important of all ideas, we had to fight for the freedom of all the peoples of Africa.

(The sitting closed at 7.30 p.m.)<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See minutes for agenda of the next sitting.



