

PRESS RELEASE

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Part 5

In the framework of negotiations for the renewal of the Lomé Convention, Ministers and Representatives of 54 African, Caribbean and Pacific States and the 9 Member States of the European Communities, and certain observers, met on 21 December 1978 in the ACP House in Brussels for the 2nd negotiating session at ministerial level, under the joint chairmanship of Mr. Klaus von DOHNANYI, Minister of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany, and President-in-Office of the Council of the European Communities, and Dr S. TAPA, Minister of Health and Acting Minister of Finance of Tonga, and President-in-Office of the ACP Council of Ministers.

The discussions, which took place in a most open and constructive atmosphere, dealt with a variety of themes of common interest, amongst them trade questions, the stabilization of export earnings, industrial co-operation, rules of origin, agricultural questions, financial and technical co-operation, and questions concerning regional development, least developed and land-locked and island countries, energy, and fishery questions. Other questions of a general nature - such as the duration of the new Convention and the question of human rights - were raised by one or other of the parties. The result of these discussions was to give a new impulse to the negotiations and to accelerate work on the outstanding issues.

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The Ministers took note both of progress made in a number of sectors, and of outstanding questions, and agreed to meet again for a 3rd negotiating session, when adequate prospects for further progress had emerged from the discussions to be continued in the coming months between the negociators for the two parties. The exact date of this meeting during the course of March will be fixed in the light of progress made, and bearing in mind the efforts of the parties to conclude negociations for a new Convention between the African, Caribbean and Pacific States and the European Communities, before the end of June 1979.

P R E S S R E L E A S E

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**DECLARATION BY THE PRESIDENCY
ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION ON ANGOLA**

- The European Union notes with satisfaction the progress towards peace and national reconciliation achieved in Angola, which has enabled the United Nations Security Council to launch UNAVEM III.
- It pays tribute to the action taken by the special representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr Blondin Beye, the observer countries in the peace process in Angola and the countries of the region which made possible the conclusion of the Lusaka Protocol on 20 November 1994 and the signature of a ceasefire now observed by all parties.
- The Union wishes to emphasize how very important it is that the ceasefire be total and observed to the letter over the entire territory, as the Security Council requests. It calls upon the parties concerned to give the UN their fullest cooperation, in particular by supplying all relevant military information, and emphasizes the imperative need for the security of UNAVEM III personnel to be strictly respected.

In the Union's view it is desirable that a meeting between President Dos Santos and Mr Savimbi – who have both expressed willingness in this respect – should take place as soon as possible. This would have an extremely beneficial effect on the peace process.

- Wishing to lend its unreserved support to the movement towards peace now under way, the European Union will for its part make a practical contribution to the consolidation of lasting peace in Angola, in order to ensure the necessary national reconciliation which must be achieved there, especially now that the whole of Southern Africa has committed itself to a course of stability and development.

In this spirit, a number of Member States of the Union are preparing to take part in UNAVEM III, making substantial and varied means available to the UN.

In addition, in view of the extent of mine clearance needs, the European Union will look favourably at the means requiring to be mobilized for effective participation in the efforts which the international community will be making

in this area. It is therefore prepared to work with UNAVEM III and will launch local initiatives to effect mine clearance operations linked to the implementation of rehabilitation projects.

It will furthermore continue with the considerable humanitarian and food aid which it has previously granted to this devastated country. In this spirit, it is willing to contribute to the rehabilitation plan now being prepared by the Angolan Government in collaboration with the UNDP, while continuing with activities already undertaken.

To conclude, the European Union will play its full part in the considerable effort which will have to be made to support the Angolan Government's efforts to effect the reconstruction of the country and ensure its development.

Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Rumania and Slovakia associate themselves with this declaration.

[REDACTED]

PRESS RELEASE

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The Council held an exchange of views in preparation for the discussion to be held by the European Council on 7 and 8 April concerning the date for the election of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage.

It agreed to resume examination of this question at its meeting on 4 April.

Before the meeting, the President of the Council met the President of the European Parliament, Mr Emilio COLOMBO, who informed him of the views of the Bureau of the European Parliament on this matter. Immediately after the Council meeting, the President again contacted the President of the European Parliament to inform him of the situation following the Council's deliberations.

The President of the Council will make a statement on this subject to the European Parliament during the plenary session in Strasbourg on 15 March.
