

European Community

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TOKYO SUMMIT ENERGY STAND SHOULD HAVE "SNOWBALL EFFECT" - JENKINS

The European Community, represented by Commission President Roy Jenkins, and four of the nine EC member states (France, Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom) participated with Canada, Japan and the United States at the Tokyo Summit on 28-29 June 1979.

At the press conference concluding the summit, President Jenkins made the following statement.

"Like the heads of state and government who have spoken before me, I am glad that we have been able to concentrate on the challenge of the energy crisis and agree on medium-term goals for oil imports as well as other measures in the energy field. I am pleased that the work done by the European Council at Strasbourg(*) provided such a good foundation for and contribution to the results of this summit. We have, I believe, prepared ourselves to cope with the problems caused for us by scarce and expensive oil. We have done so without forgetting the impact on the developing countries, and we have done so in the knowledge that we must follow our words with action if we are to succeed...

"The European Community put its own house in order at the European Council in Strasbourg last week. As we said at the time, it would only be possible to maintain the commitments we undertook if the other major industrial countries made a comparable effort. This, I believe, Canada, Japan and the United States have done in their undertakings here, and I am very pleased that the work we did at Strasbourg provided such a good basis for our contribution to the output of this meeting...

"For their part the Community countries here have been prepared to be more specific than in Strasbourg, but their goals fall within the Strasbourg agreement and do not prejudice the positions of the other five Community countries.

"We have so in the communiqué recognized the particular problems of the developing countries, and the need to do better, to increase the flow of financial resources, both public and private, and assistance over food.

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(*) At the European Council meeting in Strasbourg on 21-22 June, the heads of government of the nine EC member states and Commission President Jenkins decided to limit the EC's annual oil imports for the next five years to the 1978 level of 470 million metric tonnes.

"What will count as much as the commitments we have undertaken is the intention to monitor closely our own efforts. For this reason it is good that these summits have now become more or less institutionalized as annual events, for the continuing problems of energy are bound to go on dominating them. We must use them to intensify our efforts to bring oil supply and demand more into balance, in our own interest. Otherwise we shall be adding self-inflicted wounds to those we are already suffering."
