

# ASEAN-EEC CONFERENCE ON INDUSTRIAL CO-OPERATION

SPEECH BY MR. WILHELM HAFERKAMP

VICE PRESIDENT OF THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

ON THE OCCASION OF THE DINNER  
GIVEN BY THE ASEAN GOVERNMENTS

IN JAKARTA ON THE 26 FEBRUARY 1979

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Mr. Minister,

recent events in South East Asia have given all of us throughout the world a deep concern.

In particular the events of the last few weeks have aggravated the situation which has become serious.

I want to emphasise on this occasion therefore

how much we in Europe are ready to support any move towards stability in South East Asia.

We are convinced of the very important role which ASEAN has to play in ensuring that stability and peace are maintained in the region.

We feel that as a regional grouping of five nations, you have a unique opportunity

to act together as a moderating influence on events in the region.

That we in Europe should express

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such a firm belief in regional groupings  
as a factor for peace and stability  
is not accidental or surprising.

We can refer to our own experience.

In the first half of this century

Europe was twice torn apart by wars  
which led to human, political and economic disaster  
for people  
not only in Europe  
but also throughout the world.

Now it is inconceivable that such a  
European war could break out.

The formation of the European Community

linking the peoples of nine countries  
which for several centuries had had a tradition  
of wars and conflicts,  
has made a recurrence of this situation impossible.

The European Community

The European Community is based on all kinds of cooperation.

It is our belief

that this cooperation has benefitted  
not only ourselves  
but also countries outside the Community.

We believe that our example is one which can be  
followed with profit by other groups of countries.

In today's world

cooperation among nations and peoples  
means peace

In today's world economic cooperation

means strength.

As a consequence we in the Community

are firmly committed

to supporting the development of a strong and viable ASEAN  
and we are resolved

to continue our efforts in this direction.

Over the last few years

Over the last few years cooperation between our two regional groupings has increased substantially.

There was a continuous development

from the creation of a Joint Study Group between ASEAN and the Commission of the European Communities in 1975 to the Ministerial meeting in November 1978 and this Conference.

The getting together of hundreds of businessmen from both sides indicates

that there is not only a political will to cooperate but also an economic interest at the level of our industrialists and bankers.

I am sure that the business communities of the two regions will seize this opportunity

to explore very closely the economic possibilities for which our cooperation at the political level has led the way.

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Mr. Minister,

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let me once again in the name of the whole European delegation  
thank you

for your welcome

and for the magnificent efforts

which ASEAN has made

to ensure the success of the Conference.