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OPENING STATEMENT

BY WILHELM HAFERKAMP,

VICE PRESIDENT OF THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

AT THE ASEAN-EEC CONFERENCE ON INDUSTRIAL CO-OPERATION

IN JAKARTA

ON MONDAY, 26 FEBRUARY, 1979

(10 o'clock local time)

Mr. President, Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me

to represent the Commission of the European Communities
in Jakarta

at the Second Conference on Industrial Cooperation
between ASEAN and the Community.

I should like to take this opportunity

to extend our sincere thanks to ASEAN

and in particular to our host country Indonesia,

for the excellent and friendly collaboration

which has marked our joint preparation of this meeting.

I regard the Conference which opens today

as a significant step towards closer cooperation

between ASEAN and the European Communities.

There are long-standing links, political and commercial
in all, between the ASEAN countries and our Member states.

The establishment of political

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The establishment of political and economic links between the two groupings as such reached a high point at the first ASEAN/Community Ministerial Meeting in November last year.

That Meeting confirmed the mutual interest of the two groupings in closer economic cooperation.

We see this Conference as an attempt to give substance to this operation.

We fully realise that in market economies such as ours business decisions are the responsibility of the individual entrepreneurs and financiers and that the role which an organisation like the Commission of the Communities can play is limited.

But we hope that the way the Conference has been organised

will lead to concrete results in the form of joint ventures between ASEAN and European industrialists.

This is the purpose of the Conference.

Mr. President,

the presence today of so many distinguished representatives of Europe's most important industries and financial institutions is evidence of the great interest they see in closer economic cooperation between our two regions.

To this must be added the political confidence in ASEAN

shown by the foreign ministers of the Member States of the Community in the November meeting,

when they described ASEAN as a factor contributing to peace and stability in South East Asia.

Peace and stability constitute the bases for economic and social progress and for the freedom of the individual.

Peace and stability, this is what the peoples really want

- in Europe
- here in South-East-Asia
- all over the world.

This is why the growing strain in this part of the world is of great concern to them and they are naturally anxious to see these problems quickly solved.

The European Community is based on the principle of regional cooperation.

The Community welcomes the progress made by ASEAN in the same direction.

Mr. President, may I conclude

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Mr. President,

may I conclude by assuring you

that ASEAN will continue to have the full support
of the European Communities and of the Commission

in the achievement of both its political
and its economic objectives.

Thank you.