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EMBARGO: 20.00 hrs

Brussels, 21 October 1983

INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL THREATS FACING THE COMMUNITY:
SPEECH BY MR IVOR RICHARD
Cardiff

Set out below are key extracts of a speech to be delivered by Commissioner Ivor Richard in Cardiff this evening, dealing with the internal economic problems facing the Community and its external policy challenges.

Internal challenge: recession and unemployment

- on youth unemployment, "As far as the 16 to 18 year olds are concerned ... the labour market has virtually collapsed"; Speaking of the Community's target to create 2.5 million new jobs for the young over the next five years, Mr. Richard said "I have been deeply disappointed by the reactions of most national governments. It would seem that, in spite of all the rhetoric to the contrary, there is very little sign of willingness on the part of Member States to appreciate the dramatic urgency of youth unemployment. It is as if governments feel completely incapable of ... mobilising greater solidarity between those with work and those without."

on general unemployment: "We need something approaching one million new jobs to be created each year just to prevent a further increase in unemployment".

on economic policy: "We face the prospect that, unless we make some fundamental changes in our macro-economic policies, Europe - which has been harder hit by the recession than the United States or Japan - will continue to fall behind the rest of the industrialized world".

External challenge: the arms race, East-West relations

- "We have governments both in the US and the Soviet Union that are capable of leading the world to nuclear annihilation. In the Soviet Union we have a regime ... that seems to become more rigid the greater the pressure coming from its Empire. On the other hand, we have got an Administration in the US whose fondness for bellicose rhetoric is most worrying. I sometimes think that there are some elements in the US establishment who, whilst recognizing that a Third World War would be a disaster for us all, much regret that fact, and act in their relations with the Soviet Union as though it were still an option. Indeed, I occasionally suspect that there might be people in the UK who entertain the same