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Speech by the President of the Council
Mr. Yannis Charalambopoulos

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on 4 July 1983

- Only the speech actually given is authentic -

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Mr President,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Greece is the newest member of the Community and it is with a feeling of great responsibility that it is assuming the Presidency of the Council of Ministers for the next six months in a period which is particularly crucial for the future of Europe.

At this difficult juncture the Greek Presidency will make every effort to find solutions to the problems which face us, thus continuing the excellent work of the German Presidency.

In our efforts we are sure that we will have the assistance of the European Parliament given its particular sensitivity to the issues involved and its positive contribution to finding ways and means of solving the Community's many economic and social problems.

In this context the Greek Presidency will attach particular weight to the views of the European Parliament and will seek to develop its relations with Parliament, particularly in the procedure for establishing the budget, which requires very close co-operation between the two institutions. The preparation and establishment of the budget for the financial year 1984 will be a particularly difficult matter, especially bearing in mind the specific problems involved

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and the prospect of exhaustion of the Community's resources. Strenuous co-ordinated efforts will thus be required on the part of both the Member States and the Community institutions.

As you are aware, the European Council in Stuttgart finally avoided the impasse which was threatening the Community with a potentially disastrous crisis. It became clear that it was imperative to work out a fresh approach based on new complementary measures and new policies better suited to tackling the major social and economic problems.

The burden of developing this new approach will necessarily fall on the Greek Presidency and we shall attempt to produce concrete proposals for this purpose. We expect a positive response from the European Parliament.

The central focus will be the greater cohesion of the Community and the strengthening of its voice and identity, which presupposes the convergence of the economies of the Member States and the reduction of structural and other inequalities and imbalances among them. We believe this to be a vital element for the future survival of the Community.

The question of the future financing of the Community will therefore be the immediate priority for the Greek Presidency.

The most important problem connected with future financing is that of increasing own resources. If the EEC is to be in a position to achieve some sort of unity speedily, as provided for in the solemn declaration on European unity, and if the new policies are to be implemented, the budget problem must be dealt with.

The aim must not be short-term solutions but a long-term approach to the Community's problems through the implementation of new policies based on the principles I have already mentioned.

The view that there should be financial balance between income and expenditure hampers or rather runs counter to the achievement of the objective of the convergence of economies and the production of inequalities in the distribution of the European product. We cannot speak of unity or union and at the same time support measures which lead to the introduction of two or three speeds within the Community or to some countries being designated second or third-class. For this reason the Greek Presidency will devote particular

attention to dealing with economic imbalances and regional inequalities while at the same time making every effort to update and effectively implement existing policies and to define priorities for fresh Community action.

The Stuttgart declaration is a valuable starting point as it sets out methodically the questions which are fundamental to the future of the Community and broadly outlines the procedure to be followed in solving them. Specifically, it makes provision for special meetings of the Council of Ministers in which both Ministers for Economic Affairs and Ministers for Agriculture will participate. These meetings will be devoted to the negotiations in question and to the preparation of concrete proposals to be submitted to the next European Council meeting in Athens in December.

Given this procedure, which the Greek Presidency will endeavour to implement to its fullest possible potential, and given the political will of the Member States, we sincerely hope that during our Presidency the Community will take positive steps in the right direction.

We are aware that for such an effort to succeed it is necessary

for there to be an increase in own resources. One idea which could be studied is the introduction of a more equitable participation by the Member States in the budget, and an attempt will be made to achieve a more rational allocation of expenditure, taking due account of course of the particular problems of the less-developed members.

Another question of fundamental importance which is also connected with the financing of the Community is enlargement with the accession of Spain and Portugal. The accession negotiations must proceed in such a way that the agreements can be submitted for ratification at the same time as the results of the negotiations on future financing are approved. This means work must be speeded up if we are to avoid any delay in the final decision. More particularly, we shall concentrate our efforts on those sectors which have not yet been dealt with in depth during the negotiations. The most important in this respect are agriculture, fisheries and social questions.

At the same time we must redouble our efforts for the rapid adoption within the Community of the necessary preparatory measures in the agricultural and financial sectors. This concerns the *acquis communautaire*, to which a solution will have to be found in the very near future.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Alongside the guidelines it issued on future financing, the Stuttgart European Council asked, still in accordance with the same urgent procedure, for an examination of the operation of the Common Agricultural Policy.

The purpose of this examination must be to adapt the CAP to the development of farming reality, while complying with the Community's basic principles, bearing in mind the interests of small producers and those of farmers in the disadvantaged regions of the Community. Thus, the controls imposed on agricultural expenditure cannot prejudice what has already been gained for Community producers but clearly mean rationalization and simplification of the common organizations of the market, especially in the case of products cultivation of which only began to benefit from these organizations one or two years ago, as for example raisins and dried figs. Several specific topics relative to this problem were enumerated in the declaration of the Heads of State and of Government, and the Commission was asked to submit proposals on 1 August. The results of this examination of the reform of agricultural policy, together with those relating to financing, will be submitted to the European Council in Athens.

There is another agricultural matter of special importance in connection with the conclusions of the Heads of State and of Government, because to some extent it conditions progress in the negotiations on the accession of new countries. It is that of the adaptation of the organization

of the market in Mediterranean products, olive oil and market gardening ("acquis").

Substantial progress was achieved at the last meeting of the Council of Ministers for Agriculture. There are grounds for hoping that a final decision will be taken very shortly, perhaps even at the Council of Ministers for Agriculture this July. The Presidency will in any event actively pursue this issue. I am sure that the Ministers for Agriculture of the Ten will finally agree that any revision of the Mediterranean "acquis" must not affect, however slightly, the economic importance of products such as olive oil or fruit and vegetables. It would not be permissible - I would even go so far as to say that it is contrary to the Community Treaties themselves - to change a product from a source of income and work into a source of welfare benefits.

Another subject which will be occupying us during the next six months, and which forms part of the general debate on the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy, is structural policy. On the one hand we must learn the lessons of the experience gained from the rules which are at present in force but are due shortly to expire. On the other hand we must define the role that structural policy could play within a revised agricultural policy, so that we can take account of

regional inequalities and of the special circumstances of different kinds of farmer, since - let us be honest about it - structural policy hitherto has been designed to suit countries with the structural characteristics of the old Community of the Six or the Nine.

In this context special attention must be given to the Overall Mediterranean Programmes, with regard to which our political intent must shortly be given entirely practical expression; we must find the means and begin substantive discussions on the activities and sectors which the Programmes will cover.

Finally, among the points explicitly referred to at the last European Council was the question of monetary compensatory amounts. The Regulation providing for the introduction of the EUA into the Common Agricultural Policy expires before the end of the year and must consequently be renewed. At the time its validity was last extended the Council instructed the Commission to examine the effects of the monetary compensatory amounts on production and on trade in agricultural products. Moreover, when prices were being fixed for 1983/1984, the Council asked the Commission to review the method of calculating monetary compensatory amounts for certain products. The Council will therefore be discussing the substance of agri-monetary matters as a

whole in the Autumn on the basis of precisely these important Commission reports.

Other, less important, matters will also have to be examined during the second half of this year, and in particular the organization of the sheepmeat market, in respect of which the transitional period expires on 1 April 1984, and the grant system in the fruit and vegetables sector.

Early in October the Greek Presidency will begin the negotiations for the renewal of the LOME II Convention. We hope to finalize the negotiating directives at the forthcoming meeting of the Council in July. We are all very well aware of the tremendous importance of this Convention, which is an example of consistent European policy in development matters. This Convention, which in a way constitutes a model, will not merely be renewed; we shall have to go further and seek the basis for a new kind of co-operation which will meet the real quantitative and qualitative needs of the ACP countries. The Commission's proposals constitute an important step in that direction.

I am certain that all the Member States will wish to assist the Presidency in conducting the negotiations in a constructive spirit in order to affirm our solidarity with those countries in unmistakable fashion.

However much this may be in the interests of the ACP countries, it is also in that of the Community, which

will thereby be strengthening its active presence.

Two further meetings of the Development Council will be held during the Greek Presidency. They will deal with the integration of the various methods of providing aid to the whole of the Third World.

We shall continue to give special attention to the problem of hunger in the world on the basis of our experience in food aid, taking account above all of the real needs of the countries concerned.

I come now to an internal Community problem, and more specifically to the general economic situation. The European Council clearly indicated that we must redouble our efforts to bring about economic recovery. To this end we shall continue the efforts already begun to raise the level of productive investment and employment by facilitating the necessary structural adjustments. The budgetary and monetary policies of the Member States must be oriented in that direction, taking into account each country's margin of manoeuvre.

The success of this strategy is of course directly linked with the evolution of the international monetary situation. For this reason the Community must continually

seek together with its major partners ways of achieving a lasting reduction in interest rates and of stabilizing exchange rates.

The Greek Presidency attaches great importance to even development of the economies of the Member States, in order that the Community may attain a higher level of internal cohesion.

Convergence of economic policies will be facilitated only if the problems of structural underdevelopment confronting certain Member States are overcome. This is precisely the purpose of the Community's regional and social policy.

In regional matters, the Presidency will place special emphasis on the review of the Regional Fund so as to concentrate Fund activity primarily on the less-favoured regions. At the same time it will continue the examination of six Regulations on a second series of "non-quota" measures with a view to adopting them as swiftly as possible.

The Council will also give time to the very important proposals concerning the Overall Mediterranean Programmes. These Programmes will enable the Community's southern regions

to deal with the structural problems of their economies and at the same time to counter the effects of the prospective accession of Spain and Portugal.

The Greek Presidency will assign priority to work on these proposals in order that the Council may reach some initial conclusions before the end of the year.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the statement of political intent which emerged from the Stuttgart European Council on the Greek Memorandum will constitute an important subject to be developed during the Greek Presidency.

As under the German Presidency, particular attention will be paid in the social sector to the problems associated with the employment of young people on the basis of the decisions of the Social Affairs Council of 2 June 1983 concerning the swift application of decisions on the review of the European Social Fund.

In particular, the Council will examine in depth the Commission communication on the promotion of local schemes to assist employment.

The fact of underlining these aspects of the approach of the Greek Presidency should under no circumstances be taken to mean that other aspects will be neglected.

As regards research, industry and industrial innovation, the goal of the Greek Presidency will be to reduce the technology gap between advanced and backward countries. The Council will be called on to decide on programmes on biotechnology and information technology. In the latter case, a new instrument for close co-operation with industry is to be inaugurated (ESPRIT).

During the next six months, the Council will be required to take decisions on programmes on atomic energy and nuclear fission and on the immediate action programme for the Joint Research Centre.

The Greek Presidency has an extremely heavy programme, but this will provide scope for the expression of the Community's interest in research, which is an area of strategic importance for the future.

In energy policy, the fact that a degree of stability has returned to the petroleum market should not lead us to relax our efforts to save energy. The Greek Presidency will therefore press for measures on the rational use of energy and on alternative sources of energy supplies.

Under the Greek Presidency, the Council will continue this policy on the basis of proposals which the Commission has already submitted on solid fuels, on energy and on energy research, as well as in the other areas relating to Community energy policy, and on refining. These subjects will be examined by the Energy Council which is to be held on 12 July 1983.

In addition, the Council's subsidiary bodies will consider the matter of the revision of Chapter 6 (Supplies) of the Euratom Treaty and the Greek Presidency will accelerate the updating of provisions relating to the nuclear energy market.

On transport, the Presidency is proposing, in line with the conclusions of the European Council in Stuttgart, to continue discussions on the present situation of Community policy on inland transport and will endeavour to develop the policy further.

We will place emphasis on the examination of the draft Council Resolution concerning the implementation in stages of a series of measures in the field of Community Policy for

Inland Transport which are listed in the Annex to the Commission communication to the Council of 9 February 1983.

In the other important areas of road, sea and air transport, the Presidency will ensure that discussions in the Council continue with a view to arriving at concrete results.

Lastly, the Greek Presidency attaches considerable significance to Community policy on the environment. Our current economic and social difficulties must not prevent intensification of our efforts in this area. The Greek Presidency wishes to assign priority to the policy on the control of atmospheric pollution and the pollution of the aquatic environment particularly in the light of the considerable progress in that direction made by the Council in June.

I would like to underscore the importance of the achievements of the German Presidency on the internal market, and to assure the European Parliament that the Greek Presidency will continue this work.

The Greek Presidency is beginning at a time which is of great significance for the European Parliament since in June 1984 it will

be holding the second round of elections by direct universal suffrage. We consider the European elections to be especially important in that they constitute a further practical democratization of the institutions of the Community and thus provide the EEC as a whole with the democratic support which is essential. In this spirit of democracy we shall make every endeavour to give favourable consideration to subjects of concern to the European Parliament. I believe that by working together in close co-operation we will be able to give our peoples increased hope in a more human and more just Europe.

I come now to European Political Co-operation, an institution whose importance is recognised by all the Member States. However, Political Co-operation is characterized by certain limitations and particular features. We should recognize from the outset that the political weight of the Europe of the Ten is not always proportionate to its economic strength. In critical regions where world peace is often at risk we are unable to influence developments as decisively as the two great nuclear powers. Naturally this determines the limits of our initiatives and actions in each case.

Furthermore, the particular features of which I spoke consist in the fact that our countries, despite their absolute adherence to the fundamental values of the free world, often have different conceptions of international developments and situations, due either to their geographical position or to the political tendencies of their successive governments or to their traditional ties with countries outside the Community. This pluralism gives us additional strength. The common positions at which we arrive, when we do arrive at such, really represent the crystallization of our common political will. It is neither possible nor expedient for the ten to take up individual positions in international affairs.

My country however faces an additional problem. Not only is it the country which has most recently joined the Community, but it acceded at a time when the procedures of Political Co-operation and Community positions on several international problems had already been

crystallized. Consequently, acceptance of the entire political "acquis communautaire" involves for us a higher political price, which we are unable to pay in certain cases. This is so not only because, as you appreciate, we cannot easily abandon certain traditional positions, but because, more generally, it would not be expedient for us to give the outside world the impression that we are obliged since our accession to the Community to adopt views diametrically opposed to those we have hitherto held. Naturally we are aware of the additional responsibility involved in holding the Presidency.

I should like now to set out our position on the principal international problems and the objectives of the Greek Presidency in the second half of 1983. I shall begin with the Middle East crisis, which claims the sad distinction of being perhaps the most protracted, insoluble and dangerous of international problems. I shall not weary you by listing the dangers for international peace which the protraction of this crisis involves. The Community positions on a solution of the Middle East problem are well known; they have been formulated in a series of texts from the Venice Declaration to the conclusions of the recent European Council, including the Ministerial Declaration of 20 September 1982. We do not believe that a viable peace is possible in this region, which is so sensitive and geographically so close to us, unless Resolutions 242 and 338 of the Security Council are applied, unless Israel evacuates all the Arab territories which it has occupied since 1967,

unless the Palestinian people are permitted to exercise the right of self-determination, with all that that involves, and unless there is recognition of the right of all the States of the region, including Israel, to security within internationally recognized frontiers. We also consider that the Palestine Liberation Organization should take part in negotiations for an overall settlement.

To the already complex Middle East problem there has unfortunately, since June 1982, been added the problem of Lebanon, which suffered a military attack by Israel with the result that a significant part of its territory is still occupied by Israeli armies. The ten have condemned this invasion unequivocally and have repeatedly called for the withdrawal of all foreign forces stationed in Lebanon without the agreement of the legitimate Government of the country, and for the safeguarding of Lebanon's independence and national integrity and recognition of the Lebanese Government's right to exercise its sovereignty over the whole of Lebanese territory.

The agreement last May between Lebanon and Israel will contribute to the achievement of these objective aims, to the extent that it is accompanied by a settlement which will be acceptable to all the parties, will take account of their rightful interests and will guarantee the security of all the States and peoples of the region.

My country, for its part, aided by a common history and close traditional ties with the Arabs, is ready, in agreement with its partners of course, to undertake any initiative which could contribute in an initial stage to defusing the present crisis, an indispensable precondition for any more general peace initiative.

May I take this opportunity of stressing how much Greece is committed to the further development of political, economic, cultural and every other kind of co-operation with the Arab countries. To this end we shall endeavour to promote the Euro-Arab dialogue and to give it a more substantial content.

If the Middle East situation could spark off a world conflagration, and should for that reason have our undivided attention, East-West relations, by their nature, their diversity and their ramifications have been, are and will continue to be decisive for the peaceful survival of mankind. These relations have, in recent times, after a period of détente, entered on the path of confrontation, with unforeseeable consequences for world peace. The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, the Polish crisis, and perhaps the manner in which the West has reacted to these events, have created between the two worlds a tension which may, unless we endeavour to defuse it, involve us in a relentless arms race and in the creation of crisis flashpoints which it

may not always be possible to control.

I do not need to dramatize the situation. It is sufficiently disquieting in itself. However, I believe I express the views of all of us when I say that we should profit from every opportunity for agreement and from every avenue of negotiation which could lead us back to détente and mutual understanding. The two great nuclear powers have of course their own reasoning and their own objectives, which we are not always in a position to influence. On the other hand, the Europe of the TEN has sufficient political maturity and moral stature to ensure that its voice is heard. Our peoples want to ensure peace for several generations. All the other peoples of our planet have exactly the same aspiration. Consequently, if reason prevails in our endeavours, we shall have the support of world public opinion.

The disarmament talks conducted in various bodies and at various levels between the United States and the Soviet Union must achieve positive and tangible results. Let us not forget what valuable resources could be released, if the various negotiations produced substantial results, for dealing with the world economic crisis which threatens to assume tragic proportions for many peoples in the Third World.

I should like to add here that our efforts should be aimed

at a parallel progress of the negotiations for the limitation of nuclear and of conventional weapons. The spectre of nuclear annihilation should not lead us to overlook the terrible casualties and material destruction which modern conventional weapons can cause.

Afghanistan is undoubtedly a problem which should be solved in the framework of respect for the Afghan people and their independence, sovereignty and right to self-determination. These principles are contained in a series of United Nations Resolutions which the TEN voted for and continue to support.

The Polish crisis is one of the most acute which post-war Europe has known. The TEN unanimously condemned the imposition of martial law, the arbitrary arrests and detentions, the dissolution of Solidarity and every attempt at foreign intervention in this proud country. However, when the imposition of sanctions was sought, my country was opposed to the idea because it believed that sanctions would run counter to the desired result and would, in the last analysis, hurt the whole Polish people. It has to be admitted that in the meantime efforts and progress towards liberalization have been made, although these have not yet been completed.

I do not believe that our aim should be to give the Polish people lessons on how they should definitively resolve their current crisis. The line which we should follow should be

one of firmness, exhortation and the encouragement of dialogue between the political and social groups in Poland together with clear indications to the Polish régime that when it is able to return to the path of national reconciliation the TEN will be ready to support it and help it to overcome the economic difficulties and social unrest which it is currently facing.

Since our attitude to the Polish crisis is dictated by our attachment to certain basic principles such as respect for the independence of countries, non-interference in their internal affairs and the safeguarding of individual and political freedoms and human rights within every country, I think I should add that if we wish to preserve our credibility it is essential to show consistency in condemning violations of these principles and freedoms wherever they may occur.

The web of East-West relations will also be greatly influenced by the outcome of the Madrid Conference. The prospects seem fairly good. We hope that the latest compromise proposals from the Spanish Prime Minister, to whom I should like to express our thanks for his efforts, will make it possible to sign a final text in which the human dimension and the convening of a disarmament conference in Europe will have an equal place. It may be argued that the results beginning to emerge from Madrid do not meet all the hopes that were placed in the Conference. But on the

path towards a lasting and peaceful co-existence of all the peoples of Europe even relatively small steps are welcome.

For the rest, and this is something of special importance, all the countries participating in the CSCE should show their sincere willingness to put the Conference decisions into practice, both those on human contacts and those on disarmament. As the cradle of modern civilization, Europe can and must become the meeting ground for the two great socio-political systems which dominate the modern world.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Africa is a continent which in a remarkably short time has been able to free itself of the bonds of colonialism and find the road to national independence. But there remains a corner of Africa which has not yet been able to cast off those bonds. The West has a duty to assist Namibia to take its place, without further delay, among the free peoples of the earth. The TEN have additional responsibility in this matter; three Community countries are taking part in the Contact Group which worked out a plan for Namibian independence. This plan was approved by the United Nations Security Council in 1975. Implementation of Security Council Resolution No 435 has, however, met with the systematic opposition of South Africa which has been illegally administering Namibia since 1967. The members of the Contact Group, whose contribution to the progress achieved thus far must be acknowledged, should now use all

their influence and every means available to them to persuade the Government in Pretoria to comply with Resolution 435 which it has in fact accepted. The independence of Namibia cannot be linked to other problems in the area. It is unjust, I would even say criminal, that the Namibian people should be deprived of their freedom because of difficulties which may exist in neighbouring countries. And I would like to take this opportunity of condemning once more the armed incursions of South African forces, relying on their great superiority, into the territory of neighbouring countries, with all the loss of life and material destruction that they cause.

Namibia may be the last relic of colonialism in Africa, but there are millions of other Africans who live under a system which denies and tramples on the most elementary human rights. I am of course referring to apartheid. Regrettably, here too the South African Government is defiantly ignoring the appeals of the international community with no thought for the consequences of its intransigence.

I will conclude my references to Africa by stressing the constructive role played by the Organization of African Unity in promoting co-operation between the African countries and in settling their differences; this year it is celebrating its 20th anniversary. Preservation of the cohesion of the Organization is vital for the continuation of its work, which makes a major contribution to world peace.

In Asia, Ladies and Gentlemen, there are two crisis flashpoints the protracted nature of which constitute an additional threat not only to those peoples directly involved but for peace in general in the area. The Iran-Iraq war can and must be terminated, if the two sides agree to their differences being settled by peaceful means. The TEN support all the efforts at mediation being made and are prepared to help bring an end to these hostilities which have cost so many human lives. I would also appeal to the warring parties to respect the Geneva Conventions on the treatment of civilians and prisoners of war.

The problem of Kampuchea is a further instance of the invasion of a small and undefended country. It is indeed a tragedy that the peace-loving people of Kampuchea should for many years now have been living under foreign occupation. The TEN support the withdrawal of the Vietnamese forces and want the Kampuchean people to be granted the basic rights of independence, freedom and self-determination which all the peoples of the world are entitled to enjoy.

I would be very happy if I could at this point close the already very long catalogue of international crises and confrontations. Unfortunately, a further area has recently joined the ranks of problem regions on our planet. The situation prevailing in Central America today, where there is a danger of the dimensions of the problem spreading beyond the geographic borders of that area, is primarily due to the social repression and injustice suffered over many generations

by almost all its peoples. The violence is assuming proportions such that it may well become totally uncontrollable and the violation of human rights has almost become a way of life. What complicates matters is the fact that Central America is tending to become an area of confrontation between East and West.

Recently, in Stuttgart, the TEN clearly defined the principles which could lead to peace in the region i.e. renunciation of military means, the inviolability of frontiers, respect for human rights. If all parties espouse these principles, the peoples of Central America will be able to return to a peaceful existence and devote their energies to dealing with the acute economic and social crisis besetting them.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I should now like to turn to the relations of the Community countries with the outside world. The USA undoubtedly constitute an important political and economic factor in these relations, and the latter must therefore be based, on both sides, on equality, respect for our rights and obligations, and on the principle of any differences between us being settled through dialogue. Some of these difficulties have already been resolved. We hope that the same will happen with those still outstanding. Here, I would refer in particular to the renewal of the Export Administration Act, where we expect our views to be taken into account, and to the question of special high technology steels, where we believe that the Community position is very strong.

The political consultations held by the TEN in the framework of political co-operation are constantly on the increase. We shall continue them at the same rate since experience to date has shown their usefulness. This is especially true of the consultations with the other members of the Council of Europe which were introduced last April.

With more particular reference to Japan, we note that country's desire to have closer links with the TEN and to conduct a fruitful political dialogue with the Community, which will certainly facilitate the solution of economic problems between us.

As you know, a procedure for contracts and co-operation has been established with the countries of ASEAN, despite the great geographical distance which separates us. We believe that this co-operation will prove profitable for all.

The Mediterranean countries, from the Maghreb to Cyprus, are of particular importance for the TEN. The ancient ties of friendship which particularly unite us as a Mediterranean people with those countries call for a stepping up of efforts to strengthen our relations and to develop our co-operation further. This will also be one of the goals of our Presidency.

At this point I should like to dwell a little more on the Republic of Cyprus. Not only because the situation in this small, independent and non-aligned country has for some years been a tragic one without, unfortunately, any sign of light on the

horizon, but also because there are a number of unresolved questions in its relations with the Community which should have been settled long ago. It is the solemn duty of the Greek Presidency to press as hard as it can towards a solution of these unresolved matters - as well as of the political aspects of the problem - and we hope that in this endeavour we shall have the understanding of our colleagues.

The non-aligned movement, with the constant addition of new members, expresses and represents about half the population of our planet. In spite of the differences which arise within it from time to time, the movement is an important factor of stability in international life, and its political weight far surpasses the sum of its members. The TEN therefore have every interest in developing still further their already good relations with this movement, to which the Indian Presidency is expected to give new impetus and greater homogeneity.

One of the most important and most justified aspirations of the non-aligned movement is the creation of a new and fairer economic order. The global negotiations, the opening of which was much delayed, will be the best way of meeting the expectations of the developing countries for a better future. Greece's economic possibilities do not permit it to provide economic or technological aid for third countries on any broad scale. I should, however, like to stress the political dimension of the problem, which is of particular concern to my country.

We are living in an increasingly interdependent world where the strongest has need of the weakest and the richest of the poorest. The negotiations between North and South are the only way of beginning to bridge the gulf between them. If this is not done, humanity will be faced with perhaps its greatest crisis since the dawn of history.

I should like to round off these general thoughts and remarks, ladies and gentlemen, with a brief reference to the recent European Council.

In the wake of the Stuttgart meeting we can permit ourselves a certain restrained optimism. The decisions taken were far from resolving the problems; but the Community can emerge from the crisis if it continues on a new course which will bridge the gaps between its members and bring about economic convergence and the development of the backward regions of each country.

One of the goals of the Greek Presidency will be to turn the Stuttgart decisions to account in an appropriate manner.
