

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE
OF
PRESIDENT GASTON THORN,
EC COMMISSION
MAY 30, 1983

I went to the Summit saying that it might well be the most important one to be held to date.

I said that positive signs had to come from this Summit in order to avoid that the very fragile recovery might collapse and shatter the hopes of many millions of unemployed.

There has been much speculation before the Summit about differences and possible clashes on:

- a. Interest rates
- b. International monetary stability
- c. East/West economic relations.

I am happy to say that in a frank discussion among friends we have come to reasonable compromises and agreements under all three headings. What is essential is that the West is now stronger and more united in its fight against inflation, unemployment and in its determination to bring about a sustained and lasting recovery.

We have recognised that we are fully dependent on each other, and that in defining our policies we must take into account their effect on partners and that the key

-2-

to success is the pursuit of convergence in our economic, monetary and trade policies. We have also recognized once again our joint responsibility vis-a-vis the developing countries and the need to live up to these obligations.

With reference to the joint Declaration, I would particularly like to express satisfaction on:

- our pledge to reduce too high interest rates and structural budget deficits, and
- our decision to enhance the consultation process aimed at greater monetary stability and a longer term objective of an improvement of the international monetary system.

Progress in monetary cooperation is by necessity a very difficult undertaking and there is no "instant fix" as has been demonstrated in our experience with the European Monetary System. However, I am confident that all participants are now more aware of the need that something must be done and that progress will be made.