

TALSMANDENS GRUPPE
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PRESSE-MEDDEELSE
MITTEILUNG AN DIE PRESSE
PRESS-RELEASE

INFORMATION A LA PRESSE
INFORMAZIONE ALLA STAMPA
MEDEDELING AAN DE PERS

Brussels, 31 October 1975

STATEMENT BY VICE-PRESIDENT SCARASCIA-MUGNOZZA DURING EUROPEAN
COMMUNITY DAY AT THE INTERNATIONAL OCEAN EXPOSITION, OKINAWA.

31 October 1975

I am happy to confirm the friendly ties which exist between the European Community and Japan, and our interest in preserving excellent relations in the matter of cooperation. I am also glad to take this opportunity of complimenting all those who, in the course of planning and organizing the Okinawa Exposition, conceived of raising a hymn to the sea, one of the vital components of the planet on which we are privileged to live.

The seas have always been a mainstream for traffic and relations between continents; they have played an outstanding role in fostering friendship and knowledge among peoples, but unfortunately they have also been the reason for conflicts of interest and bloodshed. Today they fulfil an essential role in ensuring peaceful civil progress and in the future will, we profoundly hope, prove to be an increasingly effective force for cohesion, rather than for division and hatred.

Great perils loom over the seas, however, and therefore over the whole of mankind.

These perils are due to the disorderly way in which the sometimes impressive achievements of our civilization are used to produce damage and breakdown, which not only rebound on us at once, but would endanger the way of life of our children and of generations to come, if we failed to heed the anguished warnings reaching us even from this event at Okinawa.

In actuel fact, by behaving in such a blind, illusory and suicidal manner, we are not only destroying a gift of nature, but also, as appears increasingly certain, part of the powerful and clean sources of energy available, as well as a precious food reserve which offers a very real chance of improving the living conditions of millions of people now suffering from the lack of adequate food.

These are the considerations that made the European Community wish to be present at Okinawa in order to stress that the welfare of the sea must be a cause of concern to us all; that the sea belongs to us all; and that we must all help to protect it.

A series of measures organized by the European Community is now under way to reduce the pollution of its internal waterways and coasts. Steps are also being taken to protect the North Sea, the Channel and the Atlantic; and the Community is taking part in the negotiations now being held on protecting the Mediterranean.

We are all aware, however, that this is a task for us all, and it was because of that awareness that we wished to expand our cooperation and exchange of experience.

We want to learn from any who have made advances in protecting the environment, and, at the same time, want to make known what we ourselves can do.

With Japan we have fruitful contacts which we hope will improve in the future.

This is clearly demonstrated by my visit on this happy occasion, and by the one I paid last year to Tokyo, to establish effective cooperation on the subject of protecting people from the harm produced by pollution.

These facts and the recent establishment of our delegation in Tokyo convey better than any words, the spirit in which the European Community means to develop its own relations with Japan.

It gives me great pleasure when I hear of any step forward in this direction, and to the great nation of Japan, I give my most heartfelt good wishes for future progress.

JOHN HOGG, MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY DELEGATION
TO JAPAN, TALKS WITH THE MAYOR OF TOKYO AND OTHER LEADERS

John Hogg, member of the European Community delegation to Japan, met with the Mayor of Tokyo, Mr. Nakasone, and other leaders of the Japanese capital city, to discuss the problems of air pollution and the ways of combating it.

Mr. Nakasone, who has a long history of environmental work, told Mr. Hogg that the Japanese government had recently established a Ministry of the Environment, and that the Japanese people were very concerned about the quality of their environment.

Mr. Hogg explained that the European Community had been working on similar issues for many years, and that they had developed some effective methods for dealing with air pollution. He also mentioned that the European Community had been working closely with the Japanese government on these issues, and that they had agreed to exchange information and expertise on air pollution control.

Mr. Nakasone expressed his interest in learning more about the European Community's experience in air pollution control, and asked Mr. Hogg to provide him with more detailed information on the various methods used by the European Community to combat air pollution.

Mr. Hogg responded by explaining that the European Community had developed a number of successful methods for dealing with air pollution, including the use of clean energy sources, such as wind power and solar energy, and the promotion of public transportation and cycling.

Mr. Nakasone was particularly interested in learning about the European Community's experience in developing clean energy sources, and asked Mr. Hogg to provide him with more information on this topic.

Mr. Hogg responded by explaining that the European Community had developed a number of successful methods for dealing with air pollution, including the use of clean energy sources, such as wind power and solar energy, and the promotion of public transportation and cycling.

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Bruxelles, le 31 octobre 1975

**DISCOURS DU VICE-PRESIDENT SCARASCIA-MUGNOZZA A LA JOURNÉE
EUROPEENNE DE LA FOIRE D'OKINAWA (31 octobre 1975)**

Je suis heureux de vous confirmer l'amitié que la Communauté européenne porte au Japon et l'intérêt qui est le nôtre de maintenir avec vous les meilleures relations de coopération. Il m'est également très agréable de profiter de cette occasion pour rendre hommage à ceux qui, en imaginant et en concevant la Foire d'Okinawa, ont voulu glorifier la mer, cet élément vital pour la planète sur laquelle nous avons la chance de vivre.

Les mers, qui ont toujours été au centre des échanges et des relations entre les continents, ont joué un rôle prépondérant dans les amitiés et les rapports entre les peuples, mais ont malheureusement aussi été la cause de conflits d'intérêts et de guerres sanglantes. Elles assument aujourd'hui une fonction essentielle dans la voie pacifique du progrès social et deviendront à l'avenir - je le souhaite de tout coeur - un élément de cohésion, plutôt que de division ou de haine, de plus en plus efficace.

De graves dangers menacent cependant les mers, et, partant, l'humanité tout entière.

Ces dangers découlent de l'usage immodéré que nous faisons des conquêtes, parfois impressionnantes, de notre civilisation et, partant, des dégâts que nous causons et qui non seulement se retournent immédiatement contre nous, mais risquent de compromettre l'avenir de nos enfants et des générations futures si nous ne tenons pas compte des mises en garde angoissées qui nous viennent notamment de cette manifestation d'Okinawa.

Par notre comportement aveugle, irréfléchi et suicidaire, nous sommes en effet en train de détruire non seulement une richesse naturelle, mais aussi, comme cela se vérifie de plus en plus, une source d'énergie potentielle intacte, ainsi qu'une précieuse réserve d'aliments qui permettrait de lutter efficacement contre la sous-alimentation et d'améliorer les conditions de vie de millions d'êtres.

Pour toutes ces raisons, la Communauté européenne a tenu à être présente à Okinawa pour proclamer que la protection des mers doit être la préoccupation de tous et de chacun et que la mer est un bien commun que nous devons tous contribuer à préserver.

La Communauté européenne a mis en oeuvre une série d'actions destinées à réduire la pollution de ses rivières et de ses zones côtières; elle concourt à la protection de la Mer du Nord, de la Manche et de l'Océan Atlantique et participe aux négociations en cours pour sauver la Méditerranée.

C'est précisément parce que nous avons conscience que cet effort doit être poursuivi en commun que nous avons voulu développer la coopération et les échanges d'expériences.

Nous souhaitons tirer des enseignements des pays qui sont à l'avant-garde en ce qui concerne la protection de l'environnement et, parallèlement, faire savoir ce que nous sommes capables, nous aussi, de réaliser dans ce domaine.

Nous avons avec le Japon des contacts fructueux que nous espérons encore améliorer à l'avenir. J'en veux pour preuve ma visite en cette heureuse circonstance, ainsi que celle que j'ai effectuée l'année dernière à Tokyo précisément pour jeter les bases d'une coopération efficace dans le domaine de la protection des citoyens contre les méfaits de la pollution.

Ces faits concrets, ainsi que l'installation récente d'une délégation à Tokyo, attestent mieux que des paroles l'esprit dans lequel la Communauté européenne entend développer ses relations avec le Japon.

Je me félicite donc de toute initiative dans ce sens et je souhaite très sincèrement à la grande nation japonaise de réussir dans son entreprise.