

CONFERENCE ON  
INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC  
CO-OPERATION

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EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY

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SPEECH BY

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" The Luxembourg Government is aware of the paramount importance of this Conference and if Mr Thorn's work on the United Nations General Assembly had not kept him in New York, he would himself have spoken here. The Conference opening here today is destined to become one of the major events of our time. It provides us with a unique opportunity to restore order to the world economy and to draw up a new framework for relations between the industrialized and the developing world. It represents, moreover, an historic innovation in the political and economic relations of the international community. By enabling all parties to express their widely differing aspirations and interests, this Conference will provide an example for posterity. It is our fervent hope that it will succeed in proving that, in the last analysis, only by loyal and open co-operation can our peoples attain a number of objectives which will be decisive in bringing about a prosperity more fairly shared among the peoples whom we represent.

The responsibility weighing upon the countries here assembled is thus immense, for theirs will be the task of laying down the new approach which must in the future characterize their relations: one which will bring about conditions that are more equitable for all concerned. In other words, the Conference

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will have to find the ways and means of safeguarding all parties' economic and industrial potential, bearing in mind the need to ensure a fairer universal sharing of income.

It follows from the interdependence of the countries here represented that our responsibility must likewise be collective. During the coming months, we shall all have to display goodwill, understanding and imagination. Only thus can we achieve a positive outcome to the dialogue on which we are embarking today.

Preparatory work on this Conference - for the conception and conduct of which we are deeply indebted to the President of the French Republic and to our host Government - has enabled us to define a number of working topics.

The choice of four themes, on which Committees more specialized and select than our Ministerial Meeting today will be working, cannot merely be considered as a diplomatic result of the preparatory phase, which involved two meetings attended by a number of those now present. It is, rather, a logical classification based upon established facts.

If we are to get the world economy to function smoothly; if we are to achieve a form of economic development consistent with the interests of both industrialized and developing countries, then we shall have to share information, so that we can jointly assess and identify the essential energy problems, so that we can work out hard and fast arrangements for international co-operation and, above all, make better use of our current and foreseeable resources.

It should be possible so to organize the exploitation of and international trade in raw materials as to eliminate the tensions and distortions which - if there is no agreement at international level - will inevitably jeopardize the essential equilibrium between the various categories of interests involved.

All those who are taking part in this Conference will doubtless share the same basic concern to enable the developing countries, and more especially the least-favoured among them, to gain an increasing share in growth more balanced than has hitherto been the case.

In the financial sphere, finally, a number of international arrangements are being or have already been worked out in other international fora. Our Conference can make a useful contribution to thinking in this field by a judicious assessment of the financial implications of our work.

The European Economic Community is prepared to assume its responsibilities in this respect and the speeches which Mr Rumor and Mr Ortoli have just made bear witness to the open mind with which we are tackling the subject. In this connection I would remind you of the willingness to innovate constantly evinced by the Community in its relations with the developing countries.

The problems to be dealt with here are indeed legion and solutions will not be easily found. Far from being discouraged by this, the international community should be strengthened in its resolve and will - I am sure - be spurred on to achieve positive results commensurate with our aspirations."

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