

ACP - EEC CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY

THIRD ANNUAL MEETING

SUMMARY REPORT
OF THE PROCEEDINGS
OF 27, 28 and 29 SEPTEMBER 1978

CENTRE EUROPEEN

LUXEMBOURG

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SITTING OF WEDNESDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 1978

IN THE CHAIR

MR COLOMBO AND MR YACE

Presidents

CONSTITUENT SITTING

(The constituent sitting was opened at
3.05 p.m. in the Chamber of the
Schuman Building in Luxembourg)

1. Opening of the third annual meeting

President Yace declared the third annual meeting of the ACP-EEC Consultative Assembly open.

2. Membership of the Assembly

President Yace announced that the list of members of the Assembly, pursuant to Article 1(1) of the Rules of Procedure would be annexed to the Minutes of the Proceedings of that day's sitting.

3. Election of Bureau

Pursuant to Article 6(1) of the Rules of Procedure the Assembly elected its Bureau, which consisted of the following Members:

Presidents: Mr Muna and Mr Colombo

<u>Vice-Presidents:</u>	Mr Sherman	Mr Spenale
	Mr Boolell Satcam	Mr Baas
	Mr Thakalekoala	Lord Reay
	Mr Wijntuin	Mr Sandri
	Mr Faletau	Mr de la Malene

Mr YACE, outgoing President, briefly outlined the main stages in the development of the Convention:

'After an uncertain start and occasional opposition the endeavours initiated by Yaounde I and II and leading to the Lome Convention were crowned with success because men believed in them. The Consultative Assembly plays a major role in this Convention. One of the principal features of the Assembly is

its ability to adopt decisions which are binding on all its Members. This means that Members of the European Parliament with seats in the Consultative Assembly are required to uphold these decisions in the European Parliament and in the national parliaments.

The main aim of the Convention is and must continue to be the furtherance of a true fraternity.

(Loud applause)

Mr MUNA expressed his appreciation and gratitude for the confidence placed in him by the Assembly in electing him Co-President. He would be giving a formal speech later and wished simply to promise at this stage to use his utmost endeavours to ensure the success of the deliberations in the service of the peoples of the partner States.

(Loud applause)

IN THE CHAIR: Mr MUNA and Mr COLOMBO

4. Order of business

On a proposal from the Joint Committee, the Assembly adopted the following order of business:

That afternoon:

3.30 p.m.:

- Formal opening sitting of the Assembly

4.30 p.m.:

- Election of Members of the Joint Committee
- Addresses by the President of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers, the President-in-Office of the Council of the European Communities and Mr CHEYSSON, member of the Commission of the European Communities

Thursday, 28 September 1978:

9.30 a.m. and possibly 3.30 p.m.:

- Report by Mrs MATHE on the possibilities for closer cooperation with representatives of economic and social groups in the ACP and EEC countries (Doc. 9/78)
- Report by Mr GUILLABERT on the annual report of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers (Doc. ACP-EEC 8/78) and on the present state of the Convention of Lomé with a view to the negotiation of the agreement which might follow it (Doc. ACP-EEC 10/78)

Friday, 29 September 1978:

9.30 a.m.:

- Continuation of the debate on the report by Mr GUILLABERT (Doc. ACP-EEC 10/78)
- Any other business

(The sitting was suspended at 3.25 p.m. and resumed at 3.40 p.m.)

FORMAL OPENING SITTING

IN THE CHAIR: MR COLOMBO and MR MUNA

Presidents

President COLOMBO declared the third annual meeting of the ACP-EEC Consultative Assembly open, and welcomed the participants. He noted that at its twenty-third session the United Nations Organization would give particular consideration to the North-South dialogue.

The EEC was fully aware of what was at stake and of its responsibilities in the field of world trade. This had been demonstrated by the statements at the recent meetings of the European Council in Bremen and Bonn which had stressed the importance of cooperation policy and the commitment of the EEC to the Lomé Convention, on the renewal of which negotiations had just opened. The European Parliament, which had always carefully followed developments in regional cooperation, sincerely hoped that these negotiations would take place in a constructive spirit and would be concluded within the expected time limit.

The EEC had already shown its determination to preserve the positive aspects of Lomé I, and if possible to improve it, with the view to accommodating the needs of the ACP countries even more fully. The unique motivation that had inspired the Convention and its exemplary character had to be preserved since they could be relied on to attract a growing number of applicants for accession.

In this connection he welcomed the decision of the Solomon Islands to join the ACP as the fifty-fourth member country, and hoped that the Tuvalu Islands would quickly follow their example.

Every effort had to be made to ensure that progress would continue to be made. The EEC Commission had submitted valuable proposals in this connection, and the European Parliament would not fail to do everything possible to ensure success. It was a feature of the Assembly as an institution that it had always sought by means of dialogue, often a difficult process, to find solutions that would satisfy all the parties involved. As soon as negotiations had been concluded, Parliament would ensure that ratification by the countries of the Community would take place as soon as possible.

The Joint Committee had met in Lesotho and Grenada since the last meeting of the Assembly. The results of these meetings had been highly **encouraging**. The reports by Mr Guillabert and Mr Mathé would form a useful basis for the work of the Assembly.

Mr Colombo then thanked the two leading African political figures who had announced their resignations as Co-Presidents of the Assembly and of the Joint Committee respectively.

In January 1969 Mr Philippe Yacé had assumed the Presidency of the Parliamentary Conference of the Yaoundé Association. In the summer of 1975 he had been elected President of the ACP-EEC Consultative Assembly. In carrying out the duties of high office in the Ivory Coast he would undoubtedly continue to make an invaluable contribution to the joint effort. Mr Colombo also paid tribute on behalf of all the members present to Mr Kasongo, the outgoing Co-President of the Joint Committee; he congratulated him on his talents as a negotiator which had led to numerous delicate compromises and successful conclusions. Each of these figures had made fundamental contributions to the shaping of cooperation policy and the strengthening of ties between peoples.

He was confident that the new Co-President, Mr Muna, who had been a member of the Assembly for many years, would achieve further progress along these lines.

In conclusion, Mr Colombo expressed the hope that the work that had been begun would be concluded successfully thanks to a firm commitment to the ideals of freedom, peace and progress.

(Loud applause)

Mr HAMILIUS, Minister of Agriculture and Viticulture, Minister of Public Works, representing the President of the Luxembourg Government, stated that his country was highly honoured to host the third plenary session of the ACP-EEC Consultative Assembly and welcomed the participants on behalf of the Luxembourg Government.

He associated himself with the tribute paid by President COLOMBO to the instigators of the Convention of Lomé and stressed the esteem in which the outgoing President, Mr Philippe Yacé, was held; he then conveyed to the newly elected President, Mr Tandeng Muna, President of the Cameroon National Assembly, **the warm congratulations** of the Luxembourg Government.

Recalling that the Consultative Assembly was the first of the institutions established by the Convention of Lomé to take office, he stressed the great freedom which characterized its debates as a result of the latitude left to the members to organize their own proceedings.

Now that the Convention had reached the half-way stage, it was possible to take stock of its initial results. By establishing new links between a number of ACP countries and the European Community, the Convention of Lomé had enabled the industrialized countries to engage in an innovative dialogue with the developing nations.

By allowing free access to the Community market for a number of ACP products, establishing a system of export revenue stabilization in favour of the developing countries and promoting industrial cooperation, the EEC and ACP had equipped themselves with an instrument for closer cooperation in every sector.

The 1975 Convention had also helped to establish a new type of North-South relations. A new landmark had now been reached: the opening of negotiations for the renewal of the Lomé Convention; the aim here was to redefine ACP-EEC relations in the light of events.

This new Convention should enable a further step to be taken towards amicable understanding between the peoples concerned; it should establish a new pattern of relations between the developed and developing countries and foster progress towards a more equitable international order.

(Loud applause)

Mr MUNA expressed his deep appreciation of the honour of his appointment to the Presidency and the gratitude felt by all the participants for the work of the outgoing Co-President, Mr YACE, whom he described as a 'President of such stature that he came to symbolize the Assembly'.

He went on to welcome the representatives of the Solomon Islands as the 54th State to accede to the Convention.

Recalling the growth of the association through Yaounde I and II to Lomé, he described the present session of the Assembly as taking place at a particularly important juncture: negotiations were now beginning on the renewal of the Convention and the Assembly must try to define the criteria and requirements to be met if it was to attain its ultimate objective - that of putting an end, through increasingly close cooperation between all the partners, to the situation of deprivation prevailing in many parts of the world. The Convention must be placed first and foremost in the service of man.

He drew attention to the last report of the World Bank on world development which, while noting the very real progress made in the past quarter of a century, nevertheless stressed that some 800 million people were still living in a state of dire poverty. Faced with the scale of the problem, the progress being made in international bodies was disappointingly slow but the Lomé Convention was a brilliant exception and an example to the whole world: it must be further improved as a means of bettering the fate of the most deprived countries. The Assembly had a central role to play as a forum for frank and open discussion.

Concluding his address, he quoted from a speech given by General De Gaulle in 1964: 'to save mankind from destruction, development cooperation is a vital imperative.' It remained so today.

(Loud applause)

(The proceedings were suspended at 4.20 p.m. and resumed at 4.40 p.m.)

IN THE CHAIR : Mr MUNA and Mr COLOMBO

Presidents

5. Election of the members of the Joint Committee

On a proposal from the Bureau, the Assembly elected the members of the Joint Committee pursuant to Article 21 of the Rules of Procedure. The list of members is appended to the minutes of the sitting.

6. Election of the chairmen of the Joint Committee

The Assembly elected Mr BERSANI chairman of the Joint Committee.

President Colombo announced that the election of the second President would take place later.

7. Documents received

Mr Colombo announced that he had received the following documents:

- from the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers
 - the Annual Report (1977 - 1978) (Doc. ACP/EEC 8/78)
- from Mrs MATHE
 - a report on the possibilities for closer cooperation with representatives of economic and social groups in the ACP and EEC countries (Doc. ACP/EEC 9/78)

8. Time-limit for tabling amendments

On a proposal from President Colombo the Assembly decided to set Thursday, 28 September 1978, at 10.00 a.m. as the deadline for tabling amendments to the report by Mr Guillabert

9. Statements by the President of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers, the President-in-Office of the Council of the European Communities and the Commission of the European Communities

Mr TAPA, as President-in-Office of the ACP Council of Ministers and Co-President of the Joint Ministerial Council, thanked the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg for its warm welcome and generous hospitality.

He recalled that the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers had held its third meeting on 13 and 14 March 1978 in Brussels, at which it mainly reviewed the various fields of application of the Lomé Convention and examined problems arising from its implementation. The meeting was characterized by a spirit of frank mutual understanding and constructive goodwill.

He informed the Assembly of an important decision taken at that meeting on the improvement of the working methods of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers, giving a stronger role to the Committee of Ambassadors leaving fundamental political issues and special problems to the Council.

At the meeting, the Council approved its annual report covering the period from 1 April 1977 to 28 February 1978.

This session of the Consultative Assembly was of special significance as the first after the opening of negotiations on the successor arrangement to the Lomé Convention.

The Assembly would consider the report of the Joint Committee drawn up by Mr GUILLABERT of Senegal, the General Rapporteur, to whose qualifications he paid tribute. The report provided a very comprehensive account of the performance of the Lomé Convention. If certain of its points were at variance from the stand taken from the Council, this did not point to weaknesses in the institutions of the Convention but reinforced the need to widen consultative procedures.

Mr TAPA welcomed the guidance given by Mrs MATHE in her recommendations on closer cooperation with representatives of economic and social groups in the ACP and EEC countries. Without understanding of the hopes and fears of these sectors, the more innovative aspects of Lome would be hard to implement, especially when real fears were aroused in the Community of mounting unemployment.

The deliberations and resolutions of the Assembly must wherever possible be reflected in the conduct and substance of the negotiations on the successor arrangement. He affirmed three principles guiding the ACP States in the negotiations:

1. Any arrangement must incorporate the beneficial features of the key principles of the Lomé Convention. It was never the ACP States' intention to set Lome aside or to repudiate its obvious benefits.
2. The new arrangement must include progressive elements reflecting the aspirations of the developing world for a new economic order. Sufficient time for this must be allowed in the negotiations.
3. The ACP countries would not accept any provisions which could be interpreted as compromising the sovereign right of a state to conduct its own affairs as it judged appropriate. On human rights, he quoted his predecessor in saying that 'our concern for human rights is no less than yours'. The ACP countries did not close their eyes to atrocities throughout the world, for which all were poorer in spirit, but this should not be a matter for negotiation in Lomé or its successor arrangement. This was not the correct place, or machinery. Attempts to include provisions on this matter, especially where they could give grounds for selective measures against any one ACP State, would be rejected out of hand.

The report of the Joint Committee had highlighted the shortfalls of the present Convention.

Mr TAPA stressed that a successor arrangement would govern ACP-EEC relations over the next development decade. There was a need to shape a world of more equal opportunity.

Although the governments of the ACP States were responsible for a large share of the world's poor and disadvantaged, it did not have an exclusive claim. There were others, and the ACP States did not lay claim to the undivided interest of the Community. The latter, with confidence gained from past experience, could also provide inspiration to others in the developed world.

In conclusion, he paid tribute to the departing President of the Assembly, Mr YACÉ, and expressed the gratitude of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers and of the ACP States for his guidance and leadership.

He offered congratulations to his successor, Mr MUNA, of Cameroon. The Council looked forward to a long and fruitful association, and it pledged its support in all his endeavours.

(Applause)

Mr Klaus von DOHNANYI, President-in-Office of the EEC Council of Ministers, began by describing the Assembly as one of the most important points of contact between the developing countries and the industrialized world. The various ACP-EEC bodies, he said, had demonstrated a commendable degree of cooperation in the implementation of the Lomé Convention. This extended beyond the merely economic to the political and human.

The procedures covering the work of the institutions of the ACP-EEC Association had become considerably more flexible following proposals made at the Fiji ministerial conference, and this had been further aided by the personal contacts which had developed at ministerial level.

Turning to the negotiations for Lomé II, Mr von Dohnanyi stressed that the basic structure of the present Convention had been proven and would form the basis for the future agreement. Despite some minor differences, both sides had honoured their commitments and the Community, indeed, had often gone beyond its legal obligations.

On the issue of human rights, Mr von Dohnanyi emphasized that the Community had no interest in interfering in the internal affairs of ACP members - it merely believed that there could be no difference of opinion as to the fundamental principles contained in the UN Charter and Convention of Human Rights.

Some improvements could be made, the President-in-Office went on, in a number of specific sectors such as STABEX, transport, industrial cooperation, the consultation mechanism, etc. Solutions would also have to be found to the questions of fishing and guarantees for Community firms wishing to invest in the ACP.

In conclusion, Mr von Dohnanyi said that the ACP had a real friend in Mr Cheysson, the Commissioner responsible for renegotiating the Convention. The Lomé agreement was a 'pact for common progress', the speaker said, adding that the shared determination of the ACP and EEC to find solutions to our economic problems would help us towards our goal.

(Applause)

Mr CHEYSSON, Member of the Commission of the European Communities, confirmed the need, already stressed by several other speakers to view EEC-ACP relations in the broader world context of political relations between the industrialized and developing countries.

In this discussion, which had global implications in two respects since it concerned all the countries of the world while also affecting our own internal policies, what should be the strategy of the European Community?

Broadly speaking, the present situation was as follows:

- in the developing countries, the food situation was constantly deteriorating, resources were becoming scarcer, debt levels were increasing and employment opportunities falling off; a few countries had been fortunate to see an improvement in their resources through oil deposits or economic take-off;
- in the industrialized countries, the period of egocentric automatic growth had drawn to a close and certain existing mechanisms had proved unable to adapt; the economy as a whole had lost its capacity to adjust to the new conditions and unemployment by which young people were particularly hard hit, had reached alarming proportions.

There was, however, one positive side to the picture: the Third World had now become a central feature of our political concerns.

These considerations must dictate our strategy. The latter must get out to express the interests of both the industrialized and developing countries and also to jointly define responsibilities and enable common decisions to be taken. Closer links must be established between our internal and external policies and solutions chosen as a function of the problems of each individual country, avoiding all ready-made formulae.

The Community for its part would continue, both in GATT and in its general relations with the developing countries, its policy of liberalization of world trade.

It must endeavour to increase the resources of the Third World, in the interests of the latter but also in its own interests.

A secure basis must be established for our relations - that was one main aim of UNCTAD; a stable monetary arrangement must be found and to that end ways and means must be defined of preparing joint forecasts. Those were the policies to which a commitment was essential.

Progress would be slow, particularly because not every country was participating and those that were did not all make the necessary efforts. Implementation of this strategy could therefore be further carried through at the inter-regional level. Cooperation had begun on those lines and must continue to follow this direction. In the present discussion it was essential not to lose sight of the need to conduct the negotiations at the level of the countries' internal policies, thus avoiding decisions which would never be applied at that level.

One major problem raised in the Joint Committee had been that of determining firstly how to define joint policies and secondly how to adopt and implement them.

The problem arose at the level of the Association and also at world level; it affected every sector: energy, food supplies and technology.

The guiding principle must always be that each partner must remain master in his own house, with the proviso that certain problems must obviously be discussed jointly. Efforts had long been made to seek the ideal form for such discussions at various levels. It was obviously possible to reduce the number of negotiators sitting around a table, to restrict the scale of participation in discussions but for decisions to be taken the only valid level was the world forum provided by the United Nations Organization. However, while the United Nations' Charter held out possibilities for political action it did not provide means of taking decisions in the economic sector

The creation of the 'Plenary Committee' and of the Commission chaired by Mr Brandt represented efforts to establish a management body.

In Europe the problem was even more urgent and complex because of the contractual nature of relations between the EEC and the ACP States.

Solutions were possible at three levels:

- first, negotiation represented the framework for discussions on policies; it was within that framework that such policies had to be defined;
- secondly, direct contacts had been established by virtue of the ACP ambassadors in Brussels and the Community's representatives in the ACP countries;
- finally, the Council of Ministers represented a major forum for discussions.

But was there a better political organ or 'political cell', as Mr Dewulf called it, than the Joint Committee of the Consultative Assembly which had initiated such important measures as STABEX?

Difficulties undoubtedly still existed - for example the number of participants or the misunderstanding on the role of these bodies which had neither legislative nor executive power but which were, par excellence, arenas in which policies relating to cooperation between the ACP States and the EEC could be tackled. Such policies were, by their very nature, non political.

(Applause)

10. Agenda for the next sitting

The President announced that the next sitting would be held on Thursday, 28 September 1978 at 9.30 a.m. and, possibly, at 3.30 p.m. with the following agenda:

- the report by Mrs MATHE on the possibilities for closer cooperation with representatives of economic and social groups;
- report by Mr GUILLABERT on the annual report of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers and the present state of the Convention of Lomé.

The President declared the sitting closed.

(The sitting was closed at 5.50 p.m.)

SITTING OF THURSDAY 28 SEPTEMBER, 1978

IN THE CHAIR: MR COLOMBO

President

The sitting was opened at 9.35 a.m.

1. Documents received

The President announced that he had received from Mr A. GUILLABERT a report on the annual report of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers (ACP/EEC 8/78) and on the present state of the Convention of Lomé with a view to the negotiation of the agreement which might follow it.

2. Cooperation with representatives of economic and social groups

Mrs MATHE, rapporteur for the Joint Committee, introduced her report on the possibilities for closer cooperation with representatives of economic and social groups in the ACP and EEC countries. The resolution, the speaker said, fulfilled the mandate given to the Joint Committee by the Consultative Assembly and requested the committee to organize informal meetings on an ad hoc basis with the social partners in the ACP and EEC States.

Since her report was self-explanatory, Mrs Mathé said, she would not go through it in detail. However, she pointed out that experience so far had suggested the existence of considerable misunderstanding as to the scope of the Lomé Convention: it was important that it should not be regarded as something more than it actually was, leading us to attempt to seek the unattainable.

In conclusion, the speaker reminded the Assembly that discussions with the social partners from the Community's textile industry were due to be held in the afternoon.

(Applause)

The Assembly adopted the resolution contained in Mrs Mathé's report.

(The sitting was suspended at 9.50 a.m. and resumed
at 10.15 a.m.)

3. Annual report of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers

Mr GUILLABERT, rapporteur, gave a brief introduction to his report.

In the first part of the report he considered the state of implementation of the Lomé Convention, taking as his basis the annual report of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers. The latter, indeed, could hardly be called original: it made reference to many of the problems dealt with by Lord Reay last year, although there had been positive developments in certain sectors.

The chapter on trade cooperation contained data which indicated a certain deterioration in the ACP's position vis-à-vis the European Community. Despite a possible recent improvement in this trend, developments had not always been positive and did not meet the goals of the Convention. The remedial measures which would have to be taken would require courage by the EEC. The main need was to safeguard the preferences granted to the ACP under the Convention, which were being constantly eroded. The ACP countries had frequently called for specific measures in this connection. A joint working party to study the effects of the generalized preferences system on ACP exports had started to function.

A recent meeting of experts in Brussels had been asked about ways to reactivate the promotion of sales of ACP products.

As regards STABEX, which was to cover a series of new products, talks were planned to consider rubber, copper and phosphates.

The results referred to in the chapter on industrial cooperation fell far short of expectations and there was a real question as to whether the Centre for Industrial Development had been a success.

As regards financial and technical cooperation, the commitment situation was normal but the same did not apply to payments; it had been agreed to convene a meeting of the responsible ACP-EEC representatives to discuss the matter.

Turning to the question of the least developed, landlocked or island states, the speaker pointed out that the Council had recognized the need to come to the help of countries which were victims of Rhodesian aggression. One solution would be the establishment of a special United Nations fund.

Referring to the attraction of the Lomé Convention as shown by the numerous applications to join, Mr Guillabert said he hoped that the ratification procedures of Community Member States would be speeded up.

Mr GUILLABERT then went on to the second part of his report which was concerned with the content of the successor convention. The first question to be considered should be the duration of the new agreement. There were three possibilities in this connection: a convention of unlimited duration, a convention of limited duration, or the adoption of intermediate arrangements. The Joint Committee was proposing that the new convention should be of longer duration and contain review clauses, the aim being to assure the permanent nature of EEC-ACP cooperation.

The second aspect of the renegotiation should deal with the strengthening of the institutional structures including, inter alia, providing the Consultative Assembly with greater information.

In the rapporteur's view it was the third aspect, namely extension of the present convention, which would constitute the crucial element of the renewal. New policies would be required, for example in the fields of fishing, scientific cooperation, training, etc.

Emphasis should also be placed on the spirit in which the renegotiation should be tackled. In particular, it was vital that the advantages of the present agreement should not be called into question and that the current economic difficulties should not be used as a pretext for disguised protectionism. The two sides should enter into the negotiations aware that Lomé I had not totally succeeded in resolving all the problems and that a proper renegotiation would be necessary. A superficial rewording of the Convention would not serve.

Mr Guillabert then turned to human rights, pointing out that, pursuant to paragraph 12 of the final declaration adopted in Maseru (Lesotho), this issue should find expression in the new convention. The ACP countries attached importance to the respect of human rights, particularly as regards migrant workers. The speaker noted that any reference in the Convention to fundamental rights should merely provide the opportunity for all the partners to demonstrate their common determination to guarantee those rights and not provide a pretext for interference in the internal affairs of other members of the Association.

Before concluding, Mr Guillabert took stock of cooperation between the Community and the ACP. He drew attention to the deterioration of the position of the ACP countries as regards trade cooperation, considering it unacceptable that ACP exports to the Community had fallen off as compared with the situation before the Lomé Convention. As regards financial

and technical cooperation, the speaker noted that payments were considerably below the total budget, and this constituted an obstacle to the growth of the developing ACP countries. As far as industrial cooperation was concerned, this had not yet reached an operational stage. In this connection Mr Guillabert stressed that the Centre for Industrial Development should play an effective part.

In conclusion, the speaker wondered whether the Convention, now half way through its life, had not lost some of its impetus and whether its spirit was not becoming somewhat jaded. However, he warned against pessimism or resignation. The Convention had to be got moving again and aim at new goals which would enable the ACP countries and the Community to make progress on the road towards a new economic order. In spite of its shortcomings, the Convention of Lomé had, so far, been a unique example of cooperation between peoples. The task now was to continue to make progress.

(Applause)

Mr PRESCOTT congratulated Mr Guillabert on his comprehensive report and went on to consider specific issues relating to the new Convention.

Firstly, he thought that provision should be made for aid to, and development of, the fishing industry in the ACP states. The EC had much to offer by way of advanced technology and know-how in this sector which could be of great benefit to the ACP countries, all the more so as the Community itself was in the final stages of defining its own fisheries policy.

Secondly, he dwelt at length on the issue of human rights. It was not for Europeans to moralize to other parts of the world - especially as Europe's own history 'reeked of blood'. Nevertheless the new Lomé Convention should include a clause on human rights. Others argued that human rights should be the preserve of the United Nations or described European interest in them as a form of 'moral colonialism'; they maintained that Lomé was essentially economic and commercial. But in his view the Consultative Assembly had a fundamental political role.

He went on to define human rights as the fundamental rights to life, freedom and security, precluding all forms of torture, degrading treatment or persecution. There was a moral responsibility at every international level to seek respect for those rights. He felt that hypocrisy on this matter was blatant: no country was completely blameless - for example the United Kingdom had only recently been condemned for practising torture by the Strasbourg Commission on Human Rights. He was sure too that the treatment of migrants in the European countries was not all that it should be but at least the Europeans discussed these issues and that often required a great deal of political courage. The British government had shown great courage in publishing the Bingham report recently on its predecessor's involvement in sanction-breaking in Rhodesia.

But this could not be a one-way process. If the ACP countries could question and call to account the Europeans on these issues, why could the Europeans not do the same about their ACP partners? It was hypocritical to ask the Europeans not to interfere in the domestic affairs of their partners while the ACP were asking them to do precisely that in the case of South Africa. He strongly condemned the present regime in South Africa, but how could we on the one hand interfere in South Africa and be asked to refrain from doing so elsewhere? He felt that the Guillabert resolution in its present form lacked credibility and consistency on this matter. Why should we not for example question events in Uganda or the Central African Empire? Recognition of this general right to question events was essential.

He felt that there had been a qualitative change in the resolutions prepared by the Joint Committee over the years. Previous Luxembourg and Lesotho resolutions had made specific reference to human rights but the Grenada resolution had merely spoken of a meaningless compromise. Politicians who were content with this approach in an essentially political Assembly were lacking in courage. In the interests of consistency he was therefore putting down amendments to paragraphs 23 and 26 of the Guillabert resolution. It was unacceptable to refer in paragraph 23 to the avoidance of all interference in the internal affairs of states while going on to condemn the policy in South Africa. He felt that the Assembly must condemn all injustice with honesty and consistency. In this spirit Article 92 in the new Convention should be amended to demand the suspension of aid from the EC where there were consistent breaches of human rights in the recipient countries. It was the duty of politicians to speak out in the Assembly in support of dignity, freedom and justice.

(Applause)

IN THE CHAIR: Mr SHERMAN

Vice-President

Mr O'NEIL LEWIS wished to draw attention to one particular aspect of the GUILLABERT report - the possible enlargement of the Community and the ACP Group and the effects of this enlargement on the scope and content of any successor agreement to the Lomé Convention. Enlargement would bring advantages as well as problems.

One problem singled out by the Commission was the need to promote the interests of new entrants without resorting to protectionism which would limit the benefits of the ACP countries. The Community must heed the Commission's warning.

There had been reports of the possible accession of other states to the ACP group. This indicated a growing recognition of the fact that, despite its shortcomings, the Convention represented a model for cooperation that could be followed by other industrialized and developing countries.

The Community had made a start on improving relations but the ACP States would welcome more activity in this field. One cause for regret was that some countries had not yet found it possible to cooperate with each other. States supplying military weapons should also consider supplying economic weapons to help overcome economic difficulties in the developing world.

A number of newly independent states or, as in the case of the Caribbean, states about to become independent, would also wish to accede to the current convention and help shape any new agreement. It was encouraging that newly independent African States had shown interest in attending the negotiations on the new Convention in the capacity of observers. The increasing independence of Caribbean countries had also resulted in growing interest in the ACP.

According to some reports, a growing body of opinion in the Community would welcome the accession to the new Convention of certain African countries such as Angola and Mozambique. The ACP States would also welcome these countries but only if the negotiations on renewal were truly effective. The new Convention must, for example, provide for ACP involvement in the management of the EDF and STABEX. A number of other conditions must also be fulfilled, otherwise there would be reason to fear that the hoped for increase in ACP membership might not be fulfilled.

Mr O'NEIL LEWIS then pointed out that the constitution of Trinidad and Tobago provided for the full recognition of human rights. He did not agree that the Convention should be used as an instrument for the protection of such rights. Other instruments were more suited to this purpose.

It had been claimed that this was not the time to tackle the problem of enlargement of the ACP Group, but although Europe had suffered a recession negotiations on a new Convention could not be expected to come to fruition before the middle of 1980 and the agreement which then entered into force would last until the end of 1985. The negotiators should, therefore, look beyond immediate horizons and take fully into account the prospective enlargement both of the Community and of the ACP Group.

Finally, he particularly recommended the House to adopt that part of the resolution calling upon the negotiators to give maximum consideration both to the advantages and to the possible problems of the enlargement of the Community and the ACP Group.

(Applause)

IN THE CHAIR: Mr SPENALE

Vice-President

Mr MEINTZ started by saying that he intended to limit his speech to a certain number of general observations, beginning with cultural cooperation. Man's self-realization was not to be obtained by politics or trade alone, but also, and principally, by culture, and in this sphere Europeans have much to learn, especially in matters concerning the quality of life, from their ACP partners.

As regards economic cooperation, the Lomé Convention must continue - with its STABEX system and its principle of non-reciprocity in particular - to set an example of cooperation between developing countries and industrialized ones. Meanwhile it must not be forgotten that Lomé was at present the only institution that could boast of concrete achievements in a number of areas.

The establishment of a new world economic order was necessary. The developing countries needed the industrialized countries with their capital, their technology and so on, while the industrialized countries needed the developing countries with their big potential markets and their energy sources. At the same time, if this new economic order was necessary and required that the European States ended all protectionism, it also required, if it was to be accepted, that public opinion be given more information on the new international division of labour which would result, so that workers in the European countries could understand the changes that might be involved.

The contractual relations which we had developed in our relations with the developing countries had already undergone changes and would undergo others in the future. Renegotiations of the Lomé Convention should provide an opportunity to deepen certain sections on cooperation and, where necessary, to add others.

(Applause)

IN THE CHAIR: Mr BOOLELL

Vice-President

Mr MUSTAPHA RAMATHAN, Minister of Cooperatives and Marketing and leader of the Uganda delegation thanked the President of the European Parliament for the welcome accorded to his delegation and expressed appreciation to the government and people of Luxembourg for their hospitality.

He then turned to the poor economic performance experienced, especially by the Third World, in recent years, noting that the oil crisis and the economic depression of the 1970s had taught the lesson of economic interdependence. The EEC had begun to realize how dependent it was on the Third World for supplies. Hence events in the Third World had begun to be viewed in Europe not only as an external problem, but also as an internal problem with immediate repercussions on the economies of the EEC countries. The industrialized and the developing countries must understand that each required the other.

As the Commissioner, Mr Claude CHEYSSON, had stressed, the Convention of Lomé was a contractual obligation, but, more than this, it was a peculiarly innovative form of association between industrialized and developing countries. It was regarded at its signing in 1975 as a landmark in ACP-EEC economic relations and as a corner-stone of the new international economic order.

Nearly five years later, it was necessary to try to take stock of its achievements and failures. In his report, Mr GUILLABERT had pointed out some very unsatisfactory results. Even the European partners in the Lomé Convention admitted that the last few years had been a difficult period for the agreement.

Although the EEC partners understood the areas of greater need today, they had not permitted themselves beyond the drawing-board stage. With this kind of attitude, the objectives of the Convention could not be achieved.

The Ugandan experience with EEC cooperation was very disheartening. He would urge the EEC to simplify procedures to eliminate delay. The long time between the identification and realization of projects greatly diminished the value of assistance because of inflation and monetary instability.

Turning to negotiations on the renewal of the Lomé Convention, his delegation noted with satisfaction the favourable climate in which the negotiations opened on 24 July and hoped this would continue to prevail.

His delegation hoped the negotiations would give an opportunity for the EEC and ACP States to widen, strengthen and deepen the scope of the Convention. The more the ACP States developed, the better for the EEC and the rest of the world. When the EEC was formed, the more advanced members had expressed the fear that they would be held back by the less developed, but the contrary had proved true. What was important was the spirit of cooperation in the interests of all.

On debt servicing, he said this had become a great burden to the ACP States. Great sums were sent to Europe for the servicing of debts, some of which were contracted during colonial days.

He urged the EEC states collectively to consider writing off these debts and to support Third World demands in this respect in other fora.

On the promotion and protection of foreign investments, he said Uganda already had legislation to protect these, as well as other attractive provisions, for instance regarding the duty-free import of capital goods for any project of a value over 0.5 million EUA. There was also provision for repatriation of profits.

Referring to human rights, he said the Ugandan government believed it would set a dangerous and uncalled-for precedent if the Assembly decided to include a human rights clause in an economic convention such as Lome. The nature of this convention was such that any reference to human rights, were it in the preamble or the main text, would be irrelevant.

His delegation believed there were other fora for dealing with rights, such as the United Nations, ECOSOCO and its organ, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. Any attempt to include a clause on human rights would be tantamount to blackmail of the ACP countries by the EEC.

In this very Assembly, and in its Joint Committee, Uganda had been singled out and accused by some Member States of the EEC. Once included in the Convention, reference to human rights would be used as a pretext for discrimination, and for interference with the interests of the ACP states as a whole, Uganda having been used as a scapegoat. Therefore Uganda opposed any such inclusion in the future convention.

Finally, he referred to the question of Southern Africa. Uganda strongly stood by the position of the OAU, the non-aligned countries as well as the United Nations which called for the total isolation of the inhuman and racist regimes in Rhodesia, Namibia and South Africa. All members of the ACP-EEC Convention should stop all dealings, especially economic ones, with the racist regimes in those countries. It was only through concerted action by EEC and ACP members that the oppressed people of Southern Africa could regain their freedom.

(Applause)

IN THE CHAIR: Mr WIJNTUIN

Vice-President

Mr BORDU said that the renegotiation of the Convention had to be seen in the wider framework of the North-South dialogue. The European Council meeting in Bremen, the Bonn Summit and the declaration made by the principal capitalist countries in the context of GATT had laid the foundations for a joint strategy in a crisis situation. But this high-level collaboration was evidence of an increased determination by the industrialized countries to interfere in the internal affairs of the developing countries.

Moreover, the lack of progress in the negotiations to establish a new economic order, due to the intransigence of the capitalist countries, had created a climate of distrust amongst a number of ACP states. This new economic order must **respect** the interests and independence of the peoples involved and there could be no question of solutions based on authority.

The crisis must not be used as an excuse for not granting adequate aid. It was the multinational undertakings that were, in large part, responsible for the tardiness in implementing financial cooperation and for the difficulties encountered by Lomé I. The multinationals were investing more heavily than ever in countries where, like South Africa, human rights were most **flagrantly** violated. There was much to be said for encouraging the granting of aid to those countries with the greatest need to escape from dependency on the multinationals.

There were several important problems in our relations with the ACP states:

- without wishing to minimize the importance of the human rights issue, nor to disagree with the points made by Mr Prescott, the speaker felt that all reference to the matter should be deleted from the resolution to avoid blocking the renegotiation. A solution would be found by general consensus.

- The multinationals also exercised considerable control over the production and marketing of agricultural products. This increased the ACP countries' lack of self-sufficiency in food by comparison with the Community. Lome II should therefore endeavour to develop multilateral relations without ignoring the possibility of bilateral agreements between certain Member States of the EEC and certain ACP countries desiring such agreements.
- At commercial level, account should be taken of the claims of the ACP countries, which were concerned at the erosion of their preferences. An extension of the STABEX system could be envisaged.
- The future enlargement of the Community might have serious repercussions for the economies of the ACP countries. Extreme caution was necessary in this connection.
- Industrialization in the ACP countries had resulted in increased racism in Europe, owing to a tendency to blame unemployment on immigrant workers or unrestrained competition on the part of the developing countries. The main responsibility in fact lay with large groups aiming at maximum profits. Diversified industrial cooperation between the national economies was therefore essential. This implied that, where necessary, certain industries might have to be transferred. The 'comanagement of aid funds' could be an effective way of meeting the priorities set by the ACP countries in the field of investment.
- Finally, apartheid was still the scourge of Southern Africa, where the Community had failed to discharge its obligations, being apparently incapable of putting a stop to sales of arms, nuclear and commercial cooperation etc. The Assembly could come to the rescue at this level.

In conclusion the speaker said that he hoped that as far as possible the next Convention would be free from the influence of multinationals and of the States which supported them.

(Applause)

IN THE CHAIR: Mr SANDRI

Vice-President

4. Procedural motion

On a proposal from Mr BROEKSZ that speaking time be limited, the President announced that a decision on this could possibly be taken the following day at the beginning of the sitting

5. Change in the agenda

On a proposal from the President, the Assembly decided that the sitting of the following day, Friday, 29 September 1978, would commence at 8.30 a.m. and not 9.30 a.m. as originally planned.

6. Annual report of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers (further discussion)

Mr KANU stated that in view of the importance which had been given to it earlier in the debate, he must begin by making a statement on human rights. To oppose the inclusion of a human rights clause in the agreement was realistic, and not hypocritical, as had been asserted. It was essential to distinguish between a far-sighted and realistic approach to the problem and mere sentimentality. There had been a failure to recognize the fundamental difference between the temporary violations of human rights, however severe and repellant, and permanent, institutionalized violations, as in South Africa.

Virtually all ACP countries had extensive safeguards to protect human rights. But to defend human rights in South Africa was to violate the constitution and laws of that country. Those who called for a human rights clause to be associated with the condemnation of South Africa were failing to acknowledge this. However, this did not mean that the ACP countries felt that other violations of human rights were tolerable; on the contrary, they were deeply disturbed by them and condemned them totally.

He expressed concern at the growing tendency of Western countries to set dangerous precedents that were based on nothing but their own economic interests. The fundamental objective of the Association should be to eliminate the systematic abuses of the economic rights of the developing countries. Too many Europeans continued to take a patronizing view of development problems. The balance of direct transfers of resources was still grossly distorted in favour of the industrialized countries. Developing countries had never been allowed to share equitably in the transfer of jobs and the value-added to their primary products. There were enormous disparities in the trade in minerals on which many developing countries were almost totally dependent for foreign exchange. Under the existing arrangements, their own mineral wealth was of only marginal benefit and there was little incentive to further prospection. Any Western country that had the iron ore production of Liberia or the bauxite production of Jamaica would earn more money than it could spend, but in these and in other developing countries the majority of the population lived in grinding poverty. These were the kinds of problems with which the Assembly should be concerned.

With regard to investment, he recalled that some European members had stated repeatedly that any investment in developing countries that would take away jobs from Europe would not be tolerated. This was akin to advocating a relationship of bondage. Were the developing countries to be no better than hewers of wood and drawers of water?

Attention was being diverted from the fundamental problems by raising emotional political issues. A creative dialogue could not be sustained by indulging in threadbare clichés about human rights. The developing

countries were far from indifferent to human rights, but when the problem was considered in its historical perspective, the main cause of violations very often proved to be poverty and greed. When countries became prosperous their rulers, no matter how ruthless, usually found that their populations would successfully resist abuses. This was now proving to be the case in Iran and Saudi Arabia. The present government in China, for example, had often been accused by the West of violating human rights, but it had in fact been the first in China's history to secure one of the most fundamental of all human rights in that country - the right to eat enough. Returning to the problem of minerals, Mr Kanu pointed out that Zambia, for instance, depended on copper for 90% of its foreign exchange earnings. The recent fall in the value of copper on the world market had had catastrophic consequences for that country. He asked the European Members of the Assembly to imagine the effect of such a disaster on their own countries. Something fundamental had to be done urgently to correct the gross imbalances in world trade in minerals. Every effort must be made to work out new arrangements that would eliminate exploitation and be of mutual benefit to both sides.

(Applause)

Mr KOMBOT-NAGUEMON asked leave to reply to Mr Prescott, who had referred to the Central African Empire as one of the states guilty of violations of human rights. He asserted that human rights were respected in his country, and invited Mr Prescott to come and see for himself. Moreover, it was the Central African delegation that was behind the compromise that had been put forward, and Mr Prescott was entitled to propose amendments to it.

He emphasized strongly, however, that the members of the Assembly were not meeting to lecture each other on human rights, but to work out an agreement on mutual progress that would enable both sides to overcome their problems.

Moreover, it was wrong to use this meeting for purposes of electioneering propaganda.

(Loud applause from certain benches)

7. Agenda for the next sitting

The President announced that the next sitting would be held on the following day Friday, 29 September 1978 at 8.30 a.m., with the following agenda:

- further consideration of and vote on the report by Mr GUILLABERT on the annual report of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers and on the present state of the Convention of Lome
- any other business.

The President then declared the sitting closed.

(The sitting was closed at 1.10 p.m.)

SITTING OF FRIDAY, 29 SEPTEMBER 1978

IN THE CHAIR: MR MUNA
PRESIDENT

The sitting was opened at 8.45 a.m.

1. Tribute

The President paid tribute to the memory of His Holiness Pope Jean-Paul I, who had died during the night.

He also paid tribute to Mr Jomo Kenyatta, President of Kenya, who had died on 22 August 1978.

The Assembly stood for one minute's silence.

Mr KIPRONO ARAP KOINO expressed the gratitude of the Kenyan authorities and people for the many tributes paid to the late Jomo Kenyatta. President Kenyatta had led his country to stability and economic prosperity and under his government relations with the ACP and EEC countries had been particularly favourable. His successors would see to it that the climate of friendship and unity created by him was maintained. All Kenya's international obligations would be honoured.

(Applause)

2. Appointment of co-chairman of Joint Committee

The Assembly appointed Mr OUEDRAOGO co-chairman of the Joint Committee.

Mr OUEDRAOGO paid tribute to his predecessor, Mr Kasongo and undertook to make every effort to assist progress in the difficult negotiations on the renewal of the Lome Convention.

3. Limitation of speaking-time

On a proposal from the President the Assembly decided, pursuant to Article 13(2) of the Rules of Procedure, to limit speaking-time in the debate on the Guillabert report (Doc. ACP-EEC 10/78) to 10 minutes per speaker.

4. Annual report of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers (continued)

Mr BERSANI added his tribute to the memory of Mr Jomo Kenyatta and His Holiness Pope Jean-Paul I.

The Church, in the encyclical entitled 'Populorum progressio', had laid down a number of principles on cooperation among the peoples. The Lomé Convention had, in part, been inspired by them.

The speaker found the ideas contained in the Guillabert report interesting and extremely important. It was essential to recognize that certain aspects of the present convention had not worked and to negotiate the new one on fairer and more social foundations. Decisive progress must now be made and the Convention given new dynamism.

Priority must be given to agriculture and a great deal of imagination would be necessary. Special attention must be paid to improving STABEX.

As regards raw materials, fair solutions must be found and help given to the ACP countries in industrializing this sector.

In conclusion, Mr Bersani stressed the importance of the economic aspects, but said that the new convention should give priority to the social and human sectors, since the prime task of ACP-EEC cooperation should be to promote close relations between peoples and to foster their development in freedom and mutual understanding.

(Applause)

Mr CISSE welcomed the resolution submitted to the Assembly and in particular those sections relating to the less-developed, land-locked and island countries and to the extension of STABEX to new products, in particular minerals.

He emphasized that the land-locked countries were among the most under-privileged, not because of lack of resources but because of unfavourable natural factors. The development of these countries was dependent on a number of aid measures designed among other things to improve infrastructures and guarantee the effectiveness of sources of financing. The latter could only be ensured by a stabilization of price margins, which implied the extension of STABEX to new products.

(Applause)

After congratulating Mr Guillabert on his report, Mr EL SAYED extended the thanks of his country, Sudan, to the Community for the emergency aid it had sent following the recent floods.

The industrialized world and the developing countries had, with the Lomé Convention, entered a new era. The speaker hoped that the negotiations for the successor agreement would resemble not so much a confrontation between the two sides as a boardroom meeting in which all participants would work towards a common goal.

Commending the references in the report to regional cooperation, Mr EL SAYED appealed to Ethiopia and Somalia to sit down together to resolve their differences. He pledged Sudan's help in working towards an equitable solution to the problems of the region, and hoped that Sudan might now be able to do for Ethiopia what the latter had once done for it.

Sudan, the speaker continued, was typical of many of the ACP countries, suffering from poverty, disease and ignorance. Joint efforts on the part of the ACP themselves and the European Community were essential if the situation was to improve. 'Help us, and you help yourselves', Mr EL SAYED said.

In conclusion, the speaker stressed the need for peace and warned against the great powers using Africa as a stage on which to fight their own wars by proxy. Sudan, which had some influence in the Arab world as well as in Africa as a whole, would do all in its power to mediate. The Camp David agreements represented a positive step towards peace in the Middle East.

(Applause)

Mr OUEDRAOGO agreed with the view expressed by Mr GUILLABERT that the starting point of the forthcoming negotiations between the ACP States and the nine countries of the EEC should be the Lomé Convention which, in spite of imperfections, still represented the best compromise that it had been possible to find between the ACP States and the Nine in 1975.

These negotiations would have to be undertaken with an open mind because only in this way would it be possible to find a compromise acceptable to all and one which could enable decisive progress to be made in the spheres of agriculture, transport and communications, as well as in that of aid to the least developed countries.

Agricultural cooperation was a matter of concern to all the ACP countries. They gave it high priority - and a priority to which the Lomé Convention had been able to give expression - because in their view it should permit the achievement of self sufficiency in food and of an increase in the marketing of products for export. Hence the interest in the creation of a Centre for the promotion of agricultural development. Another point was that the Community should also envisage the possibility of passing on its agricultural surpluses to the ACP countries.

Finally, the speaker declared that Upper Volta would support the resolution contained in Mr GUILLABERT's report.

(Applause)

Mr DESCHAMPS, while acknowledging the importance of the commercial and technical objectives in relations between the EEC and the ACP countries, pointed out that, from the beginning, the Lomé Convention had stood for more than this. The Lomé Convention, which had remained consistent because of the consistent action of the men who founded it, was inspired by a commitment to real cooperation between equal partners in terms of equality and friendship. It was much more than a mere sales contract.

The important thing now was to decide whether this spirit would be preserved, granted that it was necessary to improve the Convention, or if, as might be deduced from certain speeches, the intention was to forge purely commercial relationships.

If the spirit of Lomé were to be preserved, priority would have to be given to upholding the basic dignity of human beings by ensuring that their fundamental material and emotional needs could be met. It was with this in mind that he asked the Assembly to give unanimous support to Mr Guillabert's motion for a resolution.

(Applause)

Mr WOLLIE congratulated Mrs Mathe and Mr Guillabert on their work as rapporteurs and praised Commissioner Cheysson as the architect of Lome. Referring to the negotiations on the renewal of the Convention he insisted that no extraneous political elements must be introduced - Lome was strictly a matter of trade and economic relations. In his view the issue of human rights was being used as a lever against the ACP and a way of restricting their freedom to adopt social and economic systems of their own choosing. Given the wide cultural differences which existed between the countries concerned it was impossible to lay down a common definition of human rights. UNCTAD and the UN had decided that the debts of the least-privileged developing countries should be written off but certain EEC Member States were trying to exclude ACP countries from the debt cancellation arrangements on purely ideological grounds. It was hypocritical to seek to apply such 'principles.' Lome was not a relationship between beggars and donors but between equal partners. The ACP Council of Ministers had already rejected the idea of including reference to human rights in the negotiations and it would only create suspicion and division if the Assembly were now to do so.

(Applause)

Mr GUILLABERT had the impression that not enough effort was being made on either side to reach a closer degree of understanding and cooperation, when it was precisely these qualities that should be guiding the discussions.

In his view the problem of human rights was not the real issue, and rather than the compromise solution adopted by the Joint Committee in its resolution at Granada it would have been preferable to have discussed the more forthright text which he himself had put forward.

He thought that a reference to human rights in the convention would be useful because the right of free movement of persons was not respected in Europe: in France, African workers were expelled while Frenchmen could enter African countries freely, and in the United Kingdom the treatment of immigrants from India was deplorable. A reference to human rights would be a powerful weapon for the ACP states in showing that the Europeans did not respect the rights of the individual.

The speaker went on to say that Mr Prescott's critical remarks were out of place, since they had dealt more with foreign policy than with the question of human rights.

The Convention was meant to serve the people, and a start should be made by getting human rights respected wherever people went.

The late Jean-Paul I had held out the hope of greater tolerance, and President Kenyatta had been respected by the entire African continent. May the memory of these two men lead to greater justice.

(Applause)

The sitting was suspended at 10.05 a.m. and resumed at 10.15 a.m.

IN THE CHAIR

Mr COLOMBO
President

Mr MUNA
President

5. Further tribute

Mr COLOMBO paid further tribute to Pope Jean-Paul I and drew particular attention to the hopes which his election and his philosophy of progress and social justice had engendered.

6. Annual report of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers (vote)

The Assembly now voted on the motion for a resolution contained in the report by Mr Guillabert.

It adopted the preamble and paragraphs 1 to 22.

On paragraph 23 the following two amendments had been tabled:

No. 2 by Mr SPENALE and No. 3 by Mr PRESCOTT.

Mr PRESCOTT raised a procedural point.

Mr SPENALE moved his amendment. He welcomed the frankness which had characterized the debate. His amendment was simply designed to add a number of details to the resolution, in particular a specific reference to certain articles of the universal declaration of human rights.

Lord St. OSWALD maintained that Mr SPENALE's amendment was meaningless because it referred to the universal declaration of human rights signed by the member countries of the Convention; in fact the Declaration was purely indicative and had no signatories.

Mr GBAGUIDI asked for the procedure to be clarified and wondered if it might not be possible to adopt the procedure used by the Joint Committee.

Mr GUILLABERT proposed that in principle the authors of amendments should be heard first, followed by one speaker in favour and one speaker against, and finally the rapporteur. The vote should be held immediately afterwards.

Mr BROEKSZ proposed that in order to overcome Lord St. Oswald's objections the word 'signatory' in Mr Spenale's amendment should be replaced by another term.

Mr SPENALE took the view that the formulation of his amendment was purely a secondary consideration. The vote should relate to the substance of the amendment.

Mr GBAGUIDI noted that no delegate from any ACP country had voted for or against Mr Spénale's amendment.

Mr SPENALE proposed that one speaker in favour and one against each amendment should be heard from both the ACP countries and the EEC.

The Assembly adopted this proposal.

Mr GBAGUIDI felt that it would be wrong to jeopardize the compromise arrived at in Grenada by amending paragraph 23. He asked the author of the amendment to withdraw it.

Mr GUILLABERT also felt that the formula worked out in Grenada, which was more flexible, should be kept to.

Mr SPENALE withdrew his amendment.

(Applause)

The Assembly now considered amendment No 3 by Mr Prescott.

Mr PRESCOTT wished a reference to be made to previous points in resolutions of the Joint Committee dealing with human rights, particularly as such reference was made on this occasion in the case of South Africa. The Assembly had an essentially political role and must be consistent in its statements. In its resolution it should draw the attention of the negotiators dealing with the new Convention to its attachment to human rights.

Mr DEWULF stressed that intellectual logic was one thing and political logic was another. The context of the meeting in Grenada was different from that of the meeting in Maseru. It would be unwise to go back on statements of which there was at all events no need to be ashamed. It would be better for the amendment to be withdrawn.

Mr BROEKSZ rejected the assertions of those who claimed that the Treaty of Rome contained no provisions on the safeguarding of human rights. He was astonished at the adverse criticism of the treatment Europeans had been alleged to apply to elderly people.

Mr KANU drew attention to what he felt was an illogicality in Mr Prescott's approach when he maintained that all violations of human rights were equally reprehensible. A fundamental distinction must be drawn between incidental and temporary violations and the evil system perpetuated in South Africa. He thought it intellectually dishonest to equate violations of human rights in the ACP countries with those in South Africa. The Assembly should therefore reject Mr Prescott's amendment.

Mr SY stated that human rights had to be discussed in a balanced manner. There was a reference to the Treaty of Rome in the preamble to the Lomé Convention. Moreover, the way elderly people were treated in Europe would be inconceivable in an African country, where there was a different sense of values.

Mr GUILLABERT felt that it was unacceptable to go back on a compromise that had been as difficult to achieve as that of Grenada. He asked Mr Prescott to withdraw his amendment.

Mr PRESCOTT denied that this was a question of logic and thought it rather a matter of judgment. He attacked violations of human rights wherever they occurred and felt that the Assembly should be concerned with individuals: that was the duty of every Parliamentarian as opposed to Ambassadors who simply had a duty to reflect their own Government's views. He maintained his amendment because he felt that a reference to human rights in the new Convention was a necessary principle.

The Assembly rejected Amendment No 3 by Mr Prescott.

Mr SPENALE proposed that the Assembly should put paragraph 23 to a single vote.

Mr GBAGUIDI felt that the outcome of the vote was very revealing. He was opposed to a single vote.

The Assembly adopted paragraphs 23 to 25.

On paragraph 26 Mr Prescott had tabled Amendment No 4.

Mr PRESCOTT felt that a reference to the previous resolution on South Africa was essential. The EEC must continue to take a firm political stance on South Africa regardless of the possible economic consequences. The present political and moral commitment of the EEC countries on South Africa was not strong enough.

Mr GUILLABERT accepted the amendment.

The Assembly adopted amendment N° 4 by Mr Prescott and paragraphs 27 and 28.

Mr Broeksz had tabled amendments No. 1 seeking to add a new paragraph after paragraph 28.

Mr BROEKSZ briefly introduced his amendment and said that it would be irresponsible not to mention the violation of the embargo on Rhodesia in the resolution.

Lord St. OSWALD opposed the inclusion of paragraph 28a. He felt that any reference to Rhodesia at this delicate juncture in the negotiations would be harmful to the interests of a peaceful settlement aimed at bringing about a black government.

Mrs MATHE heatedly defended the inclusion of paragraph 28a. The collusion of the British government had been instrumental in causing the present guerilla action. The only way of achieving peace was to depose Mr Smith whom she described as a criminal.

Mr AFOLABI also disagreed violently with Lord St. Oswald. This was the time for resolute action against Mr Smith's rebel government.

Mr GUILLABERT approved the amendment. The Assembly adopted amendment No. 1 by Mr Broeksz. The Assembly adopted paragraphs 29 to 33. It then adopted the resolution as a whole.

(Applause)

Mr GUILLABERT thanked all those who had participated in the debate on his report. The right to work and to social benefits for workers in the ACP States was a major problem which must be settled in the next convention.

7. Closure of the third annual meeting

After thanking the participants, President Colombo declared the third annual meeting of the ACP-EEC Consultative Assembly closed.

The sitting was closed at 12.00 noon.