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Foreword

This fifth issue of the EPC Documentation Bulletin covers the term-of-office of the Belgian Presidency (1 January - 31 June 1987). It includes:

- the official declarations and decisions of the Foreign Ministers and of the 'Twelve', including statements in international conferences and organizations, and joint declarations made with other regional groupings and States;
- all documents related to the European Parliament, i.e. replies to oral and written questions, abstracts related to EPC of the reports presented by the Belgian Presidency at the beginning and at the end of its term-of-office, as well as other reports on matters of EPC.

We would like to thank all those who helped us in collecting materials for this issue, and in particular Ambassador Paul Noterdaeme at the Permanent Mission of Belgium to the United Nations and Mr Alex Reijn from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Brussels. Our gratitude also goes to Emir Lawless from the European Documentation Centre of the EUI and to Angelika Lanfranchi and Annette Merlan for their help in the preparation of this fifth issue.

The Editors

How to Use the EPC Bulletin

The documents issued in the framework of European political cooperation are normally published in English or in French if no official English version is available.

They have been given a unique document number for quick reference in the index of the Bulletin and for purposes of citation. It is our hope that the EPC Documentation Bulletin will become the standard reference work for public domain EPC documents.

The document number indicates the year in which the document is issued, as well as the place of that document in the EPC Bulletin. Documents are ordered chronologically in each issue, and they are numbered consecutively throughout the volume (two issues) covering one year. Thus, the first document issued under the Belgian Presidency starts with document number '87/001'.

The cumulative index of the EPC Bulletin refers to document numbers, and therefore to the place of a document in a given volume. If for technical reasons a document can not be included in the volume concerning the year in which was issued, it will normally be published in a later volume. In the cumulative index a reference to such a document will be accompanied by a reference to the volume and issue in which the document can be found.

The EPC Bulletin contains further information on the origin and status of the documents, and on their contents.

At the beginning of each document basic information concerning the date of issue, the city of issue, the country holding the Presidency, the source of the document, and its status can be found.

At the end of each issue the cumulative index can be found, which contains different classes of information for which the documents have been specifically analysed. This index has been developed by members of the European Policy Unit and the Institut für Europäische Politik, aided by a group of experts which included senior diplomats and scholars of several European Community Member States. It is designed to cover all aspects of European political cooperation, its structure and activity. Thus one will find the following classes of information:

- The category *Status of document* permits the location of documents according to their type.
- The category *EPC structure and procedure* contains all references to statements of EPC which comment on or illustrate the working of EPC or its relation with the European Communities.
- The category *Contacts* reports all official relations with third countries, international organizations and political groupings.
- *Geographical reference categories* indicate countries, regions and subregions, whenever these are intrinsically dealt with.
- The category *International organizations and political groupings* does the same for all international organizations, political groupings and conferences of relevance to EPC.
- Finally, issues are classified by subject matter in the general *Issues* category.

The index is open-ended to enable the inclusion of new issues as they arise on the agenda of European political cooperation. It is cumulative from one issue of the EPC Bulletin to the next. By consulting the index in the most recent issue, the user should thus be able to trace all EPC documents relating to a specific country or subject matter and issued during the entire period covered by the Bulletin.

List of abbreviations

ABM	Anti Ballistic Missile
ACABQ	Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions
ACC	Administrative Committee on Coordination
ACP	African, Caribbean and Pacific States
A.C.P.	Pays d'Afrique, des Caraïbes et du Pacifique
A.G.	Assemblée générale
A.E.L.E	Association européenne de libre échange
A.I.D.	Agence internationale de développement
A.I.E.A.	Agence internationale de l'énergie atomique
A.N.A.S.E.	Association des nations de l'Asie du Sud-Est
ANC	African National Congress (South Africa)
A.N.C.	Congrès national africain (Afrique du Sud)
A.P.D.	Aide publique au développement
ARC	Groupe arc-en-ciel (PE); Rainbow Group (EP)
ESA	European Space Agency
IDA	International Development Association
A.S.E.	Agence spatiale européenne
ASEAN	Association of South-East Asian Nations
Azapo	Azanian People's Organization (South Africa)
B	Belgium; Belgique
BLEU	Belgo-Luxembourg Economic Union
Bull.EC	Bulletin of the Commission of the European Communities; Bulletin des Communautés européennes
C.A.C.	Comité administratif de coordination
C.A.E.M.	Conseil d'assistance économique mutuelle (COMECON)
C.C.I.	Corps commun d'inspection (N.U.)
C.C.Q.A.B.	Comité consultatif pour les questions administratives et budgétaires
CDE	Conférence on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe
CDU	Christlich-Demokratische Union (Deutschlands)
C.E.	Communautés européennes
C.E.E.	Communauté économique européenne
CERD	Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
CMEA	Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (COMECON)
C.F.P.I.	Commission de la Fonction Publique Internationale
C.I.J.	Cour internationale de justice
C.N.U.C.E.D.	Conférence des Nations Unies sur le Commerce et le Développement
COM	Communist and Allies Group (EP); Groupe communiste et apparentés (PE)
COMECON	Cf. C.A.E.M., CMEA
COSATU	Council for South African Trade Unions
CPC	Committee for Programme and Co-ordination
C.P.C.	Commission pour le programme et la coordination
C.P.E.	Coopération politique européenne
CPSU	Communist Party of the Soviet Union; Parti communiste de l'Union Soviétique
CSCE	Conférence on Security and Co-operation in Europe
C.S.C.E.	Conférence sur la Sécurité et la Coopération en Europe

CSU	Christlich-Soziale Union (Bayern)
D	Federal Republic of Germany; République fédérale d'Allemagne
DK	Denmark; Danemark
Doc.	Document
DR	Group of the European Right (EP); Groupe des droites européennes (PE)
Dr	Drachme
E	Spain; Espagne
EC	European Communities
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council
E.C.O.S.O.C.	Conseil économique et social
Ecu	Unité monétaire européenne
ECU	European Currency Unit
ED	European Democratic Group (EP); Groupe des démocrates européens (PE)
EDF	European Development Fund
EEC	European Economic Community
EFTA	European Free Trade Association
EIB	European Investment Bank
EMS	European Monetary System
EP	European Parliament
EPC	European political cooperation
EPP	European People's Party; Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democratic Group) (EP)
ESA	European Space Agency
F	France
FICSA	Federation of International Civil Servants Associations
F.I.C.S.A.	Fédération des associations de fonctionnaires internationaux
F.I.D.A.	Fonds international de développement agricole
F.I.N.U.L.	Force intérimaire des Nations Unies pour le Liban
F.I.S.E.	Fonds des Nations Unies pour l'enfance
F.M.I.	Fonds monétaire international
FRG	Federal Republic of Germany
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
G.A.T.T.	Accord général sur les tarifs douaniers et le commerce
GR	Greece; Grèce
I	Italy; Italie
IAEA	International Economic Energy Agency
IATA	International Air Transport Association
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
ICARA	International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa
I.C.A.R.A.	Conférence internationale sur l'assistance aux réfugiés en Afrique
ICJ	International Court of Justice
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
ICSC	International Civil Service Commission
IDA	International Development Association
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IRA	Irish Republican Army
IRL	Ireland; Irlande
JO	Journal Officiel (des Communautés européennes)

List of abbreviations

JIU	Joint Inspection Unit
KGB	Komitet Gosudarstvdnoi Bezopasnosti; Committee of State Security (USSR); Comité de la sécurité d'Etat (U.R.S.S.)
L	Luxembourg; Luxembourg
L	Liberal and Democratic Group (EP); Groupe libéral et démocratique (PE)
LDC	Less developed countries, developing countries
LLDC	Least developed countries
MEP	Member of European Parliament
MFN	Most Favoured Nation
MNR	Mozambique National Resistance
MPE	Membre du Parlement européen
NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration (United States)
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NDP	New Democratic Party
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NI	Non-inscrits (PE); Non-attached (EP)
NL	The Netherlands; Pays-Bas
N.P.F.	Nation la plus favorisée
N.P.S.A.	Nouveau programme substantiel d'action
NPT	Non Proliferation Treaty, Treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons
O.A.C.I.	Organisation de l'aviation civile internationale
OAS	Organization of American States
OAU	Organization of African Unity
OCT	Overseas Countries and Territories
ODA	Official Development Assistance
O.E.A.	Organisation des États américains
O.I.T.	Organisation Internationale du Travail
OJ	Official Journal (of the European Communities)
O.M.I.	Organisation maritime internationale
O.M.S.	Organisation mondiale de la santé
O.N.G.	Organisation non gouvernementale
O.N.U.	Organisation des Nations Unies
O.N.U.D.I.	Organisation des Nations Unies pour le développement industriel
O.L.P.	Organisation pour la libération de la Palestine
O.T.A.N.	Organisation du traité de l'Atlantique Nord
O.U.A.	Organisation de l'unité africaine
P	Portugal
PAC	Pan Africanist Congress
PE	Parlement européen
PFP	Progressive Federal Party of South Africa; Parti progressiste fédéral (Afrique du Sud)
PLO	Palestine Liberation Organization
P.M.A.	Pays les moins avancés
P.M.D.	Pays les moins développés
P.N.U.D.	Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement
PPE	Parti populaire européen; Groupe du Parti populaire européen (Groupe démocrate-chrétien) (PE); Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democratic Group) (EP)
P.V.D.	Pays en voie de développement (developing countries)
RDE	Groupe des renovateurs et du rassemblement des démocrates européens (PE); Group of the European Renewal and Democratic Alliance (EP)

Res.	Resolution(s); Résolution(s)
R.F.A.	République fédérale d'Allemagne
R.S.F.Y.	République fédérale socialiste de Yougoslavie
RSA	Republic of South Africa
R.S.A.	République sud-africaine
S	Socialist Group (EP); Groupe socialiste (PE)
SADCC	Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference
SALT	Strategic Arms Limitation Talks; Négociations sur la limitation des armements stratégiques
SARC	South Asia Regional Cooperation
SFRY	Social Federal Republic of Yugoslavia
SDI	Strategic Defence Initiative
S.M.E.	Système monétaire européen
SNAP	Substantial New Programme of Action
SWAPO	South West African People's Organization
T.N.P.	Traité de non-prolifération, traité sur la non-prolifération des armes nucléaires
TPA	Turkish Peace Association
TREVI	Terrorisme, radicalisme et violence internationaux
TWA	Trans-World Airlines
UDF	Union Defence Force (South Africa)
UDI	Unilateral Declaration of Independence; Déclaration unilatérale d'indépendance
U.E.B.L.	Union économique belgo-luxembourgeoise
U.E.O.	Union de l'Europe occidentale
UK	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; Royaume-Uni
UN	United Nations
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDC	United Nations Disarmament Commission
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRO	Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
U.N.E.S.C.O.	Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'éducation, la science et la culture
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNIFIL	United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon
Unisa	University of South Africa; Université de l'Afrique du Sud
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
U.N.I.T.A.R.	Institut des Nations Unies pour la formation et la recherche
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
U.N.R.W.A.	Office de secours et de travaux des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés de Palestine dans le Proche-Orient
U.R.S.S.	Union des républiques socialistes soviétiques
US; USA	United States of America
U.S.A.	United States of America; États-Unis d'Amérique
USSR	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
WEU	Western European Union
WHO	World Health Organization
ZANU	Zimbabwe African National Union
ZAPU	Zimbabwe African People's Union

Table of contents

85/343. Mémorandum déposé à l'occasion des auditions publiques des Nations Unies sur les activités des sociétés transnationales en Afrique du Sud et en Namibie (16-20 septembre 1985) Date of Issue: 16 September 1985	29
87/001. Question No 2250/85 by Mr Glinne (S-B) Concerning the US-Zaire Plan for the Destabilization of Mozambique Date of Issue: 15 January 1987	29
87/002. Question No 2252/85 by Mr Glinne (S-B) Concerning the Vote by the General Assembly of the United Nations on a New Resolution Condemning the Use of Force by the Soviet Union in Afghanistan Date of Issue: 15 January 1987	31
87/003. Question No 2489/85 by Mr Glinne (S-B) Concerning the World Medical Association and Apartheid Date of Issue: 15 January 1987	32
87/004. Question No 2497/85 by Mr Wijzenbeek (LDR-NL) Concerning the European Judicial Area and Extradition Procedures Date of Issue: 15 January 1987	33
87/005. Question No 2735/85 by Ms Lizin (S-B) Concerning the Concerted Community Approach at the United Nations on Human Rights in Chile Date of Issue: 15 January 1987	34
87/006. Question No 2917/85 by Ms Castle (S-UK) Concerning Investment in South Africa Date of Issue: 15 January 1987	35
87/007. Question No 57/86 by Mr Glinne (S-B) Concerning the State Terrorism Practised by Libya Date of Issue: 15 January 1987	35
87/008. Question No 296/86 by Mr Glinne (S-B) Concerning the Appeal by the Polish Dissident Adam Michnik for Non-Racialist Democracy in South Africa Date of Issue: 15 January 1987	36
87/009. Question No 300/86 by Ms De Backer-Van Ocken (PPE-B) Concerning Undertakings with Branches in South Africa Date of Issue: 15 January 1987	37
87/010. Question No 1118/86 by Mr McGowan (S-UK) Concerning the Economic Threat Posed to the EEC by the Activities of the US Communications Base at Menwith Hill Date of Issue: 15 January 1987	37
87/011. Question No 1223/86 by Ms Lizin (S-B) Concerning the Election of Kurt Waldheim Date of Issue: 15 January 1987	38

Table of contents

87/012. Question No 1329/86 by Ms Crawley (S-UK) Concerning 1619 Missing Greek Cypriots Date of Issue: 15 January 1987	38
87/013. Question No 1576/86 by Mr Christensen (ARC-DK) Concerning Military Cooperation and Military Technology in EPC Date of Issue: 15 January 1987	38
87/014. Question No 1661/86 by Ms André (LDR-B) Concerning Terrorism, the EEC and WEU Date of Issue: 15 January 1987	39
87/015. Question No 824/86 by Mr Balfé (S-UK) Concerning the Launch of Recent South African Attacks on Neighbouring States from Illegally Occupied Namibian Territory Date of Issue: 16 January 1987	39
87/016. Question No 1116/86 by Mr Perinat Elio (ED-E) Concerning the Indefinite Closure of the 'La Prensa de Nicaragua' Newspaper Date of Issue: 16 January 1987	40
87/017. Question No 1735/86 by Mr Glinne (S-B) Concerning Maltese Territorial Waters Date of Issue: 16 January 1987	40
87/018. Question No 1841/86 by Mr Antony (DR-F) Concerning EEC Financial Aid to Angola Date of Issue: 16 January 1987	41
87/019. Question No 815/86 by Mr Schwalba-Hoth (ARC-D) Concerning the Supply of Technical Components for the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Station by Undertakings in the EEC Date of Issue: 19 January 1987	41
87/020. Question No 1123/86 by Ms Lizin (S-B) Concerning Europe's Position on South Africa Date of Issue: 19 January 1987	42
87/021. Question No 1516/86 by Ms Lizin (S-B), Ms Marinaro (COM-I) and Mr De Pasquale (COM-I) Concerning the Appointment of a Member of the P2 Lodge as Spokesman of the Belgian Foreign Ministry Date of Issue: 19 January 1987	42
87/022. Question No 1591/86 by Mr McGowan (S-UK) Concerning Human Rights and Prisoners of Conscience Within the EEC Date of Issue: 19 January 1987	43
87/023. Question No 1714/86 by Mr Kolokotronis (S-GR) Concerning the Violation of Human Rights on the Islands of Imvros and Tenedos Date of Issue: 19 January 1987	43
87/024. Question No 1865/86 by Mr Vanlerenberghe, Mr Abelin and Ms Fontaine (PPE-F) Concerning Redundancies at 'La Prensa' Owing to Lack of Financial Support Date of Issue: 19 January 1987	44
87/025. Statement by the President-in-Office of the Council on the Work-Programme of the Belgian Presidency (Abstracts) Date of Issue: 22 January 1987	44

87/026. Question No H-530/86 by Mr Pranchère Concerning the Fate of Prisoners-of-War in the Conflict Between the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic (SADR) and Morocco Date of Issue: 22 January 1987	47
87/027. Question No H-599/86 by Mr Arbeloa Muru Concerning Murders in Colombia Date of Issue: 22 January 1987	49
87/028. Question No H-605/86 by Mr Ephremidis Concerning the Nuclear Weapons Production in Israel Date of Issue: 22 January 1987	50
87/029. Question No H-662/86 by Mr Cabezón Alonso Concerning the Political Situation in Chile Date of Issue: 22 January 1987	51
87/030. Question No H-679/86 by Mr Marshall Concerning the Plight of Mr and Ms Mikhail Yusim Date of Issue: 22 January 1987	51
87/031. Question No H-731/86 by Mr Alavanos Concerning United States Aid for the Nicaraguan Contras Date of Issue: 22 January 1987	52
87/032. Question H-695/86 by Mr Pannella Concerning the Cooperation Agreements Between the EEC and Syria Date of Issue: 22 January 1987	54
87/033. Question No H-596/86 by Sir Peter Vanneck Concerning Freedom of Navigation in International Waters Through the Gulf Date of Issue: 22 January 1987	54
87/034. Question No H-626/86 by Mr Lalor Concerning Kidnapping Date of Issue: 22 January 1987	54
87/035. Question No H-638/86 by Mr Flanagan Concerning the Disappearance of Father Rudi Romano Date of Issue: 22 January 1987	55
87/036. Question No H-666/86 by Mr Lomas Concerning the Reason for the Introduction of EC Sanctions Against Syria Date of Issue: 22 January 1987	55
87/037. Question No H-688/86 by Mr Iversen Concerning the Censoring of a Critical Book About the Star Wars Programme Date of Issue: 22 January 1987	55
87/038. Question No H-691/86 by Ms Hammerich Concerning Syria, Greece and European Political Cooperation Date of Issue: 22 January 1987	56
87/039. Question No H-697/86 by Mr Wedekind Concerning the Second International Meeting of Solidarity with the Armenian People, Held in Athens, Greece, on 20 April 1986 Date of Issue: 22 January 1987	57

Table of contents

87/040. Question No H-740/86 by Mr Coste-Floret Concerning Racism and Anti-Semitism Date of Issue: 22 January 1987	57
87/041. Question No H-767/86 by Ms Heinrich Concerning the Hampering of Human Rights Organizations in Turkey Date of Issue: 22 January 1987	58
87/042. Question No H-775/86 by Mr Andrews Concerning the Malvinas/Falklands Date of Issue: 22 January 1987	58
87/043. Question No 295/86 by Mr Glinne (S-B) Concerning Pressure on Botswana by the Government of the Republic of South Africa Date of Issue: 23 January 1987	59
87/044. Question No 370/86 by Mr Schwalba-Hoth (ARC-B) Concerning Renate Hehr, who has Been in Prison in Peru for Three Years Date of Issue: 23 January 1987	59
87/045. Question No 698/86 by Mr Glinne (S-B) Concerning the Declaration of Churches, Political Parties and Other Groups in Namibia Date of Issue: 23 January 1987	60
87/046. Question No 704/86 by Ms Castle (S-UK) Concerning the Persecution of Baha'is in Iran Date of Issue: 23 January 1987	61
87/047. Question No 786/86 by Mr Habsburg (PPE-D) Concerning the Fate of Hilda Tjongarero Persecuted by the SWAPO Discipline Squad Date of Issue: 23 January 1987	62
87/048. Question No 787/86 by Mr Zarges (PPE-D) Concerning Talks with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on Namibians Willing to Return Date of Issue: 23 January 1987	62
87/049. Question No 788/86 by Ms Rabbethge (PPE-D) Concerning the Indoctrination of Young Namibian Refugees by SWAPO Date of Issue: 23 January 1987	62
87/050. Question No 789/86 by Mr Luster and Mr Pirkl (PPE-D) Concerning the Persecution of SWAPO Dissidents Date of Issue: 23 January 1987	63
87/051. Question No 825/86 by Mr Balfe (S-UK) Concerning Political Cooperation Meetings in South Africa Date of Issue: 23 January 1987	63
87/052. Question No 826/86 by Mr Balfe (S-UK) Concerning United States Supply of Stinger Missiles to UNITA Date of Issue: 23 January 1987	63
87/053. Question No 827/86 by Mr Balfe (S-UK) Concerning Strict Control on Stinger Missiles Date of Issue: 23 January 1987	64

87/054. Question No 843/86 by Mr Beyer de Ryke (LDR-B) Concerning Peace in Latin America - Contadora Group Date of Issue: 23 January 1987	64
87/055. Question No 988/86 by Mr Cottrell (ED-UK) Concerning the Spanish Enclaves in Morocco Date of Issue: 23 January 1987	65
87/056. Question No 1060/86 by Ms Ewing (RDE-UK) Concerning Namibia: Activities of SWAPO Date of Issue: 23 January 1987	65
87/057. Question No 1091/86 by Mr Beyer de Ryke (LDR-B) Concerning Nicaragua, Freedom of the Press and the EEC's Attitude Date of Issue: 23 January 1987	65
87/058. Question No 1264/86 by Mr Hänsch (S-D) Concerning the Death Sentence Passed on the Buddhist Monk, Thich Tuê Sy, who was Arrested in Ho Chi Minh City Date of Issue: 23 January 1987	66
87/059. Question No 1302/86 by Mr Toussaint (LDR-B), Mr Bettiza (LDR-I), Mr Gawronski (LDR-I), Mr Donnez (LDR-F), Mr Nordmann (LDR-F), Mr Wijzenbeek (LDR-NL) and Mr Garcia (LDR-P) Concerning European Cooperation on Arms Production Date of Issue: 23 January 1987	66
87/060. Question No 1312/86 by Mr Romualdi (DR-I) Concerning the Release of Mr Abu Abbass Date of Issue: 23 January 1987	67
87/061. Question No 1336/86 by Ms Lizin (S-B) Concerning South Africa and the Troika Arrangement Date of Issue: 23 January 1987	67
87/062. Question No 1348/86 by Mr McMahon (S-UK) Concerning the Rimpac-Exercises Date of Issue: 23 January 1987	67
87/063. Question No 1392/86 by Ms Crawley (S-UK) Concerning Chile: Investigation into the Death of Olaf Palme Date of Issue: 23 January 1987	68
87/064. Question No 1393/86 by Ms Crawley (S-UK) Concerning South Africa Date of Issue: 23 January 1987	68
87/065. Question No 1447/86 by Mr Balfe (S-UK) Concerning South African Products Date of Issue: 23 January 1987	69
87/066. Question No 1480/86 by Mr Perinat Elio (ED-E) Concerning the Direct Telephone Line Between Managua and Moscow Date of Issue: 23 January 1987	69
87/067. Question No 1506/86 by Mr Glinne (S-B) Concerning the Belgian Aid Programme for Zaire and South African Interests Date of Issue: 23 January 1987	69

Table of contents

87/068. Question No 1574/86 by Mr Pearce (ED-UK) Concerning the Syrian Doctors Arrested in 1980 Date of Issue: 23 January 1987	70
87/069. Question No 1592/86 by Mr Glinne (S-B) Concerning the Participation by Troops from the South African Homelands in Military Operations in Namibia Date of Issue: 23 January 1987	70
87/070. Question No 1669/86 by Mr Glinne (S-B) Concerning Cooperation with the Government of the South African Republic on 'Anti-Communist' Information Date of Issue: 23 January 1987	71
87/071. Question No 1722/86 by Mr Iversen (COM-DK) Concerning the Censoring of Books Critical of the Star Wars Programme Date of Issue: 23 January 1987	71
87/072. Question No 1747/86 by Ms Lizin (S-B) Concerning the Revision of the Geneva Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, as Regards Women Date of Issue: 23 January 1987	72
87/073. Question No 1748/86 by Mr Glinne (S-B) Concerning the Risk of Destabilization in Costa Rica Date of Issue: 23 January 1987	72
87/074. Question No 1833/86 by Mr Boesmans (S-B) Concerning the Situation of Okay Basak Date of Issue: 23 January 1987	73
87/075. Question No 2107/86 by Mr Hughes (S-UK) Concerning Afghan Refugees in Military Service Date of Issue: 23 January 1987	74
87/076. Question No 2120/86 by Ms Lizin (S-B) Concerning Political Cooperation in the United Nations With Regard to the Western Sahara Date of Issue: 23 January 1987	74
87/077. Statement on the Iran-Iraq Conflict Date of Issue: 26 January 1987	75
87/078. Question No 205/86 by Mr Glinne (S-B) Concerning the Training Periods in South Africa for European Policemen Date of Issue: 27 January 1987	75
87/079. Question No 687/86 by Mr Robles Piquer (ED-E) Concerning the Sandinista Regime in Nicaragua Date of Issue: 27 January 1987	76
87/080. Question No 762/86 by Mr Perinat Elio (ED-E) Concerning the Creation of a Central American Parliament Date of Issue: 27 January 1987	76
87/081. Question No 1510/86 by Mr Glinne (S-B) Concerning the United Nations Financial Crisis Date of Issue: 27 January 1987	77

87/082. Question No 1593/86 by Mr Glinne (S-B) Concerning Concerted Action by the Twelve and the Voting by the Twelve at the Fortieth United Nations General Assembly Date of Issue: 27 January 1987	79
87/083. Question No 1627/86 by Mr Perinat Elio (ED-E) Concerning the Political Talks Held at Ifran (Morocco) Date of Issue: 27 January 1987	80
87/084. Question No 1872/86 by Mr Perinat Elio (ED-E) Concerning an International Conference on Bringing Peace to the Middle East Date of Issue: 27 January 1987	80
87/085. Question No 1873/86 by Mr Robles Piquer (ED-E) Concerning the Participation by the Member States in the European Disarmament Conference Date of Issue: 27 January 1987	81
87/086. Question No 321/86 by Mr Schwalba-Hoth (ARC-D) Concerning Torture of Children in South Africa Date of Issue: 28 January 1987	82
87/087. Question No 1022/86 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E) Concerning the Failure to Ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Extradition Date of Issue: 28 January 1987	82
87/088. Question No 1488/86 by Ms Lizin (S-B) Concerning the State of Siege in Chile, After Thirteen Years of Dictatorship Date of Issue: 28 January 1987	82
87/089. Question No 1612/86 by Mr Griffiths (S-UK) Concerning Visas for Israel Granted by the Soviet Union Date of Issue: 28 January 1987	83
87/090. Question No 2031/86 by Ms Piermont (ARC-D) Concerning Remarks by Sir Geoffrey Howe, President-in-Office of the Council of Foreign Ministers Date of Issue: 28 January 1987	83
87/091. Question No 2071/86 by Mr Perinat Elio (ED-E) Concerning European Mediation in Chile Date of Issue: 28 January 1987	84
87/092. Question No 2079/86 by Mr Saby (S-F) Concerning Human Rights in Morocco Date of Issue: 28 January 1987	85
87/093. Statement on the Philippines Date of Issue: 4 February 1987	85
87/094. Question No 516/86 by Mr Perinat Elio (ED-E) Concerning the Exercise of their Basic Rights by the Indigenous Populations of Brazil, Nicaragua and Paraguay Date of Issue: 5 February 1987	85
87/095. Questions Nos 1594/86, 1595/86, 1596/86, 1597/86 1598/86 and 1599/86 by Mr Glinne (S-B) Concerning the Attitude of the Twelve to the Mission of the UNIFIL Date of Issue: 5 February 1987	86

Table of contents

87/096. Joint Political Declaration on Political Dialogue and Economic Cooperation Between the European Community and its Member States, and the Countries of Central America and of the Contadora Group, Issued at the Ministerial Conference in Guatemala City Date of Issue: 10 February 1987.....	88
87/097. Statement on the Fate of the Civilians in the Palestine Camps in Lebanon Date of Issue: 16 February 1987.....	92
87/098. Question No H-812/86 by Mr Ford Concerning War Criminals Date of Issue: 18 February 1987.....	92
87/099. Question No H-680/86 by Mr Marshall Concerning the Plight of Refuseniks Date of Issue: 18 February 1987.....	93
87/100. Question No H-694/86 by Mr Barros Moura Concerning the Situation in East Timor and EEC-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting Date of Issue: 18 February 1987.....	94
87/101. Question No H-698/86 by Sir Peter Vanneck Concerning the Southern African Transport Infrastructure and Sanctions Date of Issue: 18 February 1987.....	95
87/102. Question No H-703/86 by Mr Arbeloa Muru Concerning 'Missing' Children in Argentina Date of Issue: 18 February 1987.....	97
87/103. Question No H-715/86 by Mr Cabezón Alonso Concerning Dictatorship in Paraguay Date of Issue: 18 February 1987.....	97
87/104. Question No H-726/86 by Mr Pranchère Concerning Arms Shipments to Morocco which are Used in the War in the Western Sahara Date of Issue: 18 February 1987.....	98
87/105. Question No H-753/86 by Mr Ephremidis Concerning the 'List' of Countries which Foment 'Terrorism' Date of Issue: 18 February 1987.....	98
87/106. Question No H-800/86 by Mr Adamou Concerning Plans for the Annexation of Northern Cyprus by Turkey Date of Issue: 18 February 1987.....	98
87/107. Question No H-801/86 by Mr Alavanos Concerning the Recent Conviction of Members of DISK Date of Issue: 18 February 1987.....	99
87/108. Question No H-813/86 by Mr Bonde Concerning the EPC Secretariat Date of Issue: 18 February 1987.....	99
87/109. Question No H-834/86 by Mr Simmonds Concerning a Complaint Against the Belgian Police Date of Issue: 18 February 1987.....	100

87/110. Question No H-851/86 by Mr Boesmans Concerning the Murder of Father Gillard Date of Issue: 18 February 1987.....	100
87/111. Question No H-856/86 by Mr van der Lek Concerning the New Indonesian Military Offensive in East Timor Date of Issue: 18 February 1987.....	101
87/112. Question No H-861/86 by Ms Dury Concerning a European Policy on Refugees Date of Issue: 18 February 1987.....	101
87/113. Question No 1906/86 by Mr Hänsch (S-D) Concerning the Execution of Political Prisoners in Indonesia Date of Issue: 20 February 1987.....	101
87/114. Statement on the Middle East Date of Issue: 23 February 1987.....	102
87/115. Sixth Summary Analysis of the Application of the Code of Conduct by Community Companies with Subsidiaries in South Africa Date of Issue: 23 February 1987.....	103
87/116. Question No 2293/86 by Ms Crawley (S-UK) Concerning Iran Date of Issue: 4 March 1987.....	108
87/117. Question No 2311/86 by Mr Casini (PPE-I) Concerning the Third 'Pro Vida' Congress in Barcelona Date of Issue: 4 March 1987.....	108
87/118. Question No 2312/86 by Mr Schwalba-Hoth (ARC-D) and Others Concerning Payments from Special Funds set up by Foreign Ministries of Community Countries to Heads of State of Third World Countries Date of Issue: 4 March 1987.....	109
87/119. Statement on the Situation in the Middle East Date of Issue: 11 March 1987.....	110
87/120. Question No H-713/86 by Mr Arbeloa Muru Concerning Torture in Turkey Date of Issue: 11 March 1987.....	112
87/121. Question No H-681/86 by Mr Marshall Concerning the Plight of Elderly Refuseniks Date of Issue: 11 March 1987.....	114
87/122. Question No H-734/86 by Mr Ephremidis Concerning the Violation of the SALT-II Agreement by the USA Date of Issue: 11 March 1987.....	115
87/123. Question No H-794/86 by Mr Andrews Concerning Annie Maguire Date of Issue: 11 March 1987.....	117
87/124. Question No H-814/86 by Mr Mavros Concerning the Turkish Provocation Against a Member State of the European Community Date of Issue: 11 March 1987.....	117

Table of contents

87/125. Question No H-852/86 by Mr Boesmans Concerning Turkish Trade Unionists Date of Issue: 11 March 1987.....	117
87/126. Question No H-862/86 by Ms Dury Concerning the Implementation of Political Cooperation (With Regard to the Middle East in Particular) Date of Issue: 11 March 1987.....	118
87/127. Question No H-892/86 by Mr Seeler Concerning the European Community's Stance on the Iran-Iraq War Date of Issue: 11 March 1987.....	119
87/128. Question No H-917/86 by Mr McMahon Concerning the Discussion with the Contadora Group of Countries in Central America at Guatemala City Date of Issue: 11 March 1987.....	119
87/129. Question No H-928/86 by Mr Blumenfeld Concerning the Euro-Arab Dialogue Date of Issue: 11 March 1987.....	120
87/130. Question No H-937/86 by Mr Fich Concerning the Transport of Armaments by Sea from One Third Country to Another Date of Issue: 11 March 1987.....	120
87/131. Question No H-939/86 by Mr Garcia Raya Concerning Cooperation Between the EEC and Central and South America Date of Issue: 11 March 1987.....	121
87/132. Question No H-940/86 by Mr Pons Grau Concerning the Representation of the Member States at the Guatemala Meeting Date of Issue: 11 March 1987.....	121
87/133. Question No H-942/86 by Mr Estrella Pedrola Concerning the Possibility of a New Dimension in the EEC-Latin America Dialogue Date of Issue: 11 March 1987.....	122
87/134. Question No H-943/86 by Mr Grimaldos Grimaldis Concerning the Lack of Representation of Certain Member States at the Guatemala Conference Date of Issue: 11 March 1987.....	122
87/135. Question No H-944/86 by Mr Garcia Arias Concerning the Implications of the Way in which Member States were Represented at the Guatemala Conference – the San José III Meeting in Guatemala Date of Issue: 11 March 1987.....	122
87/136. Question No H-948/86 by Sir Peter Vanneck Concerning a Commitment of African National Congress to Violence Date of Issue: 11 March 1987.....	123
87/137. Question No H-952/86 by Mr Alavanos Concerning the Exchange of Information Between the Police and Secret Service Agencies Date of Issue: 11 March 1987.....	124
87/138. Question No H-957/86 by Mr Adamou Concerning the Creation of an Administra- tive Mechanism for the TREVI Group Date of Issue: 11 March 1987.....	124

87/139. Question No H-964/86 by Mr Romera i Alcázar Concerning the Imprisonment of Children in South Africa Date of Issue: 11 March 1987.....	125
87/140. Question No H-965/86 by Mr Cryer Concerning the Sources of the AIDS Virus Date of Issue: 11 March 1987.....	125
87/141. Question No H-975/86 by Mr Cabezón Alonso Concerning the Presence of Foreign Ministers at the Meeting in Guatemala Date of Issue: 11 March 1987.....	125
87/142. Question No H-982/86 by Ms van Hemeldonck Concerning Human Rights in Central America Date of Issue: 11 March 1987.....	126
87/143. Statement on Afghanistan Date of Issue: 16 March 1987.....	126
87/144. Déclaration dans la C.S.C.E. sur les condamnations de membres de la section Jazz par la Tchécoslovaquie Date of Issue: 20 March 1987.....	127
87/145. Déclaration à l'occasion de la Journée internationale pour l'élimination de la discrimination raciale Date of Issue: 20 March 1987.....	127
87/146. Lettre au Secrétaire général des Nations Unies: Mémorandum sur l'application de la Résolution 40/61 de l'Assemblée générale – Memorandum Concerning the Implementation of General Assembly Resolution 40/61 Date of Issue: 31 March 1987.....	129
87/147. Question No H-999/86 by Mr Cano Pinto Concerning the Renewal of the Financial Protocols for the Mediterranean Countries Date of Issue: 8 April 1987.....	130
87/148. Question No H-12/87 by Mr Cicciomessere Concerning the Follow-Up Given to Resolution No 1569 of 19 February on Jews in the USSR Date of Issue: 8 April 1987.....	131
87/149. Question No H-19/87 by Mr Selva Concerning a European Army Date of Issue: 8 April 1987.....	131
87/150. Question No H-20/87 by Mr Tzounis Concerning Domestic and Foreign Policy Developments in Turkey Date of Issue: 8 April 1987.....	132
87/151. Question No H-42/87 by Mr Adamou Concerning the Proposal for a 'Zero Option' in Respect of Missiles Stationed in Europe Date of Issue: 8 April 1987.....	132
87/152. Question No H-43/87 by Mr Alavanos Concerning Nuclear Exercises in Central Europe Date of Issue: 8 April 1987.....	133

Table of contents

87/153. Question No H-60/87 by Ms Lizin Concerning the TREVI Group Date of Issue: 8 April 1987.....	133
87/154. Question No H-71/87 by Mr Elliott Concerning British Government Fines on International Airlines Date of Issue: 8 April 1987.....	134
87/155. Question No H-799/86 by Mr Ephremidis Concerning the Case of the Israeli Scientist Mr Vanunu Date of Issue: 8 April 1987.....	134
87/156. Question No H-855/86 by Mr Arbeloa Muru Concerning Amnesty International's 1986 Report Date of Issue: 8 April 1987.....	135
87/157. Question No H-938/86 by Mr Boesmans Concerning the Conference of Com- munity, Central American and Contadora Group Countries Held in Guatemala in February 1987 Date of Issue: 8 April 1987.....	136
87/158. Question No H-966/86 by Mr Marshall Concerning the Plight of Mr Zalmon Apterman and Ms Rimma Shmukler Date of Issue: 8 April 1987.....	137
87/159. Question No H-976/86 by Mr Cabezón Alonso Concerning US Aid to the Nicaraguan Contras Date of Issue: 8 April 1987.....	138
87/160. Question No H-989/86 by Mr Ulburghs Concerning the Mass Deportation of Kurds in Turkey Date of Issue: 8 April 1987.....	139
87/161. Question No H-1016/86 by Ms Van den Heuvel Concerning Exit Visas for East Timor Students Date of Issue: 8 April 1987.....	140
87/162. Statement on the Proceedings of the Vienna Meeting Since January 1987 Date of Issue: 9 April 1987.....	140
87/163. Statement on Sri Lanka Date of Issue: 27 April 1987.....	141
87/164. Statement Concerning the South African Military Action in Zambia on 25 April 1987 Date of Issue: 28 April 1987.....	141
87/165. Déclaration dans le Conseil économique et social (ECOSOC) concernant l'appli- cation du Programme d'action de la deuxième Décennie de lutte contre le racisme et la discrimination raciale Date of Issue: 4 May 1987.....	142
87/166. Allocution d'ouverture de la C.S.C.E. à Vienne Date of Issue: 5 May 1987.....	144

87/167. Déclaration dans le Groupe de travail II (Rôle de l'Organisation des Nations Unies dans le domaine du Désarmement) de la Commission du désarmement des Nations Unies Date of Issue: 12 May 1987	149
87/168. Déclaration dans le Groupe de travail IV (Vérification) de la Commission du désarmement des Nations Unies Date of Issue: 12 May 1987	150
87/169. Déclaration dans le Groupe de travail III (Désarmement conventionnel) de la Commission du désarmement des Nations Unies Date of Issue: 13 May 1987	151
87/170. Question No H-880/86 by Mr Arbeloa Muru Concerning Human Rights Activists Imprisoned in Cuba Date of Issue: 13 May 1987	152
87/171. Question No H-947/86 by Mr Boesmans Concerning the Conference Held in Guatemala in February 1987 Between the Countries of the European Community, Central America and the Contadora Group Date of Issue: 13 May 1987	153
87/172. Question No H-955/86 by Mr Ephremidis Concerning Four Working Parties and the Meeting of the Leaders of the Special Task Units of the Member States of the European Community Date of Issue: 13 May 1987	154
87/173. Question No H-969/86 by Ms Dury Concerning the Presence of the Turkish Army of Occupation in Cyprus and Question No H-971/86 by Mr Mavros Concerning the Distortion of the National Identity of the Territories of the Cyprus Republic Under Turkish Military Occupation Date of Issue: 13 May 1987	154
87/174. Question No H-970/86 by Mr Pannella Concerning EEC Action in Relation to the 1 619 Missing Cypriots Date of Issue: 13 May 1987	156
87/175. Question No H-45/87 by Mr Cicciomessere Concerning the Extraordinary Meeting of the European Council on the Soviet and US Proposals for the Reduction of Nuclear Arms in Europe Date of Issue: 13 May 1987	158
87/176. Question No H-85/87 by Mr Marshall Concerning the Non-Delivery of Registered Letters by the Russians Date of Issue: 13 May 1987	159
87/177. Question No H-118/87 by Mr Uiburghs Concerning the Murder of the Flemish Development Aid Worker, Serge Bertens, in Guatemala Date of Issue: 13 May 1987	160
87/178. Question No H-131/87 by Ms Lizin Concerning the Progress Made Toward the Creation of a European Legal Area Date of Issue: 13 May 1987	161

Table of contents

87/179. Question No H-134/87 by Ms Crawley Concerning Halil Berktaý Date of Issue: 13 May 1987	162
87/180. Question No H-137/87 by Ms Bonino Concerning Action Taken on the Resolution (Doc. B 2-210/87) on Jews in Syria Date of Issue: 13 May 1987	162
87/181. Question No 327/86 by Mr Beyer de Ryke (LDR-B) Concerning the Arrests of Solidarity Activists in Poland Date of Issue: 15 May 1987	163
87/182. Question No 782/86 by Mr Pordea (DR-F) Concerning New Aspects of Community Policy on East-West Relations Date of Issue: 15 May 1987	163
87/183. Question No 1059/86 by Mr Balfe (S-UK) Concerning the Violation of Irish Air Space Date of Issue: 15 May 1987	164
87/184. Question No 1415/86 by Mr Schwalba-Hoth (ARC-D) Concerning Alleged Terrorist Risk to EUREKA Projects Date of Issue: 15 May 1987	164
87/185. Question No 2170/86 by Mr Beyer de Ryke (LDR-B) Concerning Violation of Human Rights in Bangladesh – European Community Stance on the Matter Date of Issue: 15 May 1987	165
87/186. Intervention dans le Conseil économique et social sur le point 17 de l'ordre du jour: Droits de l'homme Date of Issue: 18 May 1987	165
87/187. Memorandum on Action Taken in the Field of Human Rights Date of Issue: 25 May 1987	169
87/188. Declaration on South Africa Date of Issue: 25 May 1987	172
87/189. Common Statement on the Use of Chemical Weapons Date of Issue: 25 May 1987	172
87/190. Statement Concerning the Military Action in Mozambique on 28 May Date of Issue: 3 June 1987	173
87/191. Question No 1605/86 by Mr Hänsch (S-D) Concerning the Case of Aygun Yildizdogan, Prisoner of Conscience in Turkey Date of Issue: 4 June 1987	173
87/192. Question No 2324/86 by Mr Bonde (ARC-DK) Concerning Closer Cooperation Between the Larger Countries Within European Political Cooperation Date of Issue: 4 June 1987	174
87/193. Question No 2413/86 by Mr Mallet and Others (PPE-F) Concerning Enlargement of the WEU Date of Issue: 4 June 1987	174

87/194. Question No 2607/86 by Ms Piermont (ARC-D) Concerning a Threatened Hunger Strike by Three Victims of the 'Toxic Syndrome' of 1981 (Manuel Henares, Pilar Pans and Teresa Cejas) Date of Issue: 4 June 1987.....	175
87/195. Question No 2613/86 by Mr Seligman (ED-UK) Concerning Political Criteria in Sanctioning Coal Imports Date of Issue: 4 June 1987.....	175
87/196. Question No 2625-/86 by Mr Roelants du Vivier (ARC-B) Concerning Nuclear Missiles on the Antarctic Island Marion Date of Issue: 4 June 1987.....	175
87/197. Question No 2658/86 by Mr Perinat Elio (ED-E) Concerning Research into Security Carried out Jointly by the Member States Date of Issue: 4 June 1987.....	176
87/198. Question No 2768/86 by Ms Crawley (S-UK) Concerning Ireland Date of Issue: 4 June 1987.....	176
87/199. Question No 2811/86 by Mr Habsburg (PPE-D) Concerning the Reply to Written Question No 786/86 Date of Issue: 4 June 1987.....	177
87/200. Question No 2910/86 by Mr Boesmans (S-B) Concerning the Conference Between the Countries of the European Community, Central America and the Contadora Group, Held in Guatemala in February 1987 Date of Issue: 4 June 1987.....	177
87/201. Question No 2931/86 by Mr Zahorka (PPE-D) Concerning the Inhuman Conditions of Imprisonment for Foreigners, Including Europeans, Arrested in Zambia Date of Issue: 4 June 1987.....	178
87/202. Question No 3024/86 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E) Concerning Prisoners in Rwanda Date of Issue: 4 June 1987.....	178
87/203. Statement on the Tension Between India and Sri Lanka Date of Issue: 5 June 1987.....	179
87/204. Statement on East-West Relations, Released at the Venice Summit of Industrial Countries Date of Issue: 9 June 1987.....	179
87/205. Statement on Terrorism, Released at the Venice Summit of Industrialized Countries Date of Issue: 9 June 1987.....	180
87/206. Statement on the Iran-Iraq War and Freedom of Navigation in the Gulf, Released at the Venice Summit of Industrialized Countries Date of Issue: 9 June 1987.....	181
87/207. Question No 1115/86 by Mr Perinat Elio (ED-] Concerning the Release of the Cuban Writer Roberto Martín Pérez Date of Issue: 12 June 1987.....	181

Table of contents

87/208. Question No O-228/86 by Mr Poettering and Others on Initiatives Planned under the Belgian Presidency to Strengthen Community Cooperation on the Political and Economic Aspects of Security Pursuant to the Relevant provisions of the Single European Act Date of Issue: 16 June 1987.....	182
87/209. Statement by the President-in-Office on the Achievements of the Belgian Presidency Date of Issue: 16 June 1987.....	186
87/210. Question No H-890/86 by Mr Arbeloa Muru Concerning the US Veto in the UN of the Resolution on the Judgement of the International Court of Justice Calling for an End to Support for the Anti-Sandinista Guerillas Date of Issue: 17 June 1987.....	189
87/211. Question No H-984/86 by Mr Boesmans Concerning the Murder of Father Gillard Date of Issue: 17 June 1987.....	190
87/212. Question No H-55/87 by Mr Ephremidis Concerning Barbaric Acts Carried out Against the Kurds by Ankara Date of Issue: 17 June 1987.....	191
87/213. Question No H-54/87 by Mr Pearce Concerning Sanctions Against South Africa Date of Issue: 17 June 1987.....	192
87/214. Question No H-158/87 by Mr Seligman Concerning Disinvestment in the Republic of South Africa Date of Issue: 17 June 1987.....	192
87/215. Question No H-159/87 by Mr Ulburghs Concerning Relations Between Burundi and the Catholic Church Date of Issue: 17 June 1987.....	193
87/216. Question No H-185/87 by Mr Bonde Concerning Economic Threats to New Zealand Date of Issue: 17 June 1987.....	194
87/217. Question No H-182/87 by Sir Peter Vanneck Concerning the Protection of Navigation in International Waters Through the Gulf Date of Issue: 17 June 1987.....	194
87/218. Question No H-192/87 by Mr Iversen Concerning Arms Sales to South Africa by France and Italy Date of Issue: 17 June 1987.....	195
87/219. Question No H-203/87 by Ms Lizin Concerning a European Convention on Custody of Children Date of Issue: 17 June 1987.....	195
87/220. Question No H-205/87 by Mr Pranchère Concerning the Construction of a Sixth Wall by Morocco in the Western Sahara Date of Issue: 17 June 1987.....	196
87/221. Question No H-207/87 by Ms Dury Concerning the Release of Children Imprisoned in South Africa Date of Issue: 17 June 1987.....	197

87/222. Question No H-208/87 by Mr Wurtz Concerning the Visit by Mr Tindemans to Israeli-Held Territory Date of Issue: 17 June 1987.....	197
87/223. Question No H-277/87 by Mr Newton Dunn Concerning Religious Worship by German and Hungarian Minorities in Romania Date of Issue: 17 June 1987.....	198
87/224. Question No H-233/87 by Mr Tzounis Concerning the Exclusion from Turkish Ports of Vessels Flying the Cypriot Flag Date of Issue: 17 June 1987.....	198
87/225. Question No H-240/87 by Mr Cabezón Alonso Concerning the Restoration of Democracy in Paraguay Date of Issue: 17 June 1987.....	199
87/226. Question No H-241/87 by Mr Adamou Concerning Unlawful Sentences on Turkish Writers Date of Issue: 17 June 1987.....	199
87/227. Conclusions Adopted by the Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States Concerning the Relations with Latin America Date of Issue: 22 June 1987.....	200
87/228. Statement by Foreign Ministers on the Situation in Central America Date of Issue: 22 June 1987.....	202
87/229. Statement at the Occasion of the Fortieth Anniversary of the Marshall Plan Date of Issue: 23 June 1987.....	203
Index.....	205

85/343. Mémoire déposé à l'occasion des auditions publiques des Nations Unies sur les activités des sociétés transnationales en Afrique du Sud et en Namibie (16-20 septembre 1985)

Date of Issue: 16 September 1985
 Place of Issue: New York
 Country of Presidency: Luxembourg
 Source of Document: The Ten, Spain and Portugal
 Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

A plusieurs reprises, les Dix ont condamné avec force le système d'apartheid, ses pratiques et ses politiques et les souffrances humaines qu'il continue d'engendrer. Les Dix ont ainsi confirmé leur volonté de contribuer à une politique de nature à changer la situation existant en Afrique du Sud par des moyens pacifiques.

Dans leurs relations avec l'Afrique du Sud, les Dix appliquent rigoureusement les mesures à caractère obligatoire décidées par les Nations Unies, de même qu'ils ont décidé d'harmoniser leurs attitudes sur un nombre important de mesures substantielles.

Par ailleurs, et dès 1977, l'adoption du Code de conduite communautaire pour les sociétés ayant des filiales, succursales ou représentations en Afrique du Sud, la Communauté a témoigné de la volonté de traduire dans les faits ses principes et ses convictions.

Le Code indique en effet les objectifs et les moyens par lesquels les sociétés peuvent contribuer au processus d'abolition de l'apartheid. Deux objectifs parmi les plus importants consistent à promouvoir des améliorations substantielles dans les conditions de vie et de travail d'un nombre aussi large que possible de travailleurs africains et l'élimination de toute forme de discrimination raciale ou d'autres effets du système de l'apartheid au niveau de l'entreprise.

Le Code met un accent particulier sur les droits syndicaux, la formation et l'éducation.

Dans la mise en œuvre du Code, les sociétés ainsi que leurs filiales communiquent annuellement aux gouvernements des rapports détaillés sur les progrès réalisés, permettant aux autorités nationales d'évaluer les progrès réalisés dans l'exécution des dispositions du Code.

Malgré le rôle que le Code a d'ores et déjà joué dans la promotion de la condition sociale des travailleurs africains en matière de salaires, de relations interraciales, de formation et de déségrégation en général, les Ministres des Affaires étrangères des Dix viennent de décider en particulier, lors de leur réunion du 10 septembre 1985, de renforcer davantage les dispositions du Code et de procéder à une actualisation de ces dispositions, compte tenu de l'évolution de la législation sociale intervenue en Afrique du Sud depuis 1977.

Pour permettre aux participants à la présente audition d'évaluer la portée du Code européen, on trouvera en annexe à la présente, le texte du Code¹ ainsi que la 4^e analyse communautaire de sa mise en œuvre.

¹ See *Bull. EC* 9-1977, point 2.4.4. See also *EPC Bulletin*, Docs. 85/291 and 292.

87/001. Question No 2250/85 by Mr Glinne (S-B) Concerning the US-Zaire Plan for the Destabilization of Mozambique

Date of Issue: 15 January 1987
 Place of Issue: Strasbourg
 Country of Presidency: Belgium
 Source of Document: Presidency
 Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 11 December 1985

In its edition of 9 November 1985 the Belgian Socialist daily '*De Morgen*' revealed the curious terms (substantiated by a photocopy) of a discussion on the situation in Mozambique which took place on 31 January 1985 between the President of Zaire and Mr Frank Wisner, assistant to the American Under-Secretary of State for Africa, Mr Chester Crocker:

The American envoy pointed out that the political situation inside the country was extremely tense and likely to get worse. The regime of Samoro Machel had failed to solve the main problem, namely to crush the Mozambican National Resistance (RENAMO) or achieve reconciliation while, thanks to the support of South Africa, the resistance had stepped up military operations.

This is the text of a confidential note dated 4 February 1985 (No CNS/BCS/020/85) by the Special Adviser to the Head of State in the National Security Council of Zaire. The Special Adviser noted that the aim of the two negotiators in question was no less than the political elimination or tight control of Mr Samoro Machel and a realignment of Mozambique towards 'pro-Western' positions, with the support of RENAMO and South Africa and the active assistance of a 'pan-African force', financed by the United States, with assistance, in particular, from Morocco and Zaire.... The deployment of this international force close to the territory of Mozambique would reassure Mr Samoro Machel, or his replacement, as to the stability of the 'realigned' regime, thus clearly confirming the Nkomati agreement concluded in March 1984, while military cooperation between Mozambique and the Eastern European countries would peter out.

It should be noted that this confidential note was written after a visit by Mr Frank Wisner to Maputo (from 24 to 28 January 1985) during which a restricted accord on military cooperation was agreed between Washington and Mozambique, and well before the visit by President Machel to the United States in late September 1985 where he was personally received by President Reagan and Secretary of State George Shultz. Last week, at the General Assembly of the UN, Mozambique did not take part in the vote which, quite rightly, once again condemned the Soviet Union for its use of force against Afghanistan.

Would the Ministers state:

1. to what extent, in their view, the Republic of South Africa has observed the Nkomati agreement since March 1984, under the terms of which Pretoria was to refrain from any interference in the internal affairs of Mozambique;
2. to what extent, in their view, the Government of Mozambique, for its part, has respected the Nkomati agreement with regard to the presence and activity on its soil of exiles and opponents of the apartheid system, in particular the ANC;
3. if the Ministers are aware whether, in addition to the support of Pretoria and Washington, RENAMO has received assistance from one or more governments (or governmental departments) of the Member States of the EEC;
4. what military, financial, food and humanitarian aid the Government of Mozambique has received since 1984 from the Community, its Member States, the Lomé system or SADCC;
5. whether the Reagan Administration's double-dealing policy towards Mozambique, based on 'constructive engagement', and practised until recently towards Pretoria, is sanctioned by the Community and if not, with what policy stance and policy measures the Commission and the Member States are opposing it?

Answer:

In a statement published on 12 February 1985¹, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Ten affirmed the need for the Agreement between Mozambique and South Africa to be respected in full as part and parcel of the endeavours to increase security and stability in the region. They expressed their regret at the continued struggle in Mozambique and at the foreign interference which has prevented the country from profiting in both the economic area and in other areas from the advantages which should have resulted from the application of the agreements concluded. They expressly emphasized the fact that it was important for all governments to encourage peace and reconciliation in Mozambique and to prevent unauthorized deliveries of weapons.

The Ministers have no knowledge of military aid from one or more governments of Member States of the EEC. The other aspects of question 4 fall outside the sphere of political cooperation.

¹ See *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 85/015.

87/002. Question No 2252/85 by Mr Glinne (S-B) Concerning the Vote by the General Assembly of the United Nations on a New Resolution Condemning the Use of Force by the Soviet Union in Afghanistan

Date of Issue: 15 January 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 11 December 1985

On 13 November 1985, the United Nations General Assembly adopted by 122 votes in favour (three more than last year) a motion tabled by Pakistan with the support of 45 other delegations calling for a solution for Afghanistan based on the 'political independence and non-aligned status' of the country, self-determination for its people without foreign interference and the right of Afghan refugees to return to their country.

1. Did political cooperation between the Ten and the Twelve come into play and if so, how? Which way did each of the Twelve vote?

2. Is political cooperation working in support of a timetable for rapid withdrawal of the Soviet occupying forces, respect for the territorial integrity of Pakistan and genuine self-determination for the Afghan people? How was political cooperation encouraged, and does it intend to encourage, indirect talks between Pakistan and the puppet regime in Kabul, with the United Nations as intermediary, on genuine self-determination for the Afghan people and the possible recognition of a representative body of the Afghan resistance?

3. What is the size, nature and level of political, trade and cultural representation in Kabul of each of the Ten and the Twelve in view of the non-representative and illegitimate nature of the authorities to which they have been accredited?

Answer:

1. On 13 November 1985, during its fortieth session, the United Nations General Assembly approved the resolution on Afghanistan with 122 votes in favour (including the Twelve), 19 against, 12 abstentions and 5 absent.

2. The Member States of the European Communities have on several occasions, in joint declarations and in the United Nations, pronounced themselves in favour of the establishment of the sovereignty of the Afghan people over its own territory, of its independence and of its liberty.

They support efforts to reach an agreement on a timetable for withdrawal of the Soviet occupation forces, within the framework of a political settlement, in conformity with the principles embodied in the resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly.

For these reasons they support the good offices mission undertaken by the representative of the United Nations Secretary-General.

3. Although they do not recognize Mr Kabral's regime, the level of representation in Kabul of four Member States, namely the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Italy and the United Kingdom, has been reduced to that of *chargé d'affaires*; the representatives concerned maintain only strictly limited relations with the Kabul regime.

87/003. Question No 2489/85 by Mr Glinne (S-B) Concerning the World Medical Association and Apartheid

Date of Issue: 15 January 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 21 January 1986

The official purpose of the World Medical Association (WMA), which was set up in 1948, is to bring together the representative bodies of the medical profession throughout the world in order to define positions for the profession on ethical, medical and social matters. The supreme body of the WMA is made up of one delegate per 50 000 doctors represented on a regional basis: South-East Asia, Asia, South America, North America, Africa and Europe. The groupings of Eastern bloc countries are admitted only with observer status.

In 1976 the South African delegation (MASA) left the WMA because the latter was tending to adopt an attitude opposed to apartheid under the influence, in particular, of Third World countries. The MASA was supported by the AMA (American Medical Association), which resigned from the WMA, apparently for the same reasons.

Under the presidency of Doctor Wynen, the main representative of the professional organizations of Belgian doctors, the WMA took various steps to enable the MASA to rejoin, in particular by laying down a new system of weighted voting within the WMA which makes it possible for South Africa to represent alone all Africa for two years out of six on the decision-making body. This modification to the statutes and the readmission of the MASA to the WMA have resulted in a large number of resignations, particularly those of the medical associations of the Nordic countries, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the majority of African States. This forced readmission was also behind the decision of the World Health Organization (WHO) to withdraw the status of consultant member in February 1982 from the World Medical Association for having collaborated with South African medical authorities which not only work within the framework of South Africa's racist institutions without ever making the slightest criticism or attack but also collaborate medically in the oppression of the black population. For example, the MASA was publicly compromised in the death of the political prisoner Steve Biko. The doctors in question were never reprimanded by the South African Medical and Dental Service (SAMDS), which claims that doctors are not required to respect the professional code of ethics when dealing with patients in detention.

These statements repeated by the MASA are a flagrant breach of the Tokyo Declaration on the rights of detainees, which was, however, approved by the World Medical Association of which the MASA is a member.

Disregarding the recommendations of the United Nations aimed at isolating the apartheid regime and its institutions, the WMA decided to hold its 37th World Assembly in Cape Town. It was planned that the assembly would be opened by the South African State President, P.W. Botha, and that government subsidies would be granted to the WMA. Under the pressure of events and in the light of the reactions of the associations belonging to the WMA, this assembly was finally held in Brussels from 21 to 24 October 1985.

I would therefore ask the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation to answer the following questions:

1. Is the latest list of restrictive measures drawn up by the Foreign Ministers of the Community — with the support of their Portuguese and Spanish colleagues — and presented in September during the part-session of the European Parliament in Strasbourg, and containing the following specific item:

cultural and scientific agreements to be discouraged except where they are of such a nature as to help eliminate apartheid or do not have the effect of supporting it,

applicable to the WMA and has the president of the latter body, the Belgian Dr Farber, been notified of this?

In particular, does it apply to agreements such as the Belgian-South African medical agreement relating to the mutual admission of doctors to medical practice (which entered into force on 8 August 1970)?

2. Would it not be appropriate to inform the representatives of the WMA from member countries of the Community and its president of the opposition of European political cooperation to the existence of the World Medical Association on account of its attitudes of collaboration with the apartheid regime in South Africa?

3. Should not action be taken to prohibit the holding of further WMA world assemblies on the territory of the Member States of the Community as long as the MASA is a number of this association and remains active in the Bantustans?

4. Would it not be appropriate to take steps to ensure that the National Committee of Health Organizations in South Africa which is opposed to apartheid takes MASA's place in the WMA?

5. Is it not appropriate to support the international sanction taken virtually unanimously by the WHO in February 1982 against the WMA?

Answer:

On 10 September 1985 the Twelve decided to harmonize as far as possible their policies towards South Africa. They agreed on a package of measures which included the commitment to discourage cultural and scientific agreements with South Africa, except when these contribute to bringing an end to apartheid or lend absolutely no support to apartheid. However the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Twelve have not discussed the agreement, cited in question 1, between Belgium and South Africa nor the various steps suggested *vis-à-vis* the World Medical Association.

**87/004. Question No 2497/85 by Mr Wijsenbeek (LDR-NL)
Concerning the European Judicial Area and Extradition Procedures**

Date of Issue: 15 January 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 21 January 1986

Is the Council aware that the French Republic is refusing to extradite the kidnapers of Mr Heineken and Mr Doderer on the grounds cited by The Netherlands?

The kidnapers in question have been released, thus offending the European citizen's sense of justice.

Can the Council say in this context what progress has been made with establishing a European judicial area?

Answer:

The specific subject raised by the Honourable Member does not fall within the scope of European political cooperation as it relates to bilateral relations between two of the partners. The Honourable Member should, however, be aware that it is inaccurate to state that France is refusing to extradite those concerned: in fact The Netherlands has withdrawn its request for their extradition. Work currently under way in the framework of judicial cooperation in criminal matters has already led to a draft agreement on the transfer of detained persons and is continuing with a view to the conclusion of a convention on the application of the *non bis in idem* rule. The problem of relations between Member States as regards extradition also features on the agenda of these discussions, with the European Convention on Extradition serving as a starting point.

87/005. Question No 2735/85 by Ms Lizin (S-B) Concerning the Concerted Community Approach at the United Nations on Human Rights in Chile

Date of Issue: 15 January 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 10 February 1986

Will the Ministers meeting in political cooperation indicate what positions they have jointly adopted on the question of human rights in Chile, in preparation for the meeting of the United Nations General Assembly?

Answer:

At the fortieth General Assembly of the United Nations the Member States of the European Community adopted a common stance regarding the question of human rights in Chile on three separate occasions.

– The speech delivered by the Presidency on 24 September 1985¹ before the Plenary Assembly clearly indicated that the Member States of the European Community welcomed the fact that a national agreement for the transition to democracy had been concluded by representatives of a wide range of public opinion in Chile and that a new appeal to the Chilean authorities to respect the aspirations of the Chilean people and [to] cease blocking the re-establishment of democracy had thus been launched.

– Furthermore, in his speech on 26 November 1985 relating to point 12 on the agenda (the ECOSOC report)², the representative of the Presidency on the third Committee referred at length to Chile and in particular to the human rights situation in that country. He said, in substance, that Chile unfortunately remained one of the few countries in the region where the legitimate aspirations of the people were still being suppressed. Although the Ten, Spain and Portugal viewed as a positive development the fact that the Chilean Government had recognized the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for the first time and had granted him assistance in carrying out his task, it was nonetheless regretted that the grave human rights situation had not improved. The decision taken on 17 June 1985 to lift the state of siege had been immediately offset by the proclamation of a state of emergency on the same day, which not only allowed the continued covering up of serious and systematic violations of human rights and other repressive and arbitrary activities, but also imposed considerable restrictions on the normal functioning of the judicial system and guaranteed impunity for those responsible for such violations. However, there were encouraging signs that some members of the judiciary were now prepared to act with a certain degree of independence. The Ten, Spain and Portugal shared the rapporteur's belief that efforts by the Chilean Government to reduce the number of refugees were insufficient. They were concerned by information recounting the use of torture and other forms of cruelty, arbitrary arrests, persecution and house arrests without trial. 1985 had seen the brutal repression of popular protests and demonstrations in support of human rights and the restoration of democracy. In the absence of dialogue with the country's democratic opposition such demonstrations remained one of the only available means of ensuring a regime which for twelve years had banned the exercise of democratic freedoms.

– The representative of the Presidency added that the Ten, Spain and Portugal hoped that the Chilean Government would again cooperate with the special rapporteur, in particular when he next visited the country; they renewed their appeal to the Chilean authorities swiftly to take decisions leading to the re-establishment of the democratic order which had for so long prevailed in Chile, with its guarantees to citizens of the full enjoyment of all of their rights.

– Finally, all parties voted in favour of Resolution No 40/145 concerning the human rights situation in Chile. The Resolution was adopted by the Plenary Assembly on 13 December 1985.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 85/189.

² *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 85/300.

87/006. Question No 2917/85 by Ms Castle (S-UK) Concerning Investment in South Africa

Date of Issue: 15 January 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 5 March 1986

In view of the Council decision in Luxembourg on 10 September 1985, leading to harmonization of attitudes towards a series of restrictive measures aimed at South Africa, will the Council ask the Commission to undertake the necessary studies on the effect of EEC disinvestment in South Africa and the effects of banning imports into the EEC from South Africa?

Answer:

In their declaration of 10 September 1985¹ in which the package of restrictive and positive measures *vis-à-vis* South Africa was announced, the Twelve stated *inter alia* that they may have to re-examine their attitude on South Africa in the absence of progress in the abolition of apartheid within a reasonable period and that the question of further measures, including sanctions, remains. The Twelve therefore continue to monitor the situation in South Africa closely and have, since September 1985, discussed developments in South Africa in detail on various occasions.

Decisions on the withdrawal of investments in South Africa by EC Member States or on the ban of imports from South Africa into the EEC have not been taken jointly by the Twelve, nor are preparatory studies envisaged at this stage.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 85/172.

87/007. Question No 57/86 by Mr Glinne (S-B) Concerning the State Terrorism Practised by Libya

Date of Issue: 15 January 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 10 April 1986

According to a dispatch from Tripoli, quoted in the daily bulletin '*Agence Europe*' of 8 March 1986,

the General Congress of the Libyan People has decided to create 'suicide squads' to strike at US and Zionist interest everywhere, and has launched an appeal for the opening of 'Military training camps ... for all our Arab brothers'.

I should like to know whether the Ministers meeting in political cooperation are taking measures to project, persuade and reiterate against such a threat, which is clearly incompatible with international law. In particular, cannot the Twelve refer the matter to the United Nations Security Council, and immediately review the level of their diplomatic representation in Tripoli? The declared aim of organizing violent attacks 'everywhere', thus also on the territory of the Community Member States, surely provides sufficient grounds for reviewing the nature and indeed the presence of our countries' diplomatic representation in Tripoli, since the threat of direct armed action comes on top of the programme of destabilization operated by the Ghadafi regime in Chad and several African States.

Answer:

On 27 January 1986¹ the Twelve condemned statements emanating from any quarter expressing support for terrorist attacks and made it known that States which favoured or protected terrorists could not

expect to have normal relations with the Twelve. The Twelve also announced on that date that they had increased their security arrangements and cooperation to prevent further terrorist acts. They have since intensified security at airports, ports and railway stations, and control by Member States of persons entering or leaving the Community and circulating in it, strengthened visa policies and taken measures to prevent abuse of diplomatic immunity.

On 27 January they also decided not to export arms or other military equipment to countries which were clearly implicated in supporting terrorism, to take measures to prevent these from being diverted for terrorist purposes and to do everything within their power to ensure that their nationals and industry did not seek any commercial advantage from measures taken in reaction to terrorist attacks and other terrorist activities.

On 14 April 1986², after it had become clear that Libya was implicated in recent terrorist attacks, the Twelve rejected the unacceptable threats made by Libyan leaders against Member States, which threats deliberately encouraged recourse to acts of violence and directly threatened Europe. They made it clear that any action of that sort would meet with a vigorous and appropriate response on the part of the Twelve. They decided to reduce to a minimum the number of Libyan diplomatic and consular personnel in the twelve countries, to restrict the freedom of movement of the remainder to their place of residence and to require them to submit a request for authorization to move outside that place. Furthermore, they decided to apply visa procedures to Libyan nationals in a strict manner and not to admit to their countries Libyans expelled by a partner because of involvement in international terrorism. The Twelve also agreed to study whether their respective diplomatic representations in Libya could be reduced; several partners have in the meantime already reduced the size of Libyan missions. They are also studying whether non-diplomatic and consular Libyan representations in the twelve countries can be reduced in size and whether abuse of diplomatic immunities and privileges can be prevented by introducing stricter control over their use in accordance with international agreements.

In answer to the specific question asked by the Honourable Member, the Twelve would point out that the United Nations Security Council is in fact considering this crisis. The Twelve will continue to follow closely future developments in relation to this matter, including those at the United Nations.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 86/061.

² *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 86/119.

87/008. Question No 296/86 by Mr Glinne (S-B) Concerning the Appeal by the Polish Dissident Adam Michnik for Non-Racialist Democracy in South Africa

Date of Issue: 15 January 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 13 May 1986

In August 1985, the writer Adam Michnik secretly sent from the prison in Barczewo where he was undergoing three years' detention a brief letter to the South African bishop and Nobel prize winner Desmond Tutu condemning dictatorships, which had replaced the power of argument by arguments of power, martial law and states of emergency which were sterile and empty arguments directed against the green tree of life.

Were the Ministers informed of this denunciation of apartheid and all dictatorships? What was its precise and complete wording?

What conclusions do they draw from this expression of solidarity?

Answer:

The Ministers have not been informed about the letter by Mr Michnik to Bishop Tutu and are not in a position to provide details concerning the letter.

**87/009. Question No 300/86 by Ms De Backer-Van Ocken (PPE-B)
Concerning Undertakings with Branches in South Africa**

Date of Issue: 15 January 1987
Place of Issue: Strasbourg
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Source of Document: Presidency
Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 13 May 1986

In mid-November 1985 the code of practice for Community firms with subsidiaries, branches or representations in South Africa was reinforced and extended. Among other things, further directives are planned for the enhancement of company reporting.

Can the Ministers indicate what progress has been made concerning these further directives and are they prepared to submit them to Parliament as soon as possible after their drafting?

Answer:

A common European reporting format on the EC-Code for EC companies with subsidiaries, branches or representations in South Africa was agreed by the Twelve on 13 June 1986¹. It will be forwarded to the European Parliament shortly.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 86/175.

**87/010. Question No 1118/86 by Mr McGowan (S-UK) Concerning
the Economic Threat Posed to the EEC by the Activities of the US
Communications Base at Menwith Hill**

Date of Issue: 15 January 1987
Place of Issue: Strasbourg
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Source of Document: Presidency
Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 2 September 1986

1. Is the Council aware that the US communications base at Menwith Hill monitors continental calls between the UK Government local authorities and MEPs and EEC institutions in Brussels, Strasbourg and Luxembourg?

2. Has the Council undertaken any research into the economic impact of such activities upon the EEC and its Member States?

3. Has the Council considered that the economic health of the European Community can be undermined by the ability of the United States to monitor commercial information concerning loans to private and public bodies from the European Investment Bank?

4. Is the Council aware that there is genuine concern within the EEC that such activities give the United States the advantage in [the] trade war which currently exists between the EEC and the United States?

5. Has the Council considered that this situation contributes to the significant loss of jobs and relative industrial decline experienced throughout the Community?

6. Is the Council aware that there is also deep concern amongst British companies about the implications of confidential information getting into foreign hands?

7. Has the Council considered the significance of the communications monitoring pursued by the United States in relation to US trade competition and the activities of various multi-nationals?

Answer:

The issues referred to are not discussed within European political cooperation.

87/011. Question No 1223/86 by Ms Lizin (S-B) Concerning the Election of Kurt Waldheim

Date of Issue: 15 January 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 2 September 1986

Will the Council provide precise details of the official standpoints adopted on behalf of the Twelve following Mr Waldheim's inauguration?

Answer:

The Twelve have not adopted an official position on the issue raised by the Honourable Member.

87/012. Question No 1329/86 by Ms Crawley (S-UK) Concerning 1619 Missing Greek Cypriots

Date of Issue: 15 January 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 3 September 1986

Would the Foreign Ministers take up, as a matter of urgency, with the relevant governments, the fate of the 1 619 Greek Cypriot civilians and soldiers still missing as a result of the 1974 Turkish invasion of Cyprus?

Answer:

The Foreign Ministers of Community Member States have expressed their concern in public declarations about the fate of missing persons in Cyprus. Ministers have supported and have confidence in the efforts of the Committee on Missing Persons, which was set up by the United Nations in 1981, with the agreement of the two communities in Cyprus. The Twelve are ready to give further support, if requested to do so, to the Committee's efforts to help resolve this tragic problem.

87/013. Question No 1576/86 by Mr Christensen (ARC-DK) Concerning Military Cooperation and Military Technology in EPC

Date of Issue: 15 January 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 17 October 1986

Will military experts and/or experts in military technology be attached to the future EPC Secretariat?

Explanatory remark:

Under the draft treaty on EPC, defence policy and military cooperation are to be excluded from EPC, which is solely concerned with foreign and security policy. Would the Foreign Ministers therefore confirm that no military experts will be attached to the Secretariat?

Answer:

The Honourable Member may be referred to the answer given to the Oral Question H-341/86¹ tabled by Sir Peter Vanneck on the Secretariat for European political cooperation. In addition to its Head the

Secretariat will consist of five officials seconded from Foreign Ministers and additional support staff. No military experts will be attached.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 86/387.

87/014. Question No 1661/86 by Ms André (LDR-B) Concerning Terrorism, the EEC and WEU

Date of Issue: 15 January 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 22 October 1986

Terrorism has declared open war on our Western society, directly threatens its democratic stability and is spreading fear and panic among the public.

Do the Foreign Ministers intend to set up a European anti-terrorist programme in conjunction with the Western European Union, the only European institution empowered to deal with defence matters?

Answer:

Much work is in hand on terrorism both in TREVI and, for foreign affairs aspects, in political cooperation. The Honourable Member will recall the conclusions reached by the TREVI meeting on 25 September. Widening the scope of cooperation is of course important for achieving the broadest possible European response to terrorism. All WEU members are members of the Twelve who are in close touch with other European countries meeting in such fora as the Council of Europe. In view of this existing programme, the Twelve have no intention of proposing new machinery.

87/015. Question No 824/86 by Mr Balfe (S-UK) Concerning the Launch of Recent South African Attacks on Neighbouring States from Illegally Occupied Namibian Territory

Date of Issue: 16 January 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 10 July 1986

Are the Ministers aware that recent South African attacks on Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe were launched from illegally occupied Namibian territory and have they made any representations, either jointly or singly, about this issue? If the answer is yes, can they give details?

Answer:

The Twelve have made clear their total opposition to South African attacks on neighbouring countries – specifically in the declarations issued on 22 May and 17 October¹. They condemn South Africa's illegal occupation of Namibia and regret the stalemate in efforts aimed at securing its independence within the framework of the United Nations independence plan for Namibia.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Docs. 86/153 and 86/303.

87/016. Question No 1116/86 by Mr Perinat Elio (ED-E) Concerning the Indefinite Closure of the 'La Prensa de Nicaragua' Newspaper

Date of Issue: 16 January 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 2 September 1986

The Sandinista Government recently tightened its grip [...] on the Nicaraguan people in its continuing bid gradually to reduce their freedom by ordering the closure of the *La Prensa de Nicaragua* newspaper, the one remaining opposition newspaper in that country, for an indefinite period.

In view of this attack on the freedom of the press in Nicaragua, the pace at which the Sandinista Government is leading that country towards a hard-line left-wing dictatorship, with all the difficulties of a constant violation of human rights in which such dictatorships are known to engage, continues to give cause for concern.

Do the Ministers therefore consider it desirable to express their protest and concern, both at this undemocratic closure of *La Prensa* for an indefinite period and at the substantial restriction of the Nicaraguan people's freedom by the Sandinista Government?

Answer:

The Twelve have repeatedly made clear their view that lasting peace in Central America must be based on democracy and full respect for human rights throughout the region. Freedom of the press is clearly of great importance if genuine democracy is to flourish.

The Twelve see the ministerial meeting with the Central American and Contadora Group countries due to be held in Guatemala in February 1987 as an opportunity to reaffirm the importance which the Twelve attach to the above principles being observed.

87/017. Question No 1735/86 by Mr Glinne (S-B) Concerning Maltese Territorial Waters

Date of Issue: 16 January 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 30 October 1986

For a number of years, Colonel Ghadafi's regime courted Malta's socialist government, in particular by granting considerable economic aid. Malta 'reciprocated', without appreciably departing from its declared policy of non-alignment, by authorizing the installation of Libyan transmitter stations on its territory until an infuriated Colonel Ghadafi opposed the Maltese Government's plans to explore the continental shelf surrounding Malta with a view to exploiting any oil deposits. At the time, Prime Minister Dom Mintoff publicly censured the Libyan leader for his arrogance, suspended the radio broadcasting licences and petitioned the International Court of Justice in The Hague to confirm the limits of Maltese territorial waters.

Without anticipating the Court's judgment, what is the current position of the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation and of the Member States, as regards observance of Maltese territorial waters?

Answer:

The issue referred to by the Honourable Member of Parliament has not been discussed within European political cooperation.

87/018. Question No 1841/86 by Mr Antony (DR-F) Concerning EEC Financial Aid to Angola

Date of Issue: 16 January 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 7 November 1986

Under Lomé III the EEC will provide Angola with 95 million ECU in aid from the 6th EDF to finance food self-sufficiency programmes.

Furthermore the EIB may offer loans of about 10 million ECU to finance productive investment programmes.

As the Soviet-Cuban troops are still occupying Angola, can the Foreign Ministers state whether this finance is not helping support an oppressive government?

Answer:

The Twelve believe that a final and lasting resolution of the problems of Southern Africa would be greatly facilitated by the withdrawal of foreign troops from the countries of the region. This does not, however, affect the EC's commitment to provide financial assistance to Angola under the terms of Lomé III.

87/019. Question No 815/86 by Mr Schwalba-Hoth (ARC-D) Concerning the Supply of Technical Components for the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Station by Undertakings in the EEC

Date of Issue: 19 January 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 4 July 1986

The explosion in the fourth block of the Chernobyl nuclear power station has resulted, among other things, in statements by the European Parliament, the Commission and the Council of Ministers; the possibility of defective technical equipment in the Soviet reactor was among the issues discussed.

Can the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation say:

1. which undertakings from EEC Member States were involved in supplying components for the Chernobyl nuclear power station;
2. which other Soviet nuclear power stations have been provided with Western monitoring, testing and alarm equipment;
3. how they assess the effectiveness of the monitoring, testing and alarm equipment manufactured by Western firms in the explosion at Chernobyl on 26 April 1986;
4. what conclusions they draw for the safe running of Western nuclear power stations from the effectiveness of the Western monitoring, testing and alarm equipment employed at Chernobyl?

Answer:

The issues raised by the Honourable Member of Parliament have not been discussed in European political cooperation.

87/020. Question No 1123/86 by Ms Lizin (S-B) Concerning Europe's Position on South Africa

Date of Issue: 19 January 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 2 September 1986

Following the summit in The Hague, can the Council explain why its position on South Africa does not go as far as the recommendation of the Commonwealth Eminent Person's Group which regarded sanctions as the only means of exerting pressure?

Does the Council not consider that the visit by Sir Geoffrey Howe, the British Foreign Secretary, is utterly pointless judging by the reactions of the black South African leaders and Bishop Desmond Tutu? Would it not be more appropriate to cancel this visit and immediately call a meeting of the European Foreign Ministers with a view to emergency measures?

Finally, is it not possible for Europe to take measures which would affect those sections of the South African population most opposed to the abolition of apartheid, e.g. in the agricultural sector?

Although agricultural exports may be of little significance in the economy of the country, it is, nevertheless, those sections of the population whose income is primarily dependent on agriculture who are in favour of maintaining the harshest form of apartheid.

Answer:

The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given to Oral Question No 284 tabled by Ms Castle¹.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 86/386.

87/021. Question No 1516/86 by Ms Lizin (S-B), Ms Marinaro (COM-I) and Mr De Pasquale (COM-I) Concerning the Appointment of a Member of the P2 Lodge as Spokesman of the Belgian Foreign Ministry

Date of Issue: 19 January 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 1 October 1986

According to reports in the Belgian press, it has been established from documents currently available that the person who has been appointed Belgian Foreign Ministry spokesman has been a member of the P2 lodge.

In view of the fact that Belgium will be holding the Community Presidency in 1987 and in view of the Belgian Foreign Ministry spokesman's membership of [the] P2 lodge, do the Ministers meeting in political cooperation intend to let this person act as spokesman on their behalf and in any other Community connection?

Answer:

The matter referred to by the Honourable Members falls outside the scope of European political cooperation.

87/022. Question No 1591/86 by Mr McGowan (S-UK) Concerning Human Rights and Prisoners of Conscience Within the EEC

Date of Issue: 19 January 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 17 October 1986

1. Has the Council conducted any research into the treatment of conscientious objectors within those Member States which have a system of compulsory military service?

2. In particular, has the Council considered the situation in Greece of Jehovah's Witnesses who refuse to do military service? Is the Council able to confirm that there is, as I understand from members of my Leeds constituency, no alternative to imprisonment for those Greek citizens who refuse to do military service?

3. Has the Council any information concerning two specific cases which have been brought to my attention by Leeds members of Amnesty International, namely those of Timothy Naides (whom I understand to be imprisoned in Athens) and Sotiros Panos? I understand from my constituents that both Timothy Naides and Sotiros Panos are Jehovah's Witnesses who have been imprisoned by the Greek authorities for their refusal to do military service.

4. I also understand that Greek prisoners of conscience who have been imprisoned for such a refusal are, on their release, excluded from certain areas of employment and disenfranchised. (I appreciate that the latter point has no relevance to the particular case of Jehovah's Witnesses). Is the Council able to clarify this situation?

5. Has the Council considered the implications of such a situation for the human rights of the citizens of the EEC?

Answer:

The issues raised do not fall within the scope of European political cooperation.

87/023. Question No 1714/86 by Mr Kolokotronis (S-GR) Concerning the Violation of Human Rights on the Islands of Imvros and Tenedos

Date of Issue: 19 January 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 30 October 1986

In their written reply concerning the regime imposed by Turkey on the Aegean islands of Imvros and Tenedos, the Foreign Ministers of the Community Member States stress that this subject has not been discussed in the context of European political cooperation¹.

On the islands of Imvros and Tenedos, which were ceded to Turkey under the Treaty of Lausanne (1922/1923) with an entirely Greek population, the Turkish State implemented a policy for a number of years, which it continues to pursue, in flagrant violation of the Convention (Declaration) on Human Rights and the Treaty of Lausanne (articles 38-44), abolishing the teaching of Greek, seizing schools, destroying orthodox churches, forcibly expropriating and dispossessing the population of land and property, making unlawful arrests and committing rape with the result that the Greek inhabitants of the islands are in a state of subjugation.

What action will the Council take in view of the violation of human rights and basic principles of individual freedom on the territory of a country that wishes to be associated with the Community?

Answer:

The Twelve continue to monitor the human rights situation in Turkey. Member countries raise their concerns as appropriate. Further improvements on human rights are an essential part of the further normalization of EC-Turkey relations.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 86/256.

87/024. Question No 1865/86 by Mr Vanlerenberghe, Mr Abelin and Ms Fontaine (PPE-F) Concerning Redundancies at 'La Prensa' Owing to Lack of Financial Support

Date of Issue: 19 January 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 13 November 1986

Violetta Chamorro, the manager of *La Prensa*, which is currently under suspension by the Sandinista authorities, has just announced that half the staff are to be made redundant owing to lack of subsidies.

Do the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation not consider that the Twelve ought to help *La Prensa* in its present difficulties, since otherwise the last voice of the free press in Nicaragua may very well be silenced?

Answer:

The Honourable Members are referred to the answer to Written Question No 1116/86¹.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 87/016.

87/025. Statement by the President-in-Office of the Council on the Work-Programme of the Belgian Presidency (Abstracts¹)

Date of Issue: 22 January 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Programme Speech to European Parliament

Mr Tindemans, President-in-Office of the Council and of the Foreign Ministers: Mr President, [...] chance has decreed that it falls to the Belgian Presidency to oversee the start of the implementation of the provisions of the Single Act. There have been some difficulties over ratification of the Act in various Member States, and this gives me additional reason to believe that these provisions are perhaps not as insignificant as some of the detractors would have had us believe. The Act comes into force shortly, and I mean to ensure that the new provisions it introduces, both for the Community and for political cooperation are applied, not overzealously but not laxly either.[...]

In the area of political cooperation, the main innovation in the Single Act is the creation of a secretariat. It is already operational, in the building in Brussels which houses the Council's Secretariat. A meeting of the Political Committee and several working group meetings have already been held on its premises. I have every confidence that the head of this Secretariat, the Italian diplomat Mr Jannuzzi, will lead his team with tact and efficiency.

The Belgian Presidency will be trying to make the best use of this new instrument. The Secretariat has only a small staff, and that is as it should be. Political cooperation has no need of a large bureaucracy, but I trust that the great symbolic value of this move will not be lost on Parliament. In working on the gradual

development of a European foreign policy, as the Single Act enjoins us to do, successive Presidencies of political cooperation will henceforward be able to call upon the assistance of a European team. We have not seen many examples of this kind of initiative in a sphere such as foreign policy, which has traditionally been dominated by susceptibilities never far from the surface.

Mr President, I do not for the moment want to list the Community activities in which we hope to make progress in the coming months. You will find them in the annex to my statement, which I am having distributed. But I should like to establish a few priorities.[...]

These meetings will be taking place against the background of the difficult problems in our trade relations with the United States and Japan. Neither the European countries nor the United States have anything to gain from a trade war. The two sides' political and strategic interests are so interwoven that both would be bound to emerge as losers from such a confrontation.

On both sides of the Atlantic, we must find the breadth of vision to encompass all aspects of the situation. The Commission has the task of seeing this dossier through to a satisfactory conclusion. I for my part shall be trying, in my contacts with the American authorities, and in particular my meeting a fortnight hence with Secretary of State Shultz, to stress the need to establish a level of mutual understanding in the economic sphere appropriate to our relations in the political sphere.

The British Presidency made serious efforts to bring home the realities of the situation in Europe clearly to the Americans. For the first time, last December, the Troika of Heads of Political Departments visited Washington for detailed discussions with the United States Administration. Mr Shultz has told me that he appreciated this initiative. I shall be looking to maintain very regular contact with the United States at all levels. With the continuing development of our political cooperation, there is a higher risk of misunderstanding or a lack of understanding, and regular contact carried on in a spirit of mutual confidence is the only way to guard against it.

A similar situation arises in our relations with Japan. The climate of our trade relations is frankly bad. The Community's over-all deficit with Japan is not only disturbing, it is unacceptable in that, despite perceptible efforts on the Japanese Government's part, it still rests on persistent protectionist practices. Wines and spirits are an acknowledged example. And yet, here again, political interest should motivate us to find mutually satisfactory solutions.

Japan, on the other side of the globe, is in a position presenting a number of similarities to our own. It is a strong economic power, and yet depends ultimately on the United States for its security. It has the Soviet Union for a neighbour, and has to work out a way of getting on peacefully with that military superpower without being dominated by it. These similarities are naturally prompting growing interest in exchanges of political views with Europe. I was aware of this interest during my conversations last month with Mr Kuramari, and the Belgian Presidency is going to try to respond. The Troika of Heads of Political Departments will therefore visit Japan in April to set out the European countries' joint position once again. There will also be ministerial contacts, on the fringes of the OECD meeting in May, before meeting once again at the Venice summit of the industrialized countries in June.

Nevertheless, this intensification of political relations, however desirable in itself, cannot prosper for long in a context of poor economic and trade relations.

When the President-in-Office sets out his programme before the European Parliament, he is well advised to treat the subject of political cooperation with especial caution. In practice, activity on this front tends quite naturally to concentrate on the most pressing problems in international affairs, which generally arrive without advance warning. When I addressed this Assembly in January 1982, I could not have known that Argentina was going to occupy the Falklands in April and Israel would be invading Lebanon in June, and yet those two events had a profound impact at the time of that Presidency. Subject to these considerations, then, I should like to tell you how the Presidency currently sees developments and concerns in these beginnings of a European foreign policy that we are gradually trying to set up.

The calendar shows that the first important date is only a few days away: this is the meeting in Guatemala City of the third ministerial conference between the Community and the Central American and Contadora States. I am deeply conscious of the appeal addressed to us by this beleaguered region, where I have many friends. An appeal for economic aid to which the Community will try to respond to the full extent permitted by budgetary constraints. An appeal for political support to which our European

countries must respond, despite the heightened tension locally, by backing regional solutions, non-intervention, peaceful settlement of disputes, and pluralistic democracy. Is this not precisely the lesson to be learnt from the history of our own Community? It will come as no surprise to you that we are also going to support the creation of a Central American parliament, which would be an expression of the genuine will for democracy that we find in the great majority of people in the region and would become the second directly elected international parliament, after your own.

South Africa, an ever-present issue during recent Presidencies, remains in the forefront of our minds. I hope to be able to mount Community initiatives which will help to bring about the abolition of apartheid, respect for human rights and conditions under which the peoples of South Africa will be able to live alongside one another in peace. Renewed dialogue with the front-line States will doubtless be a first step along this difficult path.

In the Middle East, the prospects look bleak. There is no sign at all of an end to the appalling carnage of the Iran-Iraq war or the interminable agony of Lebanon, or of a solution to the Palestinian problem. Even so, Europe's concern for this region must be demonstrated, and this the Belgian Presidency will endeavour to do. In particular, I would like to see a revival of the Euro-Arab dialogue, which has lain dormant for several years.

I also hope to be able to take account during our term of the new and somewhat belated interest that Eastern Europe is showing in the Community's development.

This statement of the issues concerning us would, alas, be incomplete were I to fail to mention action to combat terrorism. Over the past year the Twelve have greatly stepped up their joint efforts in this direction. The Justice and Interior Ministers have been meeting with increasing frequency, under the auspices of the TREVI Group. Efforts to coordinate our activities in this field are going forward in a political cooperation working party. And many countries outside the Community are now seeking contact with the Twelve with a view to harmonizing their position on measures to combat terrorism with ours. Belgium will be carrying on the work.

On a more general plane, the Belgian Presidency, in line both with consistent past practice and with the terms of the Single Act, will be making pragmatic efforts to develop the potential for political cooperation, in which the economic and political aspects of security will be included.

On this latter aspect, we shall treat with respect the political sensitivities which restrict the scope for working together.

These are the ambitions that we have set ourselves. In the course of the campaign for European development, I have attended many presentations of programmes by one President-in-Office after another, and some of them have given rise to acrobatic performances of a kind that I do not propose to indulge in. There have been Presidencies which started with the announcement of ambitious and very crowded programmes, enough to satisfy the most demanding and idealistic European. The mood at the outset was accordingly euphoric. Then, with the passage of the weeks and months, euphoria gave way to disappointment. In such circumstances, the President-in-Office is put in the position of having to explain why his promising programme has not borne fruit. The reasons are invariably many and complex. Current circumstances have not been conducive to outstanding performances. And yet the speaker generally manages to wind up by concluding that, although nothing or virtually nothing of what was planned has been achieved, the Presidency has not been such a bad one, even rather good. Do not look to me to engage in an exercise of this kind.

I have told you of our objectives. They are legitimate objectives, not all of them attainable in six months, but I do expect to make some progress along various routes, all of which converge on that key aspiration of our times: the creation of a united, democratic, dynamic and generous Europe, a Europe open to the rest of the world, a Europe once fratricidal but now fraternal. This is the Europe that your Parliament embodies, it is also my Europe.

(Upon the ensuing debate, Mr Tindemans stated moreover:)

Mr President, I should like to thank all the Members of the European Parliament who have taken part in the debate on the Presidency's statement this morning. I welcome the positive tone which I believe has been adopted during the debate. It was really encouraging for a President of the Council to be able to attend this sitting at the beginning of the Belgian presidency.

With my parliamentary experience, I am now strongly inclined to answer the questions each speaker has put and to comment where I can, but that would take rather a long time. I think there were 27 speakers. If I spent five minutes answering the questions put by each, it would take me two and a quarter hours. If I spent ten minutes on each, it would take over four hours, and I think even the most motivated of Europeans among the Members of Parliament would be unwilling to listen to me for so long today. I therefore apologize if I answer some of the questions too elliptically, but please believe when I say that I have made a careful note of them all, and I shall undoubtedly come back to them sooner or later.[...]

I believe I answered the questions on Central America at some length during Question Time. I shall be going there in early February to act as co-chairman, and I am very anxious to prepare proposals with the Commission so that our expressions of sympathy with Central America are not merely academic. A six-month presidency is really too short in some respects although I would just point out that, when the European Coal and Steel Community was first established, the presidency lasted only three months. It was later increased to six months. This shows that the presidency was then seen more as chairmanship in the British sense than as a guiding presidency as we understand it today, with governments announcing their plans for the six-month period. I realize, of course – and I said so this morning – that this does not preclude but in fact imposes a duty on the country having the Presidency to give encouragement and to set certain priorities for the presidency and the problems considered during its term of office. At the end of this presidency I hope to be able to submit a positive balance-sheet.[...]

Mr Galuzzi also spoke about the Presidency and political cooperation. I am grateful to him for that. But I am afraid I cannot respond to his comments on missiles. That is a military question.[...]

We are going to Guatemala, where we shall be considering the problems of Central America. We are in constant touch with a number of countries. We have friends there. At the UNCTAD conference we shall, of course, be discussing the debt problem. What strikes me is that some of these Central American countries are now governed by movements of sincere democrats who stand up for pluralist democracy and have themselves suffered a great deal for their cause. Why are these people not mentioned and supported more than the others? That is my question. [...]

You mentioned the Western European Union. No applications to join have yet been turned down. The Member States, and there are seven at present, are examining what the true role of the Western European Union should be. When its role has been clearly defined and accepted by the seven States which are currently members, it will be possible to deal with the matter of applications to join.[...]

And then I have not mentioned political cooperation; I am not going to go back over the same ground, but this is another area in which there are many problems calling for a European stance. At all events, Belgium would like to put a particular imprint on this Presidency. [...]

¹ Cf. *OJ* No 2-347, pp. 137-160 and pp. 177-188.

87/026. Question No H-530/86 by Mr Pranchère Concerning the Fate of Prisoners-of-War in the Conflict Between the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic (SADR) and Morocco

Date of Issue: 22 January 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Are the Ministers meeting in political cooperation aware of the plight of those taken prisoner in the war between Morocco and the SADR?

Are they aware that some 2 000 Moroccans are being held by the Sahrawis – some of them have been prisoners for over ten years – but that Morocco refuses to negotiate their release because it does not consider them to be prisoners-of-war but simply missing persons, and that Sahrawi fighters being held in Morocco are similarly not entitled to prisoner-of-war status?

Have the Ministers meeting in political cooperation raised this matter with the Moroccan authorities and requested that a humane settlement be found for these people the world has forgotten?

Mr Tindemans, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: The Twelve are aware of the apprehensions felt about the detention of personnel on both sides in the conflict in the Western Sahara. They have time and again expressed their concern over violations of human rights.

With specific regard to the conflict in the Western Sahara, the Twelve call on the parties to respond positively to the efforts that the United Nations Secretary-General is making to find a peaceful solution.

Mr Pranchère (COM): Mr President, may I first of all offer you my congratulations on your appointment. My supplementary to the Minister is straightforward. On one side, there are two thousand Moroccan prisoners-of-war, who are still alive and are being visited by the Red Cross. On the other, there are about a hundred Sahrawi prisoners whom no one has seen, and who have not been sent back dead. Whether they are dead or alive no one knows; absolutely no access to them is being allowed, should they still be alive. Since I tabled my question to the Council of Foreign Ministers, we have seen an event which I regard as being of considerable importance from the humanitarian viewpoint. During December's part-session the Polisario Front representative, Mr Mohammed Sidati, solemnly proposed in this House an exchange of prisoners between the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic and the Moroccan Government. Regarding this proposed exchange of prisoners, I would remind you that some of the Moroccans have been held for ten years. They include pilots trained in France, some of whom, it is said, have wives who are French or of French origin. My question is therefore this: are we going to see the Community, the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation, intervening and offering their good offices so that a solution can at last be found to this problem, which would not conflict with what you have just said but on the contrary would be favourable to a solution negotiated on the basis of the resolutions passed by the United Nations, the OAU and the non-aligned countries?

Mr Tindemans: As I just said, the Twelve have repeatedly voiced their concern over respect for human rights. However, we believe that the United Nations Secretary-General is best placed to intervene in this conflict and, we hope, find a solution to the difficult questions just raised by the Honourable Member. Mr Pérez de Cuéllar announced on 13 January 1986 that he intended to put the second phase of his action into effect. He will be visiting the Islamic summit to be held in Kuwait on 26 January and will then be having meetings in Algiers with the Algerian authorities and representatives of Polisario.

Mr Ulburghs: Morocco is illegally occupying Spanish Sahara and so has control over the fishing grounds off the coast. It is said that an agreement is now to be signed by Spain and Morocco on fishing rights in these fishing grounds. What does the President of the Council think of this problem?

Mr Tindemans: The fisheries problem, as Parliament knows, is still with us after years of discussions. What happens bilaterally may interest us, but we have no influence.

Mr Chambeiron (COM): I wish to put a very simple question to the President-in-Office of the Council, one which ties in perfectly with what my colleague Mr Pranchère was just saying. We have heard of prisoners-of-war, in other words combatants. But, Mr President-in-Office, there are also hundreds of women, children and old people who have disappeared since 1981, about whom it is absolutely impossible to get any information. A moment ago you mentioned the action that the United Nations Secretary-General is to take. But do you not think that, in the course of their normal relations with the Moroccan authorities, the Foreign Ministers could try to obtain some useful information about these people's fate? This is a humanitarian problem. The families should at least know what has become of their relations. The Ministers could perhaps use the opportunity afforded by these discussions with the Moroccan authorities to ask them to do what they can to prevent these deportations and disappearances affecting the civilian population.

Mr Tindemans: As I have just said, the Twelve have voiced their concern over this problem, and we consider that the United Nations Secretary-General is best placed to achieve concrete results.

Mr Habsburg (PPE): Is not the Community's attitude determined by the key fact that the Sahara is an integral part of Morocco in our eyes, a legitimate part of Moroccan territory in Moroccan eyes, so that it is out of the question for the Community to intervene in a domestic Moroccan issue. On the other hand, would it not be possible to make representations to the Algerian authorities, which are illegally holding Moroccan people in camps?

Mr Tindemans: The Community as such has not taken any position on this issue, which is a matter of international law. Consequently, I cannot answer the Honourable Member's question.

Mr Kuijpers (ARC): I would point out to the President that at this moment some 10 000 Ethiopian prisoners-of-war are being held by the Eritreans. This has been going on for about 13 years. The present Ethiopian leaders in Addis Ababa do not recognize these people as prisoners-of-war. Will the President of the Council also mediate on behalf of the Twelve in the United Nations with a view to bringing this impossible situation to an end?

Mr Tindemans: To begin with, this is an internal conflict. Secondly, I was unaware of this question when I set out for Strasbourg. The Honourable Member knows that consultations must precede an answer given on behalf of the Twelve. I am therefore unable to answer Mr Kuijper's question.

Mr Medina Ortega (S): Concerning the conflict in the Western Sahara, there has been reference to Moroccan and Sahrawi casualties. I should like to remind the President of the Council that there have also been casualties amongst Community citizens, specifically fishermen who have approached the coast, seamen on merchant ships in free transit, pilots undertaking normal duties. And I should like to ask the President of the Council if the Ministers meeting in political cooperation have, at any time, had the opportunity to discuss problems affecting the protection of these Community citizens, which have arisen as a result of the conflict in an area close to the Community.

Mr Tindemans: Much to my regret, I have to say that the Twelve meeting in political cooperation have not yet discussed the problem to which the Honourable Member has drawn attention. However, since it is a humanitarian problem, I can promise the Honourable Member that I will put it on the agenda of one of our next meetings on political cooperation.

87/027. Question No H-599/86 by Mr Arbeloa Muru Concerning Murders in Colombia

Date of Issue: 22 January 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Amnesty International has denounced the murder in the first half of 1986 of over 600 Colombians by groups of soldiers, police and gunmen belonging to both forces. Among the victims were presumed left-wing activists, trade unionists, community teachers and social workers, homosexuals, squatters, tramps and suspected petty criminals.

As far as is known no investigations nor arrests have followed.

Are the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation aware of these terrible events and have they taken any steps to prevent further killings?

Mr Tindemans, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: The Foreign Ministers of the European Community meeting in political cooperation have expressed their concern at violations of human rights on many occasions. I refer in particular to the joint declaration on human rights that we made on 21 July 1986¹. The specific matter raised by the Honourable Member has not been discussed by the Foreign Ministers meeting in European political cooperation.

Mr Arbeloa Muru (S): I simply wish to emphasize that the killing of 600 people in just one six-month period, made known by reliable information from Amnesty International, which is better informed than any other body, is, I believe, an extremely important problem which the Council or the Foreign Ministers should discuss and study.

And above all, I wish to protest here against what has just been said. A violation, systematic or not, of human rights in any part of the world is not an internal affair of any country. Because if it were a purely internal affair, we would have to close this Parliament for many hours and destroy the fundamental principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and even those of the European unity which we are building.

Mr Tindemans: Human rights issues are a constant concern to the Twelve meeting in political cooperation. With regard to the case raised by the Honourable Member, at the moment we are trying to gather together all the information we need in order to form a clear view on events. It is possible that some actions may have been connected with efforts to combat drug trafficking.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 86/230.

87/028. Question No H-605/86 by Mr Ephremidis Concerning the Nuclear Weapons Production in Israel

Date of Issue: 22 January 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

The Sunday Times newspaper of London revealed on 5 September 1986 that Israel is secretly producing nuclear weapons and is the world's sixth largest nuclear power. This report is creating a great deal of anxiety, with Israel in such a sensitive region as the Middle East and, indeed, with the well-known aggressive policy it has been pursuing up to the present time. What is more, it is adding to the worldwide nuclear arsenal at a time when intense efforts are being made to reduce it.

What is the attitude of the Foreign Ministers to these revelations about Israel and how do they propose to react, given that Israel has an association agreement with the Community?

Mr Tindemans, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: The position of the Twelve on the Israeli-Arab conflict is well known. They support a peaceful negotiated solution, based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and abide by the principle that all States in the region, including Israel, have the right to their existence and their security, and that the Palestinian people have the right to self-determination, with everything that implies.

I would add that, in the context of political cooperation, the Ministers of the Twelve are continuing their examination of the political implications of developments in the area of nuclear proliferation, wherever they are to be found.

Mr Alavanos (COM): The Minister's reply is totally inadequate. But now, given that one would not expect political cooperation to be very dynamic on this matter, I would like to frame my question like this: What, at least, does the Council intend to do in the context of political cooperation regarding the fate of the Israeli nuclear scientist who revealed this information and was kidnapped in Rome, and who has been isolated from the press and from the world generally and is now on hunger strike? Because here we have a member country of the United Nations acting like an international kidnapper and terrorist.

In the face of this, and given the sensitivity of the European Community regarding international terrorism and actions which violate international legality, and for humanitarian reasons as well, what does the Council intend to do in the context of political cooperation about the fate of this scientist who is being deprived of the most elementary human rights?

Mr Tindemans: In the context of political cooperation, the Twelve do not have access to any other sources of information which would enable them to confirm or disprove the claims made by the newspapers from which the Honourable Member has obtained his information.

Not having had notice of his last question, I have had no opportunity to engage in the consultations which would have enabled me to reply on behalf of the Twelve.

Mr Ulburghs (NI): According to revelations by the London *Sunday Times* and other newspapers, Israel has secret nuclear weapons, and the *Sunday Times* has also said that Israel is cooperating in the development of South African nuclear weapons. Is the President of the Council aware of this situation and, if so, what does he think of it?

Mr Tindemans: The Twelve never adopt a position on the basis of press reports. I would also point out that Israel has never signed the non-proliferation treaty.

Mr Marshall (ED): Would the President-in-Office confirm that the real problem in the Middle East is the failure of Israel's neighbours to recognize her right to exist? Would he not confirm that every surrounding State other than Egypt has so far failed to recognize Israel, that many are still technically at war with Israel and that that is the destabilizing factor in the Middle East? Would he also confirm that it was the action of the Israeli Government in taking the Basra reactor out of service that has prevented the war between Iran and Iraq from becoming a nuclear conflagration?

Mr Tindemans: With respect, I have to tell the House that the problems of the Middle East are too complex to be disposed of in two minutes or two sentences. It would therefore be impossible for me to give a proper reply during Question Time. That said, Europe's exact position, as defined in the context of political cooperation, has been set out in the Venice Declaration. I therefore have to refer to this text.

87/029. Question No H-662/86 by Mr Cabezón Alonso Concerning the Political Situation in Chile

Date of Issue: 22 January 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

What measures has the Council taken to try to persuade the Chilean authorities to end the state of emergency, release political prisoners and restore basic freedoms in Chile?

Mr Tindemans, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: The Twelve's policy towards Chile is aimed at promoting an orderly return to democracy. Hence the appeal launched by the Twelve for the state of emergency to be lifted, which I believe has been done in the meantime. The Twelve have thus made an appeal calling for the state of emergency to be lifted, political prisoners to be released and dialogue to be started at an early date between the Government and the democratic opposition.

Mr Cabezón Alonso (S): Thank you for your reply, for it is possible that, due to this appeal, a small portion of freedom may have been recovered. But what commercial, economic, political and other measures have the Ministers taken, or are they thinking of taking, in the context of political cooperation, so that Chile can recover its noble democratic tradition, so that union rights and the right to information can be restored, so that the problem of missing persons can be solved, so that exiles can return? What measures have been taken or are being considered to bring to an end in that country the application of martial law for false crimes of opinion or association if Mr Pinochet's military Government continues to defy the just wishes of democrats in the international community? What measures are we thinking of continuing to take?

Mr Tindemans: The Twelve have frequently condemned the situation in Chile. We have also frequently made known the opinion of the Twelve regarding the restoration of democracy and respect for human rights.

In general — it is perhaps rash of me to use this phrase since it might give rise to a debate for which there has been no preparation — the Community and the Twelve, finding that economic sanctions rarely have any impact on the attitude of the regime against which they are applied, are sceptical about sanctions of this kind.

87/030. Question No H-679/86 by Mr Marshall Concerning the Plight of Mr and Ms Mikhail Yusim

Date of Issue: 22 January 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Will the Foreign Ministers make representations about this sad case where a family is kept apart although the grandfather lost some 20 close relatives – parents, brothers, sisters, children, brothers-in-law – during the common fight against Fascism?

Mr Tindemans, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: The Twelve attach great importance to compliance with the provision in the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights to the effect that every person has the right to leave and return to any country, including his or her own.

The Helsinki Final Act and the document drawn up on the closure of the Madrid Conference also contain provisions on the right to emigrate.

The issue was addressed more specifically by the Ottawa meeting of experts on human rights and fundamental freedoms and the Berne meeting of experts on contact between persons.

The right to emigrate is currently under consideration, *inter alia*, at the Vienna meeting on the follow-up to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

The specific case raised by the Honourable Member has not been discussed in the context of European political cooperation.

Mr Marshall (ED): May I ask the President-in-Office to look very closely at this particular case – a situation in which a family asked a very long time ago to leave Russia. Would he not agree that it is somewhat ironical that a family which lost twenty close relatives in the last war fighting for religious freedom should not be given those rights themselves by the Soviet Union? In view of the editorial in 'Pravda' this week in which the author says that the Russian Government's policy causes grave embarrassment to them elsewhere in the world, can the Foreign Ministers agree to take up this and similar cases so that the Soviet Union has a slightly less unattractive record in respect of human rights?

Mr Tindemans: First of all, I note the Honourable Member's request. I can promise him to draw this kind of case to the attention of the Vienna Conference, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. And I shall also see what the Twelve can do in this area.

Mr Sutra de Germa (S): Since the Vienna Conference has been mentioned a number of times, I should like to ask the President-in-Office what he intends to do to ensure that the European Community speaks there with a single voice, which is the only way for it to make itself heard effectively.

Mr Tindemans: I can assure the Honourable Member that the Twelve hold regular consultations in connection with this conference. The Twelve will therefore soon be defining a common position on human rights.

87/031. Question No H-731/86 by Mr Alavanos Concerning United States Aid for the Nicaraguan Contras

Date of Issue: 22 January 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

The United States sent 30 m dollars of the proceeds from arms sales to Iran to the Nicaraguan Contras via Swiss banks. Would the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation say whether, following this overt interference in Nicaragua by the United States, they will merely insist on informing the United States of

the importance which they attach to Nicaragua and the United States resolving their bilateral differences through the appropriate diplomatic channels; (answer to Oral Question H-22/86)¹

and are they proposing to take more resolute action to persuade the United States to stop interfering in the internal affairs of the elected government of Nicaragua?

Mr Tindemans, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: The Twelve have repeated time and again their view that the problems of Central America have to be resolved peacefully, in accordance with the principles of international law and on the basis of an agreement accepted by all interested parties. They remain convinced that the Contadora negotiating process, based on the document laying down the objectives, is still the best possible basis for reaching a peaceful settlement.

A few days hence, on 9 and 10 February 1987, the third conference between the Community, the Central American States and the Contadora Group States will be taking place in Guatemala City. I have already mentioned this, but think it appropriate to do so again. This conference and other contacts between the Twelve and the countries affected by the problems in Central America will give the Twelve further opportunity to stress their points of view.

Mr Alavanos (COM): It is of course a positive thing that the European Community and the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation have been persuaded of the usefulness of Contadora. But the question is how the European Community can exert pressure on the United States which opposes a peaceful settlement of the matter and is stirring up civil war and tension in the region generally. So I ask the Ministers whether the Belgian Presidency considers that now is a suitable time for the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation to intervene with the United States with a view to getting it to revise its position on Nicaragua, given that this opportunistic policy of the United States is now the subject of international disapproval and under pressure from inside the country, particularly after the Irangate revelations?

Mr Tindemans: As I have just said, the Twelve set the greatest store by both economic and political cooperation with Central America. This will be the third meeting. Everyone who is familiar with the situation in the region and the leaders' attitude will be aware that they are enormously appreciative of this European initiative and this opportunity for cooperation.

As I have said, we are also preparing an economic programme with the Commission. Obviously, the scope of this programme is limited by the Community's current budgetary difficulties, but the idea of developing a programme for Central America has nevertheless been established. We have always supported and continue to support the activities of the Contadora Group aimed at finding solutions to Central America's political, economic and social problems. It is precisely in order to develop the European viewpoint and to contribute towards a peaceful solution to the region's problems that the Twelve and the Community support the Contadora Group's initiative and activities. Needless to say, when Europe has meetings with the American authorities, this region's problems are also analysed and discussed.

Mr McMahan (S): When is the Council going to make a public declaration of its unease at the terrorist actions of the United States Government in Nicaragua, bearing in mind that Community citizens are involved in many humanitarian ventures in Nicaragua? Would the President-in-Office not agree that a public declaration by the Council to President Reagan telling him to cease these terrorist activities would help to influence public opinion and protect Community citizens in Nicaragua?

Mr Tindemans: I would ask the Honourable Member to await the final *communiqué* which will, without fail, be published at the end of the meeting between the European Community, the five Central American States and the Contadora Group.

Mr Bru Puron (S): I was pleased to hear that the EEC's Council of Ministers will always demand that international law be carried out and respect for it maintained. Does this mean that an ultimatum is going to be made to the United States for them to appear before the Court of The Hague to face a charge from the Nicaraguan Government concerning the mining of some of its ports?

Mr Tindemans: I should like to say that I have tried to define the position of the Twelve on the situation in Central America.

As for any bilateral conflicts or tensions between specific countries in this region of Central America, the Twelve have not as yet adopted any position.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 86/130.

87/032. Question H-695/86 by Mr Pannella Concerning the Cooperation Agreements Between the EEC and Syria

Date of Issue: 22 January 1987
Place of Issue: Strasbourg
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Source of Document: Presidency
Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Following the decisions recently taken by the United Kingdom, does the British Presidency of the Council not agree that the cooperation agreement between the EEC and the Syrian Arab Republic should be 'frozen' immediately and that Syria should be taken off the list of Mediterranean countries to which the Council decision of 13 November 1985 refers for the opening of negotiations on new protocols?

Answer:

No decision along the lines indicated by the Honourable Member has been taken within the framework of European political cooperation.

87/033. Question No H-596/86 by Sir Peter Vanneck Concerning Freedom of Navigation in International Waters Through the Gulf

Date of Issue: 22 January 1987
Place of Issue: Strasbourg
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Source of Document: Presidency
Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Given that Iran and Iraq have ignored Security Council Resolution 582 of 24 February 1986 and the joint ministerial declaration of 25 February 1986, and continuing losses to shipping, will the Foreign Ministers now take more constructive steps for the safety of crews, shipping and their cargoes in the Gulf?

Answer:

The Twelve played an active part in representations made to the authorities in Teheran and Bagdad on 27 September 1986 by some countries belonging to the OECD, regarding attacks by the two sides on shipping in the Gulf. The Member States will continue, both collectively and individually, to exert all appropriate forms of pressure in order to bring an end to such attacks. Meanwhile, they will take appropriate action to protect their own nationals and ships.

87/034. Question No H-626/86 by Mr Lalor Concerning Kidnapping

Date of Issue: 22 January 1987
Place of Issue: Strasbourg
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Source of Document: Presidency
Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Has the Council as yet considered and discussed ways and means of tackling and preventing the growing menace of kidnappings at any of its meetings and will it make a statement on the matter?

Answer:

The Twelve continue to be very concerned at this problem and have taken various measures to improve cooperation in the face of the threat posed by international terrorism and the dangers of kidnapping by

foreign terrorist groups. It is well known that the police authorities of the Twelve cooperate within the TREVI network. The foreign policy aspects of international terrorism fall within the scope of European political cooperation.

87/035. Question No H-638/86 by Mr Flanagan Concerning the Disappearance of Father Rudi Romano

Date of Issue: 22 January 1987
 Place of Issue: Strasbourg
 Country of Presidency: Belgium
 Source of Document: Presidency
 Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Will the Council state whether or not it has heard from the Philippines Ambassador to the Community about the result of the search for Father Rudi Romano that was to be undertaken by the Philippines authorities, and will it make a statement on the matter?

Answer:

The representative of the previous Presidency in Manila asked the Philippine authorities for information about Father Rudi Romano. The Philippine Presidential Commission on Human Rights has just completed its own inquiry into the latter's disappearance. Its report, the content of which has not been divulged to the Presidency, has been submitted to the civilian authorities and the military courts. Father Romano's whereabouts unfortunately seem to be unknown.

87/036. Question No H-666/86 by Mr Lomas Concerning the Reason for the Introduction of EC Sanctions Against Syria

Date of Issue: 22 January 1987
 Place of Issue: Strasbourg
 Country of Presidency: Belgium
 Source of Document: Presidency
 Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

According to a report in the *Washington Times* the French Prime Minister is reported to have said that the West German Government had claimed that Syria was not involved in the bomb plot against the Israeli airliner in London but that it was planned by Mossad, the Israeli secret service, in order to embarrass the Syrian Government. If this is so, why has the EC introduced sanctions against Syria?

Answer:

The measures announced by Sir Geoffrey Howe on 10 November were based on the evidence considered by the court which convicted Hindawi. In the press release issued after the ministerial meeting of 10 November 1986¹ it was clearly stated that the Syrian authorities had produced no new evidence.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 88/351.

87/037. Question No H-688/86 by Mr Iversen Concerning the Censoring of a Critical Book About the Star Wars Programme

Date of Issue: 22 January 1987
 Place of Issue: Strasbourg
 Country of Presidency: Belgium
 Source of Document: Presidency
 Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

An article in the British newspaper *The Observer* says that the publication of a critical book about the Star Wars programme by the writer Richard Annels, who was, as a civil servant, involved in the British preparatory work for the research programme, has allegedly been stopped by the British Government and the Ministry of Defence.

Would the Foreign Ministers please say whether the so-called Star Wars programme has been discussed in the context of European political cooperation and, if so, whether the countries involved have agreed to censor criticism of the research programme?

Answer:

The matter referred to by the Honourable Member concerns military aspects of security and has not therefore been discussed in the context of European political cooperation.

87/038. Question No H-691/86 by Ms Hammerich Concerning Syria, Greece and European Political Cooperation

Date of Issue: 22 January 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

After the meeting of the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation, the Danish Foreign Minister said that:

the break with normal practice as regards unanimity underlines the importance which the eleven countries attach to the matter. (*Udenrigsministeriets Nyhedsoversigt* – Foreign Ministry's News Survey – 11 November 1986)

With this break, European political cooperation has gone much farther than provided for in the new treaty on European political cooperation, article 30 (3) (c).

How does their President justify the fact that on 10 November 1986 the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation broke with their basic principle that there must be unanimity, when sanctions against Syria were adopted with Greece voting against? Will it be the practice in future to dispense with unanimity when a majority of the Foreign Ministers consider the matter under discussion sufficiently important?

Answer:

On the basis of partners' comments, the Presidency has drawn up the following as an answer to the question:

The rule with regard to political cooperation is that decisions are taken by consensus, as clearly stated in the Single European Act and especially in article 30 (3) (c). In the specific case to which the Honourable Member refers, eleven Member States felt that it was important to make their position known publicly. Since the twelfth Member State was not opposed to this desire, the President-in-Office, in a statement before the press¹, provided comments which were a precise reflection of the talks which the Ministers had had on Syria. The comments by Sir Geoffrey Howe did not of course have the weight of a statement or a decision by the Twelve.

¹ Cf. *Bull. EC* 10-1986, point 2.4.4. See also *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 856/400.

87/039. Question No H-697/86 by Mr Wedekind Concerning the Second International Meeting of Solidarity with the Armenian People, Held in Athens, Greece, on 20 April 1986

Date of Issue: 22 January 1987
 Place of Issue: Strasbourg
 Country of Presidency: Belgium
 Source of Document: Presidency
 Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Are the Ministers aware that the meeting held in Greece, sponsored by the Greek branch of the Armenian Popular Movement which openly confess their support for armed struggle and for the Armenian Secret Army for Liberation of Armenia (ASALA), clearly showed the organic ties between terrorist groups which carry out activities in other EC Member States? What do the Ministers think about the consequences of the firm support given by members of the Greek Cabinet and Parliament and Greek Members of the European Parliament to radical terrorist groups acting against the freedom and security of European people? Having regard to the common position of the EC against international terrorism, have the Ministers discussed the contradiction created by the individual attitude of a Member State?

Answer:

The Twelve have taken a firm stand against international terrorism on numerous occasions. In their statement of 27 January 1986¹ they condemned all forms of terrorism, the perpetrators, accomplices and instigators as well as governments that supported them.

During 1986 the Twelve had, unfortunately, several occasions to comment on the matter of international terrorism. The Honourable Member will undoubtedly be aware of the Foreign Ministers' statement of 14 April 1986² on international terrorism and the crisis in the Mediterranean, the press statement of 10 November 1986³ by the British Presidency and the statement of 29 November 1986⁴ by the Twelve. The conclusions of the European Council meeting in London on 6 December 1986⁵ underlined the concern of the twelve Member States of the Community on the matter of international terrorism as well as their determination to combat it together.

The specific matters to which the Honourable Member refers have not been discussed by the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 86/061.

² *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 86/119.

³ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 86/351.

⁴ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 86/377.

⁵ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 86/382.

87/040. Question No H-740/86 by Mr Coste-Floret Concerning Racism and Anti-Semitism

Date of Issue: 22 January 1987
 Place of Issue: Strasbourg
 Country of Presidency: Belgium
 Source of Document: Presidency
 Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

The Australian Parliament has just adopted a motion according to which Resolution 3379 of the United Nations General Assembly, which equates Zionism with racism,

places an erroneous and unacceptable interpretation on Zionism, is incompatible with the United Nations Charter and has merely served to intensify religious antagonism and encourage anti-semitism.

Does the Council of Ministers share this opinion and, given that racism and anti-semitism pose a grave threat to the values which the European Community is pledged to uphold and to human rights, can it inform Parliament of the measures it intends to take in order to have Resolution 3379 annulled?

Answer:

Racism in all forms was condemned in the joint declaration against racism and xenophobia which was signed in Strasbourg at the European Parliament by the Presidents of the institutions on 11 June 1986¹. This position has been consistently upheld by the Twelve, particularly within the United Nations. Resolution 3379 of the United Nations General Assembly, equating Zionism with racism, did not receive the vote of any Member State of the Community. There are no procedures for the annulment of resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly.

¹ Joint declaration against racism and xenophobia, *OJ* No C 176 of 14 July 1986, p. 62.

87/041. Question No H-767/86 by Ms Heinrich Concerning the Hampering of Human Rights Organizations in Turkey

Date of Issue: 22 January 1987
Place of Issue: Strasbourg
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Source of Document: Presidency
Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Is the Council of Ministers aware that the Governor of Ankara is still hampering the establishment of organizations whose official purpose is to ensure that the basic human rights in international law are also respected in Turkey, and how does the Council propose to use its influence to ensure that the Turkish authorities allow independent organizations monitoring the human rights situation in Turkey to be established and to operate?

Answer:

The Twelve carefully monitor the human rights situation in Turkey and they have expressed their concern on numerous occasions. Progress has been made towards the consolidation of democracy and human rights in Turkey and the Twelve support every development in this direction. In their statement of 21 July 1986¹ on human rights, the Twelve indicated that the respect for human rights is an important factor in their relations with third countries. They appealed to all States to enhance public awareness concerning the cause of human rights and to allow non-governmental organizations freely to disseminate human rights information.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 85/230.

87/042. Question No H-775/86 by Mr Andrews Concerning the Malvinas/Falklands

Date of Issue: 22 January 1987
Place of Issue: Strasbourg
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Source of Document: Presidency
Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Have the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation adopted any position in relation to Argentina's offer to end the state of hostilities in return for 'global negotiations' and removal of the 150-mile military protection zone around the Malvinas/Falklands and will they make a statement on the matter?

Answer:

The specific questions raised by the Honourable Member have not been discussed by the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation.

87/043. Question No 295/86 by Mr Glinne (S-B) Concerning Pressure on Botswana by the Government of the Republic of South Africa

Date of Issue: 23 January 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 13 May 1986

Last January, following a three-week economic blockade and talks between Major-General Justin Lekhanya, representing the Lesotho armed forces, and South African officials in Pretoria, the Prime Minister and his government were overthrown by a *coup d'état* and refugees belonging to the African National Congress were compelled to leave the country.

Can answers be provided to the following questions:

1. On 26 January Pretoria intimated to the Government of Botswana that it would also have to expel the refugees belonging to the African National Congress. Do the Ministers intend to take specific measures to support the threatened sovereignty of Botswana?
2. The junta set up in Maseru under the leadership of General Lekhanya outlawed political parties and ridiculed the idea of holding elections, which would be harmful to 'national unity'. Can the Ministers take measures to encourage a programme of democratization in conjunction with Lomé III?

Answer:

The Twelve have strongly urged the South African Government to show full respect for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of their neighbours and have repeatedly condemned South Africa's policy of destabilizing neighbouring countries. The Community and its Member States devote considerable resources to assisting these countries and to reducing their economic dependence on South Africa.

87/044. Question No 370/86 by Mr Schwalba-Hoth (ARC-B) Concerning Renate Hehr, who has Been in Prison in Peru for Three Years

Date of Issue: 23 January 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 28 May 1986

1. What steps have the Foreign Ministers taken thus far to obtain the release from prison in Peru of the German teacher Renate Hehr, who was arrested in the southern Peruvian town of Arequipa on 1 May 1983?
2. Are the Foreign Ministers aware of the details of her imprisonment?

3. What is their assessment of the legality of the trial which has started, viewed in relation to the codes of criminal procedure in the Member States?

Answer:

The particular case raised by the Honourable Member has not been discussed in European political cooperation.

87/045. Question No 698/86 by Mr Glinne (S-B) Concerning the Declaration of Churches, Political Parties and Other Groups in Namibia

Date of Issue: 23 January 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 1 July 1986

On the implementation of Resolution 435 of the Security Council on 29 and 30 April 1986, the Evangelical Lutheran Church, the Roman Catholic Church, the Anglican Diocese of Namibia, the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the Methodist Church, the Council of Churches in Namibia, the Damara Council, the Mbanderu Council, the Namibia Christian Democratic Party, the Namibia Independence Party, the Nudo Progressive Party, the South West Africa National Union, the South West African People's Organization, the Namibia National Students Organization, the Namibia Women's Voice, the Young Women's Christian Association, in spite of intimidations from the 'Transitional Government', have agreed on the following declaration, published by the weekly *The Namibian* on Friday, 2 May 1986:

We, the duly authorized representatives of the above mentioned Churches, Political Parties and Groups, Women's Organizations and the Student Movement, who represent the overwhelming majority of the Namibian people, having gathered in Klein Windhoek at a meeting under the auspices of the Council of Churches in Namibia (CCN) on 29-30 April 1986;
having discussed, reviewed, analysed in depth the worsening political, economic, social and military situation in Namibia today;
having noted the frustration felt by our people at the continued delay in gaining internationally recognized independence;

unanimously resolve as follows:

- to reject South Africa's continuing delaying tactics and its persistent refusal to have United Nations Security Council Resolution 435 of 1978 implemented (which Resolution was accepted by all parties concerned – including the Republic of South Africa and [the] United States);
- to reject the unholy alliance between the United States and the Republic of South Africa in their attempts to bypass the said United Nations Security Council Resolution 435 by linking the independence of Namibia to issues which are totally extraneous, such as the withdrawal of the Cuban troops from Angola;
- to reject the succession of Pretoria-installed puppet governments of which the so-called Transitional Government is the latest creation;
- to reject the so-called Transitional Government on the grounds that: it is imposed on our people by South Africa; it is kept in power only by the sheer brutal force of the army of occupation i.e. 'security police', Koevoet etc; it is not elected and has no mandate from the Namibian people;
- to reject the increasing repressive nature and dictatorial actions of the so-called Transitional Government, in particular, the latest ban on all gatherings in the Windhoek Magisterial district, in terms of the Riotous Assemblies Act, an Act which is such [a] flagrant violation of fundamental human rights, that it has even been abolished in South Africa itself;

- to reject the illegal presence of the South African Army in Namibia, the forced conscription of Namibians, the creation of the so-called SWATF through which civil war is being forced upon the people of Namibia;
- to condemn all the oppressive and inhuman laws applicable in Namibia, in particular AG 9, AG 26 and the Terrorism Act of 1967.

Therefore, we reaffirm:

- the inalienable right of the Namibian people to genuine self-determination and independence now,
- the inviolability of the territorial integrity of our country and our commitment to one Namibia, one nation,
- the international status of Namibia and the obligations of the international community,
- the United Nations Security Council Resolution 435 is the only peaceful and democratic way of achieving internationally recognized independence for Namibia.

Consequently, we severally and collectively commit ourselves to:

- mobilize and conscientize the Namibian masses so as to actively resist the *status quo*,
- embark on a campaign of positive action aimed at bringing about the immediate and unconditional implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 435,
- work towards the abolition of the so-called Transitional Government and its replacement by an internationally recognized and democratically elected government, truly representative of the Namibian people,
- carry on the campaign against compulsory military service.

I would like to know the appreciation of the Ministers on this declaration and the political follow-up it does deserve at the level of the European Community and of its Member States.

Answer:

The Twelve remain firmly committed to the early independence of Namibia on the basis of United Nations Security Council Resolution 435, as they have repeatedly made clear. The Twelve have rejected attempts to delay Namibia's independence by linking it to the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola. They consider the transitional government to be null and void.

87/046. Question No 704/86 by Ms Castle (S-UK) Concerning the Persecution of Baha'is in Iran

Date of Issue: 23 January 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 1 July 1986

Following the adoption of Written Declaration B 2-1084/85 on the situation of the Baha'is in Iran, and the uncompromising reply from the Iranian embassy of 9 January 1986 to letter No 36296 (13 December 1985) from the President of the Parliament, what action will be taken by the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation to further the terms of the Written Declaration and put more pressure on the Iranian Government to cease the violations of human rights continually being perpetrated on this sect?

Answer:

The Honourable Member of Parliament is referred to the answer given to Oral Question No H-360/86¹ by Mr Seligman on the same subject.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 86/268.

87/047. Question No 786/86 by Mr Habsburg (PPE-D) Concerning the Fate of Hilda Tjongarero Persecuted by the SWAPO Discipline Squad

Date of Issue: 23 January 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 4 July 1986

1. Can the Foreign Ministers say why they have not discussed the fate of Hilda Tjongarero, who is being persecuted by the SWAPO Discipline Squad, within the framework of European political cooperation?
2. Are the Foreign Ministers willing and able to report on the results of their contacts with the authorities in Lusaka regarding the persecution of Hilda Tjongarero¹?

Answer:

Respect for human rights and fundamental liberties remains a constant concern of the Twelve. They will continue to pay close attention to allegations of human rights abuses against Namibian refugees.

¹ See Written Question No 1063/85, *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 86/007.

87/048. Question No 787/86 by Mr Zarges (PPE-D) Concerning Talks with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on Namibians Willing to Return

Date of Issue: 23 January 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 4 July 1986

1. Are the Foreign Ministers prepared to say why the Ten have not discussed with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees within the framework of political cooperation a special initiative to enable those Namibians willing to return to go back to their native country?
2. Are the Foreign Ministers able to report on the outcome of their contacts with the relevant authorities on violations of human rights by SWAPO¹?

Answer:

The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given to Question No 786/86 tabled by Mr Habsburg².

¹ See Written Question No 1059/85, *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 86/004.

² *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 87/047.

87/049. Question No 788/86 by Ms Rabbethge (PPE-D) Concerning the Indoctrination of Young Namibian Refugees by SWAPO

Date of Issue: 23 January 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 4 July 1986

Are the Foreign Ministers willing and able to report on the outcome of their contacts with the authorities concerning the indoctrination of young Namibian refugees by SWAPO¹?

Answer:

The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given to Question No 786/86² tabled by Mr Habsburg.

¹ See Written Question No 1060/85. *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 86/005.

² *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 87/047.

**87/050. Question No 789/86 by Mr Luster and Mr Pirkl (PPE-D)
Concerning the Persecution of SWAPO Dissidents**

Date of Issue: 23 January 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 4 July 1986

Are the Foreign Ministers willing and able to report on the results of their contacts with the authorities concerning the persecution of SWAPO dissidents¹?

Answer:

The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given to Question No 786/86² tabled by Mr Habsburg.

¹ See Written Question No 1061/85. *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 86/006.

² *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 87/047.

**87/051. Question No 825/86 by Mr Balfe (S-UK) Concerning
Political Cooperation Meetings in South Africa**

Date of Issue: 23 January 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 10 July 1986

Will the Presidency's Ambassador in South Africa be holding political cooperation meetings during the latter half of 1986, and what are the Presidency's local priorities?

Answer:

Yes. Such meetings are a regular feature of political cooperation in capitals of third countries where the Twelve are represented. The main subjects for discussion are usually internal developments and the Twelve's policy towards the country concerned.

**87/052. Question No 826/86 by Mr Balfe (S-UK) Concerning United
States Supply of Stinger Missiles to UNITA**

Date of Issue: 23 January 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 10 July 1986

US advanced Stinger Missiles were delivered to UNITA during April so that they can continue their terrorist activities against the legitimate government of Angola.

Are the Ministers aware that Senator Dennis De Concini has told colleagues that Stinger 'is the ultimate terrorist weapon' and that Senator Robert Packwood has said 'not a single airplane or airport in the civilized world will be safe if they fall into the wrong hands'?

Do the Foreign Ministers consider that the United States Administration is behaving responsibly in supplying these weapons to a self-confessed group of South African funded rebels?

Answer:

The specific subject raised by the Honourable Member has not been discussed by Foreign Ministers of the Twelve.

87/053. Question No 827/86 by Mr Balfe (S-UK) Concerning Strict Control on Stinger Missiles

Date of Issue: 23 January 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 10 July 1986

In April Senator Dennis De Concini introduced legislation on Stinger Missiles that would

require the President to insist on the same strict control over the missiles in rebel hands as we do for those we sell to our allies.

Do the Foreign Ministers support this modest aim and, if so, will they communicate these feelings to the United States Government?

Answer:

The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given to his previous question (No 826/86)¹

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 87/052.

87/054. Question No 843/86 by Mr Beyer de Ryke (LDR-B) Concerning Peace in Latin America - Contadora Group

Date of Issue: 23 January 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 10 July 1986

How does the Council view the postponement of the signing of the peace treaty drawn up by the Contadora Group?

What further efforts does it intend to make in order to reduce the tension in this sensitive region, Central America?

Answer:

As they have repeatedly made clear, the Twelve support a peaceful resolution of the problems of Central America on the basis of the Contadora objectives. They consider that the ministerial meeting to be held

in Guatemala in February 1987 will provide a further opportunity for the Twelve to demonstrate their commitment to the peace process in Central America and hope it will contribute to a reduction in tension and the strengthening of democracy in the region.

87/055. Question No 988/86 by Mr Cottrell (ED-UK) Concerning the Spanish Enclaves in Morocco

Date of Issue: 23 January 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 23 July 1986

The Spanish Government is evidently not prepared to concede the return of the enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla to Morocco.

Do the Ministers detect a contradiction in that position, and the claims made by Spain upon British territory in Gibraltar?

What is the Ministers' position?

Answer:

The question raised by the Honourable Member has not been discussed within European political cooperation.

87/056. Question No 1060/86 by Ms Ewing (RDE-UK) Concerning Namibia: Activities of SWAPO

Date of Issue: 23 January 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 31 July 1986

Are the Ministers aware of the activities of SWAPO, particularly inside Namibia, and the gross violations of human rights which these involve, including murders, torture, brutal imprisonment, cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment of detainees, and disappearances?

How many times in the past six months have the Ministers discussed the situation in Namibia and the activities of SWAPO?

What coordinated action has been taken by the Ministers meeting in political cooperation to seek a remedy to this situation?

Answer:

Foreign Ministers have not discussed this question in recent months.

87/057. Question No 1091/86 by Mr Beyer de Ryke (LDR-B) Concerning Nicaragua, Freedom of the Press and the EEC's Attitude

Date of Issue: 23 January 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 2 September 1986

On 25 June 1986 the Nicaraguan Government ordered that the opposition newspaper, *La Prensa*, should be closed down indefinitely.

What is the Foreign Ministers' reaction to this decision, which constitutes a violation of fundamental rights and democratic liberties?

Answer:

The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given to Written Question 1116/86¹ tabled by Mr Perinat Elio.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 87/016.

87/058. Question No 1264/86 by Mr Hänsch (S-D) Concerning the Death Sentence Passed on the Buddhist Monk, Thich Tuê Sy, who was Arrested in Ho Chi Minh City

Date of Issue: 23 January 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 2 September 1986

Thich Tuê Sy, who is a respected and well known religious leader, scholar and philosopher, was arrested on 1 April 1984 with eleven other monks and nuns on a charge of belonging to an illegal organization, although apparently the basic reason was simply his religious activities and his influence as a non-Communist intellectual. According to informed sources, his conditions of imprisonment have deteriorated and he has now been sentenced to death.

1. Are the Foreign Ministers aware of this violation of human rights and do they have more detailed information?
2. Will the Foreign Ministers make all possible representations to the Vietnamese authorities to try to secure the release of Thich Tuê Sy?

Answer:

The Twelve monitor the human rights situation in Vietnam carefully, but Foreign Ministers have not discussed the specific case raised by the Honourable Member.

87/059. Question No 1302/86 by Mr Toussaint (LDR-B), Mr Bettiza (LDR-I), Mr Gawronski (LDR-I), Mr Donnez (LDR-F), Mr Nordmann (LDR-F), Mr Wijsenbeek (LDR-NL) and Mr García (LDR-P) Concerning European Cooperation on Arms Production

Date of Issue: 23 January 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 2 September 1986

Do the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation not consider that the lack of coordination between the twelve Member States on arms production projects is a serious disadvantage when it comes to competing with the United States and the Soviet Union?

What action can be taken to revive European cooperation, which has been jeopardized over the past few months by the Westland affair, the European combat aircraft and numerous other projects which are on the stocks, such as the military observation satellite and the space-plane?

Answer:

The issues referred to by the Honourable Members of Parliament have not been discussed within European political cooperation.

87/060. Question No 1312/86 by Mr Romualdi (DR-I) Concerning the Release of Mr Abu Abbass

Date of Issue: 23 January 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 2 September 1986

Did the Italian Government inform the Council of Ministers and if so, in what terms, of the reasons which led it to release Mr Abu Abbass, who is the subject of an international arrest warrant issued by the United States Government, and thereby to break the letter of the 1984 extradition agreement between Italy and the United States?

Answer:

The issue referred to by the Honourable Member of Parliament has not been discussed in European political cooperation as it relates to a bilateral agreement between one partner and a third country.

87/061. Question No 1336/86 by Ms Lizin (S-B) Concerning South Africa and the Troika Arrangement

Date of Issue: 23 January 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 2 September 1986

Following the failure of the mission to South Africa on behalf of the Twelve, conducted entirely by the United Kingdom in the person of its Foreign Secretary, do the Ministers intend to return to the Troika arrangement, which, by involving the future Belgian Presidency, could pave the way for longer-term political action on sanctions against South Africa?

Answer:

Sir Geoffrey Howe visited Southern Africa at the request of the Hague European Council. His visit provided an opportunity to put across to all concerned in the region the Twelve's views on South Africa.

There are no plans for a Troika visit to South Africa.

87/062. Question No 1348/86 by Mr McMahon (S-UK) Concerning the Rimpac-Exercises

Date of Issue: 23 January 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 3 September 1986

Have the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation discussed the recent Rimpac-exercises in the Pacific Ocean and are the Ministers aware of the problems that such an exercise has created for the New Zealand Government?

Answer:

The issues raised by the Honourable Member have not been discussed within European political cooperation.

87/063. Question No 1392/86 by Ms Crawley (S-UK) Concerning Chile: Investigation into the Death of Olaf Palme

Date of Issue: 23 January 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 18 September 1986

What investigation will be conducted for the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation as a result of recent press speculation on a link between the death of Olaf Palme, former Prime Minister of a member State of the Council of Europe and the Chilean secret police?

Answer:

None.

87/064. Question No 1393/86 by Ms Crawley (S-UK) Concerning South Africa

Date of Issue: 23 January 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 18 September 1986

What action do the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation intend taking as a result of the indisputable evidence from South Africa that thousands of people have been detained under the emergency laws and that among them are trade union members from COSATU, a confederation which has received grant aid from the EEC?

Answer:

The Twelve have made clear their concern at recent widespread detentions under South Africa's state of emergency. On 16 September¹, Foreign Ministers issued a statement in which they again condemned the practice of detention without trial and announced measures which the Twelve would be introducing in response to developments in South Africa.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 86/271.

87/065. Question No 1447/86 by Mr Balfe (S-UK) Concerning South African Products

Date of Issue: 23 January 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 26 September 1986

I note that in an interview in *She Magazine* of September 1986 Ms Lynda Chalker when asked 'Would you buy Cape – South African – fruit?' she replied: 'No, not knowingly'.

May I congratulate the Minister on this statement which accords with the majority view of the European Parliament and ask how many other Foreign Ministers of the Member States have followed her splendid example?

Answer:

This subject falls outside the scope of European political cooperation.

87/066. Question No 1480/86 by Mr Perinat Elio (ED-E) Concerning the Direct Telephone Line Between Managua and Moscow

Date of Issue: 23 January 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 26 September 1986

The Soviet Government's recent decision to establish a direct telephone link with Nicaragua, to be brought into operation on the seventh anniversary of the take-over of power by the Sandinistas, will allow Nicaragua to communicate directly through the *Intersputnik* earth satellite station with countries in Eastern Europe, Asia and the Middle East.

In view of the increasing evidence of the Sandinista regime's movement towards a political position akin to Cuba's, within the Soviet sphere of influence, both countries being left-wing dictatorships, what do the Foreign Ministers think is the significance of this 'present' telephone link from the Soviet Union to Nicaragua?

Answer:

This question has not been discussed within European political cooperation.

87/067. Question No 1506/86 by Mr Glinne (S-B) Concerning Belgian the Aid Programme for Zaire and South African Interests

Date of Issue: 23 January 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 1 October 1986

According to the final report of the 'Plenary Belgo-Zairian Joint Committee', which met from 7 to 10 July 1986, a new Belgian aid programme worth 500 million Belgian francs has been drawn up to assist in the 'structural realignment' of the Zairian economy along the lines proposed by the World Bank.

One of the financial projects described in this report as having 'priority' is the DAIPN, a farm set up on the N'Sele 'presidential estate'. The DAIPN is controlled by the Israeli group DAFOR and its main activity is the rearing of chicks. The 'estate' imports day-old Tokay chicks from South Africa for that purpose.

Apart from the fact that this is an ill-conceived 'mammoth' project (over-large and excessively costly installations, high production costs, etc.) far removed from the needs of the rural populations, i.e., the promotion of food-producing crops and self-subsistence, it must be stressed that with its financial aid, the Belgian Government is giving indirect support to a private project that has economic links with South Africa.

Have the Ministers any comment to make on the nature of the project, the Belgian Government's support for it and the fact that South Africa is being helped in its attempts to exploit its economic ties with Israel in order to circumvent in advance the incipient policy of sanctions against it?

Answer:

No.

87/068. Question No 1574/86 by Mr Pearce (ED-UK) Concerning the Syrian Doctors Arrested in 1980

Date of Issue: 23 January 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 17 October 1986

Will the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation take up with the Syrian authorities the [case of the] five Syrian doctors arrested in 1980, but not tried in court, for joining in a one-day strike in 1980 against human rights abuses in Syria? Their names are : Muhammad As'ad Bisata, Ahmad al-Bushi, Muhammad Faiz Bismar, 'Abd al-Aziz Bin 'Abd al-Qadir Bitar and 'Abd al-Majid Bin 'Abd al-Qadir Bitar.

Answer:

The promotion and protection of human rights is an important element in relations between third countries and the Twelve. The matter referred to has not been discussed within European political cooperation. However some partners have in bilateral approaches made clear to the Syrian authorities their concern over human rights.

87/069. Question No 1592/86 by Mr Glinne (S-B) Concerning the Participation by Troops from the South African Homelands in Military Operations in Namibia

Date of Issue: 23 January 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 17 October 1986

It is now certain that troops from the South African homelands are taking part in military operations in Namibia. On 4 July 1986 General Magnus Malan acknowledged that Corporal N.G. Bhivhese of the Venda homeland army had died in 'anti-terrorist' action, whilst the 'Prime Minister' of Venda, Mr Patrick Mpephu stated that 232 soldiers from Venda had been deployed in Namibia last May to support the South African Defence Force, which is illegally occupying the territory.

Participation by soldiers from Venda has aroused the disapproval of even the 'transitional government' set up in Windhoek by Pretoria and of the 'Ovambo Council' set up on the same terms in Northern Namibia.

Since conscription into the territorial army and into the service of the South African occupying forces is becoming more widespread in Namibia, do the Ministers agree that:

1. the refusal by the international community to recognize the homelands' independence, rightly, in view of the South African Government's attempts to secure international sovereignty for these territories, is not further vindicated by the fact that troops from the homelands are being used to supplement the South African armed forces in a country which they are occupying illegally?
2. the need to apply the Security Council's Resolution 435 on Namibia is made all the more urgent by the escalation of the armed conflict in Namibia, the increasing evidence that it is a civil war organized by the occupying power and the supporting role of the homelands?

Answer:

The Twelve are firmly committed to the early independence of Namibia on the basis of Security Council Resolution 435. They condemn measures likely to delay Namibia's independence. They do not recognize the so-called 'independent' homelands as independent States.

87/070. Question No 1669/86 by Mr Glinne (S-B) Concerning Cooperation with the Government of the South African Republic on 'Anti-Communist' Information

Date of Issue: 23 January 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 29 October 1986

On 24 July 1986 *The Guardian* published an article on intelligence exchanges between London, Pretoria and Washington whose outcome was apparently extremely detrimental to the African National Congress and the front-line countries that are frequently the target of air raids and military forays from South Africa.

Have the Foreign Ministers of the Twelve meeting in political cooperation investigated the matter? If so, what was the outcome or what outcome would they predict, at least?

Answer:

Foreign Ministers of the Twelve meeting in political cooperation have not discussed this subject.

87/071. Question No 1722/86 by Mr Iversen (COM-DK) Concerning the Censoring of Books Critical of the Star Wars Programme¹

Date of Issue: 23 January 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 30 October 1986

An article in the British newspaper *The Observer* claimed that publication of a book criticizing the Star Wars programme, written by Richard Annels who as a civil servant had been involved in the British preparatory studies for the research programme had been stopped by the British Government and the Ministry of Defence.

Has the so-called Star Wars programme been discussed as part of political cooperation, and have any of the countries participating agreed to censor criticism of the research programme?

Answer:

The issue referred to by the Honourable Member of Parliament has not been discussed within European political cooperation.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 87/037.

87/072. Question No 1747/86 by Ms Lizin (S-B) Concerning the Revision of the Geneva Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, as Regards Women

Date of Issue: 23 January 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 30 July 1986

In connection with the report by Mr Chambeiron based on a motion tabled by me, the European Parliament adopted on 15 April 1984 [*sic*] a resolution calling upon the Member States to confer the status of refugee upon women who are subjected to cruel or inhuman treatment in certain countries because they are considered to have infringed the moral or ethnic doctrines of their societies.

In view of the worsening position of women in certain Islamic countries, can the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation indicate what steps have been taken and representation made, in particular to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, with a view to implementing this resolution?

Answer:

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is well aware of the special concerns of refugee women. At its 23th Session the Executive Committee of UNHCR adopted a Conclusion (No 39 (XXXVI)) on Refugee Women and International Protection which stressed the need for governments and UNHCR to take appropriate measures to guarantee that refugee women and girls are protected from violence or threats to their physical safety or exposure to sexual abuse or harassment. This concern for refugee women was reiterated at the 37th Session of the Executive Committee 6-13 October 1986.

It is however for each State concerned to determine refugee status and grant asylum – UNHCR can only advise. The UNHCR *Handbook on Procedures and Criteria for Determining Refugee Status Under the 1957 Convention and 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees* deals in paragraphs 77-79 with 'membership of a particular social group' and states that 'a particular social group' normally comprises persons of similar background, habits or social status. It is generally understood that, in certain circumstances, women may qualify for refugee status on this basis.

87/073. Question No 1748/86 by Mr Glinne (S-B) Concerning the Risk of Destabilization in Costa Rica

Date of Issue: 23 January 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 6 November 1986

Reliable sources, including the former Minister of Security of Costa Rica, Juan José Echeverría, confirm that paramilitary forces are being built up in that country (*Movimiento para un Costa Rica Libre (MCRL), Unión Patriótica, Asociación Democrática del Norte Huatar, Reserva, Asociación Democrática del Norte Chorotega, Patria y Verdad, Movimiento Independiente de Guanacaste*), with most of their training camps located on large private estates. United by an extreme-right-wing radicalism and intense hostility towards the policy of unarmed neutrality pursued by the governing National Liberation Party – a social-democratic party affiliated to the Socialist International – these armed groups have infiltrated the Guardia Rural, its reserve units and the security forces; are willing strike-breakers – a strike was broken recently at San José Hospital – and enthusiastically drive squatters from fallow land, act as anti-pacifist counter-demonstrators, and destroy pylons carrying electricity to Nicaragua; some, the Movimiento de Guanacaste in this case, even advocate the secession of certain regions and their incorporation in the United States.

In anticipation of the third 'San José conference', scheduled to be held in Guatemala City in February 1987, can the Foreign Ministers say:

1. whether they will promote and support the unarmed neutrality of Costa Rica and respect for this country's territorial integrity?
2. whether they will contribute to the deployment of an international observer force on the border between Costa Rica and Nicaragua, in line with the Managua and San José agreements, pending an over-all successful outcome to the Contadora Group's initiative?
3. whether, in collaboration with the Commission and the Member States, they will provide, for development projects designed to benefit the Costa Rican people, the material and financial assistance worthy of a country which has hitherto been stable, pluralist, democratic and socially progressive but which is facing a greater threat than is apparent to domestic peace and to its willingness to help to bring about a peaceful resolution of Central America's problems?

Answer:

1. The Twelve respect both Costa Rica's unarmed neutrality and its territorial integrity.
2. No request for a contribution such as that described by the Honourable Member has been received. However, the Twelve have repeatedly made clear their willingness to consider support, to the extent that they are able and if so requested, for the action of States with responsibility for implementing the terms of a comprehensive, verifiable settlement of the Central American conflicts and in particular to contribute to the implementation and follow-up mechanisms.
3. The Twelve are committed to supporting intra-regional economic cooperation. Questions about the Community's aid programme in Central America should, however, be directed to the Council.

87/074. Question No 1833/86 by Mr Boesmans (S-B) Concerning the Situation of Okay Basak

Date of Issue: 23 January 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 7 November 1986

Before his detention in 1981, Okay Basak, a thirty-year-old Turk, was in his final year at the Ankara medical faculty. In March 1985 the First Military Tribunal of Ankara sentenced Mr Basak under articles 141 and 173(3) of the Turkish penal code to 9 years and 7 months imprisonment for membership of the banned Turkish Communist Party. Following this he will be liable to a period of internal exile under police surveillance.

Since Okay Basak was sentenced there has been no news of him.

1. Will the Ministers approach the Turkish authorities to find out about his state of health and conditions of imprisonment and whether (and when) he will be allowed to appeal against his sentence?
2. If the Ministers have made any inquiries, what was the outcome?
3. If they have not, why not?

Answer:

The Twelve continue to monitor the human rights situation in Turkey and member countries raise as appropriate their concerns. The specific case referred to by the Honourable Member of Parliament has not been discussed in European political cooperation.

87/075. Question No 2107/86 by Mr Hughes (S-UK) Concerning Afghan Refugees in Military Service

Date of Issue: 23 January 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 10 December 1986

Are the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation aware of reports that Afghan refugees living in and around Isfahan in Iran are being forcibly conscripted into the Iranian army for use in the Iran/Iraq war?

Do the Ministers agree that such conscriptions are both illegal, given the refugee status of the Afghans, and immoral?

If so, what action do the Ministers propose to take to bring pressure to bear on Iran to stop this practice?

Answer:

The Twelve are aware of rumours that Afghan refugees have been forcibly conscripted into the Iranian army. However, these have never been confirmed, and have been denied by the Iranian Government. Such forcible conscription, if it occurs, would be illegal under the 4th Geneva Convention, to which Iran is a signatory. The Twelve do not propose to take action with Iran over this question unless the rumours are substantiated.

87/076. Question No 2120/86 by Ms Lizin (S-B) Concerning Political Cooperation in the United Nations With Regard to the Western Sahara

Date of Issue: 23 January 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 10 December 1986

Can the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation explain the difference in the voting patterns of the Member States on Resolution 41/16, which was adopted on 30 October 1986?

Greece and Spain voted in favour of the resolution, whereas the other Member States abstained. Was there no prior consultation on this issue?

What arguments were used to support the different positions adopted?

Answer:

The well-established common view of the Twelve is that the Western Sahara dispute should be resolved peacefully. For this reason they support the UN Secretary-General's initiative and call on the parties to respond positively to it.

87/077. Statement on the Iran-Iraq Conflict

Date of Issue: 26 January 1987
Place of Issue: Brussels
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Source of Document: The Twelve
Status of Document: Declaration

The twelve States of the European Community are gravely concerned at the evolution of the conflict between Iraq and Iran. They support the UN Security Council resolutions which deplore the initial acts which gave rise to the conflict, as well as its continuation.

The recent dramatic escalation to this long and deplorable conflict:

- i) serves only to increase further the loss of human life and the suffering of combatants and civilians as well as the damage to the economic infrastructure of both countries;
- ii) has brought fresh allegations of serious breaches of international humanitarian standards as well as laws governing armed conflict;
- iii) has been marked by an intensification of attacks on cities;
- iv) increases the risk of the conflict spreading to neighbouring countries and seriously threatens international and regional peace and security.

The Twelve hereby solemnly renew their appeal to the parties to cease hostilities immediately and to comply with Security Council Resolutions 582 and 588. They recall their declaration of 8 April 1986¹, in which they condemned without qualification the use of chemical weapons and asked for strict compliance with the provisions of the 1925 Geneva Protocol.

They continue to support fully the mediation efforts of the Secretary-General and have noted with interest his intention to go to Kuwait on the occasion of the summit meeting of the Islamic Conference Organization, which is being held at a particularly critical moment.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 86/105.

87/078. Question No 205/86 by Mr Glinne (S-B) Concerning the Training Periods in South Africa for European Policemen

Date of Issue: 27 January 1987
Place of Issue: Strasbourg
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Source of Document: Presidency
Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 24 April 1986

In the Federal Republic of Germany, as in other Community countries, questions are being asked about the reports (see *Amandla*, monthly on South Africa, Belgian issue of March 1986, p. 16) that a Bavarian travel agency which is said to have particularly close links with the South African police, is apparently organizing a visit by some 40 West German policemen to training centres and other establishments of the South African police force; according to the travel agency itself, the trip is being heavily subsidized. A question has been tabled on the matter in the *Bundestag*.

I should like to know the position of the Foreign Ministers on this issue – on the question of principle it raises and on the compatibility of such initiatives, anywhere in the Community, with the measures agreed by the Twelve on 10 September 1985 with regard to the present situation in South Africa.

Answer:

Foreign Ministers of the Twelve have not discussed the issue raised by the Honourable Member.

**87/079. Question No 687/86 by Mr Robles Piquer (ED-E)
Concerning the Sandinista Regime in Nicaragua**

Date of Issue: 27 January 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 1 July 1986

Events have shown that the political regime currently governing Nicaragua has deviated sharply from the model of full participation which is characteristic of democratic systems.

There are no grounds for believing that the Sandinista regime is prepared to allow the necessary alternation of power or the full participation of all Nicaraguan citizens in governing the destiny of their country. A noted observer, the great Peruvian writer Mario Vargas Llosa has said of the current rulers of Nicaragua that

they believe, although they do not say so, that true legitimacy is conferred by the conquest of power and that, once power has been attained, there is no reason to share it.

In view of the apparently irreversible nature of the political situation in this Central American country, and in view also of the standing commitment of all the countries of the European Community to defend democracy and human rights under all political systems, does the Council not think it would be appropriate to adopt a consistent position on the matter, supporting the full recognition of the democratic rights of all Nicaraguan citizens?

Answer:

The Twelve have repeatedly made clear their support for the establishment and strengthening of genuinely democratic governments in the countries of Central America.

**87/080. Question No 762/86 by Mr Perinat Elio (ED-E) Concerning
the Creation of a Central American Parliament**

Date of Issue: 27 January 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 2 July 1986

The agreement recently drawn up at Esquipulas, Guatemala, whereby dignitaries from Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Costa Rica and Nicaragua decided to set up a Central American Parliament — whose members will be freely and directly elected by universal suffrage and with full respect for the principle of political pluralism — undoubtedly marks a politically important step towards the solution of the critical situation which has afflicted the area for some time.

The European Community could make an important contribution to the creation of this Central American Parliament since, in the very recent past, it officially set up a Parliament directly elected by universal suffrage, thereby creating a closer link between the Community and its individual citizens.

In view of this, and taking into account the San José Ministerial Conference of October 1984 and the Luxembourg Agreement of 12 November 1985, what contribution do the Foreign Ministers think the

Community can make to the drafting of the Treaty establishing the Central American Parliament, which will undoubtedly help to strengthen the principles of democracy and human rights in all Central American countries, assuming that such help is in the interests of the countries concerned?

Answer:

The Twelve have repeatedly made clear that they share the view of the Latin American countries that lasting solutions to the problems of Central America must originate in the region itself. They welcome the proposal to establish a Central American Parliament directly elected by universal suffrage and hope that its establishment will contribute to and strengthen democracy in the region and enhance cooperation among the Central American countries. The Twelve have not been asked for assistance in this field but are willing to consider carefully how to respond appropriately to any such request.

87/081. Question No 1510/86 by Mr Glinne (S-B) Concerning the United Nations Financial Crisis

Date of Issue: 27 January 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 1 October 1986

For the last two years there have been successful moves in both the US House of Representatives (vote of 17 July 1986, the 1985 Sundquist amendment, the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings law, which the Supreme Court ruled to be unconstitutional) and the Senate (the Kassebaum amendment, adopted last year) to cut the United States financial contribution to the United Nations very sharply – by at least half, leaving aside the funding problems faced by several specialized agencies. In addition to this threat of an imminent reduction in the United States contribution, there is also the fact that for a variety of 'reasons', various member countries have been defaulting in their payments over the last twenty years or so and the shortfall accumulated in this way now totals 225 million US dollars.

1. How do the Twelve, collectively and individually, view the improvements to be made in administration and financial management following the General Assembly's approval of the Secretary-General's proposals in May 1986, i.e. both as regards the substance and the timetable for their implementation? How did they vote on those proposals last May? What is their assessment of the specific recommendations drawn up in August 1986 by the 'Group of Eighteen' to reduce expenditure on staff, meetings and documents by 15%?

2. Do the Ministers consider it necessary, even in the name of due moderation, for activities connected with the human rights programme to be cancelled 'owing to financial cutbacks', witness the deplorable cancellation – in line with the recommendations of the Group of Eighteen – of the session of the United Nations Subcommittee on Human Rights that was due to take place in Geneva in the summer of 1986? In addition, what is their attitude to the financing of the – albeit unsatisfactory but nonetheless vital – operations of the United Nations contingents that are now deployed in Cyprus and Lebanon and may be deployed in other dangerous regions of the world?

3. What was the contribution of the Twelve, collectively and individually, for the financial year 1985, expressed in absolute amounts and as percentages of the UN's total budget for that year?

4. What is the attitude of the Twelve to the procedures for resolving disputes regarding member countries' contributions, bearing in mind the rule laid down in article 17 of the United Nations Charter?

5. How in the opinion of the Twelve might article 18 be applied more consistently in future in relation to members financially in default?

6. What is the position of the Twelve on proposals (e.g. the Kassebaum amendment) to reduce the contribution of a given member country until the General Assembly agrees to an amendment of the

procedure and to a weighting of its votes in favour of the major contributing States, this notwithstanding the universal character of the United Nations and the fundamental equality of the members of the General Assembly?

7. Which members have consistently been defaulting in their payments and are thus responsible for the present shortfall of some 225 million US dollars?

8. How do the Twelve view the UN financial crisis and the corrective measures required to enable the international community to continue to pursue the objectives laid down in the Charter signed in San Francisco on 26 June 1945? What has been the outcome of consultations, a course of action advocated by the Twelve, at the session of the General Assembly that opened on 16 September?

Answer:

1. The Twelve have welcomed the Secretary General's proposals in May for a number of economy measures which were adopted without a vote. They were timely and appropriate and drew the attention of Member States to the UN's serious financial predicament. The Twelve similarly welcome the report of the Group of Eighteen as a substantial foundation upon which the United Nations can build. This report is now under intensive discussion at UNGA. The Twelve support creation of a new mechanism to consider programme and budget, structured so as to ensure effective decision-making and to contribute to greater rationalization and efficiency within the United Nations system.

2. The Twelve attach great importance to maintaining and strengthening mechanisms established by the United Nations for the protection of human rights and particularly to the 1503-procedure, which is an essential element of the proper functioning of the Commission on Human Rights. They regret that it was necessary to defer as a result of the economy measures the meetings referred to by the Honourable Member of Parliament and will continue to make every effort to ensure that the general budgetary constraints do not disproportionately affect the UN's human rights programme. The Twelve's support for the principle of United Nations peace-keeping operations is well known and all partners pay assessed contributions fully.

3. Following are the assessed contributions and shares of members of the Twelve in the UN's regular budget for 1985:

	\$ Million US dollars	
Belgium	8,424	1,28
Denmark	4,936	0,75
France	42,845	6,51
Federal Republic of Germany	56,205	8,54
Greece	2,633	0,40
Ireland	1,185	0,18
Italy	24,615	3,74
Luxembourg	0,395	0,06
Netherlands	11,715	1,78
Portugal	1,185	0,18
Spain	12,702	1,93
United Kingdom	30,735	4,67
Total	197,575	30,02

4. The Twelve support the function of the UN's Committee on Contributions established to apportion UN's expenses.

5. The Twelve have no reason to believe that procedures imposed by the United Nations Charter upon defaulting contributors are being applied inconsistently.

6. The Twelve are committed to the United Nations Charter which includes the principle of sovereign equality of member States. They have consistently made clear that member States should meet fully their financial obligations under the Charter and that failure in this respect is a breach of international obligations.

7. Iran, Israel, Libya, Peru, Poland, Rumania, Turkey, United States and Soviet Union are among those member States which owe substantial amounts of assessed contributions for years prior to 1986. The Twelve have this year made *démarches* in relevant capitals about this situation.

8. The Twelve recognize the clear need for changes in the system which will produce broader consensus on financial issues and help overcome the reluctance of some members to meet financial obligations. The Twelve are making a positive and constructive contribution to consultations and discussions about the report of the Group of Eighteen which is currently before the United Nations General Assembly.

87/082. Question No 1593/86 by Mr Glinne (S-B) Concerning Concerted Action by the Twelve and the Voting by the Twelve at the Fortieth United Nations General Assembly

Date of Issue: 27 January 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 17 October 1986

A few months ago the US State Department sent Congress a report on the attitude and the voting of the delegations which took part in the fortieth United Nations General Assembly in 1985. This report – the third of its kind – refers to more than two hundred roll-call votes cast on about ten key questions. According to the press, the authors' intention was to show to what extent the voting of the US delegation 'coincided' with that of several other delegations.

Can the Foreign Ministers state what was the 'rate of coincidence' between the votes cast by each of the twelve Member States and by the United States at the fortieth General Assembly? Bearing in mind not only the consideration which political democracies owe one another but also the almost inevitable differences between their views or the specific nature of such views on subjects such as Southern Africa, the Middle East or Central America, can the Foreign Ministers say:

1. what was the 'rate of coincidence' among the Twelve at the fortieth Assembly, statistics being less important in this case than the quality of efforts being made towards political cooperation?
2. what their reaction is to a comment made in the above-mentioned report by the State Department to the effect that it will continue to make it clearly understood that it cannot accept that a country with which it has good bilateral relations should use the solidarity required within a group as an excuse for voting in favour of resolutions which criticize the United States or are contrary to the interests of the United States?

Answer:

The Twelve continued their cooperation at the fortieth session of the United Nations General Assembly, through coordination meetings, joint negotiation of texts and, wherever possible, common explanations of vote and common voting positions. The Twelve adopted a common position on over 70% of the votes at the Session.

The policy of the United States Government is a matter for that Government.

87/083. Question No 1627/86 by Mr Perinat Elio (ED-E) Concerning the Political Talks Held at Ifran (Morocco)

Date of Issue: 27 January 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 22 October 1986

The extremely significant talks held in the Moroccan town of Ifran between King Hassan II of Morocco and the Israeli Prime Minister, Simon Peres, represented a significant step in the attempt to promote the peace process to resolve the Middle East crisis, which has for decades regularly flared up into armed conflict.

In the light of this courageous and determined action on the part of King Hassan, which has earned him a barrage of criticism from the Arab world, and has led to his resignation as President of the Arab League, what action are the Foreign Ministers contemplating in order to express their support for this historic decision by the King of Morocco in the face of the incomprehension of many other Arab leaders?

Answer:

The Twelve have repeatedly made clear their view that a just, lasting and comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute can be brought about only through negotiation. They welcome every effort designed to bring the parties together in dialogue and cooperation.

87/084. Question No 1872/86 by Mr Perinat Elio (ED-E) Concerning an International Conference on Bringing Peace to the Middle East

Date of Issue: 27 January 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 13 November 1986

Recent events in the Middle East have for some time now given grounds for hoping that some progress is being made towards a peace process in the region which would herald stability in what has traditionally been one of the areas of the world most prone to conflict.

One of the main grounds for hoping that a process of restoring peace is under way is the fact that an international conference may be held to discuss the prospects for peace in the Middle East.

What is the Ministers' attitude to the possible holding of this international conference on bringing peace to the Middle East, and how do they propose to give their support, both as regards the content of any negotiations which may be set up and the process of implementation following the results of the conference?

Answer:

The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given to Oral Question No H-561/86¹ by Ms Fontaine on the same subject.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 86/393.

**87/085. Question No 1873/86 by Mr Robles Piquer (ED-E)
Concerning the Participation by the Member States in the European
Disarmament Conference**

Date of Issue: 27 January 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 13 November 1986

The recent agreement achieved at the end of the European Disarmament Conference in Stockholm points to positive developments in the commitments entered into at the Helsinki Conference in 1975 and reflects an optimistic view as to the future of European security.

European security will certainly be to the advantage of the Community, which, as an integral part of the thirty-five countries attending the conference, was actively involved in promoting European security through the twelve national delegations which went to Stockholm.

Could the Ministers, however, say how much unanimity there was between the twelve delegations from the Member States at the conference in Sweden, and what plans for defensive solidarity there were behind the arguments advanced by each of the twelve Community delegations, following the appropriate process of political consultation which, one supposes, took place beforehand in the context of the consultations which the Ministers regularly have with each other?

Answer:

The Twelve inform and consult each other on a regular basis on any foreign policy matter of general interest. Military aspects of security are outside the scope of European political cooperation. The Twelve consult before deciding on their final position, take full account of each others' positions and give due consideration to the desirability of adopting and implementing common European positions. Consultation takes place at levels of Ministers, high officials and experts as well as between delegations to conferences. The attitude of individual delegations of the Twelve prior to the adoption of common positions is a matter for them.

The Stockholm Conference on Confidence-Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe has produced a package of concrete measures which meet the criteria set out in its mandate agreed at the Madrid CSCE Follow-up Conference. The new CSBM's constitute a substantial improvement and extension of the CSBM's adopted in the Helsinki Final Act as they include more mandatory commitments, apply to notification of military activities at a significantly lower level, include verification measures and confirm the decision at the Madrid CSCE review meeting in 1983 that confidence-building measures will apply to the zone extending from the Atlantic to the Urals, thus including the whole of the European area of the Soviet Union.

The Stockholm Conference is the first multilateral agreement in the field of security to provide for verification through on-site inspection by land, air or both, without the right of refusal, [it] reflects the Twelve's approach to confidence- and security building, i.e. practical measures rather than a declaratory approach. In language very close to that elaborated by the Twelve, an introductory text in the Stockholm document reaffirms the commitment of the participating States to the non-use of force and includes, at the insistence of the Twelve and other Western and neutral States, a reference to respect for human rights as an essential factor in establishing confidence between States. Constraining measures acceptable to the Twelve were also agreed.

The Twelve worked hard to achieve this result which is in line with their objectives. They will take every opportunity to insist that all participating countries observe strictly and apply in good faith the provisions of the Stockholm document.

**87/086. Question No 321/86 by Mr Schwalba-Hoth (ARC-D)
Concerning Torture of Children in South Africa**

Date of Issue: 28 January 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 13 May 1986

On 24 March 1986 a group of South African women's organizations published a memorandum denouncing the torture of children in South Africa.

1. What is the Foreign Ministers' view of this memorandum?
2. Can the Foreign Ministers confirm the information about the torture of some 350 eleven to eighteen-year-olds while under arrest?
3. Are the Foreign Ministers prepared to take up this matter with the South African Minister responsible, Mr Louis Le Grange?

Answer:

The Twelve are deeply concerned by the continuing detention without trial of large numbers of people, in particular young people and children, and evidence of these detainees being ill-treated, as well as by other human rights abuses in South Africa. They have made this very clear to the South African authorities on a number of occasions, including in a recent *démarche* by the Presidency's Ambassador in Pretoria. The Twelve are not in a position to confirm the precise facts quoted by the Honourable Member.

**87/087. Question No 1022/86 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E) Concerning
the Failure to Ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Extradition**

Date of Issue: 28 January 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 23 July 1986

Which European Community countries have not yet ratified the Council of Europe Convention on Extradition and what reasons have been given for their failure to do so?

Answer:

The three Member States who have not yet ratified the Council of Europe Convention on Extradition (Belgium, Portugal, United Kingdom) are all considering the possibility of ratification. Portugal awaits the introduction of appropriate legislation before ratifying. The United Kingdom Parliament is currently considering legislation which, if enacted, will enable that country to ratify. Belgium did not see fit to ratify the Convention given the large number of reserves on substantial points raised by several parties to the Convention.

**87/088. Question No 1488/86 by Ms Lizin (S-B) Concerning the
State of Siege in Chile, After Thirteen Years of Dictatorship**

Date of Issue: 28 January 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 1 October 1986

What action do the Ministers meeting in political cooperation intend to take to express their attitude towards this state of siege?

- a) Coordinated action by the representatives of the Twelve in Santiago: what diplomatic action is being contemplated?
- b) What coordinated economic action is being contemplated?
- c) Is specific humanitarian aid in response to the arrests being planned?

Answer:

On 16 September Foreign Ministers of the Twelve issued a declaration in which they made clear their concern at developments in Chile¹, specifically the decision to impose a state of siege. Bilateral humanitarian assistance is being provided by individual partners. The Twelve's representatives in Santiago coordinate closely over how the Twelve can best contribute to a return to full democracy in Chile. The Twelve remain committed to working actively and effectively for this objective.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 86/272.

87/089. Question No 1612/86 by Mr Griffiths (S-UK) Concerning Visas for Israel Granted by the Soviet Union

Date of Issue: 28 January 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 17 October 1986

Are the Foreign Ministers pleased that the representations made at the Ottawa Experts' Meeting on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and the Berne Experts' Meeting on Human Contacts have resulted in the Soviet Union granting more visas for Israel to Jews who have made such applications and especially those who have been waiting for more than ten years?

Can the Foreign Ministers list those Jews who have been granted visas since the Ottawa and Berne meetings and indicate which of those granted have been waiting for more than ten years?

Answer:

The Twelve attach great importance to the respect of the provision in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights (1948) that every person has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country. The provisions in the Helsinki Final Act as well as those contained in the Madrid Concluding Document also pertain to the right to emigrate.

The Twelve continue to make individual and joint representations to the Soviet Union, emphasizing the importance they attach to the observance of commitments freely entered into. In spite of the resolution of some individual cases since the Ottawa and Berne meetings, Soviet practice in general falls well short of these commitments. The Vienna CSCE Follow-up Meeting, which opened on 4 November, will present another opportunity for the Twelve to press for progress in this area.

87/090. Question No 2031/86 by Ms Piermont (ARC-D) Concerning Remarks by Sir Geoffrey Howe, President-in-Office of the Council of Foreign Ministers

Date of Issue: 28 January 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 28 November 1986

According to a report in *Le Monde* on 6 November 1986, Sir Geoffrey Howe, the British Foreign Secretary, told the CSCE in Vienna on 4 November that the present imbalance in favour of the Soviet Union in conventional, chemical and tactical nuclear weapons in Europe would create problems in the event of an agreement on medium-range missiles.

Would the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation state:

1. Did Sir Geoffrey make these remarks in his capacity as British Foreign Secretary or as President-in-Office of the Council of Foreign Ministers?
2. In the event of the latter, when did the Twelve decide to adopt this joint position?
3. Do the Governments of all twelve Member States share this position? If not, which Member States hold divergent views, and what are they?
4. Is it not paradoxical that the United States and the NATO States supported the so-called zero option, the aim of the agreement, during the negotiations which preceded deployment, but have withdrawn their support now that this objective is within reach?

Answer:

The press report referred to by the Honourable Member was based on remarks made to the press by Sir Geoffrey Howe, speaking in his national capacity after his meeting in Vienna with Mr Shevardnadze. Sir Geoffrey Howe did not make the remarks attributed to him in the report.

87/091. Question No 2071/86 by Mr Perinat Elio (ED-E) Concerning European Mediation in Chile

Date of Issue: 28 January 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 2 December 1986

The recent visit to Chile made by Nestor Sánchez, the Under-Secretary for Inter-American Affairs at the United States Department of Defence, enabled him to make a number of political contacts and established an important precedent for possible external mediation which may help the future political situation in Chile.

As experience has shown on several occasions, visits by foreign personalities to countries with political situations similar to that in Chile allow the conflicting sides to communicate with each other by means of the opinions and views they express to foreign visitors of high political standing and this constitutes an indirect form of mediation.

Do the Foreign Ministers therefore think that following the example of the US Department, which sent a senior political figure to Chile to maintain political contacts, it would be advisable for the European Community to help to improve the political climate in Chile by sending leading European personalities who, by talking to the parties involved in the present situation in Chile, might prepare them for negotiations which could open the way for a desirable political solution to the present crisis in that country?

Answer:

The Twelve are firmly committed to helping encourage the development of a dialogue between the Chilean Government and the democratic opposition leading to the orderly restoration of democracy. There are no plans, however, for European political figures to undertake a visit to Chile comparable to that of Mr Sánchez.

87/092. Question No 2079/86 by Mr Saby (S-F) Concerning Human Rights in Morocco

Date of Issue: 28 January 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 2 December 1986

At a time when Morocco is seeking to enjoy the best possible relations with the Community, could not the Foreign Ministers make representations to the Moroccan Government to draw its attention to the sorry plight of Mr Ali Moses Serfaty, aged 34, who has been regularly arrested and tortured since the age of 19 simply for being the son of Mr Abraham Serfaty, a political opponent of the Government sentenced to life imprisonment, even though the son is not politically active in Morocco or anywhere else?

Could they not ask the Moroccan authorities to give Mr Ali Serfaty, who is in deplorable physical and mental condition, a passport so that he can go with his wife, a German national, to France to join his mother, who is a French national?

Answer:

The Twelve have been aware of the plight of both Mr Abraham Serfaty and his son Mr Ali Moses Serfaty for some time. The Moroccan authorities are in no doubt of the Twelve's continued concern over any abuses of human rights wherever they occur. The issuing of a passport to a Moroccan national is the responsibility of the Moroccan authorities.

87/093. Statement on the Philippines

Date of Issue: 4 February 1987

Place of Issue: Brussels

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: The Twelve

Status of Document: Declaration

The twelve countries of the European Community welcome the fact that the referendum has taken place in a most satisfactory manner, and that the outcome has shown the existence of a broad national consensus.

They have complete confidence that under President Corazón Aquino the democratic process which she has initiated will be continued.

The twelve countries of the European Community hope that, with its regained stability, the Republic of the Philippines will now be able to devote itself to its economic recovery, with the cooperation and for the benefit of the entire population. The Twelve are willing, in so far as possible, to contribute actively to that recovery.

87/094. Question No 516/86 by Mr Perinat Elio (ED-E) Concerning the Exercise of their Basic Rights by the Indigenous Populations of Brazil, Nicaragua and Paraguay

Date of Issue: 5 February 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 5 June 1986

As an expression of its constant concern for the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms as defined in the United Nations Universal Declaration of 10 December 1948, the European Parliament

has condemned on various occasions the scorn which the political regimes in power have shown towards the indigenous populations of Brazil, Nicaragua and Paraguay in the exercise of their basic rights.

Since Parliament made these statements, new political circumstances have arisen and from one side or another the balance of political events has produced a new scenario clearly different from that in which Parliament's above-mentioned statements were made.

Could the Council state what information it possesses on the current situation regarding the exercise of their basic rights by the indigenous populations of the three American countries referred to in relation to the possibilities offered by the political regimes in power?

Answer:

This question has not been discussed in the framework of European political cooperation.

87/095. Questions Nos 1594/86, 1595/86, 1596/86, 1597/86 1598/86 and 1599/86 by Mr Glinne (S-B) Concerning the Attitude of the Twelve to the Mission of the UNIFIL¹

Date of Issue: 5 February 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question, of 26 September 1986

Originally, when created eight years ago, the UNIFIL (United Nations interim force to the Lebanon) met with American support, Israeli indifference and Russian opposition to any financial contribution from Moscow. Today, Washington is apparently indifferent and has reduced its financial support by half, Israel is requesting that the UNIFIL continue in its present role and Moscow has started to pay. However, since there have been more than 130 fatalities and numerous casualties in the ranks of the French contingent, the French Government is requesting the UN Security Council, General Assembly and General Secretariat to provide greater protection for the 'blue helmets' in the Lebanon and to alter the UNIFIL's status (5 800 troops supplied by France, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Ghana, Nepal and the Fiji Islands).

In view of these circumstances and having regard to the military personnel provided and the human and financial cost borne by the three Member States of the Community, I should like as full a reply as possible to the following question[s]:

[Question No 1594/86:] .

Is it not essential that the UNIFIL be given a more effective role over and above that of an inadequately deployed interposed defensive force or else risk exposing the troops, especially those supplied by the three European governments, as sitting targets, and witnessing the UNIFIL being accused of failure to carry out its mission, which has been hampered from the outset and rendered politically and militarily impossible as a result of the inadequate international consensus reached as to its purpose?

[Question No 1595/86:]

[...]

- What is the method of calculating financial contributions to the UNIFIL,
- to what extent have these contributions been refused in full or in part, and
- what is the current level of international finance needed for the force?

[Question No 1596/86:]

[...]

In absolute and relative figures, what financial and military contributions (1985 and 1986) have the three Community countries concerned made to the force with respect to the contributions of other UN countries; what losses have the contingents from our three countries sustained compared to the total number of losses, since the creation of the UNIFIL?

[Question No 1597/86:]

[...]

For the UNIFIL to be genuinely effective and credible, is it not essential that a decision be obtained from the international community to deploy the interim force along the whole length of the Israeli-Lebanese frontier instead of confining it to an area that is so restricted that no real measure of peace keeping can be achieved in southern Lebanon?

[Question No 1598/86:]

[...]

Is the maintenance of the UNIFIL compatible with the Israeli refusal to accept and apply the Security Council's resolutions – especially the resolution of 23 September 1986 – calling for the complete withdrawal of Israeli armed forces from the Lebanon?

[Question No 1599/86:]

[...]

Do the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation consider that the role of the UNIFIL and the western European contribution are justified on account of the fragility of the Lebanese Government and the need to interpose a deterrent force between the pro-Israeli army of southern Lebanon and the Hezbollah radical Shiite party?

Answer:

The Security Council, which has sole authority to decide on all matters concerning UNIFIL's mandate, has consistently urged all the parties concerned to cooperate fully with the force in the fulfilment of its mandate. The Twelve have repeatedly stressed their support for the force and made clear their regret that the necessary cooperation has not in all cases been forthcoming.

Following events in the UNIFIL area earlier in the year which served to place new obstacles in the way of UNIFIL's mission, the Security Council in Resolution 587 of 23 September 1986 called for an end in Southern Lebanon to any military presence which is not accepted by the Lebanese authorities and for preparations to be made for UNIFIL to deploy to the southern border of Lebanon. As was made clear in the UN Secretary General's report of 13 October, Israel could not agree to complete withdrawal of the forces from Lebanese territory. Member States of the Twelve have, however, continued to press Israel to do so.

It is the Twelve's view that, despite the difficulties confronting the force, UNIFIL is playing a useful role in providing protection for the people and stability in the region. It is clear that given its role as a peace-keeping force UNIFIL's mandate can be accomplished only with the cooperation of all the parties. In this connection the Twelve are convinced that the full implementation of the mandate would serve the interests of the people of South Lebanon and peace and stability in the region as a whole.

¹ Cf. *OJ* No C 82 of 30 March 1987, pp. 32-35.

87/096. Joint Political Declaration on Political Dialogue and Economic Cooperation Between the European Community and its Member States, and the Countries of Central America and of the Contadora Group, Issued at the Ministerial Conference in Guatemala City

Date of Issue: 10 February 1987

Place of Issue: Guatemala City, Guatemala

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Foreign Ministers (with other actors)

Status of Document: Joint Declaration

1. The third ministerial conference between the Community and its Member States and the countries of Central America¹ and of the Contadora Group² on the political dialogue inaugurated in San José, Costa Rica, on 28 and 29 September 1984³ and continued in Luxembourg on 11 and 12 November 1985⁴, and on economic cooperation between the Community and the Central American countries, was held in Guatemala City on 9 and 10 February. Mr Claude Cheysson represented the Commission.

2. A joint political declaration and a joint economic *communiqué* were issued at the end of the conference. Those taking part were:

For the European Community

Mr Leo Tindemans,

Minister for External Relations (Belgium), President of the Council

Mr Uffe Elleman-Jensen,

Minister for Foreign Affairs (Denmark)

Mr Jürgen Ruhfus,

Minister of State at the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Federal Republic of Germany)

Mr Theodoros Pangalos,

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs (Greece)

Mr Francisco Fernández Ordóñez,

Minister for Foreign Affairs (Spain)

Mr Didier Bariani,

State Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (France)

Mr John Swift,

Assistant Secretary-General at the Department of Foreign Affairs (Ireland)

Ms Susanna Agnelli,

State Secretary for Foreign Affairs (Italy)

Mr Robert Goebbels,

State Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade (Luxembourg)

Mr Hans Van den Broek,

Minister for Foreign Affairs (Netherlands)

Mr Eduardo Azevedo Soares,

State Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Portugal)

Baroness Young,

Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (United Kingdom)

Mr Claude Cheysson,

Member of the Commission of the European Communities

For Central America

Mr Mario Quiñones Amezcuita,

Minister for External Relations (Guatemala)

Mr Ricardo Acevedo Peralta,

Minister for External Relations (El Salvador)
 Mr Carlos López Contreras,
 Minister for External Relations (Honduras)
 Mr Miguel d'Escoto Brockman,
 Minister for External Relations (Nicaragua)
 Mr Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto,
 Minister for External Relations and Religious Affairs (Costa Rica)

For the Contadora Group countries

Mr Julio Londoño Paredes,
 Minister for External Relations (Colombia)
 Mr Bernardo Sepúlveda Amor,
 Secretary of Foreign Affairs (Mexico)
 Mr Jorge Abadía Arias,
 Minister for External Relations (Panama)
 Mr Simón Alberto Consalvi
 Minister for External Relations (Venezuela)

Observer for the Permanent Secretariat of the General Treaty on Central American Economic Integration

Mr Raúl Sierra Franco,
 Secretary-General.

3. The Ministers expressed their profound gratitude to the President of the Republic of Guatemala, at whose invitation the Conference had been convened. They also warmly thanked the Government and people of Guatemala for their excellent reception and the perfect organization of the Conference, which had enabled it to proceed smoothly.

4. The participants in the Guatemala Conference saw it as reaffirming the commitment agreed in the Final Act of the Luxembourg Conference, to institutionalize and develop through annual meetings, in principle at ministerial level, the political dialogue between them, in accordance with the principles set out in the San José Declaration of 29 September 1984.

5. They remain convinced that this political dialogue will contribute to the efforts of the countries of Central America, with the support and encouragement of the Contadora Group, to find a negotiated, regional, global and peaceful solution, coupled with adequate machinery for verification and supervision, in order to put an end to the violence and instability in the area and to foster respect for international law, human rights, social justice, economic development and fundamental freedoms.

6. As agreed in the Final Act of the Luxembourg Conference, this peaceful solution must be based on the principles laid down in the United Nations Charter, the OAS Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Duties and the American Convention of Human Rights and on the Contadora Group's 'Document of objectives', which has been approved by the Central American Presidents.

7. The participants recollected that the signing of the inter-regional framework cooperation agreement between Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua, as parties to the General Treaty on Central American Economic Integration, and Panama on the one hand, and the European Economic Community on the other, had underlined the political will of the two regions to lay the foundations for closer cooperation and achieve common goals by implementing that agreement swiftly and in full.

8. They reiterated their conviction that with this Agreement, economic, trade, financial and development cooperation and the new structure of inter-regional relations between the countries of the European Community and those of Central America would be based on equality and mutual respect between sovereign States.

9. They agreed that the accession of Spain and Portugal to the European Community in January 1986 had, in view of the cultural and historical heritage which those countries shared with Latin America, imparted fresh impetus to the strengthening of understanding and cooperation between Europe and Latin America.

10. The participants reviewed developments in and related to Central America in the period since they had last met in Luxembourg on 11 and 12 November 1985. The Ministers expressed their satisfaction at the growing momentum of democracy in the region, constituting as this did a fundamental step towards its consolidation. They again reaffirmed their common conviction that peace could not be brought about by force and that the peace initiative of the Contadora Group and the Support Group represented the Latin American chosen means for finding solutions to the regional crisis. They accordingly reiterated that the peace initiative in question continued to be at present the only means through which a peaceful, negotiated solution to the Central American crisis could viably be reached.

11. They recalled that the meeting of the Ministers for External Relations of the Contadora Group and the Support Group on 12 January 1986 in Caraballeda (Venezuela), had given a new impetus to the peace process. They affirmed the continuing validity of the 'Caraballeda message' on peace, security and democracy in Central America, and defining the lasting foundations of mutual trust which would revive the spirit of negotiation and make possible the attainment of the ultimate objective of the signing and entry into force of the Contadora Act for peace and cooperation in Central America. They welcomed the Guatemala Declaration signed on 14 January 1986 by the Ministers for External Relations of the Central American countries in which they expressed their attachment to the objectives and principles of the Caraballeda message.

12. The participants particularly welcomed the historic meeting of the five Central American Presidents which took place at Esquipulas on 24 and 25 May 1986. In the Esquipulas Declaration, the Central American Heads of State affirmed their support for the Contadora process as the best political forum at present available for the achievement of peace and democracy and the reduction of tensions. They also affirmed that peace in Central America could come about only as a result of an authentic democratic process that was pluralistic and participatory, and which implied the promotion of social justice and respect for human rights, the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States and the right of all nations to determine, freely and without outside interference of any kind their own economic, political and social model, it being understood that it is the freely expressed will of the peoples that determines this model.

13. The delegations expressed their support for the proposal advanced at the Esquipulas summit by the President of Guatemala to establish a Central American Parliament. They noted with satisfaction the decision that this Parliament should be elected by direct universal suffrage and hoped that its creation would contribute to strengthening the full application of international law, democracy and cooperation among the Central American States, in particular the process of regional integration. The representatives of the Member States of the European Community and of the Contadora Group countries viewed with approval the creation, institution and activities of the Central American Parliament Preparatory Commission set up by the Esquipulas summit, and its efforts to set up organic and permanent regional political forums at the highest level whose tasks would be to impart momentum to the process of integration in the area in peace, harmony and security. They accordingly intend to lend their fullest support to such initiatives with a view to securing the most expeditious possible signing of the acts which would bring them into being. The participants from Europe wished to foster cooperation between the European Parliament and the Central American Parliament as soon as it takes shape. The Central American countries, for their part, underlined the need to adopt a system for the election of representatives to the Central American Parliament on the basis of common rules which encourage true ideological pluralism guaranteeing the broadest participation by all sectors and helping to strengthen the democratic process in the States concerned.

14. The Ministers for External Relations of the Central American States and of the Contadora Group of States expressed their satisfaction at the various messages voicing support from the twelve Member States of the European Community in connection with the above meetings.

15. The participants considered that the presentation by the Contadora Group to the Central American States of a revised draft Contadora Final Act on 7 June 1986 represented an important stage in the negotiation process.

They noted that certain Central American States had concluded, after detailed study, that there remained points in the draft Act which required further amendment. The Ministers for External Relations of the twelve Member States of the European Community and of the Contadora Group urged the Central American States to continue their negotiations with close adherence to peaceful means of resolving disputes and to basic principles and standards of coexistence between nations.

16. The participants welcomed the statements made on 1 October and the *communiqué* published on 18 December 1986 by the Contadora Group and the Support Group, and the visits made in January 1987 by the Ministers of the Contadora Group and the Support Group and the Secretaries-General of the United Nations and the OAS, which showed their governments' determination to continue to strive towards peace in the face of a conflict which had obvious implications for stability throughout Latin America.

17. They took note of the *communiqué* of 21 January 1987 issued after the Ministers for External Relations of the Contadora Group and Support Group countries, and the Secretaries-General of the UN and the OEA, had completed their tour of the five Central American countries, this tour constituting an unprecedented event which highlighted the support of the international community for the peace initiatives.

18. They welcomed with satisfaction the joint *aide-mémoire* of 18 November 1986 emanating from the Secretaries-General of the UN and the OAS, which refers to the range of services which both organizations could provide to complement or consolidate the initiatives undertaken within the Contadora framework.

19. They reaffirmed the objectives of the political dialogue and economic cooperation undertaken between the European Community and Central America as set out in the joint political *communiqué* of the Luxembourg Ministerial Conference.

20. They noted that increasing tension in the area made it correspondingly more urgent to find a negotiated settlement which must be based on the principles of pluralist democracy and full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, independence, non-interference, self-determination and the inviolability of frontiers.

The Ministers of the European Community and of the Contadora Group appealed to the countries of Central America urgently to take simultaneous measures to create a climate of mutual trust, thus demonstrating their political will to reach an agreement.

21. They reiterated their conviction that it was essential for all countries with links and interests in the region to make a genuine contribution towards creating a favourable climate in which the Contadora objectives could be translated into an agreement which could bring lasting peace and stability to the region. They also declared themselves convinced that appropriate implementing and follow-up mechanisms would be essential to maintain the mutual trust required for the agreement to be applied.

22. The countries of the European Community reiterated their willingness to support, to the extent that they were able and if so requested, the action of the States which would be responsible for implementing the terms of the future Act for peace and cooperation and, in particular, to contribute to the implementing and follow-up mechanisms.

23. The delegations agreed that the next meeting would be held next year in Europe, in accordance with the alternation rule.

¹ Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and El Salvador.

² Colombia, Mexico, Panama and Venezuela.

³ *Bull. EC* 9-1984, point 1.1.1 *et seq.*

⁴ *Bull. EC* 11-1985, point 1.2.1 *et seq.* See *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 85/253.

87/097. Statement on the Fate of the Civilians in the Palestine Camps in Lebanon

Date of Issue: 16 February 1987
Place of Issue: Brussels
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Source of Document: The Twelve
Status of Document: Declaration

Seriously alarmed by the situation inside some of the Palestinian camps in Lebanon, the Twelve endorse the appeal made by the United Nations Security Council on 13 February for a cease-fire around the camps and for the rapid distribution of supplies to the refugees. In a humanitarian spirit and noting recent developments, they strongly urge the parties involved to ensure that the civilian population receive the regular supply of food, clothing and medicine which they need.

In parallel with this appeal, the Twelve have made and will be making the necessary representations to the parties concerned.

The Twelve have taken note of the emergency aid which the Commission has already decided on, in addition to the national measures taken. They confirm the Community's readiness to grant further aid when the conditions for its distribution exist.

87/098. Question No H-812/86 by Mr Ford Concerning War Criminals¹

Date of Issue: 18 February 1987
Place of Issue: Strasbourg
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Source of Document: Presidency
Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Have the Foreign Ministers had any contact with the US State Department in the matter of allegations that 17 Nazi war criminals are at large in the United Kingdom as announced by the Los Angeles-based Simon Wiesenthal Centre?

Mr Tindemans, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: Mr President, the Ministers meeting in political cooperation have not discussed this matter.

Mr Ford (S): Thank you for that answer. I would be grateful if you could tell me when the Ministers meeting in political cooperation will discuss this issue which is a matter of concern across Europe. In the United Kingdom there have been recent reports that British Governments have colluded in sheltering Nazi war criminals. I am sure the people of Europe would be grateful to know whether that is happening in other European countries and whether people like Klaus Barbie and Mengele have in fact been assisted by governments in Europe. I hope you will investigate whether that is true of other countries, and I wonder whether you would comment on the sentiment that Simon Wiesenthal expressed when he gave evidence to the European Parliament's Committee of Inquiry on the Growth of Racism and Fascism to the effect that the continued search for Nazi war criminals was important now not so much as a matter of revenge but to demonstrate that there is no hiding place even more than forty years on for those who perpetrate such inhuman crimes.

Mr Tindemans: Mr President, the matter raised by the Honourable Member is a matter for the legal authorities in the Member States of the Community.

¹ Former Oral Question without debate (0-193/86), made into a question for Question Time.

87/099. Question No H-680/86 by Mr Marshall Concerning the Plight of Refuseniks

Date of Issue: 18 February 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Are the Foreign Ministers aware of the fact that many *refuseniks* have been waiting for over five years to go to Israel?

Will they discuss this matter with representatives of the Soviet authorities?

Mr Tindemans, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: The Twelve attach the highest importance to respect for the right of every individual to leave any country, including his or her own, and to return there. This right is universally recognized, notably in article 13 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and article 12 of the International Pact on civil and political rights. The seventh Principle of the Helsinki Final Act specifically refers to the obligations enshrined in those two texts. Other provisions of the Final Act and the document closing the Madrid Conference also refer to the right to emigrate.

At the meeting held in Vienna last year on developments since the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Twelve drew attention to the many shortcomings in the Soviet Union's performance in this regard. They are closely following developments on emigration from the Soviet Union. They have raised this matter time and again in dealings with the Soviet authorities, and will continue to do so. At the Vienna meeting they introduced a proposal aimed at more effective recognition of the right to leave and return to any country, including one's own.

Mr Marshall (ED): I thank the President-in-Office for that very full and helpful answer. Can I ask him if the Council will guarantee to maintain pressure on the Russians and to refuse to be taken in by their current propaganda campaign which led to the release of a few individuals for propaganda purposes, and, more importantly, by the policy of disinformation of which the statement several days ago that Yosif Begun had been freed whereas he is, in fact, still a prisoner, and the claim that 500 individuals had been allowed to leave Russia in January, are just two examples.

Mr Tindemans: The political pressure concerning emigration by Jews brought to bear on the Soviet Union by the Twelve is best seen through their constant vigilance and their practical initiatives. This is also where we find the explanation of the importance attached by the Twelve to recognition of human rights as an essential factor conducing to peace, security and international cooperation.

My answer to the Honourable Member's second question is therefore: yes, such a policy must, in the end, bear fruit. Recent events, such as the release of a number of political prisoners and the granting of exit visas to a few Jewish and other dissidents, are welcomed by the Twelve. It is clear, however, that the Twelve are continuing in their efforts to secure an over-all improvement in the lot of *refuseniks*. If the Soviet authorities are now going to show themselves readier than in the past to engage in open and serious dialogue on this subject with the Twelve, I venture to hope that this will help to bring about a complete solution to the problem in the near future.

Mr Arbeloa Muru (S): I want to ask the same question as Mr Marshall, but looking at the positive side.

Do you not think, Mr President, that the freeing of three hundred Jewish political dissidents by the Gorbachev Government in recent days is a good and happy piece of news? Is this not an invitation, not just to the Council, but to all democrats and Europeanists to help and encourage this policy of the Soviet Government to continue as far as possible?

Mr Tindemans: Perhaps I was speaking too quickly, but I said: 'Recent events are welcomed by the Twelve'. That was, after all, a positive statement. And I went on: 'It is clear, however, that the Twelve are continuing in their efforts to secure an over-all improvement'.

I do think that these two sentences answer the Honourable Member's second question.

Mr Cryer (S): I endorse the President-in-Office's satisfaction at the recent release of Soviet dissidents. Does he also welcome the more open attitude of the Soviet Union, for example, towards nuclear testing

and their ban on nuclear testing for the past eighteen months whereas the United States has conducted over twenty tests to the outrage of decent civilized human beings? Would he also, with his concern for human rights everywhere, express to the United Kingdom Government his concern at the continued use of exclusion orders whereby citizens are excluded from the mainland of the United Kingdom and confined to Northern Ireland without any charges ever being brought against them?

Mr Tindemans: Much to my regret, I come to the conclusion that the question just put is quite unconnected to Mr Marshall's question. I therefore see no call to answer it.

Mr Kuijpers (ARC): Following on from Mr Marshall's question, I should like to ask the President-in-Office if he is also aware of the fate of dozens of Europeans who have been in work camps in the Soviet Union since the war. Is it not time the Council took steps to obtain their release or at least some information on them?

Mr Tindemans: I believe each Member State of the Community has done or is doing what it can for its own nationals. This has certainly been true of Belgium.

Mr Stauffenberg (PPE): I should like to ask the President-in-Office of the Council if the Council does not share the view that the happy news of the release of political prisoners hides the unhappy and intolerable fact that there was no legal justification for the detention of these political prisoners.

Mr Tindemans: I think the Honourable Member is raising the issue of human rights in general. Recognition of human rights is covered by one of the 'baskets' approved in Helsinki. The Community of Twelve loses no opportunity to put questions concerning recognition of human rights. We did so during the review of the situation at the Vienna Conference. The Twelve are constantly at pains to reiterate the need for recognition of human rights.

87/100. Question No H-694/86 by Mr Barros Moura Concerning the Situation in East Timor and EEC-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting

Date of Issue: 18 February 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

In the Oral Question which, together with other Portuguese Members, I put on 6 October 1986 – and to which, unfortunately, no answer has been given – I asked the Council about the situation in East Timor. This major problem of the violation of human rights and the carrying out of death sentences for political reasons in Indonesia were not considered serious enough by the Council to warrant changing the setting for the meeting, which was held in Jakarta thus obliging one Member State to arrange to be represented by another.

Was the question of East Timor discussed in the context of consideration of the political situation in the region?

What stance did the Foreign Ministers adopt on this question? In particular, did they propose the measures recommended in the European Parliament's resolution of July 1986¹ as a means of guaranteeing the right to self-determination and putting an end to the military occupation and genocide practised by Indonesia?

Did they recommend any measures to support Portugal in respect of its responsibilities under international law?

What is their view of the results?

Mr Tindemans, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: The content of the European Parliament's resolution of 12 July 1986 on the situation in East Timor was brought to the attention of the Twelve.

The arrangements made for representation at the last ministerial meeting with the ASEAN countries testified to the wish of the Twelve to respect the special situation of one Member State. In their statement of 21 July 1986² on human rights, the Foreign Ministers affirmed that, in the conduct of their relations

with non-member countries and the administration of aid, the European Community and its Member States would continue to promote fundamental rights, so that individuals and peoples could in practice fully enjoy their economic, social and cultural rights and their civil and political rights.

Mr Barros Moura (COM): The question I wish to ask is this:

A new meeting in Jakarta has now been announced. I would like to hear the President of the Council confirm or deny this meeting which, I repeat, has now been announced in Jakarta. Because, basically, my question is still valid. If the Community is guided by human rights in its relations with third countries, if the Community above all else owes solidarity to its members, then why was there a meeting in Jakarta? What, then, is the reason for my not being given an answer as to whether the question of Timor was discussed in that meeting in Jakarta?

Mr Tindemans: First of all, this was a meeting between the Twelve or the Community and the ASEAN countries. On this occasion it was the turn of the ASEAN countries to invite the Europeans. It was therefore up to them to choose where the meeting was to be held. It would be out of place for the Europeans to criticize decisions or choices made by countries holding the Presidency of ASEAN. That is why the meeting took place in Jakarta.

Mr Van der Lek (ARC): I should like to hear from the President-in-Office of the Council not so much what was discussed at this conference but whether the Council is really prepared to endorse and support the position adopted in the resolution of 12 July 1986, that East Timor has a right to self-determination. I am not talking about the general declaration of willingness to stand up for human rights but about support for the position adopted in the resolution. Will the Minister do this, and if so, how?

Mr Tindemans: The problem raised by the Honourable Member is a bilateral problem. No part is played in such matters by the Community or the Twelve.

¹ Resolution of 10 July 1981 on the Situation in East Timor, *OJ* No 227 of 8 September 1986, p. 124.

² *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 86/230.

87/101. Question No H-698/86 by Sir Peter Vanneck Concerning the Southern African Transport Infrastructure and Sanctions

Date of Issue: 18 February 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Given the vital economic importance of the transport infrastructure in Southern Africa and the fact that the only available secure and efficient transport infrastructure is that in the Republic of South Africa, would it not be more rational to halt sanctions in favour of a large civil engineering programme for roads, railways and harbours in the SADCC States, a programme that may require a decade to complete?

Mr Tindemans, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: As the Honourable Member is undoubtedly aware, the Twelve are not of the opinion that restrictive measures against South Africa are an alternative to economic support for its neighbouring countries. We have decided to apply certain restrictive measures in order to emphasize our grave concern at the situation in South Africa and to persuade the South African Government of the need for it to act immediately in adopting the measures necessary to create the conditions for an authentic national dialogue across racial, political and religious barriers. With every passing day the need to get such a dialogue under way becomes more urgent.

With regard to transport infrastructure in Southern Africa, the Twelve are actively supporting economic development in the front-line countries and contributing to projects which can help to reduce their dependence on South Africa. In this connection, the Twelve, either as the Community or on the bilateral level, supply aid worth over a billion dollars a year to these countries. In broad terms, the purpose of our aid is to improve the roads, railways and ports in the region so as to enable the countries concerned to enjoy political independence and economic growth without having to rely on South Africa. Details of the Community programmes are available from the Commission.

Mr Vanneck, Sir Peter (ED): Given the recent agreement between Lesotho and the Republic of South Africa on water supplies and the existence of numerous other agreements between the Republic of South Africa and neighbouring States relating to cooperation in transport and energy as well as water, does the President-in-Office not feel that it is time that the charade of sanctions was stopped and constructive dialogue resumed?

After all, Zimbabwe has recently asked for, and been granted, some 34 000 tonnes of oil in emergency supplies from the Republic of South Africa. It would seem they are in cahoots while they are backed by us in pretending to be at loggerheads.

[...]

Mr Tindemans: The Twelve have taken a series of measures which could be termed 'economic sanctions'. In addition, they have adopted a series of measures which could be described as 'positive measures' in favour of the victims of apartheid. The Twelve condemn apartheid and have deemed it necessary to apply sanctions jointly to bring home to South Africa that this situation is intolerable to the European Community and its Member States. That is why the Community of Twelve, as a political grouping, decided to adopt the measures to which I have just referred.

Mr McMahan (S): Among the humanitarian measures which the Council and the Community voted was money to the Kagiso Trust. What representations has the Council made to the South African authorities about the raid by the security police on 7 January 1987 on this trust which was administering EEC funds for victims of apartheid as the President-in-Office has described?

What future action will the Council take to ensure that the South African Government does not make further incursions into funds or charities set up by the Community? Is it not time, if such action has been completed, for the Community to sever completely links with the Republic of South Africa?

Mr Tindemans: We are talking here of possible action in the framework of European political cooperation. As all Honourable Members are aware, any decision by the Twelve requires unanimity. Hitherto, decisions have been taken on the measures to which I have just referred, measures which could be described as sanctions. In addition, others, the 'positive measures', have been decided upon to help the victims of apartheid.

As for the case just mentioned by the Honourable Member, I can confirm that the Commission protested as soon as it learnt of the activities to which the Honourable Member has drawn attention.

Mr Seligman (ED): Since the front-line States themselves have been unable or unwilling to impose sanctions on South Africa and since we are now helping them to establish alternative communications through other countries rather than South Africa, would it not be better to call off sanctions and stop handing over the South African market to the Middle East, the Far East and Japanese competition? It is just an unnecessary sacrifice of the South African market.

Mr Tindemans: As I said a few moments ago, the purpose of the measures decided upon by the Twelve was to send a political signal to South Africa. It was not to undermine or destroy the South African economy.

At the same time, direct contact with the front-line countries continues. Sir Geoffrey Howe was there only recently, and the American Secretary of State, Mr George Schultz, has also just made a trip to these countries. Direct contact thus continues with the countries concerned.

Mr Wijsenbeek (LDR): Might I ask the Foreign Minister if he would be willing to give the Commission the mandate to find out and to report to the Council and Parliament what the front-line States affected by sanctions would have to invest to install their own and interdependent water and energy services and transport facilities.

Mr Tindemans: If I can obtain the unanimous approval of the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation, I shall do so.

Mr Habsburg (PPE): Mr President, you have mentioned that a billion dollars of our taxpayers' money is being spent in the so-called front-line countries. How can we be sure that this money will be used wisely, since there has been some rather disturbing news on this subject?

Mr Tindemans: Once again, the ultimate objective is to secure the abolition of apartheid. In the meantime we want to help the front-line countries and, as I said in my first reply, our aid is aimed at improving the roads, railways and ports in the region so that the countries concerned can enjoy political independence and economic growth without having to rely on South Africa.

87/102. Question No H-703/86 by Mr Arbeloa Muru Concerning 'Missing' Children in Argentina

Date of Issue: 18 February 1987
 Place of Issue: Strasbourg
 Country of Presidency: Belgium
 Source of Document: Presidency
 Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

How do the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation view the campaign carried out by the group *Abuelas de la Plaza de Mayo* and the Argentinian Government to trace and care for children who 'went missing' under the military dictatorship? Have they made or can they make any practical gesture of solidarity and support?

Answer:

The commitment of the Twelve to the encouragement and safeguarding of human rights and fundamental freedoms is well known. Allegations concerning the 'disappearance' of children during the military dictatorship in Argentina are thus a matter of keen concern to the Twelve. It is to be hoped that the fate of these children may be clarified soon, as a result of the efforts by the *Abuelas de la Plaza de Mayo* and the Argentinian Government.

87/103. Question No H-715/86 by Mr Cabezón Alonso Concerning Dictatorship in Paraguay

Date of Issue: 18 February 1987
 Place of Issue: Strasbourg
 Country of Presidency: Belgium
 Source of Document: Presidency
 Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Next December several days of action in support of the restoration of democracy in Paraguay are scheduled to take place in Madrid. The dictatorship which has ruled this South American country since 1954, personified in the figure of General Stroessner, is a disgrace to all democrats throughout the world. What action have the Ministers taken, or do they intend to take, so that the dictatorship in Paraguay may come to an end and the people of Paraguay be able to exercise their rights and freedom once again?

Answer:

The Twelve support a return to democracy in Paraguay as in any other country in the world where the people can neither choose their own Government nor enjoy their fundamental freedoms. The Twelve have ensured that the government of General Stroessner is fully aware of their policy and concern in this respect, both through their contacts bilaterally and as the Twelve and by means of the reservations which they have expressed on such occasions.

87/104. Question No H-726/86 by Mr Pranchère Concerning Arms Shipments to Morocco which are Used in the War in the Western Sahara

Date of Issue: 18 February 1987
Place of Issue: Strasbourg
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Source of Document: Presidency
Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

France, Spain, Belgium and Italy are supplying Morocco with arms (Mirage fighters, tanks, missiles, helicopters, etc.) which that country is using in the war in the Western Sahara. The EEC is thus indirectly responsible for deaths among the Sahrawi people. Do the Foreign Ministers not think that these arms shipments should be suspended until assurances are provided that these arms will not be used on the battlefield?

Answer:

The Twelve support the efforts of the Secretariat-General of the United Nations for a peaceful settlement of the conflict in the Western Sahara. The specific question raised by the Honourable Member has not been discussed by the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation.

87/105. Question No H-753/86 by Mr Ephremidis Concerning the 'List' of Countries which Foment 'Terrorism'

Date of Issue: 18 February 1987
Place of Issue: Strasbourg
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Source of Document: Presidency
Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

At the last session of the Council in Strasbourg on issues related to public order, a journalist who asked the Minister of Public Order of a Member State whether the EEC countries have some kind of 'list of countries' which foment 'terrorism' was told that the 'question of the list is a fact'.

Can the Ministers say whether there really is a 'list', which countries are on it and what the criteria are on which these countries are regarded as fomenting terrorism?

Answer:

As part of their cooperation in the fight against terrorism, the Member States of the Community naturally exchange information on the involvement of third countries in acts of terrorism. By its very nature this information is confidential.

87/106. Question No H-800/86 by Mr Adamou Concerning Plans for the Annexation of Northern Cyprus by Turkey

Date of Issue: 18 February 1987
Place of Issue: Strasbourg
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Source of Document: Presidency
Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

What steps do the Foreign Ministers propose to take to thwart the Ankara Government's plans for the annexation of Northern Cyprus by Turkey, as revealed by the systematic settlement of the occupied

section with Turkey nationals and the looting and destruction of all the monuments and works of art marking the progress of the Cypriot people in the thousands of years of their history, in order to expunge every feature of the national identity of the Cypriots?

Answer:

The Twelve have indicated on numerous occasions, in Parliament and elsewhere, that they support the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and unity of Cyprus. They continue to stress the need, for all involved, to refrain from any action which hinders progress towards a fair and viable solution to the problem. They believe that it is important for the UN Secretary-General to be supported in his mission of good offices which remains, on the basis of UN resolutions, the best way of achieving progress towards a fair and lasting settlement of the Cyprus problem.

87/107. Question No H-801/86 by Mr Alavanos Concerning the Recent Conviction of Members of DISK

Date of Issue: 18 February 1987
 Place of Issue: Strasbourg
 Country of Presidency: Belgium
 Source of Document: Presidency
 Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

The court martial in Istanbul recently convicted 264 members of DISK, on no legal grounds whatsoever, for the purpose of terrorizing democratic and trade union forces in Turkey. What specific steps will the Foreign Ministers take to demand of the Turkish authorities a halt to the persecution, arrests and imprisonment of Turkish trade unionists, the release of those in detention and freedom for all trade unions, including DISK, to operate?

Answer:

The Twelve have always followed closely the situation of trade unions in Turkey and have raised the matter with the Turkish authorities. Some Member States have expressed individually their anxiety and concern.

The Twelve attach great importance to articles 87 and 98 of the ILO Convention (Freedom of association, right to organize and to bargain collectively) and also article 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights (Freedom of peaceful assembly and association, including the right to form trade unions for the protection of one's interests). They have asked the Turkish Government to bear these in mind in its relations with the national trade union movement.

87/108. Question No H-813/86 by Mr Bonde Concerning the EPC Secretariat

Date of Issue: 18 February 1987
 Place of Issue: Strasbourg
 Country of Presidency: Belgium
 Source of Document: Presidency
 Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

What plans exist for setting up the secretariat for European political cooperation? Has a proposal been drawn up on staffing and a budget? Under which regulations will officials be held accountable? Will all officials be subject only to their national civil service regulations and is political cooperation to be financed solely from contributions from the various States?

Answer:

The Secretariat for European political cooperation which commenced work on 5 January 1987 operates under the authority of the Presidency. The work of the Secretariat was outlined in the answer to Oral Question No H-341/86, by Sir Peter Vanneck¹.

The Secretariat for European political cooperation is headed by an official who is appointed by the Foreign Ministers of the Twelve for a term of two and a half years. The Secretariat consists of five diplomats and a number of administrative officials, who are all seconded for two and a half years by the current Presidency, by the two which precede it and by the two which follow it. The status of officials who are seconded to the Secretariat is that of members of diplomatic missions in Brussels. They are attached to these missions for administrative and financial purposes. The operating expenses of the Secretariat are borne by the current Presidency. The Head of the Secretariat is responsible for allocating duties within the Secretariat.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 86/387.

87/109. Question No H-834/86 by Mr Simmonds Concerning a Complaint Against the Belgian Police

Date of Issue: 18 February 1987
Place of Issue: Strasbourg
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Source of Document: Presidency
Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Is the President-in-Office of the Council aware that the Belgian authorities have failed to investigate a complaint against the Belgian police which was referred to them both by Mr Rowan, the individual concerned, and by myself as Mr Rowan's Member of the European Parliament, despite two assurances that this has been referred to that Government by the London attaché to the Belgian Embassy? What action can the President-in-Office take to ensure that this complaint is reasonably and fairly investigated?

Answer:

The Honourable Member's question has not been discussed by the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation.

87/110. Question No H-851/86 by Mr Boesmans Concerning the Murder of Father Gillard

Date of Issue: 18 February 1987
Place of Issue: Strasbourg
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Source of Document: Presidency
Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

On 10 April 1985 the Belgian priest Father Daniel-Hubert Gillard was shot in Cali, Colombia. Father Gillard died of his wounds on 26 October 1985. No evidence has been forthcoming from the Colombian authorities that any serious investigation has been carried out into the circumstances of the attack and the identity of the perpetrators.

What approaches have the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation so far made jointly to the Colombian authorities to persuade the latter to make serious progress as soon as possible with such an investigation and with punishing those responsible, and what have been the results so far?

Answer:

The Honourable Member's question has not been discussed by the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation.

87/111. Question No H-856/86 by Mr van der Lek Concerning the New Indonesian Military Offensive in East Timor

Date of Issue: 18 February 1987
 Place of Issue: Strasbourg
 Country of Presidency: Belgium
 Source of Document: Presidency
 Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Are the Foreign Ministers aware that in the summer of 1986 Indonesia launched a new offensive, called *Operasi Kikis* (Operation Extermination), in an attempt to break the resistance of the *Fretilin* in East Timor (cf. *Tapol Bulletin*, London, December 1986)? Are the reports correct that in this operation the Indonesian army used military equipment recently supplied by British undertakings? What view do the Foreign Ministers take of this? Have they protested against this use of violence in an area which an EEC Member State, Portugal, claims as its own territory and, if not, why not?

Answer:

The rules of European political cooperation do not allow as a matter of principle for an answer to be given to any question dealing with the individual policy of one or more Member States.

87/112. Question No H-861/86 by Ms Dury Concerning a European Policy on Refugees

Date of Issue: 18 February 1987
 Place of Issue: Strasbourg
 Country of Presidency: Belgium
 Source of Document: Presidency
 Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

What stage has been reached in the discussion on the need for a European policy on refugees with regard to human rights and the right of asylum? What action does the Belgian Presidency intend to take in this field?

Answer:

The Working Party on Immigration, set up as a result of a decision by the Ministers of the Interior and Justice of the Twelve, decided on 24 November 1986 to ask a subgroup 'Right to Asylum' to coordinate the policies of the Twelve on this specific matter. The Belgian Presidency intends to pursue the matter until a coordinated solution is found. The results of all this work will be considered by the Ministers of the Interior and Justice at their next meeting on 25 May 1987.

87/113. Question No 1906/86 by Mr Hänsch (S-D) Concerning the Execution of Political Prisoners in Indonesia

Date of Issue: 20 February 1987
 Place of Issue: Strasbourg
 Country of Presidency: Belgium
 Source of Document: Presidency
 Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 13 November 1986

In its resolution of 9 October 1986¹, the European Parliament condemned the death penalties carried out a short time before on political prisoners in Indonesia. It called on the Foreign Ministers of the Twelve to condemn these executions in the strongest terms and to urge the Indonesian Government to treat all remaining prisoners in accordance with international agreements on basic human rights.

1. Did the Foreign Ministers raise this issue during the recent meeting between the EEC and ASEAN in Djakarta?
2. Did the Indonesian Government offer any assurances on this matter?

Answer:

On behalf of the Twelve, the Presidency has made three *démarches* to the Indonesian authorities since early October stating the Twelve's concern over the executions of prisoners, particularly since they had been carried out so many years after the death sentences had been pronounced. The Twelve strongly appealed for clemency to be exercised on humanitarian grounds in respect of other prisoners facing the death penalty, and asked the Indonesian authorities to refrain from further executions.

Furthermore, the matter was raised bilaterally with Indonesian Ministers in the margins of the EC/ASEAN ministerial meeting in Djakarta. The Indonesian reaction was that the sentences had been carried out in full respect of the law.

¹ Resolution on the death sentences carried out recently in Indonesia, *OJ* No C 283 of 10 November 1986, p. 70.

87/114. Statement on the Middle East

Date of Issue: 23 February 1987

Place of Issue: Brussels

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: The Twelve

Status of Document: Declaration

1. The Member States of the European Community have particularly important political, historical, geographical, economic, religious, cultural and human links with the countries and peoples of the Middle East. They cannot therefore adopt a passive attitude towards a region which is close to them nor remain indifferent to the grave problems besetting it. The repercussions of these problems affect the Twelve in many ways.

2. At the present time, tension and conflict in the Near and Middle East are continuing and worsening. The civilian population is suffering more and more without any prospect of peace. The Twelve would like to reiterate their profound conviction that the search for peace in the Near and Middle East remains a fundamental objective. They are profoundly concerned at the absence of progress in finding a solution to the Israeli-Arab conflict.

3. Consequently, they have a direct interest in the search for negotiated solutions to bring just, global and lasting peace to the region and good relations between neighbours, and to allow the economic, social and cultural development which has been too long neglected. They have stated the principles in which solutions should be based on several occasions, in particular in their Venice Declaration.

4. Accordingly, the Twelve would like to state that they are in favour of an international peace conference to be held under the auspices of the United Nations with the participation of the parties concerned and of any party able to make a direct and positive contribution to the restoration and maintenance of peace and to the region's economic and social development. The Twelve believe this conference should provide a suitable framework for the necessary negotiations between the parties directly concerned.

5. For their part, the Twelve are prepared to play their role with respect to such a Conference and will endeavour to make an active contribution, both through the President-in-Office and individually to

bringing the positions of the parties concerned closer to one another with a view to such a Conference being convened. In the meantime, the Twelve request the parties concerned to avoid any action likely to worsen the situation or complicate and delay the search for peace.

6. Without prejudging future political solutions, the Twelve wish to see an improvement in the living conditions of the inhabitants of the occupied territories, particularly regarding their economic, social, cultural and administrative affairs. The Community has already decided to grant aid to the Palestinian population of the Occupied Territories and to allow certain products from those territories preferential access to the Community Market.

87/115. Sixth Summary Analysis of the Application of the Code of Conduct by Community Companies with Subsidiaries in South Africa

Date of Issue: 23 February 1987

Place of Issue: Brussels

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Report to European Parliament and ECOSOC

Introduction

The period under review was the last full reporting period before the introduction of the revised Code of Conduct, which was approved by Community Foreign Ministers in November 1985¹. References in this report to the Code are accordingly to the text adopted in September 1977². It is anticipated that the subsequent period, from July 1985 to June 1986, may be of a transitional character, with most companies reporting in line with the revised format³, but some (owing to the timing of the revision) following the original format.

From mid-1984 to mid-1985 the labour market in South Africa was characterized by high and rising unemployment, an easing of the shortage of skilled labour in some sectors, and some relaxation of the entrenched statutory restrictions on the occupational and geographical mobility of black workers.

With the ending of a minor boom in the economy in the first half of 1984, unemployment began to rise again in South Africa. Among black workers, official figures put unemployment at over half a million by the end of 1984, or 8% of the black working population, but in reality the level was probably much greater and included considerable long-term structural unemployment.

South Africa's shortage of skilled labour became less severe with the ending of the mini-boom. The number of black apprentices under training dropped slightly in 1984, despite the high priority the South African Government attaches to training on a non-racial basis. In other respects black workers continued to face restrictions on their advancement within the economy, notably in the mines, where statutory reservation of some important jobs for whites continued, and in the provisions of some closed-shop agreements. Improvements, however, did occur in 1984/85. There was easing of section 10 of the Urban Areas Act of 1945 (since repealed), which governed the movement of blacks into urban areas, and the coloured labour preference area in the Western Cape was abolished.

Contract migrant labour remained a prominent feature of the labour market. The over-all number of migrant workers appeared, however, to be declining. The declared aims of some European companies to improve accommodation and living conditions for their migrant workers were partly frustrated by a South African administrative ceiling of 3% on the percentage of migrants able to live with their families at a mine. But improvements, such as simpler administrative procedures for the recruitment and retention of workers, continued to be made in the period under review.

The influence of black trade unions increased during 1984/85, as evidenced by the larger numbers of companies reporting that they had signed recognition and negotiating agreements. The old forms of representation for black workers – works councils and liaison committees – nevertheless continued, often operating side by side with trade union structures. Over-all trade union membership grew during 1984/85, despite the onset of economic recession. Of the 1.9 million trade union members by the end of 1985, probably nearly 800 000 were black Africans belonging to independent unions (some important

black labour sectors, such as farming and domestic service, were outside the ambit of the Labour Relations Act and difficult for unions to organize). Trade unions made greater use of the statutory dispute-settling machinery. For example, in 1985 the number of applications for conciliation boards nearly doubled over the previous year. But concurrently unions showed greater militancy than in the year before. There were fewer strikes but more man-days lost through industrial action in 1985 than in 1984. Following strikes in 1984/85 there were some cases of mass dismissals. Security legislation continued to be applied to strike organizers and prominent trade unionists were detained following a two-day stay-away in the Transvaal in November 1984.

A larger and more militant trade union movement did not prevent the incomes of low wage earners in South Africa falling in real terms during 1984/85. The reporting period was characterized by economic recession in which, according to both academic and private consultancy surveys, wage rates generally failed to keep pace with an increase of nearly 16% in the Consumer Price Index.

Unions broadened the scope of their negotiations with companies. A prominent issue in management/union talks, particularly in the engineering and metals industry, was the level at which bargaining should take place: the unions pressed for more plant-level bargaining as a supplement to the (industry-wide) industrial-council bargaining favoured by employers. A landmark industrial court decision during 1984/85, *Hart v. MAWU* (Metal and Allied Workers' Union), confirmed the voluntary nature of plant-level bargaining, but more and more companies were prepared to bargain at this level. Against the background of rising unemployment and limited State social benefits, labour organizations turned their attention to the negotiation of social benefits and retrenchment provisions directly with companies. Health and safety emerged as an important industrial relations issue, particularly following the entry into force in late 1984 of the Machinery and Occupational Safety Act. This extended protection to all in employment and not just those in factories and on building sites, as had been the case under the earlier Act. It also introduced a new level of employee representation by providing for the appointment of safety representatives and safety committees.

Of the reports submitted under the South African Protection of Businesses Act of 1978, none failed to pass the South African clearance procedure.

Analysis of the reports

The sixth Presidency report on the implementation of the Code of Conduct covers the period 1 July 1984 to 30 June 1985. Details of the numbers of companies reporting, and of black African employees, are given below:

	Number of company reports analysed	Number of black African employees
Belgium	2	19
Denmark	2	173
Germany (FR)	68	18 300
France	not stated	1 629
Greece	2	39
Italy	2	1 000
Netherlands	17	4 195
		(in 16 of the companies)
United Kingdom	135	95 800

The total number of companies covered by the report is in excess of 228, and the number of black African workers concerned is around 120 000. No companies in Ireland or Luxembourg submitted reports under the Code.

Relations within firms

As a whole, European companies reported increased levels of cooperation with trade unions having black African members, while also acknowledging the continued importance of liaison committees and similar consultative mechanisms.

The German companies accepted the principle that employees should have a free choice concerning the form of their representative body. Forty-four companies, with 73% of all employees, had informed their personnel of their willingness to cooperate with trade unions. The same number of companies, employing 74% of the total workforce, reported extensive cooperation with trade unions with black African members. Twenty-two of these, employing the majority of black African workers in German companies, stated that this cooperation was based on written agreements, while in the other 22 cooperation was on a non-contractual basis.

UK companies' reports gave evidence of increased dealings with unions representing black workers and of willingness to recognize such unions. There were formal union recognition agreements with 69 companies, and 32 other companies reported some kind of informal dealings with unions. Nearly a third of the companies covered by the UK report stated that their black workers were represented by trade unions in the industrial council system, and an increased number of companies covered by agreements at this level were ready to negotiate supplementary agreements at plant level.

The Dutch companies all believed that employees should be free to choose the means of negotiation with their employer, and all expressed their willingness to negotiate with black trade unions, whether registered or not. Six companies reported direct contact with black unions, and a further two had contact through the industrial council system. Seven Dutch companies had organized some form of consultative structure; in five of these this was in addition to contracts with black unions.

All the French companies reported some form of consultation with their black employees, with one company having an agreement with a union. Both the Danish companies recognized the right of black Africans to membership of a regular trade union, and one of the Italian companies had been involved in bargaining on wage levels and working conditions.

The two Greek companies pointed out that in the sectors concerned either there were no trade unions or their employees had not yet expressed the wish to join one.

According to the reports which gave figures, liaison committees, or something similar, were in operation in 76 UK companies, 35 German companies, 7 Dutch companies, 3 French companies, and both Danish companies.

Migrant labour

The Code recommended that companies should contribute towards ensuring the freedom of movement of black African workers and their families, and should in the mean time alleviate as much as possible the effects of the existing system.

The majority of European companies stated that they did not use migrant labour. Only four of the Dutch companies reported the employment of migrant workers, and in three of these the number involved was small. The majority of French companies also reported that migrant workers were not employed. Again, only one of those which used migrant labour did so on a significant scale, and reported efforts to keep down the numbers involved. Neither Greek company reported the use of migrant labour, while both Italian and both Danish companies stated that migrant workers were not employed.

While the number of German companies employing migrant labour rose from 17 to 24, the actual number of workers involved dropped from 1 060 to 650. Most of these workers were employed in mining and assembly plants, in regions lacking a supply of local labour. Two companies situated in such

regions accounted for 77% of all migrant workers employed by the German companies. The number of UK companies using migrant labour increased by one to 48, while the number of workers remained at around 11 000. Once more, the bulk of this figure (about 80%) was attributable to one company.

The companies which employed migrant labour reported a variety of measures taken to improve the employment conditions of those concerned. These included such additional benefits as extra paid holidays, improved accommodation (including housing for workers' families) and the provision of food and transport. Some of the companies concerned also took steps to ease the problems facing migrant workers in respect of their continued employment, either by facilitating the renewal of contracts, or by providing advice and support in their dealings with the authorities. There was a general recognition that migrant workers should enjoy the same rights as the permanent workforce.

Pay

The Code recommended that companies should formulate specific policies aimed at improving the terms of employment of their black African employees and that the minimum wage should exceed by at least 50% the minimum level required to satisfy the basic needs of an employee and his family.

A considerable majority of the employees of European companies were paid in accordance with this recommendation.

None of the employees of the German companies was reported as being paid below the Minimum Living Level. The reports of 43 German companies, with 71% of all employees, showed that the Minimum Living Level plus 50% was exceeded when the average household size was taken as four persons. The respective figures for households of five persons were 27 companies with 57% of all employees. Twenty-four companies, with 4 729 employees, indicated that the minimum wage was lower than recommended, or did not provide sufficiently precise information to permit assessment. Of the 95 800 black African employees of UK companies, 92.4% were paid above the Code's recommended minimum (or 'higher datum level'). Precise analysis was hampered by a few cases of sparse information.

In the Dutch national report, only seven black African employees were reported as being paid below the Minimum Living Level. One hundred and eighty-six black Africans, employed by seven companies, were paid below the Minimum Living Level plus 50% for a family of a man, his wife and four children. Two companies did not provide sufficiently precise information to contribute to these statistics.

The French companies reported that all employees were paid above the Minimum Living Level, and only a few were paid below the Code's recommendation. Both Danish companies reported that the wages of all their black African employees exceeded by more than 50% the minimum level required to satisfy the basic needs of an employee and his family. Neither the Greek nor the Italian reports gave specific details of numbers paid below the levels set out in the Code (although one of the Italian companies gave details of minimum hourly rates which suggested that the lowest wage rate would be above the Code's minimum recommendation). Furthermore, both Greek companies also reported that all their employees enjoyed the same rates of increase in their wages.

Some companies reported that the payment of wages in line with Code requirements would not be commercially viable, in the face of economic circumstances and local 'going rates'. But the margin by which employees were paid below the minimum recommended level was frequently small, with a number of companies revising their pay scales (especially for low paid workers) more than once a year.

Wage structure and black African advancement

The Code recommended that all jobs should be open to all appropriately qualified workers, irrespective of race, and that wages should be based on qualitative job evaluation. Employers were further urged to provide training for their black African employees and reduce their dependence on white immigrant labour.

Among European companies as a whole, there continued to be a widespread acceptance of the principles of equal pay for equal work, and of equality of job opportunity.

All the German companies embraced these principles. Forty-two companies, with 77% of all employees, reported that they applied objective job classification, free of any racial criteria, for all

employees. One hundred and twenty-nine UK companies expressed unqualified acceptance of the principles, with three of the remaining six expressing qualified acceptance. All the companies covered by the Belgian, Danish, Dutch, French, Greek and Italian reports confirmed that rates of pay and employment opportunities were based on non-racial criteria.

In addition to embracing these principles, most companies took positive steps to improve the employment prospects of their black African employees. These included the provision of training, the promotion of black Africans to higher positions and the minimization of dependence on labour recruited from abroad.

A wide range of training methods were used by European companies, which could be roughly divided into three categories: on-the-job training, in-house training schemes (including apprenticeships) and external courses. Apart from on-the-job training, practised by all the German companies, further training for black African employees was provided by 35 German companies. Among other things, this included the training of apprentices, introductory courses and scholarships for training and further education at universities or technical colleges. One hundred and twenty-six UK companies provided training for black Africans, with 42 companies reporting increased training and the use of external courses. The larger Dutch and French companies provided internal training courses and the opportunity to follow external courses, while smaller companies' efforts were limited to on-the-job training.

Both Italian companies confirmed their commitment to the vocational training of black workers, and one had opened a training centre. Both Danish companies had organized educational programmes in order to enhance the skills of black employees.

Many of the UK and the majority of the German companies reported the promotion of black workers to supervisory and managerial positions. Most of the Dutch companies stated that they tried to employ workers in more responsible positions, and the Danish companies reported that promotions based on job-related qualifications had taken place.

The UK, Dutch and Danish reports indicated that most companies only recruited white employees from abroad when it was not possible to find suitable candidates in South Africa.

Fringe benefits

The Code recommended that companies should take steps to improve the living conditions of employees and their families.

European companies continued to provide a wide range of benefits for their black African employees, over and above those required by law. Both the German and the British reports pointed to increases in such provision during the reporting period. Among the various forms of benefit mentioned, the most prevalent were pension schemes, medical services and assistance with house purchase. The many other benefits included:

- i) contributions to insurance schemes;
- ii) annual bonuses;
- iii) provision of clothing;
- iv) recreational facilities;
- v) free or subsidized transport;
- vi) educational provision;
- vii) free or subsidized food.

A number of companies also sought to provide benefits for the wider communities from which their workforces were drawn – for example, by donating to charity or to the Urban Foundation, or by providing various forms of support for universities.

Desegregation at places of work

The Code recommended that, as far as possible, companies should work towards the abolition of segregation within their undertakings.

European companies continued to work towards the complete elimination of racial segregation among their employees. The UK and German reports both showed increases in the number of companies which

had achieved complete or partial desegregation of all facilities for their workers. Most of the Dutch companies reported that complete desegregation had been achieved, while all the German and French companies, and most of the UK companies had achieved total desegregation at the workplace itself. Both Italian companies continued to pursue desegregation at the workplace and in social amenities, and both Greek companies stated that conditions were the same for all personnel, with only the night watchman and cleaners having separate facilities in one of them. Both Danish companies reported that all racial groups enjoyed equal working conditions and facilities and that the companies adhered to the policy of avoiding any form of segregation at their places of work, to the extent that this was allowed by South African law. None of the Belgian companies practised segregation.

Further measures aimed at facilitating complete desegregation involved the establishment of mixed sports clubs and the organization of mixed staff social evenings.

Conclusion

The Presidency is accordingly able to report that during the sixth reporting period generally good progress was made in line with the Code's aims, despite the difficult economic climate.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 85/291.

² *Bull. EC 9-1977*, point 2.2.4.

³ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 86/175.

87/116. Question No 2293/86 by Ms Crawley (S-UK) Concerning Iran

Date of Issue: 4 March 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 14 January 1986

Given the gross violation of human rights suffered by the Baha'is in Iran, what action are the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation taking to ensure that the UN Resolution on Iran is supported by all Member States?

Answer:

The Twelve have on many occasions, the most recent being a *démarche* to the Iranian authorities on 27 August 1986, expressed their serious concern at human rights violations directed against certain minority groups in Iran.

In the *démarche* in question, the attention of the Iranian authorities was drawn in particular to the execution, apparently on account of their religious beliefs, of certain members of the Baha'i community in Iran.

The twelve Member States of the Community also voted in favour of Resolution 41/159 of the United Nations General Assembly concerning the human rights situation in Iran.

87/117. Question No 2311/86 by Mr Casini (PPE-I) Concerning the Third 'Pro Vida' Congress in Barcelona

Date of Issue: 4 March 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 14 January 1986

Whereas:

- on 21 November 1986, the third 'Pro Vida' international congress on the subject 'Peace and the right to life' opened at the biology faculty of the University of Barcelona,
- this congress was officially opened by the President of the Region of Catalonia,
- according to the schedule adopted beforehand the congress was to have been closed by the author of this question, who was invited as a Member of the European Parliament and co-rapporteur on human genetics for the European Parliament's Committee on Legal Affairs,
- in response to objections from rowdy elements, the Rector of Barcelona University went back on the agreements made with the organizers of the congress and, instead of having the trouble-makers removed, expelled the congress from the premises allocated to it.

Do the Ministers not consider that the action taken by the Rector of Barcelona University should be censured?

Answer:

The question raised by the Honourable Member has not been discussed in European political cooperation, which deals with foreign policy matters.

87/118. Question No 2312/86 by Mr Schwalba-Hoth (ARC-D) and Others Concerning Payments from Special Funds set up by Foreign Ministries of Community Countries to Heads of State of Third World Countries

Date of Issue: 4 March 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 14 January 1986

For some years now aid has been granted to 'Third World' statesmen from a 'special fund' set up by the Foreign Ministry of the Federal Republic of Germany. This fund is administered at present by Secretary of State Mr Meyer-Landrut.

1. Was the question of payments from this fund raised in political cooperation? Was any voting held at European level on the list of recipients?
2. In which Community countries are there no funds of this kind?
3. Did
 - the South African Zulu leader Buthelezi,
 - the Salvadoran President Duarte,
 - the Namibian pseudo-government, the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance,
 also receive payments from similar funds set up by other Foreign Ministries in the EEC?
4. Is it general practice with these funds, as in the case of the Federal Republic, to destroy immediately the receipts issued by the recipients?
5. How are these funds financed and what amounts are involved? (7,7 million per year in the Federal Republic of Germany)
6. How successful do the Ministers feel these special payments are as regards promoting a favourable policy towards the Community on the part of the recipients?

Answer:

The question raised by the Honourable Member comes within the competence of a Member State. It has not been discussed in European political cooperation.

87/119. Statement on the Situation in the Middle East

Date of Issue: 11 March 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Report to European Parliament

Mr Tindemans, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: Mr President, ladies and gentlemen, from the very beginnings of political cooperation the Middle East has been among the issues to which we have devoted most attention. The first ministerial statement on the Middle East, issued as long ago as May 1971, confirmed the great importance attached by Europe to the establishment of a just peace in the Middle East.

Down the years, the Member States have harmonized and made public their viewpoints on this issue. The purpose of my statement today is to set out the various common viewpoints that have been arrived at.

First the Israeli-Arab conflict. The Twelve have consistently affirmed the importance they attach to the traditional links and shared interests between them and the countries and peoples of the Middle East. Their view is that these links place them under an obligation to play a special role in promoting peace in the region.

The principles that the Twelve see as forming a proper basis for a fair, comprehensive and lasting settlement of the Israeli-Arab conflict has been articulated on numerous occasions. With your leave, I will briefly outline them again.

The Twelve are of the view that any peace agreement should be founded on United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and, more specifically, on the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, the need for Israel to withdraw from the territory that it has been occupying since the 1967 conflict, and respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of each State in the region and its right to live in peace within secure, recognized and guaranteed frontiers.

In establishing a just, comprehensive and lasting peace, account should also be taken of the legitimate rights of the Palestinians, including their right to a homeland and uninhibited exercise of self-determination.

The Twelve have consistently called upon the parties to the conflict to renounce force and the threat to use force and to refrain from any action which could exacerbate the situation or complicate or delay efforts to establish peace.

Thus in October 1973, during the Yom Kippur war, the Nine issued a collective call for a ceasefire. This was the first instance of a direct reaction to an international crisis on the part of the Member States of the European Community meeting in political cooperation. In their subsequent declarations issued on numerous occasions during or immediately after a crisis in the region, the Twelve have always expressed their deep concern at this continuing violence.

In 1976 the Member States of the Community declared that they were ready to take part in efforts to find a comprehensive negotiated settlement of the Israeli-Arab conflict and to involve themselves in the setting-up of international guarantees.

This commitment was formalized in the Venice Declaration of June 1980: 'The Nine declare that they are ready to take part, in the context of an over-all settlement, in a system of concrete and binding international guarantees to be set up on the ground'.

This same Venice Declaration expressed the European resolve to secure recognition and application of two essential and universally accepted principles. First, the right of all States in the region, including Israel, to exist and to enjoy security. Secondly, justice for all peoples there, which implied recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

The Nine also stated that the principles on which Europe's policy on the Middle East was based applied to all the parties concerned, and therefore to the Palestinian people and the PLO, which had to be involved in negotiations.

Another essential characteristic of the Twelve's policy towards the Middle East is a readiness to listen to the viewpoints of all interested parties and to try to draw them together. It was for this reason that,

following the Venice European Council, two Ministers, Mr Thorn and Mr Van der Klaauw, were mandated to go on fact-finding missions to the region. It was with the same end in view that my colleague Hans van den Broek visited the region in 1986, during the Netherlands Presidency.

Such contacts can also take place in Europe, however. As you know, several important spokesmen visited Brussels, just before the ministerial meeting of 23 February last, to explain their viewpoints to us. You will also be aware that I am on hand to visit the region, should the Twelve so decide, not to indulge in diplomatic tourism but to try to identify areas on which a consensus might be possible.

In the spirit of the principle that I have just outlined, the Twelve have stated that they are in favour of an international peace conference being held under United Nations auspices and ready to play a full part in active efforts to bring the parties' positions closer together.

I take this opportunity to point out that the Twelve have expressed no view on what the arrangements should be for such a conference. We fully appreciate that many of these arrangements will have to be discussed at length. The Twelve themselves want to keep all options open, but they are also anxious to work towards a consensus on these arrangements which would be acceptable to all interested parties.

We believe that an international conference could provide an appropriate framework for the necessary negotiations between the parties directly concerned. It is in this spirit that we have confirmed our readiness to help bring the various parties' points of view closer together.

You will of course be aware of the interest taken by international opinion in these statements. We fully appreciate that an enormous amount of work remains to be done in order to achieve a settlement of the Israeli-Arab conflict. Nevertheless, it must be clearly understood that, on the basis of these stated principles, the Twelve will continue to work for a peaceful settlement of this conflict.

I turn now to the conflict between Iraq and Iran. The Twelve have always been at pains to maintain strict neutrality in this conflict, and therefore continue to support the mediation efforts of the United Nations Secretary-General. I would remind the House that this support was first placed on record in September 1980, at the United Nations General Assembly.

Also on that occasion the nine Foreign Ministers of the Community, while noting the bilateral nature of the conflict, called upon all other States — especially the great powers — to avoid letting this conflict assume wider dimension, as had happened in the Israeli-Arab conflict. We have also consistently stated our readiness, should both parties ask us, to assist in any effort aimed at a peaceful solution that both sides would find acceptable and honourable.

On numerous occasions we have condemned the use of chemical weapons in this conflict and the attacks on civilian targets and neutral shipping. We regard this dreadful conflict — dreadful both in terms of the loss of human life and because of the risks of destabilization that it is creating inside the belligerent countries and in the region generally — as a serious threat to regional and international peace and security.

I come now to the situation in Lebanon. The Twelve are convinced that the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and unity of this country are prerequisites of peace in this region. Freeing Lebanon from the cycle of violence, aiding the victims of this violence, bringing back confidence to the country and recreating opportunities to work towards a negotiated settlement resolving the tension in a manner upholding democratic principles — these, in our opinion, are the objectives to be pursued by all those who want to see a solution to the Lebanese problem.

In our view these objectives can be attained only if all foreign troops are withdrawn from the country, apart from those which are there at the Lebanese Government's request. As you know, three of our countries are actively involved, through UNIFIL, in observation and peace-keeping operations in Lebanon.

Let me take this opportunity to pay tribute to the courageous men who are working, under difficult conditions that we can only imagine and often at risk for their lives, to help bring this country back to peace and stability. The casualties that the countries making up the UNIFIL force have suffered must be a constant reminder to us of the grave responsibility that we assume in continuing tirelessly to work for peace in Lebanon.

I could not end this outline of our policy towards the Middle East without mentioning that unique institution, the Euro-Arab dialogue, a structured dialogue set up between the Member States of the

European Community and the members of the Arab League. It takes place on several fronts: political, economic and technical. It is seen on both sides as an important, workable instrument for developing our relations. As it has proceeded at its own pace, it has given us the opportunity to carry on worthwhile consultations between two partners of different cultures and outlook.

The Arab League's Secretary-General has recently sent a favourable reply to the European proposal of a meeting at ministerial level of the European and Arab troikas. New prospects are thus opening up in this dialogue, and the Twelve welcome this and hope that concrete developments will follow in the near future.

Mr President, there you have a brief outline of the policy of the Twelve on the many problems of the sadly beleaguered Middle East.

I could of course elaborate on any particular aspect. However, I hope I have given you an insight into how the Twelve see their position in relation to the great conflicts and the suffering in the region. I should be pleased to answer any questions.

87/120. Question No H-713/86 by Mr Arbeloa Muru Concerning Torture in Turkey¹

Date of Issue: 11 March 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Since the military coup in September 1980, Amnesty International has repeatedly demonstrated that there is general and systematic use of torture in Turkey, and the organization continues to receive reports of alleged cases of torture perpetrated at police stations and in prisons, some of which have resulted in the death of victims.

Arif Hikmet Iyidogan, for example, has been arrested for the third time. According to information published in the Turkish press, he was imprisoned in 1985 when he was tortured so severely at the Ankara security police headquarters between 28 March and 18 April that he had to undergo surgery on three occasions.

According to Amnesty International reports, in November 1985 Arif Hikmet Iyidogan was found guilty of belonging to *Sosyalist Genlik Birliği* (SGB) and sentenced to a prison term of six years and eight months by the Ankara No 1 Military Court. The SGB (the Socialist Youth League) is a youth organization which was legal before the September 1980 military coup but was subsequently banned, together with all political organizations and parties.

In June 1986, the Turkish press reported that six police officers were prosecuted by a criminal court in Ankara charged with the torture of Arif Hikmet at Ankara security police headquarters between 22 March and 19 April 1985.

Have the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation taken any action in this specific case or in various other recent similar cases in Turkey?

Mr Tindemans, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: The Twelve are keeping a close watch on developments in the situation in Turkey with regard to respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and progress towards democracy. In the statement on human rights that they issued on 21 July 1986² they made clear that respect for human rights is an important element in their relations with non-member countries. They appealed to all States to raise public awareness of the human rights cause. The cases mentioned by the Honourable Member of the European Parliament have not been discussed by the Member States' Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation. But it goes without saying that the Twelve are particularly concerned about the reports reaching them of cases of torture in Turkey.

Mr Arbeloa Muru (S): Mr President, we are also very concerned, as you will see from various questions we shall put about Turkey, and, although it is a well-worn question, we have returned to this problem of Turkey, which is so close to us, many times in the last few months.

I am going to ask another specific question, just a general question, but one which is a little more positive. Mr President, what do you see as the most important points on which the concern of the Council of Ministers meeting in the framework of political cooperation is finding a favourable reception? And on what specific points are the Foreign Ministers encountering greatest resistance in the area of the defence of human rights?

Mr Tindemans: As I have indicated, the Twelve have found that their calls to respect human rights have indeed already had a positive effect and that progress has been made. Let me cite three examples of the evidence in which we have reached this conclusion: the Turkish Parliament elected in November 1983 is closely monitoring the human rights situation. It has set up a parliamentary committee which has carried out systematic surveys in the prisons and police stations. Finally, the Turkish press is also very attentive to human rights; whenever the police step out of line, it is widely reported in the newspapers.

Mr Taylor (DR): The questioner, Mr Muru, is to be congratulated in drawing the attention of the House to the fact that the Turkish authorities have indeed prosecuted the six police officers in question. Would the President-in-Office not agree that since the election of the civilian government, led by Mr Ozal, there has been a much more determined effort by the Turkish authorities to prosecute any members of the security forces alleged to be involved in torture? Would he not also confirm that there have been no death sentences carried out since the election of that Government? Would he confirm that the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation welcome the major advance on human rights in Turkey since the election of the civilian government?

Mr Tindemans: I have to speak on behalf of the Twelve meeting in political cooperation. As I have said, there is evidence that Turkey is making progress in its resolve to respect human rights. I cannot go further in my statement today, since I am replying on behalf of the Twelve.

Mr Habsburg (PPE): May I ask you, since the United Nations has ended its survey on human rights and has been unwilling to continue it, whether it would not be time for the Twelve to meet once again on the Turkish issue, to establish what progress has been made by Turkey and to see whether it would not now be appropriate to broaden our approach to this country, which, after all, has a number of agreements with us?

Mr Tindemans: The question raised by the Honourable Member is discussed regularly by the Twelve, and only recently, at the meeting concerned with the association agreement with Turkey, it was discussed in the presence of the Turkish Foreign Minister.

Mr Ephremidis (COM): I ask for a specific answer on the basis of the questions put by our colleague. Is it, or is it not the case that torture is practised under the Junta which rules Turkey today? That was the question, and we have not been answered. On behalf of political cooperation, and on the basis of convincing statistics, can the President-in-Office tell us that the torture has come to an end? That is what we want to know. And we cannot accept that the situation has improved, nor does it satisfy us that some committee of the Turkish Parliament 'is monitoring the situation', or that political cooperation is doing likewise.

The specific question is what matters. Can the Minister tell us whether or not torture is practised in Turkey at this time? That is what we want answered?

Mr Tindemans: As I said earlier, the Twelve are paying very close attention to the reports reaching them of cases of torture in Turkey. These reports are examined and efforts are made to establish whether they correspond to the truth, when cases of torture are brought to our attention.

¹ Former Oral Question without debate (O-149/86) converted into a question for Question Time. Cf. *OJ* No 2-350 of 11 March 1987, pp. 122-124.

² *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 86/230.

87/121. Question No H-681/86 by Mr Marshall Concerning the Plight of Elderly Refuseniks

Date of Issue: 11 March 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Are the Foreign Ministers aware that many elderly *refuseniks* are still denied the right to go to Israel? Will they make the strongest possible representations to the Soviet authorities about this scandal?

Mr Tindemans, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: The Twelve are conscious of the situation to which the Honourable Member refers. They are vigilantly following developments regarding emigration from the Soviet Union. They have raised this issue on numerous occasions in their contacts with the Soviet authorities, and will continue to do so. At the Vienna follow-up meeting to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, they brought forward a proposal aimed at fuller application of the right to leave and return to any country, including one's own.

Mr Cassidy (ED): I would like to thank the President-in-Office for that full and encouraging answer to the question. I would also like to suggest to him that the Community has considerable moral influence on Eastern Europe. In this particular instance age should not be a bar to emigration even by the Soviet Union's own criteria because many of the people referred to in this question are already retired. Even if they had knowledge which might be sensitive to the security of the Soviet State, they should not be prevented from emigrating from their country. Does the President-in-Office agree?

Mr Tindemans: What I would like to do is put some flesh on my initial answer to the Honourable Member's question. In 1986 the number of emigration visas granted was smaller than in 1985. In the first nine months of the year it was 21% lower than in the corresponding period of 1985. Since the start of 1987, however, there has been an observable reversal in this trend. An appreciable number of applications from elderly *refuseniks* have been processed rapidly by the Soviet authorities since the beginning of January. You are of course right: we should not concentrate exclusively on elderly people. For the most part, the applicants concerned are people to whom the new law on emigration does not apply. This law stipulates that, in order to submit an application for an emigration visa, it is necessary to establish a blood relationship with Jews living abroad. The number of visas issued in January this year was 170. Three times as many as in the corresponding month last year, and the trend continued in February.

With this new Soviet policy, it would doubtless be premature to anticipate any radical change in the right to emigrate. Nevertheless, these latest figures that I have quoted, and a number of spectacular releases (Begun, for instance), suggest that there are more solid grounds for hoping to see significant improvements in respect for human rights in this area. As I indicated in my initial answer to this question, the CSCE, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, provides a particularly suitable forum for the Twelve to keep up constant pressure on the Soviet authorities on this issue.

Ms Dury (S): Mr Tindemans has given us some details on the situation, but as with Turkey, he has told us that the Twelve are making a thorough examination of the dossier. I should like to know when this examination, this analysis of dossiers will be completed and he will be able to inform us of the results. After all, a thorough analysis is useful only in so far as it reaches a conclusion and forms the basis of a stance to be taken up.

Mr Tindemans: I am sorry to have to point out that I did not say the words attributed to me by Ms Dury. I said that in our bilateral contacts, naturally, we try to bring a certain amount of pressure to bear. The Twelve, as such, do likewise and, as I have just said, at the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Vienna, the Twelve also raised this issue, which is part of one of the three baskets of topics under discussion.

Mr Cottrell (ED): Would Mr Tindemans care to elaborate on this matter in the light of what appears to be tentative steps by the Soviet Union to establish formal contacts with the European Community? This would somewhat dramatically change the situation by enabling us to place pressure on the Soviet authorities in these and other questions of human rights.

Mr Tindemans: I think I can mention two events which have a potential for influencing the matters we are discussing here today. First, there is the *rapprochement* between the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, or COMECON as we usually call it, and the European Economic Community. The Commission has been charged with opening the negotiations. On the eve of our political cooperation meeting of 23 February devoted to analysis of the situation in the Middle East, I received a message from Mr Gorbachev, addressed to the President of the Council meeting in political cooperation. As far as I am aware, this is the first time that the Soviet Union has acknowledged the existence of political cooperation, addressing the President to convey its views on an international conference on peace in the Middle East. These are two events which, in my view, were worth drawing your attention to.

Mr Habsburg (PPE): Are the Twelve already looking into the opportunities that the negotiations you have just mentioned might offer for insisting on respect for human rights, especially the freedom to emigrate from the Soviet Union.

Mr Tindemans: As I have just said the negotiations between the European Economic Community and COMECON are now in the Commission's hands. I would describe this as a *rapprochement* on the economic plane, within the terms of the Treaties. As regards human rights and the matter we have been discussing here, they come within the ambit of the Vienna negotiations, the Conference on Security and Cooperation. This conference was organized as a follow-on from the Stockholm Conference, which in turn stemmed from the Helsinki Final Act. The three baskets of issues were approved at Helsinki, and one of them includes the matter of respect for human rights. It is therefore primarily in Vienna that the Twelve, working together in political cooperation, should raise the topic that we have been discussing here this afternoon.

Mr Van Aerssen (PPE): This afternoon we had a very intensive debate on human rights on the basis of a report which was generally approved by this House. Now that gaps have clearly appeared in the European Community's system of human rights because we still do not have the right criteria, I should like to ask the President-in-Office of the Council if he can envisage taking an initiative against the background of what his former colleague Mr Lubbers, now Prime Minister of the Netherlands, has said concerning a European Community human rights initiative aimed at establishing better criteria for the assessment of such cases.

Mr Tindemans: If I have correctly understood the Honourable Member, he is asking whether the Twelve have any initiatives in mind with a view to promoting fuller respect for human rights. This is the general thrust of his question. Well, I can tell the Honourable Member that not a single political cooperation meeting goes by without the issue of respect for human rights being raised, whether in a given country, or in general terms, or in the context of the programme to be advanced in Vienna, at the CSCE. The Twelve devote a great deal of attention to this matter, and since it also has a bearing on their own credibility, whether in a bilateral context such as the one to which you have alluded, the visit by Mr Lubbers to Moscow for instance, or in that of a conference or negotiation, this issue is ever-present, constantly in their minds.

87/122. Question No H-734/86 by Mr Ephremidis Concerning the Violation of the SALT-II Agreement by the USA¹

Date of Issue: 11 March 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

The SALT-II agreement was a significant step towards reducing the numbers of nuclear weapons which today threaten mankind. However, the open violation of the treaty by the USA places a multitude of dangers in the way of serious endeavours to preserve world peace, undermines the Geneva talks and opens the door to a new nuclear arms race.

Would the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation, who have repeatedly stated that they support any move towards nuclear arms reductions, say what their attitude to the US decision to violate

the historic SALT-II agreement will be, and what steps they will take to persuade the USA to reconsider this decision and respect the SALT-II agreement?

Mr Tindemans, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: [...] In answer to the Honourable Member's question, let me say that the Twelve regard arms control and arms reduction as priority objectives to be pursued on the basis of balanced and verifiable agreements, bringing improved security conditions for all. In this context, they attach the highest importance to compliance with the obligations flowing from the treaties in force. As for the remainder, the question that has been put touches upon military aspects of security which, as you know, fall outside the range of European political cooperation.

[...]

Mr Ephremidis (COM): I would like to thank the Minister for his answer, and especially for his stress on the sensitivity matters of disarmament and peace. Yet, he ended by undoing the good work of his answer, when he said that we cannot become involved, we have no competence and responsibility for SALT-II because it is a military matter. I ask the Minister: Was not the decision by Congress in the USA not to ratify it a political act? Is not its subsequent violation by the American Government a political act? Consequently you do indeed have every competence and responsibility, since within the scope of political cooperation you are discussing the formulation of a common stance by the Twelve, in both international and internal political matters affecting the Community. So have you debated and decided what you will do about this violation?

Mr Tindemans: You are aware of the distinction that I always make between Parliament's prerogatives and the Council's role and areas of competence. I have no business involving myself in Parliament's activities. But as far as the Twelve are concerned, military matters, as you know, have never come within the sphere of political cooperation. Before long, with the Single European Act, political cooperation will soon be incorporated into the Treaty, assuming that the text of the Act is soon approved by the twelfth Member State of the Community. The Act now contains a chapter on political cooperation, for which there will thus be a legal basis. This chapter refers for the first time to a policy on security, but specifies that it is confined to the political and economic aspects of security. The military aspects are therefore excluded. That is why I take a cautious line whenever military matters are raised.

Mr Newens (S): I should like to ask if the Ministers never discuss the political consequences of military decisions and security policy, and whether, under these circumstances, these matters are completely cut off from democratic control? As far as national parliaments are concerned, people presumably could ask some of the questions, but there is a possibility that these questions will be excluded from discussion. Does the Minister not regard it, therefore, as highly unsatisfactory that decisions should be taken on any of these issues if we do not have the right to question them at all levels? If the Soviet Union had breached the SALT-II guidelines, I am quite sure that a great many people here would have taken the opportunity to denounce it. Surely we ought to do the same when the United States is guilty.

Mr Tindemans: At formal meetings of the Twelve of the General Affairs Council, military issues are never discussed. Where are they sometimes discussed? At informal meetings (but these fall outside the scope of the Treaties), in our national parliaments, in NATO or in the Western European Union, where seven European countries are represented. Both NATO and the WEU have parliamentary assemblies! There certainly is parliamentary control, therefore, and if I mentioned the national parliaments that was because it is there, by definition, that parliamentary control is exercised, at national level.

Mr Boesmans (S): I find this a very interesting debate, and it will undoubtedly be important for us in the future. I should therefore like to hear a little more about the political or non-political aspects of certain military activities. I wonder if the observance or violation of an agreement is an entirely military matter or whether it also has political implications. Eleven of the twelve Member States are allies of the United States. Should we not therefore draw the political conclusions from the observance or violation of a military political agreement?

Mr Tindemans: The Honourable Member himself refers to the 'observance or violation of a military agreement'. By phrasing his question in this way, he makes it impossible for me to answer. In my answer

to Mr Ephremidis I said: 'They attach the highest importance to compliance with the obligations flowing from the treaties in force'. I feel that that answered the question which various Members subsequently put.

¹ Cf. *OJ* No 2-350 of 11 March 1987, pp. 126-127.

87/123. Question No H-794/86 by Mr Andrews Concerning Annie Maguire

Date of Issue: 11 March 1987
Place of Issue: Strasbourg
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Source of Document: Presidency
Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

What action have the Ministers considered on behalf of Annie Maguire and the Birmingham Six during the last six months to ensure a full and just pardon for these Irish citizens, who were convicted on forensic evidence the veracity of which has been categorically denied by recognized experts?

Answer:

The question raised by the Honourable Member is not within the terms of reference of European political cooperation.

87/124. Question No H-814/86 by Mr Mavros Concerning the Turkish Provocation Against a Member State of the European Community

Date of Issue: 11 March 1987
Place of Issue: Strasbourg
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Source of Document: Presidency
Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

How do the twelve Foreign Ministers intend to react to incidents involving bloodshed on the Community's external borders such as the one that recently took place at the Evro river on 19 December 1986, and what position do they intend to adopt with regard to the repeated acts of provocation by Turkey against Greece, a Member State of the European Community?

Answer:

Greece is solely responsible for protecting the borders of this Member State of the Community. The incident at the Evro river has not been discussed by the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation but Greece has informed its partners of the incident.

87/125. Question No H-852/86 by Mr Boesmans Concerning Turkish Trade Unionists

Date of Issue: 11 March 1987
Place of Issue: Strasbourg
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Source of Document: Presidency
Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

At the end of December the Turkish military court sentenced 264 trade unionists belonging to the Confederation of Revolutionary Labour Unions (DISK) to terms of imprisonment ranging from eight months to 25 years after a trial lasting five years. The military court also decided to ban DISK.

Are the Foreign Ministers not of the view that these sentences represent not only a breach of trade union rights but are also further evidence of the fact that the so-called attempts at liberalization by the Turkish authorities have little or no substance?

Answer:

The Twelve have always followed closely the situation of trade unions in Turkey and have raised the matter with the Turkish authorities. Some Member States have expressed individually their anxiety and concern. The Twelve attach great importance to article 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights (freedom of peaceful assembly and association, including the right to form trade unions for the protection of one's interests) and to article 87 and 98 of the ILO Convention (freedom of association, right to organize and bargain collectively). They have asked the Turkish Government to bear these conventions in mind in their relations with the national trade union movement.

However, the Twelve feel that some progress has been achieved towards a strengthening of democracy and human rights in Turkey and they expect this trend to continue. In this respect, particular importance should be attached to respect for trade union freedom.

87/126. Question No H-862/86 by Ms Dury Concerning the Implementation of Political Cooperation (With Regard to the Middle East in Particular)

Date of Issue: 11 March 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Can the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation explain the implementation of political cooperation and the projects and prospects which it represents, in particular with regard to certain files such as the Middle East?

Answer:

European political cooperation is a process of inter-governmental cooperation in the sphere of foreign policy by the twelve Member States of the European Community. It began in 1970 and has developed since then, particularly at Copenhagen in 1973, London in 1981 and Stuttgart in 1983. After its entry into force, Title III of the Single European Act will provide the legal framework which has been lacking hitherto and will govern its operation.

The Twelve regularly consult each other, both at ministerial and senior official level, on all matters of foreign policy with a general interest in order to formulate and implement joint positions and actions.

From the outset, European political cooperation has considered the Middle East problem. The policy of the Twelve on this matter is well established and has been made public on numerous occasions, at the European Council meeting in Venice in 1980, for example, and most recently on 23 February 1987¹ when the Twelve stated that they were in favour of an international conference on peace in the Middle East and of granting aid to the Palestinians on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 87/114.

87/127. Question No H-892/86 by Mr Seeler Concerning the European Community's Stance on the Iran-Iraq War

Date of Issue: 11 March 1987
 Place of Issue: Strasbourg
 Country of Presidency: Belgium
 Source of Document: Presidency
 Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

In the last few weeks there have been repeated reports that the combatants in this war are still receiving arms and spare parts from Member States of the Community and NATO. According to press reports the CIA has also used disinformation to help keep the outcome of the war in the balance.

Could the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation state whether they have recently discussed these developments in the Iran-Iraq war, whether they support joint steps by the Community and the Member States to bring about an end to the war and in particular whether they are prepared to call on the Governments of the Member States to impose a strict ban on exports of arms and other equipment needed for the war in order to bring this conflict to an end at long last?

Answer:

The Twelve continue to watch closely all aspects of the conflict between Iran and Iraq. In their statement on the matter of 26 January 1987¹, they reiterated their support for the UN Security Council resolutions which condemned, among other things, both the initial actions which gave rise to the conflict and its continuation. In the same statement the Twelve formally called on those involved to cease hostilities immediately and to comply with Resolutions 582 and 588 of the UN Security Council.

The Twelve continue to give their full support to the UN Secretary-General's efforts at mediation in this conflict. As for policies on the export of arms, these lie within the sphere of competence of the Member States.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 87/077.

87/128. Question No H-917/86 by Mr McMahon Concerning the Discussion with the Contadora Group of Countries in Central America at Guatemala City

Date of Issue: 11 March 1987
 Place of Issue: Strasbourg
 Country of Presidency: Belgium
 Source of Document: Presidency
 Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Can the President-in-Office inform the House whether, during the discussions between the Contadora Group and the Community at Guatemala City in February, the Community representatives emphasized the importance of disengagement by the United States in this area? Can the President also inform the House of the substance of the conversations between himself¹ and Philip Habib, the American Special Envoy for Central America, at their recent meeting in Brussels, and can the President explain his reported comments on the meeting 'that if the climate improves in this region there will be no need for political aid to the Contras'?

Answer:

At the third ministerial conference at Guatemala City on 9 and 10 February 1987, between the European Community and its Member States, the countries of Central America and the Contadora Group countries, every aspect of the current situation in the Central American region was discussed. I suggest

that the Honourable Member might like to study the joint political declaration issued by the conference². This document was approved by all the countries present and is a reflection of the discussions at the conference. It was forwarded to the European Parliament on 18 February.

My conversations in Brussels on 19 January 1987 with Mr Habib, the American Special Envoy for Central America, constituted a bilateral Belgian-American meeting. However, I should like to stress that the remark quoted by the Honourable Member concerning the climate in the region is not an accurate representation of my talks with Mr Habib or of my comments to the press on the occasion.

¹ Mr Leo Tindemans. (The Editors.)

² *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 87/096.

87/129. Question No H-928/86 by Mr Blumenfeld Concerning the Euro-Arab Dialogue

Date of Issue: 11 March 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Council President Leo Tindemans announced to the European Parliament at its January part-session that during the Belgian Presidency, the Council would give priority attention to reactivating the Euro-Arab dialogue.

What is the significance of this general announcement by the Council President in view of the changes in the political and economic situation since the dialogue began in the mid-70s? Does it mean falling in with the line consistently held by the Arab League whereby economic, cultural and cooperation agreements can only be concluded if the Euro-Arab dialogue recognizes the prime importance of the political dimension?

Answer:

The European Council meeting at Venice in 1980 stressed the importance it attached to the Euro-Arab dialogue at all levels and the need to develop the political dimension, in order to contribute towards the development of cooperation and mutual understanding between Europe and the Arab world.

The Twelve are ready to discuss any subject of mutual interest, whether political or technical, within the framework of the Euro-Arab dialogue. They believe that the progress achieved in certain technical fields should now be built upon in the mutual interest without being linked to situations in other fields.

On 17 June 1986 the Twelve put a proposal to the Arab side for a ministerial meeting involving the European and Arab troikas. Among the aims of this proposal was the desire to situate political dialogue between the two sides at ministerial level. The Arab side indicated that it was in favour.

At their meeting on 23 February 1987 the Foreign Ministers of the Twelve welcomed the new prospects which had emerged and decided to contact the Arab League with a view to considering procedural arrangements for the proposed meetings.

87/130. Question No H-937/86 by Mr Fich Concerning the Transport of Armaments by Sea from One Third Country to Another

Date of Issue: 11 March 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Has any Member State, in the context of political cooperation, raised the question of a common attitude towards the carrying of cargoes of armaments from one third-country to another on vessels belonging to the Member States? If so, what conclusion was reached?

Answer:

The question raised by the Honourable Member has not been discussed by the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation.

87/131. Question No H-939/86 by Mr García Raya Concerning Cooperation Between the EEC and Central and South America

Date of Issue: 11 March 1987
 Place of Issue: Strasbourg
 Country of Presidency: Belgium
 Source of Document: Presidency
 Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Do the Ministers think that the results of the Guatemala Conference will contribute to the process of cooperation between the EEC and its Member States and the countries of Central America?

Answer:

All who took part in the Guatemala Conference expressed their desire to continue the political dialogue which began at San José some two and a half years ago, as well as the economic cooperation between the European Community and the countries of the Central American isthmus.

With regard to the specific matter of political dialogue, the European and Latin American delegates agreed to meet the following year in Europe for a fourth conference in the San José series. It is thus obvious that the Guatemala Conference has contributed to the process of cooperation between the Twelve and the countries of Central America.

87/132. Question No H-940/86 by Mr Pons Grau Concerning the Representation of the Member States at the Guatemala Meeting

Date of Issue: 11 March 1987
 Place of Issue: Strasbourg
 Country of Presidency: Belgium
 Source of Document: Presidency
 Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Are the Ministers satisfied with the level of representation of the Member States at the Guatemala meeting?

Answer:

It is for each Member State of the Community to decide who its representative shall be at an international conference. In this instance, it should be pointed out that the Final Act of the Luxembourg Conference¹ refers to the institutionalization of political dialogue with the countries of Latin America and the Contadora Group, in particular by the holding of annual meetings, in principle at ministerial level.

While it is generally preferable for Foreign Ministers to attend major meetings in person, this possibility must of course be seen in the light of their international and domestic commitments as a whole.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 85/253.

87/133. Question No H-942/86 by Mr Estrella Pedrola Concerning the Possibility of a New Dimension in the EEC-Latin America Dialogue

Date of Issue: 11 March 1987
Place of Issue: Strasbourg
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Source of Document: Presidency
Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Do the Foreign Ministers feel that the presence of practically all the democratic countries of Latin America at the meeting in Guatemala gives grounds for talking of a new global dimension in the dialogue between the EEC and Latin America?

Answer:

There is no doubt that the Guatemala Conference served to strengthen the ties between the Twelve and Latin America. However, it must be noted that the conference in question – which was attended by the five Central American countries and Colombia, Mexico, Panama and Venezuela, as well as by the Community and its Member States – considered in particular matters connected with the peace process in Central America.

87/134. Question No H-943/86 by Mr Grimaldos Grimaldis Concerning the Lack of Representation of Certain Member States at the Guatemala Conference

Date of Issue: 11 March 1987
Place of Issue: Strasbourg
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Source of Document: Presidency
Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Could the Ministers deny that the low level of representation of particular Member States at the Guatemala Conference was linked in any way to the visit to Europe by a diplomatic representative of the United States?

Answer:

All the Member States of the Community had government representatives at the Guatemala Conference, apart from Ireland which was absent on account of the government crisis in that country.

87/135. Question No H-944/86 by Mr García Arias Concerning the Implications of the Way in which Member States were Represented at the Guatemala Conference – the San José III Meeting in Guatemala

Date of Issue: 11 March 1987
Place of Issue: Strasbourg
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Source of Document: Presidency
Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

The absence of an appropriate level of diplomatic representation of certain Member States at the Guatemala Conference has been interpreted in some circles as an admission that Europe's responsibility in the search for solutions to the problems faced by that region is a secondary one compared with that of America.

Do the Ministers subscribe to this interpretation?

What is the Ministers' assessment of the work of the San José III conference as regards the process of bringing peace to Central America?

Answer:

With regard to the Member States' representation at the Guatemala Conference, the Honourable Member is referred to the answer to question No H-940/86¹. I do not share the view that the level of European representation in Guatemala was inappropriate, nor do I agree with the Honourable Member's interpretation. On the contrary, the conference in itself was a positive step both for the Twelve and for the Latin American countries as a whole, whose desire for diversification and dialogue was satisfied. Interest in the dialogue was borne out by the desire to continue on an institutionalized basis and to arrange in this connection a fourth conference in Europe. Furthermore, all the fundamental elements of Europe's ideas in this context were incorporated in the text of the joint political declaration, and this in itself represents an undoubted success for the European positions.

The San José III meeting in Guatemala City, like the first and second meetings in San José and Luxembourg, contributed to the peace process in Central America inasmuch as it reiterated that a negotiated and verifiable global solution for the region remained possible and that it was vital to continue supporting the peace initiative by the Contadora Group.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 87/132.

87/136. Question No H-948/86 by Sir Peter Vanneck Concerning a Commitment of African National Congress to Violence

Date of Issue: 11 March 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Following the refusal by the President of African National Congress, Oliver Tambo, to give up violence in the pursuit of political objectives, after his meeting with US Secretary of State Schultz, 28 January 1987, and on the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of the ANC Foundation, 8 January 1987, will the Foreign Ministers confirm that the European Community is committed to the improvement of human rights in the Republic of South Africa by peaceful means alone?

Answer:

The Twelve have repeatedly voiced their concern at the rapid deterioration of the situation and the escalation of violence in South Africa.

In their declaration of 17 October 1986¹, they reiterated that freely elected representatives of the black population must be able to participate in an active peaceful policy if a negotiated solution on South Africa is to be reached.

In order to support the process of non-violent change, the Twelve have decided to take additional measures, such as the European aid programme for victims of apartheid, whose aims include the reduction of violence. The Twelve stand by their position that a national dialogue with the people's true representatives must be initiated immediately in order to put an end to the escalation of violence and facilitate the development of a truly democratic and non-racial South Africa. The Twelve believe that the principles I have just enunciated also apply to African National Congress.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 86/303.

87/137. Question No H-952/86 by Mr Alavanos Concerning the Exchange of Information Between the Police and Secret Service Agencies

Date of Issue: 11 March 1987
Place of Issue: Strasbourg
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Source of Document: Presidency
Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

According to statements by the Belgian Presidency in the European Parliament in connection with the TREVI Group, information on terrorist activities is to be exchanged between the Member States of the Community and a procedure for continually assessing the internal and external threat from terrorist activities established.

Can the Foreign Ministers state how the quality of information is to be determined in order to ensure that citizens' rights are protected, since the legal definition of terrorism, even where such a definition exists, differs from one country to another and what will be the criteria governing the continual assessment?

Answer:

At the European Council meeting in London in December 1986 the Twelve agreed to improve their contacts in order to increase as much as possible their potential for preventing acts of terrorism and bringing those responsible to justice. By its very nature, the information exchanged in this way is confidential.

The Honourable Member will surely not underestimate the importance of effective collaboration by the Twelve against this modern scourge. He may however rest assured on the matter of citizens' fundamental rights, which are enshrined in the constitutions and laws of the Member States, the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and the European Social Charter, and which form the basis of our democratic systems and European political cooperation, as defined by the Single Act.

87/138. Question No H-957/86 by Mr Adamou Concerning the Creation of an Administrative Mechanism for the TREVI Group

Date of Issue: 11 March 1987
Place of Issue: Strasbourg
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Source of Document: Presidency
Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

According to a press release by the TREVI Group, the Belgian Presidency intends to create an administrative mechanism for the group to ensure better its smooth functioning. Can the Foreign Ministers state what the institutional framework surrounding the operation of this mechanism will be, whether it falls within the Treaties establishing the European Communities and what scope it will have?

Answer:

The purpose of the small administrative structure which the Presidency proposed creating would be to ensure greater continuity for the meetings of the TREVI Group. The structure would be independent and inter-governmental. The proposal will be discussed by the members of the TREVI Group.

87/139. Question No H-964/86 by Mr Romera i Alcázar Concerning the Imprisonment of Children in South Africa

Date of Issue: 11 March 1987
Place of Issue: Strasbourg
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Source of Document: Presidency
Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

According to the Support Committee for Prisoners' Families, at least 4 000 children are currently being held in South African prisons. Are the Foreign Ministers aware of this problem, which violates all international laws on the protection of minors, and if so what steps does it intend to take?

Answer:

The Twelve are fully aware of the problem to which the Honourable Member refers. They expressed their serious concern on the matter of human rights on the occasion of a recent approach to the South African Government which included this problem among the subjects covered. The Twelve made it clear that these violations questioned the attachment to western values which is claimed by the South African Government.

87/140. Question No H-965/86 by Mr Cryer Concerning the Sources of the AIDS Virus

Date of Issue: 11 March 1987
Place of Issue: Strasbourg
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Source of Document: Presidency
Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Have the Ministers meeting in political cooperation considered the source of AIDS being the United States germ warfare research institute at Fort Detrick, Maryland, with a view to ensuring that full curbs are placed on germ warfare developments in that country?

Answer:

The question raised by the Honourable Member is not within the terms of reference of European political cooperation.

87/141. Question No H-975/86 by Mr Cabezón Alonso Concerning the Presence of Foreign Ministers at the Meeting in Guatemala

Date of Issue: 11 March 1987
Place of Issue: Strasbourg
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Source of Document: Presidency
Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Should the fact that only five European Foreign Ministers were present at the February summit meeting of the Central American States, which was attended by representatives of the twelve Community Member States and the Foreign Ministers of the Contadora Group, be taken as an indication that the Community Foreign Ministers attached little importance and little value to the proceedings?

Answer:

The Honourable Member is referred to the answers given to question No H-942/86, tabled by Mr Estrella Pedrola, and to question No H-944/86, tabled by Mr Garcia Arias¹.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Docs. 87/133 and 87/135.

87/142. Question No H-982/86 by Ms van Hemeldonck Concerning Human Rights in Central America

Date of Issue: 11 March 1987
Place of Issue: Strasbourg
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Source of Document: Presidency
Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

It has been reported in the press that at the third conference of the Community, the countries of Central America and the Contadora Group the President of the Council suggested that human rights were being violated in Central America, particularly in Nicaragua by the Sandinistas. Can the President of the Council say whether these reports are correct and, if so, what arguments can he put forward to support these allegations?

Answer:

At the Guatemala Conference on 9 and 10 February 1987 I stressed on behalf of the Twelve the importance of greater and more genuine respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in Central America. We fully support the protection of human rights in every country in the region, without exception. As the Honourable Member is no doubt aware, the concern of the Twelve in this respect is shared by the countries of Latin America themselves. The joint political declaration¹ contains numerous references to the importance of the respect for human rights, without which there can be no lasting solution to the problems of the region.

It is inaccurate that the President of the Council suggested during the Guatemala Conference that human rights are violated mainly in Nicaragua, especially by the Sandinistas.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 87/096.

87/143. Statement on Afghanistan

Date of Issue: 16 March 1987
Place of Issue: Brussels
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Source of Document: The Twelve
Status of Document: Declaration

In the wake of the latest round of indirect talks in Geneva on the question of Afghanistan, the twelve Member States of the European Community reiterate their support for the UN Secretary-General's efforts. They express the strong hope that, during the next round of talks, these negotiations will result in a satisfactory agreement involving the rapid and total withdrawal of Soviet troops on the basis of an irrevocable timetable. Such a withdrawal represents, in the Twelve's view, the essential precondition if this long conflict is to end and if the Afghan people are to be able to exercise freely their right to self-determination.

The Twelve condemn all the more strongly the armed attacks launched from Afghanistan on 26 and 27 February and deliberately directed against civilian targets in Pakistan. These caused numerous innocent casualties amongst the Pakistan population and Afghan refugees, which have both suffered so

much from this conflict. The Twelve consider these actions to be incompatible with the spirit of the negotiations. They pay tribute to the responsible attitude and moderation which the Pakistani Government has displayed in these circumstances.

87/144. Déclaration dans la C.S.C.E. sur les condamnations de membres de la section Jazz par la Tchécoslovaquie

Date of Issue: 20 March 1987
 Place of Issue: Vienna, Austria
 Country of Presidency: Belgium
 Source of Document: Belgian Delegation
 Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

M. Trouveroy: Monsieur le Président, au nom des douze États membres des Communautés européennes, je voudrais faire part de la réaction de nos autorités aux condamnations prononcées à Prague le 11 mars dernier contre des membres de la section Jazz et cela dans le cadre des propositions WT 29 et 39.

Si la présente déclaration est faite neuf jours après la proclamation de la décision judiciaire de Prague, c'est en raison des consultations que nos États ont voulu avoir entre eux, considérant l'importance de ce jugement au moment précisément où se tient ici à Vienne notre Réunion.

Voici ce texte:

Les condamnations, le 11 mars 1987, à Prague, de certains membres de la section Jazz suscitent de sérieuses appréhensions au regard des engagements souscrits par la Tchécoslovaquie dans l'Acte d'Helsinki et dans le cadre du processus de la C.S.C.E. Les Douze souhaitent exprimer leur réprobation des sentences qui ont été prononcées. Ils font appel aux autorités tchécoslovaques pour que ces sentences soient revues lorsque interviendront les procédures d'appel.

Merci, Monsieur le Président.

87/145. Déclaration à l'occasion de la Journée internationale pour l'élimination de la discrimination raciale

Date of Issue: 20 March 1987
 Place of Issue: New York
 Country of Presidency: Belgium
 Source of Document: Belgian Delegation to the UN
 Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

En ma qualité de Ministre des Relations extérieures du pays exerçant la Présidence du Conseil des Communautés européennes et au nom de ses douze États Membres, j'ai l'honneur de vous adresser le message suivant, à l'occasion de la Journée internationale pour l'élimination de la discrimination raciale.

La discrimination raciale est une violation intolérable des droits de l'Homme les plus fondamentaux consacrés dans la Charte des Nations Unies et la Déclaration universelle des droits de l'Homme.

Les peuples et les gouvernements des douze États Membres de la Communauté européenne ne peuvent tolérer aucune forme de discrimination basée sur la différence de race, de couleur, d'origine nationale ou ethnique. Partout dans le monde où elles existent, de telles manifestations doivent être éliminées sans délai, ainsi que l'exige la Convention internationale sur l'élimination de toutes les formes de discrimination raciale.

La survivance de ces pratiques a obligé les États membres de notre Organisation à s'engager, à partir de 1985, dans la deuxième décennie de la lutte contre le racisme et à adopter, il y a quelques mois, la résolution 41/94 de l'Assemblée générale sur l'application de son programme d'action. Si de telles situations subsistent en différents endroits de la planète, c'est sans nul doute en Afrique du Sud qu'elles continuent à présenter le caractère le plus intolérable sous la forme de la politique de racisme institutionnalisée de l'apartheid, que dénonce sans relâche la Communauté internationale.

Vingt-sept ans après les événements tragiques de Sharpeville, les douze États membres de la Communauté européenne restent profondément préoccupés par le maintien du système d'apartheid en Afrique du Sud, par la détérioration constante de la situation qui en résulte et par l'aggravation des souffrances infligées à l'immense majorité de la population. Cette situation persiste, en dépit des efforts de la communauté internationale pour qu'il y soit mis fin.

Les Douze ont inlassablement condamné le système inhumain de l'apartheid et rejeté les différents concepts qui y sont attachés: celui du développement séparé, la politique des *Bantoustans* et les innombrables discriminations politiques, administratives, sociales et économiques qui continuent à frapper les populations non blanches. Ils considèrent depuis longtemps que les graves événements qui se déroulent dans les communautés non blanches reflètent, avant tout, les frustrations des citoyens sud-africains maintenus à l'écart de la vie politique et privés des moyens d'expression démocratiques qui leur permettraient de faire connaître leurs plaintes et d'exercer leurs droits.

Au cours des douze derniers mois, les Douze ont été conduits à de nouveaux constats négatifs. A une situation déjà extrêmement préoccupante est venue s'ajouter l'imposition, par les autorités sud-africaines, de l'état d'urgence. Cet état d'urgence ainsi que la législation adoptée ensuite par le Parlement sud-africain n'ont fait, en renforçant la répression, qu'exacerber davantage la violence et les tensions. Des centaines de personnes sont mortes au cours d'affrontements avec la police sud-africaine ou avec des groupes travaillant au profit des forces de sécurité. Dans ce contexte, les Douze renouvellent leur appel à la suspension de la violence d'où qu'elle vienne et, avant tout, de celle déclenchée par la politique d'apartheid et les mesures répressives utilisées pour son application.

Cette législation d'exception a imposé des limites intolérables à l'exercice d'un certain nombre de libertés fondamentales. Les mesures d'interdiction frappent plus durement que jamais les individus ainsi que les groupes et organisations. De nombreuses réunions, voire des cérémonies d'enterrement, sont interdites. L'emprisonnement et le maintien en détention – notamment d'enfants et d'adolescents – sont de plus en plus laissés à l'arbitraire des forces de police et de sécurité. Des rapports inquiétants nous parviennent sur les mauvais traitements infligés à un certain nombre de détenus. Des restrictions inacceptables ont été imposées à la presse. La censure règne en maître. Quand les autorités estiment que cela n'est pas suffisant, les journaux peuvent être saisis et des journalistes expulsés.

Cette liste de violations s'ajoute au cortège de misères qu'entraînait déjà l'apartheid dans la vie quotidienne des populations d'Afrique du Sud.

Les Douze persistent à croire que les éléments permettant l'avènement en Afrique du Sud d'une société multiraciale libre et démocratique sont néanmoins encore présents et que c'est le rôle des Nations Unies et des États membres de favoriser leur mise en exergue dans le cadre d'un processus de changement pacifique.

Les événements confirment que seules des réformes conduisant, dans les délais les plus brefs, à l'élimination totale de l'apartheid permettront de satisfaire les demandes légitimes de la grande majorité de la population. Avant même que soient entreprises ces réformes radicales, les Douze pressent instamment le Gouvernement sud-africain de créer immédiatement les conditions d'un dialogue national authentique, à savoir: la libération sans condition de Nelson Mandela et des autres prisonniers politiques; l'abolition des lois d'exception et de toutes les restrictions pesant sur les activités politiques, notamment la levée de l'interdiction pesant sur le Congrès national africain, le Congrès panafricain d'Azanie et d'autres partis politiques.

Les Douze réaffirment leur détermination à respecter l'embargo sur les armes tant à destination qu'en provenance de l'Afrique du Sud.

En juillet dernier, les Douze ont adopté de nouvelles directives dans le cadre du Code de conduite à l'intention de leurs compagnies en Afrique du Sud. Ils ont ainsi voulu tenir compte de l'évolution de la situation depuis la mise en vigueur du code en 1977. En incitant leurs compagnies à une application scrupuleuse d'un Code de conduite renforcé, les États membres sont convaincus qu'ils contribuent de façon concrète à l'abolition de l'apartheid ainsi qu'à une amélioration sensible des conditions de vie et de travail du plus grand nombre possible de travailleurs africains.

La Communauté et ses États membres entendent poursuivre la mise en œuvre de leurs programmes d'assistance spécifique en faveur des victimes de l'apartheid ainsi que le renforcement de la coopération économique avec les neuf pays de la SADCC. Par ailleurs, des mesures restrictives, appropriées à la situation, continueront à être imposées à l'encontre de l'Afrique du Sud, afin de promouvoir les changements fondamentaux nécessaires.

Les Douze saisissent l'occasion de cette journée pour réaffirmer leur volonté d'œuvrer de façon résolue et pacifique pour l'élimination de l'apartheid en Afrique du Sud ainsi que [de] toute autre forme de discrimination raciale dans le monde.

**87/146. Lettre au Secrétaire général des Nations Unies:
Mémorandum sur l'application de la Résolution 40/61 de l'Assemblée
générale – Memorandum Concerning the Implementation of General
Assembly Resolution 40/61**

Date of Issue: 31 March 1987
Place of Issue: New York
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Source of Document: Presidency
Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Monsieur le Secrétaire général,

Me référant à votre Note du 18 avril 1986 (référence LA/COD/11) relative à la Résolution 40/61 de l'Assemblée générale, j'ai l'honneur de vous faire parvenir par la présente les vues et commentaires des douze États membres de la Communauté économique européenne au sujet de l'application de cette résolution.

Je vous serais reconnaissante de bien vouloir faire distribuer cette réponse avec ses annexes comme document officiel de l'Assemblée générale.

Veuillez agréer, Monsieur le Secrétaire général, les assurances de ma très haute considération.
(signée E. Dever, Ambassadeur, Représentant permanent de la Belgique auprès des Nations Unies)

Memorandum Concerning the Implementation of General Assembly Resolution 40/61

1. The Permanent Representatives of the twelve Member States of the European Community present their compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and have the honour to refer to his Notes dated 18 April 1986 (reference LA/COD.11), sent separately to their Missions, in which he sought the views and comments of their Governments concerning the implementation of General Assembly Resolution 40/61 entitled 'Measures to Prevent International Terrorism which Endangers or Takes Innocent Human Lives or Jeopardizes Fundamental Freedoms and Study of the Underlying Causes of those Forms of Terrorism and Acts of Violence which Lie in Misery, Frustration, Grievance and Despair and which Cause Some People to Sacrifice Human Lives, Including their Own, in an Attempt to Effect Radical Changes.'

2. The Twelve wish to emphasize the importance they attach to General Assembly Resolution 40/61. For this reason, they have thought it useful to make this reply to the Secretary-General's Notes of 18 April 1986. They may however wish to make further comments, should they consider it appropriate to do so in the light of events preceding the completion of the Secretary-General's report. The Twelve believe that Resolution 40/61, which contains a strong and unequivocal condemnation of all acts of terrorism wherever and by whomever committed, is a major step towards the improvement of international cooperation to eliminate acts of terrorism together with the underlying causes thereof. That resolution, together with Security Council Resolution 579 of 1985, is in full harmony with the view stressed by the Twelve on several occasions: that terrorist attacks can never be justified and do not serve whatever political cause the perpetrators claim to be assisting.

3. The Twelve wish to refer the Secretary-General to operative paragraph 4 of General Assembly Resolution 40/61 which contains an appeal to all States that have not yet done so to consider becoming

party to the existing multilateral conventions relating to various aspects of international terrorism, certain of which are listed in the third preambular paragraph of Resolution 40/61. Adherence by States to these conventions is one of the means by which an important contribution can be made to the objectives of Resolution 40/61, one of the most significant of which is that there must be no safe haven for terrorists. They suggest to the Secretary-General that he should, where appropriate, himself take the initiative in asking all those member States of the United Nations, which have not so far become party to one or more of the conventions referred to, to consider adhering to them. At the same time, it cannot be emphasized too strongly that, in accordance with the basic rule of international law, *pacta sunt servanda*, every treaty in force is binding upon the parties to it and must be performed by them in good faith. This applies equally to the conventions relating to terrorism and it is essential that States parties ensure that appropriate law enforcement measures are taken by them in connection with the offences addressed in these conventions.

4. The Twelve remain particularly concerned, following the tragic events that have taken place since the adoption of General Assembly Resolution 40/61 in various parts of the world including the terrorist attacks against civil aviation, and wish therefore to draw the Secretary-General's attention to operative paragraphs 11, 12, and 13 of that resolution.

They wish to learn of the action taken in implementation of those paragraphs and would appreciate the Secretary-General's including information in this regard in his report to the General Assembly at its 42nd session. The Twelve believe that it is essential that appropriate measures be taken in the International Civil Aviation Organization and the International Maritime Organization with a view to prevent further terrorist activities.

5. In the light of the above considerations, the Twelve are convinced that discussion at the 42nd session of the General Assembly should focus on the implementation of General Assembly Resolution 40/61.

6. The twelve Member States of the European Community wish to recall that the Foreign Ministers of the Twelve, meeting on several occasions since the adoption of General Assembly Resolution 40/61 have repeatedly stressed their commitment to combat terrorism (see: statements by the Foreign Ministers of 27 January, of 14 April, of 29 November 1986 and the relevant conclusions of the European Council of 5-6 December 1986. See also: Presidency press statement of 10 November 1986)¹. While strongly and unequivocally condemning all acts of terrorism and adopting a variety of measures to prevent such acts, the Twelve have reiterated their readiness to cooperate with all States concerned through a renewed dialogue so as to demonstrate their common determination to curb terrorism in all its forms.

¹ Annexes (omitted); see *EPC Bulletin*, Docs. 86/061, 86/119, 86/377, 86/351.

87/147. Question No H-999/86 by Mr Cano Pinto Concerning the Renewal of the Financial Protocols for the Mediterranean Countries

Date of Issue: 8 April 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

With the accession of Spain and Portugal and as a result of the Council's adopting additional negotiating directives in October 1986, the Community has opened negotiations with its Mediterranean partners to draw up protocols to amend various agreements.

In view of this, can the Foreign Ministers say whether the Community has already defined its position with regard to renewing certain financial protocols concluded with Mediterranean partners which have expired and in what the above-mentioned amendments deriving from the logical consequences of Spanish and Portuguese accession would consist?

Answer:

In the view of the Foreign Ministers, the question raised by the Honourable Member does not concern foreign policy and lies more within the Council's sphere of competence. It is therefore suggested that the matter be referred to that institution.

87/148. Question No H-12/87 by Mr CiccioMessere Concerning the Follow-Up Given to Resolution No 1569 of 19 February on Jews in the USSR

Date of Issue: 8 April 1987
 Place of Issue: Strasbourg
 Country of Presidency: Belgium
 Source of Document: Presidency
 Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Can the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation say what representations they have made to the Soviet Union of behalf of the Russian Jews seeking to emigrate to Israel referred to in Resolution No 1569 adopted by the European Parliament on 19 February 1987¹, and can they say what results have been achieved?

Answer:

At the CSCE follow-up meeting which is currently taking place in Vienna the Twelve have referred to the Soviet Union's numerous shortcomings in this area. They pay very close attention to the situation in the USSR with regard to emigration. They have raised the matter on numerous occasions in their contacts with the Soviet authorities and they will continue to do so. At the Vienna conference they have submitted a proposal for greater compliance with the right to leave any country, including one's own, and to return. This proposal is currently being studied at the meeting in Vienna.

¹ Resolution on the situation of Jews in the Soviet Union, *OJ* No C 76 of 23 March 1987, p. 143.

87/149. Question No H-19/87 by Mr Selva Concerning a European Army

Date of Issue: 8 April 1987
 Place of Issue: Strasbourg
 Country of Presidency: Belgium
 Source of Document: Presidency
 Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Do the Foreign Ministers believe that they should examine the possibility of forming a European army along the lines proposed by former German Federal Chancellor Helmut Schmid in an interview in the 10 March 1987 edition of the Rome daily newspaper *Il Messaggero*?

Answer:

The proposal to which the Honourable Member refers seems to deal with military aspects of security which do not lie within the sphere of competence of political cooperation. The answer to the question is therefore 'no'.

87/150. Question No H-20/87 by Mr Tzounis Concerning Domestic and Foreign Policy Developments in Turkey

Date of Issue: 8 April 1987
Place of Issue: Strasbourg
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Source of Document: Presidency
Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Recently, for the third time in the last three years, the Greek Orthodox church and graveyard in the suburb of Tarabya in Istanbul were vandalized and desecrated. The attitude adopted by the Turkish authorities in respect of these events has been highly questionable. Furthermore, for the second time in recent months, the Turkish armed forces recently attacked the Kurdish population in Iraq causing numerous casualties; there are also reports that Turkey has expansionist designs on the Iraqi region of Kirkuk. Do the Foreign Ministers agree that these activities give ample grounds for alarm and that the Turkish authorities should be made aware of the adverse consequences that such activities are bound to have on Turkish efforts to effect a *rapprochement* with the Community?

Answer:

The matters raised by the Honourable Member have not been discussed in the context of political cooperation. However, the Twelve have always monitored closely the situation of human rights in Turkey, including the freedom of religious worship. In their statement of 21 July 1986¹ on human rights, they indicated that respect for these rights is an important factor in relations with third countries. The Turkish authorities are aware of the Twelve's concern in this matter.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 86/230.

87/151. Question No H-42/87 by Mr Adamou Concerning the Proposal for a 'Zero Option' in Respect of Missiles Stationed in Europe

Date of Issue: 8 April 1987
Place of Issue: Strasbourg
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Source of Document: Presidency
Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Most of the western European countries' governments have expressed their support for the proposal by Mr Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, for a 'zero option' in respect of nuclear missiles stationed in Europe. Moreover, in a recent resolution the European Parliament also voted in favour of this proposal. Would the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation state their views on the eminently political issue?

Answer:

The Twelve hope for substantial and balanced reductions in the over-all level of arms in general and of nuclear weapons in particular, beginning with those of the two superpowers. They welcome the fact that Mr Gorbachev has finally taken up the long-standing western proposals on INF concerning the dismantling of the weapons deployed in Europe. They expect the Soviet Union and the United States to persist in their search for fuller agreement in these areas, which are the subject of talks in Geneva. It is the view of the Twelve that the aim is still to reach balanced and verifiable agreements which will take into account Europe's interests with regard to security and hopes for peace.

87/152. Question No H-43/87 by Mr Alavanos Concerning Nuclear Exercises in Central Europe

Date of Issue: 8 April 1987
 Place of Issue: Strasbourg
 Country of Presidency: Belgium
 Source of Document: Presidency
 Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Although the European Parliament in a recent resolution also voted in favour of the proposal by the Soviet Union for a 'zero option' in respect of nuclear missiles stationed in Europe, NATO is going ahead with the nuclear 'Winter 87' exercise involving thousands of persons, including members of governments, ministries, undertakings and institutions, to meet the eventuality of 'an attack by the Warsaw Pact on the West'. Would the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation state whether exercises of this kind, in which governments of Member States of the Community are also involved, are contrary to the spirit of the above European Parliament resolution and stand in the way of an agreement on the 'zero option'?

Answer:

The Honourable Member's question does not lie within the sphere of competence of political cooperation. The 'Winter 87' exercise is exclusively concerned with military aspects of security. As for the Twelve's general attitude with regard to the 'zero option', the Honourable Member is referred to the answer to the question by Mr Adamou (H-42/87)¹.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 87/151.

87/153. Question No H-60/87 by Ms Lizin Concerning the TREVI Group

Date of Issue: 8 April 1987
 Place of Issue: Strasbourg
 Country of Presidency: Belgium
 Source of Document: Presidency
 Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Can the President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation say what progress has been made by the TREVI Group over the past six months? What is his assessment of the work done and what prospects does he see for the coming meetings?

Answer:

The Honourable Member is referred to the statement made by the last Presidency on 9 December 1986¹ in London after the meeting of the TREVI Ministers, and also to the presentation to Parliament of the Belgian Presidency's programme².

The relevant Ministers will meet again under the Belgian Presidency in April this year and among their tasks will be an assessment of the very useful work which has been carried out in the mean time by the TREVI authorities and which, by its very nature, is confidential. The Presidency may be in a position, after this meeting, to give some details of the work done.

¹ Cf. *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 86/384.

² *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 87/025.

87/154. Question No H-71/87 by Mr Elliott Concerning British Government Fines on International Airlines

Date of Issue: 8 April 1987
Place of Issue: Strasbourg
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Source of Document: Presidency
Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Have the Foreign Ministers considered all the implications for ease and freedom of international travel, good relations between EEC-Member States and the rights of persecuted individuals to seek political asylum, of the British Government's recent decision to fine airlines £ 1 000 for every passenger brought into Britain without prior possession of documentation allowing right of entry? Has any other EEC Member State adopted a similar provision?

Answer:

The Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation have not considered the British Government's fines on airlines. The more general issue of the abuse of the right of asylum was discussed at the European Council meeting of 5-6 December 1986. The Heads of State and Government expressed their willingness to offer asylum to genuine victims of persecution but not to those seeking asylum for economic or financial reasons. They invited the Ministers of the Interior and the Ministers of Justice to cooperate in order to prevent abuse of the right of asylum.

87/155. Question No H-799/86 by Mr Ephremidis Concerning the Case of the Israeli Scientist Mr Vanunu

Date of Issue: 8 April 1987
Place of Issue: Strasbourg
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Source of Document: Presidency
Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

International public opinion has recently witnessed one of the most provocative violations of human rights by the Israeli authorities, who, with unprecedented impudence, abducted Mr Vanunu, the nuclear scientist, while on European soil (in Rome on 30 September 1986) in order to bring him to trial in Israel under very strict conditions of security and censorship.

What specific measures do the Foreign Ministers intend taking in connection with this case and, notably, to obtain the release and departure from Israel of Mr Vanunu who is already being held under harsh conditions (he is banned from talking to journalists and shackled, etc.)?

Mr Tindemans, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: The question raised by the Honourable Member has not been discussed by the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation.

Some Member States have raised this matter with the Israeli Government on a bilateral basis.

Mr Ephremidis (COM): It is difficult to put a supplementary question after an answer like that. It is indicative of the level of sensitivity of political cooperation and of the Ministers who work within its framework that when such an outrageous event happens, the framework of political cooperation — and here lies my question — examines other cases in great detail but in this case, which is all the more shocking and unacceptable because it was committed not by a bunch of criminals or terrorists but by a national State, comes along after an interval of this length and tells us that it has not considered this question.

Mr Tindemans: As I have just said, this matter was not discussed at the Foreign Ministers' Council meeting. I can have it put on the agenda for the next meeting, but as yet this agenda has not been finalized.

Mr Marshall (ED): When the Foreign Ministers next meet, would the President-in-Office remind them that one of the facts of life in the Middle East is that Israel's neighbours refuse to sign a peace treaty with the State of Israel and refuse to recognize her? In view of that fact and because of the nature of the offence committed by the gentleman concerned, surely the reaction of the Israeli Government in seeking to bring him back to justice was perfectly understandable. Would the President-in-Office please agree with me?

Mr Tindemans: That, on the face of it, is a matter for Israel alone. I know – from details given by the United Kingdom itself – that Mr Vanunu left the United Kingdom of his own volition, going through the normal departure procedures.

I think it inappropriate for the President of the Council to give a reply now to the question asked. As you know, extraordinary efforts are currently being made to bring about peace in the Middle East in due course. It is therefore inadvisable for me to answer this question.

Mr Alavanos (COM): Firstly, we consider the reply by the President of political cooperation, in which he said he would submit the matter at the next meeting of the Ministers in political cooperation, to be positive.

My supplementary question is really that the framework of political cooperation, which has expressed its concern for the Jews in the Soviet Union – as we saw with Ms Thatcher – should express the same concern for their subsequent fate.

Mr Tindemans: As I understand it, no question has been asked. The Honourable Member has stated his agreement with my answer.

87/156. Question No H-855/86 by Mr Arbeloa Muru Concerning Amnesty International's 1986 Report

Date of Issue: 8 April 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

What is the Ministers's attitude towards Amnesty International's 1986 report insofar as it concerns the Member States of the EEC?

Mr Tindemans, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: The Honourable Member's question bears on a matter of domestic policy in the various Member States; this being the case, it has not been discussed by the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation.

By definition, political cooperation activities are aimed, as indicated in the Single Act, at the formulation and implementation of a common foreign policy. They are therefore not concerned with situations or problems that might arise within, or between, Member States.

Mr Arbeloa Muru (S): How can it be that the Amnesty International reports which usually serve as the basis for the annual report adopted by the European Parliament, and which generally give rise to thousands of motions for resolutions and votes in Parliament, are not of any concern to the Council of Ministers, and have failed to generate any discussion within the Council, particularly since they deal with violations of human rights in eight of the twelve Member States of the Community?

Mr Tindemans: The European Parliament concerns itself – as is its right, in my view – with problems arising within the Community and beyond. The Council of Ministers does not have such a wide remit – I have just stated the limits within which political cooperation is required to proceed.

Mr Kuijpers (ARC): I should like to draw attention to the fact that there exist certain human rights treaties concluded by the Member States. These treaties are a basis for the actions of Amnesty International in drawing up its reports. In particular I want to ask about conditions in the prisons in Northern Ireland. There the minimal standards laid down in 1986 concerning detention are regularly violated. I should like to hear from the President-in-Office what action the Council intends to take in this connection.

Mr Tindemans: As I have just stated, that is a question that falls totally outside the terms of reference of the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation.

Mr Alavanos (COM): Does the President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers meeting within the framework of political cooperation not agree that the European Community could be accused of hypocrisy and of the political exploitation of violations of human rights, in that while it deals with violations in countries outside the EEC, it washes its hands of them when they occur within the EEC? Does he not think that this is a state of affairs which requires correction and, lastly, that one of the three Community institutions – the Commission, the Council or Parliament – should provide some answers to these questions?

Mr Tindemans: I think it is the Koran that contains the aphorism that 'nothing in this world is perfect, except God Himself'.

Less than perfect situations can arise, even in Europe. But there are institutions in Europe: here in Strasbourg you have the European Court of Human Rights, which upholds respect for human rights; you have the treaties, under which Member States of the Community have pledged themselves to respect human rights. That is all I can say. It is for these institutions to discharge their responsibilities.

87/157. Question No H-938/86 by Mr Boesmans Concerning the Conference of Community, Central American and Contadora Group Countries Held in Guatemala in February 1987

Date of Issue: 8 April 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

After the conference the President-in-Office of the Council declared himself to be in favour of 'rearranging' Community aid to Latin America, in other words Nicaragua should, relatively speaking, receive less aid. This view was not supported by the Commission representative, Mr Claude Cheysson.

Will the President-in-Office of the Council explain why he is in favour of introducing political criteria into the granting of Community aid to the region?

Mr Tindemans, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: It is not the case that I said after the Guatemala City conference that I was in favour of introducing political criteria into the granting of European Economic Community aid to Central America. Aid is a matter to be dealt with in the framework of the Community.

Mr Boesmans (S): I am pleased to note what the Minister has said. I should like to take this opportunity to thank him for the written answers he has given to my questions on human rights in Guatemala City, unfortunately without much by way of results, but I dare say the fault does not lie with him. I should however like to ask some specific questions about the conference in Guatemala City.

As to the economic aspect, I have now tried in all sorts of ways to find out what precisely is contained in the regional projects. I can imagine this must be very difficult, for I have learned for example that the repatriation of Indians to Nicaragua has been sabotaged on Honduran territory. How can it then be possible for any regional project to be developed here?

Secondly, as to the political aspect, we are lodged in an *impasse* with the Contadora Group. Is the Minister still not convinced that the United States holds the key to the success of any peace process in Central America, and will he be prepared to discuss this in any of his many contacts with the US Administration?

Mr Tindemans: Where Guatemala is concerned, the distribution of economic aid given by the Community is the responsibility of the Commission and, as Mr Cheysson has stated, that shall henceforth be done with due account being taken of the concrete circumstances. For example, priority will be given to responding effectively to earthquakes and epidemics, etc.

Secondly, the Twelve meeting in political cooperation are in favour of contacts with Central America and support to the Contadora Group. That is our positive standpoint on the matter, and in all the international discussions we have had where the situation in Guatemala has been raised, or where we ourselves have raised it, we have defended the standpoint pursuant to the text adopted in Guatemala City, which includes a statement to the effect that we do not believe that military measures will be likely to succeed in the region.

87/158. Question No H-966/86 by Mr Marshall Concerning the Plight of Mr Zalmon Apterman and Ms Rimma Shmukler

Date of Issue: 8 April 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

When the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation gave a written answer to my question (H-366/86)¹ about Mr Zalmon Apterman and Ms Rimma Shmukler, they indicated that these specific cases had not been discussed by them. Would they agree that it is diabolical that two pensioners – one aged over 90 – should be prevented from joining their families in Israel? Would they also agree that the solution of such cases must be a necessary prerequisite for any improvement in relations between East and West and that until these – and similar – cases are solved, any international conference on human rights held in Russia would be a sham?

Mr Tindemans, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: At the meeting now in progress in Vienna on the follow-up to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe the Twelve have drawn attention to the Soviet Union's many shortcomings in this area. They are vigilantly following developments on emigration from the Soviet Union. They have raised this matter in contacts with the Soviet authorities on many occasions and will continue to do so. At the Vienna meeting they have brought forward a proposal aimed at fuller application of the right to leave and return to any country, including one's own.

The Twelve attach the highest importance to respect for this right, which is universally recognized, notably in article 13 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and article 12 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Respect for human rights and basic freedoms has a direct influence on the quality of East-West relations.

In the Helsinki Final Act, which the Soviet Union freely signed, the participating States recognize the universal importance of human rights and basic freedoms, respect for which is an essential contributory factor in peace, justice and wellbeing, which are necessary in order to develop friendly relations and cooperation between all States.

The Soviet proposal for a humanitarian conference in Moscow is one of 125 monitoring proposals made to the CSCE follow-up meeting in Vienna, and it is under consideration, together with the others. The Twelve are resolved to work for an outcome bringing balanced progress in all areas covered by the Final Act. They have themselves, along with other countries, tabled a proposal concerning the human dimension of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Mr Marshall (ED): First of all I thank the Foreign Minister for that very positive answer in which he said that the Twelve very often raised the principle with the Soviet authorities. Can I ask that the Twelve do more than that and agree to raise particular cases with the Soviet authorities in the same way as Ms Thatcher and Sir Geoffrey Howe did in Moscow the other day?

Can I ask the Foreign Ministers never to forget what can be achieved by constant reiteration of the fact that if the Soviet signature at Helsinki is worthless, their signature on other documents is equally worthless? If he reiterates that often enough, perhaps the Soviets will listen and believe him.

Mr Tindemans: I can tell the Honourable Member that particular cases are often brought to the attention of the Soviet authorities, and often with success.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 86/388.

87/159. Question No H-976/86 by Mr Cabezón Alonso Concerning US Aid to the Nicaraguan Contras

Date of Issue: 8 April 1987
Place of Issue: Strasbourg
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Source of Document: Presidency
Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Do the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation consider that, in the context of honest and effective efforts to help normalize the political situation in Central America, the United States' declared support for the endeavours of the Contadora Group is compatible with its simultaneous economic support of the Nicaraguan Contras?

Mr Tindemans, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: The Twelve have repeatedly stated their view that the Central American problem must be settled peacefully, in accordance with the principles of international law and on the basis of an agreement among all interested parties. They are convinced that the Contadora negotiating process, which is based on the target document, is currently the only viable formula available for working towards a negotiated settlement. In their view, the tension in the region makes it all the more urgent to reach such a settlement, which must be founded on the principles of pluralistic democracy and full respect of human rights and basic freedoms, independence and non-interference, self-determination and inviolability of frontiers.

Mr Cabezón Alonso (S): Mr President, I thank you for your reply and for the efforts you have made to bring peace to the region. But I want to know how far the Ministers meeting within the framework of political cooperation are prepared to go in condemning the harmful effects which United States aid to the Contras is having on the peace and normalization process in Central America. Are they prepared to go any further than mere political declarations?

Mr Tindemans: I think the policy document approved in Guatemala City at the meeting of the Twelve, the Central American countries and the Contadora Group is sufficiently clear. It provides a clear enumeration of the elements that can help to bring peace to the region and unequivocally rejects any military intervention.

Mr Cryer (S): Is it not being a bit mealy-mouthed to fail to condemn clearly economic aid to the Contras? Would not the Foreign Minister agree with me that terrorism should be condemned wherever it comes from? Does he not understand and accept that the provision of aid by the Reagan Government to the Contras is in fact financing terrorism? Does he not realize that the Contras are engaged in killing men, women and children, against the wishes of the democratically elected Government of Nicaragua, that international law favours the democratically elected Government of Nicaragua and that it is time that he and his cronies in the other EEC States stopped sitting on the fence?

Mr Tindemans: The Twelve have condemned terrorism in other texts. I do not have them all to hand, but they would be almost enough to fill a book.

Secondly, on Central America in particular, we have repeatedly condemned all military action, all presence of military advisers, in all Central American countries.

Mr Alavanos (COM): Does the President of the Foreign Ministers meeting within the framework of political cooperation not believe that recent events, including the cut in support for the Contras and the fact that the Contras are now almost exclusively composed of elements originating from the previous Somoza regime, should serve to encourage the Ministers in political cooperation to make some clear approach to the United States?

Mr Tindemans: Once again, I can only report on what the Community is doing in the way of foreign policy in the framework of political cooperation.

I have just described the circumstances and positive outcome, in both economic and political terms, of the meeting in Guatemala City. We uphold the texts that we ourselves drew up with the Central American countries and approved with them. We abide by all the ideas embodied in these texts.

87/160. Question No H-989/86 by Mr Ulburghs Concerning the Mass Deportation of Kurds in Turkey

Date of Issue: 8 April 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

On 15 February 1987, the following alarming report appeared in the Turkish newspaper *Cumhuriyet*:

Half of the villages in Tunceli will be resettled in the Mersin, Antalya, Mugla and Izmir regions. 234 villages in Tunceli, with a total population of 50 000, are waiting for the exact date on which they must leave this region.

Other rural areas, too, in North-West Kurdistan will apparently be resettled in Western Turkey. The villagers, and in particular the Kurds amongst them, have no desire whatsoever to be dispersed throughout Turkey. Despite subsequent official denials, these are not the first plans made by a Turkish Government to 'solve' the Kurdish problem. Do the Foreign Ministers intend to take any action to prevent this new tragedy for the Kurdish people?

Mr Tindemans, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: The matter raised by the Honourable Member has not been discussed in the context of political cooperation. But in their declaration on human rights of 21 July 1986¹ the Twelve indicated that respect for these rights was an important factor in the relations they maintained with non-member countries. They are accordingly closely monitoring developments in the human rights situation in Turkey.

On 11 March last the newspaper *Le Monde* reported that this was a measure based on an Article of the Turkish Constitution making provision for 'evacuation of forest villages with no prospect of economic development, and reafforestation'.

This measure concerns 52 of the 67 provinces in the country, and the administrative questionnaire has been received not only in Tunceli — the impression given by the newspaper *Cumhuriyet* — but also in 450 villages in the province of Bursa and in other western provinces where there is little suggestion of separatist or revolutionary tendencies.

This government initiative — again according to *Le Monde* — is not based on compulsion. Candidates for resettlement are being asked to register and state their preference.

The *Le Monde* article makes the further point that the people of Tunceli do not describe themselves as Kurds but as 'Alevites', a group among whom there are no separatist tendencies.

This government initiative has proved highly popular. According to a report in *Cumhuriyet* on 9 March, 78 382 of the 91 000 people questioned in the province volunteered for resettlement.

Mr Ulburghs (NI): The President-in-Office of the Foreign Affairs Ministers meeting in political cooperation will doubtless be aware that Turkey does not meet acceptable standards when it comes to oppression, deportations, and genocide. Minorities simply are not recognized, be they Armenians, Greeks, Christians or Kurds. At this very time deportations are being carried out, there is widespread oppression, military intervention, and pursuit beyond Turkey's national frontiers. What action will the Foreign Affairs Ministers take in response to this situation?

Mr Tindemans: I can only repeat that this question is not one that can be responded to by the Foreign Affairs Ministers, but that we maintain a keen interest in human rights generally, including human rights in Turkey.

Mr Boesmans (S): I can well understand that this question was not discussed under European political cooperation, and that the Minister therefore cannot answer it directly. But he will surely agree with me when I suggest that any Parliament, and certainly this Parliament, must always be prepared to send the right signals. Is the Minister prepared to raise this matter at the forthcoming European political cooperation meeting, and to do so with a view to drawing appropriate conclusions in relation to Turkey?

Mr Tindemans: The agenda of the next Council meeting has not yet been fixed, but I shall certainly take this question into consideration.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 86/230.

87/161. Question No H-1016/86 by Ms Van den Heuvel Concerning Exit Visas for East Timor Students

Date of Issue: 8 April 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Are the Ministers aware of the fact that the Portuguese Government has issued Portuguese passports to four East Timor students who took refuge in the Dutch Embassy, but the Indonesian Government has refused to issue exit visas for them?

If so, are the Ministers prepared to make representations to the Indonesian Government regarding the issue of exit visas for Antonino Goncalves, Joao Freitas da Camara, Fernando Soares and Abilio Serena, to enable them to leave Indonesia for Portugal because of the acute danger in which they find themselves?

Mr Tindemans, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: The matter raised by the Honourable Member has not been discussed in the course of European political cooperation.

Ms Van den Heuvel (S): If we in this Parliament were to confine ourselves to matters that can be discussed under European political cooperation we would all be able to go home very early indeed.

Two Member States have given clear indications that they want these East Timor students to be allowed to leave Indonesia – the Netherlands Government, in answer to questions raised in the Netherlands Parliament, and the Portuguese Government, by virtue of having issued Portuguese passports to these students. Is that not a matter on which the President-in-Office should consult with the Member States in order to exert pressure on the Indonesian Government to allow these students to leave the country?

Mr Tindemans: May I remind Ms Van den Heuvel that I can only answer in my capacity as President-in-Office of the General Affairs Council, composed as it is of Foreign Affairs Ministers, and subject to the terms of reference of European political cooperation. If this was a debating club and you had invited me to come and speak, then I would be in a position to express my personal views, but I hardly think that is the purpose of Question Time. If the two countries concerned in the East Timor question raise this matter, then it will certainly be considered under the heading of political cooperation.

87/162. Statement on the Proceedings of the Vienna Meeting Since January 1987

Date of Issue: 9 April 1987

Place of Issue: Vienna, Austria

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Press Statement

On behalf of the delegations representing the twelve Member States of the European Community, I would like to summarize our impressions of the proceedings of the Vienna Meeting since it resumed in January.

All delegations have worked long and hard throughout this period and there has been a frank and vigorous exchange of views. Our main regret is that here in Vienna we have not so far seen much reflection of changes in Soviet policy which have been frequently proclaimed in Moscow. There has been little evidence of new thinking in most of the proposals put forward by the delegations of the Soviet Union and other Eastern European countries in this session. There has been little evidence of new thinking in many of their speeches, particularly when commenting on proposals sponsored by Member States of the European Community designed to advance the Helsinki process. Our principal concerns continue to be the field of human rights, human contacts and freedom of information, but we remain committed to balanced progress on all aspects of the Final Act.

We nonetheless remain hopeful that there will be a successful outcome to the Vienna Meeting. While much more will need to be done before the Soviet Union and other Eastern European countries will have fulfilled their promises entered into at Helsinki almost twelve years ago, we acknowledge that there has been change and we welcome it. We hope that during the forthcoming break these participating States will reconsider their approach to the Vienna Meeting and that their delegates will return with instructions to make our proceedings reflect what appears to be a new and more promising situation. We share the general desire immediately to get down to work when we resume on 5 May. The next stage will be a crucial test for the Helsinki Process and an important indication of the intentions of all participating States to honour their commitments under the Final Act and the Madrid Concluding Document. This is the challenge and we welcome it.

87/163. Statement on Sri Lanka

Date of Issue: 27 April 1987
 Place of Issue: Luxembourg
 Country of Presidency: Belgium
 Source of Document: The Twelve
 Status of Document: Declaration

As they have twice stated on 25 February 1986¹ and 14 July 1986², the twelve Member States of the European Community are following the political situation in Sri Lanka with constant attention and concern.

The recent series of veritable massacres risk plunging the country into a very dangerous situation of civil war.

The Twelve utterly condemn these extreme forms of terrorism which claim many innocent victims.

The twelve Member States of the European Community express their sympathy with Sri Lankan families who have been sorely tried by these outbreaks of violence and exhort interested parties steadfastly to continue their efforts to bring about a political settlement guaranteeing the unity of the country.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 86/088.

² *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 86/228.

87/164. Statement Concerning the South African Military Action in Zambia on 25 April 1987

Date of Issue: 28 April 1987
 Place of Issue: Brussels
 Country of Presidency: Belgium
 Source of Document: The Twelve
 Status of Document: Declaration

The Twelve vigorously condemn the military action carried out on 25 April 1987 by South Africa on Zambian territory.

It constitutes a serious violation of that country's sovereignty and a major threat to peace and stability throughout the region.

The Twelve deeply deplore the loss of human life resulting from this action.

They express their deep concern and deplore South Africa's frequent threats to strike at its neighbours, despite repeated appeals from the Twelve and the entire international community. Such actions have a negative effect and make the possibility of finding a solution to the serious problem of South Africa more remote.

The Twelve wish to recall on this occasion the statement by the Hague European Council of 25 June 1986¹ setting out the conditions in which the South African problem might be solved.

¹ Cf. *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 86/185.

87/165. Déclaration dans le Conseil économique et social (ECOSOC) concernant l'application du programme d'action de la deuxième décennie de lutte contre le racisme et la discrimination raciale

Date of Issue: 4 May 1987

Place of Issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Belgian Delegation to the UN

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Monsieur le Président, ma délégation prend la parole pour prononcer, au nom des douze États membres de la Communauté européenne, une intervention sur le point 2 de l'ordre du jour, relatif à l'application du Programme d'action de la deuxième Décennie de la lutte contre le racisme et la discrimination raciale.

Les Douze ont systématiquement et sans équivoque affirmé leur rejet absolu de toutes les formes de discrimination raciale. Ils croient fermement que toute forme de discrimination fondée sur la race, la couleur ou l'origine ethnique constitue une atteinte à la dignité humaine, est une violation intolérable des droits de l'homme et des libertés fondamentales et va à l'encontre de la Charte des Nations Unies.

Le racisme et la discrimination raciale sont incompatibles avec les idéaux de nos sociétés libres et démocratiques qui se fondent sur le principe de l'égalité entre hommes et femmes et sur les principes de liberté et de justice.

C'est dans le cadre de ces idéaux et principes que les Douze contribuent aux efforts de la communauté internationale et des Nations Unies pour éliminer ces phénomènes. Il convient de rappeler dans ce contexte que la Communauté européenne et ses États membres ainsi que le Parlement européen ont signé en 1986 une déclaration commune contre le racisme et la xénophobie.

Le lancement de la première Décennie de lutte contre le racisme et la discrimination raciale a illustré la volonté des États de renforcer la lutte contre le racisme sous toutes les formes. La proclamation de la deuxième Décennie, tout en réaffirmant l'engagement de la communauté internationale, démontrait que beaucoup restait encore à faire.

Des manifestations de racisme et de discrimination raciale se produisent un peu partout dans le monde et aucune société n'en est exempte. C'est ainsi que les Douze sont convaincus que les résultats positifs de la Décennie en cours se mesureront d'abord au succès des politiques nationales mises en œuvre par les gouvernements pour éliminer et prévenir ces maux.

Les activités entreprises par les Nations Unies jouent également un rôle important dans cet effort de la communauté internationale.

La lecture attentive de la remarquable étude soumise par le Secrétaire général à la quarante et unième Assemblée générale (doc. A/41/551) ainsi que du rapport soumis au Conseil (doc. E/1987/29) sur l'application du Programme d'action pour la deuxième Décennie montrent à quel point les objectifs de la Décennie ont été incorporés par les diverses institutions du système des Nations Unies et sont à l'origine des nombreuses activités entreprises par ces organes.

Les Douze ont pris une part active aux programmes établis dans le cadre de la deuxième Décennie. Plusieurs États membres ont contribué financièrement à des activités et ont participé à des réunions. Ces activités sont reprises dans la première partie du rapport du Secrétaire général soumis à cette session du Conseil (doc. E/1987/31). Les Douze se félicitent de ce que le consensus ait été maintenu.

Le Secrétariat prépare un programme d'activités pour la période 1990-93. La déclaration faite par M. Kurt Herndl, Sous-secrétaire général aux droits de l'homme, devant la Commission des droits de l'homme, le 26 février 1987, et contenue en annexe du document précité, propose un certain nombre d'activités à entreprendre. Les Douze ont examiné avec attention et intérêt ces propositions. Nous attendons que certaines de ces propositions se traduisent le plus rapidement possible en projets concrets. Les Douze regrettent que les activités prévues dans le cadre de la Décennie marquent actuellement le pas. Ils espèrent que cette situation est purement conjoncturelle et que comme par le passé la communauté internationale à l'unanimité marquera sa détermination afin de continuer les efforts engagés dans cette Décennie. Nous tenons à souligner une fois encore l'importance pour tous du maintien du consensus.

La Convention sur l'élimination de toutes les formes de discrimination raciale est un instrument particulièrement important de lutte contre le racisme. La Convention compte 124 États parties. Il y a plus d'un an, l'attention des États parties avait été attirée sur le fait que le Comité sur la discrimination raciale pourrait ne pas être en mesure de se réunir normalement du fait du non-paiement par près de 60% des États de leurs obligations financières. Depuis, une réunion a été supprimée. Gravement préoccupée par cette situation, la quarante et unième Assemblée générale a adopté, par consensus, la Résolution 41/105 demandant aux États de s'acquitter de leurs obligations et priant le Secrétaire Général d'envisager de convoquer, si nécessaire et dans les limites des ressources disponibles, une réunion des États parties. Nous sommes reconnaissants au Secrétaire général d'avoir, grâce à une avance consentie à titre exceptionnel, permis entre-temps au comité de se réunir en mars dernier.

La réunion des États parties vient d'avoir lieu. Les Douze accueillent avec satisfaction les annonces de paiement de contribution en retard faites par de nombreuses délégations. Les Douze s'associent à l'appel lancé par la réunion pour que tous les États parties respectent leurs engagements financiers dus au titre de la convention, qui seuls permettront au comité de se réunir et de remplir son importante fonction. Suite aux explications fournies par le Secrétariat, nous comprenons que les ressources nécessaires à la tenue de la réunion d'août devront être disponibles avant la fin du mois de juin de cette année.

Ainsi que cela a déjà été dit plus haut, aucune société n'est à l'abri de manifestations de racisme. Mais c'est tout autre chose que d'institutionnaliser l'inégalité, la discrimination et l'injustice et de bâtir une structure d'État sur ces fondations. Tel est le cas tragique de l'Afrique du Sud. Les Douze ont constamment, et dans les termes les plus fermes, condamné l'apartheid sous toutes ses formes comme un système institutionnalisé de ségrégation raciale et de discrimination, contraire au principe des droits égaux pour tous tel que proclamé dans la Charte des Nations Unies et dans la Déclaration universelle des droits de l'homme.

L'apartheid apporte son cortège de misères dans la vie quotidienne de la majorité de la population en Afrique du Sud. Les dix-huit derniers mois ont vu une aggravation du cycle de la violence et de la répression en Afrique du Sud. L'état d'urgence, qui a été réimposé l'an passé sur l'ensemble du territoire, a aggravé et non amélioré les perspectives d'un changement pacifique. Une manifestation récente préoccupe de plus en plus les Douze, à savoir la détention d'enfants. Des milliers de jeunes gens et d'enfants seraient détenus sans jugement dans des prisons ou des postes de police. Cette situation est inacceptable. Pour rendre les choses plus odieuses encore, les autorités sud-africaines viennent même d'interdire les gestes de solidarité avec les détenus. Le 16 avril dernier, le Président du Conseil de Sécurité, au nom des membres du Conseil, a publié une déclaration par laquelle les membres du Conseil entre autres expriment leur vive préoccupation et leur vive indignation à l'égard du décret pris par les autorités sud-africaines le 10 avril 1987, qui interdit toutes les formes de protestation contre les détentions sans jugement et de soutien aux détenus. Les Douze s'associent pleinement à cette déclaration.

Les Douze sont gravement préoccupés par la détérioration de la situation. La politique suivie par le gouvernement sud-africain ne peut qu'aggraver les tensions. L'objectif des Douze en ce qui concerne l'Afrique du Sud est la suppression pure et simple du système de l'apartheid par un processus de

changements pacifiques. Les Douze ont mis au point un certain nombre de mesures restrictives sélectives portant sur les échanges avec l'Afrique du Sud; de plus la Communauté européenne et ses États membres mettent en œuvre des mesures positives dans le cadre d'un soutien actif aux organisations anti-apartheid à caractère non violent. Les Douze continuent de penser que l'établissement sans délai d'un dialogue national avec les dirigeants authentiques des différentes composantes de la population est essentiel pour arrêter une escalade de la violence et pour permettre des négociations menant à une Afrique du Sud véritablement démocratique et non raciale.

Ma délégation ne voudrait pas terminer cette intervention sans prendre le temps de remercier vivement, au nom des Douze, Monsieur Jonah pour le travail remarquable qu'il a accompli dans le cadre des activités de la deuxième Décennie de lutte contre le racisme et la discrimination raciale. Nous comprenons en effet que M. Jonah ne pourra plus suivre les programmes de la Décennie dans la mesure où il a été appelé à de nouvelles et hautes fonctions. Ses efforts ont toujours convergé vers la recherche de solutions de consensus. Sa disponibilité et son amabilité ont contribué grandement à créer une atmosphère de coopération. Les Douze lui en sont reconnaissants et le remercient une fois encore.

87/166. Allocution d'ouverture de la C.S.C.E. à Vienne

Date of Issue: 5 May 1987

Place of Issue: Vienna, Austria

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

M. Tindemans: Monsieur le Président, aujourd'hui, c'est en ma qualité de Président en exercice du Conseil des Communautés européennes que je suis venu ici, à Vienne, pour faire un bref examen du travail accompli par cette réunion depuis plus de six mois ainsi que pour m'interroger sur l'avenir de nos travaux.

Comme toutes les conférences et réunions, les rencontres dans le cadre des suites de l'Acte final d'Helsinki sont — leur technique le veut ainsi — divisées en phases correspondant aux impératifs de leur ordre du jour.

Cette réunion de Vienne vient de vivre deux de ces phases et va en commencer une nouvelle. Les deux premières ont été consacrées d'une part à l'indispensable examen de la mise en œuvre des engagements contractés et, d'autre part, au dépôt et à la défense de propositions conduisant vers une meilleure mise en œuvre, vers une amélioration des relations entre les trente-cinq États participants ainsi que vers l'approfondissement de leur coopération notamment dans l'intérêt de leurs citoyens.

Nous espérons que dans quelques heures nous entamerons, d'une manière effective, une nouvelle phase, celle de la négociation d'un document de clôture.

La Communauté européenne et ses États membres ont voulu axer leur travail d'examen de la mise en œuvre selon trois directives générales: *la critique objective, l'équilibre et le dynamisme constructif.*

Ce qui a considérablement impressionné les membres de la Communauté européenne au cours de cette phase d'étude c'est l'ampleur des *manquements, lacunes et violations* d'un accord visant à faire de la détente un processus continu, de plus en plus viable, global et de portée universelle.

Il a, hélas, bien fallu constater que ces lacunes et violations minaient la confiance et la sécurité au lieu de les renforcer.

Je crois que nous avons effectué l'examen de mise en œuvre *le plus ample et le plus détaillé* de toute l'histoire de la C.S.C.E.

Aucun domaine de l'Acte final n'a été laissé dans l'ombre. Aucune partie n'a été considérée comme *domaine interdit* appartenant exclusivement à la *souveraineté intérieure.*

Cela, c'est un événement important, c'est un progrès qu'il faut souligner. Toutefois, ce progrès doit être qualifié car, si de nombreuses questions furent posées, il n'en reste pas moins que certaines réponses n'ont pas encore été données.

Brossant un rapide panorama de ces travaux d'examen de la mise en œuvre on doit, hélas, retenir que tous les principes ont, en fait, subi des violations majeures. Le principe des droits de l'homme venant, malheureusement en tête de liste.

Cela dit, les débats, les examens contradictoires des trente-cinq délégations ont été constructifs et se sont déroulés dans une atmosphère réaliste où aucun État participant ne voulait — et ne pouvait — prendre la position de celui qui aurait rempli toutes ses obligations d'une manière parfaite.

Parlant des mesures de confiance et de sécurité, chacun s'est réjoui de l'accord de Stockholm. Son encre est encore trop fraîche pour en faire, à la présente réunion, une analyse de valeur suffisante. Bornons-nous à noter que c'est un progrès important dans un domaine majeur.

Abordant la deuxième corbeille, on peut noter, certes, un certain nombre de points positifs. Cependant, les interventions des délégations ont montré que l'idée d'un manque de progrès suffisants dans ses divers volets a été mise en avant. La Communauté européenne partage cette opinion. Il faut toutefois constater que les trente-cinq États divergent quant aux causes profondes de cette situation.

Quant aux progrès réalisés au sein de la troisième corbeille, les États membres de la Communauté européenne estiment qu'ils ont été très insuffisants. En fait, dans bien des cas, dans celui de sa première division par exemple: les contacts humains, ils étaient souvent en deçà de ce que le passé avait connu. C'est une situation préoccupante.

Pour les développements spéciaux relatifs à la Méditerranée, il faut reconnaître que le séminaire de Venise a apporté beaucoup d'éléments positifs qui sont en voie d'exploitation.

Parlant des autres réunions spécialisées tenues dans l'intervalle entre la présente rencontre et celle de Madrid, les partenaires de la Communauté européenne ont montré à leurs collègues que, s'ils appréciaient l'intérêt et l'importance des débats qui s'y sont déroulés, ils regrettent qu'il ne se soit pas avéré possible d'adopter des documents de conclusion.

Monsieur le Président, tout ce que je viens de dire vise le passé. Si je m'y suis étendu, ce n'est pas par désir malsain de discuter à l'infini sur des événements révolus, mais bien parce que c'est de l'analyse des erreurs d'hier que doit apparaître la voie à suivre demain.

C'est dans ce sens que les délégations des douze États de la Communauté ont travaillé depuis le début de leur préparation pour la présente réunion de Vienne afin d'orienter, par leurs propositions nouvelles, l'action de l'avenir en tenant compte des aléas du passé.

Monsieur le Président, pour les douze pays de la Communauté dont j'ai l'honneur de présider le Conseil, les propositions qu'ils ont déposées, très souvent en compagnie d'autres États, étaient conçues selon trois idées majeures. Nous voulions des propositions *ambitieuses*, couvrant l'ensemble des thèmes où des faiblesses avaient été décelées. Nous voulions des propositions *audacieuses*, qui ouvraient les portes aux solutions à apporter aux problèmes qui avaient été définis. Enfin, nous voulions que ces propositions soient *généreuses*, de manière à donner à l'être humain, à l'homme, les meilleures chances de jouer le rôle qui est le sien dans un monde qui lui appartient.

De plus, les douze États que je représente se sont fixé les *critères* suivants de conception et d'acceptabilité en se posant les questions suivantes:

Les propositions visées sont-elles:

- conformes au cadre, à la lettre et à l'esprit de l'acte final?
- compatibles avec les engagements antérieurs?
- une contribution à une amélioration de la mise en œuvre et à la promotion dynamique du processus?
- servant les intérêts de tous les États?
- en correspondance avec les intentions annoncées?

Les critères qui précèdent sont évidemment liés à nos *objectifs*, que je pourrais brièvement résumer comme suit:

- susciter une meilleure mise en œuvre de l'Acte final et de ses corollaires,
- rechercher et formuler les moyens pour y parvenir,
- renforcer la vitalité du processus de la C.S.C.E. comme instrument de dialogue, de code de conduite et de programme d'action,
- prendre, dans cette optique, de nouveaux engagements plus clairs et plus concrets,

- adopter un document de clôture substantiel et équilibré,
- qui conduirait à un nombre limité de propositions de suivi.

La Communauté européenne est partie de l'idée que les États étaient au service de leurs citoyens et non l'inverse et en prenant appui sur le texte du neuvième principe de l'Acte final d'Helsinki, celui qui traite de la coopération entre les États, principe qui souligne le « rôle propre et positif » que les organisations et les personnes ont à jouer pour atteindre les objectifs de la coopération entre États.

Elle a donc choisi de construire ses propositions dans l'optique générale des progrès des relations multilatérales mais aussi, mais surtout, dans celle des progrès à faire pour que l'homme puisse à tout moment et en toute circonstance agir dans la plénitude de tous les moyens sans être artificiellement limité par des obstacles administratifs incompatibles avec les engagements internationaux que nous avons tous acceptés.

Monsieur le Président, au cours des récents débats les délégations de la Communauté européenne et de ses États membres ont continué à exposer les motivations des propositions que nous avons déposées, les buts poursuivis et nos espoirs de les voir acceptées par les trente-cinq États membres.

Elles me paraissent être en nombre raisonnable et de nature à susciter la rédaction d'un document correspondant à des résultats substantiels.

La Communauté européenne est prioritairement attachée à l'obtention de résultats concrets. Elle aurait pu présenter à cette réunion un nombre de propositions beaucoup plus important.

Cependant, elle a voulu se limiter en offrant les textes que vous connaissez.

En outre, les débats ont montré que la Communauté et ses États membres avaient décidé de souligner, sans équivoque, leur intérêt indiscutablement majeur pour trois propositions, en particulier:

- tout d'abord la proposition 19 sur la dimension humaine de l'Acte final,
- ensuite le texte 58 sur la coopération économique en Europe et,
- enfin, le projet 45 sur l'information.

Je voudrais aussi rappeler que les douze États dont je suis l'interprète, projettent de travailler activement aux autres propositions qu'ils ont déposées ou qu'ils coparrainent.

Les propositions sur la coopération en Méditerranée retiendront leur particulière attention.

Je disais, il y a un instant, Monsieur le Président, que les États rassemblés ici autour des tables de la C.S.C.E. semblent bien d'accord sur les lacunes qu'ils ont constatées dans leurs relations économiques mais paraissent en désaccord au moment où il s'agit d'énumérer les causes de ces lacunes et, évidemment, d'en chercher les remèdes.

La proposition 58 présentée par la Communauté européenne de tenir, après d'actifs travaux préparatoires, une *conférence* de la C.S.C.E. sur la coopération *économique* en Europe devrait – par conséquent – recevoir un excellent accueil chez toutes les délégations. Son projet d'ordre du jour reprend des thèmes essentiels de la deuxième corbeille en proposant d'étudier les moyens conduisant à des progrès sensibles dans ces domaines. Les négociations de la deuxième session ont montré que cette idée bénéficiait d'une très large sympathie chez de très nombreuses délégations.

Nous espérons ne pas nous tromper en disant que de bons espoirs de développements *[sic]* de ces thèmes sont réunis.

Dans un autre domaine, celui de l'information, tel qu'il est traité dans la troisième corbeille, le projet 45 suggère de réunir un forum de l'*information*. Le cours des événements a montré que l'idée de ses dix-sept initiateurs a rencontré, en bien des points, la pensée de neuf autres délégations. C'est de bon augure, d'autant plus que d'autres États ont décidé de mettre en œuvre une attitude nouvelle. Cela devrait conduire à la libéralisation de plus en plus générale des conditions de recherche de l'information et de sa diffusion sans obstacle. De bonnes réalisations concrètes sont donc accessibles dans ce domaine.

Monsieur le Président, si les deux documents à propos desquels je viens de m'exprimer m'ont fait l'effet d'avoir été généralement accueillis avec une très large sympathie, je suis très préoccupé de constater qu'il n'en a pas été de même à propos de la *proposition 19 sur la dimension humaine* de l'Acte final que ses auteurs ont placée en première corbeille.

Il me semble que trop souvent ce projet a rencontré de très fortes réticences exprimées en termes sans équivoque et sans trop de précautions oratoires.

Je voudrais relever ici quelques-uns des commentaires qui ont été faits à propos de ce projet.

En premier lieu, on nous a accusés d'aller trop loin dans l'innovation, de risquer de faire sortir la dimension humaine du contexte de l'Acte final. Rien n'est plus inexact. Si nous avons voulu être ambitieux et audacieux nous nous sommes refusés à dépasser certaines limites. Le système de réunions bi- ou multilatérales, d'information et de notifications est basé sur des concepts appartenant déjà à l'Acte final ou à ses documents corollaires, tous agréés par les trente-cinq États participants. La seule innovation réside dans leur utilisation logique dans un ensemble cohérent!

D'autres ont dit qu'il n'était pas concevable qu'une conférence soit convoquée par une réunion d'experts. Je ne voudrais pas devoir leur rappeler que, dans des conditions comparables de décisions de principe prise[s] par une réunion plénière, le forum scientifique de Hambourg a été convoqué par une réunion d'experts siégeant à Bonn!

Certains nous soupçonnent de vouloir institutionnaliser la question et même, peut-être, la C.S.C.E. C'est cependant incompatible avec les buts que nous poursuivons qui sont: traiter, discuter et, si possible, résoudre les problèmes en question le plus rapidement possible.

Monsieur le Président, il a aussi été dit que la proposition WT.19 visait à susciter des *modifications des systèmes politiques* de certains États participants.

Il me paraît particulièrement attristant et déplorable d'entendre de telles allégations.

Rien n'est plus faux.

C'est une accusation très ancienne lancée bien avant les pourparlers préliminaires d'Helsinki de 1972. Elle fait bon marché de ce qui est dit par les trente-cinq États participants dans l'Acte final où il est précisé que ces États se déclarent résolus à respecter et à mettre en pratique les dix principes indépendamment des systèmes politiques, économiques et sociaux.

Les États participants sont donc engagés à mettre les dix principes en œuvre quels que soient leurs systèmes politiques.

Leur demander une meilleure mise en œuvre ou proposer une méthode de meilleure mise en œuvre ne peut donc être une tentative de modification de leur organisation politique.

Il a aussi été dit qu'il fallait respecter l'*unicité des droits économiques et des droits politiques*.

On doit se demander de quelle unicité il s'agit si l'on observe que l'Organisation des Nations Unies lorsqu'elle a préparé les pactes qui se rapportent à ces thèmes a jugé nécessaire de les traiter séparément.

De plus, le texte du Pacte sur les droits économiques et sociaux précise que ceux-ci doivent être assurés progressivement alors que les droits civils et politiques doivent, pour leur part, être garantis dès le moment de la signature du Pacte.

Le moins qu'on puisse dire est que cette unicité doit être qualifiée.

Quoi qu'il en soit, ce qui précède ne devrait pas être interprété comme une réaction de timidité envers la mise en œuvre des droits économiques et sociaux.

Il ne faut pas perdre de vue qu'ils comprennent:

- le droit au travail librement choisi,
- le droit à la multiplicité des organisations syndicales,
- le droit de grève,
- le droit au mariage sans entraves administratives,
- le droit de disposer d'un enseignement supérieur accessible à tous.

Nul doute que tous les États représentés ici auront à cœur de respecter ces engagements!

Comme je l'ai annoncé précédemment, Monsieur le Président, j'arrêterai ici mes commentaires sur les critiques à notre proposition sur la dimension humaine.

Mes collègues du Conseil tout comme d'autres Ministres, suivront l'évolution des négociations relatives à cette proposition avec l'intérêt particulier que l'on consacre à un projet dont on souhaite très ardemment la réussite.

Monsieur le Président, si j'ai gardé la sécurité pour cette partie de mon exposé cela ne signifie nullement qu'elle occupe une place secondaire dans nos préoccupations.

Mon exposé ne serait pas complet si je ne vous disais pas que j'ai constaté avec satisfaction le mûrissement, au cours de la deuxième session, des idées et suggestions en rapport avec le *volet sécurité* de l'Acte final.

Tout permet de croire que ces concepts connaîtront très bientôt une phase de consolidation progressive où tous les États représentés ici pourront trouver les amorces de solutions aux problèmes qui sont posés.

Les questions de sécurité font partie de l'ensemble vaste et complexe de thèmes débattus dans la C.S.C.E.

La Réunion de Madrid leur a créé un cadre de référence spécifique et bien déterminé: la Conférence sur les mesures de confiance et de sécurité et le désarmement en Europe.

Son mandat instaure un processus graduel, ce qui correspond aux désirs exprimés par tous ces pays, comme la Belgique, qui étaient et qui sont soucieux de voir se développer des progrès efficaces, réalistes et crédibles dans ce domaine.

Je me permets de vous rappeler les remarques que j'ai faites à ce sujet lors de l'ouverture de la Conférence de Stockholm et qui me paraissent rester toujours valables:

Une paix solide reposant sur une véritable coopération internationale ne s'improvise pas. Elle exige des bases patiemment et vigoureusement cimentées.

Les délégations de tous nos pays ont ardemment travaillé à Stockholm à l'élaboration d'une de ces bases essentielles pour notre construction commune.

Nous espérons que dans un proche avenir nous pourrions envisager de nouveaux développements concernant les négociations dans le domaine de la sécurité.

Monsieur le Président, au cours de cette seconde session, la réunion a vu le dépôt d'un très grand nombre de propositions. Les unes se rapportent au texte même du document qui doit être rédigé. Elles sont très nombreuses et touchent tous les domaines de l'Acte final. Elles ouvrent la voie à des négociations qui promettent d'être intéressantes et animées. Les autres sont des propositions de suivi. Elles sont trop nombreuses, mon collègue autrichien l'a fait remarquer récemment. L'éventail de leurs thèmes est tellement vaste que si on les met bout à bout cela revient presque à envisager une nouvelle Conférence sur la sécurité et la coopération en Europe, un nouvel Acte final, ce qui serait paradoxal, c'est le moins qu'on puisse dire!

Monsieur le Président, je ne puis vous cacher que ce nombre impressionnant de propositions est, pour mes collègues de la Communauté et pour moi-même, une très grave source d'inquiétude.

Nous comprenons parfaitement que chaque proposition a sa raison d'être, que chaque État-auteur y est attaché. Il n'en reste pas moins qu'à un moment donné il faudra faire un très sérieux triage en vue d'arriver à la concision qui s'impose pour ouvrir la porte à la rédaction et l'adoption d'un document substantiel répondant aux vœux des États participants. Ce sera un exercice très difficile, où des propositions qui représentent les espoirs de certaines délégations devront être édulcorées, limitées ou même, peut-être, disparaître.

Un autre élément, un fait, est également une source de préoccupation, de souci pour la Communauté européenne: elle est arrivée à Vienne à un moment où certains États insistaient sur les nouvelles attitudes qu'ils voulaient désormais prendre: plus d'ouverture, plus de démocratie.

La Communauté a d'autant mieux salué ces déclarations qu'elles correspondaient à l'attitude qu'elle voulait prendre à cette réunion de Vienne.

Cependant, les attitudes des délégations concernées, leurs réactions au cours des débats, la teneur des propositions déposées ne semblent en aucune manière traduire ces intentions proclamées par des personnalités de très haute responsabilité.

L'incertitude que cela suscite chez les délégations ne peut que provoquer un très sérieux ralentissement des négociations.

Passant aux questions d'organisation pratique, je dirais aussi que les efforts des délégations pour s'habituer à leur nouvel environnement de travail seront une nouvelle cause de retard des travaux.

Tout cela me paraît d'autant plus préoccupant que nous voulons que les travaux de rédaction de notre futur document se terminent, ne l'oublions pas, le 31 juillet!

Monsieur le Président, dans les futures négociations du document de clôture, la Communauté européenne et ses États membres s'inspireront des *trois orientations* suivantes:

- volonté de susciter des progrès substantiels de mise en œuvre de l'Acte final et de ses documents corollaires,
- détermination d'atteindre les buts qu'elle poursuit avec *fermeté et réalisme*,
- conscience de travailler dans le *respect des délais* définis par la réunion préparatoire.

Si le savoir-faire, le courage et l'enthousiasme sont les qualités nécessaires pour atteindre ces objectifs, je puis vous assurer qu'elles ne manquent pas aux délégations des États au nom desquels je viens de m'exprimer.

Je fais, de tout mon cœur, des vœux pour que les négociations qui s'ouvrent permettent de conduire à l'adoption d'un document considéré par chaque délégation comme un facteur de progrès notables dans nos relations. Merci.

87/167. Déclaration dans le Groupe de travail II (Rôle de l'Organisation des Nations Unies dans le domaine du Désarmement) de la Commission du désarmement des Nations Unies

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Monsieur le Président, permettez-moi tout d'abord de vous féliciter pour votre élection à la présidence de ce Groupe de travail et de vous souhaiter beaucoup de succès dans l'exercice de vos fonctions.

Je voudrais faire part des observations générales des douze États membres de la Communauté européenne sur le rôle des Nations Unies dans le domaine du désarmement.

Les Douze partent de l'idée que les Nations Unies doivent jouer un rôle central dans le domaine du désarmement. Cela est conforme aux buts et aux principes de la Charte, dont le plein respect devrait renforcer la contribution des Nations Unies. Il est évident que, si tous les membres de l'Organisation des Nations Unies contribuent à accroître la confiance internationale, l'action des Nations Unies s'en trouve renforcée. Par le passé, les organes de l'ONU ont prouvé qu'ils pouvaient faire progresser substantiellement la cause du désarmement. En outre, un certain nombre d'accords importants ont été conclus sous les auspices de l'Assemblée générale.

Le rôle de l'Assemblée générale et surtout celui de la Première commission est, aux yeux des Douze, essentiel. Il s'agit du principal organe délibérant des Nations Unies dans le domaine du désarmement où tous les États, y compris ceux qui ne participent pas directement à des négociations précises, peuvent exposer leurs vues et faire valoir leurs préoccupations particulières tant du point de vue géographique, régional, de la sécurité ou sur le plan économique et social.

Si nous sommes convaincus de l'importance de la Première commission en tant qu'instance de délibérations sur les questions relatives au désarmement et à la sécurité internationale, nous devons dans le même temps reconnaître qu'il est nécessaire d'améliorer son efficacité. Cet impératif devient encore plus urgent vu la crise budgétaire que connaît l'Organisation. A notre avis, il devrait être possible de contribuer à l'effort d'économie sans affecter l'efficacité des travaux. Ce n'est pas le nombre toujours croissant des résolutions qui mène à des résultats concrets. Ce qui importe, c'est la négociation en vue d'accroître, dans la mesure du possible, la proportion des résolutions adoptées par consensus, en particulier les résolutions de fond, et de promouvoir ainsi des mesures concrètes, vérifiables et efficaces en matière de contrôle des armements et de désarmement. Les Douze ne ménageront pas leurs efforts pour œuvrer dans ce sens.

Quant à la Commission des Nations Unies du Désarmement [*sic*], elle aussi occupe une place importante dans le processus international du désarmement. Les Douze restent persuadés qu'elle doit

continuer à jouer son rôle dans ce domaine, en tant que forum de débat et d'approfondissement. Son existence permet l'examen en profondeur de problèmes spécifiques liés au désarmement et de contribuer à la recherche de solutions communes. Afin d'accroître l'efficacité de ses travaux, il pourrait être utile de définir périodiquement l'ordre de priorité des questions à examiner.

Rappelons aussi, Monsieur le Président, que la présente session de la Commission du désarmement revêt un intérêt particulier dans le contexte de la préparation de la troisième session spéciale de l'Assemblée générale consacrée au Désarmement.

La Conférence du désarmement constitue le seul organe permanent de négociations multilatérales. Le fait que les négociations ne peuvent porter que sur les sujets à l'égard desquels existe un terrain d'entente, n'enlève rien à son importance; bien au contraire. Il va sans dire que les efforts bilatéraux et multilatéraux en matière de désarmement sont complémentaires. Les Douze expriment l'espoir qu'un accord rapide puisse être atteint sur l'interdiction des armes chimiques.

Passant maintenant à d'autres domaines d'activité des Nations Unies, il convient de rappeler que les Douze sont d'avis que les études constituent une aide importante dans l'examen exhaustif et équilibré de sujets dans le domaine du contrôle des armements et du désarmement.

Il est aussi indiqué de souligner que la rationalisation implique d'éviter les doubles emplois et d'utiliser les ressources de la meilleure manière possible. Le Département des affaires de désarmement, dont nous apprécions beaucoup les efforts et le travail, a un rôle primordial de coordination à jouer.

Finalement, nous savons que la question du rôle des Nations Unies dans le domaine du désarmement fait l'objet d'un examen attentif, suite à l'initiative d'un groupe d'États africains. A ce sujet les Douze considèrent que les propositions élaborées notamment dans votre document, Monsieur le Président, document A/CN.10/1986/WG.II/CRP.1, devraient constituer une bonne base de travail pour cette session de la Commission du désarmement.

Cet examen constitue, certes, un point prioritaire, étant donné la nécessité de rationaliser les travaux des Nations Unies aussi dans le domaine du désarmement en vue d'une plus grande efficacité. En conséquence, les Douze espèrent que la discussion puisse aboutir à l'établissement d'un rapport et à des recommandations communes, à soumettre à l'Assemblée générale ainsi qu'à la troisième session spéciale consacrée au désarmement.

Je vous remercie, Monsieur le Président.

87/168. Déclaration dans le Groupe de travail IV (Vérification) de la Commission du désarmement des Nations Unies

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Monsieur le Président, je tiens tout d'abord à vous féliciter pour votre élection à la présidence de ce Groupe de travail et à exprimer notre conviction dans la réussite de nos travaux, sous votre direction.

Je voudrais très brièvement rappeler que, ainsi que les douze États membres de la Communauté européenne l'ont explicité dans le document A/41/422 du 11 juillet 1986, la vérification constitue pour eux un élément fondamental de tout accord de contrôle des armements ou de désarmement. A cet égard, ils considèrent comme particulièrement importantes les résolutions 40/152[O] du 16 décembre 1985 et 41/86[Q] du 4 décembre 1986, adoptées par consensus par l'Assemblée générale qui se rapportent notamment au paragraphe 31 du document final de la première session de l'Assemblée générale consacrée au désarmement.

La vérification du respect des engagements détermine le degré de confiance et de transparence nécessaires à tout progrès dans le processus, si complexe, mais crucial du contrôle des armements et du désarmement. Cette vérification est dans l'intérêt de chacun. Sa portée est de lever les doutes qui

pourraient surgir au sujet de l'application des accords et par voie de conséquence en miner les objectifs. Les mesures de vérification doivent permettre que chaque État signataire d'un accord de désarmement puisse en détecter la violation éventuelle.

Les mesures de vérification doivent être « satisfaisantes », selon la formule courante, pour chaque État, afin d'établir et de consolider la confiance réciproque, fondement de la viabilité de tout accord.

Si dans le cadre des négociations internationales en matière de désarmement la fonction des mesures de vérification n'est plus contestée, leur élaboration concrète se révèle par contre plus difficile. Les divergences de vues à ce sujet constituent souvent l'une des principales pierres d'achoppement à la conclusion d'accords.

Il ne suffit pas d'affirmer que les mesures de vérification doivent être adéquates, encore faut-il définir ce qu'implique le terme « adéquat ».

Tout d'abord, la vérification sert à contrôler l'exécution des mesures convenues de désarmement en conformité avec les stipulations de l'accord en question. Les dispositions de vérification doivent dès lors être conçues en fonction des objectifs, de la portée et de la nature de chaque accord et les méthodes de vérification doivent être adaptées à chaque objet de négociation, pouvant aller du simple échange de données jusqu'à l'inspection sur place.

Quant aux procédures et méthodes possibles de vérification, les Douze sont d'avis que les difficultés d'ordre technique, bien que souvent considérables, ne constituent pas le seul obstacle à leur élaboration. Les difficultés majeures découlent davantage de la différence d'approche à l'égard de certaines options de base, de caractère politique, qui sont en définitive fonction du degré de sécurité que chaque pays recherche dans un accord de désarmement.

Les Douze estiment que ni le coût des mesures de vérification, ni la gestion tant de fois invoquée au sujet de la relation entre la souveraineté et la vérification ne sauraient faire obstacle à la vérification.

Les Douze contribueront activement aux travaux de ce Groupe de travail dans le but de promouvoir des mesures efficaces de vérification.

Je vous remercie, Monsieur le Président.

87/169. Déclaration dans le Groupe de travail III (Désarmement conventionnel) de la Commission du désarmement des Nations Unies

Date of Issue: 13 May 1987

Place of Issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Belgian Delegation to the UN

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Monsieur le Président, permettez-moi tout d'abord de vous adresser nos sincères félicitations à l'occasion de votre élection comme Président du Groupe de travail sur le désarmement conventionnel. Nous sommes confiants que, sous votre direction, nos travaux seront couronnés de succès.

Je voudrais réaffirmer ici le vif intérêt des douze États membres de la Communauté européenne pour le désarmement conventionnel, dans la perspective du désarmement général. Ce sujet suscite un intérêt croissant non seulement en relation avec l'Europe, mais aussi en ce qui concerne le monde entier et toutes ses régions.

Certes, la réduction des armes nucléaires et le désarmement dans le domaine nucléaire demeurent une des plus hautes priorités pour les Douze. Mais ils sont fermement convaincus que le processus de limitation des armements et du désarmement doit s'appliquer aussi bien dans le domaine conventionnel que dans le domaine nucléaire. Ces deux processus pourraient contribuer à réduire les risques de guerre, y compris le risque qu'un conflit classique dégénère en une guerre nucléaire.

Il convient de souligner que les armes conventionnelles ont été utilisées et continueront à l'être dans de nombreuses régions du monde, provoquant des destructions considérables et entraînant des pertes énormes de vies humaines. En outre, ce sont les dépenses en armements conventionnels qui représentent la partie la plus importante de l'énorme budget militaire mondial.

Pour toutes ces raisons et en dépit de la différence fondamentale entre les armes nucléaires et les armes conventionnelles quant à leur capacité de destruction, les Douze soulignent la nécessité, dans le cadre de la recherche de solutions acceptables pour tous, de réaliser des mesures importantes de désarmement conventionnel assorties de modalités adéquates qui correspondent à leur contenu.

Dans ce contexte, il convient également de souligner les mérites de l'approche régionale de même que des accords sur des mesures de confiance, y compris une transparence plus grande dans les domaines militaires.

Tous les États et non seulement les deux grandes puissances doivent prendre part au processus de désarmement conventionnel. Les ressources financières qui seraient dégagées suite à des accords de désarmement et de limitation des armements pourraient alors avoir une incidence sensible et positive sur les problèmes sociaux et économiques mondiaux. Plus particulièrement d'éventuels transferts financiers pourraient être utilisés à des fins de développement.

Le désarmement conventionnel est important pour l'Europe puisque c'est là que se trouve la plus forte concentration d'armes et de forces dans le monde. Dans l'Europe comme dans d'autres parties du monde, il est très urgent de réaliser un équilibre de forces au niveau le plus bas possible. En même temps, il faut favoriser la confiance et s'assurer que les réductions dans un domaine ne mènent pas à des déséquilibres ou à des augmentations dans d'autres domaines. Il est par conséquent crucial d'arriver à des accords de réductions appropriées d'armements conventionnels.

Je voudrais indiquer, dans ce contexte, l'espoir que les Douze mettent dans le processus de la Conférence sur la sécurité et la coopération en Europe et les efforts qu'ils y consacrent. La Conférence de Stockholm en septembre 1986 signifie un important pas en avant dans ce domaine puisqu'elle est parvenue à un accord sur des mesures détaillées visant à instaurer la confiance en Europe. Les Douze ont pleinement contribué à ce résultat et ont la ferme intention d'aller au-delà de cet acquis notamment dans le cadre des consultations actuellement en cours à Vienne.

Ceux des Douze qui participent aux négociations sur les réductions mutuelles et équilibrées des forces qui se tiennent également à Vienne espèrent qu'ils pourront accomplir des progrès rapides sur base de la proposition de décembre 1985 à laquelle ils sont associés.

Enfin et surtout, je voudrais rappeler que l'Assemblée générale a pris note avec satisfaction de l'étude du Secrétaire général sur le désarmement conventionnel, préparée par un groupe d'experts. En outre, l'Assemblée générale a demandé que la Commission du désarmement prenne pleinement en considération les recommandations et conclusions de l'étude lors de la discussion sur le désarmement conventionnel. Les Douze considèrent que le rapport d'étude constitue une contribution essentielle au débat sur le désarmement conventionnel et offre, de par son contenu particulièrement vaste, une base substantielle pour les délibérations de ce Groupe de travail auxquelles les Douze ont l'intention de participer d'une façon active et constructive.

Je vous remercie, Monsieur le Président.

87/170. Question No H-880/86 by Mr Arbeloa Muru Concerning Human Rights Activists Imprisoned in Cuba

Date of Issue: 13 May 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Five human rights activists are being held in custody in Cuba by the State Security Department. Their names are: José Luis Alvarado Delgado, Dr Domingo Jorge Delgado, Elizardo Sánchez Santa Cruz, Dr Adolfo Rivero Caro and Enrique Ladislao Hernández Méndez. They are all members of the Cuban Committee for Human Rights and they have all previously served sentences for political offences. According to Amnesty International they have been detained for attempting to publicize violations of human rights in their country.

Are the Ministers meeting in political cooperation aware of these facts and can they take any steps to secure the release of these prisoners?

Mr Tindemans, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: In their declaration of 21 July 1986 on human rights¹, the Foreign Ministers of the Community affirmed the commitment of the Twelve to work for universal respect for human rights. They will continue their efforts in the context of political cooperation against violations, wherever in the world they may occur.

The declaration of 21 July 1986 pays tribute to the individuals and non-governmental organizations from all over the world that have made invaluable and courageous contributions to the protection and promotion of human rights. The Twelve stressed in this declaration that their concern for human rights cannot be regarded as an interference in the internal affairs of a State. They are convinced, moreover, that neither the lack of economic and social development nor any conviction or ideology can justify the refusal to recognize civil and political rights. The Twelve lose no opportunity to bring home these points to other countries. They do not hesitate, in appropriate cases, to mention the names of specific victims in cases of violation of human rights.

With regard to the particular cases raised by the Honourable Member, our information, confirmed by Amnesty International, is that Adolfo Rivero Caro and Enrique Ladislao Hernández Méndez were released on 6 February last. The other three are still in prison, without charge.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 86/230.

87/171. Question No H-947/86 by Mr Boesmans Concerning the Conference Held in Guatemala in February 1987 Between the Countries of the European Community, Central America and the Contadora Group

Date of Issue: 13 May 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Is it true that the United States' special envoy, Philip Habib, had secret talks in Brussels and other European Community capital cities with a view to preventing the European Community from taking action in Guatemala which did not suit the United States, and did the European Community bow to this pressure?

Mr Tindemans, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: The visits by Mr Philip Habib, the United States special envoy, to various European capital cities in January 1987, were of an informatory character. Insofar as the policy of the Twelve at the Guatemala Conference is concerned, this was based on an analysis of the situation in that area and on the conviction that we must make further progress in supporting the peace process initiated by the Contadora Group. The Twelve are supported in this by a part of Latin America that has also signed the Final Declaration of the Guatemala Conference.

Mr Boesmans (S): I would have thought that in the wake of recent events that have come to light in the United States by way of the 'Conragate hearings', it would be by now apparent that the lip-service that is all the United States has ever paid to the Contadora process has led absolutely nowhere. I should like therefore to ask if the time has not come, at the conclusion of the Belgian Presidency and now that President Arias of Costa Rica is on a visit to Europe, to ensure that a clear signal is sent to the United States to the effect that paying lip-service to Contadora is not good enough, and that concrete measures must also be taken. In that connection I would ask if the President-in-Office will take this action next week on the occasion of the visit by President Arias.

Mr Tindemans: I think the Honourable Member takes a too pessimistic view. Let me try to stress once again the point that the February meeting between the EEC Twelve, the Contadora Group and the countries of Central America ended on a positive note, and that a document with an economic content and a document with a political content were signed¹, which, in the given circumstances, was

undoubtedly a constructive and positive development. Whenever we hold talks here with leaders from any of the countries of Central America it goes without saying that the situation in the region as a whole is discussed.

Mr McMahon: Would the President-in-Office comment on the poor attendance by other Member States at the Guatemala City Conference? I understand that only four Member States were present. Would he also comment on the interview he gave, which was reported in the Belgian newspaper *Le Soir*? Would he further comment on the article that appears this week in the *Financial Times* pointing out that the Nicaraguan economy is being ruined because of American aggression and the cost of the Nicaraguans defending themselves against Reagan's 'cowboys'?

Mr Tindemans: I have not understood to whom that interview in the *Financial Times* is attributed. I wish only to say that the Twelve were represented at ministerial level, save for one exception, and that by reason of very special circumstances, at the Guatemala City Meeting, the third in the series between the Twelve, the Central American Five, and the Contadora Group. I can again only repeat that we endeavoured to arrive at improved economic relations. The document was adopted as part of the effort to secure peace in Central America. Those who have not read the document I would advise to do so, because what we adopted at this meeting was, in the prevailing circumstances, highly significant.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 87/096.

87/172. Question No H-955/86 by Mr Ephremidis Concerning Four Working Parties and the Meeting of the Leaders of the Special Task Units of the Member States of the European Community

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Source of Document: Presidency
Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

According to the TREVI Group's 1987 programme, four working parties are to be set up within the group and a meeting of the leaders of the special task units held.

Can the Council state what the nature of the work of each of the four working parties will be, whether these will be permanent working parties, whether they will have decision-making powers, and what the object of the meeting of the leaders of the special task units will be?

Answer:

The TREVI Group, consisting of the Ministers of Justice and of the Interior of the Twelve, is assisted by three working parties which are responsible for exchange of information on international terrorism, cooperation among the police forces of the Twelve and international organized crime respectively. In addition, the Ministers have set up an *ad hoc* group on immigration which operates with Commission involvement alongside the TREVI structure. The activities and working methods of these groups are confidential.

87/173. Question No H-969/86 by Ms Dury Concerning the Presence of the Turkish Army of Occupation in Cyprus and Question No H-971/86 by Mr Mavros Concerning the Distortion of the National Identity of the Territories of the Cyprus Republic Under Turkish Military Occupation

Date of Issue: 13 May 1987
Place of Issue: Strasbourg
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Source of Document: Presidency
Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Question No H-969/86:

What specific steps do the Foreign Ministers of the Twelve propose to take to bring to an end the illegal occupation by Turkey of 40% of the territory of the Republic of Cyprus, a burden whose full weight the island and the people of Cyprus have borne since July-August 1974?

Question No H-971/86:

What practical steps do the twelve Foreign Ministers of the EEC propose to take to deal with the Turkish army of occupation's systematic distortion of the national identity of the occupied territories belonging to the Cyprus Republic, by means of settlement and the elimination of historical evidence, with the ultimate aim of making them Turkish, in spite of the resolutions by the UN Security Council and General Assembly and by the EEC?

Mr Tindemans, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: The Twelve have stated on numerous occasions, both in the European Parliament and elsewhere, that they support the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and unity of Cyprus. They continue to lay stress on the need, for all parties concerned, to avoid any action that could increase the difficulty of making progress towards a just and viable solution to the problem. They take the view that it is important for the Secretary-General of the United Nations to be supported in the mission to offer his good offices on the basis of the relevant UN resolutions which has been entrusted to him by the United Nations Security Council. This mission has represented the best method so far of making progress towards a fair and lasting solution to the Cyprus problem.

Ms Dury (S): I would point out for all that, in connection with the proposals made by the UN Secretary-General, that it is Turkey which is ultimately refusing to take part in dialogue, but I should like to ask Mr Tindemans the following question. In view of his almost personal commitment, one might say, to entertaining Turkey's application to accede to the European Community, does he not also have it in mind to take initiatives on Cyprus, since this is among other things one of the obstacles to any accession by Turkey to the European Community?

Mr Tindemans: Let me take Ms Dury's last suggestion first. I have drafted plans for initiatives, I have been to see the United Nations Secretary-General and I have had discussions on the Cyprus issue, on the proposals already made by Mr Pérez de Cuéar, on the future of these proposals or the possibility of bringing forward others.

I also venture to point out that the first Community capital that I visited as President of the Council was Athens. The situation in Cyprus naturally came up on that occasion. I therefore cannot agree with Ms Dury, according to whom the Cyprus question is being ignored and the Presidency has not been following developments in the situation or has taken no initiatives.

Mr Mavros (S): I want to express my astonishment and my regret that the President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers has completely failed to answer the question which I asked. Why did he not answer? Do the Foreign Ministers perhaps not consider the distortion of the national identity and the systematic destruction of cultural evidence in the Turkish-occupied territories of Cyprus to be of importance? How has this situation come about?

Mr Tindemans: The reply I have just given was addressed to both Ms Dury and Mr Mavros. Once again, I can say that I have discussed the Cyprus question at length with the United Nations Secretary-General. I found that he too was somewhat disappointed.

Regarding Mr Mavros' last complaint, I can say that during its stay in Cyprus, in June 1986, the Council of Europe Committee on Migration 'found no evidence of pillage or destruction of monuments and works of art'. That is what I find on the file. I felt it worthwhile to quote from this text, at the request of Mr Mavros.

Mr Papakyriazis (S): I will simply say that I feel both saddened and hurt by the kind of answers we have been hearing here from the Council. This is a Council which evades and confuses – somewhat clumsily, I might add – the issues it is asked about. I know this is a complicated matter, but we want an

answer — and a little while ago, in this Chamber, the President-in-Office of the Council, saying that he was not speaking within the framework of political cooperation, did not wish to adopt a political position on a similar question.

It is, however, a political reply that we are seeking. Does it not matter, in the opinion of the President, that there is an army of occupation in Cyprus? We want a clear answer from him on this, avoiding unfortunate political formulae of the 'two-sides-to-the-question' type, equating the victim with the aggressor.

President of the European Parliament: Mr Papakyriazis, that is not a new question. However I shall give the floor to the President-in-Office of the Council if he wishes to add anything to his previous answer, provided that you are simply requesting a more detailed answer.

Mr Tindemans: Yes, I should like to do so, because I do not wish to give the impression that this Presidency is unaware of these problems or refuses to answer questions on them. As I said in my answer to Ms Dury, the Twelve are continuing to stress the need, for all parties concerned, to avoid any action which could increase the difficulty of making progress towards a just and viable solution to the problem. I have taken a variety of steps with a view to such a solution. I have spoken about them, and have nothing to add at this stage.

[...]

Mr Taylor (DR): Since the Turkish troops are welcomed in Northern Cyprus by the Cypriots who live there, it is difficult to understand how anyone could consider these troops to be troops of occupation. I welcome the President-in-Office's statement that the Council supports the initiative by the United Nations' Secretary-General and can he confirm that that initiative contains no conditions for the withdrawal of Turkish troops?

Mr Tindemans: I would say to Parliament that it would be counterproductive to attempt to mount any action which was not coordinated or concerted with the United Nations Secretary-General, who is engaged on a special mission. It is for this reason that I went to see Mr Pérez de Cuéllar. I made suggestions, and all I can say in reply to the questions that I have been asked is that we shall strive, alongside Mr Pérez de Cuéllar, to find a solution to this difficult and complex Cyprus problem.

Mr Tzounis (PPE): I would like to ask the President-in-Office of the Council of Foreign Ministers, whether, regarding Turkey's application for entry into the Community, he and the other Ministers of Foreign Affairs would agree that the Community cannot, until such times as the Cyprus problem is solved, accept into its midst a country which is flouting the rule of international law as blatantly as Turkey is in Cyprus.

Mr Tindemans: I have already stated the position adopted by the Twelve on the General Affairs Council when they examined Turkey's application to accede to the European Economic Community, which is a *de jure* Community, based on a Treaty. We have applied the Treaty as it stands; we have no right to size up the customer, so to speak, before deciding how we apply it. The procedure to be followed is laid down in article 237. The Council receives the application and forwards it to the Commission, which now has to examine it. Next, if the Single Act is approved by the twelve Member States, it will come to the European Parliament for it to give its assent. The final stage requires the Council of Ministers to give its decision unanimously, on the application.

87/174. Question No H-970/86 by Mr Pannella Concerning EEC Action in Relation to the 1 619 Missing Cypriots

Date of Issue: 13 May 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Following the European Parliament's resolution on the 1 619 Cypriots reported missing during the invasion of Cyprus by the Turkish Army in July-August 1974 (*OJ*, No C 42, 14.2.1983), what steps has the Community taken or does it propose to take to ensure that it is put into effect?

Mr Tindemans, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: The Twelve continue to support the efforts made by the UN to resolve the problem of persons reported missing in Cyprus. In particular, they have confidence in the work of the commission of inquiry on missing persons set up under United Nations auspices with the agreement of both Cypriot communities.

This commission is investigating what became of everyone, without distinction as to origin or religion, reported missing in Cyprus between the years 1964 and 1974.

True to their humanitarian traditions, the Twelve will not fail to provide any support asked of them as a contribution towards resolving this painful problem.

Mr Ciccimessere (NI): I thank the President-in-Office for the information he has provided regarding the action taken by the Twelve in New York. I should now like to ask a question that, instead, concerns Brussels. It is a question that admits of only two answers: yes or no.

I should like to know whether the Ministers, or Mr Tindemans, consider that it should be made clear to Turkey that an attitude of non-collaboration with regard to the missing two thousand in Cyprus is prejudicial to relations between Turkey and the European Community, not only as regards the question of Turkey's membership of the Community, but also as regards financial agreements and, in general, relations between Turkey and the Member States of the Community. I do not want you to reply again in a manner that evades this question.

Mr Tindemans: These are the sorts of question that we would very much like to answer, but this is a very complex issue. In my papers here, I find the following note: 'The figures for persons reported missing in Cyprus are 1 619 Greek Cypriots and 830 Turkish Cypriots'.

Of course, if a way could be found to solve this tragic problem, relations between the two communities and relations generally would undoubtedly improve greatly, but I find that, on both sides, this is a painful problem.

If I could help to solve this painful problem, I would not hesitate for a moment.

Mr Plaskovitis (S): I would like the Minister to answer the following question: Is he aware that this UN Committee which he mentioned has been largely inactive for more than five years now, due to the refusal by the Turkish forces — and it is specifically the Turkish forces involved — even to allow it entry to carry out its enquiries within the northern part of Cyprus? And how does he think this committee can find any solution to a problem regarding which the European Parliament has made repeated declarations, when I do not believe that any effort has been made either by the present Minister or the others so that this committee could effectively complete its work? Could the Minister please respond to this concern?

Mr Tindemans: As I have just said, the figures for persons reported missing in Cyprus are 1 619 Cypriots and 830 Turkish Cypriots. Following the death of Mr Claude Pillou, Mr Paul Wurth, a Swiss, was appointed on 28 April 1985 by the UN Secretary-General as the third member of the commission of inquiry on persons reported missing in Cyprus. The choice of Mr Wurth was made with the agreement of both Cypriot parties. From June to December 1985, the commission held two sessions; in 1986 there were eight sessions, and this year there have already been four. The next meeting, the twentieth, is scheduled for early June this year.

During its most recent meetings, the commission has concentrated on the cases of 169 individuals, 109 of them Greek Cypriots and 60 Turkish Cypriots. As matters now stand, the investigations on a quarter of these cases are already well advanced. In November 1986, two senior United Nations officials, Mr Gulding and Mr Feschel, visited Cyprus at the Secretary-General's request and held discussions with both Cypriot parties on the best means of advancing the commission's work. The UN Secretary-General's most recent report on the commission's activities was delivered on 2 March 1987 to the Commission on Human Rights.

Finally, two members of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the Swiss parliamentarians Mr Rixen and Mr Müller, recently submitted a report on the problems of refugees and persons reported missing in Cyprus. They called for an amnesty to be declared on all acts connected with these disappearances. The two rapporteurs' recommendations received the support of the Parliamentary Assembly of the 21 countries of the Council of Europe in a resolution passed on 5 May.

I am glad to have had the opportunity to provide this information enabling the House to form a clearer view of developments on this tragic matter.

87/175. Question No H-45/87 by Mr Ciccimessere Concerning the Extraordinary Meeting of the European Council on the Soviet and US Proposals for the Reduction of Nuclear Arms in Europe

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Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Does not the Council consider that the European Council should be convened as a matter of urgency to discuss the proposals made by the Soviet Union and the United States for reducing the nuclear arms systems deployed in Europe and to define a single Community position on this subject?

Mr Tindemans, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: The question raised by the Honourable Member has not been discussed at ministerial level in the context of European political cooperation. The general view is that conditions are not right for the European Council to have a fruitful discussion on this subject.

Mr Ciccimessere (NI): Mr President, once again I am asking you a question that requires a precise answer, the more so since I know that you personally are in favour of this proposal.

I should like to know which governments opposed the proposal which you, too, were in favour of.

Mr Tindemans: I have to reply in this House on behalf of the Twelve, and in that capacity I cannot answer the question just asked.

Mr Martin (ED): I should like to ask the President-in-Office a simple question: does he not agree that the Soviet and US proposals represent a historic and perhaps unique opportunity to reduce tension in the European continent between East and West? In the remaining time he has in office what will he do to encourage Member States who are also members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to seize this historic opportunity to reduce the number of short and medium-range weapons on this continent?

Mr Tindemans: Speaking on behalf of the Twelve, I am not in a position to answer the Honourable Member's question. I could perhaps give my personal views, but in the Council, as matters stand at present, military matters are not discussed.

These matters are examined in the Western European Union or NATO. I am not here to speak for those organizations.

Ms Lizin (S): I fully appreciate that the President-in-Office might be reluctant to give anything other than personal replies to these questions, but it is nevertheless clear that security as such is one of the areas of competence falling within the province of political cooperation.

Could he perhaps, without entering into the military details of the matter, tell us of his thinking on how it will eventually become possible to hold practical discussions on security in the context of political cooperation at a time when the options in Europe are more open than they have ever been.

Approaching the subject from this security angle, could he perhaps give us some views?

Mr Tindemans: Members of this Parliament know that there has been a twofold development in Europe since 1957: on the one side, European economic integration, on the basis of the Treaties of Paris and Rome, and, on the other, since the early 1970s, political cooperation. As yet, however, there is no basis for political cooperation in a treaty. If the Single European Act is approved by the twelve Member States' parliaments, we shall have a legal basis for political cooperation for the first time. There is no such basis as yet, but the Single European Act, which creates a legal basis for political cooperation, mentions security. However, it stipulates that the scope is confined to the political and economic aspects of security, excluding the military aspects.

Even with these amendments, therefore, the military aspects do not come within the range of European political cooperation.

It would not only be unjustified but even most imprudent of me to say any more at this stage. I should not like any statement made by me to be used in a Member State as an argument against approving the Single European Act.

Mr Christensen (ARC): I should like to thank the President-in-Office of the Council for the answer he gave to Ms Lizin. I assume that it is firmly established that military questions, in the event that the Single European Act is ratified and that the Treaty on European political cooperation comes into force, lie outside EPC under the wording of the Treaty and that a question such as that raised here, namely nuclear weapons systems, also falls outside EPC.

Mr Tindemans: I think my answer was clear. I would add that the Twelve have agreed on three conclusions as far as analysis of the situation is concerned.

First, what is going on at present in Moscow is more than just a matter of tactics or propaganda.

Secondly, we must be doubly vigilant: we cannot ignore what is happening in Moscow, but must watch developments closely so that we can seize all opportunities of improving our relations; at the same time, we must not allow ourselves to fall victim to our own naivety or misinterpretation of the situation.

Finally, these proposals from Moscow must be translated into something concrete in the forums where arms control and disarmament are discussed, namely in Vienna and Geneva: then we could organize a real debate from which positive results could flow.

That, in a few words, is the position as it has been understood by the Twelve in the context of political cooperation.

Mr Ulburghs (NI): Is the President-in-Office not in a certain sense at variance with the President of the Commission, who, if I am not mistaken, certainly wishes to see Community initiatives being developed?

Mr Tindemans: I am speaking here on behalf of the Twelve, but I can assure the Honourable Member that I am not at variance with Mr Delors – as he has repeatedly assured me – and that the Council is unanimous on the positions I have defended.

Mr Maher (LDR): On a point of order, Mr President. I should like to crave your indulgence on an important matter. Earlier today during the vote on the von Wogau and Baron Crespo report on the Single European Act, I put a question to the Commission and to the President-in-Office of the Council. The President-in-Office was not present at the time. The President of the Commission answered my question. If Mr Tindemans would now answer my question, it would be considerable assistance to us in Ireland who will shortly be involved in a referendum on the Single Act. People there who are against the Single Act are putting forward the case that if Ireland rejects that Act, it can be renegotiated. I should like to ask Mr Tindemans for his comments on that idea?

Mr Tindemans: Mr President, if you and the Honourable Member agree, I should like to answer in Dutch, since I have a carefully prepared answer, having been asked the same question this afternoon by journalists.

Those who have already been won over to the European ideal cannot accept a new round of negotiations on the European Single Act. To them the Single Act means a step in the right direction on the road to European unification. A new round of negotiations on this subject would constitute a retrograde step. It would be totally unacceptable.

87/176. Question No H-85/87 by Mr Marshall Concerning the Non-Delivery of Registered Letters by the Russians

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Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

I have received evidence from a constituent that the Russian Post Office cynically informs the Post Office in the United Kingdom that registered letters to *refuseniks* have been delivered, despite irrefutable evidence to the contrary.

Would the Foreign Ministers please tell me what steps are being taken to register the total unacceptability of this situation which completely ignores the basic human rights as laid out in the Helsinki Accord and as signed by the Russians?

Answer:

The Twelve are aware of the fact that mail is frequently monitored in the USSR. This problem was discussed as part of the CSCE at the Meeting of Experts on Human Contacts held in Berne from 15 April to 26 May 1986. A number of Western delegations submitted a proposal on this subject which was supported by all twelve Member States. During the negotiations on this proposal the Soviet delegation stated its readiness to accept the following text:

Guarantee, in accordance with the World Postal Convention and the International Convention on Telecommunications, unhindered transit for postal communications, ensure the rapid delivery of mail, including personal mail, create and maintain the conditions needed for rapid communication by telephone including the more widespread use of automatic telephone systems wherever this is possible, and respect the private nature of such communications.

As no agreement was reached in Berne on a final document, the Twelve are pursuing this issue at the meeting on the follow-up to the CSCE currently in progress in Vienna. In conjunction with other Western countries, the Twelve have submitted a detailed proposal which aims to guarantee the freedom of postal communications and respect for the private nature and inviolability of postal and telephonic communications.

87/177. Question No H-118/87 by Mr Ulburghs Concerning the Murder of the Flemish Development Aid Worker, Serge Bertens, in Guatemala

Date of Issue: 13 May 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Recent information appears to show that the Flemish development aid worker, Serge Bertens, three months after he was kidnapped or arrested on 19 January 1982, was shot dead in Poptun barracks, Guatemala. It has not yet, however, been possible to obtain official confirmation. Everything is still shrouded in diplomatic fog, even though relations between the Community and Central America, particularly since the conference in Guatemala City, have undoubtedly become a great deal closer.

When do the Foreign Ministers propose, by exercising appropriate pressure, to ensure that this matter is finally cleared up?

Answer:

The specific case to which the Honourable Member refers has not been discussed by the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation. The matter has been discussed in the parliament of Belgium, the country directly concerned. All the available information was given on that occasion. Belgium has made diplomatic approaches to all the regimes which have controlled Guatemala in recent years. During a recent visit to that country in February 1987, the very serious Belgian concern at the fate of Mr Bertens was conveyed in a personal message to the new President. It is to be feared that Mr Bertens is among the 30 000 people who disappeared without trace during the years of dictatorship.

87/178. Question No H-131/87 by Ms Lizin Concerning the Progress Made Toward the Creation of a European Legal Area

Date of Issue: 13 May 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Can the President of the Council say what progress has been made so far during his Presidency towards the creation of a European legal area and what the prospects are for the remaining months?

Answer:

Efforts to create a European legal area being made by various bodies which operate together with the political cooperation of the Twelve; the TREVI Group may be cited as an example. In the context of European political cooperation the Twelve have studied opportunities for easier cooperation on criminal, administrative and civil law. Several conventions are currently being drafted:

1. *Criminal and administrative law*

- a) a draft agreement on the implementation by the Member States of the European Community of the Council of Europe's convention on the transfer of convicted prisoners.

This agreement is designed to complement the Council of Europe convention which became available for signature on 21 March 1983, as well as extending its scope and improving its operation. In particular, the agreement makes provision for each Member State in certain cases to treat nationals of any other Member State with regular and habitual residence in the same way as citizens of the country.

- b) a draft convention on the application of the *ne bis in idem* rule whereby a person convicted in one Member State cannot be tried for the same crime in another Member State.
- c) a draft convention on the abolition of legalization of official documents, with the aim of abolishing the legalization of official documents among the Member States.

Progress in drafting these three documents suggests that an early signature may be expected. In this context, work is also under way to:

- a) simplify extradition procedures, especially through the use of modern telecommunications systems;
- b) extend the Dublin agreement on the repression of terrorism to include the States which were not members of the Community at the time of signing (i.e. Greece, Portugal and Spain).

2. *Civil law*

Special attention is being given to the problems which arise from the abduction of children. Pending the entry into force among the Twelve of the Luxembourg and Hague conventions, provision has been made for each Member State to appoint national representatives for the purpose of assisting those who are victims of child abductions. Efforts are still being made to overcome the reservations which have been expressed in the case of the Luxembourg convention and, if possible, to streamline the procedures for the repatriation of abducted children.

The implementation of maintenance decisions is another matter which is receiving attention, with the aim of simplifying the procedures for the repatriation of *exequatur*.

To sum up, the aim of the Belgian Presidency in the sphere of legal cooperation has been to achieve closer relations among the Member States and to develop the benefits which the Community can offer to those who reside in it.

87/179. Question No H-134/87 by Ms Crawley Concerning Halil Berktaý

Date of Issue: 13 May 1987
Place of Issue: Strasbourg
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Source of Document: Presidency
Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Would the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation investigate with all urgency the case of Halil Berktaý, presently registered as a student studying for his PhD at Birmingham University who is being detained in a Turkish gaol for no other reason than trying to establish a Socialist Party, and call for his immediate release?

Answer:

The specific issue raised by the Honourable Member has not been discussed by the Foreign Ministers meeting in EPC.

However, the Twelve have always followed developments concerning human rights in Turkey very closely, including matters relating to the freedom to set up political organizations, without which democracy cannot exist. In their declaration on human rights of 21 July 1986¹ they stated that respect for these rights formed an important factor in their relations with third countries.

The Turkish authorities are aware of the feelings of the Twelve on this matter.

It is noted that he was released on bail on 13 February 1987.

Attention has been drawn to the following points:

- Mr Berktaý did not attempt to set up a socialist party;
- although no longer in prison, he does face charges under article 142/1 of the Turkish penal code and thus cannot obtain a passport in order to travel abroad.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 86/230.

87/180. Question No H-137/87 by Ms Bonino Concerning Action Taken on the Resolution (Doc. B 2-210/87) on Jews in Syria

Date of Issue: 13 May 1987
Place of Issue: Strasbourg
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Source of Document: Presidency
Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

What specific steps have been taken to persuade the Syrian Government to allow members of the Jewish community in Syria who wish to emigrate to do so freely, as urged in the resolution (Doc. B 2-210/87) adopted by the European Parliament on 9 April 1987¹? What response has the Syrian Government made to the Council's approaches?

Answer:

The question raised by the Honourable Member has not been discussed by the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation.

¹ Resolution on the situation of the Jewish community in Syria, *OJ* No C 125 of 15 May 1987, p. 131.

**87/181. Question No 327/86 by Mr Beyer de Ryke (LDR-B)
Concerning the Arrests of Solidarity Activists in Poland**

Date of Issue: 15 May 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 13 May 1986

Legal proceedings are once again being taken in Poland against various leaders of Solidarity for their activities on behalf of this trade union, which has officially been dissolved.

Is the Council aware of these cases, which clearly contravene the letter and spirit of the Helsinki and Madrid agreements?

Can the Council seek information at official level from the Polish authorities as regards respect for human rights and freedom which Poland, together with all the European States, has endorsed?

Answer:

The Twelve follow developments in Poland with great attention. They continue, both individually and jointly, to impress upon the Polish authorities the need fully to respect the international human rights provisions to which Poland has subscribed. The Twelve point out to the Polish authorities that actions like those to which the Honourable Member refers can only harm the prospects for national reconciliation.

**87/182. Question No 782/86 by Mr Pordea (DR-F) Concerning New
Aspects of Community Policy on East-West Relations**

Date of Issue: 15 May-1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 4 July 1986

Thanks to the firm final position adopted by the United States, the discussions between experts of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) on 'human contacts' (Berne Conference, April/May 1986) have pointed the way towards an effective understanding of an approach to East-West negotiations.

Since any dialogue of this kind automatically covers the political and trade aspects of the relations concerned and since CSCE proceedings and the current contacts between the EEC and the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) are complementary, does the Council not consider that it should establish specific guidelines for a joint Community policy towards the East, based on the position recently adopted by the United States, more specifically with a view to the forthcoming CSCE meeting in Vienna?

Does the Council not also agree that the development of bilateral relations with the member States of the CMEA, and possibly the establishment of official relations between the CMEA as such and the EEC, must, at this stage, be determined by the concessions that the Soviet Union is prepared to make in the area of human rights as regards the captive States of Eastern Europe?

Answer:

The Twelve are currently engaged in intensive consultations to prepare for the CSCE follow-up meeting in Vienna due to begin on 4 November 1987. All relevant factors, including the attitudes of other participating States are taken into account in these preparations. Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Twelve meeting in the framework of European political cooperation and of the Council have reaffirmed

by their declaration of 21 July 1986¹ that the respect of human rights is an important element in relations between third countries and the Europe of the Twelve. They also emphasized that the respect for human rights by all States participating in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe is an essential factor in achieving peace and security, justice and well-being in Europe.

Trade relations between CMEA member States and the Community and relations between the CMEA itself and the Community are considered in the Council framework. Political relations are considered in European political cooperation.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 86/230.

87/183. Question No 1059/86 by Mr Balfe (S-UK) Concerning the Violation of Irish Air Space

Date of Issue: 15 May 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 31 July 1986

Is the Council of Ministers aware that on the days prior to the United States air raid on Libya 32 KC 135 air-to-air refuelling tankers are alleged to have violated Irish air space and gave deceptive identification call-signs to the Irish radio traffic control at Ballygireen Air Traffic Centre near Shannon? The call-signs used were 'MAC' (a designation normally used exclusively for US military cargo planes) and 'ADOLA' (a code prefix for B-52 bombers).

1. Will the Council ascertain whether these facts, as reported in *The Phoenix* of 6 June 1986, are true?
2. If the answer to (1) is yes, will the Council make representations to the US Government about this deception and violation of Irish air space?

Answer:

The issue raised by the Honourable Member falls outside the scope of European political cooperation.

87/184. Question No 1415/86 by Mr Schwalba-Hoth (ARC-D) Concerning Alleged Terrorist Risk to EUREKA Projects

Date of Issue: 15 May 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 18 September 1986

Speaking to the Chamber of Industry and Commerce in Nuremberg, the Director of the German Federal Criminal Investigation Office ('Bundeskriminalamt'-BKA), Heinrich Boge, stated that at least two left-wing extremist groups ('RAF' and 'Action directe') regarded the European research and technology programme EUREKA as an important future target.

1. Have the authorities involved in the TREVI programme studied this threat, or do they propose to do so?
2. What evidence is there for suspecting that such a threat exists?
3. How seriously is this threat rated, and what countermeasures are to be taken?

Answer:

All terrorist threats from whatever quarter are continuously examined very carefully by the Twelve's appropriate authorities who cooperate in the TREVI framework. For obvious reasons, it is not possible to give further details on security matters of this kind.

**87/185. Question No 2170/86 by Mr Beyer de Ryke (LDR-B)
Concerning Violation of Human Rights in Bangladesh – European
Community Stance on the Matter**

Date of Issue: 15 May 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 16 December 1986

A report has recently been published by Amnesty International containing a crushing indictment of the Bangladesh authorities for the torture and summary execution of local people by the Government forces based in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

According to Amnesty International, such acts have been taking place for years while successive governments have failed to order an inquiry into these violations of human rights.

Amnesty International made numerous representations to the Bangladesh Authorities without result.

Is the Council aware of the report by Amnesty International on this matter?

Is the Council in a position to make [a] representation to the Bangladesh Authorities, urging them to comply with the relevant principles embodied in the Convention between the African, Caribbean and Pacific States (ACP) and the EEC?

Answer:

The Twelve are keeping a close watch on the human rights situation in Bangladesh and in particular in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. They have, on several occasions, expressed their concern in this connection to the Bangladesh authorities. The Ambassador of Belgium in Dacca, acting in his capacity as representative of the Presidency, made representations to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh, Mr Humayum Rasheed Chowdhury, on 22 January 1987, at which time he presented a communication from the Twelve referring to the allegations of increasing violations of human rights in Bangladesh.

The Minister said that all Bangladesh citizens enjoyed equal rights and that since the lifting of martial law, they could apply to the courts if they considered themselves victims of discrimination.

Despite this reply the concern of the Twelve regarding violations of human rights in Bangladesh persists. For this reason the Twelve will continue to keep this question under review and they reserve the right to intervene again in this connection.

**87/186. Intervention dans le Conseil économique et social
sur le point 17 de l'ordre du jour: Droits de l'homme**

Date of Issue: 18 May 1987

Place of Issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Belgian Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Monsieur le Président, ma délégation a demandé la parole pour prononcer, au nom des douze États membres de la Communauté européenne, une intervention sur le point 17 de l'ordre du jour, relatif aux droits de l'homme, prenant plus particulièrement en considération le rapport de la quarante-troisième session de la Commission des droits de l'homme.

Les États membres de la Communauté européenne veulent affirmer une fois de plus qu'ils ont le souci commun de promouvoir et de protéger les droits de l'homme et les libertés fondamentales. Ce souci fait partie intégrante de leur approche des questions internationales. Les Douze croient en l'importance fondamentale des droits de l'homme et en la nécessité pour les États de respecter scrupuleusement les normes acceptées internationalement. Cela explique le rôle important que jouent les Douze dans le cadre

des activités menées en faveur de la promotion et de la protection des droits de l'homme. Les Douze, enfin, ne veulent pas oublier que la personne humaine est la raison d'être de toutes les entreprises des Nations Unies.

Prenant pour assise la Déclaration universelle des droits de l'homme, les Nations Unies ont développé des efforts ambitieux qui ont abouti à la rédaction des Pactes internationaux. Depuis, s'est érigé un édifice imposant d'instruments internationaux visant à promouvoir et à protéger les droits de l'homme. Cet effort considérable de codification n'est certes pas tout à fait achevé, de même que tous les États n'ont pas accédé aux instruments pertinents. Il est cependant grand temps que les Nations Unies mettent plus d'accent sur la mise en œuvre des instruments existants par les États qui les ont acceptés librement. Le dépôt d'un instrument de ratification ou d'adhésion par un gouvernement est une étape dans la bonne direction mais ne garantit pas en soi que l'État concerné respectera automatiquement les dispositions qu'il a faites siennes.

La Charte des Nations Unies a créé l'obligation de promouvoir les droits de l'homme. Sur cette base et en acceptant des conventions et autres textes internationaux, tant au niveau mondial qu'au plan régional, les États membres de l'Organisation se lient progressivement par une conception commune des violations des droits de l'homme.

On ne saurait donc prétendre que la Commission des droits de l'homme s'ingère dans les affaires intérieures des États quand elle cherche simplement à s'acquitter de son mandat.

Les Douze tiennent à réaffirmer en effet que les Nations Unies ont le devoir d'examiner tous les cas et toutes les situations de violations des droits de l'homme qui sont portés à leur attention, et cela où qu'ils se produisent dans le monde et quels que soient les systèmes politiques, économiques et sociaux dans lesquels ils surviennent.

Le Conseil économique et social a un rôle important à jouer dans cette volonté de concrétiser les engagements pris en veillant entre autres à ce que les moyens financiers et administratifs nécessaires soient tenus à la disposition des programmes des Nations Unies dans le domaine des droits de l'homme.

Encourager le respect des droits de l'homme est l'un des quatre objectifs de la Charte des Nations Unies. La part allouée dans le budget aux programmes en faveur des droits de l'homme est cependant minime (moins de 1% du total). L'Organisation doit faire face à une situation financière difficile et il est donc nécessaire de rationaliser les travaux et de réduire les dépenses. Le secteur des droits de l'homme a subi de plein fouet les effets de la crise. Les coupes opérées l'an passé ont eu entre autre conséquence de supprimer la session de 1986 de la Sous-Commission de la lutte contre les mesures discriminatoires et de protection des minorités. Plus généralement, des coupes imposées à un aussi modeste budget risquent de causer des dommages disproportionnés à ses objectifs. Les Douze ont pris bonne note des diverses déclarations récentes faites par le Secrétaire général et le Secrétariat sur l'importance qu'ils attachent aux programmes des droits de l'homme.

La participation aux travaux de la quarante-troisième session de la Commission des droits de l'homme d'un grand nombre de Ministres, Secrétaires d'État et envoyés spéciaux confirme, si besoin en était, l'importance du rôle joué par la Commission aux yeux des gouvernements. Tout aussi importante fut la présence à Genève, pendant la session, de victimes de violations des droits de l'homme, venues témoigner des manquements des gouvernements. Enfin, les contributions des organisations non gouvernementales ont continué à apporter un éclairage particulièrement utile sur la situation des droits de l'homme dans le monde.

Cela reflète la sensibilité accrue de l'opinion publique internationale à l'égard du respect des droits de l'homme dans le monde en général et vis-à-vis des travaux de la Commission en particulier.

Je voudrais à présent me pencher sur certains des résultats obtenus au cours de la quarante-troisième session de la Commission.

S'agissant de sa fonction normative, la Commission des droits de l'homme a poursuivi ses travaux dans trois directions.

Les Douze encouragent vivement le Groupe de travail présessionnel de la Commission à poursuivre de manière diligente ses travaux sur un projet de déclaration sur le droit et la responsabilité des individus, groupes ou organes de la société de promouvoir et de protéger les droits de l'homme et les libertés

fondamentalement reconnus. Les Douze accordent en effet une grande importance à la protection des individus ou groupes qui se consacrent, parfois à leur risque personnel, à la promotion des droits de l'homme et des libertés fondamentales des autres.

Par ailleurs, le groupe de travail chargé d'élaborer une convention sur les droits de l'enfant a continué son utile travail de définition. Les Douze espèrent que ce groupe sera en mesure de poursuivre avec minutie sa tâche afin de soumettre bientôt ce texte à l'approbation de l'Assemblée générale.

Enfin, en ce qui concerne le suivi de la Déclaration sur le droit au développement, la Commission a retrouvé la voie du consensus. Les Douze veulent y voir un signe positif.

Pour accomplir son mandat, la Commission dispose de diverses procédures d'enquête et de collecte de renseignements. L'institution des Rapporteurs spéciaux est un de ces mécanismes, et sans doute le plus important.

Cette année, la Commission a eu sur sa table les rapports « thématiques » relatifs à la torture, aux dispositions forcées ou involontaires, ainsi qu'à la question de l'intolérance ou de la discrimination basée sur la religion ou la conviction.

Dans son excellent rapport, le Rapporteur spécial sur la torture conclut une fois encore que la torture est toujours pratiquée sur une grande échelle dans le monde. Les Douze ne peuvent qu'encourager le Rapporteur spécial à poursuivre sa tâche et à recourir, comme il l'a fait déjà, à la procédure de l'action urgente chaque fois que cela s'avère nécessaire. Les Douze partagent certainement la conclusion du rapport selon laquelle « une société qui tolère la torture ne peut prétendre au respect des droits de l'homme et que l'élimination de la torture est une obligation primordiale ».

Depuis sa création, le Groupe de travail sur les disparitions forcées ou involontaires a signalé plus de 13 000 cas dans une quarantaine de pays. Cette seule constatation permet de se rendre compte de la taille du problème et de l'ampleur de la tâche à laquelle doit faire face le Groupe de travail, qui une fois de plus s'est acquitté avec distinction de son mandat. Les Douze notent avec satisfaction que cette année le Groupe de travail a pu se réunir normalement. Nous demandons au Secrétariat qu'il continue à en être ainsi.

Les Douze félicitent le Gouvernement péruvien qui a intensifié sa coopération avec le Groupe de travail en invitant, pour la deuxième fois, une délégation du Groupe au Pérou. Nous avons pris note avec intérêt de récents rapports selon lesquels le Gouvernement du Guatemala a lancé une invitation au Groupe de travail. Nous espérons que cette visite aura lieu le plus rapidement possible. Nous émettons le ferme espoir également que d'autres gouvernements accepteront de collaborer de cette façon avec le Groupe de travail.

Le phénomène des exécutions sommaires ou arbitraires est un des problèmes les plus préoccupants affectant les droits de l'homme et exige une attention particulière. Les Douze ont étudié avec attention l'analyse des situations ainsi que la formulation de recommandations que nous propose le Rapporteur spécial dans son excellent rapport et qui sont d'ailleurs reprises dans le projet de résolution. Comme d'ailleurs, les Douze encouragent le Rapporteur spécial à faire usage de la procédure d'action urgente. Nous regrettons que certains gouvernements n'estiment même pas nécessaire de répondre à ses demandes d'information. Les Douze ont noté avec grand intérêt la mention dans le rapport de la façon dont quatre pays, le Guatemala, le Pérou, les Philippines et l'Ouganda, ont reconnu publiquement l'existence, sous les gouvernements précédents, de graves problèmes liés aux droits de l'homme et comment ces pays, en s'engageant à veiller au respect de ces droits, ont réagi institutionnellement aux violations des droits de l'homme. Les Douze saluent comme une initiative particulièrement heureuse la visite du Rapporteur en Ouganda.

Cette année, la Commission avait devant elle le premier rapport du Rapporteur spécial chargé d'examiner des incidents et des actions gouvernementales dans toutes les parties du monde, qui sont incompatibles avec les provisions de la Déclaration sur l'élimination de toutes les formes d'intolérance et de discrimination basées sur la religion ou la croyance. Les Douze félicitent le Rapporteur spécial pour son rapport où en quelques pages, il a su remarquablement circonscrire les problèmes et établir des bases solides pour ses activités futures.

La Commission a recommandé par consensus que les mandats des Rapporteurs spéciaux sur la torture, sur les exécutions sommaires ou arbitraires et sur l'intolérance religieuse soient renouvelés pour un an. Le mandat du Groupe de travail avait été l'an passé prolongé par consensus pour une période de deux ans.

Suite à un vote, la Commission a proposé la création d'une fonction de Rapporteur spécial sur l'utilisation de mercenaires comme moyen d'empêcher l'exercice du droit des peuples à disposer d'eux-mêmes.

Les Douze ne sauraient être suspectés de complaisance envers les activités des mercenaires qu'ils condamnent sans équivoque.

Cependant, ils ne peuvent s'associer à la mise en place d'un rapporteur spécial sur ce sujet.

Les Douze estiment en effet que le mandat de ce rapporteur n'appartient pas au domaine de la compétence de la Commission des droits de l'homme. De plus, en l'absence d'une définition internationalement acceptée du mercenaire, ce mandat demeure forcément vague et quels que soient les arguments avancés, ce rapporteur sera de toute évidence contraint de prendre parti sur des questions délicates qui font l'objet actuellement de négociations au sein du Comité spécial chargé par l'Assemblée générale d'élaborer une convention internationale contre le recrutement, l'utilisation, le financement et l'instruction des mercenaires.

Cela constitue un exemple regrettable du mauvais emploi des ressources humaines et financières de l'Organisation.

Or, la dernière session du Comité spécial a produit de bons résultats. A la lumière de ces résultats, les Douze demeureront donc toujours ouverts au dialogue.

A sa quarante-troisième session, la Commission a, à nouveau, examiné la situation des droits de l'homme dans un grand nombre de pays et de territoires. La Commission a adopté des résolutions sur l'Afrique du Sud, la Namibie, les territoires arabes occupés, le Sud-Liban, l'Afghanistan, le Cambodge, le Sahara occidental, le Chili, El Salvador, le Guatemala, l'Iran, Chypre, Sri Lanka, ainsi qu'une résolution sur la situation des camps palestiniens au Liban. Par une motion de procédure, la Commission a décidé de ne pas se prononcer sur un projet de résolution relatif à la situation des droits de l'homme à Cuba. Le Président de la Commission a annoncé les noms des quatre pays examinés au titre de la résolution 1503 (XLVIII) du Conseil économique et social.

La fonction du Rapporteur spécial chargé d'enquêter sur la situation des droits de l'homme dans certains pays a fait ses preuves. Les Douze renouvellent leur soutien à cette institution. Les Douze accueillent avec satisfaction la coopération accordée aux rapporteurs par les Gouvernements d'El Salvador, du Guatemala et du Chili. Les Douze prennent note avec intérêt de l'invitation faite au Rapporteur spécial par les autorités d'Afghanistan de se rendre dans le pays, ce qui lui avait été refusé jusqu'à présent. Les Douze expriment l'espoir que sa visite aura lieu à temps pour lui permettre d'inclure les conclusions qu'il formulera à la suite de cette visite dans son rapport intérimaire à la quarante-deuxième Assemblée générale. Par contre, il n'a pas été possible d'obtenir la coopération de la République Islamique d'Iran qui, contrairement à la pratique de la Commission, continue à vouloir imposer un certain nombre de conditions à sa collaboration. Nous espérons que la République Islamique d'Iran reverra sa position et acceptera de coopérer avec la Commission. Dans ce domaine, les Douze considèrent que constance et équité doivent demeurer la règle de la Commission.

Les Douze se félicitent de l'adoption par consensus d'une résolution sur la prise d'otages. Les Douze sont très préoccupés par le grand nombre de prises d'otages survenant dans le monde et par la forme odieuse qu'elles prennent. Les Douze réaffirment leur condamnation ferme de la prise d'otages quel que soit le responsable et quelles que soient les circonstances.

Les Douze veulent également souligner l'importance de l'adoption, cette année, d'une résolution sur l'objection de conscience. Nous espérons que les États prendront bonne note de ce que l'objection de conscience doit être considérée comme un exercice légitime du droit à la liberté de pensée, de conscience et de religion, reconnu par la Déclaration universelle des droits de l'homme et le Pacte international relatif aux droits civils et politiques.

Les Douze se félicitent de la création par la Commission d'un fonds volontaire pour les services consultatifs en matière de droits de l'homme mis à la disposition des gouvernements qui en font la demande. Les Douze encouragent les pays qui sont en mesure de le faire de contribuer à ce fonds.

La quarante-troisième session de la Commission des droits de l'homme a été une session extrêmement chargée. Pourtant, pour diverses raisons, son ordre du jour avait été allégé. D'un côté certes, la Commission doit poursuivre ses efforts visant à rationaliser ses travaux. Mais de l'autre, les États membres de l'Organisation et le Secrétariat doivent veiller à ce que la Commission dispose des moyens nécessaires pour s'acquitter des missions qui tout compte fait lui sont assignées par les délégations. Plus généralement, la Commission doit pouvoir rendre compte du mandat dont elle a été investie par la Charte des Nations Unies et donc par les États membres.

Nous ne voudrions pas terminer cette intervention sans prendre le temps de remercier Monsieur Kurt Herndl, qui quittera très bientôt les Nations Unies.

Nous sommes conscients que le Directeur du Centre a des responsabilités très particulières et, qu'à l'occasion, il doit résoudre des problèmes délicats. De plus, Monsieur Herndl a dû faire face récemment aux restrictions budgétaires, ce qui n'a pas manqué d'avoir des conséquences pour le programme des droits de l'homme. Malgré toutes ces difficultés, Monsieur Herndl est parvenu à maintenir le cap. Les Douze lui en sont reconnaissants et lui souhaitent bonne chance dans ses nouvelles activités.

87/187. Memorandum on Action Taken in the Field of Human Rights

Date of Issue: 25 May 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Report to European Parliament

1. A memorandum on action taken in the framework of European political cooperation in the field of human rights was presented to the European Parliament in May 1986¹.

It contained detailed information on the steps taken by the Twelve in political cooperation to promote respect for human rights during the five year period from 1981 to mid-1986.

The present memorandum sets out to bring the information contained in the previous document up to date. It will thus focus on the efforts of the Twelve over the last twelve months to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms.

2. In doing this, the Presidency of the Twelve notes the highly constructive dialogue which over the years has developed between the Twelve and the European Parliament in this field. Resolutions of the European Parliament concerning human rights have on several occasions contributed to the formation of the Twelve's common policies and actions. Numerous questions from Members of the European Parliament on individual human rights cases and answers given by the Presidency in office have confirmed to the outside world that the European Parliament and the Governments of the Twelve are seriously concerned about human rights abuses wherever they occur.

The resolution adopted by the European Parliament on 12 March 1987 concerning human rights in the world in 1985-1986² and the policy of the Community in this field serve together with this memorandum to further the dialogue between the Parliament and the Governments of the Twelve and thus enhances the intrinsic democratic basis of the European concern with human rights.

3. During the period under review, the Twelve successfully brought together the various principles of their human rights policy into one single coherent document. On 21 July 1986 the Foreign Ministers of the European Community agreed upon the 'Declaration on Human Rights'³. This document constitutes the first comprehensive public statement by the Twelve on the fundamental elements of human rights. It is a clear signal of the high priority which the Twelve attach to human rights in their international relationships.

The Twelve note with satisfaction that the European Parliament in its resolution of 12 March 1987 emphasizes the importance of this declaration.

4. The memorandum presented to Parliament in May 1986 explained in detail how human rights issues are handled within European political cooperation.

During the twelve month period now under review, human rights considerations were a key element in deliberations at all levels of European cooperation.

The missions of the Twelve in certain third countries received instructions to pay particular attention to monitoring and reporting on the human rights situation in their host country and to the follow-up of specific cases. In a number of instances the representatives of the Twelve in third countries have been asked to draft joint reports on human rights or have been instructed to take specific steps *vis-à-vis* the authorities of the host country or to contact the victims of human rights violations.

Particular circumstances of each case dictate if any publicity can be given. *Démarches* have to be kept confidential whenever publicizing such a step by the Twelve is judged likely to be counter-productive to the Twelve's aim of changing the position of a particular government, or when the victims of human rights violations can be expected to suffer as a result of such publicity.

5. Turning now to particular areas that have been of concern to the Twelve over the past twelve months, the importance of confidentiality in a significant number of cases must be borne in mind. Thus, the examples given below do not represent a comprehensive account of all the Twelve's human rights activities with regard to each region. Examples are only submitted to illustrate some of the human rights concerns which the Twelve have acted on collectively.

Eastern Europe, CSCE

At the Berne CSCE Experts Meeting on Human Contacts in April-May 1986 and at the Vienna CSCE Follow-up Meeting the Twelve have stated their views on the need for improving compliance with existing human rights commitments.

At the Vienna Meeting, the Twelve have tabled several proposals in this field, in particular one which provides for a full mechanism to promote respect of all provisions in the human dimension of the CSCE. In February 1987 this proposal was made available to the Political Commission of the European Parliament.

The Twelve's delegations at Vienna are at present engaged in discussions with all other participants on these and related matters.

Earlier this month, the Minister for External Relations of Belgium, as President-in-Office of the Twelve, addressed the Vienna Meeting underlining *inter alia* the lack of compliance by the Soviet Union and other Eastern European countries with the existing human rights commitments and calling upon them to put into practice the various announcements of reform pertaining to these issues.

In contacts with the Governments of the Soviet Union and other Eastern European countries, the Twelve have made joint *démarches* on specific human rights cases, basing their approaches on CSCE commitments these countries have entered into.

Foreign Ministers issued a statement on 15 September 1986⁴ welcoming the release of political prisoners by the Polish Government.

Near and Middle East

The human rights situation in countries in the Near and Middle East has given rise to serious concern. The Twelve maintained their interest in the human rights situation in Iran.

On 6 August 1986⁵, the Twelve asked Iran and Iraq to cease deliberate attacks on civilian targets.

On 16 February 1987⁶, Foreign Ministers appealed for the rapid distribution of supplies to the refugees in the Palestinian camps in Lebanon.

The Twelve remained concerned with regard to human rights in the territories occupied by Israel.

Africa

The human rights abuses of the apartheid regime in South Africa remained a particularly important issue during the second half of 1986 and in 1987. The European Council addressed the question in The

Hague on 26-27 June 1986⁷. The Foreign Ministers of the Twelve are keeping the situation in South Africa under constant review and have issued declarations as well as agreed upon a number of other steps.

Foreign Ministers of the Twelve issued a statement on 16 September 1986⁸ in which they condemned the practice of detention without trial in South Africa and called for the release of all people so detained.

In December 1986 the Presidency expressed the Twelve's deep concern at the over-all human rights situation in South Africa to the Government in Pretoria.

Numerous other *démarches* on specific human rights questions have been undertaken by the Twelve *vis-à-vis* the South African Government.

Démarches concerning human rights issues have been undertaken in certain other African countries as well.

The policy of the Twelve towards the Horn of Africa was reviewed in 1986. In a statement of 21 July 1986⁹ the concerns of the Twelve about human rights in the region was expressed.

Latin America

In the relations between the Twelve and the countries of Central America, the human rights issues figure as a prominent subject, as is evident from the joint political declaration from the San José III Meeting in Guatemala in February 1987¹⁰.

Throughout the period the Twelve have continued to press the Chilean Government over their poor human rights record. The Twelve have issued a series of statements, as well as undertaken *démarches vis-à-vis* the Chilean authorities. In a statement on 1 August 1986¹¹, the Twelve deeply regretted the death and injuries associated with the 2-3 July demonstrations in Chile. At the same time, they asked for the publication of the full facts about the cases of Sr. Rojas and Srta. Quintana. On 16 September 1986, in a ministerial statement¹², the Twelve appealed for the immediate release of imprisoned opposition leaders, trade unionists and others summarily detained.

Asia

Human rights violations in certain Asian countries have been a source of deep concern to the Twelve.

The European Council issued a statement on 6 December 1986¹³ drawing attention to the large scale violations of human rights in Afghanistan which continue to engender massive suffering.

6. A number of the above mentioned violations of human rights are being discussed at the United Nations.

Consultations and cooperation among the Twelve were particularly intense during the work of the Third Committee of the 41st General Assembly in 1986, during the 43rd Human Rights Commission in Geneva in February and March 1987, as well as during the still ongoing session of the Economic and Social Council in New York (4-29 May 1987).

At the 41st General Assembly, the Twelve made more common statements in the Third Committee than in previous years on a number of human rights issues. Furthermore, in a broader, general statement, the Presidency on behalf of the Twelve explained their whole approach to human rights.

In Plenary, the Presidency delivered a statement on behalf of the Twelve at the occasion of the Twentieth Anniversary of the adoption of the International Covenants on Human Rights¹⁴. The number of common statements and explanations of votes increased over previous years.

As to specific action, partners were the main sponsors of numerous resolutions in different areas of the human rights field (*inter alia* on racial discrimination, religious intolerance, human rights and scientific and technological development, international standard setting on human rights, torture, summary executions and disappearances). All partners again co-sponsored the resolution on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan. The Twelve had a common voting position in supporting the five, perhaps most important Third Committee resolutions relating to human rights in individual countries (Afghanistan, Iran, Guatemala, El Salvador and Chile).

As stated above, similar intense consultations and cooperation took place among the Twelve during the 43rd Commission on Human Rights and during the first regular session of ECOSOC this year, where those of the Twelve who are members of these bodies defended the above mentioned common positions of the Twelve.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 86/137.

² Resolution on human rights in the world for the year 1985/86 and Community policy on human rights, *OJ* No C 99 of 13 April 1987, pp. 157-167.

³ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 86/230.

⁴ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 86/270.

⁵ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 86/246.

⁶ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 87/097.

⁷ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 86/185.

⁸ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 86/271.

⁹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 86/230.

¹⁰ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 87/096.

¹¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 86/245.

¹² *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 86/272.

¹³ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 86/383.

¹⁴ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 86/339.

87/188. Declaration on South Africa

Date of Issue: 25 May 1987

Place of Issue: Brussels

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Foreign Ministers

Status of Document: Declaration

1. In the light of the elections in the white community held on 6 May and of President Botha's address at the opening of Parliament on 19 May, Foreign Ministers of the Twelve discussed recent developments in South Africa, and reviewed their policy towards the region. They expressed their deep concern over the serious risk of a further polarization of attitudes. They noted that this development would discourage those white and black South Africans who are genuinely working towards peaceful change.

2. Against this background, Ministers reaffirmed that the objective of the Twelve's policy towards South Africa remains the total dismantlement of apartheid and its replacement by a genuinely democratic, non-racial system of government. They once again called for a process of fundamental but peaceful change and urged President Botha to take the steps necessary to allow a national dialogue to begin. These steps must include the lifting of the state of emergency, the unconditional release of all political prisoners and the unbanning of the African National Congress, the Pan-Africanist Congress of Azania and other political parties. Ministers reaffirmed that, in the absence of significant progress in the abolition of apartheid, the attitude of the Twelve to South Africa remains under constant review, taking into account their fundamental principles for the development of South Africa.

3. Ministers underlined the fact that the Twelve remain committed to work actively for the initiation of a process of peaceful change. They are continuing to support those within South Africa who are in favour of the peaceful dismantlement of apartheid and, in the region as a whole, the Twelve are devoting significant resources to assisting the neighbouring countries which have suffered so much as a result of the South African Government's policies.

87/189. Common Statement on the Use of Chemical Weapons

Date of Issue: 25 May 1987

Place of Issue: Brussels

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: The Twelve

Status of Document: Declaration

Foreign Ministers of the Twelve have again been informed that chemical weapons have been used in the conflict between Iraq and Iran. The Twelve are deeply concerned by the unanimous conclusions reached by the experts sent to the region by the Secretary-General of the United Nations which were contained in the President of the Security Council's declaration of 14 May 1987. It emerges from their report to the Secretary-General of 8 May 1987 that Iraqi forces have once again used chemical weapons against Iranian troops. Furthermore, the experts have also established both that Iraqi troops have suffered losses caused by this type of weapon, and that the civilian population in Iran has been subjected to attacks with chemical weapons.

This makes clear that the dispositions of the 1925 Geneva Protocol have been repeatedly violated, despite pressing appeals from the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Security Council. The Twelve strongly condemn these flagrant breaches, and reiterate that they will continue to develop their internal arrangements in order to ensure that the Geneva Protocol is respected.

It is the responsibility of the world community as a whole to ensure that the Protocol is respected. The Twelve urgently appeal for an immediate end to the use of chemical weapons in the conflict involving these two countries.

In addition, the Twelve express their profound concern about recent developments in the Gulf. They appeal to all parties concerned to exercise maximum restraint and, recalling their declaration of 8 April 1986¹, call on the belligerents to use all peaceful means in order to end the Gulf conflict without delay, on the basis of Security Council Resolution 582.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 86/105.

87/190. Statement Concerning the Military Action in Mozambique on 28 May

Date of Issue: 3 June 1987
Place of Issue: Brussels
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Source of Document: The Twelve
Status of Document: Declaration

The Twelve strongly condemn the military action undertaken in Maputo on 28 May 1987, which was a serious violation of Mozambique's sovereignty.

The Twelve deeply regret the consequent loss of human life.

They are convinced that such violence aggravates the situation in Southern Africa rather than solving the region's problems, about which the Twelve have made clear their views on numerous occasions.

87/191. Question No 1605/86 by Mr Hänsch (S-D) Concerning the Case of Aygun Yildizdogan, Prisoner of Conscience in Turkey

Date of Issue: 4 June 1987
Place of Issue: Strasbourg
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Source of Document: Presidency
Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 17 October 1986

1. Are the Foreign Ministers aware of the case of Mr Aygun Yildizdogan, who was sentenced together with 227 others to ten years and eight months' imprisonment by Military Court No 1 in Ankara on 29 March 1985 simply because he belonged to the Turkish Communist Party, which even the prosecutor admitted was not involved in acts of violence in the late seventies and was 'not an armed organization'?

2. Do the Foreign Ministers agree that conviction on the grounds of belonging to a political party or other group constitutes a violation of Article 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights, according to which everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and freedom of association with others?

3. Will the Foreign Ministers raise the question of this and similar convictions with the Turkish authorities and press for the prisoners' release?

Answer:

The case referred to by the Honourable Member has been the subject of correspondence between the Presidency and another Member of Parliament, Mr Eyraud. The Twelve are keeping a close watch on the human rights situation and the process of democratization in Turkey. If necessary, the Member States of the European Communities will make their concern known to the Turkish authorities.

87/192. Question No 2324/86 by Mr Bonde (ARC-DK) Concerning Closer Cooperation Between the Larger Countries Within European Political Cooperation

Date of Issue: 4 June 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 14 January 1987

What information can the Foreign Ministers supply on tendencies towards closer cooperation between the larger countries in European political cooperation, possibly including directorial forms of cooperation?

Answer:

The rules of European political cooperation do not allow replies to be given by the Presidency to questions concerning the individual policy of one or several Member States.

The Twelve have not, however, noted closer cooperation between the larger countries in a form which could be termed directorial.

87/193. Question No 2413/86 by Mr Mallet and Others (PPE-F) Concerning Enlargement of the WEU

Date of Issue: 4 June 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 23 January 1987

The Committee of Presidents of the WEU Association has just come out in favour of the enlargement of the WEU to include countries satisfying the necessary conditions.

Do the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation not consider that such an enlargement would be likely to speed up the process of relaunching the WEU? Do they envisage approaching the governments concerned, particularly Spain and Portugal, to invite them to join the WEU?

Answer:

The question raised by the Honourable Members does not come within the scope of European political cooperation.

87/194. Question No 2607/86 by Ms Piermont (ARC-D) Concerning a Threatened Hunger Strike by Three Victims of the 'Toxic Syndrome' of 1981 (Manuel Henares, Pilar Pans and Teresa Cejas)

Date of Issue: 4 June 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 6 February 1987

1. Why have the three persons named above (the President, Vice-President and Secretary of 'Fuentox', the association of the victims of adulterated oil, in Fuentelabrada/Madrid) received no reply from the Spanish Minister of Health to their 43-point inquiry into the true causes of the 'toxic syndrome' and the behaviour of the Spanish authorities in this matter?

2. Are the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation aware that Manuel Henares, Pilar Pans and Teresa Cejas have announced their intention of going on an unlimited hunger strike from 30 March 1987, consuming nothing but the allegedly highly toxic oil itself (which according to official estimates caused the mass poisoning in 1981 known as the 'toxic syndrome', in which 24 000 people were affected and 532 died), if they have not received an exhaustive and comprehensive reply to their questions by that date?

3. What action do they intend to take to ensure that the three representatives of the Fuentox association receive the detailed reply they are seeking and thus obviate the need for their hunger strike and 'self-experimentation'?

Answer:

The question raised by the Honourable Member does not come within the scope of European political cooperation.

87/195. Question No 2613/86 by Mr Seligman (ED-UK) Concerning Political Criteria in Sanctioning Coal Imports

Date of Issue: 4 June 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 6 February 1987

Given the willingness of Member States to implement a ban on imports of coal from the Republic of South Africa pending progress in dismantling apartheid, what criteria do the Foreign Ministers apply to coal imports from Poland where progress in human rights is lamentable?

Answer:

The question of imports of Polish coal raised by the Honourable Member has not been the subject of a decision within the framework of European political cooperation. The Twelve are keeping a close watch on developments in the human rights situation in Poland. They have in recent months noted certain encouraging developments.

87/196. Question No 2625-/86 by Mr Roelants du Vivier (ARC-B) Concerning Nuclear Missiles on the Antarctic Island Marion

Date of Issue: 4 June 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 6 February 1987

An article in the newspaper *Le Monde* of 30 December 1986 alleged that the Republic of South Africa had decided to set up a nuclear missile testing site on the Antarctic island of Marion.

Does the Council of Ministers know of this report? How does it intend to react to this news both with reference to strict observance of the Antarctic Treaty, which is to safeguard that continent's ecosystem, and to the political issue posed by South Africa's alleged possession of a nuclear arsenal?

Answer:

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs have not discussed this question.

It should be noted, however, that the Island of Marion is situated north of 60° south and does not come within the geographical scope of the Antarctic Treaty.

Furthermore, the Twelve have no information enabling them to establish whether or not South Africa possesses nuclear missiles.

87/197. Question No 2658/86 by Mr Perinat Elio (ED-E) Concerning Research into Security Carried out Jointly by the Member States

Date of Issue: 4 June 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 12 February 1987

The recent announcement by the International Secretariat of NATO that an agreement has been signed (by France, Italy, Spain and the United States) to carry out a feasibility study on a NATO integrated electronic warfare system for sea patrol helicopters and aircraft once again raises the question whether it is appropriate for European countries to cooperate closely in carrying out this kind of research, which is supposed to lead to 'closer cooperation on questions of European security' in accordance with paragraph 6(a) of Article 30 of the Single European Act.

It is hence essential for a Community framework programme to be drawn up dealing with the various forms this research may take when carried out by the Member States of the European Community, with the aim of maintaining 'the technological and industrial conditions necessary for their security', mentioned in paragraph 6 (b) of Article 30 of the Single European Act.

Do the Foreign Ministers consider that concrete proposals should be made in order to begin instituting effective collaboration between all the Member States in carrying out such research?

Answer:

Questions concerning military cooperation between the Member States are not covered by European political cooperation.

87/198. Question No 2768/86 by Ms Crawley (S-UK) Concerning Ireland

Date of Issue: 4 June 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 27 February 1987

Are the Foreign Ministers aware of recent reports (January 1987) that the Irish Embassy in London is being 'bugged' by surveillance equipment at the request of the United Kingdom Government? That one Member State of the EEC should spy on another in this manner raises serious ethical questions. What action will be taken to ensure that this does not continue?

Answer:

The question raised by the Honourable Member does not fall within the scope of European political cooperation.

87/199. Question No 2811/86 by Mr Habsburg (PPE-D) Concerning the Reply to Written Question No 786/86

Date of Issue: 4 June 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 27 February 1987

Do the Foreign Ministers realize that the so-called reply to my Written Question No 786/86¹ is a public affront to the representatives of the people of Europe?

Answer:

The reply given to the Written Question No 786/86 exactly reflects the position of the Twelve regarding the allegations referred to by the Honourable Member. The Twelve's general policy on human rights was clearly described in the ministerial declaration of 21 July 1986². As regards the specific question of possible abuses of human rights by SWAPO, the Twelve have not taken any joint *démarche*. However certain partners have acknowledged, in an individual capacity, their concern in this connection.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 87/047.

² *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 86/230.

87/200. Question No 2910/86 by Mr Boesmans (S-B) Concerning the Conference Between the Countries of the European Community, Central America and the Contadora Group, Held in Guatemala in February 1987

Date of Issue: 4 June 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 18 March 1987

Apart from the President-in-Office only three Community Foreign Ministers went to Guatemala.

Is this an indication of the President-in-Office's lack of interest in the meeting?

Answer:

I would refer to my reply to Written Question No 940/86 put by Mr Pons Grau¹ on the representation of the Member States of the Community at the Guatemala Conference and to my reply to Question No H-944/86 put by Mr Garcia Arias² on the same subject. These two replies show that the Presidency, just as the Member States of the Community in general, attached great importance to the meeting in Guatemala and that the Twelve were adequately represented there. Furthermore eleven Member States of the Community were represented at governmental level – the twelfth Member State being represented by a senior official because of elections in that country.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 87/132.

² *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 87/135.

87/201. Question No 2931/86 by Mr Zahorka (PPE-D) Concerning the Inhuman Conditions of Imprisonment for Foreigners, Including Europeans, Arrested in Zambia

Date of Issue: 4 June 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 18 March 1987

Are the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation aware of reports that in Zambia hundreds of foreigners – including nationals of Community Member States, Austria and Switzerland – are being imprisoned in inhuman conditions, frequently mistreated and kept in cells holding up to 110 prisoners, including children between the ages of seven and fourteen?

Are the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation aware that the Austrian and Swiss Foreign Ministers have made representations on behalf of their citizens? Is it also aware that most of those imprisoned were arrested 'on suspicion of spying for South Africa'?

Are the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation prepared to make representations to Zambia, an ACP State, pointing out that consular contacts for foreign prisoners, *habeas corpus*, minimum standards of hygiene and maximum numbers of prisoners per cell are rights to which the ACP States have subscribed in the clause on human rights? Are the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation prepared to warn tourists visiting Zambia of the danger of being arrested as a 'spy'?

Answer:

The Twelve are particularly sensitive to the need for respect of human rights in the world and to any instances of violation of these rights.

The problem of the conditions of detention to which many foreigners, including nationals of the Member States of the European Community, are subjected in Zambian prisons is a matter of concern to the Twelve, which are endeavouring to obtain further clarification of the matter.

87/202. Question No 3024/86 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E) Concerning Prisoners in Rwanda

Date of Issue: 4 June 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 30 March 1987

Have the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation had occasion to intercede on behalf of nearly 300 people sentenced to many years' imprisonment in Rwanda for belonging to legal religious groups and for opposing compulsory activism which is humiliating in many of its requirements, in the governing National Revolutionary Movement for Development (NRMD)?

Answer:

The question raised by the Honourable Member has not yet been discussed in the framework of European political cooperation. However, the Twelve are keeping a close watch on developments in the field of human rights in third countries.

87/203. Statement on the Tension Between India and Sri Lanka

Date of Issue: 5 June 1987
 Place of Issue: Brussels
 Country of Presidency: Belgium
 Source of Document: The Twelve
 Status of Document: Declaration

The twelve Member States of the European Community have followed with deep concern the latest developments in relations between India and Sri Lanka. They believe that, whatever the motives for the actions undertaken on either side, the parties must avoid any increase of tension in the region.

They express their strong wish for improvement in Indo-Sri Lankan relations, without which the central problem, i.e. the ethnic conflict within Sri Lanka, will not be resolved.

The Twelve recall their common statements of 25 February 1986¹, 14 July 1986² and 27 April 1987³, and regret that it has proved impossible up to now to find a peaceful solution to this internal conflict. They reiterate their condemnation of terrorist actions with numerous civilian casualties. They are deeply shocked by the recent brutal massacre of Buddhist monks.

The Twelve note the responsibility of the Government of Sri Lanka for maintaining law and order, and share its conviction that a negotiated settlement is the only way to reach a lasting solution acceptable to all parties concerned.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 86/088.

² *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 86/228.

³ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 87/163.

87/204. Statement on East-West Relations, Released at the Venice Summit of Industrial Countries

Date of Issue: 9 June 1987
 Place of Issue: Venice
 Country of Presidency: Belgium
 Source of Document: Presidency (with other actors)
 Status of Document: Joint Declaration

We, the Heads of State or Government of seven major industrial nations and the representatives of the European Community, have discussed East-West relations. We reaffirm our shared principles and objectives, and our common dedication to preserving and strengthening peace.

We recognize with pride that our shared values of freedom, democracy and respect for human rights are the source of the dynamism and prosperity of our societies. We renew our commitment to the search for a freer, more democratic and more humane world.

Within existing alliances each of us is resolved to maintain a strong and credible defence which threatens the security of no one, protects freedom, deters aggression and maintains peace. We shall continue to consult closely on all matters affecting our common interest. We will not be separated from the principles that guide us all.

Since we last met, new opportunities have opened for progress in East-West relations. We are encouraged by these developments. They confirm the soundness of the policies we have each pursued in our determination to achieve a freer and safer world.

We are following with close interest recent developments in the internal and external policies of the Soviet Union. It is our hope that they will prove to be of great significance for the improvement of political, economic and security relations between the countries of East and West. At the same time, profound differences persist; each of us must remain vigilantly alert in responding to all aspects of Soviet policy.

We reaffirm our commitment to peace and increased security at lower levels of arms. We seek a comprehensive effort to lower tensions and to achieve verifiable arms reductions. While reaffirming the

continuing importance of nuclear deterrence in preserving peace, we note with satisfaction that dialogue on arms control has intensified and that more favourable prospects have emerged for the reduction of nuclear forces. We appreciate US efforts to negotiate balanced, substantial and verifiable reductions in nuclear weapons. We emphasize our determination to enhance conventional stability at a lower level of forces and achieve the total elimination of chemical weapons. We believe that these goals should be actively pursued and translated into concrete agreements. We urge the Soviet Union to negotiate in a positive and constructive manner. An effective resolution of these issues is an essential requirement for real and enduring stability in the world.

We will be paying close attention not only to Soviet statements but also to Soviet actions on issues of common concern to us. In particular:

- i) We call for significant and lasting progress in human rights, which is essential to building trust between our societies. Much still remains to be done to meet the principles agreed and commitments undertaken in the Helsinki Final Act and confirmed since.
- ii) We look for an early and peaceful resolution of regional conflicts, and especially for a rapid and total withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan so that the people of Afghanistan may freely determine their own future.
- iii) We encourage greater contacts, freer interchange of ideas and more extensive dialogue between our people and the people of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

Thus, we each seek to stabilize military competition between East and West at lower levels of arms; to encourage stable political solutions to regional conflicts; to secure lasting improvements in human rights; and to build contacts, confidence and trust between governments and peoples in a more humane world. Progress across the board is necessary to establish a durable foundation for stable and constructive relationships between the countries of East and West.

87/205. Statement on Terrorism, Released at the Venice Summit of Industrialized Countries

Date of Issue: 9 June 1987

Place of Issue: Venice

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency (with other actors)

Status of Document: Joint Declaration

We, the Heads of State or Government of seven major democracies and the representatives of the European Community assembled here in Venice, profoundly aware of our peoples' concern at the threat posed by terrorism,

reaffirm our commitment to the statements on terrorism made at previous Summits, in Bonn, Venice, Ottawa, London and Tokyo;

resolutely condemn all forms of terrorism, including aircraft hijackings and hostage-taking, and reiterate our belief that whatever its motives, terrorism has no justification;

confirm the commitment of each of us to the principle of making no concessions to terrorists or their sponsors;

remain resolved to apply, in respect of any State clearly involved in sponsoring or supporting international terrorism, effective measures within the framework of international law and in our own jurisdictions;

welcome the progress made in international cooperation against terrorism since we last met in Tokyo in May 1986, and in particular the initiative taken by France and Germany to convene in May in Paris a meeting of Ministers of nine countries who are responsible for counter-terrorism;

reaffirm our determination to combat terrorism both through national measures and through international cooperation among ourselves and with others, when appropriate, and therefore renew our appeal to all like-minded countries to consolidate and extend international cooperation in all appropriate forums;

will continue our efforts to improve the safety of travellers. We welcome improvements in airport and maritime security, and encourage the work of ICAO and IMO in this regard. Each of us will continue to monitor closely the activities of airlines which raise security problems. The Heads of State or Government have decided on measures, annexed to this statement, to make the 1978 Bonn declaration more effective in dealing with all forms of terrorism affecting civil aviation;

commit ourselves to support the rule of law in bringing terrorists to justice. Each of us pledges increased cooperation in the relevant forums and within the framework of domestic and international law on the investigation, apprehension and prosecution of terrorists. In particular we reaffirm the principle established by relevant international conventions of trying or extraditing, according to national laws and those international conventions, those who have perpetrated acts of terrorism.

Annex

The Heads of State or Government recall that in their Tokyo Statement on international terrorism they agreed to make the 1978 Bonn declaration more effective in dealing with all forms of terrorism affecting civil aviation. To this end, in cases where a country refuses extradition or prosecution of those who have committed offences described in the Montreal Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation and/or does not return the aircraft involved, the Heads of State or Government are jointly resolved that their governments shall take immediate action to cease flights to that country as stated in the Bonn declaration.

At the same time, their governments will initiate action to halt incoming flights from that country or from any country by the airlines of the country concerned as stated in the Bonn declaration.

The Heads of State or Government intend also to extend the Bonn declaration in due time to cover any future relevant amendment to the above Convention or any other aviation conventions relating to the extradition or prosecution of the offenders.

The Heads of State or Government urge other governments to join them in this commitment.

87/206. Statement on the Iran-Iraq War and Freedom of Navigation in the Gulf, Released at the Venice Summit of Industrialized Countries

Date of Issue: 9 June 1987

Place of Issue: Venice

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency (with other actors)

Status of Document: Joint Declaration

We agree that new and concerted international efforts are urgently required to help bring the Iraq-Iran war to an end. We favour the earliest possible negotiated end to the war with the territorial integrity and independence of both Iraq and Iran intact. Both countries have suffered grievously from this long and tragic war. Neighbouring countries are threatened with the possible spread of the conflict. We call once more upon both parties to negotiate an immediate end of the war. We strongly support the mediation efforts of the United Nations Secretary-General and urge the adoption of just and effective measures by the UN Security Council. With these objectives in mind, we reaffirm that the principle of freedom of navigation in the Gulf is of paramount importance for us and for others and must be upheld. The free flow of oil and other traffic through the Strait of Hormuz must continue unimpeded.

We pledge to continue to consult on ways to pursue these important goals effectively.

87/207. Question No 1115/86 by Mr Perinat Elio (ED-) Concerning the Release of the Cuban Writer Roberto Martín Pérez

Date of Issue: 12 June 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to written Parliamentary Question of 2 September 1986

For more than a quarter of a century the Cuban writer Roberto Martín Pérez has been carrying out his sentence in Cuban prisons for offences for which he was charged by the Castro regime. In 1970 the latter saw fit to step up his punishment by subjecting him to harsh conditions of imprisonment, isolating him from his fellow prisoners and inflicting inhuman treatment on him 'for crimes which he committed with his pen'.

In view of this case of flagrant injustice and unacceptable political persecution, there is an urgent need for our European Community to intervene and put an end to the grave offence against humanity implicit in the punishment of this man.

Do the Ministers not agree that there is an urgent need to make representations to persuade the Castro regime to release Martín Pérez, so as to put a stop to this unacceptable episode of political brutality?

Answer:

In their 21 July declaration on human rights¹ the Foreign Ministers of the Twelve made clear that the Twelve seek universal observance of human rights. They also affirmed that in the development of their relations with third countries the Twelve will continue to promote fundamental rights so that individuals and peoples will enjoy to the full their economic, social, cultural, civil and political cooperation against human rights violations in any part of the world.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 86/230.

87/208. Question No O-228/86 by Mr Poettering and Others on Initiatives Planned under the Belgian Presidency to Strengthen Community Cooperation on the Political and Economic Aspects of Security Pursuant to the Relevant provisions of the Single European Act¹

Date of Issue: 16 June 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question of 2 September 1986

The start of Belgium's Presidency coincides with the entry into effect of the European Single Act which was originally scheduled for 1 January 1987. This provides a basis in the Treaty for complying with the requests made in the Tindemans report on European Union in 1975 and for establishing common European stances on security issues. In view of the above and given the need – which has increasingly made itself felt in recent years – for Europe to take an active interest in its own security, will the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation during the Belgian Presidency say:

1. what specific measures are envisaged to ensure that the Member States comply with the provisions of Title III, Article 30(6) of the Single Act and coordinate their positions on the political and economic aspects of security;
2. how the Belgian Presidency proposes to carry out the mandate in Article 30(4) of the Single European Act and to inform the European Parliament regularly of the foreign policy and security issues which are being examined in the framework of European political cooperation;
3. whether it is prepared, towards the end of its period in office, to submit a written report to Parliament on the initiatives taken as regards security policy, the policy of the Twelve on arms control and disarmament in the various international negotiations and any progress made in these areas;
4. what measures are planned to ensure that the views of the European Parliament are duly taken into consideration within European political cooperation in the field of security policy, in line with the provisions of Article 30(4) of the Single European Act?

Mr Tindemans, President-in-Office of the Council: I propose to answer the questions put by Mr Poettering, and then make my reply as President-in-Office of the Council at the end of the debate. In this way I shall be

able to take up the points raised by Mr Boesmans², Mr Campinos³ and other speakers. First, in response to Mr Poettering, I would remind him that European political cooperation is a system of inter-governmental cooperation on foreign policy in which the twelve Member States of the European Community participate. When the Single European Act does come into force – not, regrettably, during our term in the Presidency – the working of this system will be improved by the provisions of Title III. The Twelve consult regularly both at ministerial level and at senior official level on all matters of general interest, with a view to defining common positions and taking action together.

Secondly, in order to encourage the Twelve to pursue fuller coordination of their positions on the political and economic aspects of security, as called for in Article 30 of the Single Act, the Presidency invites the ministers meeting in political cooperation to hold discussions, whenever the international situation demands, on issues facing the Twelve in the area of the political and economic aspects of security. The groundwork for these discussions is done by the Political Committee and its working groups.

Thirdly, on the range of what is understood by the political and economic aspects of security, I could not expect to improve on the definition given by the previous Presidency in its reply of 21 October to Question No O-103/86, which I quote:

The economic aspects of security can be defined as economic factors bearing on the security, in the broad sense of the term, of the Community and its Member States⁴.

This definition can extend to such matters as Europe's technological capabilities or the degree of interdependence between the Community, with its Member States, and the rest of the world – in the areas, that is, of trade, commodities and finance.

Thus, various aspects of these matters can be discussed in the context of European political cooperation or, on a more regular basis, in the framework of the Community, which is right and proper. As stated in the Single European Act, the Twelve are determined to maintain the technological and industrial conditions necessary for their security. To this end they coordinate their policies through the appropriate institutions. Needless to say, completion of the internal market by 1992 is relevant in this context. The political aspects can be defined as the aspects of foreign policy that have a direct bearing on security. To quote one example: the Twelve hold regular discussions at expert level and at political level with a view to defining common positions on East-West issues and in the context of the CSCE process, including confidence-building measures, security and disarmament in Europe. The same can be said of the United Nations General Assembly, of the matters discussed in the conference on disarmament in Geneva, of measures to curb exports of chemical weapons and other nuclear explosive devices. The Twelve also coordinate their positions on regional issues bearing on international peace and security, such as the Middle East and Afghanistan. At the same time, the Twelve continue to support the role played by the United Nations and its efforts to maintain international peace and stability.

Fourthly, on the matter of keeping the European Parliament informed, Honourable Members are aware that the Presidency replies on behalf of the Twelve to oral and written questions, having consulted them on the fundamentals beforehand. Similarly, the Presidency sets out the standpoint of the Twelve on these issues at meetings with Parliament's Political Affairs Committee. To ensure that it is able to come to these meetings fully prepared, the Presidency is systematically briefed on discussions that have taken place in the Political Affairs Committee and its subcommittees.

Fifthly, resolutions adopted by Parliament are brought to the Ministers' attention.

Sixthly, the Presidency keeps abreast of discussions taking place in the Political Affairs Committee of the European Parliament, including those concerned with security, and where appropriate conveys the salient points of these discussions to the Twelve.

Seventhly, Parliament is in turn kept regularly informed of positions adopted officially by the Twelve meeting in political cooperation.

Eighthly, a written account of progress made in European political cooperation is supplied each year by the Presidency-in-Office. Each Presidency gives the European Parliament any review of its six months in office.

Madam President, since the Honourable Member has mentioned the report on the European Union which bears my name, I should like to end by replying in a personal capacity to Mr Poettering. I appreciated the reference to the Tindemans report on the European Union. As I stated in that report, it is impossible to conceive of the European Union without the security dimension, which would be incorporated, without restriction, into the areas of competence enjoyed by the European Union. We are still a long way short of that. You do not need me to tell you that even the concept of a proper European Union is far from taking on real substance or winning approval. As matters stand, the European Economic Community is without competence in the military sphere. Naturally, the Heads of Government can always get together, but it is difficult for them to do so under the auspices of the Treaty or within the terms of reference of the Community.

Mr Tindemans, later on in the debate: Mr President, Mr Commissioner, ladies and gentlemen, the Stockholm Conference ended on 19 September 1986 with the adoption of an important document on confidence and security-building measures.

The political presence of the Twelve was evident throughout the Stockholm Conference. The Presidents of the Council of the European Communities regularly made it clear what the Twelve are concerned about and what they want. European political cooperation was particularly active in reaffirming the principle of the non-use of force, which had become, under constant pressure from certain countries, an important element in the negotiations. The Twelve drew up a text on this, which inspired much of the Stockholm document. The Twelve have also made a preliminary analysis of the results achieved in Stockholm.

Let me now take up the major points, which largely coincide, it seems to me, with the analysis contained in the report presented to us by Mr Boesmans.

The adoption at the Stockholm Conference of a series of concrete measures corresponding with the criteria established in the Madrid mandate is regarded by the Twelve as a substantial political achievement. It is the first major agreement in the field of security since SALT II in 1974, and the first multilateral agreement bearing on security since the Helsinki Final Act of 1975. The confidence and security-building measures will be applied to a much greater number of military activities, they are more specific and detailed, and they are more binding. Moreover, the area to which they apply stretches from the Atlantic to the Urals and thus covers the whole of the Soviet Union's European territory. The Stockholm agreement is the first multilateral agreement on security which makes provision for verification by compulsory on-the-spot inspections. These measures, as long as they are applied, should help to bring greater stability to Europe, both politically and militarily. They raise the political cost of each attempt at military intimidation. In this respect, the Stockholm results reflect the practical approach of the West rather than the declamatory approach of the Warsaw Pact. Limitation measures acceptable to the Twelve were also agreed to. Since the Western objectives were not fully attained, the Twelve note the possibility of continuing the development of confidence-building measures, with the aim of increasing military transparency. However, this does not preclude the possibility of proceeding with the planning of more ambitious measures aimed at strengthening confidence, stability and security in Europe.

I should like to wind up on this matter with a comment of a general nature. While agreements on disarmament are essential, we must nevertheless not overlook the fact that the improvement in East-West relations for which we are looking must also come through developments in other areas, including those of human rights, human contacts, and free movement of information and ideas, which the Twelve regard as fundamental factors. Fuller compliance with the obligations entered into by the East European countries in the Helsinki Final Act is just what is needed to increase the mutual confidence essential to any improvement in East-West relations.

I now wish to discuss the motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Campinos. I have examined the motion for a resolution on implementation of the Helsinki Final Act and the role of the European Parliament in the CSCE process. It gives a broad-brush picture of the European Community's main concerns in its efforts to secure compliance with the commitments given in this document and to promote new initiatives aimed at deepening the relations between the Final Act's signatory States. The principles governing mutual relations between participating States have binding force between them. They should all be scrupulously observed. They are all of fundamental importance and are applicable without

qualification. In the interpretation of each of them, all the others must be taken into account. The Community will continue its efforts to promote security by all available means, and in particular by examining new methods whereby it would be possible to build upon the confidence and security-building measures already agreed at Stockholm. It will actively pursue militarily significant and politically binding results, backed by appropriate forms of verification.

On the subject of terrorism, the Community will be making vigorous efforts to secure observance and application of the sixth principle, which expressly proscribes terrorist activities. In the related areas of human rights and humanitarian issues, it has tabled a full and coherent proposal at the Vienna conference, a proposal which, if given practical effect, would make for gradually improved observance of the provisions of the human rights principle.

Economic relations play a very important part in improving the general climate of relations between States. The objectives envisaged for the economic conference proposed by the Community are to arrive at clearer definitions of the problems and jointly work out courses of action leading to solutions. All these matters, all these topics are vital to our countries, in terms both of our convictions and of the aims we are pursuing. It therefore stands to reason that Parliament must be brought into the efforts made by our governments and the Commission. The existing procedures will have to be improved, and new procedures established where necessary.

Concerning current political developments, I should like to say that the NATO ministerial meeting in Reykjavik, attended by eleven Member States of the Community, revealed broad agreement among the alliance countries on the framework for negotiations on the main agreements on disarmament in Europe. This is the case not only of the agreements to be negotiated between the United States and the Soviet Union – the START negotiations on strategic weapons, the INF and SRINF negotiations – but also of the negotiations to be started under CSCE auspices on conventional weapons and those proceeding on chemical weapons in the context of the Conference on Disarmament. This underlines the improvement seen over recent months in the prospects of achieving concrete results at last. If disarmament agreements are indeed signed in the near future, all European countries will have cause to rejoice.

Looking beyond these general considerations, Mr Hänsch, Mr Penders, Mr Segre and others referred to the zero option for nuclear missiles and the denuclearization of Europe. As you know, the President-in-Office cannot, under the present arrangements for political cooperation, enter into a debate of this kind. I view this with regret and look forward to the day when things will be different. Meanwhile, I must abide by our rules.

Sir Peter Vanneck referred to freedom of navigation in the Gulf. Let me remind you of the terms of the declaration to which the Community, through its Presidency, subscribed at the Venice summit. I quote:

We reaffirm that the principle of freedom of navigation in the Gulf is of paramount importance and must be upheld. We pledge to continue to consult on ways to pursue these important goals effectively.

That is our political option. It is clear. The Twelve do not consult on military measures that might be necessary, but they use their collective weight in world affairs to promote a political solution.

To Lord Bethell I should like to say that European cooperation against terrorism has developed considerably in recent months. A particular case in point has been the solidarity with the United Kingdom shown by the Member States in the Hindawi affair. I can also tell Lord Bethell that it will be possible for a delegation from the MEPS to be received in Vienna and meet other delegations to take part in exchanges of views on the state of the CSCE discussions.

Mr Baillot was interested in the arrangements for the negotiations on conventional disarmament, and I can tell him that the debate which did indeed take place among the Western countries on the advantages of negotiating among 35 or 23 parties has now closed and an honourable compromise has been found. This should mean that the negotiations in Vienna will be able to make progress.

Ms Charzat suggested that the European countries should have their own monitoring facilities. This is an interesting idea, one which involves more than just the political aspects of security but which could be considered in an appropriate forum.

I agree with Mr Ford on the need for the problems of defence and arms procurement to be discussed in a European framework. That is what we are trying to do in the Western European Union.

The House is well aware of the reasons why the Twelve cannot discuss these problems.

To conclude, I should like to say a few words to Ms Van den Heuvel. Madam, there is a Chinese curse which goes as follows: may you live in interesting times. Ms Van den Heuvel said, I believe, that we have an enormous number of problems to solve.

I should also like to comment on what she said about certain Churches opposing cruise missiles. We – and I now speak as a Belgian Minister – also had a debate on this in Parliament, and during that debate I quoted from texts written by bishops. We were not therefore as unscrupulous as Ms Van den Heuvel's speech might suggest. These texts referred specifically to the considerable responsibility which politicians bear for the security of their country, a responsibility which no one else can bear for them. They must therefore judge with their conscience what is acceptable for the security of their country and what is unacceptable.

Finally, NATO's announcement in Reykjavik that the North Atlantic Council is now to begin studying the consequences of disarmament and its repercussions for strategy and what ensues from it is, I believe, the best answer to the question whether Europe is concerned about the future.

¹ Cf. *OJ* No 2-353 of 16 June 1987, pp. 31-34 and pp. 36-49.

² Report (Doc. A 2-26/87) on behalf of the Political Affairs Committee on the consequences for the European Community of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

³ Report (Doc. A 2-77/87) on behalf of the Political Affairs Committee on the implementation of the Helsinki Agreements and the role of European Parliament in the CSCE process.

⁴ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 86/308.

87/209. Statement by the President-in-Office on the Achievements of the Belgian Presidency¹

Date of Issue: 16 June 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Balance Speech to European Parliament

Mr Tindemans, President-in-Office of the Council: Mr President, I am very grateful to you for having offered me this opportunity to give the European Parliament an account, as yet provisional, of the Belgian Presidency of the European Communities. This report will provide Parliament with a better basis for judging developments in the Communities and the decisions taken by the Council.[...]

Although our economic and commercial relations with the United States and Japan continue to cause concern, our political contacts indicate a favourable development. At the beginning of our Presidency I visited my American counterpart George Shultz. In May the political directors had in-depth discussions or various current problems with their American counterparts under the troika arrangement. They also visited Japan in June. The British and Danish Foreign Ministers and I had a meeting with Mr Kuranari in Paris in May. This was a political meeting. More and more countries and groups of countries are calling for the organization or consolidation of a political dialogue with our countries. Our voice is increasingly heard, and our opinion is becoming a basic point of reference, outside the Community as well as within. How far the Twelve can influence and improve the efficiency of international relations will very much depend in the future on their ability to speak and act cohesively and together, wherever possible with one voice. This will require a great deal of consultation and careful study of each other's positions. The Belgian Presidency has applied itself to this task with determination and made every effort to get things moving in this respect. This was also true of the summit conference in Venice.

The Twelve's efforts also focused, of course, on East-West relations and, more specifically, on relations between the Community countries and the Soviet Union. This is an important time for the development of these relations. The desire for reforms in the Soviet Union and the effects this may have on relations with the West are elements that we must analyse carefully. The Twelve are agreed that they should adopt

a constructive attitude of openness while remaining alert. We shall seize any genuine, favourable opportunity, but we cannot yield in the defence of our fundamental principles and interests. At the Vienna Conference on the consequences of the European Conference on Security and Cooperation the Twelve put forward a number of proposals for practical progress in the areas covered by the Final Act. These proposals, to whose implementation the Twelve attach a great deal of importance, specifically concern the holding of a conference on the human dimension, the holding of a conference on economic cooperation in Europe, that is to say, on the essential aspects of the second basket, and the organization of a forum on information relating, among other things, to the way in which information is collected and disseminated.

We are pleased to see that in Vienna and elsewhere various ideas and suggestions are coming to maturity. I believe that they will gradually be consolidated before long, enabling all the participating countries to find solutions to the problems.

I can also assure you that during the future negotiations on the final document of the Vienna Conference the Twelve will demonstrate the will to make substantial progress with its implementation.

Let us now take a look at the major aspects of the Twelve's policy towards the regions where conflict and tension continue.

In their declaration of 23 February² the Foreign Ministers of the Twelve called for an international peace conference on the Middle East. We were thus seeking once again to express our concern that a just, all-embracing and lasting solution should be found to the Israeli-Arab conflict. In their contacts with the parties concerned the Presidency and the other partners have endeavoured to bring about agreement on the modalities for a conference of this kind.

These efforts have not gone unnoticed in the region and the international community. It has again been shown what effect European action can have when it is preceded by internal consultations.

As regards the conflict between Iraq and Iran, the Twelve have twice this year expressed their serious concern about the continuation of this war, which is still taking a heavy toll of human life, and the danger of its spreading. The Belgian Presidency has also tried to revive the Euro-Arab dialogue.

The development of the political dialogue with the countries of Central America continues. Early in February the third conference of the San José type took place in Guatemala City. It was attended by the Twelve and by the Central American and Contadora Group countries. The joint political declaration³ that was adopted on this occasion reaffirmed the importance of the dialogue between the two regions and the role of the Contadora Group in the search for a peaceful and lasting solution capable of reducing the tension in the region.

The Twelve similarly welcome the efforts of the five Central American Presidents to encourage peace initiatives for Central America. In this context, we attach some importance to the recent visit by President Arias of Costa Rica to Europe and to the contents of his peace plan. The Twelve have decided to issue a statement on the Arias plan, and this will be published in a few days' time, after the new summit meeting in Guatemala.

Finally, the Twelve are following with particular interest the initiative to establish a Central American Parliament elected by general suffrage. We have, however, taken our interest in the whole of Latin America, where we want to support the action being taken to develop and strengthen democratic power. In this connection, the Ministers approved on 25 May, at the Presidency's suggestion, a set of political guidelines which form a whole with the economic guidelines⁴.

We continue to monitor closely and with growing concern the political situation in South Africa and its effects on the black population and regional stability. On 25 April 1987 *[sic]* we strongly condemned South Africa's military operation on Zambian territory⁵. As regards the internal situation in South Africa, our declaration of 25 May expressed our serious concern about the risk of growing polarization of political positions. We reaffirmed our own basic objectives, which are the total abolition of apartheid and its replacement with a genuinely democratic and non-radical form of government by means of a national dialogue. In the same declaration we again expressed our support for both black and white South Africans who seek peaceful change.

The tension in various regions of Asia — Afghanistan, Sri Lanka and the Philippines — continues to cause us concern. I shall be leaving for Singapore this evening to attend the meeting of the ASEAN countries with the troika.

(Furthermore, Mr Tindemans said after the debate:) [...] On Central America, I feel justified in saying — and I have said it before here, to the European Parliament — that the initiatives of the Community of Twelve on contacts with Central America have been successful.

As the House will be aware, it was in 1984 that contacts with the five Central American countries started to be organized. A first meeting was held in San José, a second in Luxembourg, and the third in Guatemala City, under the Belgian Presidency. At this third meeting, which many people expected to end in failure, we were able to approve two documents, one political and the other economic in content. The Commission was of course largely responsible for the content of the economic document, and I wish to thank it for its contribution.

In the case of the political document⁶, we were able to get the five Central American countries to accept the idea that peace in their region could be established only by democracy, pluralism, respect for human rights and freedom. Those are the very words in the document. The five Central American countries — all five, without exception — approved this wording, just as they approved the wording on a Central American parliament to be elected by universal suffrage. The document states that common rules will be applied in these elections. Once again, the five Central American countries approved this. So I feel justified in saying that this third contact at ministerial level between the Community and the countries of the Contadora group attending the meeting, was a success.

I said this morning that the Twelve support the proposals made by the Costa Rican President, Mr Arias, and we are sorry that, for the moment, this plan has not yet been discussed. That does not mean that President Arias' ideas and proposals have been rejected, far from it, and the Community will continue to support this plan and see what it can do to get it approved.

On Turkey, I am going to repeat what I have already said here in Strasbourg: we have applied the Treaty. The European Community is a *de jure* community. One does not make up rules when an application to join is received. The article dealing with such applications is Article 237, according to which, when it receives an application to become a member, the Council sends it to the Commission for examination. Once this examination has been completed, the Council takes a decision, acting unanimously. Since the Single European Act, the European Parliament's assent is also required. We have meticulously applied Article 237 of the Treaty of Rome. Is Turkey part of Europe or not? I noted, at the time when I received the application, that Turkey was taking up the presidency of the Council of Europe. I therefore have no right to ask the question that some of you raised this morning. This, then, was the attitude of the Presidency and the Twelve when we found we had to take a decision on this application: we applied the Treaty of Rome in full.

Regarding the Middle East, an initiative was taken in the course of European political cooperation. I think I can say the initiative itself was very positive. First because the initiative, the declaration and the missions I have undertaken subsequently were very well received in the Near and Middle East. What is preventing us for the time being from developing the same dynamism to promote an international conference for peace in the Middle East? First of all there is the situation in Israel. We do not want to provoke a government crisis in Israel; we are monitoring attitudes there to the idea of an international conference.

And secondly the Arab world, we are given to understand, wants to hold an Arab summit. We must therefore await the outcome of this summit. The Arab countries want to confer for the purpose of establishing what attitude they can take on the conference, and then on the fundamentals. Bearing these two factors in mind, the Twelve have taken a break for reflection, without abandoning their idea or their initiative. We do not want to squander the favourable response that our idea of a conference received, but we must first await the answer to the two questions I have just outlined. Probably for the first time since 1948, since the problem arose, Europe is now present in the Middle East and its voice is being listened to. I see this as a success for European political cooperation, and I wanted you to know that.[...]

I should now like to say a word about South African coal, a subject referred to by Mr-Ulburghs. Firstly, for a number of European countries this is also a question of economics. I will repeat my previous answer

to this question: I cannot say precisely what the prices are, but at the moment a tonne of Belgian coal costs about BFR 3 000 as against BFR 1 500 for a tonne of South African coal. For some European economies this is an important factor. If South African coal was not used, it would not be replaced with Belgian coal but with coal from Poland or other countries, which is still cheaper than Belgian coal. That must be borne in mind. It must not be seen as an attack on the Province of Limburg in Belgium, for example, because that would not be true.

Secondly, as regards the actual import of coal, the Twelve have not yet agreed to add coal to the sanctions we are applying. I can only say what sanctions are being jointly applied by the twelve Member States.

I also wish to discuss East-West relations, since there has been so much talk of military problems, missiles, and the attitude, or the lack of a clear attitude, taken by the Twelve in the Community context.

Mr President, each time the Twelve meet in European political cooperation, East-West relations are examined. Threats or the disappearance of threats are also discussed. But without going into the military details, since we have no authority to do that. Ireland would obviously protest immediately if we did, and moreover it was said, when we approved the Single European Act in December 1985, that from now on security would be incorporated into the Treaty, but in its political and economic rather than military aspects. That is the basis on which we work; once again, we jointly assess developments in East-West relations.

On the subject of South Africa, a communiqué was approved following the elections, some ten days ago⁷. Belgium embarked upon its term in the Presidency with the intention of taking or encouraging economically positive measures for the countries of central Africa and Southern Africa. What is the best positive course of action to take to encourage their economies and make them less economically dependent on South Africa? It is by improving their transport facilities. And this is what we have been doing, as I have already said here in this Parliament, in three instances: the railway line to Beira, the line serving Dar-es-Salaam and the Bangweala line. I do not want to prejudice the negotiations in progress. From both the political and financial viewpoints, we have achieved positive and tangible results so far, although the problem is not yet finally settled. And we were pleased to find that when the issue of Southern Africa was discussed at the Western Summit, the same attitude was adopted. In a way, therefore, I can say that the Presidency's position has been adopted by the others, and we are now working together to define this position in full detail.

¹ Cf. *OJ* No 2-353 of 16 June 1987, pp. 49-68.

² *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 87/114.

³ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 87/096.

⁴ Cf. *Bull. EC* 5-1987, point 2.4.1.

⁵ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 87/164.

⁶ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 87/096.

⁷ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 87/188.

87/210. Question No H-890/86 by Mr Arbeloa Muru Concerning the US Veto in the UN of the Resolution on the Judgement of the International Court of Justice Calling for an End to Support for the Anti-Sandinista Guerillas

Date of Issue: 17 June 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

What view does the Council of Ministers take of the United States veto in the United Nations Security Council on the resolution calling for compliance with the judgement of 27 June 1986 of the International Court of Justice concerning putting an immediate halt to support for the anti-Sandinista guerillas?

Mr Eyskens, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: The position of the Twelve on the problems of Central America is well known. At the Guatemala City Conference last February the Twelve reaffirmed, as they have always done previously, their support for a peaceful negotiated settlement based on respect of the principles of international law and on agreement between all the parties concerned. The Twelve believe that the tension in Central America makes all the more urgent the need for such a settlement, which must be based on the principles of pluralistic democracy and total respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, independence, non-interference, self-determination and the inviolability of frontiers.

Mr Arbeloa Muru (S): I am not asking what Ministers think of Guatemala but what they think of the United States' veto at the United Nations of the resolution on the judgement of the International Court of Justice on ending support for anti-Sandinista guerillas. I think that is clearly put.

Mr Eyskens: On 24 November 1986 the Twelve approved with seven abstentions and five votes in favour Resolution No A 41/31 in which the General Assembly of the United Nations calls urgently for the Judgement delivered by the International Court of Justice in The Hague on 17 June 1986 in the case on military and paramilitary activities in and against Nicaragua to be fully and immediately implemented in accordance with the relevant provisions of the United Nations' Charter. The joint political declaration by the Guatemala Ministerial Conference on 9 and 10 February 1987¹ approved by all countries represented, including the Twelve, indicates by implication that Europe does not believe in a military solution in Nicaragua.

Mr Boesmans (S): Since the Council has expressed its support for the Contadora initiative and for the Arias peace plan, I should like to ask the President of the Council how he regards the further postponement of the Esquipoulas Conference at the present time.

Mr Eyskens: The Council, and therefore the Twelve, have welcomed the Arias plan and are therefore ready too to give the necessary support to the Esquipoulas meeting.

Ms Lizin (S): Could the President of the Council tell us what position Belgium adopted in the vote he has referred to and whether that was in line with the Presidency's own views?

Mr Eyskens: At the vote Belgium abstained.

Mr Alavanos (COM): I would like to ask Council's President-in-Office what comments he has on the statements by the Honduran representative, on the one hand relating to the postponement of the conference of Central American nations on the matter of Nicaragua, and on the other hand, more generally, that matters of concern to Central America have nothing to do with the European Community's interventions and views, but with the dispositions, intentions and policy of the United States in that area. Will that have any impact on relations between the European Community and Honduras?

Mr Eyskens: The Twelve have not had the opportunity to discuss the attitude of Honduras and thus have not adopted any position in the matter.

¹ EPC Bulletin, Doc. 87/096.

87/211. Question No H-984/86 by Mr Boesmans Concerning the Murder of Father Gillard

Date of Issue: 17 June 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

I have had no satisfactory answer to my Oral Question No H-851/86¹.

What representations do the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation propose to make to the Colombian authorities to cause them to make a start as soon as possible on a serious investigation into the circumstances of the murder and the identity of the perpetrators?

Mr Eyskens, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: I can only repeat that the Foreign Ministers of the Twelve, meeting in political cooperation, have not discussed this question. The Colombian authorities are in general aware of the views of the Twelve as regards human rights. Mr Tindemans is a Member of the Belgian Parliament and has made a report of the action taken by Belgium as a country directly concerned.

Mr Boesmans (S): You will understand that answer is just as unsatisfactory as the last. The Belgian Government has been allowing this matter to drag on for years although this question should be thoroughly discussed in European political cooperation, all the more so as the impression is growing that the fact that Colombia is known to be an important customer for Belgian arms might perhaps be the reason why there has not been greater haste to clear up this murder. Can the Minister confirm that?

Mr Eyskens: Once again this is a question for the Belgian Parliament since it is Belgian policy which is at issue. I think I should not therefore give an answer in the European Parliament.

Mr Kuijpers (ARC): Has the problem of the disappearance of the lay brother Serge Berten, a similar case to that of Father Gillard, but in Guatemala, been discussed in Council?

Mr Eyskens: The case of Mr Berten has not been discussed in political cooperation.

Mr Ulburghs (NI): Can the Council earnestly consider the problem of European development workers and priests from various European countries who have disappeared in Latin America and can it regularly pass on information about them to the families concerned, who are becoming more and more uneasy?

Mr Eyskens: I believe Mr Tindemans has done that and that the matter has also been discussed in principle. Naturally it is hard to expect specific cases and files to be discussed in political cooperation. I believe also that the Belgian Foreign Minister has taken the necessary steps with the national authorities of the countries where nationals have disappeared or lost their lives.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 87/110.

87/212. Question No H-55/87 by Mr Ephremidis Concerning Barbaric Acts Carried out Against the Kurds by Ankara

Date of Issue: 17 June 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

The recent murderous bombing of the unarmed Kurdish population of Iraq by Turkish aircraft and the forced mass deportation of tens of thousands of people living in 234 villages in Turkish Kurdistan are the culmination of the policy of oppression and extermination pursued against the Kurds by the military dictatorship in Ankara and call to mind the genocide of the Armenians in 1915.

Will the Foreign Ministers say whether they propose to take the necessary steps to have a stop put to Ankara's barbarous acts, which are a crude violation of human and minority rights and of the principles of international law?

Mr Eyskens, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: The question of the murderous bombings in Iraq has not been discussed by the Twelve in the framework of European political cooperation.

As regards the deportations of inhabitants of 234 Kurdistan villages, I would refer you to the reply given by Mr Tindemans on 8 April 1987 to Mr Ulburghs's question¹.

Mr Ephremidis (COM): I would like to ask why such a savage and barbarous incident was of no concern to Council. Is there any special reason why Council ignored it, while in other cases, at the drop of a hat, Council has shown systematic concern? Could this be another example of Council's well-known favouring of the Turkish regime for the reasons we all know?

Mr Eyskens: In fact that question has not been put to the Council by any Member State, even that of the Honourable Member. Since no initiative has been taken by any Member State the Council is scarcely in a position to start a discussion of the matter.

Mr Arbeloa Muru (S): As regards a country like Turkey, which is a Member of the Council of Europe and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, have the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation never discussed or thought of discussing in the near future the very serious problem posed to Turkish democracy and to all Europe by the present Kurdish situation not only in Turkey but in other neighbouring countries?

Mr Eyskens: This problem has in fact been discussed by the Twelve, namely in 1986. The Honourable Member's information is thus inaccurate in that respect.

Mr Alavanos (COM): I would simply like to ask Council's President-in-Office whether, on the basis of the new facts mentioned in the question by Mr Ephremidis, this matter is to be raised with the Turkish government within the scope of the continued talks and negotiations in progress, concerning finance protocols and Turkey's accession to the EEC?

Mr Eyskens: The accession of Turkey is a problem which must be dealt with within the Council. On the other hand respect for human rights is a matter with diplomatic aspects which must therefore be tackled at diplomatic level.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 87/160.

87/213. Question No H-54/87 by Mr Pearce Concerning Sanctions Against South Africa

Date of Issue: 17 June 1987
Place of Issue: Strasbourg
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Source of Document: Presidency
Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Are the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation satisfied that those Member States which claim to operate sanctions against South Africa actually do so, even where their economic interests are affected, having in mind in particular whether Scandinavian Airlines System's catering department is involved anywhere in the world in provisioning South African aircraft or in operating catering facilities in airport terminals serving South African aircraft in any country?

Answer:

The sanctions which the Twelve have introduced against South Africa do not affect any of the activities of the airline in question to which the Honourable Member refers.

87/214. Question No H-158/87 by Mr Seligman Concerning Disinvestment in the Republic of South Africa

Date of Issue: 17 June 1987
Place of Issue: Strasbourg
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Source of Document: Presidency
Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Following statements on BBC Television by anti-apartheid activists doubting the utility of disinvestment in removing apartheid, and in particular the statement by Mr Chris Dlamini, Vice-President of COSATU, a recipient of Community aid, that his trade union 'had never called upon any foreign company to pull out', will the Foreign Ministers confirm that disinvestment by firms operating in the Republic of South Africa is unwise?

Answer:

The Twelve have never advised European companies operating in South Africa to disinvest. However, on 16 September 1986, the Twelve agreed to send a political signal to the South African Government by deciding to suspend any new direct investment in South Africa. This measure forms part of the over-all policy of the Twelve to favour fundamental peaceful change in South Africa.

In addition, in 1977 the Community countries drew up a Code of Conduct, which was reinforced in 1986, for EEC companies with subsidiaries, branches or offices in South Africa. The aim of the Code is to make a contribution to abolishing apartheid by playing a key role in improving the economic and social situation of black workers and thus in creating a climate favourable to national dialogue.

87/215. Question No H-159/87 by Mr Ulburghs Concerning Relations Between Burundi and the Catholic Church

Date of Issue: 17 June 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Hopes of improved relations between the Burundi Government and the Catholic Church had already faded at the end of April 1987. Clergymen have again been imprisoned, and now the Government is interfering in all aspects of the Church's internal organization so as to drive a wedge between the hierarchy and the laity. Furthermore, according to an Amnesty International report, the treatment of political prisoners is brutal and inhuman. Relations between Burundi and a number of Member States are already strained.

What action do the Foreign Ministers propose to take to ensure respect for human rights and freedom of worship in Burundi?

Mr Eyskens, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: The Twelve are paying close attention to the human rights position in non-member countries, more particularly in the ACP States which have links with the Community through the Lomé Convention. In their declaration of 21 July 1986¹ the Twelve stated that the question of human rights plays an important part in the development of their external relations. The Twelve are perturbed about breaches or non-respect of the freedom of worship in Burundi. They have informed the authorities in that country of their serious concern as regards human rights and have informed them at the same time about the operation of European political cooperation in the framework of which the Twelve have taken action.

Mr Ulburghs (NI): The President of the Council knows beyond doubt that freedom of worship is being restricted in Burundi and also that the majority is being oppressed. Is the Council protesting to the same extent as in the case of South Africa, Afghanistan and so on? Can the President of the Council say why Mr Kuijpers was refused a hearing at the assembly of the ACP countries to protest against violation of human rights in Burundi?

What have the Twelve done apart from expressing their concern?

Mr Eyskens: Various Members of the Twelve have explained to the Burundi authorities, either in their own capitals or in Bujumbura, the functioning of European political cooperation and have expressed their great concern about the human rights situation in Burundi. As regards occurrences in the context of the ACP, that is a different organization.

Mr Kuijpers (ARC): In answer to the previous question the President of the Council stated that recognition of human rights was principally a matter for diplomatic steps. I should like to stress that that is incorrect and I should be glad to hear his opinion about the deportation and refusal to recognize the residence visa of more than two hundred members of the clergy and missionaries of both sexes who were working in Burundi for purposes of development cooperation and education. What concrete steps has the President of the Council taken in this respect during the six months of the Presidency?

Mr Eyskens: To some extent I must repeat what I have already said clearly, that a large number of steps have been taken by members of the Twelve, including Belgium, *vis-à-vis* the Burundi authorities.

Mr Arbeloa Muru (S): Only a few months ago I asked a question on infringements of freedom of worship in Burundi – specifically regarding the nationalization of seminaries and the closure of some schools. I received the reply – I think it was from Mr Tindemans – that the Ministers meeting in political cooperation had not discussed the subject.

I should now like to ask the Ministers' representative whether news about infringements of freedom of worship reaches the Ministers at a very late stage or whether there is less concern about this type of infringement in the world.

Mr Eyskens: Obviously I am having difficulty in convincing the Members of Parliament of the seriousness with which these problems are tackled by the Twelve and by certain Member States which are more directly involved and which have therefore actually intervened and are continuing to intervene with the authorities concerned.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 86/230.

87/216. Question No H-185/87 by Mr Bonde Concerning Economic Threats to New Zealand¹

Date of Issue: 17 June 1987
Place of Issue: Strasbourg
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Source of Document: Presidency
Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Did the UK Foreign Secretary consult the other eleven Member States before threatening New Zealand with economic reprisals in connection with its action against the nuclear threat? Will the Foreign Ministers categorically state that the UK Foreign Secretary was speaking only for himself? Will the Foreign Ministers also place it on record that there is absolutely no connection between a country's potential market for agricultural products in the Community and its peace policy?

Answer:

This matter has not been discussed in the context of European political cooperation.

¹ Former Oral Question with debate (O-35/87) converted into a question for Question Time.

87/217. Question No H-182/87 by Sir Peter Vanneck Concerning the Protection of Navigation in International Waters Through the Gulf

Date of Issue: 17 June 1987
Place of Issue: Strasbourg
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Source of Document: Presidency
Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Following representations made by the Twelve to the authorities in Teheran and Baghdad on 27 September 1986, have the Foreign Ministers exchanged information on the action that they have taken to protect their nationals and ships (ref. H-596/86)¹?

Answer:

The Iran-Iraq conflict and the situation in the Gulf are the subject of continual exchanges of views and information among all relevant authorities with responsibility for European political cooperation. In

addition, it is in this forum that the diplomatic interventions of the Twelve are agreed, such as the representations referred to by the Honourable Member.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 87/033.

87/218. Question No H-192/87 by Mr Iversen Concerning Arms Sales to South Africa by France and Italy

Date of Issue: 17 June 1987
 Place of Issue: Strasbourg
 Country of Presidency: Belgium
 Source of Document: Presidency
 Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

According to a report by the US Department of State, referred to in the 4/5 April 1987 edition of the Danish newspaper *Information* and elsewhere, Member States such as France and Italy continue to supply arms to South Africa. Weapon systems supplied to South Africa prior to 1977 have been receiving maintenance and been brought up to date.

Can the Foreign Ministers confirm this US report, and would they agree that such arms deliveries to South Africa run counter to the European Community's declared policy towards that country?

Answer:

On 10 December 1985 the Twelve decided to enforce a strictly controlled embargo on exports of arms and paramilitary equipment to South Africa, to refuse all military cooperation, to recall their military attachés in South Africa and to refuse the accreditation of South Africa's military attachés. This policy has been scrupulously followed by all the Member States of the Community, and in this respect they have also been complying in the appropriate situations with the relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council.

87/219. Question No H-203/87 by Ms Lizin Concerning a European Convention on Custody of Children

Date of Issue: 17 June 1987
 Place of Issue: Strasbourg
 Country of Presidency: Belgium
 Source of Document: Presidency
 Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Could the Belgian Presidency state what progress it has made towards a European convention on the custody of children?

Mr Eyskens, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: I should like to refer to the second part of Mr Tindemans's reply to the Honourable Member's question on the progress made with regard to the European legal area.

During the 1 167th meeting of the Council of Ministers of Justice in Brussels on 25 May 1987 the Ministers of Justice exchanged information on the stage of ratification of the Hague Convention of 25 October 1980 on civil law aspects of the cross-frontier abduction of children. They were able to establish that none of the signatories has fundamental objections to the ratification of these two Conventions in the relatively near future.

France, for its part, has declared that it is considering withdrawing the most important reservation which it had made to the Luxembourg Convention. As regards the operation of these two Conventions, it is regarded as essential to exchange exact information about the difficulties experienced by the signatories in implementing these Conventions and in finding solutions for them.

For that purpose the Ministers have thought it right for the Presidency to ask the Secretariat for European political cooperation to draw up a questionnaire with the help of signatories who have already ratified these Conventions.

It has been ascertained that progress has been made with regard to the system of national correspondents designated in each country but that improvements are possible and that this point might be included in the questionnaire referred to.

Ms Lizin (S): I should like to thank the President of the Council for his detailed reply.

I should like to know whether the French initiative to appoint a mediator for all such cases is a system which he considers the Ministers meeting in political cooperation might usefully be asked to advise all countries to adopt. That goes beyond the idea of national co-ordinators as at present formulated and the idea of giving these mediators certain functions linked also with the implementations of decisions arising from the Conventions might eliminate a number of restraints which now exist in most international cases.

Could the President-in-Office give us his view of this technique?

Mr Eyskens: In principle I am in favour of the French initiative and the idea expressed by Ms Lizin. But we must of course wait to see the results of the experiment before coming to the conclusion suggested by Ms Lizin. In principle I think it is a good idea.

87/220. Question No H-205/87 by Mr Pranchère Concerning the Construction of a Sixth Wall by Morocco in the Western Sahara

Date of Issue: 17 June 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

In view of the construction by the Moroccans of a sixth wall in the Western Sahara close to the border with Mauritania and the disturbing prospect of increased tension in the area, do the Ministers not think that they should intercede to encourage a negotiated settlement to the Sahrawi problem through direct negotiations between the parties concerned and the application of the Sahrawi people's right to self-determination in accordance with the relevant UN and OAU resolutions?

Mr Eyskens, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: The Twelve are constantly following developments regarding the Western Sahara. They have noted that Morocco has constructed a sixth defensive wall; they have also noted the meeting on 4 May 1987 between King Hassan II, King Fahd and President Chadly. The Twelve fully support the efforts of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to find a peaceful solution to this problem.

Mr Chambeiron (COM): The President-in-Office of the Council has answered the question we put. I have no other comments at the moment and I should just like to thank him.

Ms Lizin (S): Mr Pranchère's question covers a number of practical consequences for the Community's taking over the fishing agreement initially concluded between Spain and Morocco – today between the Community and Morocco. The Council as such has not yet discussed this matter.

Could you please give us some indication of the attitudes adopted, reflecting the understandable concern of Mauritania, on the area illegally appropriated as a result of the construction of the wall, which of course gives Morocco an illegal extension of its territorial waters?

Mr Eyskens: This matter is still under discussion within the Council, which has still to settle the negotiating mandate. It will therefore be possible to answer Ms Lizin's question more accurately at a later date.

Mr Ulburghs (NI): Is the fisheries agreement with Morocco on the waters of the Western Sahara a matter for discussion and if so how can it be? It would be an indirect recognition of the annexation by Morocco of the Western Sahara.

Mr Eyskens: It goes without saying that in this the principles of international law must be observed.

Mr Roelants du Vivier (ARC): Is the President of the Council aware of the risk to security in the region and also to the Community fleet as a result of the adoption by the Community of the fishing agreement under discussion, which recognizes Moroccan sovereignty, or risks recognizing it, over a fishing zone in the disputed waters? Is he aware of the risk which that may present to the Community fleet in view of the specific threats made by the Polisario Front as regards that fleet?

Mr Eyskens: Negotiations on fisheries agreements fall within the responsibilities of the European Economic Community and are thus not a matter of political cooperation. This question should be dealt with in the context of questions put to the President of the Council of the European Communities.

87/221. Question No H-207/87 by Ms Dury Concerning the Release of Children Imprisoned in South Africa

Date of Issue: 17 June 1987
Place of Issue: Strasbourg
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Source of Document: Presidency
Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

What steps has the Presidency of the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation taken to induce the Government in South Africa to release children who are imprisoned and to abandon this particularly odious practice?

Answer:

The Twelve have on numerous occasions expressed their concern to the South African Government at infringements of human rights under the state of emergency, especially with regard to the detention of children. The British Presidency approached the authorities in Pretoria on this matter last December, and this move was recently reiterated in South Africa by the representative of the current Presidency. The South African authorities are well aware of the Twelve's attitude on this matter.

The Twelve have taken note of the fact that the South African authorities have apparently released a number of adolescent detainees. They will continue to press the authorities in South Africa for the release of all detainees who have not been charged.

87/222. Question No H-208/87 by Mr Wurtz Concerning the Visit by Mr Tindemans to Israeli-Held Territory

Date of Issue: 17 June 1987
Place of Issue: Strasbourg
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Source of Document: Presidency
Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

For the first time the President-in-Office of the Council of Foreign Ministers, Mr Tindemans, has had a meeting with General Sneh, in charge of the Israeli administration of the occupied territories. Did the Foreign Ministers consent to such a step; do they not think there is a risk that this meeting could be interpreted as an expression of support for the Israeli occupation; and what steps do they plan to take in order to avoid such an interpretation?

Answer:

The Foreign Ministers of the Twelve supported the President-in-Office in his mission to assess opportunities for relaunching the peace process in the Middle East. In this context, the President-in-Office

accepted responsibility for establishing contact with all the parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict. During his visit to Jerusalem he met various Israeli and Palestinian figures with the aim of obtaining the broadest range of information and views on the situation in the occupied territories.

There should in any case be no doubt about the position of the Twelve on Israel's occupation of the territories in question, as their position has been stated clearly on numerous occasions.

87/223. Question No H-277/87 by Mr Newton Dunn Concerning Religious Worship by German and Hungarian Minorities in Romania

Date of Issue: 17 June 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

German and Hungarian minorities, estimated at more than 2 million people in Romania, are mostly Calvinist, Lutheran and Catholic Christians. The Romanian authorities are pressuring their churches to use Romanian rather than the minority languages in religious services. Is this action compatible with Romania's undertakings arising from the Final Act of the Helsinki CSCE?

Mr Eyskens, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: The Twelve are fully aware of the problems arising from lack of respect for the rights of persons belonging to national minorities. Throughout the CSCE process the Twelve have attached great importance to this issue.

The Helsinki Final Act of 1975 stipulates that the CSCE participating States on whose territories national minorities exist shall respect the right of persons belonging to such minorities to equality before the law and shall afford them the full opportunity for the actual enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms and shall, in this manner, protect their legitimate interests in this sphere.

The Madrid concluding document of 1983 also stresses the importance of constant progress in ensuring these rights and protecting these interests. The Twelve have introduced proposals on this subject at the CSCE expert meetings in Ottawa and Berne and at the CSCE cultural forum in Budapest. At the CSCE review conference currently under way in Vienna the Twelve have again tabled a specific proposal that aims at ensuring the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms of persons belonging to national minorities. This proposal evidently addresses itself to those participating States on whose territories practices have been observed that are incompatible with existing CSCE commitments in this field.

Mr Newton Dunn (ED): While acknowledging that these violations of minority rights are taking place in Romania, would the Minister agree that the Twelve should suspend negotiations for a renewed trade and cooperation agreement with Romania while it continues not to respect human rights and the obligations that you have pointed out to us?

Mr Eyskens: The negotiations are of course conducted by the Commission, to which the question should be addressed. Clearly all necessary and effective pressure must be applied in relations between the Community as such and the countries concerned. We must now await the result of such pressure and take other steps if it appears that it has not been effective.

87/224. Question No H-233/87 by Mr Tzounis Concerning the Exclusion from Turkish Ports of Vessels Flying the Cypriot Flag

Date of Issue: 17 June 1987

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

Are the Foreign Ministers aware of the Turkish Government's recent decision banning vessels flying the Cypriot flag from using Turkish ports, thus discriminating against that flag, and, if so, what do they propose to do about this recent action by Turkey?

Answer:

The Twelve are aware of the decision banning vessels under the flag of the Republic of Cyprus from using Turkish ports from 14 May 1987. While this measure has not been discussed by the Twelve meeting in political cooperation, it was raised by a Member State during the Council meeting of 25 May 1987.

87/225. Question No H-240/87 by Mr Cabezón Alonso Concerning the Restoration of Democracy in Paraguay

Date of Issue: 17 June 1987
 Place of Issue: Strasbourg
 Country of Presidency: Belgium
 Source of Document: Presidency
 Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

What steps have the Ministers meeting in political cooperation taken during the last six months to help the people of Paraguay to restore democracy?

Answer:

In their relations with third countries the Twelve endeavour constantly to emphasize their attachment to fundamental freedoms and to the respect for human rights and to stress the importance which they accord, in this context, to the principles of parliamentary democracy and the rule of law. It is in the context of these ideas that the Twelve support a return to democracy in Paraguay. The substance of their relations with Paraguay – both bilaterally and as the Twelve – and the restrained approach which they adopt in these relations are a clear indication to the Paraguayan authorities of the Twelve's concern at the situation in that country.

87/226. Question No H-241/87 by Mr Adamou Concerning Unlawful Sentences on Turkish Writers

Date of Issue: 17 June 1987
 Place of Issue: Strasbourg
 Country of Presidency: Belgium
 Source of Document: Presidency
 Status of Document: Answer to oral Parliamentary Question

According to accusations by PEN (the international association of writers), 32 Turkish writers have been sentenced to a total of 750 years' imprisonment and are still being held in gaol on account of the progressive content of their writings.

What action do the Foreign Ministers intend taking to obtain the release of these writers and to safeguard the freedom of thought in Turkey?

Mr Eyskens, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers: The Twelve have always followed attentively trends in the human rights situation in Turkey, including freedom of expression and freedom of opinion. In their declaration on human rights on 21 July 1986¹, they indicated that respect for these rights was an important element in their relations with non-member countries. The Turkish Government understands the importance which the Twelve attach to this matter.

Mr Adamou (COM): The matter is a specific one. Apart from being a Member of the European Parliament, I am an author. I am a member of the Management Committee of the Society of Greek Authors, and I express the concern of Greek authors. We would like a specific answer on what will be the attitude, what will be the measures, what will be the intervention of the Community's Foreign Ministers on the specific matter of the 32 authors condemned to a total 750 years imprisonment?

Mr Eyskens: No specific measures have been taken but in any event I repeat once again that the Turkish Government is fully aware of the very great importance which the Twelve attach to this problem and to this aspect of things and we have the impression that the Turkish Government appreciates the position taken by the Twelve on this matter.

Mr Kuijpers (ARC): Is the President of the Council aware that at the moment things are getting steadily more difficult in Istanbul for the roughly 50 000 Armenians living there who are being oppressed and subjected to real repression in their culture and education and the practice of the Christian religion? If so, what initiatives is the Council taking to discourage this and is the President of the Council aware that Kurdish writers are allowed practically no paper for the publication of their works?

Mr Eyskens: The President of the Council is not aware of the matters to which Mr Kuijpers refers. If they turn out to be true they must be dealt with in the way suggested in the answer I have just given.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 86/230.

87/227. Conclusions Adopted by the Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States Concerning the Relations with Latin America

Date of Issue: 22 June 1987
Place of Issue: Brussels
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Source of Document: The Twelve
Status of Document: Decision

With reference to the conclusions of the European Council in The Hague on 26 and 27 June 1986¹ and in accordance with the objectives set out in the joint declaration of intent annexed to the Treaty of Accession of Spain and Portugal, the Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the Community reaffirm the particular importance which, for historical, political, economic and cultural reasons, they attach to the strengthening and development of relations between the European Community and Latin America.

The history of relations between the peoples of Europe and Latin America is founded on common values and interests, and demonstrates a common aspiration towards a conception of society based on respect for human rights and leading to a similar view of the political and economic order. This common background justifies a substantial strengthening of ties between the two worlds. It therefore follows that the European Community and Latin America have an active joint role to play in building the international society of the future.

The Community and its Member States believe that this is a particularly appropriate time to intensify all aspects of relations with the Latin American countries, in view of a number of promising developments which could bring the two regions closer together, in particular the return to democratic government and the setting up of regional integration areas. Moreover, it is in the interest of both parties that Latin America should overcome the serious economic problems facing it in the present state of the international economic environment, and bearing in mind the constraints related to the burden of its foreign debt.

The European Community therefore considers that, while bearing in mind its own constraints, it is necessary to implement a consistent over-all strategy for strengthening relations and cooperation between the Community and its Member States on the one hand and Latin America and its States and regions on the other, a strategy which takes account of the diversity of situations and requirements in the various parts of Latin America. Such a strengthening must be accompanied by improved presentation and would be favoured by increased coordination of the already considerable resources which are deployed bilaterally by Member States. Drawing attention to the Community's presence in the region requires *inter alia* improved presentation of its action and its policies, particularly thanks to greater cooperation between Member States' diplomatic representations and the Commission.

Moreover, the Community and the Member States will give support to any effort to increase European public awareness of matters relating to Latin America, the latter's links with the countries of the Community and the prospects for effective and mutually advantageous cooperation.

The Community and its Member States agree that it is in the common interest to support the efforts of the countries of Latin America which are pursuing rigorous economic adjustment policies with the aim of re-establishing economic growth and financial stability.

To promote better understanding of each other's point of view, the Community and its Member States would make clear that they are willing to intensify cooperation and consultation on economic and commercial matters modelled on the exercise conducted successfully at the Punta del Este Conference. Using whatever opportunities arise and in compliance with the role and prerogatives of the relevant multilateral institutions, informal consultations could be arranged.

The aim of such consultations would be to promote better understanding of each other's point of view and, within the relevant multilateral institutions, further the 'sustained growth' advocated by the IMF and the World Bank at their meeting in Seoul.

The twelve Member States of the Community agree that increased cooperation and consultation on economic and commercial matters should be accompanied by the stepping up of political relations.

The Twelve will, by their actions, continue to support the establishment of democracy in all Latin American countries and endeavour to strengthen democratic governments in the region.

They are following with special interest the attempts of certain Latin American countries to set up political cooperation bodies (for example, the Rio Group) with a view to giving positive consideration to any possibilities there may be for contacts between the Twelve and such representative groups.

They will actively encourage contacts between the Latin American Parliaments on the one hand and the European Parliament and the national Parliaments of the Twelve on the other. When the time comes they will support, in both practical and political terms, the creation of a Central American Parliament and of any other regional parliament.

The Twelve stress that intensified relations between the two regions must be supported both by individual contacts between countries and within the appropriate international bodies.

With a view to strengthening relations and cooperation with Latin America, the Community and its Member States agree on the following guidelines:

i) Official development assistance (ODA) granted by the Community will be continued, improved and concentrated in particular on the less developed countries of Latin America. It will be focused especially on rural development and on ensuring greater food security. Efforts will be made to improve the effectiveness of assistance notably by means of improved coordination with other sources of financing, in particular the Member States, international financial institutions and other sources of official assistance.

ii) Efforts to achieve regional integration will be actively supported and encouraged. The Community is ready to give Latin America the benefit of its own experience in certain specific areas by means of schemes such as support and funding for projects and programmes with a regional impact, the implementation according to appropriate procedures of cumulative origin rules and harmonized systems of industrial standards, cooperation on new technology, and the setting up and operation of regional bodies.

iii) In the area of trade, the Community's objective is to promote the development of reciprocal trade. From this point of view, the Community attaches great importance to the new multilateral negotiations launched by the Punta del Este Conference in 1986 and to the undertakings entered into on that occasion. It will endeavour in this context to take account of the export interests of the countries of Latin America.

At the same time, the Community will continue its efforts to ensure stable, and if possible broader access to the Community market, in particular through more effective use of the generalized system of preferences and a policy in support of the structural diversification of production and exports, based on the whole range of cooperation instruments available, notably trade promotion.

iv) Special emphasis will be placed on industrial cooperation in the broad sense. It will be for the Latin American countries to create to that end a more favourable environment for attracting European

investment. Cooperation between businessmen in the two regions, particularly in the form of joint ventures, will be encouraged. To that end, and in addition to the Member States' individual initiatives, the Community will make efforts to identify areas of mutual interest, to arrange contacts between potential partners, and to develop back-up schemes for joint ventures, in particular in trade promotion, training and information. These schemes will also be developed on the spot, in particular in cooperation with public and private organizations which are active in the sector, such as chambers of commerce.

The development and strengthening of scientific and technical cooperation involving a more ambitious approach to training and the development of joint research projects in areas of mutual interest will also help promote joint ventures. In this context energy cooperation will be developed and stepped up, enabling the benefit of Community experience in energy efficiency and new and renewable energy sources to be passed on.

v) Under the heading of technical cooperation, special attention will be paid to the training of administrators and technicians in order to encourage the proper management both of national and regional administrations and of undertakings.

vi) In view of the new dimension that the accession of Spain and Portugal has conferred on relations with Latin America, the Community and its Member States will also lay particular emphasis on the expansion of their activities in the field of information and communication, due account being taken of the cultural dimension of relations between the two regions.

vii) The possibility of implementing a cooperation programme on combating drug trafficking will be explored with certain Latin American countries.

viii) The objective of giving a new impetus to the flow of export credits will be given consideration in the course of exchanges of views between the Member States on their risk-taking policies *vis-à-vis* the various Latin American countries, taking into account the progress made in their adjustment policies.

The prospect of intensified relations will lead to consideration of a gradual strengthening of Commission representation in Latin America on an appropriate regional basis.

The Council requests the Commission, taking account of these guidelines, to continue its work on the strengthening of relations between the Community and Latin America and to submit appropriate concrete proposals to it accordingly.

The Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, for their part, agree to take the appropriate steps to implement the guidelines falling within the competence of the Member States.

The Council agrees to assess the implementation of these guidelines periodically with a view to establishing the appropriate conclusions in the light of the objectives sought.

¹ *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 86/184.

87/228. Statement by Foreign Ministers on the Situation in Central America

Date of Issue: 22 June 1987

Place of Issue: Luxembourg

Country of Presidency: Belgium

Source of Document: The Twelve

Status of Document: Declaration

The Twelve have noted with great interest the peace initiative for Central America which the President of Costa Rica has submitted for consideration by the other Central American Heads of State, in the framework of the Contadora process.

They reaffirm their support for the efforts to reactivate the negotiations to establish conditions which will permit the signing of a lasting peace agreement in the region.

They hope that the temporary difficulties encountered in the preparations for a Central American summit can be quickly overcome.

87/229. Statement at the Occasion of the Fortieth Anniversary of the Marshall Plan

Date of Issue: 23 June 1987
Place of Issue: Washington
Country of Presidency: Belgium
Source of Document: Presidency
Status of Document: Declaration

On June 5, 1947 George C. Marshall, the American Secretary of State, delivered a visionary address at Harvard University which launched a reconstruction programme for Europe. No other single act contributed so much to the formidable task of reconstructing Europe after the ravages of war.

Forty years later, the European Community remembers gratefully that American assistance which in the process of contributing to economic recovery, provided an important impetus towards European integration and the foundation of today's European community. European Nations have given concrete form to their clear appreciation in a number of ways.

The founding fathers of European integration were able to develop and implement their ideas only in a Europe whose economy was reviving. The Marshall Plan was an important element in creating such conditions.

Although the original inspiration for this process of integration was the determination to avoid another worldwide catastrophe, it has been able to flourish through the solidarity between Europe and the United States.

Having witnessed first hand the devastation which the war wreaked on the European continent, the United States perhaps more than any other country can appreciate the progress that has been achieved in the history-making enterprise of European unification.

The irreversible process of integration continues, and today, the European Community is recognized in the world as a significant economic and political entity which makes its own contribution to peace and stability in the world.

The relationship between Europe and the United States in 1987 differs from that of 1947, but we continue to share the same values and interests. The ties that bind the two shores of the Atlantic remain as strong as ever.

Index

Status of Document

Answer to oral question in the European Parliament, 85/003, 85/004, 85/005, 85/006, 85/007, 85/008, 85/009, 85/010, 85/011, 85/018, 85/019, 85/020, 85/021, 85/022, 85/023, 85/024, 85/025, 85/026, 85/027, 85/028, 85/029, 85/030, 85/031, 85/032, 85/033, 85/034, 85/035, 85/036, 85/037, 85/038, 85/039, 85/040, 85/041, 85/042, 85/043, 85/044, 85/045, 85/046, 85/047, 85/048, 85/049, 85/052, 85/053, 85/054, 85/055, 85/056, 85/057, 85/058, 85/059, 85/060, 85/061, 85/062, 85/074, 85/075, 85/076, 85/077, 85/078, 85/079, 85/080, 85/081, 85/082, 85/083, 85/084, 85/085, 85/086, 85/087, 85/097, 85/098, 85/099, 85/100, 85/101, 85/102, 85/103, 85/104, 85/105, 85/106, 85/107, 85/108, 85/109, 85/110, 85/111, 85/147, 85/148, 85/149, 85/150, 85/151, 85/152, 85/153, 85/154, 85/155, 85/156, 85/157, 85/158, 85/159, 85/160, 85/176, 85/177, 85/178, 85/179, 85/180, 85/181, 85/182, 85/183, 85/184, 85/185, 85/186, 85/197, 85/198, 85/199, 85/200, 85/201, 85/202, 85/203, 85/204, 85/205, 85/206, 85/207, 85/208, 85/209, 85/210, 85/211, 85/212, 85/220, 85/221, 85/222, 85/223, 85/256, 85/257, 85/258, 85/259, 85/260, 85/261, 85/262, 85/264, 85/265, 85/266, 85/267, 85/268, 85/269, 85/319, 85/320, 85/321, 85/322, 85/323, 85/324, 85/325, 86/026, 86/027, 86/028, 86/029, 86/030, 86/031, 86/032, 86/033, 86/034, 86/035, 86/036, 86/037, 86/072, 86/073, 86/074, 86/075, 86/076, 86/077, 86/078, 86/079, 86/080, 86/081, 86/082, 86/083, 86/084, 86/091, 86/092, 86/093, 86/094, 86/095, 86/096, 86/097, 86/098, 86/099, 86/100, 86/101, 86/125, 86/126, 86/127, 86/128, 86/129, 86/130, 86/131, 86/132, 86/133, 86/140, 86/141, 86/142, 86/143, 86/144, 86/145, 86/146, 86/147, 86/148, 86/149, 86/150, 86/165, 86/166, 86/167, 86/168, 86/169, 86/170, 86/171, 86/172, 86/173, 86/174, 86/200, 86/201, 86/202, 86/203, 86/204, 86/205, 86/206, 86/207, 86/208, 86/209, 86/210, 86/211, 86/251, 86/252, 86/253, 86/254, 86/255, 86/256, 86/257, 86/258, 86/259, 86/260, 86/261, 86/262, 86/263, 86/264, 86/265, 86/266, 86/267, 86/268, 86/269, 86/278, 86/279, 86/280, 86/281, 86/282, 86/283, 86/284, 86/285, 86/286, 86/287, 86/288, 86/289, 86/290, 86/291, 86/292, 86/293, 86/294, 86/307, 86/308, 86/309, 86/310, 86/311, 86/312, 86/313, 86/314, 86/315, 86/316, 86/317, 86/318, 86/319, 86/320, 86/385, 86/386, 86/387, 86/388, 86/389, 86/390, 86/391, 86/392, 86/393, 86/394, 86/395, 86/396, 86/397, 86/398, 86/399, 86/400, 86/401, 86/403, 87/026, 87/027, 87/028, 87/029, 87/030, 87/031, 87/032, 87/033, 87/034, 87/035, 87/036, 87/037, 87/038, 87/039, 87/040, 87/041, 87/042, 87/098, 87/099, 87/100, 87/101, 87/102, 87/103, 87/104, 87/105, 87/106, 87/107, 87/108, 87/109, 87/110, 87/111, 87/112, 87/120, 87/121, 87/122, 87/123, 87/124, 87/125, 87/126, 87/127, 87/128, 87/129, 87/130, 87/131, 87/132, 87/133, 87/134, 87/135, 87/136, 87/137, 87/138, 87/139, 87/140, 87/141, 87/142, 87/147, 87/148, 87/149, 87/150, 87/151, 87/152, 87/153, 87/154, 87/155, 87/156, 87/157, 87/158, 87/159, 87/160, 87/161, 87/170, 87/171, 87/172, 87/173, 87/174, 87/175, 87/176, 87/177, 87/178, 87/179, 87/180, 87/208, 87/210, 87/211, 87/212, 87/213, 87/214, 87/215, 87/216, 87/217, 87/218, 87/219, 87/220, 87/221, 87/222, 87/223, 87/224, 87/225, 87/226

Answer to written question in the European Parliament, 85/063, 85/064, 85/065, 85/066, 85/067, 85/088, 85/089, 85/090, 85/091, 85/093, 85/115, 85/116, 85/117, 85/118, 85/119, 85/120, 85/121, 85/122, 85/123, 85/124, 85/125, 85/126, 85/127, 85/128, 85/129, 85/130, 85/131, 85/132, 85/133, 85/134, 85/135, 85/136, 85/137, 85/138, 85/139, 85/140, 85/141, 85/142, 85/143, 85/144, 85/242, 85/243, 85/244, 85/245, 85/246, 85/247, 85/248, 85/272, 85/273, 85/274, 85/275, 85/276, 85/277, 85/278, 85/280, 85/281, 85/282, 85/283, 85/284, 85/285, 85/286, 85/287, 85/288, 86/001, 86/002, 86/003, 86/004, 86/005, 86/006, 86/007, 86/008, 86/009, 86/010, 86/012, 86/013, 86/014, 86/015, 86/016, 86/017, 86/018, 86/019, 86/020, 86/021, 86/022, 86/023, 86/038, 86/039, 86/040, 86/041, 86/042, 86/044, 86/045, 86/046,

- 86/047, 86/048, 86/049, 86/050, 86/051, 86/052, 86/053, 86/054, 86/055, 86/056, 86/057, 86/058, 86/059, 86/062, 86/063, 86/064, 86/065, 86/066, 86/106, 86/107, 86/108, 86/109, 86/110, 86/111, 86/112, 86/113, 86/114, 86/115, 86/116, 86/120, 86/121, 86/122, 86/156, 86/157, 86/158, 86/159, 86/160, 86/161, 86/162, 86/176, 86/177, 86/178, 86/179, 86/180, 86/181, 86/182, 86/188, 86/189, 86/190, 86/191, 86/192, 86/193, 86/194, 86/195, 86/197, 86/212, 86/213, 86/214, 86/215, 86/216, 86/217, 86/218, 86/219, 86/220, 86/221, 86/222, 86/223, 86/224, 86/225, 86/226, 86/227, 86/232, 86/233, 86/234, 86/235, 86/236, 86/237, 86/238, 86/239, 86/240, 86/241, 86/242, 86/243, 86/244, 86/344, 87/001, 87/002, 87/003, 87/004, 87/005, 87/006, 87/007, 87/008, 87/009, 87/010, 87/011, 87/012, 87/013, 87/014, 87/015, 87/016, 87/017, 87/018, 87/019, 87/020, 87/021, 87/022, 87/023, 87/024, 87/043, 87/044, 87/045, 87/046, 87/047, 87/048, 87/049, 87/050, 87/051, 87/052, 87/053, 87/054, 87/055, 87/056, 87/057, 87/058, 87/059, 87/060, 87/061, 87/062, 87/063, 87/064, 87/065, 87/066, 87/067, 87/068, 87/069, 87/070, 87/071, 87/072, 87/073, 87/074, 87/075, 87/076, 87/078, 87/079, 87/080, 87/081, 87/082, 87/083, 87/084, 87/085, 87/086, 87/087, 87/088, 87/089, 87/090, 87/091, 87/092, 87/094, 87/095, 87/113, 87/116, 87/117, 87/118, 87/181, 87/182, 87/183, 87/184, 87/185, 87/191, 87/192, 87/193, 87/194, 87/195, 87/196, 87/197, 87/198, 87/199, 87/200, 87/201, 87/202, 87/203, 87/207
- Balance speech before the European Parliament, 85/096, 85/318, 86/164, 86/402, 87/209
- Conclusions of the European Council, 85/114, 86/184, 86/382, 86/383
- Decision, 86/090, 86/175, 87/227
- Joint decision (with Spain and Portugal), 85/291
- Declaration, 85/001, 85/012, 85/013, 85/014, 85/015, 85/016, 85/050, 85/069, 85/070, 85/071, 85/072, 85/073, 85/092, 85/094, 85/095, 85/112, 85/113, 85/161, 85/162, 85/163, 85/170, 85/171, 85/332 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/043, 86/060, 86/061, 86/070, 86/071, 86/085, 86/086, 86/087, 86/088, 86/102, 86/103, 86/105, 86/117, 86/119, 86/134, 86/139, 86/151, 86/153, 86/154, 86/163, 86/185, 86/186, 86/196, 86/228, 86/229, 86/230, 86/231, 86/245, 86/246, 86/249, 86/270, 86/271, 86/272, 86/276, 86/303, 86/321, 86/352, 86/377, 86/404, 86/406, 86/408, 87/077, 87/093, 87/097, 87/114, 87/143, 87/163, 87/164, 87/188, 87/189, 87/190, 87/228, 87/229
- Joint declaration
- with Spain and Portugal, 85/173, 85/174, 85/187, 85/188, 85/191, 85/232, 85/253, 85/330, 85/331, 85/333, 85/335 (Vol. 1986-1)
- with other actors, 85/253, 86/068, 86/306, 87/096, 87/204, 87/205, 87/206
- Message, 85/017, 85/167, 85/342 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/024, 86/248
- Press statement, press release, 85/164, 85/165, 85/166, 85/169, 85/172, 85/175, 85/293, 85/294, 85/305, 85/337 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/069, 86/089, 86/104, 86/138, 86/351, 86/361, 86/378, 87/162
- Programme speech to European Parliament, 85/002, 85/146, 86/025, 86/198, 87/025
- Report on European Council to the European Parliament, 85/051, 85/145, 85/317, 86/187, 86/384
- Report of the European Council to European Parliament on European Union, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/407
- Report to European Parliament (other), 85/292, 86/137, 87/115, 87/119, 87/187
- Report to the Economic and Social Committee of the EC, 85/292, 87/115
- Statement or speech in international forum (other than European Parliament), 85/334 (Vol. 1986-1), 85/340 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/067, 86/118, 86/183, 86/199, 86/273, 86/274, 86/296, 86/323
- Council of Europe, 85/068
- CSCE, 85/336 (Vol. 1986-1), 85/339 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/123, 86/124, 86/343, 86/405, 87/144, 87/166
- UNESCO, 85/338 (Vol. 1986-1)
- United Nations Disarmament Commission,, 87/167, 87/168, 87/169
- United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), 86/136, 86/152, 87/165, 87/186
- United Nations General Assembly

- Plenary session, 85/189, 85/219, 85/226, 85/228, 85/233, 85/237, 85/251, 85/254, 85/279, 85/295, 85/297, 85/309, 85/312, 85/315, 85/326, 85/327, 85/328, 86/135, 86/155, 86/250, 86/275, 86/297, 86/301, 86/302, 86/304, 86/330, 86/340, 86/347, 86/349, 86/354, 86/362, 86/365, 86/373, 86/376, 86/379, 86/380, 86/381, 87/146
- First (Political and Security) Committee, 85/217, 85/234, 85/240, 85/241, 85/249, 85/263, 85/289, 85/306, 86/298, 86/331, 86/332, 86/333, 86/334, 86/335, 86/336, 86/341, 86/342, 86/350, 86/353, 86/355, 86/357, 86/367
- Special Political Committee, 85/193, 85/195, 85/213, 85/231, 85/250, 85/255, 85/270, 85/296, 85/313, 86/300, 86/324, 86/345, 86/359, 86/374
- Second (Economic and Financial) Committee, 86/368, 86/369
- Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committee, 85/194, 85/229, 85/238, 85/239, 85/252, 85/290, 85/300, 85/302, 86/277, 86/299, 86/325, 86/326, 86/327, 86/328, 86/337, 86/338, 86/339, 86/346, 86/356, 86/360, 86/363, 86/364, 86/370, 86/375
- Fourth (Trusteeship) Committee, 85/230, 86/322
- Fifth (Administrative and Budgetary) Committee, 85/190, 85/196, 85/215, 85/218, 85/227, 85/235, 85/236, 85/271, 85/299, 85/301, 85/311, 85/314, 85/316, 85/329, 86/295, 86/348, 86/366, 86/371
- Sixth (Legal) Committee, 85/192, 85/216, 85/225, 85/298, 85/303, 85/304, 85/307, 85/308, 85/310, 86/305, 86/329, 86/358, 86/372
- Special Committee against Apartheid, 85/214
- Preparatory Committee for the Celebration of the 40th Anniversary, and Consultative Group, 85/168, 85/224
- United Nations (other), 85/343 (Vol. 1987-1), 87/145
- Other, 86/247

EPC Structure and Procedure

Basic documents on EPC

Copenhagen Report, 85/041, 86/090

Draft Treaty on European Political Cooperation, 85/317, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1)

London Report, 86/090

Luxembourg Report, 86/090

Single European Act, 86/090, 86/133, 86/140, 86/168, 86/198, 86/283, 86/308, 86/343, 86/387, 86/402, 86/407, 87/025, 87/038, 87/137, 87/175, 87/208

Solemn Declaration on European Union, 85/080, 85/147, 85/317, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/090

Basic principles of EPC

Common position, 85/002, 85/003, 85/005, 85/037, 85/053, 85/145, 85/151, 85/152, 85/154, 85/164, 85/169, 85/186, 85/209, 85/219, 85/246, 85/252, 85/310, 85/317, 85/327, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/058, 86/059, 86/121, 86/169, 86/187, 86/311, 86/400, 87/038, 87/076, 87/085

Common vote, 85/053, 85/104, 85/322, 86/058, 86/106, 86/106, 86/190, 86/407, 87/07

European identity in foreign policy, 85/014, 85/051, 85/096, 85/317, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/140

General principles, 85/002, 85/003, 85/004, 85/051, 85/080, 85/104, 85/317, 86/311, 87/137

Harmonization of foreign policies, 85/051, 85/145, 86/198, 87/051, 87/085

Institutionalization of EPC, 85/055, 86/187, 87/108

Joint action, 85/152, 85/163, 85/172, 85/178, 85/186, 85/225, 85/288, 85/293, 85/317, 85/320, 86/061, 86/140, 86/311

Working languages, 85/242

Sphere of action of EPC, 85/003, 85/004, 85/005, 85/007, 85/009, 85/010, 85/027, 85/034, 85/035, 85/036, 85/040, 85/045, 85/047, 85/066, 85/067, 85/082, 85/093, 85/097, 85/101, 85/106, 85/109, 85/118, 85/119, 85/124, 85/125, 85/126, 85/127, 85/128, 85/132, 85/136,

85/142, 85/143, 85/147, 85/150, 85/151, 85/155, 85/156, 85/176, 85/180, 85/202, 85/203, 85/204, 85/205, 85/247, 85/248, 85/259, 85/260, 85/266, 85/283, 85/284, 85/319, 86/016, 86/017, 86/018, 86/019, 86/035, 86/064, 86/077, 86/082, 86/095, 86/095, 86/101, 86/106, 86/109, 86/114, 86/120, 86/122, 86/129, 86/131, 86/133, 86/146, 86/158, 86/160, 86/197, 86/205, 86/207, 86/215, 86/225, 86/252, 86/253, 86/259, 86/260, 86/266, 86/278, 86/279, 86/280, 86/282, 86/283, 86/289, 86/309, 86/311, 86/317, 87/001, 87/004, 87/013, 87/021, 87/022, 87/025, 87/026, 87/034, 87/037, 87/060, 87/065, 87/067, 87/098, 87/111, 87/117, 87/122, 87/123, 87/126, 87/127, 87/132, 87/140, 87/149, 87/152, 87/156, 87/175, 87/183, 87/193, 87/194, 87/197, 87/198, 87/208, 87/209, 87/211, 87/220

Structure of EPC

COREU, 86/090, 86/137, 86/387

Diplomatic missions, 85/020, 85/063, 85/065, 85/291, 86/090, 86/137, 86/195, 87/051

EPC Secretariat, 85/041, 85/055, 85/145, 85/267, 85/317, 86/090, 86/140, 86/387, 86/402, 86/407, 87/013, 87/025, 87/108, 87/219

European Correspondents' Group, 86/090, 86/387

European Council, 86/198

Foreign Ministers, 85/003, 85/004, 85/005, 86/090, 86/137, 86/387, 87/108

Member States, 85/005, 85/025, 85/030, 85/031, 85/037, 85/041, 85/044, 85/051, 85/053, 85/060, 85/068, 85/069, 85/078, 85/080, 85/082, 85/104, 85/154, 86/042, 86/090, 86/092, 86/195, 86/218, 86/311, 87/118, 87/124, 87/132, 87/138, 87/192

Ministers of Justice, 85/021, 86/039, 86/093, 86/134, 86/142, 86/144

Ministers for the Interior, 85/021, 86/039, 86/093, 86/134, 86/142, 86/144

Political Committee, 86/090, 86/137, 86/387, 87/208

Presidency, 85/002, 85/003, 85/004, 85/005, 85/007, 85/041, 85/052, 85/055, 85/096, 85/098, 85/104, 85/147, 85/242, 85/274, 85/281, 85/291, 85/317, 86/090, 86/164, 86/195, 86/387, 87/021, 87/025, 87/108, 87/114, 87/208

Translation service, 85/242, 86/090, 86/387

Trevi group, 85/208, 85/272, 85/274, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/039, 86/093, 86/134, 86/142, 86/194, 86/200, 86/226, 86/318, 87/138, 87/172

Troika, 85/041, 85/133, 85/139, 86/090, 86/133, 86/134

Troika missions, 85/165, 85/166, 85/169, 85/170, 85/171, 85/172, 85/186, 85/221, 86/038, 86/187, 87/061, 87/209

Working groups, 86/090, 86/387, 87/208

Africa, 86/137

Asia, 86/137

Cooperation in Combating International Terrorism, 86/061, 86/093, 86/133, 86/142, 86/144, 87/025

CSCE, CDE and other aspects of the Helsinki Final Act, 86/137

Eastern Europe, 86/137

Latin America, 86/137, 87/054

Middle East, 86/071, 86/137

United Nations, 86/137

Relations of EPC with the European Communities, 85/002, 85/041, 85/080, 85/281, 85/317, 86/090, 86/128, 86/260, 86/309, 86/387, 86/402

Jurisdiction of the EC institutions, 85/005, 85/054, 85/151, 85/177, 85/254, 85/258, 86/065, 86/076, 86/176, 86/201, 86/251, 86/309, 86/312, 86/314, 86/317, 86/343, 87/073, 87/147, 87/157, 87/173, 87/208, 87/209, 87/220

Relations with the Commission, 85/005, 85/033, 85/165, 85/166, 85/172, 85/317, 85/318, 86/076, 86/090, 86/195, 86/200, 87/025

Relations with COREPER, 86/076

Relations with the Council of Ministers, 85/003, 85/005, 85/044, 85/062, 85/077, 86/076, 86/090, 87/025

Relations with the Economic and Social Committee, 85/291, 86/025
 Relations with the European Parliament, 85/002, 85/005, 85/007, 85/008, 85/045, 85/052, 85/054, 85/080, 85/146, 85/148, 85/207, 85/242, 85/262, 85/267, 85/291, 85/293, 85/317, 85/318, 86/033, 86/071, 86/090, 86/093, 86/137, 86/140, 86/160, 86/164, 86/187, 86/195, 86/198, 86/210, 87/009, 87/026, 87/128
 Relations with the Political Affairs Committee, 86/090, 86/198, 87/187
 Resolutions of the European Parliament, 85/076, 8375/098, 85/146, 85/147, 85/201, 85/210, 85/262, 85/268, 85/293, 86/002, 86/025, 86/071, 86/140, 86/307, 86/308, 86/385, 86/386, 87/100, 87/148, 87/180, 87/208

Contacts of EPC

Contacts with third countries, 86/183, 86/185, 86/198, 86/264, 86/286, 86/347, 86/407
 Albania, 85/074, 85/149
 Bolivia, 85/064
 Burundi, 85/261
 Canada, 85/041
 Chile, 85/028, 85/081, 85/091, 86/094, 85/183, 85/286, 87/091
 China, People's Republic of -, 85/041, 85/096, 85/147, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/047
 Colombia, 85/253
 Costa Rica, 85/253, 87/209
 Cyprus, 85/176
 Egypt, 86/071, 86/286, 86/407
 El Salvador, 85/253, 86/196
 Ethiopia, 85/148, 85/197
 Front-Line States, 86/025, 86/068, 86/069, 86/072, 86/127, 86/263, 86/273, 86/275, 86/347, 86/407, 87/025
 Guatemala, 85/253
 Honduras, 85/253
 India, 85/041, 86/047, 86/141, 86/144
 Indonesia, 85/141, 85/210
 Iran, 85/022, 85/090, 85/206, 85/223, 86/177
 Iraq, 85/090
 Israel, 85/054, 85/138, 85/211, 86/021, 86/026, 87/222
 Japan, 85/041, 85/147, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/047, 86/407, 87/209
 Jordan, 85/002, 85/120, 86/286
 Lebanon, 85/039, 85/096
 Malta, 86/407
 Mexico, 85/253
 Nicaragua, 85/077, 85/253
 Norway, 85/041, 85/281
 Pakistan, 85/099, 85/201
 Panama, 85/253, 85/297, 86/150, 86/164
 Philippines, 85/262, 86/075, 86/089, 86/132
 Poland, 86/092
 Portugal, 85/041, 85/164, 85/165, 85/166, 85/168, 85/170, 85/187, 85/189, 85/191, 85/253, 85/292, 85/293, 85/294, 85/330, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1)
 South Africa, 85/165, 85/166, 85/169, 85/170, 85/171, 85/172, 85/186, 85/189, 85/194, 85/214, 85/221, 85/228, 85/238, 85/282, 85/318, 85/321, 86/038, 86/067, 86/069, 86/072, 86/074, 86/086, 86/118, 86/127, 86/164, 86/187, 86/198, 86/386, 86/407, 87/221
 Soviet Union, 85/088, 85/089, 85/096, 85/198, 85/220, 85/258, 86/047, 86/056, 86/107, 86/110, 86/182, 86/407

Spain, 85/041, 85/164, 85/165, 85/166, 85/168, 85/170, 85/187, 85/189, 85/191, 85/253, 85/292, 85/293, 85/294, 85/330, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1)
Syria, 85/096, 85/120
Turkey, 85/019, 85/041, 85/052, 85/059, 85/062, 85/105, 85/115, 85/134, 85/176, 85/268, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/113, 86/128, 86/281, 86/313, 86/317, 86/407
Uganda, 85/020, 85/063, 85/065
United States, 85/002, 85/041, 85/147, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/044, 86/095, 86/110, 86/407
Venezuela, 85/253
Vietnam, 86/156
Yugoslavia, 86/181, 86/338, 86/407
Zambia, 86/067, 86/198
Zimbabwe, 86/066, 86/198

Contacts with international organizations and political groupings

African National Congress, 85/172, 85/194, 85/228, 86/072
Arab League (League of Arab States), 86/133, 86/140, 86/286, 87/025, 87/119, 87/129, 87/209
ASEAN, 85/012, 85/041, 85/123, 85/147, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/047, 86/089, 87/100, 87/209
Central American States, 85/001, 85/002, 85/017, 85/041, 85/051, 85/058, 85/068, 85/077, 85/096, 85/133, 85/139, 85/146, 85/182, 85/189, 85/297, 85/318, 85/340 (Vol. 1986-1), 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/062, 86/362, 86/363, 86/368, 86/381, 86/407, 87/016, 87/025, 87/031, 87/054, 87/057, 87/096, 87/128, 87/131, 87/132, 87/134, 87/135, 87/141, 87/142, 87/171, 87/200, 87/209
COMECON, 85/258
Contadora Group, 85/001, 85/002, 85/017, 85/032, 85/041, 85/056, 85/096, 85/133, 85/139, 85/146, 85/189, 85/253, 85/297, 85/318, 85/340 (Vol. 1986-1), 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/235, 87/016, 87/025, 87/031, 87/054, 87/057, 87/096, 87/128, 87/134, 87/135, 87/141, 87/142, 87/171, 87/200, 87/209
Council of Europe, 85/041, 86/093
EFTA, 85/281
Gulf Cooperation Council, 86/407
South Asia Regional Cooperation, 86/116
SWAPO, 86/072
United Nations, 85/148, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1)
 Secretary-General, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/104

Countries

Afghanistan, 85/002, 85/056, 85/068, 85/096, 85/117, 85/146, 85/162, 85/189, 85/238, 85/251, 85/300, 85/331, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/025, 86/137, 86/140, 86/152, 86/232, 86/240, 86/275, 86/306, 86/340, 86/363, 86/383, 86/384, 86/394, 86/407, 87/001, 87/002, 87/075, 87/143, 87/186, 87/187, 87/204, 87/209
Albania, 85/074, 85/149, 86/098, 86/112
Algeria, 86/157, 87/026
Angola, 85/002, 85/094, 85/096, 85/135, 85/187, 85/189, 85/279, 85/337 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/004, 86/005, 86/067, 86/068, 86/086, 86/199, 86/247, 86/273, 86/307, 87/018, 87/045, 87/052
Argentina, 85/051, 85/173, 85/232, 85/297, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/152, 87/042, 87/102
Australia, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1)
Austria, 85/296, 85/333, 86/023, 86/026, 86/343, 87/011
Bangladesh, 87/185
Belgium, 85/005, 85/252, 85/292, 86/041, 86/052, 86/055, 86/084, 86/109, 86/115, 86/158, 86/162, 86/189, 86/227, 86/305, 87/003, 87/067, 87/078, 87/081, 87/087, 87/104, 87/108, 87/109, 87/115, 87/128, 87/177

- Benin, 85/110
Bolivia, 85/064, 85/068
Botswana, 85/112, 85/135, 85/279, 86/067, 86/153, 86/173, 86/407, 87/015, 87/043
Brazil, 85/002, 85/051, 85/173, 85/297, 87/094
Bulgaria, 85/084, 85/103, 85/159, 86/151, 86/401
Burundi, 85/261, 86/395, 87/215
Cambodia, 85/002, 85/012, 85/068, 85/096, 85/146, 85/189, 85/237, 85/238, 85/300, 85/341
(Vol. 1986-1), 86/139, 86/152, 86/275, 86/304, 86/306, 86/363, 86/407, 87/186
Cameroon, 86/333
Canada, 85/041, 85/221, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/302
Chile, 85/002, 85/028, 85/051, 85/064, 85/068, 85/081, 85/091, 85/174, 85/183, 85/189, 85/286,
85/300, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/025, 86/046, 86/048, 86/059, 86/094, 86/103, 86/137,
86/152, 86/245, 86/249, 86/272, 86/275, 86/294, 86/363, 86/407, 87/005, 87/029, 87/063,
87/088, 87/091, 87/186, 87/187
China, People's Republic of -, 85/041, 85/051, 85/096, 85/160, 85/204, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1),
86/047, 86/052, 86/285, 86/341
Colombia, 86/042, 87/027, 87/110, 87/133, 87/211
Comoros, 85/257
Congo, People's Republic of the -, 86/059
Costa Rica, 85/253, 85/340 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/050, 86/085, 86/176, 86/319, 87/073, 87/096,
87/209
Cuba, 85/199., 87/018, 87/045, 87/170, 87/186, 87/207
Cyprus, 85/013, 85/038, 85/068, 85/095, 85/126, 85/176, 85/184, 85/185, 85/189, 85/195,
85/212, 85/222, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/100, 86/145, 86/152, 86/201, 86/243, 86/275,
86/280, 86/300, 86/309, 86/313, 86/316, 86/385, 86/403, 86/407, 87/012, 87/106, 87/173,
87/174, 87/186, 87/224
Czechoslovakia, 85/151, 86/363, 86/402, 87/144
Denmark, 85/007, 85/053, 85/055, 85/061, 85/087, 85/292, 85/325, 86/052, 86/055, 86/115,
86/227, 86/252, 86/311, 87/081, 87/115
Djibuti, 86/231, 86/275
Egypt, 85/051, 85/054, 85/069, 85/093, 85/146, 85/229, 86/071, 86/275, 86/286, 86/407
El Salvador, 85/188, 85/253, 85/300, 86/001, 86/152, 86/193, 86/196, 86/312, 86/363, 87/096,
87/186, 87/187
Ethiopia, 85/024, 85/148, 85/197, 86/033, 86/083, 86/231, 86/275, 87/026
Finland, 85/041, 85/055
France, 85/079, 85/082, 85/145, 85/151, 85/292, 85/325, 86/016, 86/017, 86/019, 86/052,
86/055, 86/092, 86/115, 86/120, 86/121, 86/126, 86/160, 86/162, 86/164, 86/165, 86/174,
86/227, 86/252, 86/402, 87/002, 87/004, 87/104, 87/115, 87/218
Germany, Democratic Republic of -, 85/003, 86/405
Germany, Federal Republic of -, 85/003, 85/035, 85/046, 85/122, 85/143, 85/145, 85/156, 85/222,
85/247, 85/285, 85/292, 86/052, 86/055, 86/115, 86/122, 86/149, 86/161, 86/162, 86/164,
86/165, 86/227, 86/252, 86/363, 86/377, 86/386, 86/402, 86/405, 86/407, 87/002, 87/078,
87/081, 87/115, 87/118
Greece, 85/007, 85/074, 85/104, 85/119, 85/125, 85/126, 85/127, 85/292, 86/052, 86/055,
86/112, 86/115, 86/162, 86/187, 86/227, 86/244, 86/256, 86/260, 86/313, 86/385, 86/401,
87/039, 87/076, 87/081, 87/115, 87/124
Grenada, 86/079
Guatemala, 85/253, 85/277, 85/300, 85/340 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/084, 86/152, 86/363, 86/407,
87/096, 87/177, 87/186, 87/187, 87/211
Guinea-Bissau, Republic of -, 86/229
Honduras, 85/253, 85/307, 86/050, 86/319, 87/096, 87/210
Hungary, 86/151, 86/363, 86/402
India, 85/041, 85/051, 85/323, 86/047, 86/088, 86/109, 86/141, 86/144, 86/228, 86/275, 87/203
Indonesia, 85/141, 85/146, 85/210, 86/015, 87/100, 87/111, 87/113, 87/161

- Iran, 85/002, 85/004, 85/022, 85/043, 85/051, 85/068, 85/069, 85/090, 85/097, 85/146, 85/189, 85/206, 85/217, 85/223, 85/241, 85/294, 85/300, 85/312, 85/318, 85/322, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/025, 86/087, 86/096, 86/105, 86/137, 86/140, 86/143, 86/152, 86/177, 86/191, 86/209, 86/246, 86/268, 86/275, 86/285, 86/306, 86/363, 86/376, 86/407, 87/025, 87/033, 87/046, 87/075, 87/077, 87/081, 87/116, 87/119, 87/127, 87/186, 87/187, 87/189, 87/206, 87/209, 87/212, 87/217
- Iraq, 85/002, 85/004, 85/043, 85/051, 85/068, 85/069, 85/090, 85/097, 85/146, 85/189, 85/217, 85/233, 85/241, 85/294, 85/312, 85/318, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/025, 86/087, 86/096, 86/105, 86/140, 86/143, 86/177, 86/191, 86/209, 86/246, 86/275, 86/306, 86/376, 86/407, 87/025, 87/033, 87/077, 87/119, 87/127, 87/150, 87/187, 87/189, 87/206, 87/209, 87/212, 87/217
- Ireland, 85/007, 85/009, 85/202, 85/203, 85/252, 85/292, 86/052, 86/055, 86/162, 86/227, 87/081, 87/123, 87/134, 87/175, 87/183, 87/209
- Israel, 85/002, 85/016, 85/039, 85/051, 85/054, 85/068, 85/069, 85/138, 85/146, 85/179, 85/189, 85/191, 85/211, 85/231, 85/233, 85/250, 85/256, 85/270, 85/300, 85/305, 85/309, 85/312, 85/318, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/021, 86/023, 86/026, 86/036, 86/099, 86/137, 86/171, 86/178, 86/267, 86/275, 86/300, 86/315, 86/359, 86/363, 86/373, 86/376, 86/389, 86/408, 87/028, 87/067, 87/081, 87/083, 87/095, 87/119, 87/155, 87/187, 87/209, 87/222
- Italy, 85/002, 85/010, 85/035, 85/082, 85/099, 85/165, 85/166, 85/186, 85/292, 85/333, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/052, 86/055, 86/098, 86/115, 86/133, 86/162, 86/227, 87/002, 87/060, 87/081, 87/104, 87/115, 87/155, 87/218
- Ivory Coast, 86/307
- Japan, 85/041, 85/109, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/047, 86/374, 86/402, 86/407, 87/209
- Jordan, 85/002, 85/051, 85/069, 85/120, 85/146, 85/175, 85/189, 85/211, 85/294, 85/305, 85/309, 85/318, 86/023, 86/026, 86/071, 86/286
- Kenya, 85/229, 86/010
- Kuwait, 87/026, 87/077
- Laos, 86/275
- Lebanon, 85/016, 85/039, 85/051, 85/068, 85/069, 85/092, 85/096, 85/107, 85/146, 85/175, 85/189, 85/192, 85/250, 85/270, 85/312, 85/314, 85/318, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/178, 86/186, 86/243, 86/252, 86/275, 86/300, 86/306, 86/321, 86/324, 86/376, 86/407, 87/025, 87/095, 87/097, 87/119, 87/186, 87/187
- Lesotho, 86/067, 86/159, 86/211
- Libya, 85/005, 85/031, 85/078, 85/259, 86/078, 86/081, 86/099, 86/119, 86/133, 86/149, 86/164, 86/168, 86/172, 86/221, 86/224, 86/244, 86/252, 86/275, 86/276, 86/324, 86/399, 86/402, 86/407, 87/007, 87/081
- Luxembourg, 85/146, 85/165, 85/166, 85/186, 85/189, 85/292, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/052, 86/055, 86/141, 86/161, 86/227, 87/081
- Malta, 85/049, 86/407, 87/017
- Mexico, 85/189, 86/115, 87/133
- Morocco, 85/284, 86/157, 86/166, 86/208, 86/255, 86/314, 86/320, 86/391, 87/001, 87/026, 87/055, 87/076, 87/083, 87/092, 87/104, 87/220
- Mozambique, 85/002, 85/015, 85/068, 85/096, 86/065, 86/067, 86/068, 86/072, 86/303, 86/307, 86/392, 87/001, 87/190
- Namibia, 85/002, 85/070, 85/112, 85/146, 85/161, 85/167, 85/187, 85/189, 85/195, 85/219, 85/238, 85/279, 85/300, 85/327, 85/337 (Vol. 1986-1), 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/004, 86/005, 86/006, 86/007, 86/008, 86/067, 86/068, 86/072, 86/106, 86/152, 86/162, 86/180, 86/197, 86/199, 86/202, 86/212, 86/216, 86/217, 86/218, 86/234, 86/247, 86/273, 86/274, 86/275, 86/306, 86/307, 86/327, 86/354, 86/363, 86/365, 86/407, 85/343 (Vol. 1987-1), 87/015, 87/045, 87/047, 87/048, 87/049, 87/050, 87/056, 87/069, 87/186
- Netherlands, The -, 85/126, 85/165, 85/166, 85/186, 85/292, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/025, 86/052, 86/055, 86/076, 86/096, 86/115, 86/140, 86/141, 86/162, 86/164, 86/165, 86/189, 86/198, 86/227, 86/272, 87/004, 87/081, 87/115, 87/161

- New Zealand, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/016, 86/160, 87/062, 87/216
- Nicaragua, 85/029, 85/032, 85/058, 85/077, 85/108, 85/111, 85/199, 85/253, 85/275, 86/050, 86/053, 86/062, 86/080, 86/085, 86/111, 86/130, 86/133, 86/176, 86/233, 86/251, 86/319, 86/368, 86/381, 86/384, 87/016, 87/024, 87/031, 87/057, 87/066, 87/079, 87/094, 87/096, 87/142, 87/157, 87/159, 87/210
- Nigeria, 85/110, 85/216, 86/014, 86/031, 86/190, 86/285, 86/346
- North Korea, 85/101, 85/189, 85/199, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/275
- Norway, 85/041, 85/055
- Pakistan, 85/057, 85/068, 85/099, 85/162, 85/189, 85/201, 85/251, 85/331, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/091, 86/096, 86/285, 86/290, 86/340, 87/143
- Panama, 85/253, 85/297, 86/150, 86/164, 87/096, 87/133
- Paraguay, 85/189, 87/094, 87/103, 87/225
- Peru, 85/173, 85/297, 86/152, 86/284, 86/341, 87/044, 87/081, 87/186
- Philippines, 85/262, 85/332, 86/070, 86/075, 86/089, 86/132, 86/138, 86/213, 86/363, 86/407, 87/035, 87/093, 87/209
- Poland, 85/002, 85/046, 85/146, 85/158, 85/189, 85/287, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/092, 86/121, 86/137, 86/151, 86/270, 86/363, 86/372, 86/407, 87/008, 87/081, 87/181, 87/187, 87/195, 87/209
- Portugal, 85/041, 85/044, 85/141, 85/164, 85/165, 85/166, 85/168, 85/169, 85/170, 85/171, 85/172, 85/173, 85/174, 85/186, 85/187, 85/188, 85/191, 85/194, 85/195, 85/196, 85/209, 85/214, 85/216, 85/217, 85/221, 85/224, 85/225, 85/228, 85/229, 85/232, 85/234, 85/239, 85/240, 85/241, 85/249, 85/250, 85/251, 85/253, 85/254, 85/255, 85/263, 85/272, 85/275, 85/279, 85/289, 85/292, 85/293, 85/294, 85/295, 85/296, 85/297, 85/300, 85/302, 85/303, 85/304, 85/306, 85/307, 85/310, 85/312, 85/313, 85/315, 85/318, 85/321, 85/324, 85/325, 85/326, 85/327, 85/328, 85/330, 85/331, 85/332, 85/337 (Vol. 1986-1), 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/018, 86/052, 86/055, 86/198, 86/227, 86/309, 86/407, 87/081, 87/087, 87/096, 87/100, 87/111, 87/161, 87/193
- Romania, 86/151, 86/372, 86/402, 86/407, 87/081, 87/223
- Rwanda, 87/202
- Saudi Arabia, 85/243, 86/285
- Senegal, 85/221
- Somalia, 85/231, 86/275
- South Africa, 85/002, 85/015, 85/030, 85/040, 85/048, 85/050, 85/051, 85/061, 85/068, 85/070, 85/086, 85/087, 85/094, 85/112, 85/121, 85/135, 85/144, 85/146, 85/152, 85/157, 85/161, 85/164, 85/166, 85/167, 85/169, 85/170, 85/171, 85/172, 85/186, 85/187, 85/189, 85/194, 85/209, 85/214, 85/221, 85/228, 85/238, 85/279, 85/282, 85/288, 85/291, 85/292, 85/293, 85/300, 85/315, 85/318, 85/320, 85/321, 85/324, 85/325, 85/327, 85/337 (Vol. 1986-1), 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/003, 86/014, 86/020, 86/025, 86/030, 86/037, 86/038, 86/040, 86/058, 86/063, 86/065, 86/067, 86/068, 86/069, 86/072, 86/074, 86/076, 86/086, 86/097, 86/102, 86/118, 86/126, 86/127, 86/136, 86/137, 86/140, 86/152, 86/153, 86/158, 86/159, 86/161, 86/164, 86/165, 86/173, 86/175, 86/179, 86/180, 86/183, 86/185, 86/187, 86/189, 86/190, 86/195, 86/198, 86/199, 86/204, 86/206, 86/211, 86/217, 86/218, 86/219, 86/234, 86/237, 86/238, 86/247, 86/257, 86/262, 86/263, 86/264, 86/271, 86/273, 86/274, 86/275, 86/277, 86/285, 86/291, 86/296, 86/303, 86/307, 86/308, 86/322, 86/323, 86/326, 86/327, 86/347, 86/349, 86/354, 86/361, 86/363, 86/365, 86/384, 86/386, 86/392, 86/397, 86/402, 86/406, 86/407, 85/343 (Vol. 1987-1), 87/001, 87/003, 87/006, 87/008, 87/015, 87/020, 87/025, 87/043, 87/051, 87/061, 87/064, 87/065, 87/067, 87/070, 87/078, 87/086, 87/101, 87/136, 87/139, 87/145, 87/164, 87/165, 87/186, 87/187, 87/188, 87/196, 87/209, 87/213, 87/214, 87/218, 87/221
- South Korea, 85/101, 85/189, 85/278, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1)
- Soviet Union, 85/002, 85/008, 85/014, 85/023, 85/035, 85/051, 85/056, 85/068, 85/083, 85/088, 85/089, 85/096, 85/114, 85/117, 85/146, 85/150, 85/153, 85/162, 85/179, 85/189, 85/198, 85/217, 85/220, 85/251, 85/258, 85/259, 85/269, 85/276, 85/300, 85/306, 85/318, 85/330,

Index

- 85/331, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/009, 86/022, 86/027, 86/029, 86/034, 86/047, 86/052, 86/056, 86/059, 86/100, 86/107, 86/110, 86/137, 86/140, 86/148, 86/151, 86/170, 86/182, 86/198, 86/220, 86/222, 86/232, 86/240, 86/254, 86/265, 86/275, 86/278, 86/287, 86/288, 86/300, 86/306, 86/308, 86/340, 86/343, 86/344, 86/363, 86/374, 86/383, 86/384, 86/394, 86/402, 86/404, 86/405, 86/407, 87/001, 87/002, 87/018, 87/030, 87/081, 87/085, 87/089, 87/099, 87/121, 87/148, 87/151, 87/152, 87/158, 87/162, 87/175, 87/176, 87/187, 87/204, 87/209
- Spain, 85/036, 85/041, 85/044, 85/136, 85/164, 85/165, 85/166, 85/168, 85/169, 85/170, 85/171, 85/172, 85/173, 85/174, 85/186, 85/187, 85/188, 85/189, 85/191, 85/194, 85/195, 85/196, 85/209, 85/214, 85/216, 85/217, 85/221, 85/224, 85/225, 85/228, 85/229, 85/232, 85/234, 85/239, 85/240, 85/241, 85/249, 85/250, 85/251, 85/253, 85/254, 85/255, 85/263, 85/269, 85/272, 85/275, 85/279, 85/289, 85/292, 85/293, 85/294, 85/295, 85/296, 85/297, 85/300, 85/302, 85/303, 85/304, 85/306, 85/307, 85/310, 85/312, 85/313, 85/315, 85/318, 85/321, 85/324, 85/325, 85/326, 85/327, 85/328, 85/330, 85/331, 85/332, 85/337 (Vol. 1986-1), 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/009, 86/022, 86/027, 86/029, 86/034, 86/052, 86/055, 86/077, 86/133, 86/198, 86/227, 86/252, 86/309, 86/314, 87/026, 87/055, 87/076, 87/081, 87/096, 87/104, 87/117, 87/193, 87/194
- Sri Lanka, 85/026, 86/088, 86/140, 86/141, 86/228, 86/275, 87/163, 87/186, 87/203, 87/209
- Sudan, 85/071, 85/096, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/060, 86/163, 86/231, 86/231, 86/275, 86/363, 86/407
- Surinam, 85/189
- Swaziland, 85/307
- Sweden, 85/041, 85/055
- Syria, 85/016, 85/039, 85/068, 85/096, 85/116, 85/120, 86/011, 86/099, 86/143, 86/171, 86/178, 86/351, 86/377, 86/400, 86/402, 86/407, 87/032, 87/036, 87/038, 87/068, 87/180
- Tanzania, 86/072
- Thailand, 85/012, 85/068, 85/123, 85/189, 85/237, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/304, 86/306
- Tunisia, 85/191, 87/081, 87/106
- Turkey, 85/018, 85/019, 85/038, 85/041, 85/047, 85/052, 85/059, 85/062, 85/105, 85/115, 85/130, 85/131, 85/134, 85/146, 85/176, 85/177, 85/181, 85/268, 85/285, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/035, 86/049, 86/057, 86/113, 86/122, 86/125, 86/128, 86/137, 86/143, 86/145, 86/169, 86/187, 86/192, 86/201, 86/214, 86/236, 86/252, 86/256, 86/260, 86/280, 86/281, 86/309, 86/313, 86/316, 86/317, 86/385, 86/402, 86/403, 86/407, 87/023, 87/041, 87/074, 87/107, 87/120, 87/124, 87/125, 87/150, 87/160, 87/173, 87/174, 87/179, 87/191, 87/209, 87/224, 87/226
- Uganda, 85/020, 85/063, 85/065, 86/010, 86/152, 86/363, 87/186
- United Kingdom, 85/027, 85/035, 85/036, 85/037, 85/052, 85/067, 85/082, 85/142, 85/145, 85/160, 85/186, 85/202, 85/203, 85/222, 85/248, 85/260, 85/292, 86/031, 86/042, 86/052, 86/055, 86/094, 86/115, 86/121, 86/133, 86/134, 86/141, 86/149, 86/159, 86/164, 86/165, 86/185, 86/198, 86/200, 86/225, 86/227, 86/252, 86/278, 86/279, 86/280, 86/298, 86/308, 86/402, 87/002, 87/010, 87/070, 87/081, 87/087, 87/090, 87/098, 87/115, 87/123, 87/154, 87/155, 87/208, 87/216
- United States, 85/002, 85/003, 85/011, 85/014, 85/029, 85/032, 85/035, 85/037, 85/040, 85/041, 85/058, 85/068, 85/076, 85/077, 85/082, 85/083, 85/101, 85/108, 85/109, 85/111, 85/122, 85/144, 85/146, 85/147, 85/151, 85/156, 85/189, 85/199, 85/217, 85/221, 85/271, 85/275, 85/306, 85/318, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/044, 86/048, 86/052, 86/053, 86/055, 86/062, 86/068, 86/080, 86/081, 86/095, 86/110, 86/111, 86/130, 86/133, 86/140, 86/148, 86/149, 86/168, 86/176, 86/198, 86/221, 86/222, 86/223, 86/224, 86/237, 86/251, 86/252, 86/253, 86/254, 86/285, 86/287, 86/300, 86/308, 86/310, 86/319, 86/324, 86/343, 86/368, 86/381, 86/384, 86/386, 86/396, 86/399, 86/402, 86/407, 87/001, 87/010, 87/031, 87/052, 87/053, 87/060, 87/066, 87/070, 87/081, 87/082, 87/098, 87/122, 87/128, 87/134, 87/135, 87/143, 87/151, 87/159, 87/204, 87/228
- Uruguay, 85/002, 85/006, 85/051, 85/102, 85/173, 85/297, 86/152

Venezuela, 87/096, 87/133
 Vietnam, 85/002, 85/011, 85/012, 85/068, 85/123, 85/146, 85/189, 85/237, 85/260, 85/300, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/137, 86/139, 86/156, 86/275, 86/304, 86/306, 86/363, 86/407, 87/058
 Yugoslavia, 85/149, 85/244, 85/260, 86/181, 86/338, 86/407
 Zaire, 85/207, 87/001, 87/067
 Zambia, 85/135, 86/004, 86/006, 86/007, 86/067, 86/068, 86/153, 86/173, 86/198, 86/386, 86/407, 87/015, 87/164, 87/201, 87/209
 Zimbabwe, 86/012, 86/066, 86/073, 86/153, 86/173, 86/198, 86/386, 86/407, 87/015

Regions and Subregions

Africa, 85/096, 85/146, 85/189, 85/219, 85/227, 85/252, 85/295, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/013, 86/108, 86/155, 86/198, 86/275, 86/298
 Front-Line States, 85/040, 85/135, 85/146, 85/172, 85/186, 85/187, 85/189, 85/194, 85/228, 85/279, 85/337 (Vol. 1986-1), 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/025, 86/067, 86/068, 86/069, 86/072, 86/074, 86/086, 86/118, 86/136, 86/164, 86/187, 86/204, 86/211, 86/263, 86/273, 86/275, 86/277, 86/307, 86/347, 86/354, 86/407, 87/025, 87/043, 87/101, 87/164, 87/188
 Horn of Africa, 85/002, 85/147, 85/189, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/047, 86/231, 86/275, 86/407, 87/187
 Maghreb, 86/166, 86/314
 Southern Africa, 85/002, 85/015, 85/068, 85/094, 85/096, 85/112, 85/146, 85/147, 85/152, 85/161, 85/186, 85/187, 85/189, 85/194, 85/221, 85/295, 85/300, 85/337 (Vol. 1986-1), 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/025, 86/047, 86/067, 86/068, 86/072, 86/086, 86/137, 86/140, 86/153, 86/164, 86/173, 86/185, 86/198, 86/199, 86/238, 86/247, 86/263, 86/264, 86/273, 86/275, 86/303, 86/306, 86/307, 86/347, 86/386, 86/392, 86/407, 87/018, 87/061, 87/101, 87/188, 87/190, 87/209
 Western Sahara, 85/284, 86/152, 86/314, 86/390, 87/026, 87/076, 87/104, 87/186, 87/220
 America
 Central America, 85/001, 85/002, 85/017, 85/032, 85/051, 85/058, 85/068, 85/077, 85/096, 85/108, 85/111, 85/133, 85/139, 85/146, 85/173, 85/182, 85/189, 85/200, 85/245, 85/253, 85/275, 85/277, 85/297, 85/300, 85/318, 85/340 (Vol. 1986-1), 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/001, 86/024, 86/025, 86/043, 86/046, 86/050, 86/080, 86/084, 86/085, 86/111, 86/117, 86/130, 86/137, 86/150, 86/154, 86/164, 86/176, 86/188, 86/193, 86/196, 86/233, 86/251, 86/261, 86/275, 86/312, 86/319, 86/362, 86/363, 86/368, 86/381, 86/384, 86/398, 86/407, 87/016, 87/025, 87/031, 87/054, 87/057, 87/073, 87/079, 87/080, 87/096, 87/128, 87/131, 87/142, 87/157, 87/159, 87/171, 87/187, 87/209, 87/210, 87/229
 Falklands/Malvinas, 86/221, 87/042
 Latin America, 85/002, 85/017, 85/044, 85/051, 85/058, 85/096, 85/102, 85/146, 85/189, 85/253, 85/297, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/025, 86/176, 86/183, 86/275, 86/298, 86/336, 86/336, 86/407, 87/096, 87/132, 87/133, 87/135, 87/142, 87/171, 87/209, 87/227
 South America, 85/017, 85/085, 85/189, 86/275, 86/363
 Asia, 85/096, 86/298, 86/336, 87/187
 Hong Kong, 85/160, 85/204, 85/260
 Persian Gulf, 85/002, 85/004, 85/043, 85/051, 85/146, 85/189, 86/096, 86/147, 86/209, 86/275, 87/033, 87/189, 87/206, 87/208, 87/217
 South Asia, 85/342 (Vol. 1986-1)
 Southeast Asia, 85/002, 85/012, 85/189, 85/237, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/306
 Timor, 85/141, 87/100, 87/111, 87/161
 Europe, 85/003, 85/035, 85/078, 85/150, 85/189, 85/217, 85/240, 85/274, 85/330, 85/336 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/025, 86/047, 86/119, 86/123, 86/137, 86/198, 86/298, 86/341, 87/007
 Balkans, 85/149

Baltic Countries, 85/008, 85/076
Berlin, 86/363, 86/377, 86/402
Central Europe, 85/023, 85/217, 86/298
Eastern Europe, 85/023, 85/051, 85/076, 85/114, 85/137, 85/146, 85/150, 85/189, 85/318, 85/330, 86/293, 87/025, 87/187, 87/204
Gibraltar, 85/036, 86/279
Mediterranean, 85/010, 85/040, 85/051, 85/259, 85/336 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/061, 86/119, 86/133, 86/140, 86/172, 86/275, 87/166
Northern Ireland, 85/009, 86/225
Scandinavia, 85/221
Western Europe, 85/023, 85/033, 85/076, 85/080, 85/109, 85/114, 85/122, 85/137, 86/140, 86/293
Middle East, 85/002, 85/016, 85/042, 85/051, 85/054, 85/068, 85/069, 85/096, 85/116, 85/120, 85/146, 85/175, 85/189, 85/191, 85/195, 85/231, 85/233, 85/238, 85/250, 85/294, 85/300, 85/305, 85/309, 85/312, 85/318, 85/326, 85/328, 85/330, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/025, 86/026, 86/052, 86/093, 86/133, 86/140, 86/144, 86/152, 86/164, 86/171, 86/200, 86/267, 86/275, 86/286, 86/306, 86/324, 86/327, 86/330, 86/351, 86/359, 86/363, 86/373, 86/376, 86/378, 86/379, 86/380, 86/384, 86/393, 86/407, 87/025, 87/028, 87/083, 87/084, 87/095, 87/114, 87/119, 87/121, 87/126, 87/155, 87/187, 87/209, 87/222
Gaza Strip, 85/231, 85/270, 86/324, 86/359, 86/373, 86/402, 87/126
Golan Heights, 85/231, 85/309, 85/312, 86/359, 86/376, 86/378
Jerusalem, 85/231, 85/309, 85/312, 86/321, 86/359, 86/373, 86/378
West Bank, 85/231, 85/250, 85/270, 86/324, 86/359, 86/373, 86/376, 86/402, 87/126

International Organizations and Political Groupings

ACP States, 85/044, 85/051, 86/234, 87/215
African National Congress, 85/186, 85/194, 85/221, 85/318, 86/068, 86/072, 86/086, 86/127, 86/136, 86/153, 86/159, 86/173, 86/183, 86/185, 86/187, 86/277, 86/296, 86/307, 86/347, 86/386, 86/402, 86/407, 87/001, 87/043, 87/136, 87/145, 87/188
Amnesty International, 85/074, 85/136, 85/146, 86/073, 86/166, 86/192, 86/201, 86/359, 86/363, 87/156, 87/170
Arab League, 85/226, 86/096, 86/133, 86/140, 86/200, 86/286, 86/301, 86/407, 87/025, 87/119, 87/129, 87/209
ASEAN, 85/012, 85/041, 85/051, 85/123, 85/237, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/047, 86/089, 86/139, 86/275, 86/304, 86/306, 86/402, 86/407, 87/025, 87/100, 87/113, 87/209
Central American States, 85/001, 85/002, 85/017, 85/041, 85/051, 85/058, 85/068, 85/077, 85/095, 85/133, 85/139, 85/253, 85/297, 85/340 (Vol. 1986-1), 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/251, 86/362, 86/363, 86/368, 86/381, 86/398, 86/407, 87/016, 87/025, 87/031, 87/054, 87/057, 87/096, 87/128, 87/131, 87/132, 87/133, 87/134, 87/135, 87/141, 87/142, 87/157, 87/159, 87/171, 87/209
COMECON, 85/114, 86/343, 87/121, 87/182
Commonwealth, 86/068, 86/136, 86/164, 86/165, 86/183, 86/386, 86/402, 86/407, 87/020
Contadora Group, 85/001, 85/002, 85/017, 85/029, 85/032, 85/041, 85/051, 85/056, 85/058, 85/068, 85/077, 85/096, 85/108, 85/111, 85/133, 85/139, 85/146, 85/147, 85/173, 85/189, 85/200, 85/245, 85/253, 85/275, 85/277, 85/297, 85/300, 85/318, 85/340 (Vol. 1986-1), 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/001, 86/024, 86/025, 86/043, 86/046, 86/050, 86/062, 86/085, 86/111, 86/117, 86/154, 86/164, 86/235, 86/239, 86/261, 86/275, 86/319, 86/362, 86/363, 86/398, 86/407, 87/016, 87/025, 87/031, 87/054, 87/057, 87/096, 87/128, 87/134, 87/135, 87/141, 87/142, 87/157, 87/159, 87/171, 87/209, 87/229
Council of Europe, 85/041, 85/060, 85/068, 85/115, 85/132, 85/272, 86/093, 86/137, 86/169, 86/182, 86/183, 86/201, 86/241, 86/281, 86/337, 86/407, 87/014, 87/087, 87/173, 87/174, 87/178

- CSCE, 85/002, 85/003, 85/014, 85/023, 85/068, 85/072, 85/113, 85/146, 85/147, 85/153, 85/154, 85/189, 85/300, 85/306, 85/318, 85/330, 85/336 (Vol. 1986-1), 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/009, 86/025, 86/029, 86/032, 86/047, 86/056, 86/071, 86/110, 86/123, 86/124, 86/137, 86/140, 86/164, 86/182, 86/222, 86/230, 86/293, 86/298, 86/341, 86/343, 86/367, 87/030, 87/121, 87/158, 87/162, 87/166, 87/182, 87/187, 87/208, 87/223
- Berne Expert Meeting on Human Contacts, 85/189, 85/330, 85/336 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/032, 86/095, 86/107, 86/123, 86/124, 86/137, 86/140, 86/164, 86/258, 86/278, 86/343, 86/388, 86/407, 87/030, 87/176, 87/187, 87/223
- Budapest Cultural Forum, 85/014, 85/189, 85/318, 85/336 (Vol. 1986-1), 85/339 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/110, 86/123, 86/137, 87/223
- Madrid Conference, 85/076, 85/088, 85/089, 86/137, 87/166
- Ottawa Expert Meeting on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, 85/002, 85/014, 85/072, 85/076, 85/088, 85/089, 85/103, 85/113, 85/146, 85/153, 85/154, 85/159, 85/179, 85/189, 85/276, 85/336 (Vol. 1986-1), 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/056, 86/107, 86/110, 86/123, 86/137, 86/258, 86/343, 86/388, 87/030, 87/223
- Stockholm Conference on Security and Confidence-Building Measures in Europe, 85/002, 85/003, 85/004, 85/146, 85/147, 85/189, 85/240, 85/249, 85/318, 85/330, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/032, 86/047, 86/110, 86/123, 86/140, 86/275, 86/298, 86/308, 86/336, 86/343, 86/367, 86/407, 87/085, 87/166, 87/208
- Vienna Follow-up Meeting, 85/336 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/032, 86/123, 86/137, 86/140, 86/210, 86/275, 86/278, 86/288, 86/308, 86/343, 86/363, 86/384, 86/402, 86/407, 87/030, 87/089, 87/099, 87/121, 87/158, 87/162, 87/176, 87/182, 87/187, 87/208, 87/209, 87/223
- European Commission on Human Rights, 85/300, 86/201, 86/241, 86/281
- European Communities, 85/002, 85/007, 85/018, 85/040, 85/047, 85/051, 85/052, 85/056, 85/057, 85/077, 85/079, 85/096, 85/114, 85/173, 85/185, 85/186, 85/189, 85/201, 85/205, 85/219, 85/221, 85/250, 85/251, 85/252, 85/253, 85/254, 85/297, 86/025, 86/026, 86/096, 86/138, 86/192, 86/198, 86/241, 86/279, 86/343, 86/347, 86/359, 86/385, 86/403, 86/407, 87/018, 87/028, 87/173, 87/174
- European Court of Human Rights, 85/300, 86/241, 87/156
- European Space Agency, 85/132, 86/140, 86/374
- Geneva Disarmament Conference, 85/122, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/047, 86/051, 86/140, 86/269, 86/308, 86/330, 86/332, 86/334
- Group of 77, 85/229, 85/313, 85/335 (Vol. 1986-1)
- Gulf Cooperation Council, 85/294, 85/312, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/096, 86/407
- International Atomic Energy Agency, 85/193, 85/233, 86/058, 86/190, 86/275, 86/330, 86/343
- International Civil Aviation Organization, 85/163, 85/178, 85/225, 86/064, 86/093, 87/146, 87/205
- International Court of Justice, 85/275, 85/319, 86/111, 86/319, 86/398, 87/017, 87/210
- International Development Association, 85/129, 86/155
- International Labour Organization, 85/273, 85/311, 86/052, 86/137, 86/179, 86/183, 86/213, 87/107, 87/125
- International Law Commission, 85/303
- International Maritime Organization, 85/225, 87/146, 87/205
- International Monetary Fund, 85/189
- International Red Cross, 85/090, 85/141, 86/186, 86/193, 86/323, 86/359, 86/363, 86/376
- International Seabed Authority, 85/079
- Interpol, 85/098
- Islamic Conference, 85/251, 87/077
- NATO, 85/036, 85/106, 85/128, 86/133, 86/140, 86/207, 86/266, 86/308, 86/311, 86/384, 86/401, 87/122, 87/152, 87/175, 87/208
- Nordic Council, 86/311
- Organization of African Unity, 85/002, 85/189, 85/252, 85/279, 85/284, 85/295, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/013, 86/273, 86/354
- Organization of American States, 85/253, 87/096

- Pacifist movements, 85/053
- PLO, 85/002, 85/051, 85/069, 85/189, 85/191, 85/231, 85/309, 85/312, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/267, 86/373, 86/376, 86/378, 86/384, 87/119
- Polisario Front, 85/284, 87/026
- Red Cross, see International Red Cross
- South Asia Regional Cooperation, 85/342 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/116
- Southern African Development Coordination Conference, 85/172, 85/186, 85/194, 85/228, 85/279, 86/067, 86/072, 86/118, 86/136, 86/159, 86/173, 86/238, 86/263, 86/277, 86/347, 87/145
- SWAPO, 85/279, 85/327, 86/005, 86/006, 86/072, 86/199, 86/247, 86/273, 86/274, 86/354, 86/365, 87/050, 87/056, 87/199
- UNESCO, 85/037, 85/073, 85/246, 85/255, 85/263, 85/313, 85/338 (Vol. 1986-1), 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/042, 86/048, 86/052, 86/055, 86/137, 86/240, 86/345
- UNIFIL, 85/069, 85/189, 85/195, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/275, 86/300, 86/407, 87/095, 87/119
- United Nations, 85/002, 85/016, 85/025, 85/053, 85/056, 85/061, 85/068, 85/070, 85/076, 85/079, 85/087, 85/095, 85/129, 85/140, 85/146, 85/147, 85/167, 85/168, 85/184, 85/189, 85/190, 85/194, 85/195, 85/196, 85/213, 85/218, 85/219, 85/224, 85/226, 85/227, 85/229, 85/233, 85/235, 85/236, 85/238, 85/243, 85/249, 85/250, 85/251, 85/255, 85/271, 85/279, 85/295, 85/299, 85/300, 85/301, 85/311, 85/314, 85/315, 85/316, 85/318, 85/327, 85/335 (Vol. 1986-1), 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/047, 86/048, 86/055, 86/058, 86/067, 86/068, 86/135, 86/137, 86/140, 86/183, 86/199, 86/247, 86/273, 86/274, 86/280, 86/297, 86/301, 86/305, 86/308, 86/310, 86/337, 86/345, 86/349, 86/354, 86/355, 86/365, 86/371, 86/407, 87/012, 87/114, 87/119, 87/145, 87/167, 87/186, 87/208
- Budgetary questions and financial problems, 85/037, 85/073, 85/147, 85/190, 85/195, 85/196, 85/215, 85/218, 85/219, 85/227, 85/235, 85/236, 85/250, 85/252, 85/271, 85/299, 85/301, 85/316, 85/326, 85/329, 86/052, 86/104, 86/108, 86/135, 86/152, 86/275, 86/277, 86/295, 86/297, 86/298, 86/300, 86/301, 86/306, 86/310, 86/324, 86/331, 86/333, 86/345, 86/346, 86/348, 86/349, 86/363, 86/365, 86/366, 86/371, 86/374, 86/379, 87/167, 87 86
- ECOSOC, 85/218, 85/227, 85/235, 85/236, 85/300, 86/114, 86/137, 86/152, 86/155, 86/337, 86/363, 87/165, 87/187
- General Assembly, 85/025, 85/027, 85/053, 85/056, 85/104, 85/133, 85/189, 85/190, 85/194, 85/196, 85/215, 85/218, 85/226, 85/227, 85/230, 85/231, 85/233, 85/234, 85/235, 85/236, 85/237, 85/238, 85/239, 85/249, 85/250, 85/251, 85/255, 85/271, 85/279, 85/287, 85/290, 85/295, 85/298, 85/299, 85/300, 85/301, 85/303, 85/306, 85/309, 85/311, 85/314, 85/315, 85/316, 85/318, 85/322, 85/327, 85/331, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/061, 86/115, 86/135, 86/137, 86/140, 86/165, 86/174, 86/273, 86/277, 86/295, 86/298, 86/302, 86/308, 86/329, 86/331, 86/332, 86/333, 86/340, 86/349, 86/363, 86/369, 86/407, 87/005, 87/040, 87/082, 87/167, 87/208
- First (Political and Security) Committee, 85/053, 85/217, 85/234, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/298, 86/332, 86/333, 86/334, 86/335, 86/336, 87/167
- Special Political Committee, 85/255, 85/270, 86/137, 86/345
- Second (Economic and Financial) Committee, 85/316
- Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committee, 85/238, 85/251, 85/290, 85/300, 85/322, 86/137, 86/152, 86/329, 86/340, 86/364, 86/375, 87/187
- Fourth (Trusteeship) Committee, 85/230
- Fifth (Administrative and Budgetary) Committee, 85/190, 85/196, 85/215, 85/227, 85/236, 85/271, 85/299, 85/301, 85/314, 86/052, 86/297, 86/348, 86/366
- Sixth (Legal) Committee, 85/307, 86/305, 86/329, 86/346, 86/372
- Secretariat, 85/218, 85/227, 85/235, 85/311, 85/314, 86/052, 86/295, 86/356, 86/363, 86/366, 86/371, 87/186
- Secretary-General, 85/002, 85/013, 85/016, 85/030, 85/038, 85/056, 85/068, 85/069, 85/095, 85/146, 85/162, 85/167, 85/176, 85/185, 85/189, 85/194, 85/195, 85/217, 85/218, 85/219, 85/226, 85/227, 85/231, 85/233, 85/234, 85/235, 85/237, 85/241, 85/249, 85/251, 85/252, 85/255, 85/263, 85/271, 85/279, 85/295, 85/297, 85/300, 85/301, 85/306, 85/312, 85/314,

85/314, 85/327, 85/331, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/025, 86/051, 86/087, 86/096, 86/100, 86/105, 86/106, 86/115, 86/135, 86/145, 86/152, 86/186, 86/199, 86/209, 86/246, 86/247, 86/273, 86/275, 86/280, 86/300, 86/301, 86/304, 86/305, 86/306, 86/313, 86/314, 86/316, 86/324, 86/330, 86/337, 86/340, 86/341, 86/348, 86/354, 86/367, 86/376, 86/383, 86/385, 86/390, 86/391, 86/403, 86/407, 86/407, 87/002, 87/076, 87/077, 87/096, 87/104, 87/106, 87/119, 87/127, 87/143, 87/146, 87/165, 87/173, 87/174, 87/189, 87/206, 87/220

Security Council, 85/004, 85/068, 85/069, 85/146, 85/164, 85/166, 85/168, 85/195, 85/219, 85/225, 85/279, 85/300, 85/305, 85/306, 85/309, 85/312, 85/315, 85/327, 85/328, 86/061, 86/087, 86/105, 86/165, 86/186, 86/274, 86/300, 86/324, 86/349, 86/365, 86/367, 86/380, 87/007, 87/095, 87/097, 87/165, 87/173, 87/189, 87/206

United Nations Commission on Human Rights, 85/022, 85/056, 85/117, 85/140, 85/206, 85/213, 85/223, 85/251, 85/300, 85/331, 86/049, 86/137, 86/152, 86/177, 86/188, 86/232, 86/310, 86/312, 86/339, 86/340, 86/346, 86/356, 86/363, 86/407, 87/165, 87/174, 87/186, 87/187

High Commissioner for Human Rights, 85/189, 85/300

United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, 85/290, 86/277, 87/165

United Nations Conference on Disarmament, 85/217, 85/241, 85/289, 86/298, 86/333, 86/374

United Nations Council for Namibia, 85/327, 86/162, 86/197, 86/202, 86/247

United Nations Development Programme, 85/190, 86/240

United Nations Disarmament Commission, 85/240, 85/263, 86/298, 86/333, 86/335, 86/336, 86/355, 86/357

United Nations Disaster Relief Office, 86/115

United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, 85/218, 85/236

United Nations Environment Programme, 85/193

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 85/190, 85/213, 85/252, 86/004, 86/141, 87/072

United Nations Industrial Development Organization, 85/189, 85/227, 85/301, 86/371

UNRWA, 85/250, 85/270, 86/186, 86/324, 86/359, 86/373, 86/376, 86/407

Warsaw Pact, 85/002, 86/140, 86/167

WEU, 85/007, 85/034, 85/066, 85/106, 85/128, 85/132, 85/150, 86/140, 86/283, 86/308, 87/014, 87/025, 87/122, 87/175, 87/193, 87/208

World Bank, 85/189, 86/155

World Health Organization, 85/193, 85/311, 86/114, 86/131, 87/003

Issues

Armed conflict, 85/002, 85/004, 85/043, 85/051, 85/068, 85/069, 85/090, 85/097, 85/120, 85/146, 85/162, 85/187, 85/217, 85/241, 85/294, 85/327, 85/331, 86/025, 86/067, 86/096, 86/105, 86/177, 86/191, 86/209, 86/246, 86/275, 87/025, 87/209, 87/217

Civil objectives, civil victims, 85/002, 85/069, 85/090, 85/189, 85/250, 85/251, 85/312, 86/001, 86/188, 86/199, 86/246, 86/359, 86/407, 87/119, 87/143, 87/187, 87/189

Civil war, 85/295, 85/315

Incursions, 85/012, 85/068, 85/112, 85/135, 85/146, 85/187, 85/279, 86/199, 86/204, 86/247, 86/273, 86/275, 86/304, 86/307

Invasion; occupation, 85/016, 85/068, 85/090, 85/117, 85/167, 85/189, 85/231, 85/237, 85/251, 85/270, 85/279, 85/300, 85/305, 85/309, 85/312, 85/327, 85/331, 86/067, 86/068, 86/199, 86/247, 86/273, 86/275, 86/304, 86/306, 86/354, 86/365, 86/373, 86/376, 86/383, 86/394, 87/015

Neutrality, 85/002, 85/007, 85/237, 85/284

Prisoners of war, 85/090, 85/189, 85/269, 85/300, 85/312, 87/026

Refugees, 85/012, 85/056, 85/162, 85/176, 85/186, 85/189, 85/190, 85/213, 85/237, 85/250, 85/251, 85/252, 85/260, 85/270, 85/295, 85/300, 85/331, 86/004, 86/005, 86/013, 86/076, 86/137, 86/141, 86/186, 86/231, 86/275, 86/292, 86/304, 86/324, 86/340, 86/360, 86/363, 86/376, 86/407, 87/005, 87/047, 87/049, 87/050, 87/072, 87/075, 87/097, 87/112, 87/143, 87/174, 87/186, 87/187

War criminals, 85/098, 85/247, 87/098
War victims, 85/011

Conflict resolution

Good offices, mediation, 85/013, 85/038, 85/162, 85/185, 85/189, 85/251, 85/312, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/141, 86/209, 86/275, 86/280, 86/316, 86/376, 86/385, 87/002, 87/077, 87/119, 87/127, 87/173, 87/206
Negotiated solution, 85/054, 85/058, 85/069, 85/182, 85/185, 85/189, 85/245, 85/251, 85/253, 85/294, 85/318, 85/340 (Vol. 1986-1), 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/024, 86/025, 86/043, 86/071, 86/080, 86/105, 86/111, 86/150, 86/154, 86/209, 86/231, 86/232, 86/233, 86/235, 86/239, 86/251, 86/275, 86/306, 86/373, 86/379, 86/393, 86/407, 87/025, 87/084, 87/096, 87/119, 87/159, 87/209
Peace-keeping forces, 85/069, 85/147, 85/189, 85/219, 85/301, 85/306, 85/312, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/047, 86/052, 86/053, 86/135, 86/233, 86/300, 86/367, 87/081
Withdrawal of troops, 85/002, 85/012, 85/016, 85/039, 85/068, 85/069, 85/117, 85/123, 85/146, 85/162, 85/189, 85/237, 85/251, 85/253, 85/256, 85/297, 85/300, 85/312, 85/331, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/046, 86/068, 86/086, 86/232, 86/275, 86/300, 86/304, 86/306, 86/340, 86/363, 86/394, 86/407, 87/018, 87/095, 87/119, 87/143, 87/204

Culture, education

Cultural cooperation, 85/037, 85/172, 85/186, 85/194, 85/228, 85/336 (Vol. 1986-1), 85/338 (Vol. 1986-1), 85/339 (Vol. 1986-1), 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/067, 86/123, 86/343, 86/347, 87/003

Education, 85/172, 85/186, 85/194, 85/228, 85/250, 85/254, 85/336 (Vol. 1986-1), 85/338 (Vol. 1986-1), 85/339 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/076, 86/090, 86/108, 86/118, 86/136, 86/155, 86/275, 86/277, 86/324, 86/339, 86/343, 86/347, 86/359, 86/373, 86/395, 86/402

New international information order, 85/255, 85/313, 86/345

Economic relations, 85/005, 85/040, 85/077, 85/146, 85/160, 85/168, 85/177, 85/185, 85/189, 85/201, 85/221, 85/222, 86/091, 85/253, 85/258, 85/318, 85/336 (Vol. 1986-1), 85/337 (Vol. 1986-1), 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/095, 86/096, 86/118, 86/138, 86/183, 86/192, 86/197, 86/198, 86/201, 86/202, 86/218, 86/219, 86/326, 86/359, 86/369, 86/373, 87/010, 87/096, 87/119

Aid programmes, 85/024, 85/040, 85/056, 85/071, 85/096, 85/146, 85/148, 85/172, 85/186, 85/189, 85/197, 85/237, 85/312, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/013, 86/036, 86/043, 86/083, 86/086, 86/115, 86/130, 86/136, 86/138, 86/155, 86/159, 86/173, 86/176, 86/185, 86/199, 86/275, 86/307, 86/312, 86/324, 86/359, 86/362, 87/097, 87/114, 87/136, 87/145, 87/157

Code of Conduct for EC Companies in South Africa, 85/048, 85/121, 85/144, 85/146, 85/152, 85/161, 85/172, 85/186, 85/194, 85/228, 85/291, 85/292, 85/293, 85/300, 85/318, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/025, 86/038, 86/067, 86/118, 86/126, 86/136, 86/175, 86/179, 86/183, 86/195, 86/257, 86/347, 86/407, 85/343 (Vol. 1987-1), 87/009, 87/115, 87/145, 87/214

Development cooperation, 85/002, 85/051, 85/068, 85/071, 85/096, 85/146, 85/147, 85/190, 85/217, 85/219, 85/227, 85/229, 85/234, 85/252, 85/253, 85/255, 85/295, 85/297, 85/300, 85/306, 85/340 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/047, 86/065, 86/073, 86/090, 86/138, 86/155, 86/163, 86/173, 86/174, 86/176, 86/231, 86/251, 86/275, 86/277, 86/298, 86/342, 87/096, 87/186, 87/227

Economic sanctions, 85/040, 85/061, 85/087, 85/152, 85/164, 85/172, 85/186, 85/189, 85/209, 85/221, 85/228, 85/320, 85/324, 85/325, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/020, 86/025, 86/037, 86/062, 86/063, 86/074, 86/136, 86/165, 86/183, 86/185, 86/211, 86/237, 86/263, 86/271, 86/275, 86/307, 86/347, 86/363, 86/386, 86/407, 85/343 (Vol. 1987-1), 87/003, 87/006, 87/029, 87/036, 87/101, 87/101, 87/145, 87/165, 87/209, 87/213, 87/214

Boycott, 85/040, 85/087, 85/157, 86/177, 86/191

Embargo, 85/030, 85/040, 85/077, 85/087, 85/111, 85/172, 85/186, 85/194, 85/228, 85/300, 85/324, 86/003, 86/038, 86/062, 86/067, 86/118, 86/136, 86/165, 86/347, 86/368, 86/381, 86/407, 87/145, 87/218

- Energy supplies, 85/004, 85/172, 85/186, 85/194, 86/063, 86/067, 86/074, 86/136, 86/147, 86/177, 86/185, 86/187, 86/191, 86/218, 86/219, 86/275, 86/307, 86/347, 86/386, 86/407, 87/195, 87/206, 87/209
- Financial aid, 85/018, 85/047, 85/052, 85/077, 85/129, 85/177, 85/185, 85/186, 85/189, 85/190, 85/194, 85/228, 85/252, 86/065, 86/073, 86/086, 86/198, 86/230, 86/238, 86/251, 86/273, 86/275, 86/277, 86/280, 86/312, 86/359, 86/373, 87/018, 87/073, 87/096, 87/101, 87/169, 87/188, 87/209, 87/227
- Food aid, 85/148, 85/189, 85/197, 85/228, 85/237, 85/295, 86/013, 86/083, 86/231, 86/275, 86/347, 87/018
- Free trade, 85/051, 85/336 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/165
- New International Economic Order, 85/298
- North-South dialogue, 85/051, 85/189
- Technical and scientific cooperation, 85/005, 85/151, 85/172, 85/186, 85/194, 85/219, 85/228, 85/336 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/067, 86/123, 86/240, 86/275, 86/280, 86/347, 87/119
- Third world, 85/096, 85/255, 85/296, 85/318, 86/055, 86/108
- Third world debt, 85/189, 85/219, 86/155, 86/275
- European integration and cooperation, 85/317
- Common defence policy, 85/007, 86/140, 86/242
- Cultural cooperation, 85/037, 85/051
- Eureka, 85/109, 85/151, 86/140, 87/184
- European Union, 85/051, 85/055, 85/080
- Judicial cooperation, 85/051, 85/098, 85/178, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/002, 86/157
- Technological cooperation, 85/109, 85/132, 85/151, 87/197, 87/208
- Human rights, 85/002, 85/008, 85/012, 85/018, 85/019, 85/020, 85/022, 85/026, 85/028, 85/039, 85/047, 85/049, 85/052, 85/056, 85/059, 85/061, 85/062, 85/063, 85/064, 85/065, 85/067, 85/068, 85/070, 85/072, 85/074, 85/076, 85/081, 85/084, 85/088, 85/089, 86/094, 85/099, 85/100, 85/105, 85/110, 85/113, 85/115, 85/116, 85/117, 85/130, 85/131, 85/134, 85/136, 85/138, 85/141, 85/142, 85/146, 85/153, 85/158, 85/162, 85/168, 85/169, 85/170, 85/174, 85/177, 85/179, 85/181, 85/183, 85/186, 85/189, 85/194, 85/201, 85/206, 85/210, 85/211, 85/213, 85/214, 85/219, 85/221, 85/223, 85/228, 85/231, 85/232, 85/237, 85/238, 85/239, 85/240, 85/248, 85/251, 85/252, 85/253, 85/255, 85/256, 85/257, 85/260, 85/261, 85/262, 85/268, 85/270, 85/276, 85/277, 85/278, 85/280, 85/286, 85/290, 85/297, 85/300, 85/306, 85/318, 85/322, 85/330, 85/331, 85/336 (Vol. 1986-1), 85/338 (Vol. 1986-1), 85/340 (Vol. 1986-1), 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/001, 86/004, 86/005, 86/006, 86/007, 86/009, 86/010, 86/011, 86/012, 86/014, 86/021, 86/022, 86/025, 86/026, 86/029, 86/032, 86/034, 86/036, 86/047, 86/057, 86/059, 86/066, 86/068, 86/073, 86/084, 86/091, 86/094, 86/095, 86/096, 86/098, 86/112, 86/113, 86/114, 86/120, 86/122, 86/125, 86/128, 86/136, 86/137, 86/152, 86/156, 86/164, 86/166, 86/177, 86/182, 86/183, 86/187, 86/191, 86/192, 86/193, 86/198, 86/201, 86/208, 86/213, 86/214, 86/222, 86/230, 86/231, 86/232, 86/241, 86/243, 86/247, 86/251, 86/265, 86/275, 86/277, 86/278, 86/281, 86/296, 86/307, 86/309, 86/310, 86/312, 86/315, 86/320, 86/339, 86/340, 86/343, 86/346, 86/359, 86/362, 86/363, 86/364, 86/367, 86/370, 86/383, 86/385, 86/389, 86/391, 86/397, 86/402, 86/405, 86/406, 86/407, 87/005, 87/016, 87/022, 87/023, 87/025, 87/026, 87/027, 87/030, 87/041, 87/047, 87/048, 87/049, 87/050, 87/058, 87/064, 87/068, 87/074, 87/081, 87/085, 87/086, 87/092, 87/094, 87/096, 87/099, 87/100, 87/102, 87/103, 87/107, 87/116, 87/120, 87/121, 87/125, 87/137, 87/142, 87/145, 87/146, 87/150, 87/155, 87/156, 87/158, 87/159, 87/160, 87/162, 87/165, 87/166, 87/170, 87/176, 87/179, 87/181, 87/182, 87/185, 87/186, 87/187, 87/191, 87/195, 87/199, 87/201, 87/202, 87/204, 87/207, 87/208, 87/209, 87/211, 87/212, 87/215, 87/221, 87/223, 87/225, 87/226, 87/227
- Anti-semitism, 85/137, 85/243, 87/040, 87/146
- Apartheid, 85/002, 85/040, 85/048, 85/050, 85/051, 85/061, 85/068, 85/070, 85/086, 85/087, 85/121, 85/142, 85/144, 85/146, 85/152, 85/161, 85/164, 85/166, 85/169, 85/170, 85/171,

- 85/172, 85/186, 85/189, 85/194, 85/214, 85/219, 85/221, 85/228, 85/238, 85/239, 85/288, 85/291, 85/292, 85/293, 85/300, 85/315, 85/318, 85/324, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/014, 86/025, 86/030, 86/038, 86/067, 86/068, 86/072, 86/076, 86/086, 86/109, 86/118, 86/127, 86/136, 86/137, 86/153, 86/173, 86/180, 86/183, 86/185, 86/187, 86/198, 86/205, 86/271, 86/273, 86/275, 86/277, 86/296, 86/306, 86/307, 86/323, 86/326, 86/328, 86/347, 86/349, 86/363, 86/386, 86/402, 86/407, 85/343 (Vol. 1987-1), 87/003, 87/006, 87/025, 87/101, 87/136, 87/145, 87/165, 87/187, 87/188, 87/209
- Death penalty, 85/130, 85/131, 85/155, 85/210, 85/221, 86/015, 86/125, 86/137, 86/156, 86/192, 86/229, 86/270, 86/285, 87/113, 87/187
- Democracy, 85/002, 85/006, 85/018, 85/026, 85/028, 85/047, 85/049, 85/051, 85/057, 85/068, 85/070, 85/077, 85/081, 85/096, 85/100, 85/102, 85/143, 85/146, 85/161, 85/167, 85/171, 85/174, 85/186, 85/189, 85/214, 85/219, 85/221, 85/228, 85/231, 85/232, 85/237, 85/253, 85/277, 85/278, 85/279, 85/297, 85/300, 85/315, 85/327, 85/340 (Vol. 1986-1), 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/001, 86/043, 86/060, 86/067, 86/070, 86/089, 86/091, 86/092, 86/103, 86/109, 86/113, 86/127, 86/128, 86/136, 86/154, 86/163, 86/183, 86/185, 86/187, 86/192, 86/196, 86/198, 86/201, 86/213, 86/222, 86/230, 86/245, 86/249, 86/251, 86/261, 86/272, 86/275, 86/277, 86/281, 86/294, 86/299, 86/303, 86/304, 86/307, 86/343, 86/352, 86/362, 86/363, 86/386, 86/402, 86/403, 86/406, 86/407, 87/005, 87/016, 87/024, 87/025, 87/029, 87/054, 87/079, 87/080, 87/091, 87/096, 87/103, 87/107, 87/120, 87/125, 87/136, 87/137, 87/145, 87/159, 87/179, 87/188, 87/191, 87/204, 87/209, 87/212, 87/225, 87/227
- Freedom of conscience, 85/119, 85/127, 85/181, 85/189, 85/219, 85/253, 85/261, 85/297, 85/294, 85/300, 86/005, 86/009, 86/022, 86/029, 86/103, 86/143, 86/192, 86/220, 86/265, 86/288, 86/299, 86/345, 86/353, 86/363, 86/405, 87/186, 87/226
- Freedom of information, 85/075, 85/137, 85/253, 85/255, 85/321, 86/272, 86/343, 86/345, 86/347, 86/405, 86/406, 87/016, 87/024, 87/041, 87/057, 87/162
- Genocide, 85/237, 85/239
- Homelands, Bantoustans, 85/189, 85/292, 86/086, 86/183, 87/069, 87/145
- Minorities, 85/019, 85/022, 85/026, 85/039, 85/084, 85/103, 85/107, 85/134, 85/159, 85/171, 85/172, 85/181, 85/186, 85/189, 85/198, 85/206, 85/220, 85/221, 85/223, 85/261, 85/300, 86/095, 86/107, 86/118, 86/136, 86/143, 86/144, 86/152, 86/307, 87/116, 87/223
- Armenians, 85/206, 86/049, 87/039, 87/226
- Baha'is, 85/022, 85/206, 85/300, 86/137, 86/268, 86/363, 86/407, 87/046, 87/116
- Bulgarian Muslims, 85/084, 85/103, 85/159
- Iranian Christians, 85/206, 85/223
- Kurds, 85/019, 85/134, 87/150, 87/160
- Lebanese Christians, 85/022, 85/039, 85/107, 86/243
- Palestinians, 85/002, 85/054, 85/138, 85/211, 85/231, 85/238, 85/250, 85/256, 85/270, 85/305, 85/309, 85/312, 85/333, 86/021, 86/023, 86/026, 86/036, 86/071, 86/185, 86/267, 86/275, 86/324, 86/359, 86/373, 86/376, 86/378, 86/384, 86/407, 87/025, 87/028, 87/114, 87/119, 87/126, 87/186, 87/187
- Russian Jews, 85/179, 85/198, 85/220, 86/027, 86/095, 86/107, 86/258, 87/030, 87/089, 87/099, 87/121, 87/148
- Tamils, 85/026, 86/141
- Missing persons, 85/184, 85/251, 85/300, 86/137, 86/152, 86/166, 86/320, 86/385, 87/012, 87/026, 87/035, 87/056, 87/174, 87/177, 87/186, 87/187
- Political prisoners, 85/018, 85/049, 85/064, 85/077, 85/081, 85/091, 85/099, 85/102, 85/115, 85/116, 85/130, 85/131, 85/134, 85/138, 85/141, 85/148, 85/158, 85/161, 85/164, 85/166, 85/171, 85/172, 85/186, 85/189, 85/194, 85/197, 85/201, 85/207, 85/210, 85/214, 85/219, 85/221, 85/228, 85/231, 85/238, 85/244, 85/257, 85/286, 85/287, 85/292, 85/318, 85/321, 85/322, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/038, 86/067, 86/068, 86/079, 86/086, 86/091, 86/094, 86/102, 86/118, 86/125, 86/127, 86/136, 86/153, 86/156, 86/173, 86/181, 86/183, 86/187, 86/189, 86/192, 86/193, 86/198, 86/206, 86/208, 86/231, 86/270, 86/271, 86/272, 86/275, 86/290, 86/296, 86/307, 86/327, 86/343, 86/347, 86/363, 86/404, 86/407, 87/008, 87/029, 87/099, 87/145, 87/170, 87/187

- Racism, racial discrimination, 85/144, 85/171, 85/186, 85/194, 85/214, 85/221, 85/228, 85/238, 85/243, 85/290, 85/291, 85/292, 85/300, 85/315, 85/318, 85/336 (Vol. 1986-1), 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/054, 86/102, 86/136, 86/152, 86/175, 86/179, 86/183, 86/185, 86/205, 86/265, 86/275, 86/277, 86/288, 86/307, 86/325, 86/338, 86/347, 86/363, 86/405, 87/040, 87/136, 87/145, 87/165, 87/187
- Religious discrimination, 85/243, 85/261, 86/137, 86/152, 86/236, 86/265, 86/363, 86/395, 87/150, 87/186, 87/187, 87/226
- Torture, 85/022, 85/025, 85/044, 85/077, 85/081, 85/134, 85/136, 85/140, 85/219, 85/251, 85/300, 86/137, 86/152, 86/156, 86/192, 86/201, 86/208, 86/214, 86/312, 86/347, 86/363, 87/005, 87/056, 87/086, 87/120, 87/186, 87/187
- Women's policies, 85/335 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/090, 86/152, 86/155, 86/371
- Instruments of international relations, 85/192, 86/064
- Diplomatic relations, 85/123, 85/219, 85/222, 85/300, 86/119, 86/133, 86/168, 86/173, 86/252, 86/305, 86/351, 86/358, 86/407, 87/002, 87/007
- Membership in international organizations, 85/037, 85/189, 85/265, 85/273, 85/327, 86/349
- Privileges and immunities, 85/068, 85/250, 85/283, 85/314, 86/119, 86/272, 86/371
- Abuse of diplomatic immunity, 85/002, 85/192, 85/283, 86/093, 86/168, 86/200, 86/252, 86/305, 86/358, 86/377, 86/407, 87/007
- Recognition, 85/095, 85/167, 85/185, 85/189, 85/212, 85/222, 85/258, 85/279, 85/312, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/061, 86/067, 86/100, 86/212, 86/217, 86/247, 86/273, 86/280, 86/403, 86/407, 87/045, 87/069
- International balance and prevention of conflict
- Arms control, disarmament, 85/002, 85/003, 85/014, 85/027, 85/035, 85/051, 85/053, 85/068, 85/082, 85/083, 85/097, 85/122, 85/132, 85/146, 85/147, 85/189, 85/217, 85/219, 85/234, 85/240, 85/241, 85/249, 85/253, 85/263, 85/289, 85/297, 85/306, 85/318, 85/330, 85/340 (Vol. 1986-1), 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/025, 86/032, 86/046, 86/047, 86/051, 86/095, 86/110, 86/123, 86/140, 86/174, 86/198, 86/222, 86/250, 86/269, 86/275, 86/298, 86/308, 86/331, 86/333, 86/334, 86/335, 86/341, 86/342, 86/343, 86/350, 86/353, 86/355, 86/357, 86/367, 86/370, 86/374, 86/384, 87/122, 87/151, 87/167, 87/168, 87/169, 87/175, 87/204, 87/208
- Arms trade, 85/015, 85/030, 85/040, 85/097, 85/186, 85/194, 85/228, 85/241, 85/324, 86/003, 86/038, 86/061, 86/065, 86/067, 86/078, 86/093, 86/096, 86/118, 86/119, 86/136, 86/142, 86/172, 86/191, 86/308, 86/332, 86/386, 86/407, 87/001, 87/007, 87/052, 87/053, 87/104, 87/127, 87/130, 87/145, 87/208, 87/218
- Chemical weapons, 85/011, 85/027, 85/056, 85/069, 85/090, 85/097, 85/122, 85/168, 85/189, 85/217, 85/219, 85/241, 85/251, 85/312, 85/330, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/032, 86/047, 86/051, 86/087, 86/096, 86/105, 86/140, 86/177, 86/207, 86/269, 86/275, 86/298, 86/308, 86/332, 86/334, 86/363, 86/376, 86/402, 86/407, 87/077, 87/119, 87/167, 87/189, 87/204, 87/208
- Confidence-building measures, 85/003, 85/068, 85/146, 85/147, 85/189, 85/217, 85/219, 85/240, 85/306, 85/336 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/123, 86/250, 86/298, 86/336, 86/342, 86/343, 86/407, 87/085, 87/166, 87/208
- Conventional weapons, 85/082, 85/168, 85/217, 85/249, 85/330, 86/032, 86/140, 86/298, 86/308, 86/341, 86/343, 86/367, 87/169
- East-West relations, 85/002, 85/003, 85/014, 85/035, 85/051, 85/068, 85/083, 85/132, 85/146, 85/147, 85/189, 85/217, 85/241, 85/306, 85/318, 85/330, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/025, 86/032, 86/110, 86/140, 86/164, 86/198, 86/222, 86/259, 86/269, 86/275, 86/298, 86/306, 86/308, 86/343, 86/384, 86/402, 86/407, 87/158, 87/182, 87/204, 87/208
- Military of space, 85/014, 85/051, 85/068, 85/082, 85/083, 85/109, 85/146, 85/147, 85/151, 85/189, 85/205, 85/217, 85/219, 85/296, 85/330, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/032, 86/047, 86/140, 86/275, 86/298, 86/374
- Naval arms race, 85/249

Non-alignment, 85/002, 85/068, 85/071, 85/251, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/248, 86/340
Non-use of force, 85/003, 85/146, 85/167, 85/189, 85/219, 85/231, 85/237, 85/240, 85/305, 85/306, 85/309, 85/312, 85/340 (Vol. 1986-1), 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/123, 86/308, 86/349, 86/354, 86/359, 86/362, 86/373, 87/119, 87/157, 87/159, 87/208
Nuclear free zone, 85/003, 85/010, 85/035, 85/217, 86/298, 87/208
Nuclear tests, 85/083, 86/148, 86/170, 86/287, 86/298, 86/396, 87/196
Nuclear weapons, 85/003, 85/010, 85/014, 85/035, 85/051, 85/068, 85/082, 85/083, 85/124, 85/146, 85/147, 85/189, 85/217, 85/219, 85/233, 85/249, 85/330, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/032, 86/110, 86/140, 86/287, 86/298, 86/308, 86/334, 86/341, 86/367, 86/384, 86/402, 86/407, 87/028, 87/151, 87/169, 87/196, 87/204, 87/208
Cruise missiles, 85/010, 85/035, 87/208
Euromissiles, 85/003, 85/035, 86/140
Non-proliferation, 85/217, 85/219, 85/233, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/140, 86/298, 86/330, 87/028
Pershing-2 missiles, 85/035, 86/082
Strategical weapons, 85/014, 85/051, 85/068, 85/083, 85/146, 85/189, 85/330, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/032, 86/110, 86/275, 86/298, 86/402
SDI, see militarization of space

International Instruments

ABM Treaty, 85/083, 85/217, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/140, 86/298
European Convention on Human Rights, 85/067, 85/125, 85/300, 86/137, 86/222, 86/227, 86/241, 86/363, 87/107, 87/125, 87/137
Geneva Conventions, 85/069, 85/138, 85/189, 85/217, 85/231, 85/241, 85/300, 85/309, 85/312, 86/001, 86/051, 86/105, 86/188, 86/250, 86/323, 86/332, 86/359, 86/363, 86/373, 86/376, 86/378, 87/075, 87/077, 87/189
Hague Conventions, 85/138, 85/231, 85/309, 85/312, 86/359, 86/373
Helsinki Final Act, 85/002, 85/003, 85/008, 85/023, 85/046, 85/068, 85/072, 85/076, 85/084, 85/088, 85/089, 85/103, 85/113, 85/137, 85/146, 85/153, 85/158, 85/179, 85/189, 85/198, 85/219, 85/220, 85/259, 85/276, 85/306, 85/318, 85/331, 85/336 (Vol. 1986-1), 85/339 (Vol. 1986-1), 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/009, 86/022, 86/027, 86/028, 86/029, 86/092, 86/095, 86/107, 86/123, 86/124, 86/137, 86/182, 86/220, 86/258, 86/265, 86/275, 86/288, 86/308, 86/336, 86/343, 86/384, 86/388, 86/402, 86/404, 86/405, 87/030, 87/085, 87/089, 87/099, 87/144, 87/158, 87/162, 87/166, 87/204, 87/208, 87/209, 87/223
International Convention against Torture, 85/025, 85/044, 85/140, 85/300, 86/152, 86/363
International Convention on the Combating of Terrorism, 85/060, 85/178, 85/225, 87/014
International Convention on the Elimination and Repression of the Crime of Apartheid, 85/239, 86/328, 87/145
International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 85/300, 86/009, 86/265, 86/268, 86/288, 86/327, 86/339, 86/345, 86/363, 86/370, 87/099, 87/158, 87/166, 87/187
Lomé Convention, 85/015, 85/051, 85/096, 85/189, 85/228, 85/252, 85/295, 86/065, 86/066, 86/155, 86/234, 86/347, 87/018, 87/215
Madrid Concluding Document, 85/008, 85/088, 85/089, 85/103, 85/113, 85/146, 85/179, 85/189, 85/198, 85/220, 85/336 (Vol. 1986-1), 85/339 (Vol. 1986-1), 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/027, 86/028, 86/095, 86/107, 86/124, 86/220, 86/258, 86/308, 86/336, 86/343, 86/388, 86/405, 87/030, 87/085, 87/089, 87/099, 87/162, 87/223
Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (1963), 85/083
Salt-II Treaty (1971), 85/083
Stockholm Document, 86/336, 87/085, 87/166, 87/208
UN Charter, 85/012, 85/023, 85/068, 85/146, 85/168, 85/179, 85/186, 85/189, 85/194, 85/195, 85/213, 85/214, 85/217, 85/219, 85/221, 85/228, 85/231, 85/233, 85/235, 85/237, 85/238, 85/240, 85/251, 85/253, 85/297, 85/300, 85/301, 85/306, 85/307, 85/311, 85/314, 85/315, 85/316, 85/328, 85/331, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/067, 86/068, 86/104, 86/107, 86/123,

- 86/135, 86/136, 86/183, 86/199, 86/222, 86/247, 86/268, 86/275, 86/277, 86/296, 86/297, 86/298, 86/300, 86/301, 86/304, 86/327, 86/330, 86/333, 86/336, 86/340, 86/347, 86/349, 86/354, 86/362, 86/363, 86/365, 86/367, 86/374, 86/380, 87/081, 87/096, 87/145, 87/165, 87/167, 87/186
- UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, 85/079, 86/017, 86/133, 86/221
- Universal Declaration on Human Rights, 85/179, 85/186, 85/189, 85/213, 85/214, 85/219, 85/221, 85/228, 85/253, 85/255, 85/297, 85/300, 85/340 (Vol. 1986-1), 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/067, 86/068, 86/107, 86/136, 86/152, 86/183, 86/258, 86/275, 86/277, 86/296, 86/339, 86/345, 86/347, 86/363, 86/388, 87/030, 87/089, 87/096, 87/099, 87/145, 87/158, 87/165, 87/186
- UN resolutions, 85/002, 85/004, 85/012, 85/013, 85/022, 85/038, 85/043, 85/051, 85/056, 85/061, 85/068, 85/069, 85/079, 85/095, 85/104, 85/117, 85/152, 85/157, 85/162, 85/164, 85/167, 85/189, 85/215, 85/217, 85/218, 85/225, 85/226, 85/237, 85/251, 85/300, 85/302, 85/303, 85/305, 85/313, 85/322, 85/331, 86/054, 86/058, 86/096, 86/100, 86/114, 86/139, 86/152, 86/165, 86/191, 86/232, 86/247, 86/274, 86/300, 86/301, 86/304, 86/305, 86/306, 86/316, 86/322, 86/324, 86/325, 86/326, 86/327, 86/329, 86/333, 86/338, 86/340, 86/341, 86/349, 86/350, 86/353, 86/355, 86/357, 86/358, 86/360, 86/364, 86/368, 86/369, 86/370, 86/379, 86/380, 86/381, 86/403, 86/407, 87/002, 87/040, 87/167, 87/173, 87/187, 87/218
- General Assembly Resolution 302 (IV), 86/324
- General Assembly Resolution 2145 (XXI), 86/199, 86/247, 86/273
- General Assembly Resolution 3295 (XXIX), 86/197
- General Assembly Resolution 3379, 87/040
- General Assembly Resolution 35/37, 85/251
- General Assembly Resolution 35/142 B, 86/335
- General Assembly Resolution 35/46, 86/334
- General Assembly Resolution 37/267, 85/190
- General Assembly Resolution 38/81, 85/195, 86/300
- General Assembly Resolution 3913, 85/056
- General Assembly Resolution 39/16, 85/194
- General Assembly Resolution 39/27, 85/271
- General Assembly Resolution 39/63 E, 85/240
- General Assembly Resolution 39/64 B, 85/263
- General Assembly Resolution 39/75, 85/298
- General Assembly Resolution 39/96, 85/296
- General Assembly Resolution 39/151 C, 85/249
- General Assembly Resolution 39/160, 85/234
- General Assembly Resolution 39/246, 85/271
- General Assembly Resolution 39/247 B, 85/196, 85/329
- General Assembly Resolution 40/12, 87/002
- General Assembly Resolution 40/49, 86/152
- General Assembly Resolution 40/61, 85/326, 87/146
- General Assembly Resolution 40/64 G, 85/326
- General Assembly Resolution 40/73, 86/305
- General Assembly Resolution 40/141, 86/177
- General Assembly Resolution 40/145, 87/005
- General Assembly Resolution 40/152 O, 87/168
- General Assembly Resolution 41/16, 87/076
- General Assembly Resolution 41/31, 87/210
- General Assembly Resolution 41/86 Q, 87/168
- General Assembly Resolution 41/94, 87/145
- General Assembly Resolution 41/105, 87/165
- General Assembly Resolution 41/159, 87/116
- Security Council Resolution 186 (1964), 85/195
- Security Council Resolution 242 (1967), 85/189, 85/231, 85/256, 85/305, 85/309, 85/312, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/275, 86/359, 86/373, 86/376, 86/378, 87/028, 87/119

- Security Council Resolution 338 (1973), 85/189, 85/231, 85/256, 85/305, 85/309, 85/312, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/373, 86/376, 86/378, 87/028, 87/119
- Security Council Resolution 385 (1976), 85/279, 86/199, 86/273, 86/274, 86/354, 86/365
- Security Council Resolution 418 (1977), 85/030, 85/040, 85/228, 86/003
- Security Council Resolution 435 (1978), 85/070, 85/112, 85/161, 85/167, 85/189, 85/195, 85/238, 85/279, 85/300, 85/327, 86/008, 86/067, 86/068, 86/162, 86/199, 86/202, 86/217, 86/247, 86/273, 86/274, 86/306, 86/327, 86/354, 86/363, 86/365, 86/407, 87/045, 87/069
- Security Council Resolution 478 (1980), 85/233, 85/328, 86/380
- Security Council Resolution 487 (1981), 86/330
- Security Council Resolution 523 (1982), 85/016
- Security Council Resolution 558 (1984), 85/324
- Security Council Resolution 564 (1985), 85/312
- Security Council Resolution 571 (1985), 85/189
- Security Council Resolution 571 (1985), 87/146
- Security Council Resolution 582 (1986), 86/087, 86/105, 86/246, 86/275, 87/077, 87/127, 87/189
- Security Council Resolution 587 (1986), 87/095
- Security Council Resolution 588 (1986), 86/407, 87/077, 87/127
- Venue Declaration, 85/002, 85/042, 85/051, 85/195, 85/231, 85/318, 86/026, 86/071, 86/343, 86/359, 86/373, 86/376, 87/028, 87/114, 87/119, 87/208
- Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, 85/283, 86/200, 86/272, 86/358
- Yalta Agreements, 85/023, 86/254, 86/293
- Security, 85/147, 85/168, 85/186, 85/189, 85/194, 85/213, 85/217, 85/219, 85/231, 85/234, 85/237, 85/238, 85/240, 85/249, 85/251, 85/253, 85/263, 85/270, 85/279, 85/297, 85/305, 85/306, 85/309, 85/312, 85/317, 85/318, 85/336 (Vol. 1986-1), 85/340 (Vol. 1986-1), 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/047, 86/123, 86/124, 86/140, 86/194, 86/298, 86/333, 86/367, 87/166, 87/167, 87/184, 87/209
- Defence, 85/003, 85/010, 85/027, 85/035, 85/101, 85/106, 85/118, 85/124, 85/128, 85/132, 85/144, 85/147, 85/150, 85/151, 85/172, 85/180, 85/205, 85/230, 85/240, 85/241, 85/259, 85/266, 85/289, 85/312, 86/019, 86/082, 86/101, 86/123, 86/129, 86/140, 86/198, 86/207, 86/234, 86/242, 86/282, 86/308, 86/335, 86/347, 87/025, 87/037, 87/071, 87/085, 87/090, 87/122, 87/149, 87/152, 87/175, 87/197, 87/208, 87/209, 87/218
- Drugs, 85/085, 85/272, 86/093, 86/134, 86/142, 86/146, 86/183, 86/200, 86/275, 86/306, 86/337, 86/382, 86/384, 86/407, 87/027, 87/227
- Hijacking, 85/146, 85/163, 85/178, 85/208, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/045, 86/061, 86/064, 86/140, 86/275
- Hostages, 85/146, 85/188, 85/219, 85/225, 85/300, 85/312, 86/152, 86/363, 86/376, 87/186
- Immigrants, 85/110, 85/260
- Mercenaries, 85/216, 85/304, 86/329, 86/346 87/186
- Nuclear safety, 86/151, 86/275, 86/330, 86/343, 86/407, 87/019
- Organized crime, 85/033, 85/090, 85/178, 85/225, 85/272, 85/274, 86/039, 86/134, 86/142, 86/194, 87/172
- Piracy, 85/178
- Public security, 85/009, 85/026, 85/110, 86/119
- Security of civil aviation, 85/189, 85/312, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/064, 86/093, 86/119, 86/203, 86/252, 86/276, 87/007, 87/036, 87/146, 87/205
- Security of navigation, 85/004, 85/043, 85/189, 85/225, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1) 85/312, 86/087, 86/147, 86/209, 86/275, 87/033, 87/119, 87/206, 87/208, 87/217
- Security policy, economic aspects of -, 85/003, 85/097, 85/147, 85/151, 85/317, 86/308, 86/335, 87/025, 87/059, 87/122, 87/175, 87/208, 87/209
- Terrorism, 85/002, 85/021, 85/026, 85/033, 85/052, 85/060, 85/068, 85/075, 85/078, 85/085,

85/146, 85/163, 85/178, 85/189, 85/191, 85/199, 85/208, 85/219, 85/225, 85/253, 85/272, 85/274, 85/283, 85/297, 85/305, 85/309, 85/312, 85/314, 85/318, 85/326, 85/333, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/002, 86/008, 86/025, 86/026, 86/039, 86/045, 86/046, 86/061, 86/064, 86/078, 86/081, 86/093, 86/099, 86/119, 86/133, 86/134, 86/140, 86/141, 86/142, 86/144, 86/164, 86/167, 86/168, 86/172, 86/194, 86/200, 86/201, 86/203, 86/223, 86/251, 86/252, 86/275, 86/276, 86/284, 86/306, 86/308, 86/318, 86/351, 86/363, 86/367, 86/373, 86/376, 86/382, 86/384, 86/402, 86/407, 87/007, 87/025, 87/034, 87/036, 87/039, 87/052, 87/053, 87/105, 87/137, 87/146, 87/159, 87/172, 87/178, 87/184, 87/203, 87/205, 87/208
Euroterrorism, 85/033, 85/078, 85/208, 85/225, 86/142

Sovereignty, 85/161, 85/169, 85/175, 85/185, 85/187, 85/189, 85/191, 85/194, 85/219, 85/222, 85/237, 85/240, 85/253, 85/263, 85/279, 85/297, 85/307, 85/312, 85/331, 85/337 (Vol. 1986-1), 85/340 (Vol. 1986-1), 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/046, 86/087, 86/173, 86/186, 86/209, 86/280, 86/303, 86/306, 87/043, 87/096, 87/119, 87/164, 87/173, 87/190

Decolonization, 85/036, 85/168, 85/219, 85/230, 85/315

Independence, 85/002, 85/023, 85/039, 85/051, 85/068, 85/069, 85/071, 85/161, 85/162, 85/167, 85/185, 85/189, 85/195, 85/219, 85/222, 85/230, 85/237, 85/238, 85/251, 85/253, 85/279, 85/297, 85/300, 85/304, 85/307, 85/312, 85/327, 85/331, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/046, 86/067, 86/068, 86/100, 86/145, 86/162, 86/186, 86/199, 86/212, 86/217, 86/247, 86/273, 86/274, 86/275, 86/280, 86/303, 86/304, 86/306, 86/307, 86/316, 86/324, 86/340, 86/362, 86/363, 86/376, 86/392, 86/403, 86/407, 87/002, 87/015, 87/043, 87/045, 87/069, 87/096, 87/106, 87/119, 87/173, 87/206, 87/210

Non-interference in internal affairs, 85/024, 85/064, 85/068, 85/077, 85/148, 85/161, 85/189, 85/237, 85/253, 85/295, 85/297, 85/304, 85/307, 85/331, 85/340 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/065, 86/152, 86/182, 86/253, 86/362, 86/407, 87/026, 87/159, 87/210

Occupied territory, 85/002, 85/138, 85/211, 85/231, 85/256, 85/300, 86/021, 86/023, 86/026, 86/036, 86/137, 86/324, 86/359, 86/363, 86/373, 86/376, 86/378, 86/407, 87/114, 87/119, 87/186, 87/222

Self-determination, 85/002, 85/012, 85/023, 85/069, 85/117, 85/167, 85/189, 85/219, 85/231, 85/237, 85/238, 85/240, 85/251, 85/253, 85/256, 85/279, 85/300, 85/309, 85/312, 85/327, 85/331, 86/046, 86/048, 86/182, 86/199, 86/232, 86/267, 86/273, 86/275, 86/299, 86/322, 86/327, 86/346, 86/354, 86/359, 86/363, 86/373, 86/378, 87/028, 87/096, 87/143, 87/159, 87/186, 87/210

Territorial integrity, 85/002, 85/003, 85/012, 85/016, 85/024, 85/039, 85/046, 85/068, 85/069, 85/077, 85/092, 85/094, 85/112, 85/123, 85/135, 85/141, 85/148, 85/161, 85/175, 85/185, 85/189, 85/222, 85/231, 85/238, 85/240, 85/251, 85/253, 85/297, 85/307, 85/312, 85/341 (Vol. 1986-1), 86/046, 86/050, 86/087, 86/100, 86/105, 86/145, 86/153, 86/186, 86/187, 86/209, 86/247, 86/275, 86/280, 86/303, 86/304, 86/306, 86/307, 86/316, 86/324, 86/362, 86/385, 86/392, 86/403, 87/043, 87/073, 87/096, 87/106, 87/119, 87/159, 87/173, 87/206

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