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## **European Political Cooperation Documentation Bulletin**

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## Foreword

This eighth issue of the EPC Documentation Bulletin covers the term-of-office of the Greek Presidency (1 July — 31 December 1988). It includes:

- the official declarations of the European Council, of the Foreign Ministers and of the 'Twelve', including statements in international conferences and organizations;
- 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 Greek Presidency at the beginning and at the end of its term-of-office, as well as other reports on matters of EPC.

Also included are several documents which for technical reasons could not be included in earlier issues of the Bulletin.

In addition, an attempt is made to bring into chart the attitudes of the Member States with regard to United Nations resolutions. To this effect this issue contains, besides the documents relating to the 43rd session of the United Nations General Assembly, a section on the voting behaviour of the Twelve in the General Assembly and the Security Council.

We would like to thank all those who helped us in collecting materials for this issue, in particular the Belgian, the Danish and the German Missions to the United Nations, Ms Emir Lawless and Mr Klaus-Dieter Stadler from the European University Institute. Our gratitude also goes to Ms Anne Bremner and Ms Angelika Lanfranchi, who helped in the preparation of this 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, whereas the first document issued in 1988 bears the number '88/001', the collection of documents enacted under the Greek Presidency starts with number 88/196 because 195 documents were enacted under the German Presidency.

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 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 includes 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

A-ALC	Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee
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.	Association internationale de développement
A.I.E.A.	Agence internationale de l'énergie atomique
A.N.A.S.E.	Association des Nations de l'Asie de l'Est
ANC	African National Congress (South Africa)
A.N.C.	Congrès national africain (Afrique du Sud)
A.P.D.	Assistance publique au développement
ARC	Groupe arc-en-ciel (PE); Rainbow Group (EP)
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 (O.N.U.)
C.C.Q.A.B.	Comité consultatif pour les questions administratives et budgétaires
CDE	Conference 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
C.N.U.D.	Commission des Nations Unies du désarmement
COM	Communist and Allies Group (EP); Groupe communiste et apparentés (PE)
Comecon	Cf. C.A.E.M., CMEA

## List of abbreviations

---

COSATU	Council for South African Trade Unions
CPC	Committee for Programme and Coordination
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	Conference on Security and Cooperation 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	Drachma; 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
GNP	Gross national product
GR	Greece; Grèce
I	Italy; Italie

IAEA	International Atomic 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
ICSU	International Council of Scientific Unions
IDA	International Development Association
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMO	International Maritime Organization
INF	Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces
IRA	Irish Republican Army
IRL	Ireland; Irlande
JO	Journal officiel (des Communautés européennes)
JIU	Joint Inspection Unit
KGB	Komitet Gosudarstvdnnoi Bezopasnosti; Committee of State Security (USSR); Comité de la sécurité d'État (U.R.S.S.)
L	Luxembourg
L	Liberal and Democratic Group (EP); Groupe libéral et démocratique (PE)
LDC	Less developed countries, developing countries
LLDC	Least developed countries
MBFR	Mutual and Balanced Force Reductions
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

## List of abbreviations

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O.E.A.	Organisation des États américains
OIC	Organization of the Islamic Conference
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
OPANAL	Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean
O.T.A.N.	Organisation du traité de l'Atlantique Nord
O.U.A.	Organisation de l'unité africaine
P	Portugal
PAC	Pan-African Congress
PE	Parlement européen
PFPP	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 rénovateurs 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 Coordination Conference
SALT	Strategic Arms Limitation Talks; Négociations sur la limitation des armements stratégiques
SARC	South Asia Regional Cooperation
SDI	Strategic Defence Initiative
SELA	Latin American Economic System
SFRY	Social Federal Republic of Yugoslavia
SLL	Supplemented living level
S.M.E.	Système monétaire européen
SNAP	Substantial New Programme of Action



SSOD	Special Session on Disarmament
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 international
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
UNGOMAP	United Nations Good Offices Mission for Afghanistan and Pakistan
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNIFIL	United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon
UNIIMOG	United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group
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
UNPAAERD	United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development
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
UNTSO	United Nations Truce Supervision Organization in Palestine
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



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étude approfondie de la structure et des fonctions du mécanisme  
intergouvernemental de l'O.N.U. dans les champs économique et  
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*M. De Clercq*: Monsieur le Président, conformément à l'article 1<sup>er</sup>, paragraphe 3, de la Charte, un des buts des Nations Unies est

de réaliser la coopération internationale en résolvant les problèmes internationaux d'ordre économique, social, intellectuel ou humanitaire, en développant et en encourageant le respect des droits de l'homme et des libertés fondamentales pour tous...

Dans son chapitre IX, la Charte précise ce qu'elle entend par coopération économique et sociale internationale et, pour la réaliser, elle prévoit (art. 63) la création d'institutions spécialisées et (art. 58) la coordination par l'O.N.U. des programmes et activités de ces institutions spécialisées.

Elle charge deux organes de remplir les fonctions de l'Organisation en matière de coopération économique et sociale (art. 60):

- l'Assemblée générale et, sous son autorité,
- le Conseil économique et social.

L'Assemblée générale a créé la Deuxième et la Troisième commission pour l'assister dans l'exercice des fonctions que lui confère le chapitre IX de la Charte.

Elle a créé aussi d'autres organes spécialisés, tels que la Conférence des Nations Unies sur le commerce et le développement, le Conseil du commerce et du développement et le Conseil alimentaire mondial.

La Charte a défini, dans les articles 62 et 63, les fonctions spécifiques de l'E.C.O.S.O.C. et ses pouvoirs:

- faire et provoquer des études et des rapports;
- adresser des recommandations à l'Assemblée générale, aux Membres et aux institutions spécialisées;
- faire des recommandations afin d'assurer le respect des droits de l'homme et des libertés fondamentales;
- préparer des conventions;
- convoquer des conférences internationales;
- conclure des accords avec les institutions spécialisées.

Si les auteurs de la Charte ont créé un organe restreint, avec des fonctions et pouvoirs spécifiques pour assister l'Assemblée générale dans sa tâche de coopération économique et sociale internationale, c'est, de toute évidence, dans un souci d'efficacité: l'E.C.O.S.O.C. a été conçu pour inspirer et assister l'Assemblée générale.

Il devrait inspirer l'Assemblée générale en établissant des lignes directrices en matière de politique économique générale et en matière sociale et humanitaire. Il devrait assister l'Assemblée générale en assurant la coordination tant à l'intérieur des Nations Unies — spécialement en matière d'activités opérationnelles — que vis-à-vis des institutions spécialisées.

Entre l'Assemblée générale, organe législatif suprême, et tous les organes subsidiaires: C.N.U.C.E.D., Conseil du commerce et du développement, Conseil mondial de l'alimentation, comités fonctionnels, commissions régionales, etc., il y a cet organe charnière qu'est l'E.C.O.S.O.C.

Comment le revitaliser? Comment le rendre plus efficace et améliorer son fonctionnement? Les recommandations n° 2 et 8 du Groupe des Dix-Huit nous indiquent la direction dans laquelle nous devons orienter nos recherches afin de le rendre mieux à même de répondre aux besoins actuels.

Nous devons tenir compte, d'une part, du fait que des organes tels que la C.N.U.C.E.D. et le Conseil mondial de l'alimentation par exemple ont assumé une partie de la tâche confiée à l'origine à l'E.C.O.S.O.C., rendant à la fois plus difficile et plus nécessaire son rôle central en matière de coopération économique.

Nous constatons également que l'E.C.O.S.O.C., conformément à sa mission, a convoqué des conférences internationales sur certains sujets comme le problème de la population, de l'habitat et de la promotion de la femme, mais que ces conférences ont eu tendance à engendrer de nouvelles institutions pour assurer leur suivi, ou ont confié ce rôle à certaines commissions, rendant plus complexe ainsi le rôle central de l'E.C.O.S.O.C. Il faudra trouver des moyens d'équilibrer le besoin d'analyses techniques et celui de recommandations de politique générale.

Monsieur le Président, la Commission spéciale devra envisager la révision de l'ordre du jour de l'E.C.O.S.O.C. et s'attaquer résolument à la question de la coordination.

Pour parler un langage plus concret, nous allons devoir comparer les ordres du jour de la Deuxième et de la Troisième commission, de l'E.C.O.S.O.C. et du Conseil du commerce et du développement. Les ordres du jour de la Deuxième commission et de l'E.C.O.S.O.C. se ressemblent comme des jumeaux. On pourrait considérer que c'est normal puisque l'Assemblée générale et l'E.C.O.S.O.C. ont des buts identiques en matière de coopération économique et sociale. Mais la Charte a confié un rôle spécifique à l'E.C.O.S.O.C. Il n'est donc pas normal que le débat général en Deuxième commission ne soit qu'une répétition du débat général que tient l'E.C.O.S.O.C. et de celui que tient le Conseil pour le commerce et le développement. Nous devons éviter la répétition d'un même débat général à trois ou quatre reprises en quatre mois de temps, comme cela se pratique depuis plusieurs années. La tenue d'un seul débat annuel sur la situation économique mondiale pourrait simplifier la tâche du Secrétariat, lui permettant peut-être de fusionner en un seul ses trois rapports sur l'économie mondiale, sur la situation sociale dans le monde et sur le commerce mondial. Une autre solution pourrait être de spécialiser davantage le débat dans chacune de ces enceintes.

Monsieur le Président, conformément à ce que j'ai exposé ci-dessus, le rôle spécifique de coordination que la Charte confie à l'E.C.O.S.O.C. mérite une attention spéciale.

Comme je l'ai dit précédemment, ce rôle est double:

1. Tous les organes subsidiaires adressent des rapports à l'Assemblée générale via l'E.C.O.S.O.C. Il n'est pas normal que l'E.C.O.S.O.C. envoie à l'Assemblée générale un certain nombre de rapports des organes subsidiaires après en avoir « pris note », sans avoir consacré aux sujets qui le méritent le moindre examen ou débat. L'E.C.O.S.O.C. a le devoir de faire, sur ces rapports, des recommandations à l'Assemblée générale dans un but de coordination.

2. L'E.C.O.S.O.C. a également, en vertu de la Charte, un rôle de coordination vis-à-vis des institutions spécialisées. Nous devons examiner, en accord avec ces institutions, comment lui rendre effectivement ce rôle. On pourrait réinstaurer la pratique abandonnée depuis quelques années, qui voulait que les institutions spécialisées adressent un rapport écrit à l'E.C.O.S.O.C. On pourrait songer aussi à des sessions de l'E.C.O.S.O.C. consacrées à un sujet déterminé, comme le suggérait déjà la résolution 32/197.

Pour remédier au fait que l'E.C.O.S.O.C. est devenu un duplicat de l'Assemblée générale, on a imaginé la biennialisation.

Dans la Deuxième commission de l'Assemblée générale, elle a donné de bons résultats. Dans la Troisième commission, l'examen bisannuel d'un certain nombre de points de l'ordre du jour permettrait de rationaliser les travaux. Concrètement, il faudrait d'abord choisir les points susceptibles d'un examen bisannuel, par exemple en fonction de l'évolution plus lente de

certaines sujets. Ensuite, il faudrait examiner cette biennalisation dans le cadre du cycle complet que fait la question dans le système des Nations Unies, par exemple, depuis l'organe subsidiaire jusqu'à la Troisième commission, en passant par le Conseil économique et social.

Je viens de présenter quelques réflexions générales sur le rôle de l'E.C.O.S.O.C. et de l'Assemblée générale. Dans l'opinion des Douze, la Commission spéciale devrait procéder à une discussion plus approfondie sur la façon dont l'E.C.O.S.O.C. et l'Assemblée générale s'acquittent de leurs fonctions respectives. Nous devrions nous pencher tour à tour sur chacune de leurs fonctions principales, afin de rendre notre débat plus spécifique et plus concentré.

Comme je l'ai indiqué dans cette intervention, nous estimons que les tâches principales de l'E.C.O.S.O.C. sont les suivantes:

1) fixer des orientations générales en matière économique, sociale et des droits de l'homme. Dans ce contexte, il faudra comparer les débats dans l'Assemblée générale, l'E.C.O.S.O.C. et les organes subsidiaires;

2) donner une vue d'ensemble et des orientations sur les différentes entités sectorielles du système des Nations Unies dans les secteurs économique, social et des droits de l'homme;

3) assurer la coordination des activités de programme des Nations Unies, en se basant en premier lieu sur l'apport du C.P.C.;

4) donner des orientations et assurer la coordination en matière d'activités opérationnelles.

Nous proposons que le groupe de travail organise son débat sur l'E.C.O.S.O.C. et l'Assemblée générale en se basant sur ces différentes fonctions.

En considérant cette tâche, les Douze ont conscience de l'évolution des dix dernières années et du fait qu'il est nécessaire d'examiner des structures qui, dans une certaine mesure, se sont développées au hasard pendant cette période. Les Douze estiment que la Commission spéciale doit améliorer l'efficacité des organes du système. A ce sujet, je crois que nous partageons l'opinion exprimée par le président du Groupe des 77 dans sa déclaration d'hier. Je veux également répéter ce que j'ai dit lors de notre troisième session. Cet exercice ne vise pas principalement des réductions de coût. C'est un exercice d'amélioration du fonctionnement du système, dans le but de mieux servir nos objectifs communs. Je vous remercie, Monsieur le Président.

### **87/540. Déclaration à l'E.C.O.S.O.C.: étude approfondie de la structure et des fonctions du mécanisme intergouvernemental de l'O.N.U. dans les champs économique et social<sup>1</sup>**

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*M. De Clercq:* Monsieur le Président, nous venons d'entendre le rapport du Président de la Commission spéciale de l'E.C.O.S.O.C. Je voudrais, au nom des douze États membres de la Communauté européenne, faire quelques commentaires à ce sujet.

La Commission spéciale a tenu une session d'organisation et trois sessions de travail. Pendant les deux premières, elle a traité de la méthode de travail et de la documentation. Pendant la troisième, elle a finalement abordé le fond, et les Douze s'en réjouissent. Ils auraient préféré cependant que le fond soit abordé plus tôt et de façon plus substantielle, mais comprennent que la complexité de l'exercice ait provoqué des hésitations et tâtonnements.

Au cours des premières sessions de la Commission spéciale, les Douze ont fait preuve d'un grand esprit de coopération. Malgré les divergences de vues, un accord a pu être trouvé sur la documentation et la méthode de travail. Cette méthode de travail doit à présent trouver son application. Le premier pas est fait: c'était peut-être le plus difficile. Essayons de tirer les leçons du travail accompli jusqu'ici.

Nous n'avons, reconnaissons-le, pas beaucoup progressé en trois mois et n'avons pas donné l'exemple de l'efficacité. L'Assemblée générale a adopté par consensus la résolution 41/213 endossant la plupart des recommandations du Groupe des Dix-Huit tendant à améliorer l'efficacité administrative et financière de l'O.N.U. Pour restaurer la confiance dans l'Organisation, la Commission spéciale devra proposer des mesures concrètes. Vu l'ampleur de la tâche qui reste à accomplir, les Douze se doivent d'exprimer leur préoccupation sur la lenteur des travaux de la Commission.

La troisième session a malgré tout été utile, car un débat a pu s'engager sur le fonctionnement de l'Assemblée générale et de l'E.C.O.S.O.C. Les Douze ont souligné la tâche charnière de l'E.C.O.S.O.C. entre l'Assemblée générale, organe législatif et suprême, et tous les organes subsidiaires. En conformité avec le chapitre X de la Charte, l'E.C.O.S.O.C. devrait inspirer l'Assemblée générale en établissant des lignes directrices en matière de politique économique générale et en matière sociale et humanitaire. Il devrait assister également l'Assemblée générale en assurant la coordination tant à l'intérieur des Nations Unies — spécialement en matière d'activités opérationnelles — que vis-à-vis des institutions spécialisées.

En partant du général pour arriver au spécifique, des propositions ont été faites pour permettre à l'Assemblée générale et à l'E.C.O.S.O.C. de mieux remplir leur rôle spécifique. Il a été question notamment de la révision périodique des ordres du jour, de la tenue du débat général sur la situation économique mondiale, soit au sein de l'E.C.O.S.O.C., soit au cours de l'Assemblée générale, de la spécification des rapports du Secrétariat sur ce sujet, de l'examen bisannuel de certains points de l'ordre du jour de l'E.C.O.S.O.C. et de l'Assemblée générale.

Nous devons poursuivre ce débat, conformément à notre accord sur une « approche intégrée ». La méthode de travail doit encore prouver comment elle pourra produire les résultats qui sont nécessaires au progrès des travaux de la Commission aux stades préliminaire et ultérieur.

L'étude du rôle de l'Assemblée générale et de l'E.C.O.S.O.C. ne peut être dissociée de celle de leurs principaux organes subsidiaires. C'est là-dessus que la Commission devra se pencher lors de sa prochaine session. La documentation devra être étudiée soigneusement à cet effet, pour pouvoir être utilisée efficacement.

Si le débat au cours de la dernière session fut hésitant et peu productif, c'est principalement parce que, à la veille de l'ouverture des travaux de la dernière session, les délégations étaient encore dans l'incertitude sur le sujet qui serait finalement abordé. Pour les prochaines sessions, le sujet et la structure du débat devraient être convenus d'avance. A cet effet, des contacts informels doivent être maintenus entre délégations et groupes pendant les mois qui nous séparent de la prochaine session de la Commission spéciale. Le Président et le bureau de la Commission spéciale devraient pouvoir jouer un rôle dans l'organisation de ces contacts informels. Avant la session de septembre de la Commission, des occasions peuvent être trouvées pour ces entretiens, notamment pendant la session d'été de l'E.C.O.S.O.C.

Les Douze voudraient rappeler l'importance qu'ils attachent à ce que les débats soient structurés sur base du mandat contenu dans la recommandation n° 28. Conformément à ce mandat, nous devons procéder à l'analyse comparative des ordres du jour, calendriers et programmes de l'Assemblée générale, de l'E.C.O.S.O.C. et de leurs organes subsidiaires, pour se faire une opinion sur:

- la pertinence et l'actualité de leurs mandats,
- les doubles emplois avec d'autres organes,
- la qualité du produit fourni par chaque organe,
- l'efficacité des services de support du Secrétariat.

Nous devrions, toujours en vertu de la recommandation n° 8, pouvoir proposer des mesures de simplification, de suppression de doubles emplois, de regroupement, de fusions, le but étant notamment de renforcer la cohérence, de favoriser l'approche globale et la coopération régionale.



Nous devrions, en outre, proposer des critères pour la création et la durée des mandats des organes, pour l'examen périodique de leur activité et de l'application de leurs décisions, et de rationalisation des rapports et de la documentation.

Monsieur le Président, au cours de sa dernière session, la Commission spéciale s'est transformée en groupe informel plénier. Ce caractère informel facilite les échanges de vues et assouplit les débats. Des propositions ont été faites par diverses délégations; des objections contre ces propositions ont été faites également. De tout ce débat il n'existe aucun compte rendu. Sur quelles bases allons-nous le poursuivre, dans quatre mois ou dans un an?

La Commission spéciale devra se pencher à nouveau sur cette question pour la suite de nos travaux. Les Douze souhaiteraient que le Président et son bureau y réfléchissent.

Les Douze pensent aussi qu'il serait utile pour l'efficacité de la suite des travaux de la Commission spéciale qu'un petit nombre de fonctionnaires, choisis au sein du Secrétariat, soit chargé à temps plein du support des activités de la Commission.

Monsieur le Président, les Douze font un appel à toutes les délégations pour que, dans un esprit de coopération, les travaux de la Commission puissent se poursuivre activement et efficacement. Le renforcement du secteur économique et social des Nations Unies est de notre intérêt à tous. Merci, Monsieur le Président.

<sup>1</sup> Point 3 de l'ordre du jour.

### **87/541. Déclaration à la Troisième commission de l'E.C.O.S.O.C.: coopération et coordination internationales dans le cadre du système des Nations Unies<sup>1</sup>**

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*Mme Frankinet:* Monsieur le Président, j'ai l'honneur de prendre la parole au nom de la Communauté européenne et de ses États membres.

En traitant de la « Coopération et Coordination dans le cadre du système des Nations Unies », le Conseil économique et social devrait exercer plus particulièrement une des prérogatives spécifiques que lui confie la Charte: celle de veiller à la coordination des activités dans le domaine économique et social de l'ensemble des organes et institutions qui constituent le système des Nations Unies.

Nous ne pouvons que rappeler ici la déclaration des Douze dans le débat sur ce sujet lors de la troisième session de la Commission spéciale: l'E.C.O.S.O.C. a été créé par les auteurs de la Charte pour inspirer et assister l'Assemblée générale. Il devrait l'inspirer en établissant des lignes directrices en matière de politique économique générale et en matière sociale et humanitaire. Il devrait l'assister en assurant la coordination tant à l'intérieur des Nations Unies — spécialement en matière d'activités opérationnelles — que vis-à-vis des institutions spécialisées.

Monsieur le Président, c'est avec une attention particulière que nous avons examiné le très bon rapport du Secrétaire général sur la coordination à l'Organisation des Nations Unies et dans le système des Nations Unies.

Il fait suite à la résolution 40/177 qui était inspirée du souci de rendre plus efficace et d'améliorer la coordination dans le système des Nations Unies et appelait tous les intéressés à s'acquitter plus énergiquement de leurs responsabilités à cet égard. En s'attaquant à cette tâche, nous devons être conscients qu'une coordination effective est plus une question d'état d'esprit que de règlement.

La coordination doit répondre à un double objectif:

- 1) orienter de façon convergente les multiples activités du système conformément à une conception convenue du développement économique et social;
- 2) éviter les doubles emplois et les gaspillages.

C'est avec raison que le rapport fait remarquer que la coordination est coûteuse, tant sur le plan humain que sur le plan financier, et que, dès lors, les efforts de coordination doivent être orientés vers les questions les plus importantes pour les États membres. A cet effet, le mécanisme de coordination doit demeurer souple et maniable.

En étudiant la coordination à l'échelon intergouvernemental, le rapport examine le rôle et la fonction des principaux mécanismes de coordination existants, en commençant par l'E.C.O.S.O.C.

Une fois de plus, il faut souligner le rôle central de l'E.C.O.S.O.C., qui doit donner des directives et traduire les activités diverses du système en un ensemble cohérent.

L'E.C.O.S.O.C. a été chargé par l'Assemblée générale d'une étude approfondie du fonctionnement du mécanisme intergouvernemental que lui-même et l'Assemblée générale ont créé et dont l'activité échappe en bonne partie à leur coordination.

Le rapport insiste, avec raison, sur la surcharge dont souffrent les travaux de l'E.C.O.S.O.C. La présente session, pendant laquelle nous devons traiter en onze jours d'une variété de sujets contenus dans une cinquantaine de rapports, l'illustre une fois de plus. Les Douze ont déjà mis l'accent, lors des débats de la Commission spéciale, sur le besoin d'alléger les ordres du jour surchargés des sessions de l'E.C.O.S.O.C. et sur l'utilité de la biennalisation à cet effet.

Le Comité pour le programme et la coordination, organe subsidiaire principal de l'E.C.O.S.O.C. en matière de coordination des programmes, s'est vu confier un rôle renforcé par la résolution 41/213. Il est chargé d'évaluer la façon dont sont appliquées les recommandations relatives au mécanisme intergouvernemental et à son fonctionnement. Son rôle dans l'établissement du plan à moyen terme est accentué et devrait être renforcé par une meilleure application des règles et procédures existantes. Il joue un rôle clé dans la mise en place du nouveau processus budgétaire. Du succès de ses prochaines sessions dépendra, en grande partie, le succès de la réforme en cours.

Un certain nombre de domaines d'intérêt général — tel celui des femmes et du développement — débordent des limites sectorielles d'un grand nombre d'organes et doivent faire l'objet d'un effort particulier de coopération et de coordination intersecrétariats. A l'intérieur du système, la solution du problème réside dans la procédure de la planification du programme et du budget. Le C.P.C. a déjà entrepris un examen critique des Analyses interorganisations des programmes (C.O.P.A.'s) qui ont acquis progressivement une complexité et une lourdeur méthodologique qui ont parfois suscité des réserves sur leur rentabilité. Le Secrétariat devra veiller à ce que les propositions d'amélioration formulées par le C.P.C. soient suivies d'effet. En particulier, ces analyses devraient être plus spécifiques et ponctuelles et être fusionnées autant que possible avec les évaluations.

Les réunions conjointes du C.P.C. et du Comité administratif pour la coordination (C.A.C.) sont les seules où les délégués des États membres ont l'occasion de discuter avec ceux des institutions spécialisées des problèmes de coordination. Jusqu'à présent, elles n'ont pas donné les résultats espérés. L'expérience entreprise depuis deux ans, qui consiste à concentrer le débat sur un seul thème, est plus utile que la discussion très générale à laquelle on assistait précédemment, mais n'a pas permis jusqu'à présent de déboucher sur l'identification de lacunes ou de doubles emplois précis, et encore moins sur des propositions concrètes pour remédier aux inconvénients constatés. Il faut organiser ces réunions de façon qu'elles puissent déboucher sur des recommandations concrètes.

En ce qui concerne le problème de la coordination intersecrétariat, nous relevons deux remarques importantes: d'abord, la constatation de l'influence « considérable » que les Chefs de secrétariat exercent sur leurs organes intergouvernementaux respectifs; ensuite, le fait que la

coordination interagences s'effectue principalement entre les différentes institutions spécialisées elles-mêmes, sans intervention de l'organe central, c'est-à-dire l'E.C.O.S.O.C. Le rôle de cet organe central est cependant indispensable. Le dialogue entre l'Assemblée générale et l'E.C.O.S.O.C. d'une part, et les institutions spécialisées d'autre part, laisse beaucoup à désirer. Une façon de l'améliorer serait d'inviter les institutions spécialisées à expliquer dans leurs rapports à l'E.C.O.S.O.C. quelle suite elles ont donnée aux résolutions de l'Assemblée générale ou de l'E.C.O.S.O.C. qui les concernent.

Nous apprenons à la lecture du rapport qu'on a pu identifier dans le système plus de 90 mécanismes formels de coordination, dont 22% sont des organes du C.A.C. et 44% sont constitués par diverses institutions spécialisées entre elles. Le rapport ne nous explique pas que font les 34% restants d'organes coordinateurs. Toujours est-il qu'il devient très difficile pour l'E.C.O.S.O.C. de surveiller au sommet un pareil réseau de coordination.

Le Comité administratif de coordination est l'organe statutaire de la coordination intersecrétariat.

Le rapport admet que, malgré l'application des directives de l'Assemblée générale, et plus spécialement de la résolution 32/197, le mécanisme élaboré au sein du C.A.C. n'a pas donné les résultats escomptés.

Il est clair que le C.A.C. est confronté au même problème que l'E.C.O.S.O.C. lui-même: la difficulté de maîtriser une variété universelle de problèmes. Il s'y ajoute une difficulté que le rapport ne mentionne pas: la très large autonomie des institutions spécialisées, qui décident souverainement de leurs programmes et de leurs priorités. Là où leurs intérêts se recoupent, elles se livrent parfois à une véritable concurrence.

La difficulté de rendre effectif le rôle du coordinateur résidant illustre cet esprit d'indépendance — souvent regrettable — des institutions spécialisées.

La multiplication des représentations distinctes des agences sur le terrain est une autre facette du même problème. A cet égard, nous prenons note avec intérêt de la suggestion du Directeur général visant à explorer la possibilité de créer un « Service de développement des Nations Unies » unifié.

Les institutions spécialisées devraient faire preuve de plus d'initiative dans l'élaboration de l'ordre du jour des réunions du C.A.C., en y incluant les problèmes qui les préoccupent. Elles devraient également relever le niveau de leur participation à ces réunions.

Le rapport annuel du C.A.C., dans sa forme actuelle, ne constitue guère qu'un répertoire des domaines dans lesquels des consultations se sont déroulées entre les organisations du système des Nations Unies. Une large partie en est consacrée aux questions budgétaires et de personnel, dont l'harmonisation relève de la Commission internationale de la fonction publique et de la Cinquième commission. S'il permet d'entrevoir l'extrême complexité des mécanismes de coordination subsidiaires du C.A.C., le rapport annuel, tel qu'il se présente actuellement, ne peut constituer la base d'un examen, par le C.P.C. et l'E.C.O.S.O.C., des questions de coordination qui se posent à l'échelle du système. Les rapports annuels du C.A.C. devraient être plus analytiques et plus substantiels. Ils devraient faire état, dans les domaines choisis, de possibles lacunes, chevauchements ou inefficacités constatés dans les activités, les compétences et les mandats des diverses entités du système et mettre l'accent sur les solutions à envisager, tant au niveau intersecrétariat qu'au niveau intergouvernemental.

Dans la conclusion, le rapport fait état de la vive préoccupation du C.A.C. face à la crise financière de l'O.N.U. et lance une mise en garde contre les conséquences pour l'Organisation et l'ensemble du système d'une détérioration des droits et avantages pécuniaires des fonctionnaires internationaux.

Les Douze partagent la préoccupation du Secrétaire général et du C.A.C. de voir préservés les droits du personnel. Ils font cependant remarquer que les membres du C.A.C. sont les gardiens du système commun et qu'ils ont le devoir de faire respecter les décisions prises par l'organe souverain qu'est l'Assemblée générale.

Les Douze attachent une importance primordiale à la coordination des activités opérationnelles. Les besoins des pays en développement sont trop grands pour qu'on puisse se permettre de gaspiller les moyens mis à disposition pour y faire face. Nous soutenons tous les efforts tendant à renforcer le rôle et l'efficacité du P.N.U.D. et celui des coordinateurs résidents. Le P.N.U.D., les institutions spécialisées et les gouvernements concernés — bénéficiaires et donateurs — doivent poursuivre leurs efforts afin de mieux coordonner leurs programmes et leurs projets. Nous voulons insister aussi sur l'importance du rôle que doit jouer le Directeur général dans le processus de coordination tant intergouvernemental qu'intersecrétariat.

Pour conclure sur la coordination intersecrétariat, nous reconnaissons que la méthode de coordination souple et *ad hoc* peut avoir de très bons résultats. Le succès de l'opération de secours d'urgence à l'Afrique en 1985-86 mérite d'être souligné. Nous espérons que la coordination intersecrétariat prouvera une fois encore son efficacité dans la mise en œuvre du programme d'action pour le redressement économique et le développement de l'Afrique.

Dans ses considérations sur la coopération et la coordination à l'intérieur de l'O.N.U., le rapport insiste sur le rôle central des commissions régionales et sur la nécessité de mettre en œuvre la résolution 32/197 pour renforcer ce rôle. Nous approuvons ces considérations, mais nous constatons également que, dans la mesure où croît l'importance des commissions régionales — par ailleurs justifiée —, croissent aussi leur indépendance et leur tendance à considérer que les organes centraux, c'est-à-dire l'E.C.O.S.O.C. et l'Assemblée générale, n'ont plus qu'à entériner les politiques et programmes qu'elles proposent. Le renforcement de la coopération régionale devrait aller de pair avec une coordination au niveau mondial au bénéfice de l'ensemble de la communauté internationale.

Monsieur le Président, le plan à moyen terme à l'échelle du système pour les femmes et le développement pour la période 1990-1995, tel qu'il a été amélioré sur base des recommandations de la Commission du statut de la femme, constitue un instrument nouveau et intéressant, bien qu'encore à un stade expérimental. Les Douze peuvent, d'une manière générale, se rallier aux propositions contenues dans le rapport E/1987/52. Au cours de l'établissement des plans à moyen terme des différentes institutions, ces propositions pourraient continuer à être affinées pour parvenir, d'une part, à une meilleure définition des produits des différents programmes et sous-programmes et, d'autre part, à des critères qui permettront de mesurer les progrès établis. Ces éléments devraient être pris en compte dans une future Analyse interorganisations des programmes (C.O.P.A.).

J'en viens maintenant, Monsieur le Président, à l'examen des plans à moyen terme des organismes des Nations Unies dans le domaine de la science et de la technique et à l'Analyse interorganisations des programmes dans ce domaine. Malheureusement, cette année, le Conseil ne pourra bénéficier des vues du Comité intergouvernemental pour la science et la technique sur cette question. Les recommandations du C.P.C. s'adressent dans une large mesure au rôle de coordination du Comité et à la façon dont celui-ci formule ses recommandations. Il est regrettable que, huit ans après l'adoption du programme d'action de Vienne, qui définissait le cadre de l'action du système des Nations Unies dans ce domaine, plusieurs plans à moyen terme d'organisations du système, dans ce domaine, semblent l'ignorer complètement. La Communauté et ses États membres appuient les recommandations du C.P.C. concernant le rapport E/1987/51 en ce qui concerne notamment le besoin pour le Comité intergouvernemental d'établir, au-delà des politiques générales, des priorités spécifiques, des orientations claires et des buts et objectifs réalistes. En outre, la question d'une définition plus précise des activités qui relèvent de la science et de la technique au service du développement devrait faire l'objet d'une attention accrue.

Enfin, Monsieur le Président, le C.P.C. a transmis directement au Conseil le rapport E/AC.51/1987/13 sur le répertoire des activités de développement du système des Nations Unies. Nous nous félicitons des progrès accomplis dans ce domaine depuis la dernière session de l'E.C.O.S.O.C. Comme en témoignent les résultats des consultations menées avec les gouvernements et les organisations concernées, ce répertoire constituera un instrument utile de

coordination et permettra une vue cohérente des activités de développement du système par pays et par secteur. Peut-être aurait-il fallu consulter les gouvernements plus tôt sur leurs préférences quant à la présentation des données, ce qui aurait permis d'éviter de revoir sans cesse les modalités arrêtées pour la forme du répertoire. Par ailleurs, il est essentiel que chacune des organisations du système, en particulier les plus importantes, fournissent les informations demandées, qu'il s'agisse des activités de développement financées par le P.N.U.D. ou sur fonds propres. L'E.C.O.S.O.C. devrait peut-être attirer l'attention des organes législatifs concernés sur cette question.

Monsieur le Président, le renforcement constant de la coordination des activités des Nations Unies dans les domaines économique et social est un des objectifs spécifiques de l'étude approfondie du mécanisme intergouvernemental que la Commission spéciale de l'E.C.O.S.O.C. est chargée d'effectuer. Nous exprimons l'espoir que la Commission spéciale sera en mesure de faire, à ce sujet, des recommandations qui favorisent l'efficacité des Nations Unies. Merci, Monsieur le Président.

<sup>1</sup> Point 15 de l'ordre du jour.

## **87/542. Final Statement in the Second Regular ECOSOC Session of 1987**

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*Mr Jønck:* Mr President, the European Community and its Member States would like to make a few observations on ECOSOC at this last day of our session.

Mr President, looking back on the work of the Council during the previous weeks one is compelled to ask: Did we perform satisfactorily?

We had a rather good general debate, despite its lack of focus, thanks to the good quality of the World Economic Survey and the high level of its presentation by the Secretary-General and Undersecretary-General Ahmed.

The Council has adopted a number of resolutions out of a somewhat larger number of resolutions on its plate as well as some decisions, but I think it is correct to say that none of them can be considered a remarkable achievement. Furthermore, resolutions on some important economic issues had to be withdrawn or [were] voted upon. Is this situation a reflection of the general state of affairs in the ECOSOC or is it due to some special circumstances this year?

We are inclined to believe that it is a combination of both factors. Some malaise of a general nature does persist in the Council and needs to be addressed. Within the context of the Special Commission on an In-Depth Analysis of the Economic and Social Structures in the United Nations a number of proposals to improve the functioning of the Council have been proposed, and the Secretary-General did in his opening speech to the Council also put forward a number of interesting proposals. The Special Commission will have an important task in considering these proposals.

Another part of the story is constituted, however, by the fact that even while this Council is still in session, another body of the UN system is on the verge of assembling in the very same rooms and will embark upon a similar discussion along similar lines of argument.

This situation should lead to reflections in the Special Commission on the more general question of the relationship between the Economic and Social Council, the Second Committee of the General Assembly and the UNCTAD as such. To the extent that important parts of the discussions in these bodies are mere repetition it seems as if the familiar heading of 'duplication of work' applies.

One practical problem imposed on the Council this year by the back-to-back session with UNCTAD-VII was that the Council's session was compressed in time and advanced a few weeks. Combined with the length and diversity of the agenda, this fact led to a situation where reports were not available in time and where the time available for negotiations was too short. In our view this had an unfortunate influence on the preparations for ECOSOC, and was reflected in the quality of the discussions in the two sessional committees. We have to bear this in mind for the coming ECOSOC sessions.

Mr President, turning for a moment to the work during this session of ECOSOC of the Third Committee — or the Programme and Coordination Committee as it somewhat presumptuously is called — one cannot avoid a feeling of non-coordination. In spite of the fact that the Council through its Third Committee is intended to exercise a coordinating function in relation to the work of the UN system, the organization of the work of the Committee itself and the deliberations of the Committee reflected coordination only to a limited extent.

For one thing, the agenda of the Committee was crammed with wide-ranging and largely unrelated issues brought together in complex agenda-items. In spite of efforts by the Chairman of the Committee to introduce a kind of structure to the debate, it remained the usual strange blend of hot and sweet, large and small. We, therefore, Mr President, fully support the proposal made by Australia yesterday to look into the organization of the Third Committee of ECOSOC at the next organizational session of the Council.

Let me also mention, Mr President, that many decisions and resolutions were hastened through the Committee at a speed greatly undeserved by the items in question as well as by the sponsors. While recognizing the fact that the number of days and hours allocated to the work of the Council was smaller than normal, we sincerely doubt that a superficial decision-making process is the right answer. In our opinion, a decision or a resolution thus carried without proper consideration and debate is worse than no decision.

Although, in consideration of the circumstances we did not object to this happening, we do find that deciding on a draft proposal within hours of its introduction is improper.

Mr President, in our general debate at the opening of the Session, one speaker after the other emphasized the importance we all attach to the ECOSOC as the coordinating body of the UN system in the economic and social field, and the need for efficiency and effectiveness throughout the system was underlined. This call for a streamlined and smoothly working United Nations was repeated in some of the discussions in the sessional committees.

Against this background one is led to the conclusion that this session of ECOSOC did not set a proper example for the organizations and bodies of the UN system.

Mr President, hopefully we will decide in time to make the necessary steps to bring ECOSOC back to the right track. If no steps are taken, ECOSOC might be at peril.

Thank you, Mr President.

**87/543. Speaking Notes for the Representative of the European Community at the Fourth Special Session of the Special Commission of the ECOSOC on the In-Depth Study of the United Nations Inter-Governmental Structure and Functions in the Economic and Social Fields (1-4 September 1987): Preliminary Findings on the Role of ECOSOC**

Date of Issue: 1 September 1987  
Place of Issue: New York  
Country of Presidency: Denmark  
Source of Document: Presidency  
Status of Document: Unclassified

1. The responsibilities given to the Council in the Charter are broad and extensive, but the responsibilities have not been discharged satisfactorily. A strengthening of the role of the

Council does not require a change of its mandate. However, a clear conceptual distinction between the roles of the General Assembly and the Council is lacking, particularly with respect to macro-economic questions.

A number of practical steps may help [to solve] this problem. General interventions on macro-economic questions in both the Plenary of the General Assembly, in the Second Committee and in ECOSOC seem abundant (the Third Committee has no general debate). The need for subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly reporting through ECOSOC to submit their reports to the General Assembly is questionable. Incorporating their reports in ECOSOC's report could be sufficient, if ECOSOC is entrusted with the responsibility of highlighting those issues in the reports that most appropriately are dealt with by the General Assembly. ECOSOC could act more as a preparatory body for the Second and Third Committee of the General Assembly, thereby helping to sharpen the deliberations in the General Assembly.

2. ECOSOC's role as the central forum for deliberations on international economic and social issues has diminished, due to *inter alia* unfocused debates, which are often duplicated in other bodies (i.e. Trade and Development Board), disagreement on the outcome of deliberations and disregard of ECOSOC's dual responsibilities (economic and social). This role could be enhanced through the following measures:

- While maintaining a general economic and social approach, the general debate at the second regular session of the Council can be given a special character by focusing on a few areas of interest. Those areas should be identified in advance in conformity with its biennial work programme and should be given prior attention in CPC and ACC.
- Agreement on a kind of outcome of any general debate, which on the one hand underlines the Council's over-all policy guidance role and on the other hand preserves the possibility of reflecting all important views. A chairman's summary or a *communiqué*-style outcome could be considered.
- Utilization of the Council's unique possibility of bringing economic and social considerations together, for instance through devoting at regular intervals the general debate to a joint review of the world economic and social situation.

3. The Council's cooperation with the specialized agencies should be improved. The attendance of the agency heads in the meeting of the Council should be encouraged, and the possibility of promoting an informal exchange of views with the Council members should be explored. A dialogue with the governing bodies of the specialized agencies on issues of common interest under review in the Council should be established as initiated with respect to operational activities in 1986. The Council could on an *ad hoc* basis request the agencies to submit reports on such issues, as envisaged in the Charter.

4. In line with the Council's general coordinating responsibilities it should play a central role in convening, preparing and follow-up of *ad hoc* UN conferences and sessions in the economic and social field. The Council should be entrusted with the final elaboration of follow-up arrangements in the UN system of such conferences.

5. The Council's consideration of the reports from the subsidiary machinery tends to be fragmented and often a repetition of views presented in the subsidiary body itself. Furthermore, the subsidiary machinery has developed through an *ad hoc* proliferation, and the Council has failed to review and/or discontinue the mandates of subsidiary bodies as envisaged in Resolution 32/197. Benefiting from a cross-sectorial and cross-organizational approach, the Council should strengthen its policy and coordinating role in dealing with the reports of the subsidiary bodies, *inter alia* through the following measures:

- Reviewing the reports in the context of the objectives and priorities for the system as a whole and the needs of the member countries. The Council should be assisted in these efforts by a proper preparation carried out by the Director-General's office and the ECOSOC Secretariat.
- The Council could itself assume the function of subsidiary bodies which do not perform specific, well-defined functions or do not require a detailed technical expertise. Such a step

- would bring some of the policy-setting functions back to the Council and could, as appropriate, be supported by the convening, on an *ad hoc* basis, of subject-oriented sessions of the Council for an in-depth discussion of sectorial issues.
- Further biennialization of the work programme and meeting-cycles. Meetings should, furthermore, be scheduled in a way that will allow the Council to receive reports from subsidiary bodies in good time in order to facilitate coordination.
  - Devoting more attention to regional cooperation and how these activities could better relate to and coordinate with those of relevant global activities.
  - Periodically reviewing the relevance and/or need of the work and mandates of its subsidiary bodies.
  - The role of the Council would be enhanced if the quality of the reports of its subsidiary bodies is high, and the Council should, therefore regularly review the level and type of presentation in its subsidiary bodies, including possibilities of greater participation of technical experts in the appropriate bodies.
6. The Council has not exercised its extensive responsibilities with respect to coordination of the programme activities of the UN System. An enhancement of this function is required:
- A better interplay between the Council's debate of policy issues should be facilitated by taking into account relevant coordination and evaluation reports under policy agenda items, as well as by ensuring, as far as possible, a certain degree of parallelism in decisions on policy issues to be given priority consideration and evaluation reports for up-coming sessions.
  - The Council should organize its deliberations of the agenda item 'International cooperation and coordination' in a way that will promote a more focused discussion of the issues and facilitate the drawing of conclusions.
7. Review of the operational activities of the UN system is a key role that requires continuous attention in the Council. The present allocation of operational activities to the third sessional committee together with all other questions on coordination is a constraint for effectively addressing operational activities, and the Council should consider proposals that would give operational activities a more visible profile, for instance by reshuffling the allocation of agenda items between the plenary and the sessional committees. Such a change would be accompanied by an intensification of the dialogue with the organizations involved in operational activities on matters of common interest.
8. In organizing its work, the Council should strive to ensure the highest possible efficiency (realistic scheduling of meetings, meetings to start on time, limitation of length of interventions, avoiding repetition of agenda items year after year, simplifying reporting requirements and procedures, i.e. by consolidating reports of similar character and by requesting concise, solution-oriented reports from the Secretariat, fewer and shorter resolutions).
9. Experience has shown that although a number of proposals for improving the functioning of the Council have been agreed upon previously, implementation of the proposals has often failed. It underlines the need for the special Commission to give special emphasis in its proposals to the need for ensuring an effective implementation of reforms.

**88/194. Memorandum to Be Included in the Report of the Special Commission of the Economic and Social Council on the In-Depth Study of the United Nations Intergovernmental Structure and Functions in the Economic and Social Fields<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 31 March 1988

Place of Issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Federal Republic of Germany

Source of Document: German Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Message



In accordance with General Assembly Resolution 41/213 and Economic and Social Council Decision 1987/112, it is the purpose of the in-depth study of the United Nations inter-governmental structure and functions in the economic and social fields to identify measures which would enable the United Nations — as an indispensable instrument for multilateral cooperation — to fulfil its functions better, as defined in the Charter (especially in Article 1, paragraphs 3 and 4), to promote international economic and social cooperation and universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. In line with Recommendation 8 of the report of the Group of Eighteen, which is based upon broad recognition of the need for the efficiency of the United Nations to be improved and for reform as a matter of priority, restructuring should aim at strengthening the effectiveness of the United Nations and improving its efficiency by simplifying and rationalizing the intergovernmental machinery and its secretariat support structure. In particular, in the economic field the areas of responsibility for the General Assembly, the Council and the Trade and Development Board of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development must be defined more clearly, while in the social field the debate in the Council might be tailored more closely to its supervisory function and coordinating role *vis-à-vis* the functional commissions. Furthermore, any reform effort has to take into consideration the special and distinct emphasis given by the Charter to the issue of human rights as reflected also in the existing relevant institutional framework (Article 68 of the Charter). This is why for the purposes of this paper a distinction is made between economic, social and human rights issues.

### *I. General Assembly*

The General Assembly should play its role as the supreme United Nations organ in the economic and social fields (United Nations Charter, Article 60), and as a forum for policy-making and harmonizing international action. The General Assembly should continue to give political guidance by formulating over-all strategies and setting political priorities. The General Assembly, in its deliberative function in economic matters, should provide the forum for the general debate on macro-economic issues in the autumn, complemented by the general economic discussion of the Trade and Development Board (in the spring) with its emphasis on trade and development aspects, making redundant the traditional general debate of macro-economic issues in the Council. More generally, in order to fulfil these functions properly, the work of the General Assembly must be better prepared and more focused so that it becomes not only more effective, but also substantially shorter. This could be achieved by rationalizing its agenda, including by means of biennialization of agenda items. The Council should have the primary responsibility for establishing the agenda of the General Assembly in the social and economic areas.

### *II. Economic and Social Council*

In order to facilitate better focused and shorter work of the General Assembly, the Council should submit to it reports on the work done by the Council and its subsidiary machinery in the economic field, with the current practice of technical reports in the social field to be continued. These reports in the economic field should — just as those submitted to the Council by the subsidiary bodies — highlight issues where political guidance by the General Assembly is needed, with the understanding that the General Assembly, in its concrete work, would concentrate on these issues, without prejudice to the comprehensive deliberative function of the plenary meeting of the General Assembly. The new reporting system would necessitate an appropriately focused input from the Secretariat.

In its coordinating role the Council is supported by the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC). The respective areas of responsibility for the Council and CPC must be defined more clearly, with the Council providing the necessary political authority which CPC recommendations have been lacking so far:

- a) CPC, in accordance with its role as main subsidiary organ for planning, programming and coordination, and in view of its new responsibilities in the field of budgeting, should focus its coordinating efforts on the United Nations itself ('intra-coordination');
- b) The Council should, as envisaged in the Charter, coordinate programme activities effectively on a system-wide basis ('inter-coordination').

CPC coordination instruments such as cross-organizational programme analyses/cross-organizational review of medium-term plans, ACC/CPC meetings and ACC reports should be adapted to the role to be played by the Council. The Council should adopt a thematic/sectoral approach where applicable. It should establish its agenda on the basis of a flexible multiennial work-programme. The cross-sectorial approach would necessitate the active participation of the agencies concerned. The working calendars of the subsidiary bodies would have to be adapted to the needs of the Council.

Concerning the regional commissions, the Council should ensure coherence between global and regional activities and facilitate interregional cooperation. Reports from the regional commissions should focus on questions which have actual or potential global implications or which have important implications for other regions. The Council and its subsidiary organs should be used as a framework for the preparation of, and the follow-up to international conferences and high-level meetings, which might themselves — as appropriate — take place within the Council context.

The Council's coordinating role should in particular be strengthened in the field of operational activities for development, with its role defined in more concrete terms. The Council should concentrate on the system-wide coordination aspect of the implementation of policies and programme activities, defining — as necessary — specific areas of activity for the different United Nations agencies and organs in order to ensure coherent and effective programme delivery. The primary responsibility for programme policy decisions and the review of programme implementation is to remain with the governing organs of the individual programmes and the agencies concerned. More specifically, for the years to come the coordination role of the Council should be defined along the lines of the provisions of General Assembly Resolution 42/196, i.e. monitoring of the functioning of the inter-secretariat coordinating mechanisms and acting on policy proposals made by the Director-General to facilitate the solution of problems encountered in ACC, defining a more effective programming process overseeing the simplification and harmonization of delivery and the reporting procedures of the United Nations organs and agencies and re-examining the arrangements in the field in order to take action on the resident coordinator's role and on the co-location of field offices. Every two years a special session of the Council should be devoted to operational activities, based on the report of the Director-General on operational activities, which will be biennialized.

In order to enable the General Assembly to focus on only a few major issues and to shorten its work substantially, a guiding principle for the structure of the Council's work must be stringent delegation of authority, with most decisions to be taken by the Council itself and, preferably, at the level of the subsidiary bodies. Issues to be addressed by the Council should be highlighted in the reports and documents to be submitted to it.

In the context of a major effort to simplify drastically the subsidiary Council machinery, the following bodies deserve special attention: the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development, the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy, the Committee on Natural Resources, the High-Level Committee for Technical Cooperation Among Developing Countries and the Commission for Social Development. These bodies should be merged as appropriate or their functions should be assumed by the Council or other United Nations bodies. For example, the natural resources questions could be transferred partly to the UNCTAD Committee on Commodities (minerals) and partly to UNEP (water) and partly taken up by the Council itself (energy). The coordination function of the High-Level Committee for Technical Cooperation Among Developing Countries could be absorbed by the Council and its more operational functions transferred to the UNDP

Governing Council. In many cases, parts of the task which at present are undertaken by global bodies (e.g. in the field of technical cooperation among developing countries and natural resources) should be delegated to the regional commissions as the main development centres in their respective regions. One element of a streamlined Council machinery could be subject-oriented sessions on related clusters of issues, for which the Council has assumed direct responsibility or to which the Council has decided to give particular attention. Such subject-oriented sessions could attract high-level participation. The subjects discussed in the subject-oriented session should not appear on the agenda of the regular session of the Council. World Food Council meetings should be biennialized.

In order to carry out these proposals, it will be necessary to make changes in the structure and timetable of Council meetings, taking into account the experiences of previous reform exercises. The thrust of our proposals is to restore the Council to the position envisaged for it in the Charter and to enable it to act effectively in the economic and social fields. At present, this task is impeded by the complex hierarchical structure which has tended over the years to weaken the functioning and authority of the Council. Leaving aside the question of membership, there are various adjustments to the structure which might be contemplated. These include consideration of the future of the organizational session and the subsequent regular sessions of the Council. One option might be to maintain broadly the present pattern, provided the proposals for the Council to act as a filter outlined in this paper can be effectively implemented. An alternate proposal would be for the Council to meet at the same time as the General Assembly. In that case, the present regular sessions of the Council should be consolidated in one session, meeting during the General Assembly and reporting to the Assembly direct or in a consolidated form through the Second and Third Committees of the General Assembly. The agenda and meeting time of the Second and Third Committees of the General Assembly might be adapted to make them compatible with the agenda and meeting time of the First and Second Committees of the Council. Coordination items would be taken up in the First and Second Sessional Committees of the Council, so that the Third Sessional Committee would then become redundant.

Consideration of structure and timetable has raised the question of the Council's membership. The proposals of restructuring described above in themselves would not, in our view, require universalization of the Council. Universalization of the Council in itself would not improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the United Nations. With four universal bodies in the economic field, the General Assembly/the Second Committee, the Council and UNCTAD, duplication and competition between these major United Nations bodies would become more apparent and even more difficult to avoid than under the present circumstances. For the Council itself universalization would make working procedures more cumbersome and time-consuming. It goes without saying that on top of that, universalization would require an amendment to the Charter, which in accordance with Article 108 has to be adopted and ratified by two-thirds of the Members of the United Nations, including all the Permanent Members of the Security Council. A change in the composition of the Council membership, like the proposed universalization, in itself would not bring about a profound and lasting improvement in achieving the purposes of the Charter in the economic and social fields. The question of a universal membership can only be discussed in the framework of a further-reaching, more radical reform package encompassing the General Assembly and its Committees as well as the Trade and Development Board. The creation of a new universal body would undermine the credibility of the system even further, unless it proved feasible to organize a built-in constitutional mechanism to enable the General Assembly to focus in a disciplined manner on a few major policy issues, based upon the preparatory work of the Council. The Council would then become responsible for much of the present agenda of the General Assembly and its Committees and would have to hold its annual session during the General Assembly session. It could imply, for example, that the Council should take final action on most economic issues and that the General Assembly itself would focus on its deliberative functions through a general macro-economic debate.

### *III. Trade and Development Board of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development*

The Trade and Development Board (with only one session in the spring) would complement the overall macro-economic debate of the General Assembly, both debates constituting elements of one continuous dialogue (with no general debate in the Council). This must be reflected in the documents serving as the basis for these debates, i.e. the *Trade and Development Report* and the *World Economic Survey*. Part of a more effective division of labour could be the concentration of science and technology activities in New York, given the coordinating role of the Centre for Science and Technology for Development.

### *IV. Working Methods*

Suggestions made by the Trade and Development Board working group and ECE should be generalized. They concern work programmes, pre-sessional consultations, the calendar of meetings, the duration and conduct of meetings as well as documentation. In general terms, the number of meetings of different organs should be reduced and the remaining meetings should be rescheduled in order to establish a logical sequence. The length of the different meetings would have to be decided upon after a close review, reordering and hopefully shortening of the respective agendas.

### *V. Secretariat Structure*

The outlined restructuring of the intergovernmental machinery would have to be reflected in a corresponding streamlining of the secretariat support structures reflecting the need for more rationalization and simplification on the one hand and better coordination on the other, and the provision of adequate means for all agreed tasks. Particular attention should be given to the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs in the context of its relationship with the Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation, UNCTAD as the main subsidiary body of the General Assembly in the economic field and the United Nations Office in Vienna. The Office for Development and International Economic Cooperation must through redeployment be adequately equipped so that the Director-General would be in a position to carry out his central coordinating role, i.e. in the field of operational activities. Consequential changes for the secretariat support structures would have to be considered in the light of new arrangements for the intergovernmental structures in the different areas.

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<sup>1</sup> Cf. *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 88/117.

## **88/195. Statement in the Second Committee of the UN Economic and Social Council Concerning Human Rights<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 17 May 1988

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Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Mr Chairman, I have the honour of taking the floor on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community on agenda item 10, 'Human Rights'.

We unequivocally commit ourselves to the promotion and defence of human rights all over the world. We condemn human rights violations wherever they occur. Concern for the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms is a major element in our foreign policy.

Human rights are the inalienable rights of every individual, they are the birthright of every human being, deriving from the inherent dignity of the human person. The concept of human

rights defines the fundamental freedom of the individual person that society must not encroach upon. No government can sidestep this fact by invoking ideological or religious principles or reasons of social order. Fundamental human rights are the protection of the individual against the power of the State. Those who distort human rights by protecting the State against the individual advocate totalitarianism.

The United Nations Charter places an obligation upon all member States to promote human rights. All member States assume this obligation. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948 — a declaration whose 40th anniversary we are commemorating this year — and the two great Human Rights Covenants of 1966 specify the content and meaning of this obligation. A majority of the United Nations member States have ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. These member States are thus bound even more stringently under international law to implement the provisions of the two covenants and to ensure the promotion and protection of human rights in their territories.

But, Mr Chairman, human rights derive from the inherent dignity of the human person. They are not granted by society nor bestowed by States. They are universal in character. They are not limited by national borders, their universal validity transcends the boundaries of national sovereignty. The community of nations has the right and the duty to keep a watchful eye on those who are politically responsible for fulfilling these commitments. Anyone who invokes the principle of non-interference in this context lays himself open to the suspicion of wanting to hide human rights violations from the world public.

Peace is gravely endangered where fundamental freedom and basic human rights are not respected. Respect for human rights is the *sine qua non* for a sustained peaceful development of mankind. A coherent translation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and of the Human Rights Covenants into reality therefore is, in our view, an indispensable integral part of international peace policy.

We attach great importance to the activities of the United Nations in the field of human rights. Under the Charter, particular responsibility was given to ECOSOC through the setting up of the Commission on Human Rights for the promotion of those rights. Promoting and, in fact, strengthening the work and the capacity of the Commission of Human Rights to operate effectively will continue to be a primary concern for us.

Mr Chairman, one of the original tasks of the Commission on Human Rights is the codification of human rights standards. In this context, we welcome the entry into force on 26 June 1987 of the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment as a major advance in promoting respect for human rights. We attach particular importance to the newly established Committee Against Torture. It is obvious, however, that this committee will only be able to fulfil its role in the combat against torture if it is allowed to function properly. We underline the importance of prompt payment by States Parties of their assessed contribution. Moreover, any attempt by a State Party to distort or to modify its obligation to contribute to the proper financing of the Committee's work is highly detrimental. Such attempts must be opposed.

Mr Chairman, although it was not possible to conclude the second reading of the draft convention on the rights of the child during the forty-fourth session of the Commission on Human Rights, we hope that this task will be concluded at the meeting of the working group this autumn. We must, however, point out that care must be taken not to accept formulations that limit the scope of the already existing human rights, which of course also apply to the child. The planned technical review of the draft convention should be helpful in this connection.

We welcome the progress made and the satisfactory drafting undertaken by the open-ended working group to draft a declaration on the right and responsibility of individuals, groups and organs of society to promote and protect universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms. The protection of those groups and individuals who — often at considerable risk to their own liberty or even their own lives — devote themselves to the promotion and protection

of the human rights of their fellow men is an area of particular concern to us. We are pleased to note that this concern is widely shared, and we hope that as many delegations as possible will participate in the future efforts of the working group.

It is obvious, however, that the protection of the individual will not be significantly improved merely by drawing up new human rights instruments, resolutions and treaties. Observance of the existing human rights standards is crucial. The emphasis must therefore be on improving and strengthening the implementation machinery.

An essential instrument of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights for monitoring the observance of human rights standards is the institution of special rapporteurs whose reports apprise the Commission of specific forms of human rights violations worldwide as well as of the human rights situation in individual countries.

We find it a gratifying development that governments have realized that a special rapporteur is not cast in the role of a prosecutor. Having overcome their initial misgivings, some governments are now cooperating with the special rapporteurs. We encourage all governments concerned to extend and, where appropriate, to intensify their cooperation with the special rapporteurs.

We welcome the proposed extension of the mandates of the special rapporteurs on thematic issues for a period of two years. In our view such extension not only will facilitate the planning of the work programme of the special rapporteurs, but it also will offer better opportunities for governments to investigate thoroughly individual cases of alleged violations of human rights brought to their attention and to inform the special rapporteurs of their findings.

We wish to point out, in addition, that special rapporteurs are mandated to respond effectively to credible and reliable information that comes before them. In order to maintain the necessary dialogue, they should seek the views and comments of the governments concerned on any information which they wish to include in their reports. It is essential that the special rapporteurs carry out their work with discretion and independence.

We wish to draw attention to the specific role of the thematic special rapporteur as a tool developed by the Commission on Human Rights to combat practices which have been outlawed by the international community and as a means of coming to the rescue of potential or real victims of such practices. We are especially grateful to the Special Rapporteur on Torture for his examination of the relationship between his role and the mandate of the Committee on Torture illustrating clearly the complementary rather than competitive nature of this relationship. We believe that his findings apply to the role of all special rapporteurs *vis-à-vis* the established monitoring bodies.

Mr Chairman, the examination of the reports of the thematic special rapporteurs at the forty-fourth session of the Commission on Human Rights once again showed in stark clarity that the human rights situation in many parts of the world still gives rise to grave concern.

However, it is heartening to learn from the report of the Special Rapporteur on Torture that there has been a general awakening to the phenomenon of torture and that governments as well as the peoples of the world universally condemn torture as one of the most heinous violations of human rights. We are deeply disturbed by his findings that the number of allegations of torture being brought to his attention does not show a tendency to decrease. We strongly hope that the universal condemnation of torture will translate into effective action to combat this scourge. We call on all governments to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur.

No less disturbing is the report of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances. We fully share the conviction of the Working Group that both the continued occurrence of this phenomenon and the mounting case-load of unresolved disappearances are reasons for the Commission on Human Rights to give this question its unstinting attention. The members of the Working Group deserve the highest praise for the responsible and sensitive manner in which they pursue their efforts to clarify the whereabouts or the fate of thousands and thousands of disappeared persons.

Tragically, the number of unresolved cases remains unbearably high. We urge all governments and others concerned to cooperate with and assist the Working Group. We welcome the visit of

the Working Group to Guatemala and the valuable cooperation extended to its members by the executive, the judiciary, the legislative as well as by the various non-governmental institutions of Guatemala. We commend the recommendations of the Working Group to the attention of the Government of Guatemala.

We share the alarm of the Special Rapporteur on Summary or Arbitrary Executions over the phenomenon of non-respect for the right to life and in particular over the act of indiscriminate killing of unarmed civilians. We share also his hope that the international community will strengthen its concerted efforts to eliminate the root causes of such violence, to achieve peaceful solutions through dialogue and to take effective measures to prevent further loss of innocent lives. We take note with satisfaction of the visit of the Special Rapporteur to Surinam. We welcome the developments in Surinam that have led to the constitution of a democratic government and we express the hope that it will be in a position to restore fully the enjoyments of human rights. We again call on all governments to fully support the mandated activities of the Special Rapporteur and to cooperate with him closely.

It is a matter of grave concern to us that the Special Rapporteur on Religious Intolerance concludes that there is a persistence of incidents and governmental measures inconsistent with the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief. He reports that infringements of freedom of religion or belief occur in various forms and in practically all regions of the world. We commend his efforts to institute a dialogue with governments concerned and welcome the positive reaction of some of them. Noting that several replies from governments were received belatedly, we hope that the general extension of the mandate of the thematic rapporteurs to a period of two years will be of special value.

At its forty-fourth session, the Commission again reviewed the human rights situations in a large number of countries and territories. It adopted resolutions on South Africa, Namibia, the occupied Arab territories, southern Lebanon, Afghanistan, Kampuchea, Western Sahara, Chile, El Salvador and Iran, and decided to postpone the debate on the question of human rights in Cyprus to its forty-fifth session. In addition, it decided to accept the invitation of the Government of Cuba that the chairman and five members of the Commission should visit Cuba in order to observe the human rights situation. The Chairman announced the names of the nine countries examined under ECOSOC Resolution 1503 (XLVIII) as well as of the five countries no longer under consideration under this procedure. He also announced that the decision taken by the Commission in closed session in respect of Albania would be made public.

We strongly support the institution of special rapporteurs or special representatives as an important means of the Commission to investigate the human rights situation in certain countries. It is a sad reflection on the state of human rights in the world that there is a need for such rapporteurs. This year the Commission received reports on four countries, namely Afghanistan, Chile, El Salvador, and Iran. Each of these special rapporteurs enjoys a degree of cooperation with the countries concerned. We call on all countries in respect of which the Commission establishes special rapporteurs to cooperate fully with them. We hope that the work of the special rapporteurs will lead to an improvement in the human rights situation in the countries concerned. The twelve Member States of the European Community will comment *inter alia* upon the situation in these countries at the next General Assembly.

Mr Chairman, we again played an active role in the adoption of a resolution of the Commission on hostage-taking. We continue to be seriously alarmed by the persistence of hostage-taking throughout the world and by the odious forms it takes. We wish to reaffirm our strong condemnation of taking any person hostage, whoever may be responsible or whatever the circumstances may be.

We also played an active role in introducing a resolution on the right to freedom [of opinion] and expression, calling for the immediate release of all persons detained solely for exercising their human right to freedom of opinion and expression. We expect recommendations from the Sub-Commission on further measures which may be required at the national and international levels to promote and safeguard this basic right.

We wish to draw attention to the Commission's important new resolution on political prisoners, which calls for the release of the numerous persons detained in many parts of the world for seeking to exercise peacefully their human rights and fundamental freedoms or to promote and defend those rights and freedoms. We renew this call in this Council and we shall not cease in our efforts for their release.

Mr Chairman, the Commission also adopted a significant resolution on the situation of international civil servants in the service of the United Nations who continue to be held captive or are otherwise unaccounted for. We appeal to all governments to respect and to ensure respect for the rights of staff members and others acting under the authority of the United Nations, and their families.

Mr Chairman, the effective manner in which the Commission has dealt with the broad spectrum of issues before it is proof that over time the Commission has established procedures which have met with wide acceptance. We are particularly satisfied by this fact, given the delicate nature of many matters on its agenda. We are, therefore, confident that the Commission, based on these procedures will continue to be able to discharge its mandate, thus giving effect to the particular responsibility of the United Nations under the Charter for the promotion of human rights.

In conclusion, Mr Chairman, we wish to comment on a new development in the work of the Commission that in our opinion bears great promise for the future. Over the years we have seen a growing interest of member States in the advisory services offered by the Centre for Human Rights. In this connection, we take note with interest of the remarks of the Under-Secretary-General, Mr Martenson, contained in his introductory statement. In view of the restricted means available for this programme, we welcome improvements switching for instance the focus from costly seminars to effective training courses and human rights fellowships. We, therefore, welcome the recent establishment of the Voluntary Fund for Advisory Services as an addition to this programme. We call on all governments in a position to do so to contribute to the Fund. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

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<sup>1</sup> Agenda item 10.

**88/196. Question No 2382/87 by Mr Robles Piquer (ED-E)  
Concerning a Protest Against a Flagrant Case of Human Rights  
Violation by the Cuban Government**

Date of Issue: 4 July 1988

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Source of Document: Presidency

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Having regard to the joint resolution on the situation of political prisoners in Cuba adopted by the European Parliament on 29 October 1987<sup>1</sup>, and in particular recital D(1) thereof, can the Foreign Ministers confirm the claims made by the poet, Armando Valladares, President of the Human Rights Association in Cuba, that the Cuban political prisoner Juan Valdes Terán, who is 71 years old and seriously ill, will never be released, the grounds given by the Cuban authorities — according to an article published in the Madrid daily newspaper *ABC* on 9 January 1988 — being that he was 'mentioned in the above resolution by Carlos Robles Piquer'? If so, do the Foreign Ministers intend to lodge a protest against an act which is not only unjust and cruel but also demonstrates contempt for a European Parliament resolution and for the freedom of expression of its Members?



*Answer:*

The Presidency would like to inform the Honourable Member that, according to the information available, Cuban authorities have already released Mr Valdes Terán, who actually is in the United States of America.

<sup>1</sup> OJ No C 318 of 30 November 1987, pp. 113-114.

**88/197. Question No 2574/87 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E)  
Concerning Prisoners of Conscience in the Soviet Union**

Date of Issue: 4 July 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 9 March 1988

Do the Ministers know how many prisoners there are at present in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics sentenced for 'crimes against the State'? Do they know how many were released in 1986 and 1987?

*Answer:*

The Twelve have knowledge of a number of lists of prisoners of conscience in the Soviet Union, established by governments, by non-governmental organizations or by dissidents in the Soviet Union. The Twelve are also monitoring release of such prisoners. Given the nature of the Soviet political system, it is extremely difficult, however, even for well-placed and informed observers, to be certain that such lists are accurate.

Numerous human rights cases have been raised by the governments of the Twelve jointly or in bilateral contacts with the Soviet Union. The Twelve have also emphasized the need for full respect for all commitments in the field of human rights, freely undertaken by the Soviet Union, including those contained in the Helsinki Final Act. At the ongoing CSCE follow-up meeting in Vienna they are striving to win acceptance of provisions aimed at ensuring better respect for these commitments.

**88/198. Question No 2576/87 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E)  
Concerning the Central American Refugees in the USA**

Date of Issue: 4 July 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 9 March 1988

Do the Ministers know how many refugees from Central American countries have been returned to their country of origin by the US authorities in 1986 and 1987? Have the Ministers taken any action on behalf of these refugees?

*Answer:*

The particular question of Central American refugees in the United States has not been tackled in the context of European political cooperation.

However, the Twelve are aware of the problems which the conflict in Central America has caused for the people in that region.

In this connection, the European Community has undertaken an operation aimed at facilitating the return of refugees to their country of origin on a voluntary basis, at their own request, and the resettlement of displaced persons.

In addition, at the ministerial meeting in Hamburg (San José IV), the Community stated its readiness to step up its programmes to help refugees and displaced persons.

**88/199. Question No 2580/87 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E)  
Concerning the Situation of Mexican Journalists Arrested Because of  
Their Support for Peasant Organizations**

Date of Issue: 4 July 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 9 March 1988

Have the Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation concerned themselves with the plight of the Mexican journalist Jorge Enrique Hernandez Aquilar and six fellow journalists who have been arrested in Mexico because of their support for peasant organizations?

*Answer:*

The Honourable Member's question has not been discussed within the framework of European political cooperation.

**88/200. Question No 2701/87 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E)  
Concerning the Violation of Humanitarian Standards of Behaviour  
by Iran and Iraq**

Date of Issue: 4 July 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 18 March 1988

Why did the statement following the European Council meeting of 4-5 December 1987 not include the views of the Twelve on the generalized violation of international standards of humanitarian behaviour by the belligerents Iraq and Iran?

*Answer:*

The statement of 4-5 December 1987<sup>1</sup> focused on the paramount question of the peaceful solution of the Iraq-Iran conflict. The Twelve, however, have not lost any occasion to consistently deplore the breaches by the belligerents of international law, in particular the laws governing armed conflict and international humanitarian standards, especially with regard to the recent use of chemical weapons.

The Twelve have reiterated this position in the *démarche* on the Iraq-Iran war, made on 24 March with the United Nations Secretary-General.

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<sup>1</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 87/509.

**88/201. Question No 2748/87 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E)  
Concerning Detentions in Morocco**

Date of Issue: 4 July 1988  
Place of Issue: Strasbourg  
Country of Presidency: Greece  
Source of Document: Presidency  
Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 25 March 1988

Have the Ministers for Foreign Affairs meeting in European political cooperation enquired recently into the fate of the members of the *Frontistes* group detained in Morocco between 1974 and 1976; among them the well-known 38 year-old engineer, Ahmed El Fessas, serving a 20-year prison sentence handed down in 1977?

*Answer:*

The Twelve are aware of the detention of members of the *Frontistes* movement in Morocco.

In the context of their commitment to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedom, the Twelve emphasize the importance of the principles of parliamentary democracy and the rule of law. The Moroccan authorities are well aware of the Twelve's position.

**88/202. Question No 2749/87 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E)  
Concerning Prisoners who Have Been Executed or Granted  
Amnesties in Algeria**

Date of Issue: 4 July 1988  
Place of Issue: Strasbourg  
Country of Presidency: Greece  
Source of Document: Presidency  
Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 25 March 1988

Do the Ministers for Foreign Affairs meeting in European political cooperation know how many people have officially been executed in the Republic of Algeria since 1983? Have the Ministers taken any steps to abolish this iniquitous punishment, on the use of which in Algeria we are so ill-informed? Do they also know how many prisoners of conscience have been set free?

*Answer:*

The Twelve follow closely the human rights situation in Algeria. The Honourable Member will be aware that official confirmation of the sentences or decisions he refers to is difficult to obtain.

The Twelve will not fail to make known their concern on questions of human rights violations that come to their attention whenever this seems to be in the interest of those concerned.

The Algerian Government is well aware of the Twelve's views with regard to the respect for human rights.

**88/203. Question No 2761/87 by Mr Robles Piquer (ED-E)  
Concerning Comecon's Rejection of Economic Sanctions**

Date of Issue: 4 July 1988  
Place of Issue: Strasbourg  
Country of Presidency: Greece  
Source of Document: Presidency  
Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 25 March 1988

At a meeting held at the University of Ghent on 17 and 18 December last year, the Secretary-General of Comecon, Mr Sychev, spoke out against economic sanctions and boycotts which he considered to be unacceptable as means of political confrontation.

Can the Foreign Ministers say what current instances of boycotting or economic sanctions Mr Sychev's comments could apply to, now the governments of the Twelve and the Commission have doubtless studied the full text of his speech?

*Answer:*

The text of Mr Sychev's speech has not been made available to the Twelve. It is therefore impossible to comment upon it.

### **88/204. Council Statement on the Period in Office of the Greek Presidency [Abstracts]<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 5 July 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Programme Speech to European Parliament

*Mr Papoulias, President-in-Office of the Council and of the Foreign Ministers:* Mr President, honourable Members of the European Parliament, it is a pleasure and an honour to come before you, as Greece takes up the Presidency of the Council of Ministers of the European Community, to present the work programme which we shall endeavour to carry out over the coming six months. [...]

Our efforts in the immediate future must be directed towards carrying unification further, strengthening the identity of Europe, strengthening both economic and social cohesion, and cultivating and highlighting our cultural heritage. In this context it would not be opportune to take any steps or action towards further enlarging the Community.

We must also attempt to redefine Europe's international role, especially in the area of security and disarmament, in the light of the recent positive developments in relations between the two superpowers which are opening up entirely new and promising prospects in international relations. The Community must make a more effective contribution to this process. The recent signing of the joint declaration governing political relations between the European Community and the countries of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (Comecon) constitutes an important step in this direction. But our political role and voice must be strengthened and acquire their own colour and identity. The Community must also play a more active role in dealing with the problems of the developing countries and especially problems relating to severe indebtedness. [...]

Over the next six months, we have resolved to work systematically and industriously both for the internal development of the Community and for the furtherance of its external relations and international role. [...]

Mr President, I should like to turn now to what the Greek Presidency intends to do in the area of European political cooperation in contributing actively to further progress towards European Union.

There can be no doubt that developments in the area of European political cooperation in the year following adoption of the Single Act have, on balance, been positive.

Consultations between the Twelve continued at all levels and enabled us to achieve a noteworthy degree of cohesion on most of the major international topics which we examined.

The Greek Presidency is fully aware of the responsibility which the Single Act places on Europe, which should speak with one voice which reflects its common interests and positions.

The Presidency therefore intends to make every effort to ensure full application of the Single Act, especially by working out common positions, devising common measures and strengthening the principles of solidarity, mutual agreement and cohesion.

The need for the Europe of the Twelve to have a single and effective voice is particularly acute today when the international political scene shifts so rapidly, when many outdated beliefs and points of reference have been destroyed and when promising horizons are opening up, offering new possibilities.

Greece is taking over the Presidency at a time when a real and fundamental improvement in East-West relations and the creation of the conditions for lasting peace in the world appear to be realistic goals. The Moscow Summit brought about a significant improvement in the climate of confidence between the two sides and gave fresh impetus to the process of *rapprochement*. Europe has always vigorously supported and contributed to this process and is determined to maintain a substantial role, as confirmed in the statement recently adopted by the Twelve in Luxembourg.

In this framework, the Greek Presidency hopes that it will be possible to develop a systematic and frank dialogue between the Twelve and the Soviet Union, as well as the other East European countries. With the establishment of official relations between the European Economic Community and the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance and its member States, that dialogue is entering a new phase. At the same time, the important work which is taking place not only in the Soviet Union but also in the other East European countries is being followed with great interest, and it is to be hoped that it will help open up new opportunities for agreement and cooperation in the future. Over and above economic matters, it is in our interest to pursue a wide-ranging exchange of views and to search for solutions to common problems so that we may enter a period of substantial East-West cooperation.

The recent US-Soviet agreement on the abolition of short and medium-range nuclear weapons has to be a first step in this direction and it is an example of what can be achieved when there is the necessary political will. With the help of its partners, the Greek Presidency will aim to strengthen dialogue on arms control and disarmament.

The aims of the Twelve are known: we strongly support the efforts of the United States and the Soviet Union to conclude an agreement on halving the number of their strategic nuclear weapons, on rapid and complete abolition of chemical weapons worldwide, with proper verification procedures, and on the creation of a lasting and secure balance of conventional forces in Europe at a lower level.

The creation of confidence-building measures and verification and transparency in the military sector are also matters which we shall be following closely. The fact that the recent third Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on disarmament was not able to adopt a final text should not influence our efforts.

The Vienna Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe is now in its sixth round, which we hope — thanks also to the valuable contribution of the draft concluding document submitted by the neutral and non-aligned States in May — will be the last. The Greek Presidency, in agreement with its partners in Political Cooperation, will make every effort to see that the concluding document adopted meets the Community's aim.

The Twelve are aiming at a substantial and balanced result which will guarantee human rights and fundamental freedom as well as human contacts throughout Europe; a result which will ensure better implementation of the commitments entered into by the States involved in this process in the Helsinki Final Act and the Concluding Document of Madrid.

We believe that progress in the human dimension of the CSCE will make a substantial contribution to creating a real climate of confidence and will give East-West relations the stability and continuity which they must have.

A successful outcome of the Vienna Conference will make it possible to accelerate the process of disarmament and to strengthen security and confidence in Europe by means of the equally

important conferences which are due to start immediately after Vienna within the framework of the CSCE, i.e. the talks on conventional stability and those on security and confidence-building measures in Europe.

As regards measures to combat international terrorism, the Greek Presidency will continue the efforts being undertaken in the context of European political cooperation to develop further cooperation between the Twelve and to promote the views of the Community in international forums such as the United Nations, the Council of Europe, the CSCE, the ICAO and the IMO.

The positive climate in East-West relations can and must facilitate agreed and just solutions to the major regional crises.

The Twelve welcomed the beginning of the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan. Our objective is the creation of a truly independent and non-aligned Afghanistan. In this connection, we support the full implementation of the Geneva agreements and international efforts, in particular those undertaken by the United Nations Secretary-General, to consolidate peace in that country and to encourage the formation of a truly representative government which is based on the principle of self-determination and which will enable refugees and displaced persons to return of their own free will to their country in safety and with dignity.

In the Middle East the situation in the occupied territories is critical and is deteriorating further. This is a real tragedy claiming victims daily and without any solution in sight. The Twelve have adopted a clear position on this issue. The present *status quo* cannot be maintained.

Efforts must be made to put an end to this deplorable situation by means of agreed solutions which will enable a just, comprehensive and lasting peace to be established.

Our views on the principles which should govern the solution of the problem are clear and have been formulated both in the Venice Declaration and in subsequent Community statements. These principles have regard both to the right of all States in the region, including Israel, to live within secure and internationally recognized borders, and to the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, with all that that implies.

The Twelve warmly support the convening of an international conference, under the aegis of the United Nations, as the appropriate framework for the necessary negotiations between the parties directly concerned. In this spirit, we look favourably upon any efforts aimed at finding a swift political settlement to this dispute.

For their part, the Twelve are ready to play a constructive role in convening an international conference and to make an active contribution to reconciling the positions of the parties concerned as far as possible.

The continuing conflict between Iran and Iraq and the consequent increase in tension in the Gulf are causing us great concern.

The violations of human rights and other international conventions reported in this armed conflict and the attacks against merchant shipping in the Gulf, which are manifestly in breach of the basic principle of the freedom of shipping, have given rise to problems of the utmost importance throughout the international community.

The Twelve will continue to support the efforts by the United Nations Secretary-General and by the Security Council to bring this senseless and tragic conflict to an end. Resolution 598 of the Security Council constitutes a sound basis for this purpose.

At the same time, the Greek Presidency, with the support of the other Member States, will examine the possibility of the Twelve making an additional effort to bring this senseless and tragic conflict to an end and to re-establish peace in the region.

We shall also continue our efforts to find a peaceful solution to the problem of Lebanon, based on independence, sovereignty, unity, territorial integrity and on national reconciliation in that country, in accordance with the Twelve's repeated statements on the matter. We believe that the presidential elections soon to be held in Lebanon will be of decisive importance for the future of that country and must be held in accordance with the existing constitutional system.

The Twelve consider that the Euro-Arab Dialogue constitutes an essential and useful means of communication between Europe and the Arab world and that important results can be

achieved for both sides through this dialogue. The recent meeting at ministerial level between the European and the Arab 'troika' provided an opportunity for both sides to stress that they are determined to give a new impulse to the Euro-Arab Dialogue with the resumption of the work of all the institutions operating within this framework, together with all the activities involved.

The Twelve will be equally interested in monitoring the situation in Kampuchea and will support the initiative by the ASEAN countries and by Prince Sihanouk in the pursuit of a political solution to the problem.

The Greek Presidency also intends to pay particular attention to the problems of Southern Africa. We will continue our efforts to achieve the complete abolition, by peaceful means, of the inhuman policy of apartheid and of the destabilizing policy which South Africa is systematically pursuing in the region.

In this context, we will keep a watchful eye on the strict implementation of the measures decided by the Twelve in September 1985 and September 1986. The implementation of our positive measures is currently in danger of being thwarted by the new legislation which Pretoria aims to impose. We have said, and we reserve the right to repeat clearly, to the South African authorities that the introduction of such legislation would bring about a serious deterioration of our relations. We also support the current process aimed at achieving peace in Angola and independence for Namibia on the basis of Resolution 435 of the Security Council.

In Central America we will support, through dialogue with the States of the region, the continuation of the peace processes and we will, as far as possible, contribute to the restoration of peace through respect for the principles of non-interference, pluralist democracy and human rights. The election of a Central American Assembly, which we have committed ourselves to support, will without doubt play a significant role in this process.

I should now like to dwell somewhat longer on a problem of particular importance for the international and European communities, the problem of Cyprus.

The Twelve have shown particular sensitivity to this question since Cyprus is indeed a member of our European family.

It is no accident that Europe, with the position we recently adopted in the Council of Ministers in Luxembourg, and also in the context of European political cooperation and in the European Parliament, has repeatedly spoken out on this question. Unfortunately, however, the situation in Cyprus has remained unchanged for the last fourteen years.

Last April, the Council of Ministers in Luxembourg adopted the following as the Community's position: *The problem of Cyprus affects also the relations between the Community and Turkey.*

Within the framework of European political cooperation, the Foreign Ministers of the Community have stated that they do not recognize the pseudo-State of Denktash, but only the Government of the Republic of Cyprus. They moreover support the 'independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and unity of the Republic of Cyprus'. They want a just and viable solution to the problem of Cyprus to be found through the good offices of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, on the basis of the United Nations resolutions.

The European Parliament too, when it adopted the Coste-Floret resolution on Cyprus by an overwhelming majority, recently demonstrated its full support for the legitimate government of the Republic of Cyprus and called on the Community to contribute more actively to the search for a just and viable solution to the problem of Cyprus.

The Presidency aims to seek untiringly a solution of the Cypriot problem which will be based on the unity, independence and territorial integrity of the island. We hope that the clearly formulated position of the Community on the problem will assist the search for a solution. The initiation of a political dialogue between the Community and Cyprus will help the process. Cyprus requested this officially on 16 June 1988 and we intend to support its request.

Contacts and dialogue with third countries and regional groups of States, as envisaged by the Single European Act, have always formed an important part of European political cooperation.

This evaluation has in recent years been confirmed by the intensification and further development of these contacts. The Greek Presidency aims to strengthen and extend this dialogue. In this context, we have planned to conduct political consultations with Japan, China, the Gulf States, the countries of Central America and the countries of the Group of Eight of Rio. We will also, as decided by the Twelve, widen our political contacts with Norway, Austria, Canada and Malta.

It is evident from what I have been saying that the Greek Presidency has to tackle a considerable number of serious questions. We are ready to meet this challenge with the assistance of all our partners. We too, like the preceding Presidencies, will make full use of the personnel and the facilities of the Secretariat for European political cooperation.

We are assigning an important place, in seeing through the work we have undertaken, to an active, honest and consistent exchange of views with the European Parliament, in the spirit of the Single European Act and the subsequent ministerial decisions. We have taken note of the report of Mr Planas, which you have adopted, and of the views expressed on this question by Lord Plumb at the recent European Council meeting in Hanover.

The Greek Presidency will, for its part, do its very best to make relations with the European Parliament and proceedings in the context of European political cooperation harmonious and constructive. I thank you.

*Moreover, Mr Papoulias stated after the debates: [...]* The Greek Presidency has faith in the distinct role that Europe can play in international affairs by promoting the fundamental principles upon which it is based: democracy, human rights, and cooperation between peoples. We will approach international problems in this spirit of openness, and try to strengthen our international voice and presence.

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<sup>1</sup> Cf. *OJ* No 2-367 of 5 July 1988, pp. 30-48.

## **88/205. Oral Questions Concerning Sanctions Against South Africa<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 5 July 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Questions of 16 June 1988

### *Oral Question O-23/88:*

During the debate at the European Parliament's January part-session, Minister of State Ms Adam-Schwaetzer stated categorically on behalf of the twelve Member States:

The Community's policy so far has been to reject economic sanctions as a means of exerting pressure on other countries in order to achieve political objectives. I assume that the Community will not change its policy in this matter.

During the March part-session, Ms Adam-Schwaetzer repeated this view in the following words:

It (the Council) has repeatedly asserted that it does not consider sanctions — i.e. establishing a link between economic matters and politics — to be a suitable means of persuading governments to change their position.

Would the Foreign Ministers state why they are not adhering to this clear position in the case of South Africa, especially in view of the fact that sanctions against this country have proved ineffective and even counter-productive, as the Council itself has noted?



*Oral Question O-26/88:*

On 10 July 1986 the European Parliament adopted, by an overwhelming majority, a resolution calling on the Member States to ban

1. coal imports from South Africa,
2. new loans to the South African Government,
3. new IMF loans to the South African Government,
4. agricultural imports from South Africa,
5. mineral imports.

Furthermore, Parliament called for the suspension of air transport to and from South Africa and the down-grading of the Member States' diplomatic presence in Pretoria to the lowest possible level. None of these measures has been implemented by the Member States to date.

Do the Foreign Ministers meeting in European political cooperation not consider it a matter of urgency that these measures be put into effect by the Community countries, as has already been done by the Nordic and Commonwealth countries?

What exactly is the Community doing to put pressure on the South African Government to end the apartheid system?

*Oral Question O-37/88:*

The situation in South Africa is becoming increasingly disturbing: the stepping-up of repressive measures, the ban on the activities of the majority of anti-apartheid organizations, a quasi permanent state of emergency, repeated attacks on the front-line States, attacks on ANC representatives all over the world, and, lastly, the prohibition on the receipt of funds from outside — in particular the Community — intended for the victims of apartheid.

In view of this last move in particular, which completely prohibits the implementation of the 'positive measures' agreed by the Commission, do the Foreign Ministers not consider it essential to adopt a new package of Community economic sanctions, to be made binding on the Twelve and including, at the head of the list, a total ban on EEC coal imports from South Africa?

Furthermore, are the Foreign Ministers aware of the numerous violations of the United Nations embargo and does it propose to adopt measures to ensure total compliance with the oil and arms embargo?

*Oral Question O-49/88:*

Several countries including the USA have announced a boycott of air links with South Africa as a means of bringing pressure to bear on the Government in Pretoria. This is a measure which mainly affects the white population of South Africa and which has a considerable psychological impact.

Do the Foreign Ministers meeting in European [political cooperation] not feel it would be appropriate:

1. for the Twelve in their turn to suspend all air traffic with South Africa?
2. to downgrade the Member States' diplomatic representation to the lowest level possible?

*Mr Papoulias, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers:* Allow me to give an overall answer to these four oral questions concerning South Africa. In fact they pose the same problem, though seen from different angles, namely that of the usefulness and efficacy of measures against South Africa in view of the aims we all desire to pursue. I don't think I need remind you what those aims are, nor by which ideological principles they are inspired.

The peaceful elimination of apartheid, the creation of a just and free society, the restoration of human dignity, are and must remain our basic priorities. To achieve all this, since 1985 the Twelve have been following a policy of persuasion and pressure which was expressed by the visit to Pretoria of the ministerial 'Troika' and by the visit of the President-in-Office during the latter half of 1986; also by numerous and pressing approaches to the South African authorities and by specific measures, both positive and restrictive.

Let me first speak about the restrictive measures, to tell you that taken together, they have been strictly implemented in every sector. We undertook an in-depth survey of their repercussions, and on the basis of the information so far at hand, the Twelve have noted that their measures have brought the expected reaction. As for their political results, let me just say that these measures constitute above all a demonstration of our determination. Thus, they retain their full validity.

Our programme of positive measures, directly aimed at the victims of apartheid, has great political and moral value for the Twelve and the Community. The South African Government knows full well the importance we place on its smooth operation. The Council of Europe, which represents our highest political level, confirmed in Hanover on 28 June that if the draft statute aiming to deprive organizations opposed to apartheid, which are striving for peaceful change, of economic aid from abroad were to become law, this would place even greater stress on relations between the Twelve and South Africa. In parallel, the Twelve are meticulously monitoring the application of the Code [of Conduct for] Community companies with subsidiaries in South Africa.

I would like to reassure you that the Code is an important instrument of our policy which aims to eliminate completely any policy of discrimination in the economic and social sectors. The last annual constitutional report on the application of the code was put before you in February 1988<sup>2</sup>.

The Twelve are aware of the positions expressed by the European Parliament in its decision of 10 July 1986. I can assure you that the development of the situation in South Africa, especially the attitude of the South African authorities, remains under the most careful scrutiny. In that context the Hanover Council noted with great disquiet that relations between the Twelve and South Africa are in danger of deteriorating still further. In that connection it made a pressing appeal for all available legitimate procedures in South Africa to be used, including if necessary the granting of a pardon by President Botha, to prevent the execution of the Sharpeville Six. It also appealed to the South African authorities for the immediate release of Nelson Mandela, whose seventieth birthday falls on 18 July, and of all other political prisoners as well.

As you see, the situation in South Africa is a subject of particular disquiet and in-depth analysis on our part. Our only concern is to set in motion such measures as will prove truly effective in achieving the aims we desire.

<sup>1</sup> Cf. *OJ* No 2-367 of 5 July 1988, p. 55 and pp. 79-80.

<sup>2</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 88/038.

### **88/206. Question No H-277/88 by Ms van den Heuvel Concerning the Agreement Between Indonesia and the United Nations Development Programme on Projects in East Timor**

Date of Issue: 5 July 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

Are the Ministers prepared to protest against the agreement concluded on 17 March 1988 between Indonesia and the UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) regarding projects in East Timor (*Jakarta Post* of 18 March 1988), a country which does not belong to Indonesia under international law?

*Mr Papoulias, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers:* As was explained in the answer to Question 252/88 by Mr Barros Moura during Question Time in June<sup>1</sup>, the Government of Indonesia knows the views of the Twelve concerning East Timor. The Twelve are convinced that

a global and internationally acceptable settlement of the East Timor problem can very well be found under the aegis of the United Nations. For that reason they support the contacts between Portugal and Indonesia under the aegis of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, which aim to find a solution that will safeguard the rights and cultural identity of the people of East Timor. All the specialized committees and other organizations of the United Nations system are called upon to help the people of East Timor within the scope of their respective competences, in accordance with the executive directives stipulated in paragraph 3 of Resolution 37/30 of the General Assembly of the United Nations. Since those directives were not fully adhered to in this specific case, Portugal had the opportunity to draw the attention of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the need to be bound by them in future.

*Ms van den Heuvel (S)*: Does the President-in-Office agree that a slightly strange situation arises if a country that is unlawfully exercising power over another is allowed to conclude agreements within the United Nations system? Indonesia's occupation of East Timor is illegal, yet the Twelve are allowing Indonesia to conclude agreements on East Timor. Did the Government of Portugal, one of the Community Member States, explicitly agree to this?

*Mr Papoulias*: The Council is trying to help find a fair solution along the lines of efforts made by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

*Mr Barros Moura (COM)*: I wish to ask the President-in-Office a question concerning the Council's stance on Indonesia, which is illegally occupying East Timor. This occupation is opposed by one of the Member States, namely Portugal. How is the Community able to maintain its economic and other relations with Indonesia within ASEAN, despite the fact that Indonesia is illegally occupying East Timor and despite repeated statements by this House in support of the right of the people of East Timor to self-determination?

*Mr Papoulias*: I have nothing to add, beyond stressing yet again the efforts undertaken by the Twelve along the right lines.

<sup>1</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 88/162.

## 8 Conditions in South Africa

Date of Issue: 5 July 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

On 14 June 1988, Ms Adam-Schwaetzer, addressing the European Parliament on behalf of the Foreign Ministers meeting in European political cooperation, declared: 'The Council ... continues to be concerned at the way in which children are obviously used there (i.e. in South Africa) to sustain the economy'.

According to information from South Africa, a law has been passed in that country prohibiting the use of child labour, and this law is scrupulously observed by the industrial sector.

In view of these contradictory statements, can the Foreign Ministers indicate what are the sources to which Ms Adam-Schwaetzer was obviously referring and to what extent are these sources authentic and reliable?

*Mr Papoulias, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers*: What was meant in the answer given to a supplementary question was that children and young people, like any other sector of the oppressed populations in South Africa, suffer as a result of apartheid and the discriminatory practices it involves.

*Ms Rabbethge (PPE)*: In the verbatim report of proceedings of Question Time in June it says that child labour sustains the economy in South Africa. I assume this must be a linguistic

misunderstanding, for surely it is not a question of child labour but of low wages. The mistake has something to do with the English translation. The reality of the situation is surely that between one and two million blacks from the neighbouring States come to South Africa in search of work because they receive higher wages there than elsewhere and especially their home countries. So I ask the Council once again: Will the Council confirm that further economic sanctions will not help create higher wages and more jobs for the black population but would have precisely the opposite effect?

*Mr Papoulias*: The Twelve are trying, by persuasion and by other means, to influence the unacceptable situation prevailing in South Africa.

*Mr Marshall (ED)*: Would the President-in-Office not agree that the young people of South Africa would be the major victims if further economic sanctions were to destroy jobs and lead to the loss of life through hunger?

*Mr Papoulias*: By the means I mentioned earlier, the Twelve aspire to overthrow the barbarous system of apartheid, and I think that everything we are discussing here is precisely the consequence of that barbarous and inhuman system.

*Mr Guerneur (RDE)*: I am struck by the determination of the President-in-Office of the Council not to answer the question put to him on this subject. Yet the question is a very simple one. Is the Council aware of the damage the sanctions do to the South African economy and therefore to employment? Is it determined to go on upsetting the economy and worsening the employment situation, come what may, or does it realize that another tack, cooperation, is called for to put an end to apartheid without destroying the population of South Africa?

*Mr Papoulias*: The Council's decisions up to now have mainly been dictated by the unacceptable situation of apartheid which prevails in South Africa, and they always take account of the interests of the South African people, the vast majority of whom are black.

*Mr Mühlen (PPE)*: Mr President, the question was clear. Ms Adam-Schwaetzer said that the South African economy could only be kept going with child labour. But the question was: What were the Council's sources for this information? We should like to have a precise answer to this specific question.

*Mr Papoulias*: I think there is some misunderstanding, and I have already answered the question.

## **88/208. Question No H-322/88 by Ms Castle Concerning South Africa**

Date of Issue: 5 July 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

Have the Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation considered the threat posed to the EEC Special Fund for Victims of Apartheid by the 'Promotion of the Orderly Practices Bill' currently before the South African Parliament and what action do they propose to take to dissuade the South African Government from passing this bill and to protect the recipients of the fund and its continued effectiveness if the bill is passed?

*Mr Papoulias, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers*: I would like to refer the honourable lady Member to my combined answer to Oral Questions O-23/88, O-26/88, and O-49/88<sup>1</sup>.

*Ms Castle (S)*: Is it not a fact that the EEC's fund to help the victims of apartheid is threatened by the new South African law alleged to be for the 'promotion of orderly practices' and that under this South African bill any organization deemed by the South African authorities to be engaged in political activity will have its funds confiscated and its work restricted? Is it not

impossible to help the victims of apartheid in South Africa without coming up against the South African Government's belief that any attempt to give justice and freedom to people is political in the terms of its regime? What, therefore, is the Council going to do to assert this Community's right to operate a fund which it believes is justified on humane grounds?

*Mr Papoulias:* The Twelve have categorically declared their opposition to the draft law which disallows the possibility of granting aid to the victims of apartheid.

<sup>1</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 88/205.

### **88/209. Question No H-331/88 by Mr Ephremidis Concerning the Trial of Mr Kutlu and Mr Sargin**

Date of Issue: 5 July 1988  
Place of Issue: Strasbourg  
Country of Presidency: Greece  
Source of Document: Presidency  
Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

What practical steps will the Twelve meeting in Political Cooperation take to secure the release of Kutlu and Sargin who are being held and tried in violation of human rights, in particular those concerning respect for the rights of the accused to a defence, contrary to numerous European Parliament resolutions and the personal intervention of the President himself, Lord Plumb?

*Mr Papoulias, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers:* I would first like to refer to the numerous answers given to Honourable Members concerning this matter. I can assure you that the position of the Twelve on human rights and the fundamental freedoms is well known to the Turkish authorities. The Twelve are following with particular interest developments in the trial of the two political leaders, and hope that all steps will be taken to ensure that the trial proceeds with full respect for justice and the relevant recognized principles.

*Mr Ephremidis (COM):* Indeed, we are familiar with the answers to the question at issue, answers which are identical, namely that the Twelve are monitoring the situation, the Twelve are interested, they hope that democratic freedoms will be restored in Turkey, and that concerning this trial in particular they hope it will take place under normal conditions. Yesterday, it was postponed for the third time because the regime feels that the accusation is being made to seem ridiculous, and it cannot find another way, and it postpones the trial from one day to the next so as to exhaust international public opinion and so that the Council will stop concerning itself with the matter. Consequently, the question is this: When will the Twelve finally decide, now that the behaviour of the Turkish authorities has been clearly demonstrated, to undertake some practical action out of respect for Parliament's decisions and commitments by the President of our Parliament himself? That is the question.

*Mr Papoulias:* I would like to tell Mr Ephremidis that the Twelve monitor with great interest the situation of human rights and freedoms in Turkey, and have certainly shown great interest in this trial as well. In my capacity as the Greek Minister, I would also like to tell Mr Ephremidis that the Greek Government has sent a former Minister, a distinguished lawyer and professor of penal jurisprudence at the University of Athens, Mr Mangaki, as an observer to the trial.

*Mr Lomas (S):* The position of the Twelve is well known and has been stated often to the Turkish authorities. Unfortunately, the Turkish authorities just do not take any notice of it. Kutlu and Sargin have now been in prison for months without receiving fair treatment. Indeed, they say they have been tortured.

Will the Twelve say to Turkey 'Look, you have applied to join the European Community; we tell you clearly there is no possibility of that happening until you release Kutlu and Sargin and all the other political prisoners in Turkey'?

*Mr Papoulias:* The sensitivity of the Twelve to the suppression of human rights and individual freedoms, wherever this takes place and of course in Turkey too, is well known.

*Mr Alavanos (COM):* Mr Ephremidis said that the trial keeps being postponed. The explanation for this is that one of the aims of these postponements is to break down the international solidarity towards the imprisoned leaders of the United Communist Party of Turkey. I would like to ask the President-in-Office whether the Community intends to demonstrate its interest in a practical way, and whether it would be possible for some special emissary from the Council, from Political Cooperation, an ambassador, from the Community's Member States, to undertake to be present as an observer at this trial, precisely so that our solidarity, our interest in human rights in Turkey may assume a practical form.

*Mr Papoulias:* I want once more to emphasize the interest of the Twelve. I do not accept the Honourable Member's interpretation. My interpretation is that, thanks to this direct and practical interest of the Twelve, the Turkish Government does not dare to condemn the two communist leaders, and so keeps postponing their trial.

*Mr Bonde (ARC):* I am also one of those who follow this affair with special interest, because I was on the plane that flew Mr Kutlu and Mr Sargin to something which later turned out to be torture. I was down there last week and attended the court sitting, where I had the opportunity of a short talk with them. Both confirmed those reports we have received from Amnesty International on extensive torture. Together with Theodorakis and representatives from other parliaments, we had a meeting that evening with the former Prime Minister, Mr Demirel, who promised to protest. Mr Demirel sought an official statement from the Council Presidency to the effect that the human rights conventions form part of existing EC law. They are according to the texts which are known to us, since the Joint Declaration is a document which considers human rights to be covered by general Community law. What I want to ask the President-in-Office to do is to make a statement simply confirming that human rights, under the conventions to which we have acceded, are part of Community law.

*Mr Papoulias:* I think that the efforts of the Twelve fall within the scope mentioned by the Honourable Member.

### **88/210. Question No H-332/88 by Mr Dessylas Concerning the Position of the Twelve on Cyprus**

Date of Issue: 5 July 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

Will the Greek Presidency take action, and what in practical terms will this be, to ensure that the Twelve act on the statement made at the Luxembourg Council that the Cyprus problem affects relations between the EEC and Turkey? And, in conjunction with the new Cuéllar proposals for inter-community talks, which the President of the Republic of Cyprus has accepted in full, will the Foreign Ministers press for an international conference on the international aspects of the Cyprus problem?

*Mr Papoulias, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers:* As we have repeatedly declared, the position of the Twelve on the Cyprus problem is based on the principles of independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and the unity of democracy. Within such a framework we reassert our commitment to support all efforts to find a just and viable solution to the problem, especially the well-intentioned initiative by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

*Mr Dessylas (COM):* On a matter closer to home for the President-in-Office than some others we have considered today, I would have expected a more specific answer. I also bear in mind what he said this morning in his comments on the Greek Presidency's programme. If possible, I would like him to give me a specific answer to a supplementary question: As a Presidency, what steps do you intend to take to establish as the common position of the Twelve, and consequently

of the EEC-Turkey Council as well, not simply vaguely and generally just that the Cyprus problem also affects EEC-Turkey relations, but specifically that we demand the withdrawal of the Turkish occupying forces from the Republic of Cyprus, a position adopted by the European Parliament by a large majority?

Secondly, as a Presidency, what specific steps will you take to convene as soon as possible an international conference on the Cyprus problem, and of course I mean the international repercussions of the Cyprus problem? I would like a specific answer, granted that the matter is so close to home for the President-in-Office.

*Mr Papoulias:* I think Mr Dessylas should be satisfied by recent developments concerning the Cyprus problem, and by the unanimous position of the Twelve, a degree of progress which I expected him to comment on and appreciate. In fact, for the first time the Twelve have adopted the position which Mr Dessylas knows very well. As for the international conference, of course we support this but I do not think the Twelve are in a position to impose it.

*Mr Marshall (ED):* The President-in-Office did say that the previous questioner should be satisfied. How can anyone be satisfied with a situation where there has been no real progress since the events of 1974? The delay of fourteen years in trying to solve this problem is quite intolerable.

Would the President-in-Office give an assurance to this House that it will be made quite clear to the Turkish Government that the application to join the European Community will not be accepted unless the Turkish troops are withdrawn from Cyprus? Would he not agree that it is shameful that the government of which Ms Castle was a member did nothing in 1974 to prevent the Turkish troops landing in Cyprus?

*Mr Papoulias:* I would like to answer the Honourable Member not on the basis of the position I have just described, because if I did that I would have to embark upon a historical review and attribute responsibility to many people. I would however like to stress, and the Honourable Member knows this, that it has been made clear to Turkey that it can expect nothing from the European Communities so long as Turkish forces of occupation remain in an independent State, as the Republic of Cyprus is. A basic prerequisite for any normalization of relations between Turkey and the European Communities is the immediate and complete withdrawal of the Turkish occupying forces.

*Mr Taylor (DR):* In the United Kingdom Parliament two weeks ago it was confirmed that both Turkey and Greece had more troops in Cyprus than is allowed to those two guarantor powers. Does the Council of Ministers approve of Greece having more troops in Cyprus than is allowed under the Treaty of Guarantee?

*Mr Papoulias:* I think the Honourable Member is either making some mistake, or is not well informed, because otherwise he could not be unaware of the fact that in Cyprus there are 35 000 occupying troops and 400 tanks. On the basis of the Treaty, Greece maintains a small force of about 800 men.

### **88/211. Question No H-282/88 by Mr Seeler Concerning the Violation of Human Rights in Malaysia<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 5 July 1988  
 Place of Issue: Strasbourg  
 Country of Presidency: Greece  
 Source of Document: Presidency  
 Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

What action have the Foreign Ministers taken on the resolution adopted by Parliament on 19 November 1987 (Docs B 2-1284/87, B 2-1895/87 and B 2-1335/87)<sup>2</sup> pursuant to Rule 58(5) of the Rules of Procedure on the violation of human rights in Malaysia?

Do the Foreign Ministers consider that the situation described in the above resolution has since improved?

If not, what other action do the Foreign Ministers intend to take?

*Mr Papoulias, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers:* The Twelve are closely monitoring the question of human rights in Malaysia. They have also taken note of the European Parliament's resolution. As a follow-up to that resolution they expressed their concern to the Malaysian Government in January 1988. The Twelve have noted with satisfaction the fact that in the meantime many of those arrested under the Internal Security Act have been released. Despite this, the Twelve will continue to monitor the situation.

*Mr Seeler (S):* I thank you for your reply and would like to ask the President-in-Office of the Council whether he will urge that the constantly recurring question of violations of human rights be made a subject of the regular ministerial talks under the cooperation agreements between the Community and the ASEAN States.

*Mr Papoulias:* In my answer I stressed that the Twelve are monitoring the situation, and the Honourable Member can rest assured that we will make moves in that direction.

*Mr Vayssade (S):* Did the discussion which the Council had indicate whether any Malaysian Members of Parliament were actually freed, or were they rather kept under house arrest in some place outside their constituencies? Does the Council know anything about this and is there anything it can do?

*Mr Papoulias:* It is indeed a violation of the rights of Members of Parliament to compel them to live outside their constituencies. The Council will take that into account.

<sup>1</sup> Former Oral Question with debate (O-5/88) transformed into a question for Question Time.

<sup>2</sup> OJ No C 345 of 21 December 1987, pp. 130-131.

## **88/212. Question No H-89/88 by Mr Arbeloa Muru Concerning the US Government Action Against the Esquipulas Agreements**

Date of Issue: 5 July 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

Do the Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation believe that the action of the United States Government, in appearing to take a unilateral decision, immediately endorsed by President Azcona, to invade the 'satellite' country of Honduras constitutes a deliberate attempt to sabotage the peace efforts undertaken in the wake of Esquipulas, primarily by the Contadora Group and, if so, what protest do the Foreign Ministers propose to make?

*Mr Papoulias, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers:* The position of the Twelve regarding the principles which should inspire any solution to the Central American problem is very well known. It has been repeated in public on many occasions, most recently in the Joint Declaration issued by the San José Conference which met in Hamburg<sup>1</sup>, and in the statement by the Twelve on 28 March 1988 concerning the Sapoa agreement between the government of Nicaragua and the military opposition<sup>2</sup>.

*Mr Arbeloa Muru (S):* I was referring to a specific event involving intervention by the United States into what the Hondurans themselves called 'the State of Honduras' which did not exist at that time. I was asking about that specific action. However, the question is now out of date because it originally said, 'What protest do they propose to make?'. I am now asking, Mr President, what protest did the Ministers responsible for Political Cooperation make with regard to that specific action by the United States?



*Mr Papoulias:* The Honourable Member must be aware of the well-known efforts and decisions by the Twelve to find a peaceful and viable solution to the problem of Central America. And I think the most recent position adopted in Hamburg is a clear indication of how much the Central American problem exercises the Twelve. I wish to assure the Honourable Member that during the tenure of the Greek Presidency, the Twelve will continue to show direct and active interest at all time.

<sup>1</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 88/030.

<sup>2</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 88/073.

**88/213. Question No H-298/88 by Mr Vandemeulebroucke  
Concerning the Disappearance of Jan Cools in Lebanon**

Date of Issue: 6 July 1988  
Place of Issue: Strasbourg  
Country of Presidency: Greece  
Source of Document: Presidency  
Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

The Foreign Ministers are no doubt well aware that Jan Cools, a Belgian subject working for the Norwegian aid organization Norwac in Lebanon, disappeared without trace on 21 May 1988 and that he has probably been abducted by some organization. What efforts have the Foreign Ministers meeting in European political cooperation made so far, and what steps do they intend to take to find this person?

*Answer:*

As the Twelve have stated before on several occasions, they follow the situation in Lebanon closely. Specific cases of disappearance are however dealt with by the individual partners concerned.

**88/214. Statement Concerning the European Council Meeting of 27  
and 28 June in Hanover [Abstracts]<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 6 July 1988  
Place of Issue: Strasbourg  
Country of Presidency: Greece  
Source of Document: Presidency  
Status of Document: Report on European Council

*Mr Kohl, President-in-Office of the European Council:* [...] The European Council stated its position on important foreign policy issues. First, I would refer to the central issue for Europe's future, namely the development of East-West relations. By means of a consistent policy of cooperation and dialogue the Twelve have contributed to the encouraging progress made recently. They are resolved to continue to play an active and encouraging role in that process in future. In this connection our statement expressly welcomes the establishment of official relations between the European Community and the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (Comecon).

I am pleased to say that in the last week negotiations for a Trade and Cooperation Agreement between the Community and Hungary were also completed. I hope that this will soon be possible with other Comecon States too.

We once again referred to the East-West Economic Conference proposed by the Community and appealed to CSCE participating States to make every endeavour to arrive in Vienna at a substantive and balanced document permitting progress in all areas, particularly in areas such as human rights, which affect people directly.

European political cooperation has proved its worth not least in our worldwide responsibility as regards peace and human rights. The European Council reaffirmed the broad lines of our common policy on Afghanistan, the Middle East, South and Southern Africa and Latin America.

On Afghanistan, the Community and its Member States stated their willingness to provide urgently necessary humanitarian assistance through the United Nations.

On South Africa, I would point out that the European Council appealed, as moreover did the World Economic Summit in Toronto, to President Botha for clemency for the Sharpeville Six.

We also repeated the call for the release of Nelson Mandela, who will be 70 years old on 18 July this year, as well as that of the other political prisoners.

Most importantly and notwithstanding the above, we once again made it clear that considerable strain would be placed on the Community's relations with South Africa if the bill now before Parliament concerning financial contributions to anti-apartheid organizations, including the churches and trade unions, were enacted by the South African Parliament.

Before commencing its proceedings, the European Council heard the European Parliament's views on the main subjects of discussions. This meeting with you, the President of the European Parliament, has now become a sound tradition. As shown in particular by discussions on putting into practice the Delors package, it forms part of the trusting, constructive cooperation which has been definitively extended and improved by the Single European Act. [...]

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<sup>1</sup> Cf. *OJ* No 2-367 of 6 July 1988, pp. 134-157.

### **88/215. Question No 1170/87 by Mr Ford (S-UK) Concerning the Presidential Elections in the Republic of Korea**

Date of Issue: 11 July 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 1 September 1987

Do the Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation plan to send observers to this election?

*Answer:*

The process of democratization and the elections in South Korea have been followed closely by the Twelve.

They have, however, not sent observers to the elections but were informed through their respective resident ambassadors in Seoul.

On 19 December, 1987, the Twelve issued a statement on the presidential elections held on 16 December 1987<sup>1</sup>, in which they conveyed their congratulations to the President designate as well as their expectation that he will work relentlessly to fulfil the aspirations of his countrymen for genuine democracy and respect of human rights.

At the inauguration of the President in February 1988 all Member States [were] represented.

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<sup>1</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 87/538.

**88/216. Question No 1171/87 by Mr Cot (S-F) Concerning the Sentencing of Professor Osman Taraki Rustar**

Date of Issue: 11 July 1988  
 Place of Issue: Strasbourg  
 Country of Presidency: Greece  
 Source of Document: Presidency  
 Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 1 September 1987

Professor Osman Taraki Rustar, professor at the Faculty of Law in Kabul, was sentenced by Afghan courts in 1982 for being a counter-revolutionary. It appears that at his trial, not even those guarantees generally acknowledged as fundamental were provided, and the prison term imposed on him — ten years — is severe in the extreme. Now that the Afghan Government seems to be contemplating an amnesty for a considerable number of political prisoners and an official committee has been set up in Kabul to bring together the country's intellectuals 'in the name of national reconciliation', the release of Professor Rustar would be particularly welcome.

In the defence of human rights, is it not incumbent on the Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation to intervene on Professor Rustar's behalf?

*Answer:*

The specific case has not been discussed within European political cooperation.

Afghanistan has, however, for many years been a major concern of the Twelve. They have repeatedly called on the Soviet Union to end the occupation, which has brought untold sufferings to the Afghan people. They have also expressed their view that only an overall political solution will permit the restoration of genuine peace and allow the re-establishment of an independent and non-aligned Afghanistan.

The Twelve have followed the human rights situation in Afghanistan with particular attention and concern. In the United Nations they have actively contributed to the annual adoption of a resolution in which the many violations of human rights in Afghanistan have been denounced.

They hope that after the withdrawal of all Soviet troops and the installation of a truly representative government in Kabul, human rights will be fully restored.

**88/217. Question No 1581/87 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E) Concerning Death Sentences in Kuwait**

Date of Issue: 11 July 1988  
 Place of Issue: Strasbourg  
 Country of Presidency: Greece  
 Source of Document: Presidency  
 Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 6 November 1987

Can the Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation make representations to the Government of the Emirate of Kuwait to repeal the death sentence passed on four people on 6 June 1987?

Can they recommend to the Kuwaiti Government the abolition of the death penalty in the Emirate?

*Answer:*

Respect for human rights is an important aspect of relations between the Europe of the Twelve and third States.

The Twelve's position on human rights is known by the Kuwaiti Government.

The specific cases mentioned by the Honourable Member of Parliament have not been discussed within European political cooperation.

**88/218. Question No 2577/87 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E)  
Concerning the Law on 'Obligatory Obedience' in Argentina**

Date of Issue: 11 July 1988  
Place of Issue: Strasbourg  
Country of Presidency: Greece  
Source of Document: Presidency  
Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 28 March 1988

What is the opinion of the Ministers on the 'law on due obedience' which has been promulgated in Argentina, bearing in mind that Article 2 of the United Nations Convention on Torture states that 'an order from a superior officer or a public authority may not be invoked as a justification of torture'?

*Answer:*

The Honourable Member's question has not been discussed in European political cooperation.

However, it should be noted that Argentina ratified the United Nations Convention against Torture on 24 September 1986.

In addition, it recognized the competence of the Committee against Torture set up by the convention to receive and consider information both from States and from natural persons in the event of violations by Argentina of the provisions of the convention.

**88/219. Question No 2583/87 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E)  
Concerning the Situation of Chinese Catholic Bishops and Priests  
Imprisoned in the 1950s Because they Refused to Recognize the  
Catholic Patriotic Association**

Date of Issue: 11 July 1988  
Place of Issue: Strasbourg  
Country of Presidency: Greece  
Source of Document: Presidency  
Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 28 March 1988

Following the restitution of his 'political rights' to the Bishop of Shanghai, Ignatius Gong Pingmei, at the beginning of January, have the Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation concerned themselves about the fate of other Catholic bishops and priests in China who were imprisoned in the 1950s because they refused to recognize the Catholic Patriotic Association which was founded by the Communist Party to 'guide' Chinese Catholics and reject the authority of the Vatican?

*Answer:*

The Twelve take an interest in all human rights cases in China, including the fate of certain Catholic priests.

They have, however, no detailed information available on the latter subject.

**88/220. Question No 2584/87 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E)  
Concerning the Arrests Following the Recent Political Unrest in Fiji**

Date of Issue: 11 July 1988  
Place of Issue: Strasbourg  
Country of Presidency: Greece  
Source of Document: Presidency  
Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 28 March 1988

Have the Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation concerned themselves with the numerous arrests and possible prisoners of conscience following the recent events in Fiji?

*Answer:*

The Twelve have closely followed the recent developments in Fiji.

They take up violations of human rights whenever deemed appropriate, but have no knowledge of any prisoners of conscience in Fiji at present.

**88/221. Question No 2750/87 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E)  
Concerning Detainees in the People's Republic of Yemen**

Date of Issue: 11 July 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 25 March 1988

Have the Ministers for Foreign Affairs meeting in European political cooperation enquired into the fate of those people detained following the armed struggle between factions of the Socialist Party of the People's Republic of Yemen, on whom sentence of death may be passed?

*Answer:*

On 27 December the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council of the PDRY in its fifteenth Ordinary Session approved the death sentences against eleven of the 35 condemned to death on 12 December 1987. Of these persons, ex-President Ali Nasser Mohamed and five followers are in exile in North Yemen, another five in custody in Aden.

On 29 December 1987 the Twelve decided to make a *démarche* to the PDRY Government on purely humanitarian grounds.

Only on 4 January 1988, the French and German *chargés d'affaires* in Aden were received by the State Minister of the South Yemen Foreign Ministry, Mr Shaya Moshin. They handed over a memorandum asking for the conversion of the five death sentences on purely humanitarian grounds.

The State Minister informed them that the five executions had taken place in the early morning of 28 December 1987.

**88/222. Question No 185/88 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E) Concerning  
the Detention of the Vietnamese Lawyer, Vu Ngoc Truy**

Date of Issue: 11 July 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 17 May 1988

Have the Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation made any representations on behalf of the Vietnamese lawyer Vu Ngoc Truy, who was arrested in 1978 and is still being held in prison without charge or trial?

*Answer:*

As it was explained in the answer to the Oral Question No H-452/87 of Mr Cano Pinto<sup>1</sup>, the situation of human rights in Vietnam is regularly examined within the framework of European political cooperation and several *démarches* on humanitarian grounds have been undertaken.

In a recent *démarche* the Twelve expressed again their hope that all those detained for political reasons would soon be released.

In this context, the announcement by the Vietnamese Government to fully abolish the re-education camps by the end of 1988 was also noted by the Twelve.

According to information one partner received from the Vietnamese authorities, Mr Vu Ngoc Truy was released in February 1988.

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<sup>1</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 87/381.

### **88/223. Question No 473/88 by Mr Cot (S-F) Concerning Human Rights and Democracy in Haiti**

Date of Issue: 11 July 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 17 June 1988

The Haitian nation, a society with strong links with France through its culture, its history and a long tradition of friendship, is now a victim of the disregard of human rights and basic democratic principles.

The rigged elections of 17 January 1988 have in no way improved the chances of securing genuine representation of the people.

What forms of pressure have the Twelve exerted in order to express their condemnation of this situation and promote the restoration of democracy in Haiti?

*Answer:*

The Honourable Member should refer to the reply by the Twelve to Oral Question No 923/87<sup>1</sup> put by Ms Dury.

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<sup>1</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 88/068.

### **88/224. Question No 1375/87 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E) Concerning Death Sentences for Drug Trafficking in Malaysia and Singapore**

Date of Issue: 15 July 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 7 October 1987

Can the Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation take steps to prevent the frequent death sentences for drug trafficking passed in Malaysia and Singapore since 1975, or at least to persuade the two governments in question to recognize the right of every person under sentence of death to ask for a pardon or for the sentence to be commuted, in accordance with Article 6 of the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights?

*Answer:*

Respect for human rights is an important aspect of relations between the Europe of the Twelve and third States.

The Twelve's position on human rights is known by the Governments of Malaysia and Singapore.

Both Malaysia and Singapore recognize the right of every person under sentence of death to ask for a pardon or for the sentence to be commuted.

**88/225. Questions No 1377/87 and 1378/87 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E) Concerning the Persecution of Islamic Activists and the Detention and Torture of Students in Turkey**

Date of Issue: 15 July 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Questions of 7 October 1987

*Question No 1377/87:*

Are the Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation aware of the sentences being passed on dozens of people in Turkey under Article 163 of the Penal Code, which prescribes a maximum of 15 years imprisonment for persons found guilty of 'anti-secular activities'?

*Question No 1378/87:*

Are the Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation aware of the detention of students in various Turkish towns as a result of the demonstrations in April 1987 protesting against the government bill to establish a single, obligatory university students' association?

Have they asked for information on the students who, according to Amnesty International reports, were tortured while in police custody in Istanbul and Ankara?

Do they know whether any of them have been sentenced under Law 2911 on demonstrations?

*Answer:*

The Twelve continue to follow the human rights situation in Turkey with all attention and concern.

The Turkish authorities are fully aware of the Twelve's position on human rights.

The specific cases mentioned by the Honourable Parliamentarian have not been discussed in the framework of European political cooperation.

**88/226. Question No 1580/87 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E) Concerning the Ratification of International Agreements by the New States in Oceania**

Date of Issue: 15 July 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 6 November 1987

Can the Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation take any steps to encourage the new States in Oceania — Tonga, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Kiribati and Fiji, most of which firmly anchor the protection of human rights in their constitutions — to accede to the international agreements on human rights, particularly the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights?

*Answer:*

In their contacts with third States the Twelve never fail to stress the importance they attach to human rights and their wish to see all States adhere to the international agreements on human rights.

**88/227. Question No 1582/87 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E)  
Concerning Death Sentences in Burma**

Date of Issue: 15 July 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 6 November 1987

Can the Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation intercede with the State Council in Burma for the repeal, pursuant to Article 73 of the Burmese constitution, of the death sentence passed on five people for drug trafficking?

Can they at the same time make representations to the Government of Burma for the abolition of the death penalty?

*Answer:*

The Twelve have underlined on many occasions the importance they attach to human rights in their relations with third countries.

They never fail to make representations to the authorities of third countries whenever this seems appropriate.

The Government of Burma is aware of the position of the Twelve on human rights.

**88/228. Questions No 2568/87, 2570/87 and 2572/87 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E) Concerning the Sentence Passed on the Imam Osman Coskun, Concerning the Number of Political Prisoners and Concerning Kurdish Prisoners in Turkey**

Date of Issue: 15 July 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Questions of 28 March 1988

*Question No 2568/87:*

Do the Ministers know how many Moslems are in detention for religious reasons in Turkey? Are they aware of the case of the Imam Osman Coskun, sentenced to seven years and three months imprisonment for his non-violent activities among the Moslem communities in the Federal Republic of Germany? Have they made any intervention on his behalf?

*Question No 2570/87:*

Do the Ministers know how many political prisoners who have not been convicted of terrorist crimes there are in Turkey following the introduction of martial law in December 1978?



*Question No 2572/87:*

Do the Ministers know how many Kurdish prisoners there are in Turkey who have not been convicted of terrorist crimes? Have the Ministers taken any steps on their behalf?

*Answer:*

Full respect for human rights and the observance of international conventions and other commitments in this field, freely entered into, are a fundamental element in the policy of the Twelve, and in this field their declaration of 21 July 1986<sup>1</sup> on human rights remains a cornerstone.

In this context, the positions and concerns of the Twelve have repeatedly been brought to the attention of the Turkish authorities.

The governments of the Twelve are familiar with the figures, prepared by Turkish authorities, concerning the number of prisoners in Turkey. They are also aware of figures for different categories of prisoners, published by non-governmental organizations. The Twelve have not established figures themselves which could enable them to answer the questions raised.

The case of Imam Oman Coskun has not been discussed among the Twelve.

<sup>1</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 86/230.

**88/229. Question No 2573/87 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E)  
Concerning the Iranian Refugees in Turkey**

Date of Issue: 15 July 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 28 March 1988

Do the Ministers know how many Iranian refugees have been returned to Iran from Turkey in 1986 and 1987?

*Answer:*

The question raised by the Honourable Member has not been discussed by the Foreign Ministers.

**88/230. Question No 491/88 by Mr Robles Piquer and Others  
(ED-E) Concerning the Pressure to Secure the Release of Political  
Prisoners in Cuba**

Date of Issue: 15 July 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 17 June 1988

Following the adoption by the European Parliament in plenary sitting on 29 October 1987 of a joint motion for a resolution on the situation of political prisoners in Cuba<sup>1</sup>, can the Ministers say what steps have been taken by their respective governments in response to paragraph 5 of the resolution calling for all possible pressure to be brought to bear with a view to securing the release of political prisoners by the Cuban Government?

*Answer:*

The Twelve have on several occasions expressed their position on respect for human rights. In their statement of 21 July 1986<sup>2</sup> in particular, they reiterated their belief that no persuasion nor ideology could serve as a justification for the denial of civil and political rights.

In this connection, they do everything in their power, both bilaterally and jointly, for all people effectively and fully to enjoy their civil and political rights.

At the forty-fourth session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights it was decided to send a mission to Cuba, consisting of the Chairman of the forty-fourth session of the Commission and five of its members, to examine the human rights situation there. The Irish Ambassador, Mr Lillis, will take part in this mission as the representative of the Western Group.

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<sup>1</sup> *OJ* No C 318 of 30 November 1987, pp. 113-114.

<sup>2</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 86/230.

### **88/231. Statement Concerning East-West Relations**

Date of Issue: 18 July 1988

Place of Issue: Athens

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: The Twelve

Status of Document: Declaration

The Ministers had a comprehensive discussion on East-West relations. They paid particular attention to the Moscow All-Union Party Conference and to the meeting of the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Pact. They also discussed in depth the present state of play at the CSCE meeting in Vienna. The Twelve are determined to continue to strive for a dynamic development of East-West relations.

The Ministers noted that certain of the ideas contained in the final *communiqué* from the Political Consultative Committee Meeting of the Warsaw Pact reflected positions on conventional arms control long supported by the Twelve, particularly with regard to stringent verification and to the concept of asymmetrical reductions. This positive development should now be transformed into acts. Agreement on a balanced and substantial concluding document of the Vienna CSCE meeting is the way to secure the opening of negotiations on conventional stability in Europe, aiming at the establishment of a stable and secure balance of conventional forces in Europe at a lower level, and on a further set of confidence- and security-building measures.

The Twelve recall their recent appeals to other participating States of the CSCE to settle remaining issues at the Vienna follow-up meeting, particularly in the field of human rights and human contacts. The Ministers renewed their call for a rapid and satisfactory outcome to that meeting, which must conclude with a substantial and balanced document, permitting progress in the fields of human rights, cooperation and security.

To this end, the Twelve as well as other Western countries have made a number of balanced and concrete follow-up proposals. They expect that after the meeting of the Warsaw Pact these efforts will be met with an adequate response. The neutral and non-aligned countries, for their part, have presented a draft concluding document which the Twelve consider a suitable basis for agreement. At this final stage of negotiations, proposals for amendments should therefore be limited in number and restricted to essential points.

The Twelve call on all participating States to act according to their declarations and take the decisions required to bring the Vienna meeting to a prompt and successful conclusion.

**88/232. Statement Concerning Nelson Mandela's 70th Birthday**

Date of Issue: 18 July 1988  
 Place of Issue: Athens  
 Country of Presidency: Greece  
 Source of Document: The Twelve  
 Status of Document: Declaration

Today, Nelson Mandela, who has now been in prison for nearly 25 years, marks his 70th birthday. The Twelve take this occasion to renew their call on the South African Government to release Mr Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners unconditionally and immediately. His release would be not only a humanitarian gesture but also a welcome political signal.

With such a gesture the South African Government could show the world and those of its own citizens who identify themselves profoundly with the fate of Nelson Mandela that a will for dialogue and peaceful reconciliation exists.

The Twelve therefore appeal again to the Government in Pretoria to end its policy of repression and to free Nelson Mandela and all other political prisoners. This would be an important step towards establishing a basis for negotiations aimed at a democratic, non-racial and united South Africa.

**88/233. Statement Concerning Southern Africa**

Date of Issue: 18 July 1988  
 Place of Issue: Athens  
 Country of Presidency: Greece  
 Source of Document: The Twelve  
 Status of Document: Declaration

The Twelve have noted the recent encouraging signs of progress and, while recalling their established position concerning Namibia, they reiterate their support for current efforts to secure peace for Angola and independence for Namibia on the basis of United [Nations] Security Council Resolution 435/78.

**88/234. Statement Concerning Chile**

Date of Issue: 18 July 1988  
 Place of Issue: Athens  
 Country of Presidency: Greece  
 Source of Document: The Twelve  
 Status of Document: Declaration

The Twelve reiterate their hope for an early and orderly restoration of democracy in Chile and recall their attachment to free and democratic elections in that country, as expressed in their declaration of 9 October 1987<sup>1</sup>. They are convinced that restoration of democracy in Chile would contribute to strengthening civilian rule and stability in Latin America.

Taking note of the forthcoming plebiscite, the Twelve wish to stress the need for all measures to be taken so that the campaign be conducted and the vote take place in a way guaranteeing the free expression of the people's will and in a climate free of violence and intimidation.

In particular, the Twelve believe that for the proper conduct of the plebiscite it is essential that the Chilean Government without delay lifts the state of exception, restores political liberties, respects human rights and ensures freedom of information and opinion.

<sup>1</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 87/366.

### **88/235. Statement Concerning Afghanistan**

Date of Issue: 18 July 1988  
Place of Issue: Athens  
Country of Presidency: Greece  
Source of Document: The Twelve  
Status of Document: Declaration

The Ministers had an exchange of views on the situation in Afghanistan. They recalled their earlier statements on the contribution that the European Community and its Member States will make in due course towards the settlement of refugees and the reconstruction of that country. They therefore welcomed the programme devised by the United Nations Coordinator, Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan.

### **88/236. Question No 247/87 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E) Concerning Arrests in Algeria**

Date of Issue: 18 July 1988  
Place of Issue: Athens  
Country of Presidency: Greece  
Source of Document: The Twelve  
Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 27 April 1987

Are the Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation aware of the arrest on 15 December 1986 of the Chairman of the Algerian League for Human Rights (ALHR), Mr Ali Yahia Abenndur, and three other members of the ALHR, all of whom were placed under house arrest or confinement in the villages of Borjid and Duargla, in order to prevent them — according to information received from Amnesty International — from exercising their fundamental rights to freedom of expression and association?

*Answer:*

The Twelve follow closely reports on human rights violations in any part of the world.

Respect for human rights is an important element in relations between third countries and the Europe of the Twelve.

### **88/237. Question No 927/87 by Ms André (LDR-B) Concerning the Kidnapping of the Independent Journalist Roger Aue on 17 January 1987, for Which No One Has yet Claimed Responsibility**

Date of Issue: 18 July 1988  
Place of Issue: Athens  
Country of Presidency: Greece  
Source of Document: The Twelve  
Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 23 July 1987

No one has yet claimed responsibility for the kidnapping of the independent journalist Roger Aue on 17 January 1987.

Have the Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation any more information on this abominable crime?

*Answer:*

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

**88/238. Question No 1181/87 by Mr Glinne (S-B) Concerning Arms Trading with the Chilean Dictatorship**

Date of Issue: 18 July 1988

Place of Issue: Athens

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: The Twelve

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 1 September 1987

Following an amendment tabled by Senator Kennedy, military aid and training for Chile and arms sales to that country have been prohibited under US law since 1976 because of the long-standing fundamental violations of human rights perpetrated by General Pinochet's regime. In order to clarify the individual and joint positions and behaviour of the Community Member State Governments, I should like the following questions to be answered:

1. Does a prohibition similar to that of the Kennedy amendment exist in the Community Member States and, if so, in which Member States; if not, is it not necessary to recommend such a prohibition and draw up suitable arrangements, particularly in the context of Political Cooperation?

2. In its five factories in Chile, the Chilean arms manufacturer Cardoens Industrias produces weapons under licence from Switzerland (armoured vehicles) and other West European countries (in particular bombs and infantry weapons); which companies have granted such licences to Cardoens Industrias, acting with the authorization or assent of Community Member State Governments?

3. What quantities of arms, and from which Member States, have been exported to Chile from the Community since 1976, especially as regards fighter aircraft and electronic equipment?

4. What quantities of arms from Chile have been imported into or passed through the Community, in particular 'fragmentation bombs' ultimately intended for use in the conflicts in the Middle East?

5. What is the attitude of the Twelve to the construction in Spain (and what financial and technical co-partnerships are involved?) of a Cardoens Industrias factory, and to the announcement by this Chilean company that it intends to sell military equipment to Community and/or NATO countries?

*Answer:*

The question put by the Honourable Member has not been dealt with in European political cooperation.

**88/239. Question No 1394/87 by Mr Stevenson (S-UK) Concerning Sanctions Against South Africa**

Date of Issue: 18 July 1988

Place of Issue: Athens

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: The Twelve

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 7 October 1987

Will the Council of Ministers reconsider, with a view to increasing their severity, the EEC sanctions applied to South Africa, in the light of South African employers' willingness to inflict hardship on black workers who are engaged in an industrial dispute with their employers; especially because the current sanctions were made to be almost ineffective, ostensibly to avoid hardship on black workers?

*Answer:*

The Twelve clearly condemn any attempt by employers in South Africa to exploit or impose hardship on their workforces. As the Honourable Member will be well aware, the Code of Conduct is specifically designed to counter unfairness and discrimination in the workplace and to ensure that European companies lead the way in offering all South African workers improved pay and working conditions — irrespective of race, colour or creed.

The recent strike in the mining industry in South Africa has now been settled. The Twelve take into account developments in the industrial relations field when considering our policy towards South Africa; but this is only one factor amongst many in our deliberations, the most important of which is how the Twelve can best contribute to the peaceful dismantlement of apartheid.

**88/240. Question No 1464/87 by Mr Robles Piquer (ED-E)  
Concerning Community Collaboration in the Central American  
Peace Process**

Date of Issue: 18 July 1988

Place of Issue: Athens

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: The Twelve

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 19 October 1987

The Central American peace agreement known as 'Esquipulas II' was signed on 7 August in Guatemala City and has aroused significant optimism, not merely because it was signed, but because some steps have been taken already to implement the agreement.

This means that it is reasonable to hope that the La Paz Commission for Verification and Monitoring will be able to report favourably on the mission assigned to it in connection with the implementation of what was signed in the Guatemalan capital.

Are the Ministers, for their part, considering setting up a special committee or some other monitoring process to encourage the peace process now underway, to collaborate in the task of *détente* in the area and to provide a European Community presence in this attempt to bring peace to Central America?

*Answer:*

As the Honourable Member is aware, the Twelve have always and wholeheartedly supported the peace process in Central America, a fact acknowledged, among others, by the five Central American Presidents in the preamble to the Guatemala Agreement signed on 7 August 1987. The support of the Twelve, expressed in their declarations of 13 August and 23 November<sup>1</sup> and recently conveyed directly to the interested parties, has been reiterated on several occasions, for example during the ministerial meetings held in New York with the five Central American countries and the countries of the Contadora and Support Groups, and will be actively pursued in the next stage of preparation of the San José IV meeting.

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<sup>1</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Docs 87/283 and 87/493.

**88/241. Statement Concerning the Iran-Iraq Conflict**

Date of Issue: 21 July 1988

Place of Issue: Athens

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: The Twelve

Status of Document: Declaration

The Twelve welcome the decision taken by Iran to accept Security Council Resolution 598. This development is an important step which opens the way to end the conflict and to the restoration of stability, peace and security in the region.

The Twelve, convinced that a comprehensive, just, honourable and durable settlement should be achieved between Iraq and Iran, reiterate their unreserved support for the efforts of the UN Secretary-General to this end. In this respect the Twelve, expressing concern about the continuation of hostilities, urge both parties to act with moderation and to cooperate intensively with the UN Secretary-General in order to accelerate the implementation of Resolution 598.

### **88/242. Statement Concerning the Informal Jakarta Meeting on the Situation in Kampuchea, Held 25 July 1988**

Date of Issue: 25 July 1988

Place of Issue: Athens

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: The Twelve

Status of Document: Declaration

The Twelve welcome the Jakarta informal meeting and reiterate their support for the efforts, in particular of the ASEAN countries, in search for a comprehensive political settlement of the problem of Kampuchea, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the UN.

They hope that the meeting will be a starting point for a peace process that will lead to the restoration of a sovereign, independent, neutral and non-aligned Kampuchea. To this end the total withdrawal of all Vietnamese forces from Kampuchea is indispensable.

### **88/243. Question No 2524/85 by Mr Tridente (ARC-I) Concerning the Death of the Basque Citizen Mikel Zabaltza**

Date of Issue: 28 July 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

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

On 15 December 1985, the body of Mikel Zabaltza was found in the River Bidasoa, after he had 'disappeared' on 26 November after being held in custody by the *Guardia Civil* in Intxaurreondo.

Will the Council ask the Spanish Government to carry out a thorough investigation into this affair and communicate its findings to the European Parliament?

Does it not believe that, in the Spanish State after Franco, violence and illegal conduct on the part of State police authorities are incompatible with the law and the protection it affords, particularly now that Spain has become part of the Community?

Will it ask the Spanish Government for a formal commitment that action will be taken against the torture practised in that country by the police?

*Answer:*

The question raised by the Honourable Member does not come within the scope of European political cooperation.

### **88/244. Statement Concerning the Iran-Iraq Conflict**

Date of Issue: 10 August 1988  
Place of Issue: Athens  
Country of Presidency: Greece  
Source of Document: The Twelve  
Status of Document: Declaration

The Twelve welcome the announcement of a cease-fire in the Iraq-Iran conflict to take effect from 20 August. They applaud the decision of the Governments of Iraq and Iran to accept this cease-fire, to be followed by direct talks under the auspices of the United Nations Secretary-General, leading to the full implementation of all the provisions of United Nations Security Council Resolution 598. They call for maximum restraint from both sides while the cease-fire is not officially in force.

The Twelve pay tribute to the United Nations Secretary-General for his untiring efforts and dedication which, with the cooperation of the parties involved, led to this historic decision.

The success of the Secretary-General's efforts contributes to the prestige of the United Nations and paves the way for an increasing role of the organization in maintaining international peace and security.

The Twelve remain determined to support the work of the United Nations Secretary-General to achieve a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement to the conflict, leading to the restoration of peace and security in the region.

### **88/245. Statement Concerning the Situation in Burma**

Date of Issue: 19 August 1988  
Place of Issue: Athens/Brussels  
Country of Presidency: Greece  
Source of Document: The Twelve  
Status of Document: Declaration

The twelve Member States of the European Community are following recent developments in Burma with attention and concern. In this context, the Twelve express their concern about the grave deterioration of the human rights situation. They strongly deplore the fact that numerous persons lost their lives, were seriously injured or are being imprisoned for political reasons.

Therefore, the Twelve make an urgent appeal that all efforts be undertaken to find a peaceful solution to the existing economic and political problems of Burma.

### **88/246. Statement Concerning the State of Health of Nelson Mandela**

Date of Issue: 19 August 1988  
Place of Issue: Athens/Brussels  
Country of Presidency: Greece  
Source of Document: The Twelve  
Status of Document: Declaration

The Twelve are deeply concerned about the state of health of Nelson Mandela. They reiterate their appeal to the South African Government for his immediate and unconditional release. His release has become all the more imperative now for humanitarian reasons.



### **88/247. Statement Concerning the Representations Made to the Israeli Government Concerning the Occupied Territories**

Date of Issue: 23 August 1988  
 Place of Issue: Athens  
 Country of Presidency: Greece  
 Source of Document: The Twelve  
 Status of Document: Press Statement

On 18 August the Twelve made further representations to the Israeli Government regarding the recent deportations of Palestinians from the occupied territories and the continued Israeli practice of administrative detention.

The Twelve called upon the Israeli authorities to assure the protection of the inhabitants in the occupied territories in compliance with international law and human rights standards.

### **88/248. Statement on the Occasion of Namibia Day**

Date of Issue: 26 August 1988  
 Place of Issue: Athens  
 Country of Presidency: Greece  
 Source of Document: The Twelve  
 Status of Document: Message

Namibia Day reminds us that, contrary to the principles of international law, the people of Namibia have, as yet, not been able to exercise their right to self-determination. The question of Namibia has been before the United Nations virtually since its inception, causing a particular challenge to this Organization. Despite the efforts made over the years by the international community, the Namibian people have had to wait far too long for their independence. However, there are recent encouraging developments which allow us for the first time in some years to approach Namibia Day with renewed hope that Security Council Resolution 435(1978) will finally be implemented.

The Twelve welcome the progress made in recent talks between South Africa, Angola and Cuba, mediated by the United States. They were encouraged by the agreement on principles reached in New York, and their agreement at the most recent round of talks in Geneva on dates for a cease-fire and withdrawal of South African troops from Angola. The Twelve also welcome the announcement of a date, 1 November 1988, for the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 435(1978) for the independence of Namibia.

The policy of the Twelve on the question of Namibia has always been and continues to be clear, consistent and unequivocal. The Twelve have strongly condemned South Africa's continuing illegal occupation of Namibia and recall their previous statements deploring specific practices and policies of the Government of South Africa in this regard. In this connection, they consider the establishment of a so-called 'transitional Government' in Namibia as null and void. They remain committed to an early, peaceful solution in strict conformity with the provisions of the Settlement Plan endorsed by Security Council Resolution 435(1978) and confirmed by subsequent resolutions of the Council. This plan, which the Twelve have constantly urged to be implemented without delay and conditions, embodies the only internationally agreed framework for Namibia's independence and will ensure the authentic expression of the will of its people through free and fair elections under the supervision and control of the United Nations.

In the light of the above, the Twelve reiterate their support for the efforts to secure peace for Angola and independence for Namibia on the basis of Security Council Resolution 435(1978). They believe that the role of the Secretary-General of the United Nations will be of great importance and his efforts should receive our wholehearted support. The European Community and its Member States also wish to reaffirm their readiness to assist in the development of a free and independent Namibia and they will continue their aid to the Namibian people.

On the solemn occasion of Namibia Day, the Twelve wish to express their hope that the combined efforts of the parties involved and the international community will soon lead to Namibia's independence and to a new climate of peace and cooperation in the entire region of Southern Africa to the benefit of its peoples.

#### **88/249. Statement Concerning the Situation of the Kurds**

Date of Issue: 7 September 1988  
Place of Issue: Athens  
Country of Presidency: Greece  
Source of Document: The Twelve  
Status of Document: Declaration

The Twelve have noted with great concern that military action is being taken against the Kurdish civilian population in the aftermath of the cease-fire in the Iran-Iraq war. They are following developments closely and they call for the cessation of such action.

The Twelve are greatly concerned at reports of the alleged use of chemical weapons against the Kurds. They confirm their previous positions, condemning any use of these weapons. They call for respect of international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Protocol of 1925, and Resolutions 612 and 620 of the United Nations Security Council.

The Community stands ready to play its part in the efforts already made in the region to ease the plight of the refugee Kurdish population.

#### **88/250. Statement Concerning the Western Sahara**

Date of Issue: 7 September 1988  
Place of Issue: Athens  
Country of Presidency: Greece  
Source of Document: The Twelve  
Status of Document: Declaration

The Twelve welcome the positive reactions by the parties concerned to the peace plan on the Western Sahara, put forward by the United Nations Secretary-General.

The Twelve have always encouraged the efforts of the United Nations Secretary-General in his mission. They express their determination to support his future actions aimed at holding a referendum on self-determination, under the auspices of the United Nations.

They call on all parties to demonstrate their willingness to restore a just and lasting peace in the region.

#### **88/251. Question No H-333/88 by Mr Alavanos Concerning the Illegal Detention of Greek Seamen**

Date of Issue: 13 September 1988  
Place of Issue: Strasbourg  
Country of Presidency: Greece  
Source of Document: Presidency  
Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

In 1983 the Greek-owned motorship *Alexandros VI* was seized by the Egyptian authorities for carrying drugs. Contrary to international practice, the vessel and its officers were released, while four lower-ranking members of the crew were sentenced to life imprisonment by the Egyptian courts and have since been held in wretched conditions, according to complaints by Penen (the Panhellenic Union of Sailors in the Greek Navy), despite the serious damage done to their health.

What steps will the Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation take to intervene in this affair with a view to reinstating justice and getting the four gaoled Greek seamen released?

*Mr Pangalos, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers:* The Egyptian authorities are aware of the attitude of the Twelve concerning respect for human rights. The matter which the honourable Mr Alavanos is asking about has not been discussed in the context of European political cooperation, because it is a matter under the jurisdiction of the courts. Matters under court jurisdiction that concern the subjects of Member States are the responsibility of the national authorities of each State.

If I can comment briefly as a representative of Greece, I can tell Mr Alavanos that the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs has indeed approached the Egyptian Government about the matter, and the aim of this contact was to clarify whether in fact the accusations against the Greek detainees in question are justified, so that some care can be taken about their trial.

*Mr Alavanos (COM):* This is a dramatic case. I want to stress that the President-in-Office's answer is not satisfactory. He speaks of court jurisdiction, but we have had court decisions in other cases as well, for example in the Soviet Union, in which the Community intervened, without going through the question of who was right and who was wrong. From that standpoint I do not think that there is any obstacle. The problem is that some seamen are in custody whereas the ship itself, i.e. the shipowner's property, was allowed to go free, as also were the ship's officers including the skipper; and finally that the seamen are being held under miserable and barbaric conditions, which threaten the life of one of them. My question to the Greek Presidency is this: Is the Greek Presidency disposed to instruct the Greek Ambassador in Cairo, on behalf of the Twelve, to intervene with the Egyptian authorities with a view to ending this inhuman and barbarous detention of the seamen?

*Mr Pangalos:* I think I have already answered that.

### **88/252. Question No H-370/88 by Mr Fitzgerald Concerning the Contributions of Member States to the United Nations**

Date of Issue: 13 September 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

Can the Foreign Ministers meeting in European political cooperation indicate whether all Member States of the European Community have paid their contributions in full to the United Nations for 1988, and can they also indicate what the position is regarding United Nations payments by the United States and the USSR, since earlier this year the United Nations had a deficit of approximately 400 million dollars, and will the Presidency make a statement on the matter?

*Mr Pangalos, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers:* I can assure the Honourable Member of the European Parliament that all twelve of the Community's Member States have already paid their dues for 1988 in full to the United Nations.

In parallel, we wish to express our concern about the continuing economic uncertainty, which cannot but have an adverse effect on the functioning of the United Nations at a time when we can all see that the role of that organization is gaining importance. For that reason we have urged — and will continue to urge — all the member States of the United Nations to show their support for the organization and fulfil their economic obligations fully and promptly, in accordance with the United Nations Charter, just as we have already done.

*Mr Fitzgerald (RDE):* [...] I wish to thank the President-in-Office for his reply. It is encouraging to hear that the Community Member States have made their contribution to date,

but discouraging to hear that the financial difficulties of the United Nations still continue, particularly in the ever-increasing important role they are playing in peace-keeping and in reaching solutions. I would ask the Minister, if it is in order, if he would tell us which member States are falling behind in their payments and why the financial crisis is continuing?

*Mr Pangalos:* I am not able to give a full list of what is still due. Those are figures which have been repeatedly published. The matter has not been discussed in the context of European political cooperation; that is to say, we have not compiled a list of what is owed to the United Nations, but as representative of the Greek Government I can say a major debtor is the Government of the United States of America, which owes the United Nations Organization about 500 million dollars, if I am not mistaken. I mentioned one example, because there are other debtors, though smaller since their subscription is smaller.

*Mr Cryer (S):* May I add my support to the President-in-Office in urging the Member States to support the United Nations. Might I point out that he could take this a step further with the United Kingdom and suggest that they demonstrate their support for the United Nations nuclear non-proliferation treaty, clause 6 of which requires the nuclear States to get rid of their nuclear weapons. Could he demonstrate that support by urging the United Kingdom to stop spending 11 billion pounds on Trident nuclear weapons and cancel such a wasteful expenditure and support the United Nations and the 135 non-nuclear countries which signed the United Nations nuclear non-proliferation treaty?

*Mr Pangalos:* I am sorry, but I cannot see any relationship between that comment and the previous question. However, I listened to the Honourable Member with care, and perhaps also with some personal satisfaction.

### **88/253. Question No H-378/88 by Mr Christodoulou Concerning the Normalization of Relations with Turkey**

Date of Issue: 13 September 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

Paragraph 2 of the European Parliament's resolution of 18 June 1987 on a political solution to the Armenian question<sup>1</sup> and paragraph 2 of its resolution of 20 May 1988 on the situation in Cyprus contribute towards a definition of the scope of relations between the European Community and Turkey<sup>2</sup>. Do the Ministers accept the guidelines set out in those two resolutions?

*Mr Pangalos, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers:* The Twelve have repeatedly expressed their attitude concerning the Cyprus problem. I would not wish to repeat it here. To the question by Mr Dessylas, No H-332/88 on the same subject<sup>3</sup>, we reaffirm our commitment to support efforts aimed at finding a just and viable solution of this international problem, especially the good offices of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. I must add that at the Council of Association, which was in the end postponed, we intended to put before the Turkish side the position adopted in common by the Community, which included the phrase 'that the Cyprus problem affects relations between the Community and Turkey'.

So far as paragraph 4 of the European Parliament's resolution of 18 June 1987 is concerned, let me refer to the answer given to question No H-400/87 by Mr Alavanos<sup>4</sup>.

*Mr Christodoulou (PPE):* I would like to read out my question, because the President-in-Office of the Council covered part of it, but left another part unanswered. Article 4 of the European Parliament's resolution of 18 June 1987 concerning a political solution of the Armenian problem, and Article 2 of the resolution of 20 May 1988 concerning the situation in Cyprus relate to two different matters. I was pleased to hear what the President-in-Office said

about the Cyprus problem, and I would like to hope that the Greek Presidency and the Community in general will continue to take specific and clear measures to implement the point referred to in Parliament's resolutions. However, I would like to ask the President-in-Office to say something about the Armenian problem as well, which his answer did not cover at all.

*Mr Pangalos:* My answer was that the answer given to Mr Alavanos last year still applies, and I too will read it out since the honourable Mr Christodoulou read his question out. What the answer said was as follows:

The question put by the Honourable Member of Parliament — in that case Mr Alavanos — has not been discussed in the scope of European political cooperation. The Foreign Ministers meeting within the context of European political cooperation are not obliged to take a position regarding every decision adopted by the European Parliament, and these decisions are not binding upon the Member States.

That was the answer given at that time, and the situation continues to be the same. Thus, as the Presidency of the European Council, I can add nothing further concerning the Armenian matter, or concerning the resolution you in Parliament have adopted in relation to it.

*Mr Dessylas (COM):* I thank the President-in-Office for his answers. I would like to put a supplementary question to him: What specific action does the Greek Presidency intend to undertake, to make the common position of the Twelve and of the European Community-Turkey Council of Association, not some general and vague statement 'that the Cyprus problem also affects relations between the Community and Turkey', but a demand that the Turkish occupying forces should withdraw from Cyprus?

*Mr Pangalos:* I would like to answer Mr Dessylas, speaking on behalf of the Greek Government, that even the presence of that phrase, which he himself described as vague, has been found unacceptable by our interlocutor, in other words the Government of Turkey, which declined to take part in the Council of Association and wanted to compel the Community to amend the common position it had adopted. Thus, before we proceed to formulate a more precise and detailed statement, I think we ought to see whether those we are talking with, the Turkish Government, are inclined to accept the Community's self-evident observation that the existence of this international problem has some effect on the relations between that country, namely Turkey, and the Community.

<sup>1</sup> OJ No C 190 of 20 July 1987, pp. 119-121.

<sup>2</sup> OJ No C 167 of 27 June 1988, pp. 440-442.

<sup>3</sup> EPC Bulletin, Doc. 88/209.

<sup>4</sup> EPC Bulletin, Doc. 87/321.

### **88/254. Question No H-397/88 by Mr Selva Concerning a Passport for Mr Alexander Dubcek and Question No H-90/88 by Mr Arbeloa Muru Concerning the Political Rehabilitation of Mr Dubcek**

Date of Issue: 13 September 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Questions

*Question No H-397/88:*

What have the Foreign Ministers done or what do they intend to do to ensure that Alexander Dubcek obtains the passport which has so far been denied to him by the Czechoslovak authorities and which he needs in order to travel to Italy to receive an honorary degree from the University of Bologna, which is celebrating the 900th year of its existence?

*Question No 90/88:*

Have the Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation made any representations to the Government of Czechoslovakia requesting the latter to undertake the political rehabilitation of Alexander Dubcek, the former statesman and principal figure in the 'Prague Spring' of 1968? Do the Ministers believe that to make such representations would be relevant to the cause of democracy in Europe?

*Mr Pangalos, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers:* So far as Mr Dubcek's passport is concerned, I should like to say that the matter has not been discussed in the context of European political cooperation, but our most directly involved partner, namely Italy to which Mr Dubcek intended to go, had the opportunity to raise the matter with the Czechoslovak authorities. We are informed that Mr Dubcek's passport application was approved, and recently he was issued with a passport by the Czechoslovak authorities.

With regard to the second question, namely the restoration of Alexander Dubcek's political good name, I would like to say that the situation in Eastern European countries is the subject of continuous and in-depth study by the Twelve. You know that after the recent recognition of the Community by the Eastern European Council for Economic Cooperation, contacts between the European institutions and the various countries of Eastern Europe have multiplied, and only today I had the opportunity to discuss with Lord Plumb his visit to Moscow. Among other things, the situation in Czechoslovakia was raised, and is being considered with particular interest within the scope of European political cooperation. As we have often pointed out, we set especial store by democratic values, the promotion of dialogue, and the general progress of readjustment in Eastern European countries. Whenever we have such contacts, even ones aimed at the promotion of trade and economic relations, we never miss the opportunity to stress our principles concerning human rights and the furtherance of democratic freedoms. And of course the restoration of Alexander Dubcek's political reputation in relation to past events can be considered to fall within that scope.

*Mr Arbeloa Muru (S):* I want to express my thanks for the reply from the representative of the Council of Ministers. As he has said, too often in Political Cooperation certain burning issues are not dealt with — he himself has recognized this — and I think that the rehabilitation of Alexander Dubcek, a 'symbolic man' and one who incarnates all the hope of democracy, and indeed of eventual union between Eastern and Western Europe ought, Minister, to be a topic in the discussion and debate on political cooperation. Not just a discussion on Czechoslovakia, but also on the specific rehabilitation of one person who is a symbol and whose name is Alexander Dubcek.

*Mr Pangalos:* I will take note of the Honourable Member's comments.

**88/255. Question No H-402/88 by Mr Balfe Concerning the Hanover Summit**

Date of Issue: 13 September 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

What steps have the Foreign Ministers taken to follow up points 4 and 5 (South and Southern Africa) of the Hanover Summit declaration on European political cooperation<sup>1</sup>?

*Mr Pangalos, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers:* I will answer the honourable Mr Balfe's question at a somewhat greater length than usual. The conclusions of the European Council which met in Hanover on 27 and 28 June refer, so far as South and Southern Africa are

concerned, to four topics: the Sharpeville Six, Nelson Mandela and the other political detainees, economic aid to organizations which oppose apartheid by peaceful means, and finally, the situation in Angola and Namibia.

Bearing in mind the European Council's conclusion that relations with South Africa are at risk of deteriorating still further, the Twelve are closely monitoring the matter of the Sharpeville Six and have noted the decision by the South African Government to postpone their execution. Besides, on 26 June I personally, together with the President of the Commission Mr Delors and other colleagues of his, had the opportunity in Brussels to receive Ms Mokesi, the sister of one of the condemned men, and to inform her about the various interventions by the Community and its Member States on behalf of the Sharpeville Six. On 18 July in Athens the Community's Foreign Ministers adopted a statement on the opportunity of Nelson Mandela's seventieth birthday<sup>2</sup>, in which they reiterated their appeal to the South African Government and called for Nelson Mandela and the other political detainees to be released unconditionally and immediately. Greatly concerned about the state of his health, the Twelve considered that the release of Nelson Mandela is all the more urgent for humanitarian reasons, and in that sense they reiterated their appeal to the South African Government in a statement on 19 August. In other words, we had a statement on 18 July, and a reiteration of the demands for Nelson Mandela's release on 19 August<sup>3</sup>. In parallel, many steps have been taken in Pretoria by the Greek Ambassador, as representative of the Presidency of the European Community, on behalf of all twelve of its Member States, concerning the political detainees and Nelson Mandela.

As for the draft which aims to deprive organizations which oppose apartheid and favour peaceful reforms of economic aid from abroad, the Twelve have continued their pressure upon the South African Government and have reminded it of the European Council's conclusion that the implementation of such a law would have further adverse effects upon relations between South Africa and the Community countries. That matter is the subject of continuous attention at all the levels of Political Cooperation.

Finally, as for Angola and Namibia, the Foreign Ministers of the Twelve approved in Athens on 18 July a statement<sup>4</sup> in which they note the recent encouraging signs of progress, reiterate the position of the Twelve on Namibia, and repeat their support for recent efforts aiming to secure peace in Angola and independence for Namibia on the basis of [Resolution 435 (1978) of] the Security Council of the United Nations. On the occasion of Namibia Day, which was celebrated in New York on 26 August, the Presidency reiterated this position on behalf of the Twelve and reconfirmed that we are prepared to offer aid for its reconstitution as a free and independent Namibia.

Can we look forward to the same vigorous lead from the Greek Presidency in opposing South Africa which I remember it giving five years ago when last in office?

*Mr Balfe (S):* While thanking the President-in-Office for his extremely long and full reply, may I ask him whether he has any further news on the attempts being made by the South African Government to prevent the Community's programme of action against apartheid from being fully effective. If the draft law is passed, as the President-in-Office says, it will be a further burden on our relations. We seem to have a lot of burdens on our relations. Some Member States, and his own Member State is an honourable exception, appear to be willing to compromise with the South Africans forever.

*Mr Pangalos:* I can assure our colleague Mr Balfe that the Presidency will make every effort to promote the decisive attitudes within the context of the Community, in relation to South Africa. And of course we are very carefully monitoring the matter of economic aid to organizations which oppose apartheid by peaceful means. It is self-evident that unless those organizations enjoy freedom of action, the Community's position collapses, namely and precisely that apartheid should be abolished not by force, but by peaceful political dialogue between all sides of African society, without racial or political discrimination.

Our colleague can therefore rest assured that the Presidency will do everything possible to promote such relations. Of course the results of our actions, as he himself pointed out in a way,

depend on the concurrence of all the Member States, and that is not something the Presidency can guarantee in advance, but depends each time on the discussions that take place among the Council.

<sup>1</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Docs 88/184 and 88/185.

<sup>2</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 88/231.

<sup>3</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 88/246.

<sup>4</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 88/232.

### **88/256. Question No H-443/88 by Mr McMahon Concerning the Chilean Plebiscite**

Date of Issue: 13 September 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

What is the attitude of the Council of Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation to the forthcoming plebiscite in Chile? Is it merely a cosmetic exercise or will it lead to the introduction of real democracy in that country?

*Mr Pangalos, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers:* The statement of 18 July 1988 by the Twelve clearly expressed our position regarding the restoration of democracy in Chile<sup>1</sup>. We recall among other things the insistence of the European countries about the holding of free and democratic elections in that country. The political significance of the plebiscite in Chile will be determined by the conditions under which it is held, and by whether it will be followed by the beginning of a genuine process of democratization in that country.

*Mr McMahon (S):* Have the Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation investigated the feasibility of having European observers attend the Chilean plebiscite? In particular, is the Council aware that there are certain individual countries, including the Government of the United Kingdom, which have said that they will not send observers? Yet we have a delegation going from this very House to inspect the plebiscite.

After the plebiscite is decided one way or the other, would the Council look very closely at the Community's situation in South America where we have a Community office in Santiago but not in democratic surrounding countries, such as Argentina?

*Mr Pangalos:* The danger which Mr McMahon points to certainly exists. The parliaments of many countries in the Community are disposed to send parliamentary delegations to observe the conditions under which the plebiscite is held. We think that is the best way to ensure a European presence which might play some part in influencing the conditions under which the plebiscite is held, and of course the European Parliament could do the same. We do not consider that governmental delegations are the most suitable means, and we do not understand how they could operate. For example, my own country has no diplomatic representation in Chile, since after the coup against the Allende Government we recalled all our diplomatic representatives. I therefore think that it is the parliaments, and this is a matter for the parliamentarians in each country, and for the European parliamentarians here, who can send delegations and observe the procedures, to avoid the danger highlighted by Mr McMahon.

*President of the European Parliament:* I can inform the President-in-Office of the Council that the European Parliament has decided to send representatives from its South American delegation. The decision was taken three months ago.

<sup>1</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 88/234.



### **88/257. Question No H-354/88 by Ms Rabbethge Concerning Statements by African National Congress Leaders**

Date of Issue: 14 September 1988  
 Place of Issue: Strasbourg  
 Country of Presidency: Greece  
 Source of Document: Presidency  
 Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

In recent announcements, several leaders of the African National Congress have reaffirmed that the ANC is prepared to resort to violence. The ANC President, Oliver Tambo, the leader of the military wing, Chris Hanivals and the political spokesman, Steve Tshwete, have all announced that preparations have been made to launch bomb attacks on South African cities and that white MPs and judges and black 'collaborators' are regarded as 'legitimate targets'.

Will the Foreign Ministers explain why they have so far failed to condemn such open threats of violence, which are diametrically opposed to the Community's principles in respect of South Africa, whereas they never miss an opportunity to condemn the South African Government?

*Answer:*

In the Twelve's policy towards South Africa there are two basic, constant and indissociable principles which should be reiterated before Parliament: the unequivocal rejection of the use of force from whatever source to solve the problems of the country and support for a process of peaceful change to a united, free and non-racial society.

The Twelve have consistently expressed their serious concern at the deteriorating situation and increasing violence in South Africa. They are convinced that apartheid must and can be abolished by non-violent means. In order to achieve this end, it is vital for all political groups and individuals to be allowed to express themselves freely and to participate in the task of working together for a peaceful future.

As the European Council stated on 27 June 1986 and as has been often stressed by the Twelve, the commencement without delay of a national dialogue with the authentic leaders of the black population is essential to halt a further escalation of violence<sup>1</sup>. This dialogue cannot take place as long as recognized leaders of the black community are detained and their organizations are proscribed. It is for this reason that the Twelve have urged the South African Government on numerous occasions to release Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners unconditionally and to lift the ban on the African National Congress, the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania and other political parties.

The Twelve intend to pursue diplomatic and political efforts for the creation of conditions in which a constructive national dialogue may be started and peaceful change achieved in South Africa.

<sup>1</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 88/185.

### **88/258. Question No H-388/88 by Mr Pérez Royo Concerning the Purchase of Uranium from Namibia and South Africa by Spain<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 14 September 1988  
 Place of Issue: Strasbourg  
 Country of Presidency: Greece  
 Source of Document: Presidency  
 Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

On 8 April 1988, the Spanish Foreign Minister admitted, through its Diplomatic Information Office, that Spain had been buying uranium from Namibia and South Africa since 1973 and 1974 respectively. A Spanish government spokesman has confirmed that such purchases have taken place.

Do the Ministers for Foreign Affairs not consider that such action is an infringement of the restrictive measures agreed by the Community in September 1985 prohibiting all collaboration with South Africa in the nuclear sector?

Are the restrictive measures to be interpreted solely as a recommendation that South Africa should not be given technical assistance in the nuclear field?

Do the Ministers for Foreign Affairs not consider that it should initiate an inquiry into these purchases of uranium and into firms in the four Member States which, according to an official report by the US State Department to the House of Representatives, are still involved in maintaining and improving existing weapon systems in South Africa?

*Answer:*

The prohibition of all new collaboration with South Africa in the nuclear field, agreed in Luxembourg on 10 September 1985, is being fully implemented. The Twelve are strictly pursuing a policy of no new collaboration with South Africa in the development of its nuclear programmes and do not therefore supply any nuclear material, facilities, equipment or related economic assistance.

The Twelve carefully monitor the application of this ban and of all their other restrictive measures and undertake constant consultations so as to ensure that they are being properly and fully implemented.

<sup>1</sup> Former Oral Question with debate (O-36/88/Rev.) converted into a question for Question Time.

### **88/259. Question No H-389/88 by Mr Cabezón Alonso Concerning Foreign Observers for the Forthcoming Plebiscite in Chile**

Date of Issue: 14 September 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

In late June the international press published reports that the military government of General Pinochet in Chile would not accept foreign observers in the forthcoming plebiscite to be held in that country.

Given that the presence in Chile of foreign representatives and observers could be decisive in ensuring that the results of the plebiscite are at all credible, have the Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation taken, or do they envisage taking, steps to ensure that these foreign representatives and observers may be present in Chile and act freely in cooperating to guarantee the integrity of the count in the plebiscite?

*Answer:*

The Twelve are aware of the decision on the part of the Chilean Government not to grant or accept the status of qualified inspector or observer of the electoral process. This does not prevent foreign visitors from following the plebiscite as it takes place and from getting information on the results.

In their statement of 18 July 1988<sup>1</sup> the Twelve stressed, among other things, the need for every measure to be taken to ensure that the campaign and the vote take place in a manner which guarantees the free expression of popular will.

The Twelve are accordingly ready to support actions aimed at ensuring that the plebiscite is carried out in a free, democratic and transparent manner and in an atmosphere free of violence and intimidation.

<sup>1</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 88/234.

### **88/260. Question No H-412/88 by Mr Papoutsis Concerning Steps Towards Convening an International Conference on the Middle East**

Date of Issue: 14 September 1988  
 Place of Issue: Strasbourg  
 Country of Presidency: Greece  
 Source of Document: Presidency  
 Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

The European Parliament has repeatedly condemned the situation of recent months in the Israeli-occupied territories, the continual violation of human rights and the Israeli army's persecution of the civilian population which has started to border on genocide.

Bearing in mind that both the European Parliament and the Council consider that a permanent and peaceful solution must be found in the Middle East, would the twelve Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation state what moves they will make in the coming months towards the convening of an international conference on the Middle East involving all interested parties?

*Answer:*

As was pointed out in the speech by the Presidency to the European Parliament in July, the serious situation in the occupied territories remains a matter of major concern to the Twelve. It was again the subject of considerable political discussion at the meeting of the Ministers in July and has been considered at all other levels of Political Cooperation.

The Twelve recently indicated again to the Israeli authorities that the repressive measures against the Palestinian people constitute a clear violation of international law and human rights and should cease immediately. The situation underlines the urgent need to reach a negotiated settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict without delay.

The European Council meeting in Hanover reaffirmed that the status quo in the occupied territories is not tenable. It also confirmed that the Twelve will continue to work towards the early convening of an international conference which represents for the Twelve the suitable framework for the essential negotiations by the parties directly concerned. This international conference is considered essential in order to arrive at a global, just and lasting peace in the region.

The Twelve will support all efforts to this end. They have consistently voiced their support for initiatives aimed at reaching a negotiated settlement of the conflict. They have affirmed their willingness to contribute actively to such a settlement, to participate — as part of an overall settlement — in a system of concrete international guarantees and to cooperate on the subsequent work of reconstruction and economic and social progress which will be necessary on a regional basis. The Twelve are accordingly watching very closely the consequences of the decision by the King of Jordan to withdraw from the West Bank.

### **88/261. Question No H-430/88 by Mr Hughes Concerning the Aydin Prison in Turkey**

Date of Issue: 14 September 1988  
 Place of Issue: Strasbourg  
 Country of Presidency: Greece  
 Source of Document: Presidency  
 Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

Are the Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation aware of and have they discussed the mistreatment and torture of prisoners in Aydin prison, Turkey, following the discovery of a tunnel at the prison in late May 1988?

*Answer:*

The Twelve are following the human rights situation in Turkey very closely. They have on several occasions expressed concern to the Turkish authorities and, as stated recently in the answer to Questions H-38/88 and H-56/88<sup>1</sup>, the Turkish authorities are fully aware of the position of the Twelve on this matter.

The Twelve have taken note of the fact that Turkey has signed the Council of Europe Convention and the United Nations Convention against torture. They expect Turkey fully to respect human rights and the international conventions which it has freely signed.

The specific case mentioned by the Honourable Member has not been discussed as part of European political cooperation.

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<sup>1</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 88/090.

### **88/262. Question No H-465/88 by Mr Ephremidis Concerning the Protocol to the EEC-Israel Agreement**

Date of Issue: 14 September 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

What is the attitude of the twelve Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation to going ahead with the protocol to the EEC-Israel Agreement at a time when in the occupied territories, particularly the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, the official State of Israel continues to trample the most basic human rights and freedoms underfoot, with unprecedented recourse to crude violence against the Palestinian population?

*Answer:*

The question to which the Honourable Member refers is a Community matter which has therefore not been discussed in European political cooperation. However, the Honourable Member may like to be reminded that on numerous occasions the Twelve have indicated to the Israeli authorities their firm opposition to the repressive measures against the Palestinian people, which constitute a clear violation of international law and human rights.

### **88/263. Question No H-471/88 by Mr Dessylas Concerning the Withdrawal of Turkish Troops from Cyprus**

Date of Issue: 14 September 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

In answer to my Oral Question No H-332/88<sup>1</sup> on the position of the Twelve on the Cyprus question, the President-in-Office of the Council of Foreign Ministers said that 'a basic precondition for any normalization of Turkey's relations with the European Communities is the immediate and complete withdrawal of the Turkish occupation troops'.

Does this answer represent the position of the Twelve or was the President-in-Office expressing the view of the Greek Government?

*Answer:*

The answer given to the Honourable Member's Question No H-332/88 clearly reflects the Twelve's position on the Cyprus question and there is nothing further to be added.

<sup>1</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 88/210.

### **88/264. Question No H-482/88 by Mr Ulburghs Concerning the Continuing Imprisonment of Hélène Passtoors in South Africa**

Date of Issue: 14 September 1988  
Place of Issue: Strasbourg  
Country of Presidency: Greece  
Source of Document: Presidency  
Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

On 15 October 1987 the European Parliament adopted an urgent resolution on the imprisonment of Hélène Passtoors in South Africa (Doc. B 2-1017/87)<sup>1</sup>. Paragraph 2 of the resolution called on the Foreign Ministers meeting in European political cooperation to take all possible action in relation to the detention of Hélène Passtoors in South Africa with a view to bringing about her early deportation.

What steps have the Foreign Ministers meeting in European political cooperation taken to act on Parliament's resolution, and is any progress to be expected on this case in the near future?

*Answer:*

The Twelve are aware of the European Parliament's resolution concerning the imprisonment of Hélène Passtoors in South Africa. As was stated to Parliament during Question Time on 8 March 1988, the Twelve are following the case closely. Support is being given to the efforts of the Belgian Government for her release and it is hoped that the case may be settled on humanitarian grounds.

<sup>1</sup> *OJ* No C 205 of 16 November 1987, pp. 120-121.

### **88/265. Question No H-488/88 by Mr Pearce Concerning the Sanction-Busting for Profit by Zambia and Zimbabwe**

Date of Issue: 14 September 1988  
Place of Issue: Strasbourg  
Country of Presidency: Greece  
Source of Document: Presidency  
Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

Zimbabwe provides convenient connections at Harare for passengers travelling to Australia from South Africa. Zambia does the same for passengers between South Africa and the USA at Lusaka. Both countries' national airlines hope to make good profits from this and advertise the services widely. In view of the calls by Zambia and Zimbabwe for other countries to impose economic sanctions against South Africa, is this not the greatest hypocrisy, amounting to sanction-busting for profit?

*Answer:*

As explained to the Honourable Member on 8 July 1987, in reply to his Oral Question No H-271/87<sup>1</sup> about the attitude of the front-line States regarding sanctions against South Africa, the

countries in the region have differing views on the question of international sanctions. Although the majority have publicly declared their support for such measures, some of them may well feel that they are not in a position to introduce economic sanctions themselves.

<sup>1</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 87/249.

**88/266. Question No H-495/88 by Mr Ford Concerning the USA-Japan Agreement on Air Transport of Plutonium**

Date of Issue: 14 September 1988  
Place of Issue: Strasbourg  
Country of Presidency: Greece  
Source of Document: Presidency  
Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

Have the Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation studied the implications of the agreement on nuclear matters between the US and Japan ratified in the Diet in May, particularly with regard to the air transport of plutonium, and have they made representations to the Japanese or US Governments?

*Answer:*

The President-in-Office would remind the Honourable Member that the existing provisions concerning non-proliferation in no way prohibit the reprocessing of irradiated fuel nor the subsequent use for civilian purposes of the plutonium extracted, on condition that these activities are subject to IAEA inspections.

In the matter of transport, these provisions contain particularly strict measures concerning physical protection. These include the use of specially researched containers, permanent surveillance by escorts and close liaison with the necessary emergency standby services.

It should further be noted that such transport between Japan and Europe will decrease as Japan builds up its own reprocessing facilities.

**88/267. Question No H-499/88 by Mr Fich Concerning Sanctions Against South Africa**

Date of Issue: 14 September 1988  
Place of Issue: Strasbourg  
Country of Presidency: Greece  
Source of Document: Presidency  
Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

According to a report presented at the conference of Commonwealth countries in Toronto on 3 August 1988, West Germany, Italy and Spain, among others, have significantly increased their imports from South Africa. Can the President confirm this and explain how this can be so, given the resolution on sanctions against South Africa adopted by the EC Member States in 1986?

*Answer:*

The Honourable Member is reminded of the special measures which the twelve Foreign Ministers adopted in Brussels on 16 September 1986 with regard to imports of iron, steel and gold coins from South Africa. These measures are scrupulously applied by the Member States, which carefully monitor their trade with South Africa and continue to study the impact of their restrictive measures in the light of the available data.

**88/268. Question No H-304/88 by Mr Vandemeulebroucke  
Concerning the Difficulties Facing International Aid Organizations in  
Ethiopia**

Date of Issue: 14 September 1988  
Place of Issue: Strasbourg  
Country of Presidency: Greece  
Source of Document: Presidency  
Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

At the start of April the Commission of the European Communities protested at the decision by the Ethiopian Government to move all international aid organization workers out of the northern provinces of Eritrea and Tigre. In addition, the International Red Cross, for example, is complaining of being hampered in its efforts to ease the plight of two to three million victims of recurring famine in these provinces. How do the Foreign Ministers meeting in European political cooperation propose to respond to this intolerable state of affairs?

*Answer:*

The distribution of food aid in Ethiopia is a matter which has been frequently discussed in European political cooperation in recent months. In their declarations of 13 November and 18 December 1987<sup>1</sup> the Twelve expressed their concern over the obstacles facing the distribution of this aid and appealed to all concerned to take the necessary actions to secure free passage for international relief in the drought-affected areas of Ethiopia.

Following the decision by the Ethiopian authorities to remove expatriate staff engaged in relief, medical and rehabilitation activities from Eritrea and Tigre, the Twelve published on 21 April 1988<sup>2</sup> a statement expressing their deep concern over the escalation of the civil war in the north of Ethiopia, regretting the decision in question and requesting all parties involved to find ways and means to allow the staff members to return to the region to continue their humanitarian task.

The Troika Heads of Mission and the Commission delegate in Addis Ababa immediately made a joint *démarche* on this matter to the relevant authorities<sup>3</sup>. Some progress has since been noted, in particular with the return of UN personnel to their posts in Eritrea and Tigre.

The Twelve are continuing their efforts to carry out as effectively as possible the distribution of food aid to those threatened by famine. To this end, they are continuing to urge all the parties involved in the conflicts in Eritrea and Tigre to reach a negotiated settlement in order to avoid further pointless suffering.

<sup>1</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Docs 87/460 and 87/536.

<sup>2</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 88/105.

<sup>3</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 88/104.

**88/269. Statement Concerning Lebanon**

Date of Issue: 15 September 1988  
Place of Issue: Athens  
Country of Presidency: Greece  
Source of Document: The Twelve  
Status of Document: Declaration

Concerned by the evolution of the situation in Lebanon in recent weeks, the Twelve reiterate the conviction expressed in their declaration of 13 June 1988<sup>1</sup>, that the presidential elections are of decisive importance for the future of the Lebanese Republic and that, with these elections in view, all parties should demonstrate good will and a spirit of compromise through mutual concessions.

The Twelve consider that grave dangers could emerge if, despite all efforts, the presidential elections did not take place within the time-limits stipulated by the Constitution. Therefore, they make an urgent appeal to all parties concerned to show maximum restraint, so that the elections can be held in orderly and free conditions and in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.

<sup>1</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 88/147.

**88/270. Question No 160/88 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E) Concerning the Public Mass Executions in the People's Republic of China**

Date of Issue: 15 September 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 17 May 1988

Do the Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation know whether public mass executions, such as those reported by Professor Harry Wu to have been carried out in Zhengzhou on 23 September 1983, have continued to be and are still being carried out in China?

*Answer:*

The Twelve are aware of executions in China. As was expressed in the answer to Question No 2583/87<sup>1</sup> of the Honourable Parliamentarian, the Twelve take an interest in all human rights cases in China.

The Twelve's position on human rights is known by the Chinese Government.

<sup>1</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 88/219.

**88/271. Question No 196/88 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E) Concerning Arrests in Namibia**

Date of Issue: 15 September 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 17 May 1988

Have the Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation made any representations on behalf of the six people, who include two school principals and a Lutheran minister, arrested in the north of Namibia by South African forces between 17 and 21 January this year, who are being held incommunicado without formal charges or trial in Oshakati?

*Answer:*

The Twelve are following the situation in Namibia very closely and on a number of occasions they have emphasized to the South African authorities the need to respect human rights and allow all persons and political groups to carry on political activities freely throughout the territory. The specific case to which the Honourable Member refers has not, however, been discussed in the context of European political cooperation.



**88/272. Question No 207/88 by Mr de Vries (LDR-NL) Concerning Human Rights Violations in Sudan**

Date of Issue: 15 September 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 25 May 1988

1. Are the Twelve aware of the gross and persistent violations of human rights — killings, torture, mutilations — that took place in the city of Wau, Bahr el Ghazal, Southern Sudan, between April and November 1987?

2. Could the Twelve state whether atrocities in Wau are still taking place?

3. Will the Twelve approach the Government of Sudan to express their abhorrence at this blatant disregard for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights?

4. Will the Twelve bring this matter to the attention of the United Nations Human Rights Commission?

*Answer:*

The Twelve follow the human rights situation in non-member countries very closely. They take full account of this extremely important question in their relations with those countries, as they stressed in the ministerial statement of 21 July 1986<sup>1</sup>.

In this context, the Twelve are giving the situation in Sudan particular attention. The Government of Sudan is aware of the Twelve's position on this matter.

<sup>1</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 86/230.

**88/273. Question No 265/88 by Ms Ewing (RDE-UK) Concerning the Implementation of a Ban on South African Coal**

Date of Issue: 15 September 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 31 May 1988

What will the German Presidency do to promote the reaching of consensus among the Twelve regarding the implementation of a ban on South African coal, thus implementing the relevant passage in the statement issued after the Hague European Council meeting of June 1986?

*Answer:*

During the first half of 1988 the Presidency verified the Twelve's positions on the ban on imports of coal from South Africa.

The Twelve intend to continue their consultations on this matter.

**88/274. Question No 275/88 by Ms Simons (S-D) Concerning New Investments in the Republic of South Africa**

Date of Issue: 15 September 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 31 May 1988

At the beginning of 1988 the South African Government announced that foreign creditors could convert their claims for repayments of loans into investments in South Africa by purchasing land and shares. The South African Government also announced a privatization programme in which State undertakings, including the largest industrial concern in the country, the energy supply undertaking 'Electricity Supply Commission' (ESCOM) were to be made into public limited companies. Foreign creditors were offered the possibility of converting loans by acquiring these shares.

1. Are the Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation aware of these plans of the South African Government?
2. Do they share the view that the conversion of claims for the repayment of loans into shares in privatized companies represents an investment?
3. Do they share the view that such investments constitute new investments which, according to the Foreign Ministers' decision of September 1986, are forbidden?
4. Do they know which companies and banks from Community States wish to convert or have already converted their claims into new investments, in line with the South African Government's offer?
5. What steps do the Foreign Ministers intend to take to prevent new investments by companies or banks from Community States in South Africa, and thus contraventions of the Foreign Ministers' decision referred to above?

*Answer:*

Following the decision of 16 September 1986 of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Twelve meeting in European political cooperation<sup>1</sup>, and the decision of 27 October 1986 of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council (*Official Journal of the European Communities* L 305/86 of 31 October 1986), to which the Honourable Member may refer, the national authorities of the Twelve took the necessary measures to implement the ban on new direct investment in the Republic of South Africa.

The ban is rigorously applied by the competent authorities of the Member States, and the Twelve will continue scrupulously with their action against South Africa in this field.

<sup>1</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 86/271.

### **88/275. Question No 360/88 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E) Concerning the Killings by Death Squads in Honduras**

Date of Issue: 15 September 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 9 June 1988

Have the Foreign Ministers meeting in European political cooperation discussed the most recent killings by the death squads in Honduras, the victims of which include Miguel Angel Pavon Salazar, a prominent figure on the Committee for the Defence of Human Rights, who had testified against the Government of his country before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in Costa Rica?

*Answer:*

The Honourable Member is no doubt aware of the representations the European Troika made on behalf of the Twelve to the Government of Honduras on 4 February 1988 in Tegucigalpa regarding the assassination of Angel Pavon, Moises Landaverde and José Vilorio.

Following those representations the Presidency issued a press release<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Cf. *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 88/035.

### **88/276. Question No 413/88 by Mr Ligios (PPE-I) Concerning the British Military Manœuvres off the Falkland Islands**

Date of Issue: 15 September 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 13 June 1988

Are the Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the European Community aware of the military manœuvres off the Falkland Islands announced by the British Government?

Do the Ministers not consider that such displays of force, far from helping to reduce tension in the area, are in danger of upsetting the already difficult process of *détente* with the countries of Latin America and the strengthening of the democratic system courageously established by the Argentinian Government?

In view of the fundamental demands of *détente* and the traditionally friendly relations linking the European Community and the Latin American continent, do the Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation not consider that the moment has come to call for the immediate opening of bilateral negotiations aimed at finding a final and peaceful solution to the territorial dispute involving the Falkland Islands?

*Answer:*

The Honourable Member's question concerns a matter within a Partner's national powers and such matters are not dealt with in the context of European political cooperation. As regards relations between the European Community and Latin America, however, it must be pointed out that on a number of occasions the Twelve have expressed their desire to strengthen further their links with the Latin American countries. The Twelve's meetings with the Rio Group are one of many possible examples of manifestations of that desire. The Twelve have supported and will continue to support unequivocally the democratic process in that part of the world.

### **88/277. Question No 671/88 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E) Concerning the Christian Leaders Kidnapped in Guatemala**

Date of Issue: 15 September 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 30 June 1988

Would the Ministers for Foreign Affairs meeting in Political Cooperation enquire into the fate of the evangelical preacher Tomás Tujil Cocón, who disappeared in January of this year in Chichicastenango (department of El Quiché), of Reyes Anibal de la Delicias (department of Santa Rosa), a member of a lay Christian community kidnapped by armed men last November, and of the Catholic leaders José Ruiz Ramirez and José Velázquez Garcia, kidnapped on the San Basilio estate in the town of Rio Bravo (department of Suchitpeque)?

*Answer:*

The cases referred to by the Honourable Member have not been discussed in the context of European political cooperation. Both in the past and recently, however, on the occasion of

contacts between the Troika and Central American Ministers for Foreign Affairs, the Twelve have stressed the special importance they attach to full respect for human rights in Central America.

**88/278. Question No 677/88 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E) Concerning the Critical Situation of the Kurdish Prisoner Emin Yavuz**

Date of Issue: 15 September 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 30 June 1988

Have the Ministers of Foreign Affairs meeting in Political Cooperation been following the case of the Kurdish prisoner, Mehmet Emin Yavuz (1949), held in the military prison of Diyarbakir, who, according to information which I have received from Germany, has been tortured to death? Are they keeping themselves informed as regards the situation of Kurdish detainees in this prison?

*Answer:*

The Twelve have on several occasions informed the Turkish authorities of the importance they attach to respect for human rights, with particular reference to the conditions of detention applied to all political prisoners in Turkey.

**88/279. Question No 192/88 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E) Concerning the Imprisonment of a Former Singapore MP**

Date of Issue: 21 September 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 17 May 1988

Have the Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation made any representations on behalf of the former Singapore MP, Chia Thye Poh, a political prisoner serving a 21-year prison term?

*Answer:*

The question raised by the Honourable Member has not been discussed in European political cooperation. However, the position of the Twelve with regard to human rights is well known to the Singapore authorities.

**88/280. Question No 194/88 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E) Concerning the Commuting of Death Sentences in Rwanda**

Date of Issue: 21 September 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 17 May 1988

How many prisoners of conscience have been released and how many death sentences commuted recently by the Government of Rwanda to mark the 25th anniversary of its independence? Have the Foreign Ministers meeting in European political cooperation intervened in any way?

*Answer:*

The Twelve are unable to provide information on this matter, which has not been discussed within the framework of Political Cooperation.

**88/281. Question No 678/88 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E) Concerning the Imprisonment of the Zairean Political Leader, E. Tshisekedi**

Date of Issue: 21 September 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 17 May 1988

Have the Ministers for Foreign Affairs meeting in Political Cooperation been following the case of Mr Étienne Tshisekedi, the leader of the UDPS party in Zaire, who was detained on 17 January 1988 along with many of his followers?

*Answer:*

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

**88/282. Question No 1035/88 by Mr Zahorka (PPE-D) Concerning the Conditions of Detention for Foreigners, Including Europeans, Under Arrest in Zambia**

Date of Issue: 21 September 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 18 August 1988

In their answer of 4 June 1987 to my Written Question No 2931/86<sup>1</sup> on the conditions of imprisonment for foreigners, including Europeans, arrested in Zaire, the Foreign Ministers stated that was a matter of concern to them and that they were endeavouring to obtain further clarification of the matter.

What steps have the Foreign Ministers taken and with what success?

*Answer:*

After the South African military action in Lusaka on 19 May 1986 and following President Kaunda's declaration of 14 June 1986 referring to South Africa's possible intentions regarding Zambia, a number of European citizens were detained in that country.

A number of urgent approaches to the Zambian authorities were made both by the Presidency and by the Member States' diplomatic missions in Lusaka.

Following these approaches the situation described by the Honourable Member in Question No 2931/86 has returned to normal and the Twelve have found that the Lusaka authorities' cooperation with the Twelve's diplomatic missions has since then been satisfactory.

<sup>1</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 87/201.

**88/283. Question No 1040/88 by Mr Tridente (ARC-I) Concerning the Arrest of UDPS Members in Zaire**

Date of Issue: 21 September 1988  
Place of Issue: Strasbourg  
Country of Presidency: Greece  
Source of Document: Presidency  
Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 18 August 1988

Two UDPS leaders, Faustin Birindwa and Wa Mulumba Tshisekedi, were arrested before the elections of 10 April 1988 and a women's protest against arrests made by the regime was subsequently repressed.

Will the Council condemn the actions of the Zairean Government?

Will the Council call for the release of Birindwa and Tshisekedi and offer them political asylum?

*Answer:*

The cases referred to by the Honourable Member have not been discussed in European political cooperation. The Government of Zaire is, however, aware of the importance that the Twelve attach to respect for human rights.

**88/284. Question No 157/88 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E) Concerning the Decrees Reducing the Indian Territories in Brazil**

Date of Issue: 22 September 1988  
Place of Issue: Strasbourg  
Country of Presidency: Greece  
Source of Document: Presidency  
Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 17 May 1988

Three days before Christmas 1987, 120 representatives of ten Indian peoples in the Amazon region of Brazil rejected the terms of the Brazilian Government's Decree No 94946 of September 1987, which they felt was 'a blatant attack on the Indian people of Brazil' and was unjust and illegal because its aim was to reduce the Indian territories.

They also protested against Decree No 94945, whose aim was to mark out the Indian territories situated in the border region in the form of reservations. Can the Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation ascertain the complaints of these Brazilian Indians, who for many reasons are threatened with extinction in the not too distant future?

*Answer:*

The question raised by the Honourable Member has not been dealt with in European political cooperation.

However, according to the information available, the representatives of the Indian tribes have appealed to the Attorney General, who will decide on the matter.

**88/285. Question No 189/88 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E) Concerning the Detention in Vietnam of the Protestant Minister Ho Hieu Ha**

Date of Issue: 22 September 1988  
Place of Issue: Strasbourg  
Country of Presidency: Greece  
Source of Document: Presidency  
Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 17 May 1988

Are the Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation aware of the fate of the Protestant minister, Ho Hieu Ha, aged 47, who was arrested in December 1983 and is serving his sentence in Chi Hoa prison in Ho Chi Minh City, North Vietnam? Are they aware of the fate of at least another 15 evangelical clergymen and lay preachers, who are serving sentences for opposing orders confiscating churches or simply for preaching the gospel and being responsible for Christian communities?

*Answer:*

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

However, the Vietnamese Government is aware of the position of the Twelve regarding political prisoners in Vietnam, as was pointed out in the reply to Written Question No 185/88<sup>1</sup> put by the Honourable Member.

<sup>1</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 88/222.

**88/286. Question No 191/88 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E) Concerning the Confinement of the Yugoslav Former Soldier Radomir Veljkovic**

Date of Issue: 22 September 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 17 May 1988

Are the Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation informed of the condition of Radomir Veljkovic, a former officer of the Yugoslav army, who has been confined in hospital since July 1973 for 'anti-government propaganda'?

*Answer:*

The Twelve take every opportunity to remind the States signatory to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Helsinki Final Act of their obligations to observe the provisions to which they have freely subscribed, including freedom of thought, conscience and religion for all as enshrined in the Final Act.

The specific instance mentioned by the Honourable Member has not been raised in Political Cooperation.

**88/287. Question No 193/88 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E) Concerning the Imprisonment of 33 People in Kamunting**

Date of Issue: 22 September 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 17 May 1988

Have the Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation considered the case of 33 people sentenced to two years' imprisonment — including seven MPs of the Democratic Action Party (DAP) of Malaysia — who have been held at the Kamunting detention centre since the end of December?

*Answer:*

The question raised by the Honourable Member has not been discussed in European political cooperation. The Malaysian Government is, however, aware of the Twelve's position regarding persons detained under the internal security law.

**88/288. Question No 679/88 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E) Concerning the Fate of Gorgui Sarr and the Conditions Under Which he is Imprisoned**

Date of Issue: 22 September 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 30 June 1988

Would the Ministers for Foreign Affairs meeting in Political Cooperation enquire into the fate of Gorgui Sarr, a Mauritanian citizen sentenced to four years' imprisonment by the Nouadhibou Criminal Court on 30 April 1987, and the conditions under which he is imprisoned?

*Answer:*

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

**88/289. Question No 770/88 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E) Concerning a Doctor Missing in Nepal**

Date of Issue: 22 September 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 22 July 1988

With reference to my recent motion for a resolution on repression in Nepal, have the Foreign Ministers taken any steps to trace Lacmir Navayan Jha, a doctor from Kathmandu, who has not been seen since his arrest in Janakpur on 28 June 1985?

*Answer:*

The Twelve consider respect for human rights a matter of critical importance. In their declaration of 21 July 1986<sup>1</sup> they stressed that respect for human rights was an important aspect of relations between non-member States and the Europe of the Twelve. The specific case of Doctor Lacmir Navayan Jha has not been discussed in the context of European political cooperation. The Nepalese authorities are aware of the importance that the Twelve attach to human rights.

<sup>1</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 86/230.



**88/290. Question No 771/88 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E) Concerning the Convictions in Connection with Freedom of Religion in Yugoslavia**

Date of Issue: 22 September 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 22 July 1988

Will the Foreign Ministers investigate the fate of Fadil Fadilpasic and Ibrahim Ardic, engineers, who were arrested and sentenced to several years imprisonment in Yugoslavia for having spread 'anti-State propaganda', i.e. in connection with freedom of religion?

*Answer:*

The Twelve take every opportunity of reminding the States that signed the Helsinki Final Act of their obligation to comply with the provisions that they freely accepted, including the freedom of thought, conscience and religion for all enunciated in the Final Act.

The specific case referred to by the Honourable Member has not been discussed in the context of Political Cooperation.

**88/291. Statement Concerning Haiti**

Date of Issue: 22 September 1988

Place of Issue: Athens/Brussels

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: The Twelve

Status of Document: Declaration

The Twelve, whose interest for Haiti has been constant these last years, are following closely the situation related to the military coup of 18 September, that resulted in the overthrow of General Namphy and a new takeover by the armed forces in this country.

The Twelve hope that these events would not raise yet another obstacle, but would lead to the process of restoring democracy in Haiti.

They therefore urge the Haitian military forces to respect the Constitution. They also appeal to the political and other forces of the country to contribute to the creation of conditions leading to national reconciliation which, along with respect for human rights, is a necessary prerequisite for the return of true democracy in Haiti.

**88/292. Statement Concerning Burma**

Date of Issue: 23 September 1988

Place of Issue: Athens

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: The Twelve

Status of Document: Declaration

The Twelve express their deep concern that violence in Burma is again taking on dramatic dimensions and leading to continuous loss of lives.

Further to their declaration of 19 August 1988<sup>1</sup>, the Twelve urgently call upon the military authorities in Burma to refrain from all acts of violence and especially from shooting on unarmed people.

The Twelve call upon all parties concerned to open without delay a substantial dialogue aiming at the restoration of democracy and the organization of free multiparty elections.

The Twelve are firmly convinced that the Burmese people's clear desire to enjoy the benefits of peace, prosperity, full protection of human rights and a multiparty democracy should be met.

They express their readiness to assist, to the best of their ability, a fully representative democratic government in Burma, in an effort towards the social and economic recovery of the country.

<sup>1</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 88/245.

**88/293. Question No 158/88 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E) Concerning the Handing over of Indian Territories to Foreign Companies**

Date of Issue: 23 September 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 17 May 1988

Do the Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation know about the concessions granted to foreign companies on the territories of fourteen of Ecuador's Indian peoples when Febres Cordero was President? In particular, do they know about the ceding of part of the territory of the Huaorani to the consortium consisting of Braspetrol (Brazil), Elf Aquitaine (France) and Britoil (United Kingdom)? Have they made any representations on behalf of these peoples?

*Answer:*

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

**88/294. Question No 159/88 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E) Concerning the Murder of Brazilian Indians**

Date of Issue: 23 September 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 17 May 1988

According to *Porantim*, the newspaper of the CIMI (Missionary Council for Indian Peoples), eleven Indians were murdered in Brazil during 1987. They belonged to the Yanomami, Xakriaba, Maxakali, Kaimba, Karaja and Baikiri tribes. Only those responsible for killing the three Xakriaba have been imprisoned, but they have not yet been sentenced.

Have the Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation concerned themselves with and are they worried about all such crimes, which are committed repeatedly against some of the most vulnerable peoples in the world?

*Answer:*

The question raised by the Honourable Member has not been dealt with in European political cooperation. However, the position of the Twelve on human rights is well known to the Honourable Member.

**88/295. Question No 186/88 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E) Concerning the Imprisonment of the Tibetan Monk, Geshe Lobsang Wangchuk**

Date of Issue: 23 September 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 17 May 1988

Have the Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation investigated the fate of the Tibetan monk and Buddhist scholar, Geshe Lobsang Wangchuk, first arrested in 1959, who has been in prison or labour camps since that date and was sentenced in 1984 to 18 years, reportedly for advocating Tibetan independence?

*Answer:*

The Honourable Member's question has not been discussed in European political cooperation. However, the importance attached by the Twelve to human rights is well known to the Chinese authorities.

**88/296. Question No 187/88 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E) Concerning the Persecution of Peasant Leaders in Peru**

Date of Issue: 23 September 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 17 May 1988

Have the Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation noted the frequency with which local peasant leaders and advisers of the peasant communities in Peru are the victims of intimidation, threats, accusations of terrorism and arrest and even of attacks and murder? What has become of the actor and organizer of farmers in the Cuzco region, Mauro Ochoa?

*Answer:*

The position of the Twelve on human rights and fundamental freedoms is well known to the Honourable Member. The Twelve, in accordance with the importance that they attach — as recently reiterated at the European Council in Hanover — to democracy and the normal functioning of democratic institutions, condemn all acts of violence, wherever they occur.

**88/297. Question No 188/88 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E) Concerning the Imprisonment of the Pakistani Student, Ghanshyam Parkash**

Date of Issue: 23 September 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 17 May 1988

Have the Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation considered the case of the medical student, Ghanshyam Parkash, a member of the Pakistani Federation of Democratic Students, who has been sentenced by a special military court to seven years' imprisonment, to be served in the Khairpur central prison, for possessing literature of which the Government disapproves?

*Answer:*

The question raised by the Honourable Member has not been discussed in European political cooperation. However, the Pakistani authorities are aware of the importance which the Twelve attach to human rights.

### **88/298. Statement at the Plenary Session of the UN General Assembly**

Date of Issue: 27 September 1988

Place of Issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

*Mr Papoulias:* Mr President, on behalf of the European Community and its Member States I should like first of all to express my most sincere congratulations to you on your election to the Presidency of the forty-third session of the General Assembly.

I should also like to express the Community's profound appreciation to the outgoing President for the way in which he conducted the deliberations of the forty-second General Assembly.

The twelve Member States of the European Community wish to pay tribute to the Secretary-General, Mr Perez de Cuéllar for his tenacious and constant efforts to find solutions to the problems facing the international community. We are delighted to see that his efforts in a number of cases have led to positive results.

The forty-third General Assembly of the United Nations opens in a climate marked by positive and encouraging developments. East-West relations have undergone a favourable evolution, highlighted by the summit meetings between the leaders of the United States and the Soviet Union. An important and significant agreement on arms limitation and control has been concluded which involves the destruction of nuclear weapons. The INF Treaty, which brings about, for the first time, the destruction of a whole category of weapons is a milestone in the history of East-West relations and has opened the way for further progress in other areas of arms control and disarmament. It was an initiative fully supported by the Twelve. Considerable progress has been made towards the peaceful solution of some of the major conflicts affecting the world community; Soviet troops are in the process of withdrawing from Afghanistan; there is a cease-fire in the Gulf; the conflicts in Kampuchea and Angola look less intractable than a year ago. The Twelve, who have actively contributed to bringing about this climate, cannot but rejoice.

However, there are still serious problems to which no solution has been found and new challenges are looming in the horizon which will require persistent efforts on the part of all the members of the international community. It is therefore essential that we pursue our efforts, convinced that it is in a growing spirit of realism, cooperation and dialogue that the problems which preoccupy us may find suitable solutions. The United Nations are and must remain the advocate of this spirit.

It is with great satisfaction that the Twelve have welcomed the Organization's growing role, as well as its accomplishments in recent months. It is an encouraging sign of the strengthening of respect for the principles enshrined in the Charter, which constitute the best basis for ensuring world peace, as well as for promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms and economic, cultural and social progress, especially this year that we are celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We are, therefore, determined to support every effort in order to enhance the authority of the United Nations and render its existing mechanisms and activities more effective.

Mr President, I must lay emphasis here on a problem of particular concern to us, that of *human rights and fundamental freedoms*. Need I recall the priority which the Twelve give to

them and the importance they attach to the promotion and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in all countries? In this field, the Twelve's activities are guided by the principles which were set out in their declaration of 21 July 1986. Principles which were initially enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the two Covenants. We expect all members of the United Nations to live up to the obligations they have freely assumed. We welcome any efforts aimed at strengthening the existing mechanisms established to ensure that nations' words are matched by deeds.

This year in which we celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, let all of us recommit ourselves to its principles and their implementation for a better, humane world.

Mr President, the recent political events enhanced the role of the United Nations in the process of settling international conflicts. It is, however, ironic that our Organization and not least its peace-keeping operations face a most serious *financial crisis* at a time when confidence in its usefulness is growing. The Twelve have made efforts to fulfil their financial obligations to the United Nations and are determined to do so in the future. We strongly urge all member States to show their support to the Organization by fulfilling their financial obligations in full and on time according to the Charter. We hope that our commitment towards a strong and effective UN will be shared by all member States.

We live in an increasingly interdependent world, in which very few problems can be solved by any country alone. The very existence of the European Community reflects acknowledgement of this fact. A year ago my colleague, the Danish Foreign Minister, holding the Presidency of the European Community, stated that with the entry into force of the Single European Act the Community had entered into a new phase of close collaboration. I can add today that, in fact, the Community has embarked upon a stage of its development that is characterized by a new momentum for integration combined with renewed confidence in our common future. We have made headway towards the objective of advancing European unity and contributed together to making concrete progress towards a European Union. We have increased our efforts jointly to formulate and implement a European foreign policy, thus striving to promote peace and stability in Europe and the world. The Community is not, however, an inward-looking organization. It is inspired by an open spirit of cooperation and active participation in solving the political, economic and social problems affecting the international community.

The Twelve have long supported and actively contributed to the process of improvement in *East-West* relations and are determined to continue to work in this direction in a realistic and constructive manner. They welcome not only the developments in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe which lead to openings of the political systems and the economies of these countries, but also the developments in the way these countries approach certain international issues. The changes contribute to consolidating and intensifying East-West relations. It is only between open societies which get to know one another and communicate without barriers, that real trust can be created, this being the only reliable basis for lasting security.

In this context, efforts regarding *arms control and disarmament* are of great importance. Since our last General Assembly, we have witnessed very positive developments in this field, above all the signature and ratification of the INF Agreement, which the Twelve fully supported. Many of the treaty's provisions set important precedents for future agreements on arms control, in particular asymmetrical reductions and intrusive verification procedures.

The Twelve fully support efforts to bring about a 50% reduction in the strategic nuclear arsenals of the United States and the Soviet Union, as well as an agreement on space issues which would be a significant contribution to worldwide stability in this field.

We also strongly support the efforts made within the United Nations to tackle the problems of nuclear and conventional disarmament, verification, confidence-building measures and military transparency in the military field.

The Twelve strongly advocate the early establishment of a global and effectively verifiable ban on chemical weapons and reaffirm their commitment to the total elimination of those weapons.

Joint efforts at the Conference of Disarmament in Geneva can bring closer the resolution of the pending problems, including the complex but fundamental verification issues, in a way acceptable to all. Those of the Twelve who are participants in the Conference will continue vigorously to pursue this goal at the negotiations.

The adoption of Security Council Resolutions 612 and 620 was a notable further milestone. The Twelve consequently reiterate their support for action which could be undertaken to establish impartially the facts relating to alleged use of chemical weapons against the Kurdish population.

The Twelve regret that the third Special Session on disarmament was not concluded by an agreed final document. However, important constructive work was done during the session and it is hoped that the First Committee will profit from this experience.

It is not surprising that in the framework of arms control and disarmament the Twelve attach particular importance to problems concerning security in Europe, where serious imbalances persist, in particular in the conventional field. Therefore, the need for conventional arms control — the key issue of European security — is especially urgent in this area also. The Twelve have long advocated the establishment of a stable and secure balance of conventional forces at lower levels, within the framework of CSCE process, the elimination of disparities prejudicial to security, stringent verification and the elimination of the capability for launching surprise attack and for initiating large-scale offensive action in the whole of Europe. We have noted with interest that certain ideas put forward recently by the Warsaw Pact countries reflect, in part, our concerns. We also favour an agreement on a new set of enhanced confidence- and security-building measures aimed at promoting more openness and transparency in the military field. The Twelve accordingly consider that the negotiations on conventional stability and new confidence- and security-building measures should begin as soon as possible in a constructive spirit after the satisfactory conclusion of the current Vienna CSCE meeting.

Progress in the field of conventional arms control in Europe thus depends on the conclusion of the *Vienna CSCE Meeting*, with a substantial result in the field of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The CSCE process shows a way to overcome the barriers of distrust which divide the continent. Military security agreements alone cannot bear the full weight of East-West relations.

The Twelve note with satisfaction the progress being made in the resolution for the issues before the Vienna follow-up meeting. We hope that the present sixth round of negotiations will bring that meeting to a prompt and successful end. In this respect the Twelve recall their recent appeal to the other participating States of the CSCE to settle the remaining issues, particularly those relating to the human rights and human contacts provisions of the Helsinki Final Act. The Community's aim remains an agreement on a balanced and substantial Concluding Document, permitting progress in all Baskets and in particular in the fields of human rights and fundamental freedoms, cooperation and security.

As far as human rights and fundamental freedoms are concerned, the Twelve insist on a better implementation of all commitments entered into by the States participating in the CSCE process.

We believe that progress in the human dimension of the CSCE will make [a] substantial contribution to creating a real climate of confidence in Europe and in particular will give East-West relations the stability and continuity which they must have. The Twelve are determined to continue to strive for a dynamic development of East-West relations.

A successful and balanced outcome of the Vienna meeting would secure the opening of negotiations on conventional stability in Europe, aiming at the establishment of a stable and secure balance of conventional forces in Europe at a lower level and on a further set of confidence- and security-building measures, as well as the convening of a Conference on the Human Dimension.

Turning now to the question of *Cyprus*, a member of the European family, I cannot disregard the fact that the tragic division of the island remains unchanged. The Twelve attach a great importance to a just and viable solution of this problem. To this effect we reaffirm our strong

support for the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and unity of the Republic of Cyprus in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions. We stand fully by our previous statements and reject any action which purports to establish an independent State within Cyprus.

We also express our satisfaction for the successful efforts undertaken by the UN Secretary-General to bring about a resumption of the intercommunal dialogue in the search of a settlement in Cyprus based on the above principles and call upon the parties concerned to cooperate fully towards the achievement of that objective.

The improvement in the international climate should render the task of finding just solutions to the regional crisis, which continue to affect our age, more promising. The Twelve firmly believe that an important element for the implementation of arrangements or agreements to settle these conflicts will be the present and future *UN peace-keeping operations*. Some of the peace settlements we fervently hope to see materialize in a not too distant future will require peace-keeping and observer forces. Member States of the European Community have contributed Blue Helmets in the past and some of us are doing so right now. In view of the considerable peace-keeping tasks which may lie ahead, the Twelve will continue to attach great importance to the matter and are giving active consideration to its various aspects. They also wish to assure the Secretary-General that he can count on their full support.

We emphasize our view that the costs related to peace-keeping operations based on decisions of the Security Council in accordance with the Charter are to be regarded as mandatory expenses, unless decided otherwise by the Security Council, to be borne by all members of the United Nations, having been carefully examined in the appropriate way. We should be prepared to pay the price of peace.

The Twelve call upon all member States of this Organization and especially the two superpowers to render their full support to these operations. It is only with this support that the encouraging developments we are recently witnessing will lead to positive results.

The European Community and its Member States have important ties with the countries and peoples of the *Middle East*, and they cannot be passive or indifferent to the serious problems affecting a region which is so close to them.

Today, the conflicts in this region continue. The Arab-Israeli conflict remains an issue of deep concern to all of us. The status quo in the occupied territories is not sustainable. The situation in the occupied territories remains tense. We have repeatedly deplored the Israeli repressive measures which make a peaceful settlement harder to find. We urgently renew our call on Israel, pending its withdrawal, to fulfil scrupulously its obligations as an occupying power, in accordance with the Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949.

The Twelve's views on the key elements which must make up a solution to this conflict are well known. In accordance with the Venice Declaration and other subsequent declarations, two principles are fundamental: the right of all States in the area, including Israel, to exist within secure, recognized and guaranteed borders, and the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination with all that this implies.

These principles continue to be the basis of the policy of the Twelve. For the implementation of this policy, we have on several occasions reaffirmed our support for an international peace conference under the auspices of the United Nations, as the suitable framework for the indispensable negotiations between the parties directly concerned.

After so much suffering, so much tragic loss of human life, the time has come to break the vicious circle of repression and hatred. There can be no real security, nor any real peace, for any of the peoples in the region without a just, global and lasting settlement. All parties concerned should recognize each other's rights.

We therefore address — from this forum — an urgent appeal to all the parties concerned to make the necessary efforts to achieve this aim. At this particular moment it seems especially important for all parties concerned to show political responsibility in order to permit the peace process to move forward. For our part, we remain ready to play our role fully in this effort.

In *Lebanon* also, after thirteen years of war and suffering, it is vital that a political solution be found. The proper functioning and strengthening of Lebanon's constitutional bodies is a precondition for such a solution. We regret that the mandate of President Gemayel expired without a new President being elected. We strongly appeal to all parties to favour the election, in all freedom and without external pressures, of a President capable [of carrying] out the task of national reconciliation and [of safeguarding] unity, independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty in Lebanon. We underline our support for UNIFIL and appeal to all parties to ensure that these forces are allowed to fulfil their mandate without hindrance.

The Twelve are following with great satisfaction recent developments in the *Iraq-Iran* conflict. We have welcomed the announcement of a cease-fire and the decision of the Governments of Iraq and Iran to accept this cease-fire to be followed by direct talks under the auspices of the UN Secretary-General.

The Twelve remain determined to support the efforts of the UN Secretary-General and call upon both parties to cooperate intensively with him in order to achieve a comprehensive, just, honourable and durable settlement of the conflict, in full compliance with UN Security Council Resolution 598, so that peace and security may be restored in the region.

In this connection, the Twelve pay tribute to the UN Secretary-General for his untiring efforts and dedication. The success of the Secretary-General's endeavours enhances the prestige of the United Nations and paves the way for an increasing role of the Organization in maintaining international peace and security.

The Twelve note with satisfaction the improvement in relations among the countries of *Maghreb*. This development creates new prospects for cooperation between the two shores of the Mediterranean Sea and regional stability. We also welcome the positive reactions by the parties concerned to the peace plan on the *Western Sahara*, put forward by the UN Secretary-General and endorsed by the Security Council, aimed at holding a referendum on self-determination under the auspices of the UN.

We believe that all parties will demonstrate their willingness to restore a just and lasting peace in the region.

In *Southern Africa* there have been some encouraging signs of progress after years of South African aggression and destabilizing acts against neighbouring States.

The Twelve have both individually and collectively declared their support to the efforts currently undertaken, aiming at securing peace for Angola and independence for Namibia on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution 435 (1978). They have also welcomed as recently as 26 August, in their statement on the occasion of Namibia Day, the encouraging agreements reached in the quadripartite talks for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 435. The Twelve are looking forward to a rapid and successful conclusion of the ongoing negotiations leading to Namibia's independence. They express the hope that the dialogue initiated will ease the existing tensions and pave the way for peace, security, stability and socio-economic development, based on respect for human rights in the entire region. In this connection they welcome the prospect of a bilateral accord between Angola and Cuba, which will include a timetable acceptable to all parties for the staged and total withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola.

The Twelve reiterate their strong support for the efforts of the front-line States and other SADCC countries to achieve security and economic stability. Furthermore, the Twelve reaffirm their will to contribute to the implementation of the Oslo declaration and plan on the plight of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Southern Africa.

Yet, the abhorrent system of *apartheid* remains entrenched in South Africa. This year has again been marked by serious and disturbing developments like the adoption, in February, of new restrictive measures against a number of organizations peacefully opposing apartheid and several of their leaders, the arrests of church and trade-union leaders, the detention without charge of men, women and even young children and the maltreatment and torture inflicted on a number of detainees, the uncertain fate of the Sharpeville Six and the bill threatening to deprive



peaceful anti-apartheid organizations of external funding. All these point to the fact that Pretoria is still unwilling to commit itself to real and significant change, which we fear will worsen even further the relations between the Twelve and South Africa.

The Twelve once more stress that apartheid must be totally abolished by peaceful means and the vicious circle of repression and violence that it provokes must be replaced by a constructive national dialogue. Only negotiations involving the genuine representatives of the black community and all other components of the South African population can bring about the future of peace and prosperity in a free, democratic and united South Africa with no racial discrimination.

In our view there can be no dialogue as long as the state of emergency is still in force, the ANC, PAC and other political parties are proscribed and while Nelson Mandela, now seriously ill, and other political prisoners are not released.

In pursuit of their stated objectives, the Twelve follow a policy of persuasion and pressure. Apart from declarations and pressing *démarches* to the South African Government, the European Community and its Member States have adopted a number of restrictive measures as well as positive programmes of assistance to the victims of apartheid.

As regards the *Horn of Africa*, the Twelve have noted with satisfaction that normal relations have been established between Ethiopia and Somalia, which represents a step forward towards achieving lasting peace in the region. However, the serious tensions in both Ethiopia and Somalia which have caused loss of life, exodus of civilian population as well as economic and material damage continue to be the cause of great concern. The conflict in Northern Ethiopia still endangers the distribution of food to millions of people threatened by famine and starvation. The Twelve appeal to all concerned to make serious efforts to achieve a peaceful settlement of the conflicts in the region.

The Twelve express their deep concern about the dramatic events in *Burundi* and the resulting flood of refugees at the Rwandese border. They hope that the situation will soon be normalized and that a satisfactory and lasting solution will be worked out in order to prevent further outbursts of violence in Burundi.

Nearly fourteen months ago, the international community warmly welcomed the historic declaration by the five Presidents in *Central America* to sign the Esquipulas-II Agreement in order to bring about stable and lasting peace in their region, a process to which the European Community and its Member States have given their unremitting support.

We have, on several occasions, appealed to all the parties directly or indirectly involved to give effect to the agreement in letter and spirit by fully implementing all the commitments they have assumed and to contribute towards the region's efforts for peace, democracy, economic development and social justice.

Today, we wish to express our concern that the momentum of the peace process should be maintained. Although progress has been achieved in some fields, the Twelve note that the principal conditions for a stable and lasting peace in Central America have not yet been met.

Our view concerning the solution to the region's problem is based on the principle that responsibility for peace and democracy rests with each country individually and with all of them collectively. The arrangements provided for in the Esquipulas-II Agreement represent an indivisible entity and should be implemented as a whole.

I must stress, once again, that there will be no authentic democratic process without pluralism, involving respect for human rights and promotion of social justice. There will be no peace and democracy unless the sovereignty, territorial integrity of States and the right of all nations to choose their economic, political and social models freely and without external interference of any kind are respected.

We urge the Central American countries to make every effort to give new impetus to the peace process. On their part, the European Community and its Member States wish to reaffirm, once again, that they are committed to contribute, to the best of their ability, to the process set

up in Esquipulas, including the creation and the functioning of the Central American Parliament and to the economic and social development of the region. We call on other countries to do likewise.

We have followed with particular interest the efforts initiated last November in Acapulco by the Heads of State of *eight Latin American countries* to establish a permanent mechanism for consultation and concerted political action. We welcome this initiative, which opened up new paths for regional concertation and we intend to pursue our dialogue with these countries aimed at promoting peace, development, democracy and stability in Latin America.

The Twelve are encouraged by the progress made in the process of democratization throughout Latin America. We appeal to the governments of those few countries that have not yet seen the re-establishment of full pluralistic democracy to engage in a process of genuine democratization which will enable their peoples to express themselves freely and to build a future worthy of them.

The Twelve welcomed the signing of the Geneva agreements on *Afghanistan*, which constitutes an important step forward to the settlement of the crisis. They now call all parties involved to spare no effort in pursuing the peace process. An overall political settlement of the Afghan problem involves the withdrawal of all Soviet troops in accordance with the agreed timetable, the unimpeded return of refugees in safety and honour, the establishment of a fully representative government through a genuine act of self-determination, re-establishment of a genuinely independent and non-aligned Afghanistan. It is essential that the resistance be fully involved in this process. Also in this forum, I wish to reiterate the readiness of the European Community and its Member States to contribute, when the time comes, to the resettlement of refugees and displaced persons as well as to the reconstruction of the country in accordance with the priorities laid down by the United Nations Coordinator for Humanitarian and Economic Assistance to Afghanistan.

Concerning the question of *East Timor*, the Twelve reiterate their support for the contacts between Portugal and Indonesia under the auspices of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. They express the hope that it will soon be possible to achieve progress, thus paving the way to a just, comprehensive and internationally accepted settlement of the question, with full respect of the interests of the people of East Timor.

A return to peace and stability in South-East Asia is still contingent upon a solution being found to the problem of *Kampuchea*. This conflict is the result of a foreign military occupation in violation of the fundamental principles of the UN and international law and must be brought to an end. In this connection, the Jakarta informal meeting was an encouraging step towards a political solution of the conflict resulting in an independent, democratic, neutral and non-aligned Kampuchea. We express our firm support for the constructive efforts made by ASEAN for the promotion of a political solution to the Kampuchean problem which would ease tension in the region and enable the Kampuchean people to freely decide their own future. We stress the essential role that Prince Sihanouk can play in a new Kampuchea that must be free from any prospect of return to the universally condemned policies and practices of the recent past. The Twelve renew their appeal to Vietnam to withdraw all its troops from Kampuchea. We call upon all concerned to pursue their efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive solution in accordance with the repeated UN resolutions. There is no doubt that the full withdrawal of the Vietnamese troops and the re-establishment of a genuine peace in Kampuchea would open the way to international cooperation for the reconstruction of the region.

Furthermore, the dramatic increase in the number of boat people from *Vietnam* is a source of serious concern for the Twelve. In cooperation with the countries in the region and international organizations, we have been trying to alleviate the suffering of these people and to help them. We believe that Vietnam must assume urgently its responsibilities according to international law and internationally accepted practice.

The Twelve express their deep concern at the renewed violence and loss of life in *Burma*. They are firmly convinced that the Burmese people's clear desire to enjoy the benefits of peace,

prosperity, full protection of human rights and a multi-party democracy should be met. As we recently declared, we are ready to assist, to the best of our ability, a fully representative democratic government in Burma, to secure the social and economic recovery of the country.

As to the division of the *Korean Peninsula* and the continuing tension there, we welcome efforts for a resumption of the suspended direct dialogue between North and South as the only way to reach a solution by peaceful means. As in the past, we express again our hope that on the basis of the principle of universality the people of Korea may soon gain full membership to this Organization. It is encouraging to note the progress made towards democratic reforms in the Republic of Korea. Turning now to the Olympic Games in Seoul, we express our appreciation that they are taking place in an atmosphere consistent with the classical ideal which gave birth to them.

The Twelve have repeatedly and firmly condemned *terrorism* in all its forms. We reaffirm the principles adopted by the European Council in 1986, in particular that of no concessions under duress to terrorists or their sponsors. We have never left any doubt about collective determination to fight terrorism by all means.

Unfortunately, terrorism has continued to take innocent lives and to bring bloodshed to our countries. We are determined to continue our efforts and to strengthen international cooperation to fight this scourge of our age, for terrorist attacks can never be justified and do not serve whatever political cause the perpetrators claim to be assisting. In this context, we support the initiatives undertaken in multilateral organizations both to strengthen international protection of civil aviation and to enhance maritime security. We reiterate our appeal to all the countries which have not yet signed the international conventions on this matter to examine the possibility to accede to these important instruments.

The Twelve, considering that *drug abuse and trafficking* has become a terrible scourge for the whole of mankind, make an appeal for wider and strengthened international cooperation in this field. In this spirit they call for a successful outcome of the plenipotentiary conference in November-December in Vienna, with a view to the adoption of the UN Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs. Moreover, specific initiatives are needed in the area of supply reduction, demand reduction and the rehabilitation of drug addicts.

It is, therefore, extremely important that the role of the UN and its institutions in this field, especially UNFDAC, be strengthened and increased.

Recent weeks have seen a succession of natural disasters that have taken a heavy toll and caused much suffering. The European Community and its Member States wish to express their sympathy and support for the governments and peoples of all the affected countries and their willingness to continue to provide to the best of their ability humanitarian assistance as well as, where appropriate, longer term support for economic recovery.

Allow me now to turn to another very important issue:

Two years ago all member States of the UN undertook the difficult but essential task of improving the Organization and making it more efficient and effective in dealing with the complex problems of contemporary reality.

At this point I would like to reiterate the full support of the Twelve to the Secretary-General who has demonstrated his determination to follow up seriously the reform process, initiated by Resolution 41/213.

The Twelve believe that the Secretary-General, in implementing the part of the reform that was entrusted to him, has performed his duties with flexibility and political judgement. The matter now is at the hands of member States which must show the same kind of political perspicacity and determination. In this respect we cannot fail to note with regret that the Special Commission undertaking the in-depth study of the UN intergovernmental structure and functions in the economic and social fields [has not been] able so far to reach concrete results. Concerted action during the summer session of ECOSOC led to a consensus resolution concerning the rationalization of the work of ECOSOC. However, no considerable progress was made on other issues. Our commitment to reforms remains strong and we consider the reform of

ECOSOC another significant part of this exercise. We expect that other member States will not lack the political will to engage in fruitful consultations with a view to reach a substantive reform which would undoubtedly enhance the ability of our Organization to deal effectively with the actual economic and social problems.

The improvement in the political climate coincides with encouraging developments in the general economic situation. The European Community, through the achievement of an economic space without internal frontiers by 1992, is determined to make its full contribution to enhancing worldwide economic growth for the benefit of all.

The upturn in *economic activity in the industrialized countries* in 1987 was greater than expected. Moreover, it is encouraging to note that the stock-market crisis in October 1987 did not unduly upset the growing climate of confidence in the economies of the industrialized countries. For this year the IMF predicts a further increase in the growth rate to almost 4%. Whether this growth performance is sustained will depend *inter alia* on how the international community deals with problems such as renewed inflationary pressures, rising interest rates and continued large external imbalances. Moreover, the level of unemployment in many industrialized countries is high and the state of the international financial markets remains unsettled.

To turn to more specific matters: *the economic situation of the European Community* in 1988 has been so far characterized, as in 1987, by a growth performance of 2.5 to 3%. Average inflation is scarcely a quarter of what it was in 1980, despite certain deviations. Vigilance is however needed to prevent its re-acceleration. There has been an increase in productive investment in industry and services. Trade, both within the Community and with the rest of the world, forms the cornerstone of internal recovery. On the other hand, unemployment, affecting 11% of the active population, is a grave and economic social problem for the Community of Twelve, afflicting sixteen million Europeans, particularly young people and women.

The *developing countries*, for their part, are expected to show an average growth rate of some 4%, but that figure conceals considerable differences between the various regional groupings. While economic growth remains strong in certain Asian countries, many other developing States, e.g. sub-Saharan Africa, continue to experience low economic growth and falling standards of living.

Above all there is the problem of *external debt* of many developing countries, a problem which concerns the whole international community. The burden of debt servicing is compromising prospects for growth and political stability, particularly in African and South American countries, and in the case of some countries is a constant risk to the international financial system. Economic maladjustments aggravated by adverse external developments have negatively affected the growth performance of these countries and undermined confidence in their economic prospects.

As a result, there continues to be cause for concern. It is essential, therefore, to further deepen international cooperation and strengthen efforts, individually and collectively, in a number of areas. The European Community and its Member States are fully aware of their weight in the world economy and their responsibility for future economic growth and development and the international trading system. They have taken, and will continue to take, specific actions to achieve balanced, non-inflationary growth and a strong, liberal multilateral trading system. Efforts are not spared to assist developing countries in dealing with obstacles to rapid sustainable growth (such as debt problems, excessive economic dependence on raw materials, trade-protectionism, structural bottlenecks) and in protecting their environment.

The European Community and its Member States consider that the evolving *debt-management strategy*, based on a cooperative approach between all the parties concerned, remains the only viable response to the developing countries' debt problems. They continue to actively support attempts, in all competent forums, to find suitable growth-oriented solutions to the debt problems. Major initiatives have been taken since the last General Assembly in order to strengthen and update the implementation of the debt strategy. In particular, the financial resources of the IMF (through notably the Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility), those of

the World Bank and of the African Development Fund, have been extended significantly. Following the conclusions of the recent Toronto Economic Summit, the poorest indebted developing countries should continue to benefit on a case-by-case basis from debt service relief under the Paris Club.

The Twelve are participating actively in the co-financing of internationally approved programmes. Moreover, the Community has also taken *Community action on its own*. In December 1987, the Council of Ministers adopted a Community programme to aid certain highly-indebted low-income countries in sub-Saharan Africa. Under that programme, 500 million ECU were available, of which 300 million ECU are additional to existing commitments under the Lomé Convention. This facility was put rapidly into action. It is intended that these resources should be fully disbursed by 1990. This initiative is tied in with the relevant measures being taken by the World Bank to help the indebted countries in Africa, measures with which most of the Member States are also closely associated.

The Community believes in an effective and efficient *functioning of the economic and social sectors* in the UN system. We stress our readiness to explore with other parties any initiatives aimed at enhancing its operation.

The Community has always shown a special interest in the problems of *sub-Saharan Africa*. I think that the mid-term review of the UN Special Programme of Action for Africa at the present session will give us the chance to evaluate together the results achieved and the progress made in this sector. But more needs to be done. Additional financial resources are needed in order to give this continent a chance to develop, a view which is shared in the report on 'Financing African Development'.

It is a fact that the majority of developing countries derive a large proportion of their revenue from the export of *raw materials* and first-stage processed products. They have therefore been adversely affected by the generally low level of commodity prices during the last years; however, there are now signs for an increase of the prices for some commodities. There is a clear need to seek ways and means of bringing about a diversification of commodity-based economies and an approach to trade in commodities which takes account of market conditions. In this context I recall that the Community and its Member States operate a system of stabilization of export earnings through their Stabex, Sysmin and Complex schemes.

The Community and its Member States are ready to play a constructive role in the proceedings of the Governing Council of the *Common Fund for Commodities* and expect other countries to do their part to enable the Fund when it is brought into operation to function with maximum efficiency consistent with the altered economic environment of the late 1980s.

For all countries as a whole, another important development that is calling for even greater attention than it commands today, is the depletion of *natural resources* along with degradation of the *environment* to the detriment of future generations. It is becoming increasingly clear that progress depends not only on growth rates but on the quality of such growth. The concept of sustainable development must — as it was done by the participants of the Toronto Economic Summit — become endorsed by all countries. The Community is prepared to contribute to international environmental cooperation as mentioned in Toronto. We urge that similar resolve be demonstrated in all regions and organizations. We wholly support the action set in motion within the United Nations to promote sustainable development.

With a view to the further improvement and expansion of international economic relations, the Community supports the development of a more open, viable and durable multilateral system of trade within the *GATT* framework through the negotiations under the *Uruguay Round*.

It is imperative that in order to preserve a favourable negotiating climate, participants in the Uruguay Round implement the commitments to standstill and rollback undertaken at Punta del Este.

We are convinced that greater liberalization of international trade, which is envisaged in the New Round, will bring major benefits for all the countries taking an active part in the

negotiations and in particular the developing countries, whom the Community is certainly not going to ask to take on obligations that are incompatible with their level of development. Indeed the Community has accepted, in accordance with the commitments in the Punta del Este Declaration, that special attention should be given to the fullest liberalization of trade in tropical products which are of particular interest to developing countries, and has tabled in Geneva concrete proposals.

It is not, moreover, a matter of chance that despite its sensitive nature and the problems encountered in international trade for which all countries bear some responsibility, the agriculture sector in general, which is of particular interest to the developing countries, has been included among the items under negotiation.

Having recognized this need, the Community has, for its part, since 1984, taken far-sighted measures with the aim of fundamentally restructuring its agriculture. In February 1988, we agreed upon a series of measures for a range of products which provides for automatic reductions of guaranteed support prices where production thresholds are exceeded, ensures that producers will bear a proportion of the costs of disposing of increased outputs and facilitates the withdrawal of land from production. Clearly these adaptations are helpful in the context of ongoing negotiations in the framework of the GATT Uruguay Round. As we indicated in our proposals, both short and long-term actions are needed to reduce support. All producing countries should contribute to this end with the objective that balance is restored to international markets.

In December, at the ministerial meeting in Montreal, there will be a review of the results of two years' negotiations in all sectors. The Community is looking forward to the meeting in the hope of a fresh political impetus that will help to further advance all aspects of the negotiations. On the basis of the progress that is seen to have been achieved, guidelines will be established for the next phase, so that the entire effort will be in line with the principle of globality, i.e. balanced results for all participants at the end of the negotiations.

You will also be well aware of the close relations between the Community and the ACP countries which, within the framework of the Third Lomé Convention, are in many respects a model of relations between industrialized and developing countries.

Already, with a view to the renewal of this convention, those concerned are giving intensive consideration to the problem involved in an effort to further improve and promote cooperation. In this context, it is in the first place important to safeguard what has already been achieved in the earlier convention and in particular the priority given to agricultural development and security of supplies. At the same time it is necessary to adapt, in agreement with our ACP partners, the next convention in order to be able to respond more effectively to the current situation in those countries. The Community is intent on widening the range of its support for ACP partner countries pursuing structural adjustment and confronted [with] grave macro-economic difficulties.

The European Community has constantly supported the normalization, improvement and development of *East-West relations* at all levels and in all sectors.

On 25 June, the EC and *Comecon* signed a joint declaration establishing official relations between them. Such relations are being established between the EC and most of the member States of *Comecon*. These are very important steps and will hopefully lead to the further development of East-West relations in general and economic relations in particular. These relations with our European neighbours should pave the way for the rapid development of intra-European cooperation and its extension to all sectors of common interest which are of mutual advantage.

In this context, I should like to emphasize the importance of the EC-Hungary trade and cooperation agreement which was signed yesterday. Agreements are also currently [being] negotiated with other *Comecon* member States and contacts are maintained in order to define the future relations with the remaining countries of this group. This is a clear indication of our

desire to make substantive progress, where economic and political conditions make this possible, as opposed to the past where links between the Community and its Eastern European neighbours were either limited or non-existent.

The European Community has, moreover, wide-ranging bilateral agreements with individual *Mediterranean countries*. These agreements aim at guaranteeing continued favourable access of these countries' exports to the Community market, providing financial assistance to agricultural and industrial development and promoting large-scale cooperation.

The European Community has also developed during the last years constructive relations with a number of *Asian and Latin American* countries. The wide-ranging cooperation agreement with ASEAN in particular registers very active progress.

Since the Community is itself the reflection of a strategy of regional integration, it is only natural that it encourages and supports similar efforts of other countries in a way compatible with GATT. For that reason, it has also signed cooperation agreements with the *Andean Pact* and *Central American* countries.

Finally, the Community recently signed a cooperation agreement with the *Gulf Cooperation Council* which provides for the broadening and diversification of economic relations between the contracting parties and, in a second stage, should lead to the liberalization of bilateral trade.

The completion of the *internal market* of the Community by the end of 1992 means on the one hand that goods, services, capital and people will move freely within the EC. This holds true for imported goods as well as for goods produced in the Community. Therefore, as far as goods are concerned, 1992 will mean better access for exports from third countries. All the EC legislation regarding the removal of internal barriers will be consistent with GATT. The Community will seek to preserve the balance of advantages accorded, while respecting the unity and the identity of the Internal Market. As far as services are concerned, the Community will make sure that internal progress towards free circulation shall be translated into more free trade at the international level through progress in the Uruguay Round.

On the other hand, the completion of the common market, through the combination of economies of scale and increased competition, shall improve the structural adjustment capacity of the Community, increase its growth performance and thereby improve prospects for world economic growth and international trade. More specifically, we believe that through this challenge and the efforts made through the structural, regional and social funds there will be a further one-point increase in the rate of growth of the Twelve which will in turn bring about a further increase of 1.2% in third-country exports to the single market of 320 million consumers. In short, the creation of a single European market will help to achieve greater economic liberalization internationally. Thank you, Mr President.

### **88/299. Question No 2472/87 by Mr Megahy (S-UK) Concerning Namibian Independence**

Date of Issue: 30 September 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 24 February 1988

What initiatives have been taken by the Foreign Ministers with the aim of securing implementation of the United Nations plan for Namibian independence?

*Answer:*

The policy of the Twelve on the question of Namibia has been clear, consistent and unequivocal in favour of a peaceful solution. They are following this question with great attention and are actively pursuing their efforts aimed at ending its illegal occupation by South Africa and at

securing its independence within the framework of the United Nations Plan, endorsed by United Nations Security Council Resolution 435 (1978) and confirmed by subsequent resolutions of the Security Council.

At its meeting in Hanover, on 27-28 June 1988, the European Council recalled the Twelve's established position concerning Namibia and supported the current efforts to secure peace for Angola and independence for Namibia on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution 435 (1978).

The Foreign Ministers of the Twelve approved in Athens on 18 July 1988 a statement in which, recalling again their established position on the question, they noted the recent encouraging signs of progress and reiterated the Twelve's support to the efforts being currently undertaken on the matter<sup>1</sup>.

Furthermore, on the occasion of Namibia Day, on 26 August 1988, the Presidency made in New York on behalf of the Twelve a detailed statement concerning Namibia, *inter alia* stressing the importance they attach to the recent encouraging developments in the Namibian issue and reaffirming their readiness to assist in the development of a free and independent Namibia and to continue their aid to the Namibian people<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 88/233.

<sup>2</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 88/248.

### **88/300. Question No 2481/87 by Mr Gama (PPE-P) Concerning Restoring Production at the Hydro-Electric Plant at Cabora Bassa**

Date of Issue: 30 September 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 24 February 1988

Portugal, Mozambique and South Africa recently signed an agreement to restore production at the hydro-electric plant at Cabora Bassa.

The agreement provides for the setting up of a joint military force drawn from Mozambique and South Africa to protect the electricity pylons from attacks by the forces opposed to the Mozambique Government.

Are the Ministers for Foreign Affairs prepared to recognize that the very fact that such an agreement has been reached is a positive contribution to the peace, stability and progress of this part of Africa and are they willing to encourage any further contacts between the countries of Southern Africa which may in the future seem appropriate with a view to attaining these objectives?

*Answer:*

The Twelve believe that genuine peaceful cooperation among the countries of Southern Africa is of great importance for the achievement of security and stability and the promotion of development in the region. The Twelve have always welcomed all efforts aiming at improving relations between South Africa and its neighbouring States, including Mozambique. This, and not acts of aggression and destabilization, is the way to achieve peace and stability in the region.

The Ten, in their Paris Ministerial Declaration of 27 February 1984, welcomed the Nkomati Agreement reached between Mozambique and South Africa. The Twelve, in their statement of 17 October 1986 *inter alia* drew attention to the existence of a machinery for consultations between the two countries under the Nkomati Accord which provides a means for resolving differences between them<sup>1</sup>.



The Twelve have noted the positive evolution of bilateral relations between Mozambique and South Africa within the framework of the Nkomati Accord and, in this respect, they welcome the agreement to restore production at the Cabora Bassa hydro-electric plant.

<sup>1</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 86/303.

**88/301. Question No 2581/87 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E)  
Concerning the Torture and Murders Carried out by Government  
Forces in the Shaba Region**

Date of Issue: 30 September 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 28 March 1988

Have the Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation concerned themselves with the results of the investigation carried out by an inter-ministerial committee of the Zairean Government into the acts of torture and murder committed by government forces in the Shaba region?

*Answer:*

The investigation referred to by the Honourable Member has not been discussed in European political cooperation. However, the Government of Zaire is aware of the importance the Twelve attach to respect for human rights.

**88/302. Question No 2582/87 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E)  
Concerning the Situation of Members of the Hadjaray Ethnic Group  
Arrested Because of Their Opposition to the Government of Hissène  
Habré**

Date of Issue: 30 September 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 28 March 1988

Have the Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation concerned themselves with the plight of the journalist Saleh Gaba and eight other members of the Hadjaray ethnic group who were arrested in N'Djamena, the capital of Chad, because of their opposition to the government of President Hissène Habré?

*Answer:*

The Twelve follow very closely the human rights situation in non-member countries. They take full account of this question in their relations with those countries, as they stressed in the ministerial declaration of 21 July 1986. The Government of Chad is aware of the position of the Twelve on this subject. However, the case referred to by the Honourable Member has not been dealt with in the European political cooperation context.

**88/303. Question No 2586/87 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E)  
Concerning the Reports of Torture and Murder in the 'Casa de  
Detenco' in So Paulo (Brazil)**

Date of Issue: 30 September 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 28 March 1988

Have the Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation concerned themselves with the reports of torture, murders and reprisals of various kinds alleged to have taken place on 29 and 30 July 1987 in the *Casa de Detenco* in the centre of So Paulo (Brazil)?

*Answer:*

The Twelve are aware of the serious incidents which occurred at the So Paulo prison following a mutiny of the detainees, in July 1987.

The contradictory reports on the incident have not made it possible to establish the identity of those responsible for these atrocities.

The Twelve will follow any further developments.

**88/304. Question No 2743/87 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E)  
Concerning Young People Imprisoned in Madagascar**

Date of Issue: 30 September 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 25 March 1988

Would the Ministers for Foreign Affairs meeting in European political cooperation look into the case of the 38 young people suspected of opposing the government of the President of Madagascar, Didier Ratsiraka, who have been held without trial in Arivonimamo prison for two years?

*Answer:*

The question raised by the Honourable Member has not been discussed in the framework of European political cooperation. However, the Madagascar authorities are aware of the importance that the Twelve attach to respect for human rights.

**88/305. Question No 2744/87 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E)  
Concerning the Imprisonment of the Kenyan Journalist, Paul Amina**

Date of Issue: 30 September 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 25 March 1988

Do the Ministers for Foreign Affairs meeting in European political cooperation intend to enquire into the fate of the Kenyan journalist, Paul Amina, a prisoner of conscience on account of having written on politically sensitive trials? Do the Foreign Ministers know whether the Kenyan Government has kept the promise it made to Amnesty International to investigate complaints of the use of torture against political prisoners and whether any case where the Government is being sued for the torture and illegal detention of political prisoners has reached the courts?

*Answer:*

The Twelve are following the situation in Kenya very closely and attach great importance to respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in that country. The Kenyan authorities are aware of the Twelve's position. With regard to the specific case mentioned by the Honourable Member, the Twelve have noted that Paul Amina was released on 5 February 1988.

With regard to the second part of the Honourable Member's question, the Twelve welcome the Kenyan Government's undertaking to investigate any alleged abuses and note that members of the security forces have appeared before the courts in this connection.

**88/306. Question No 2747/87 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E)  
Concerning the Prisoners in the Condemned Cell in Trinidad and  
Tobago**

Date of Issue: 30 September 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 25 March 1988

Following the good news of the amnesty recently granted to eight prisoners in Trinidad and Tobago, including one who was in the death cell, would this not be a good opportunity for the Ministers for Foreign Affairs meeting in European political cooperation to try to ensure that the twenty-fifth anniversary of independence is celebrated by also commuting the sentences of the 29 prisoners who are still left in the death cell?

*Answer:*

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

**88/307. Question No 2762/87 by Mr Robles Piquer (ED-E)  
Concerning the Assessment of the Agreements Between  
Mozambique and South Africa**

Date of Issue: 30 September 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 25 March 1988

The Cabora Bassa hydroelectricity dam was a major project carried out by the Portuguese Government to supply its then colony of Mozambique with electricity. Since then the dam has suffered considerable damage, much of it caused by the Renamo rebels.

Can the Foreign Ministers supply information regarding implementation of the agreement signed by the Republic of South Africa and the People's Republic of Mozambique with the aim of carrying out a feasibility study with regard to repairing the dam and setting up a joint Mozambique-South Africa military unit to safeguard the dam from attempted sabotage by the Renamo guerillas? What is the Minister's political assessment of this agreement, which was undoubtedly modelled on the previous agreement signed by both governments in Nkomati?

*Answer:*

The Honourable Member is requested to refer to the reply given to Written Question No 2481/87<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 88/300.

**88/308. Question No 1051/88 by Mr Megahy (S-UK) Concerning the Reduction of Military Strength in Kampuchea**

Date of Issue: 30 September 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 25 August 1988

In view of:

- a) the recent announcement by Vietnam that it is cutting its troop strength in Kampuchea by 50% ,
- b) the request by the Vietnamese Government for a guarantee from the ASEAN nations and the United States that, in the event of a complete withdrawal, Pol Pot and the *Khmer rouge* will not be allowed to return to power,

will the Foreign Ministers make a statement urging the ASEAN nations and the United States to issue such a guarantee?

*Answer:*

The Honourable Member will not have failed to notice that at the Informal Meeting in Jakarta the Twelve restated in a declaration that they supported the efforts being made, in particular by the ASEAN countries, to bring about an overall political solution to the problem of Kampuchea in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions<sup>1</sup>.

The Twelve hope that that meeting will be the starting point for a peace process that will lead to the re-establishment of a sovereign, independent, neutral and non-aligned Kampuchea. If that is to be achieved, the total withdrawal of all Vietnamese forces from Kampuchea is indispensable.

As regards the problem of the *Khmer rouge*, the Twelve stated their position clearly in the debate on the situation in Kampuchea at the United Nations forty-second General Assembly, to the effect that they had no intention of contributing to the re-installation of the Pol Pot regime in Kampuchea. They share the horror felt by the international community at the terrible atrocities inflicted on the Kampuchean people by Pol Pot and the *Khmer rouge*. That does not, however, justify Vietnam's illegal occupation of Kampuchea or its imposition of an illegitimate regime.

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<sup>1</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 88/114.

**88/309. Statement in the Sixth Committee of the UN General Assembly: Consideration of Effective Measures to Enhance the Protection, Security and Safety of Diplomatic and Consular Missions and Representatives<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 5 October 1988

Place of Issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

*Ms Dascalopoulou-Livada:* Mr Chairman, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the twelve Members of the European Community.

The Twelve wish to thank the Secretary-General for his report (document A/43/527 and Add.1), which contains reports of States on acts committed against diplomatic and consular missions and representatives, as well as their views on possible measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of such missions and representatives, pursuant to paragraphs 9

and 11 of General Assembly Resolution 42/154. We also thank the Under-Secretary-General and Legal Counsel, Mr Carl-August Fleischhauer, for his succinct and clear introduction to the report.

This document, which we have examined carefully, shows, once more, that diplomatic and consular missions and representatives have continued to be the target of attacks of various types and in various places of the world (including countries of the European Community). The Twelve wish to reiterate their vigorous condemnation of these abhorrent acts and express their deep concern about their continued occurrence. These are crimes which, apart from the devastating effect they often have on the lives of individuals, causing death or injury, may also have more far-reaching consequences since, by attacking those entrusted with maintaining and promoting friendly relations among States, they may put those relations in jeopardy.

The Twelve express similar concern that other violations of diplomatic and consular privileges and immunities have occurred in the last twelve months. In our view it is essential that all States observe scrupulously the obligations incumbent on them by virtue of general international law as well as the international conventions relevant to the immunities, protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives. Every failure by a State to respect these obligations weakens the whole framework of international relations. This is to be deplored; it cannot serve any State's interests.

The Twelve are determined, as they have always been, to resort to all lawful means, whether on the basis of general international law or of international conventions relating to the protection of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives, in order to prevent violations of immunities of diplomats and combat crimes against them. They remain firmly committed to strengthening international cooperation to this end.

The Twelve wish to repeat that privileges and immunities of missions and representatives have not been granted for personal benefit, but for the smooth and efficient exercise of their functions, to the benefit of international relations as a whole. While sending States have a right to expect that their diplomatic and consular representatives be adequately protected and their immunities strictly observed, it is also of the greatest importance that such missions and representatives operate strictly within the limits prescribed by international law and, in particular, fully respect the laws and regulations of the receiving State. Abuses by missions or representatives of their privileges and immunities can only undermine the public's understanding of the need to respect such privileges and immunities. Prevention of abuses is among the primary concerns of the Twelve who will continue their cooperation in this field.

Mr Chairman, it is imperative that all States fully observe their obligations, whether conventional or deriving from general international law, on these matters. There is, in our view, no lack of international instruments. Indeed, the existing ones do, for the time being, cover all the ground needed and, in this respect, the Twelve hope that States which have not become parties to the relevant conventions will soon decide to do so. The main difficulty does not lie in the lack of international instruments, but in the lack of determination of States to apply them to the full. It is, therefore, in this area that efforts should be concentrated.

In conclusion, we wish to express once again our satisfaction with the reporting procedures established by virtue of Resolution 35/168, procedures which have proved their usefulness. We think, however, that only serious violations should be reported. Finally, taking into account the fact that the number of serious incidents has declined, and in the context of the effort to rationalize the work of the General Assembly, we would support the idea expressed by the proponents of this item, the Nordic countries, that its examination should be made every two years. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

<sup>1</sup> Agenda item 132.

**88/310. Statement in the Second Committee of the UN General Assembly: General Debate**

Date of Issue: 6 October 1988

Place of Issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

*Mr Zepos:* Mr Chairman, I have the honour to make this statement on behalf of the European Community and its Member States in the general debate of the Second Committee. I wish you and the members of the Bureau every success in guiding our deliberations during the session. I should also like to thank the Director-General for his statement.

Mr Chairman, a positive international political climate has brought about, in the last few months, the necessary will required for the United Nations to carry out its peace mission. Conflicts are subsiding around the world and peace is coming within the reach of countries where human and material resources were consumed in war. The current political conditions must bring into sharper focus pressing economic and social problems. Leaders should devote greater attention to issues like poverty, environment, population and human development. We hope the end of conflicts can contribute to the redirection of resources towards the search for lasting solutions to these problems.

On behalf of the European Community and its Member States we delivered, at the last session of ECOSOC in Geneva, a comprehensive statement on the world economic situation. Our views covered at length a wide range of subjects of particular interest to the developing countries. We concluded that any satisfactory development in the world economy can be brought about only if there is further intensification of international economic policy coordination and implementation of past commitments. We also expressed our belief that there is ground for optimism and that economies can be managed better to provide widespread and lasting benefits.

Mr Chairman, today our intervention will focus on the most recent significant developments in the world economic scene.

An important positive development in 1987 was the strengthening of policy coordination among the major industrial countries. The commitment to intensify policy coordination was confirmed in Toronto. In the recent annual meetings of the IMF and World Bank, in Berlin, the Ministers and Governors noted that cooperative efforts are producing results. Indeed, it was found that in many parts of the world growth is continuing at a faster pace than expected earlier in the year and that employment has increased. The same holds true for investment. Adjustment for international trade imbalances is coming around, although slowly. Continued policy coordination is necessary to address more thoroughly the major problems of developing countries. One of the messages of the recently successfully concluded Mid-Term Review of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (UNPAAERD) to the international community was that real per capita incomes should not continue to decline in Africa, and that efforts to reverse that situation should be strengthened both by the African countries themselves and by the international community. The European Community and its Member States, through bilateral cooperation and the Lomé agreement, are ready to contribute for the realization of that task. The same, of course, holds true of some other regions in the world.

Debt services ratios are still uncomfortably high for the majority of capital-importing developing countries. The ratio of debt to exports has mostly continued to rise and is now at a higher level than in 1982 for the majority of debtor countries. It has, however, recently declined in a number of them. The contribution of governments of creditor countries' efforts to the alleviation of the debt service burden of debtor countries has received considerable attention in Berlin and the arrangements now worked out by the Paris Club to implement the new Toronto approach as regards official or officially guaranteed debt of the poorest countries have been broadly recognized. The Development Committee, however, expressed concern over the

decline in overall flows to developing countries and the negative net transfers to some of them. It was clearly stated that enlarged flows of all types of financial resources to developing countries are needed for economic growth, poverty reduction, structural adjustment, resolution of debt difficulties and environmental conservation. Moreover, the President of the World Bank stressed, in his speech in Berlin, that 'growth cannot be sustained unless it is adequately financed and external finance is critical to continuity'. He added, 'current flows of resources are inadequate to meet developing countries' minimum needs'. We share these views. We believe that the capital base of the Fund needs to be raised in order to enable it to continue its central role in effectively supporting the adjustment efforts of member countries.

During the deliberations of the Interim Committee in the case of highly indebted middle income countries, the Committee encouraged debtors and their creditors to broaden the menu of market based and voluntarily negotiated options, blending new money where appropriate, with techniques which have the effect of reducing the stock of debt. In the general debate of our Assembly a suggestion was made by the Head of one of our member States to the effect of creating a guarantee mechanism for the repayment of commercial debt converted into security. We are giving all such proposals careful consideration.

Mr Chairman, the picture is very clear. It is only now that efforts are starting to pay off in several countries where adjustment programmes have been implemented. This improvement was hard-won, often at a considerable social and political cost. It took place at a time when their expectations about reducing protectionism and increasing of exports earnings were at a low level while predictions about world growth were moderate. Furthermore, in the past year there have been signs that adjustment efforts were flagging. There is growing recognition that adjustment should be compatible with the social dimensions of the growth objectives of countries undertaking those measures. More needs to be done in shielding the vulnerable segments of the population from the undesirable consequences of these programmes. Undoubtedly policy stances in developing countries continue to be strongly influenced by external conditions, including constraints on the availability of financing. Adjustment efforts to succeed need adequate and, whenever possible, increased resources.

The agenda of the Second Committee contains several basic elements of global interest such as debt, trade and environment. These topics should stimulate a dialogue and hopefully bring forward ideas towards the reactivation of growth and development in the developing countries.

The problem of the external debt of the developing countries remains acute. Its servicing burden increased in 1988 in Latin America and Africa. We welcome the recent consultations by the Secretary-General of the United Nations with eminent personalities on the international debt situation. The report of the Advisory Committee on Financial Flows to Africa, chaired by Sir Douglas Wass, provided a useful contribution on debt in the discussions of the Mid-Term Review of UNPAAERD.

As regards international trade, the ongoing negotiations within the Uruguay Round are of paramount importance and the Community expects that fresh political impetus to advance further all aspects of the negotiations will be achieved at the mid-term review, scheduled in Montreal, next December. We have dealt extensively with this issue a few days ago in Plenary and will not repeat here our considerations. Later on, when we address item 82 [B], we will have the opportunity to express again our views on this subject.

It now appears probable that the Common Fund for Commodities will come into operation in the relatively near future. The European Community and its Member States confirm that they will work constructively towards a successful launch of the Common Fund, while at the same time seeking to ensure that the operations of the Fund are consistent with the altered environment of the 1980s. Given that the Second Account would appear to be a more appropriate means of responding to the situation on the commodity markets, it would be logical to propose that the emphasis of the Common Fund be directed particularly towards Second Account-type operations. As a consequence the Common Fund could be more responsive to the actual problems of developing countries in the late 1980s.

The issue of commodities has been recently addressed by the UN in the Mid-Term Review of UNPAAERD, in particular for Africa. Within the context of the Programme of Action, the Secretary-General of the United Nations is to consult with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, other relevant organizations and interested governments with a view to establishing a group of experts to undertake an in-depth assessment of the question of African commodities and the scope for export diversification.

On environment, this year there has been a noticeable increase of awareness in several parts of the world. Growth and development ultimately translate in improved quality of life which is continuously set at risk by inept policies which do not take the environment sufficiently into account, particularly in relation to the prevention of global warming, protection of the ozone layer and proper disposal of toxic wastes. In some areas of the world, serious problems such as deforestation and desertification need to be urgently faced. The Committee should address the practical aspects of converting strategies and ideas about the environment into workable policies in a context of sustainable development in as consistent a manner as possible. The concept of sustainable development should not be considered as a constraint but rather as a shared responsibility for the preservation of our planet. The United Nations has a crucial and leading role in promoting the concept of sustainable development. The Community and its Member States welcome the holding of a Conference on Sustainable Development, Environment and Development, to be held in 1992.

In concluding, Mr Chairman, the issue of the international development strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade will also be covered by the deliberations of our Committee. We have already expressed our initial thoughts on this matter in the sense that the new international development strategy should address both the necessary efforts to be made by the developing countries and the continuous contribution of the industrialized countries in supporting the development process. Such a strategy should reflect present day realities, fresh approaches and changing perceptions about the development process with a focus on international cooperation for development. It should also provide a framework for better coordination at all levels. The strategy will undoubtedly address the long-term aspects of a number of issues on the agenda of the Second Committee. The General Assembly will be also called upon to provide appropriate arrangements for the general orientation of the new strategy. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

### **88/311. Statement in the Fifth Committee of the UN General Assembly: Pattern of Conferences<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 6 October 1988

Place of Issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

*Mr Rallis:* Mr Chairman, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community.

The Twelve thank the Committee on Conferences for its report and appreciate its efforts to bring about optimum use of conference resources, particularly in a time of difficult financial circumstances. It is obvious that the role of the Committee on Conferences gains in importance under these circumstances. The Twelve also note with interest the introductory statements made by the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences, Mr Mudho, and the Under-Secretary-General for Conference Services, Mr Wyzner.

The Twelve trust that the new terms of reference of the Committee on Conferences, contained in draft resolution B in document A/43/32 will prove a useful tool for the effective operation of the Committee and they express the hope that this will enable it to play effectively the enhanced role envisaged for it. We feel, like Under-Secretary-General Wyzner, that the retention of the



Committee on Conferences as a permanent subsidiary organ of the General Assembly will signal the importance which member States attach to it. We also believe that a revitalized Committee on Conferences can and should play a very valuable role in bringing greater order and cohesion to the United Nations pattern of conferences.

Coping with the problem of the volume of documentation is undoubtedly not an easy task. Due attention should be given to ensuring that each document is clear and concise. That could be achieved by, for instance, shortening narrative parts of the documents. This applies particularly to the Secretariat, from which the great majority of reports emanate. But member States, too, have a duty here and can play a decisive role. By reducing their requests to the Secretariat for preparation of documents they can alleviate part of the burden. Furthermore, submission by delegations of lengthy communications for circulation as official documents of the United Nations should be avoided. Recent cases of circulation of such long communications, some comprising hundreds of pages, cannot be considered as being in line with the numerous resolutions of the General Assembly relating to this matter. The Twelve believe that if the appeals of the General Assembly prove to be unheeded, the Committee on Conferences should recommend measures to avert such practices.

But length of documents, Mr Chairman, is not the only problem. Combined with late submission it leads to prolongation of meetings, thus increasing the waste of conference resources. Improvement in this field can and must be achieved. We welcome, of course, the fact that the overall utilization factor of conference resources has shown improvement since 1980 and has risen for the first time above the modest 75% mark set by the Committee of Conferences in 1983. This modest target should be revised upwards.

We request the Committee on Conferences to intensify its efforts. We believe that intergovernmental bodies and subsidiary organs should look more closely into this problem and show maximum restraint when requesting provision for conference services. This applies particularly to those bodies identified in the report of the Committee on Conferences as having a very low utilization factor. We believe that in some cases the number of conferences and meetings could be significantly reduced and their duration shortened without a negative impact on their substantive work.

Mr Chairman, we would like to see greater transparency in the pattern of conferences. In this context, we would like to request the Secretariat to make available to the Committee a list with respective cost indications and locations of conferences and meetings of any bodies funded outside the United Nations regular budget, which are being provided with conference servicing from the Department.

Mr Chairman, guidelines on the number and length of conferences and meetings do exist in sufficient number. The General Assembly has been dealing with the problem almost every year, adopting many specific recommendations on the matter. What is more important, however, is to ensure that those recommendations are implemented. We expect that closer attention will be paid in the future by both the Secretariat and the member States to streamlining the calendar of conferences and we hope that the draft resolutions before us, once adopted, will be taken into account seriously by all concerned. The Committee on Conferences with its new mandate should monitor implementation of these resolutions and recommend to the General Assembly appropriate action to ensure compliance.

Finally, I would like to refer to the question of implementation of General Assembly Resolution 42/207 [C]. In paragraph 14 of the Secretary-General's report (A/43/628) as well as in paragraph 98 of the Committee's report it is stated that the Committee on Conferences 'agreed to take note of the Secretary-General's draft report' on this matter. We note that the Secretary-General had taken some measures to implement this resolution and encourage him to continue them.

Mr Chairman, distribution of documents in all official languages, sufficiently ahead of the time of their consideration, as well as provision of adequate conference services, are questions of

substance, not of cosmetics. We do not feel we need to elaborate on it. We only wish to note that the late submission of documents in all languages leads often to a vicious circle, namely to a greater waste of conference resources during the meetings.

Finally, at the end of paragraph 9 of document A/43/628 we see a statement concerning temporary assistance, which might have financial implications. The Twelve would like to ask Under-Secretary-General Wyzner for clarification and reserve their position on this statement pending the clarification requested. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

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<sup>1</sup> Agenda item 119.

### **88/312. Statement Concerning Chile**

Date of Issue: 7 October 1988  
Place of Issue: Athens  
Country of Presidency: Greece  
Source of Document: The Twelve  
Status of Document: Declaration

The Twelve, who have constantly supported an early and orderly restoration of democracy in Chile, welcome the result in Wednesday's plebiscite, as a first step towards the establishment of democracy in Chile.

The Twelve take note of the assurance of the Chilean Government that it will fully respect the expressed will of the people. They also urge the Government to proceed to a dialogue with the democratic opposition, thus facilitating a full restoration of democracy in Chile.

The Twelve believe that for the attainment of that goal, full respect of human rights and civil liberties is necessary, and that all parties should exercise self-restraint during this delicate and transitory period.

On this occasion, which could augur a new era for Chile, the Twelve wish to pay special tribute to the courage and tenacity shown by the Chilean people in their endeavour to obtain the return of democracy in their country.

### **88/313. Statement in the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly: the Combat Against Racism and Racial Discrimination, and the Right to Self-Determination<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 10 October 1988  
Place of Issue: New York  
Country of Presidency: Greece  
Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations  
Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

*Mr Zepos:* Mr Chairman, speaking on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community, I have the honour to address the Committee on items 87, 88, 91 and 96 concerning the combat against racism and racial discrimination as well as the right to self-determination.

The Twelve have always condemned and rejected all forms of discrimination based on race, colour, descent or ethnic origin which are an affront to human dignity and will continue to do so until racial discrimination is eradicated from the face of this world.

Racism and racial discrimination are irreconcilable with the ideals of free and democratic societies, which are based on the principles of equality, justice and liberty.

Racism and racial discrimination have no national boundaries. They are a universal phenomenon fostered by ignorance, fear, mistrust and rejection. They threaten all societies to a varying degree. It is necessary for all countries as a first step towards eliminating these evils to

recognize their existence at home as well as abroad and then to react accordingly. It is in our view the governments themselves who bear within their respective jurisdiction the principal responsibility for the eradication of that phenomenon.

In contributing to the efforts of the international community to eradicate racial discrimination we have taken firm legislative and administrative measures to combat it. Adoption of such laws is — however — not sufficient to achieve eradication of racial discrimination if they are not duly implemented and enforced. Education has an important role to play in ending racism. If the younger generations are educated to respect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all without discrimination of any kind, we can hope that it will only be a question of time before racism and racial discrimination cease to exist. We would also like to stress the importance of public dissemination of information concerning racism as another effective means of combating racial discrimination.

Mr Chairman, the United Nations has played a significant role in increasing public awareness of the evil of racism and has been instrumental in establishing international standards and mechanisms to combat it.

The second Decade to combat racism and racial discrimination proclaimed by consensus by the 38th General Assembly in 1983 and the plan of activities for the first half of the Decade are further evidence of the determination of the international community to eliminate racism and racial discrimination throughout the world. The Twelve welcome the fact that this consensus has again been achieved and we are ready to work actively with all interested parties at this session to maintain it.

The Twelve thank the Secretary-General for his report on the implementation of the programme of action for the second Decade to combat racism and racial discrimination. It contains a comprehensive description of the activities of the United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations to achieve the objectives of the Second Decade. The Twelve welcome particularly the importance that is given to coordinating Second Decade activities and would like to commend the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights Mr Jan Martenson for the constructive and effective manner in which he has carried out his difficult task and for the comprehensive analysis that he gave us today on the implementation of the Programme of Action. Effective coordination is a prerequisite for the successful implementation of the programme. The twelve Member States of the European Community also welcome the emphasis that continues to be placed on education and training in addition to legislative and administrative measures to combat racial discrimination. In 1988 the Member States of the European Community have organized and participated in a large number of training courses, seminars and symposia related to the fight against racism. The global compilation of national legislation, the preparation of model legislation and the handbook of recourse procedures are the right steps towards the right direction.

Mr Chairman, as I stated earlier, racial discrimination is a universal phenomenon. However, in most countries it exists not because of the law, but in spite of the law. But there is only one State which has institutionalized this phenomenon. This is the case of South Africa, whose policy of *apartheid* runs counter to all principles of the United Nations. By its very nature the *apartheid* system is particularly repugnant since it violates in such a gross, unique and flagrant way basic human rights.

The Twelve remain gravely concerned about the lack of progress towards the abolition of apartheid in South Africa. As the Foreign Minister of Greece said in his speech in the general debate of 27 September, delivered on behalf of the European Community and its Member States:

Yet, the abhorrent system of *apartheid* remains entrenched in South Africa. This year has again been marked by serious and disturbing developments like the adoption in February of new restrictive measures against a number of organizations peacefully opposing apartheid and several of their leaders, the arrests of church and trade-union leaders, the detention without charge of men, women and even young children and the maltreatment and torture inflicted on a number of detainees, the uncertain fate

hanging over the Sharpeville Six and the bill threatening to deprive peaceful anti-apartheid organizations of external funding. All those developments point to the fact that Pretoria is still unwilling to commit itself to real and significant change, which we fear will worsen even further the relations between the Twelve and South Africa.

The Twelve once more stress that apartheid must be totally abolished by peaceful means and the vicious circle of repression and violence that it provokes must be replaced by a constructive national dialogue. Only negotiations involving the genuine representatives of the black community and all other components of the South African population can bring about the future of peace and prosperity in a free, democratic, and united South Africa, with no racial discrimination.

In our view there can be no dialogue as long as the state of emergency is still in force, the African National Congress, the Pan-African Congress and other political parties are proscribed and while both Nelson Mandela, now seriously ill, and other political prisoners are not released.

In pursuit of their stated objectives, the Twelve follow a policy of persuasion and pressure. Apart from declarations and pressing *démarches* to the South African Government, the European Community and its Member States have adopted a number of restrictive measures as well as positive programmes of assistance to the victims of apartheid.

Mr Chairman, the Twelve are implementing a concerted European programme to help the victims of apartheid. The European Community provided in ECU the equivalent of 39 million dollars in 1986 and 1987. For 1988, 28 million dollars have been allocated for the victims of apartheid. Up to date, 43.5% of the 1988 budget allocated has been used and it is expected that the total 1988 allocation will be used by the end of the year. Since 1986, 178 projects have been channelled through non-violent organizations. The projects have been in the fields of education and training, social and humanitarian aid and legal assistance. The Community and its Member States are also providing assistance to South Africa's neighbours bilaterally and through the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC). Under the Third Lomé Convention (1985-90) the Community has allocated in ECU the equivalent of approximately 1.8 billion dollars to SADCC for programmes in the areas of transport, infrastructure, agriculture and food security.

I would like to recall that the Community and its Member States have introduced since 1985 a series of measures. These measures are designed to impress upon the South African regime the urgent need for fundamental change and to make clear to the white community in South Africa the absolute opposition of the Twelve to the continuation of apartheid in any form. A second important objective is to provide assistance to the victims of apartheid, both inside South Africa and in the Southern African region as a whole.

In particular, the Twelve adopted in 1986 decisions according to which our authorities took the necessary measures to prohibit new investments in South Africa as well as imports of iron, steel and gold coins. Furthermore the Twelve have for some years operated a code of conduct for EC companies with branches or subsidiaries in South Africa. This code has played an important role in efforts to eliminate apartheid from the workplace and to ensure that all workers are given equal opportunities. It has been updated and strengthened, most recently in 1985. Greater emphasis has now been given to the role of independent trade-unions representing black African workers, and companies have been asked to pay greater attention to educating, training, black career development and wider community projects.

The Twelve intend to keep up efforts in these areas and do everything possible to promote rapid and peaceful change.

Mr Chairman, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination is one of the most important legal instruments in the field of human rights. We note with satisfaction that since the previous General Assembly, one more State has acceded to this convention. 125 States are now party to this convention, more than any other human rights instrument. Nevertheless, we hope that all States who have not yet done so, will soon ratify or accede to it.

The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination has a substantial role to play in ensuring compliance by States parties with the terms of the convention. But the Committee faces

serious financial difficulties that hamper its important task of monitoring the implementation of the Convention to Eliminate Racial Discrimination. We take note of the decision adopted by the Committee in this respect. We are faced here with a serious discrepancy. On one hand, all member States unanimously condemn racial discrimination and on the other hand the monitoring organ of the convention cannot function properly due to lack of funds. The spring session of the Committee in Geneva from 29 February to 18 March 1988 was cancelled while the 36th session held in August was shortened by two weeks. This embarrassing situation that undermines the efforts of all countries to eliminate racial discrimination must cease so that we can proceed in realizing the objectives of the convention. The twelve Member States of the European Community once again strongly urge all those in default to settle their arrears so that the Committee may proceed with its important functions. The report of the Secretary-General contained in document A/42/607, on the question of financing CERD, clearly demonstrates that the arrears involved are, with a few unfortunate exceptions, very small and should cause no problem to the States concerned. When those States in arrears have met their financial obligations, the Twelve will be ready to work for a solution that enables CERD to fulfil its mandate.

The Twelve regret that the report submitted under item 88, like previous reports on this subject, does not represent a useful basis for our debate. The report consists of little more than lists of companies which maintain open commercial links with South Africa. Furthermore, the lists are inaccurate, selective and — apparently for political reasons — exclude many States and other corporations which are well known to conduct regular trade with South Africa.

Mr Chairman, allow me to conclude my statement by making some remarks on item 96 entitled 'The Importance of the Universal Realization of the Right of Peoples to Self-Determination and of the Speedy Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for the Effective Guarantee and Observance of Human Rights'.

The principles laid down in the Charter, and the common first article of the international covenants proclaim the right to self-determination. It is useful to note that, under these instruments, self-determination is the right of *all peoples* without discrimination.

The Twelve fully support this right and work for its universal application. Furthermore, the Twelve have contributed to and continue to uphold the exercise of the right of self-determination by peoples formerly under colonial rule or otherwise unable to exercise this right.

The fundamental right of self-determination is violated either by the existence of a racist regime such as South Africa or by foreign intervention or occupation or by denying people regular opportunities to choose their governments and their social systems freely. We deplore the fact that there are too many instances where peoples continue to be denied or have been deprived of their right to self-determination.

Several regional conflicts are subsiding around the world. The Twelve pay tribute to the efforts of the United Nations and to its Secretary-General and hope that those peoples who have been deprived of their right to self-determination will soon be able to exercise it fully.

The Twelve welcome the peace proposals on the Western Sahara submitted by the Secretary-General and accepted by the parties concerned, aimed at holding a referendum on self-determination under the auspices of the United Nations. The Twelve note with great satisfaction that the Security Council authorized the Secretary-General to designate a Special Representative on the Western Sahara. We believe that all parties will demonstrate their willingness to restore a just and lasting peace in the region.

The Twelve have welcomed the recent encouraging signs of progress in Southern Africa, and both individually and collectively declared their support to the efforts currently undertaken aiming at securing peace for Angola and independence for Namibia on the basis of Resolution 435 (1978). We hope that the dialogue initiated will ease the existing tensions and pave the way for peace, security, stability and socio-economic development, based on respect for human rights in the entire region.

The Twelve also welcomed the signing of the Geneva agreement on Afghanistan which constitutes an important step forward to the settlement of the crisis. An overall political settlement of the problem involves the withdrawal of all Soviet troops in accordance with the agreed timetable, the unimpeded return of refugees in safety and honour, the establishment of a fully representative government through a genuine act of self-determination and the re-establishment of a genuinely independent and non-aligned Afghanistan. It is essential that the resistance be fully involved in this process.

The informal Jakarta meeting was an encouraging step towards a political solution of the Kampuchean problem. This conflict is the result of a foreign military occupation in violation of the fundamental principles of the United Nations and international law and must be brought to an end. The Kampuchean people should be allowed freely to decide their own future, free from any prospect of return to the universally condemned policies and practices of the recent past.

In the Middle East, the situation in the territories occupied by Israel remains tense. The Twelve have repeatedly deplored Israeli repressive measures in these territories, which make a peaceful settlement harder to find. The following two principles are fundamental for a solution to this conflict:

- the right of all States in the area, including Israel, to exist within secure, recognized and guaranteed borders
- and the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination with all that that implies.

In yet other cases which could be mentioned in this statement, the right to self-determination is denied to peoples by governments which operate on the principle that only they know what their peoples want without asking their opinion. The Twelve call on such governments to fully respect the principles of the Charter, which they are all obliged to implement.

The exercise of the right to self-determination is not a single event but a continuous process. If peoples are, in the words of the Covenants to 'freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development', they must have regular opportunities to choose their government and social systems freely; and to change them if they so wish, without the threat of a foreign intervention, a state of emergency or a *coup d'état*. Consequently, each individual must be able to exercise the other rights set out in the Covenants, such as the rights to freedom of thought and expression; the rights of peaceful assembly and freedom of association; the right to take part in the conduct of public affairs, either directly or through freely chosen representatives and the rights to vote for a candidate of his/her choice and to be elected at genuine, periodic elections.

Only when self-determination is universally implemented, can the foundations of peace be strengthened. And the twelve Member States of the European Community are doing everything possible towards this direction.

<sup>1</sup> Agenda items 87, 88, 91 and 92.

### **88/314. Statement in the Fourth Committee of the UN General Assembly: Activities of Foreign and Other Interests Which are Impeding the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 10 October 1988

Place of Issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

*Mr Nezeritis:* Mr Chairman, on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community I have the honour to speak on the draft resolution and draft decision contained in document A/43/23 (Part III).

The Twelve wish to reiterate their support for all efforts in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations to eliminate colonialism, the inhuman system of apartheid and racial discrimination in Southern Africa. The Twelve wish also to reaffirm their unwavering commitment to the right of the peoples of the remaining non-self-governing territories to self-determination in accordance with the Charter and the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

The aforementioned draft resolution focuses mainly on the serious situation in Southern Africa. There can be no doubt that the policies of the Government of South Africa are the root cause of the continued oppression, instability and suffering in the region. This is not the occasion to set out in full the position of the Twelve on Southern Africa. Our abhorrence of the system of apartheid and our opposition to it and its manifestations are well known and have been repeatedly stressed in all international forums.

Thus, the Twelve do not hesitate to condemn the activities, such as the depletion of natural resources, of those foreign economic and other interests, which do impede the process of self-determination, both in illegally occupied Namibia and its adjacent waters and in other non-self-governing territories.

However, it should also be taken into consideration that the activities of foreign economic and other interests are often of central importance to the economic and social development of non-self-governing territories. The draft resolution before us does not recognize it at all. This failure to distinguish between the various kinds of activities referred to above is for us a failing in the draft resolution. In this context we note the calls, in separate resolutions and decisions of this committee, to accelerate and expand economic development in the non-self-governing territories.

The Twelve have reservations of principle with regard to a number of specific paragraphs in the draft resolution which fail to take into account the Charter provisions concerning the division of competence between the General Assembly and the Security Council. They also deplore the fact that individual countries are again singled out in this year's draft resolution, in particular in operative paragraph 17.

These remarks, Mr Chairman, are not new ones. The Twelve have made them in the past. However, to our regret, they have not been taken into account in the drafting of this resolution.

The Twelve also wish to express their concern at the proposal to vote on the draft decision relating to military activities in non-self-governing territories since this deals with a subject that does not appear on the list of the agenda items allocated by the General Assembly to the Fourth Committee.

It is for these reasons that the Twelve are not able to support the draft resolution and draft decision before us. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

<sup>1</sup> Agenda item 109.

## **88/315. Statement Concerning the Situation in Sudan**

Date of Issue: 11 October 1988  
 Place of Issue: Athens  
 Country of Presidency: Greece  
 Source of Document: The Twelve  
 Status of Document: Declaration

The Twelve express their grave concern about the situation in Sudan and call on all parties to allow relief supplies — especially food — to be speedily delivered to the needy, to support the International Committee of the Red Cross in its plan of action and to open the road to peace. This is the only way to relieve suffering and to enable Sudan to recover socially and economically from its present crisis.

## **88/316. Statement in the Fifth Committee of the UN General Assembly: Joint Inspection Unit<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 11 October 1988

Place of Issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

*Mr Rallis:* Mr Chairman, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community.

The Twelve wish to thank the Chairman of the Joint Inspection Unit for his presentation of the report of the Unit. We are also grateful to the Secretary-General for his report on the implementation of the JIU recommendations (A/43/556).

The Twelve attach particular significance to the Unit, its independence and its role for enhancing the administrative and operational effectiveness of the JIU's participating organizations. The independence of its inspectors is an important factor in the process of evaluating the functioning of this Organization. We wish to reiterate that for the Unit's potential to be fully realized, member States must always bear in mind the need to nominate and appoint highly qualified candidates.

Mr Chairman, we welcome the organizational changes now under way, and in particular the Unit's intention to engage in a dialogue with its participating organizations, as well as with intergovernmental and expert bodies on its future work programme and on the follow-up of its reports. We also welcome the formulation of guidelines for the selection, conduct and reporting of the JIU's inspections and evaluations contained in the annex of its report. This indicates a degree of responsiveness to concerns expressed by the General Assembly, particularly Resolution 42/218. We hope that these guidelines and especially the arrangements made to ensure a collective approach in the internal consideration of reports without compromising the independence of the individual inspectors will contribute substantially to the Unit's output and help to further improve the quality of its reports.

The Twelve note with satisfaction signs of improvement in the work of the JIU and the commitment to producing reports of better quality. We hope that the Unit's findings and recommendations will be carefully studied by all parties concerned. The reports contain useful elements which could help in improving the functioning of the Organization. It is essential that they are given due attention. In this context, we believe that studies conducted by JIU would benefit our discussion if they were to contain more evaluation than lengthy narratives. As for the role of member States in this process, they should in the relevant forums of the United Nations have an opportunity to express their views on JIU reports and an agenda item should always be considered by our Committee at the beginning of the session of the General Assembly. This should help ensure that studies related to matters falling within the competence of other Main Committees are brought to their attention on time for careful consideration under the appropriate item. The Twelve welcome the fact that, in accordance with operative paragraph 11 of Resolution 42/218, the JIU report in document A/43/124 on evaluation, and the Secretariat's comments thereon contained in document A/43/124/Add.1, will be examined by this Committee under agenda item 115.

Furthermore, we would like to stress the need that the programme of JIU should be topical and targeted. In this area, as in others, effectiveness and efficiency is what matters, not simply the level of activity. The Unit in drawing up its programme should choose topics of importance, both to the organizations concerned as well as to member States. And, of course, it should take into account, both when drawing up its programme and when formulating its recommendations, the resources available. In some cases it seems JIU recommendations and even the Secretariat's proposed response appear not to take sufficient account of the realities of the situation, as for example the proposal to establish endowment funds for autonomous research institutes.



The JIU should continue to keep in mind the process of reform and renewal being undertaken by the Organization as a whole and assist in the implementation, monitoring and following up of efforts for streamlining of United Nations activities.

Mr Chairman, greater involvement by member States should mean that more attention would be given to the JIU reports by the General Assembly. This has sometimes been lacking in the past. In establishing its work programme, the Unit could bear in mind the agenda of future Assembly sessions, so that the reports relate — whenever possible — to items under consideration.

We note, in particular, what is described as the nucleus of the work programme for 1989-90. We find it in fact ambitious in scope. We would like to suggest that the JIU reviews it in order to make it more focused in line with our earlier comments. We would broadly favour the proposed guidelines for the development of the JIU work programme and the preparation of its reports, set out in the annex of the Unit's report A/43/34. We agree that the Unit should not lose sight of its potential for reviewing topics of interest to all or several of the participating organizations. In addition, the evaluation function of the JIU remains an important complement to the work of the Central Evaluation Unit. Therefore, paragraph 7(e) of the proposed guidelines assumes a particular importance. We should welcome a greater focus on management and administrative issues, in particular those identified by the Board of Auditors in the management audits and areas that are undergoing restructuring as part of the reform process. We would be prepared to develop our thinking further, if necessary.

Finally, Mr Chairman, the follow-up of the Unit's recommendations is undoubtedly very important. We welcome the JIU's statement in section VII of its report that it will keep member States informed on the follow-up of its recommendations. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

<sup>1</sup> Agenda item 118.

### **88/317. Question No H-489/88 by Mr Pearce Concerning Drugs**

Date of Issue: 11 October 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

Since the Commission's answer of 17 July 1987 to my question about cooperation with the Soviet Union concerning drugs (in which it said that there is no EC-USSR mechanism of cooperation), there has been cooperation between the Soviet and British Governments in this matter.

Will Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation take steps to increase this kind of cooperation?

*Mr Pangalos, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers:* I can answer Mr Pearce that the Twelve have repeatedly made clear their determination to contribute actively in the fight against illegal drug production and trafficking all over the world. Since the problem is an international one which transcends frontiers, if we ever wish to create the prerequisites for its elimination, we will have to work both regionally and internationally.

In that context, the Twelve in common and each on their own are striving to extend cooperation in all areas pertaining to the control of drug abuse, either at a bilateral level, or in the United Nations, or in other forums. I can tell Mr Pearce that with my colleagues Mr Genscher and Mr Donnez, we took part as the Community's 'Troika' in the meeting we had with the ASEAN countries, where as you know, despite the efforts of the governments of those countries, such substances are produced on a large scale. We had extensive discussions on the coordination of action to deal with that situation.

Besides, from what I know, the subject is also always raised most insistently on our part in our contacts with the United States and with other groups of countries or individual countries.

*Mr Pearce (ED):* I am delighted to hear of the meeting of the 'Troika' to which the President-in-Office has just referred. I wonder if he would agree to a request from me that when the 'Troika' has done its work, the full Council should meet in session to discuss the problem of drugs and to issue some kind of communication about this, because a formal communication from the Council on a matter like this does carry weight. People do listen to this sort of thing around the world and it does help to concentrate the mind on this scourge. Will the President-in-Office undertake to have a full Council meeting in due course and to issue a statement from it?

*Mr Pangalos:* I have heard Mr Pearce's comment, but can add nothing further.

### **88/318. Question No H-513/88 by Ms Ewing Concerning the Release of Soviet Jews**

Date of Issue: 11 October 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

Since *glasnost*, the Soviet authorities have proclaimed greater leniency towards the plight of Soviet Jews who wish to join their families in other parts of the world.

Do the Foreign Ministers have any information on the number of Jews who have been allowed to leave the Soviet Union since this policy has been adopted?

*Mr Pangalos, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers:* As has been made known by the available sources of information, the number of Soviet Jewish emigrants is steadily increasing. In 1987 over 8 000 people emigrated, compared with about 950 in 1986. The 1987 figure is [the highest since] that of 1981, when a little over 9 000 people were allowed to emigrate. We have good reason to believe that the figure for 1988 will be still higher. Provisional estimates indicate that over 11 000 Jewish citizens of the Soviet Union have emigrated this year. These figures must be regarded with some satisfaction, I think, though bearing in mind that they are certainly lower than those of the 1970s. And of course another factor to be remembered is the number of Soviet Jews who still want to leave and have not been allowed to. The Twelve have taken many opportunities, both at the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, in Vienna, and on other occasions, and at a bilateral level, to emphasize the fact that every person's right to leave any country, including his own, is embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Agreement on [Civil] and Political Rights. The Soviet Union is a co-signatory to that agreement. The same right is also reflected in the Final Act of Helsinki and in other documents of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. The Twelve are exerting pressure to bring about better compliance with those commitments, which are undertaken voluntarily, and for the assumption of further commitments of the same kind.

*Ms Ewing (RDE):* I thank the President for his answer and for his sympathy for this problem. I would like to ask him to bear in mind that those who have been allowed to leave, some of whom we have met in this Parliament, have often expressed profound cynicism about whether *glasnost* really exists or not. Could the Council use that period to try to stop the harassment of those who are awaiting exit visas, who are often denied the means to earn a living, who are removed from their jobs and so on? Could we at least perhaps concentrate on the plight of those who have the courage to apply for the exit visas? Could we do something at least for them, while at the same time hoping to get the numbers increased to the point that everyone who wants to leave can do so?

*Mr Pangalos:* I have heard our colleague's comments, and take note of them.

*Mr Marshall (ED):* I would like first of all to thank the President-in-Office for his answer. Would he confirm that the numbers now emigrating are still low in comparison with the over

50 000 who were allowed to emigrate in 1979, and the conservative estimates that half a million wish to do so? Would he also confirm that there are still citizens in Russia who have been waiting over 10 years to receive an exit visa? Will the Russians still divide families, allowing part of the family to leave, and not others, and will they still use phoney excuses about so-called secrecy which may relate to something that someone learned 15 or 20 years ago? Does the President-in-Office realize that he has the full support of everyone in this House in continuing to wage this battle so that those who desire freedom are able to enjoy it?

*Mr Pangalos:* I can indeed confirm, as the Honourable Member of the European Parliament has said and as I mentioned in my initial answer, that despite the recent notable increase, the figures for the 1980s are lower than for the 1970s, and that in any case, as I also said in my initial answer, the number of people allowed to leave among the Jewish population of the Soviet Union is very small relative to the total number of Soviet Jews who wish to leave that country. I do not question any of our colleague's comments regarding human rights. He must know that in all matters pertaining to human rights, all over the world, the Community has consistently supported respect for human rights and opposed any system that restricts the exercise of those rights. I think we ought to remain loyal to that position.

So far as the Greek Presidency is concerned, I can assure him that wherever human rights are violated, our attitude will be to introduce the matter for debate and to promote the most effective positions and actions against those who violate human rights and democratic freedoms.

*Mr Duetoft (PPE):* Mr President, we have in recent months noted that a majority in Parliament favours the use of trade agreements for political purposes or as a means of furthering the cause of human rights. I have Israel in mind. I would ask the President-in-Office and the Foreign Ministers whether they are disposed to use trade agreements with the Soviet Union and other East European countries as a means of improving the chances of Soviet Jews to leave the Soviet Union. The Foreign Minister said some very fine words about fighting for human rights everywhere in the world. It seems to me that different standards are applied: in some situations there is a willingness to exert concrete pressure and to refuse to enter into actual agreements with countries; in others fine words are considered sufficient. In relation to the Soviet Union in particular, it seems to me that fine words have often been considered sufficient. I should therefore like to ask the concrete question: Is there any intention to use the Comecon-EC agreement in the fight for human rights?

*Mr Pangalos:* I can answer our colleague that the context in which the Community and other countries are striving to achieve progress in the sector of human rights in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe is that of the Conference on Security and European Cooperation.

So far as economic relations are concerned, perhaps I could remind you that our relations with that part of Europe are largely beneficial to the Community, and because of this, are unlikely to provide suitable means for the exertion of pressure.

*Mr Boutos (RDE):* Granted that most of those who obtained an exit visa from the Soviet Union did so thanks to the bilateral agreements between the United States and the Soviet Union, or if you will, because the United States can exert far greater pressure on the Soviet Union in that connection, can the Council's President-in-Office tell us, apart from what is happening at the Conference, whether the Council has thought of and decided upon a policy consonant with that of the United States and helpful to the activities of the USA?

*Mr Pangalos:* Our relations with the Soviet Union have never been discussed from the standpoint described by our colleague. The Community has an independent policy towards Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, which is expressed from time to time by the Council's positions, and possibly also by Parliament's decisions.

**88/319. Question No H-522/88 by Ms Rabbethge Concerning Human Rights in the African National Congress Camps in Angola and Southern Africa**

Date of Issue: 11 October 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

In recent months facts have come to light concerning the poor conditions and human rights violations in the ANC military and 'refugee' camps in Angola and other Southern African States. For example, one report to this effect has been received from a young British woman who is currently living in the British Embassy in Angola following her escape from one of these camps. Another such report has been drawn up by the US Senate.

Are the Ministers aware of this situation and, in particular, of the fact that neither Western government representatives nor representatives of human rights organizations are being granted access to the ANC camps? What measures do the Ministers intend to take, particularly now that they have repeatedly called on the South African Government to engage in dialogue with the African National Congress?

*Mr Pangalos, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers:* I can answer Ms Rabbethge that the Twelve support the promotion and protection of human rights all over the world and condemn violations wherever and by whomsoever they are perpetrated.

The subject of alleged violations of human rights in the African National Congress camps has not been discussed in European political cooperation.

*Ms Rabbethge (PPE):* Mr President-in-Office of the Council, to all the questions which I have put on the African National Congress and human rights violations and which other colleagues have put on the policy or declared intention of the ANC not to refrain from using force, the Twelve have admittedly condemned the use of violence in general terms but have stopped short of directly condemning the ANC's public announcement that it would use force — I refer to my Question 354 of 1988 and the answer to it from the Council Presidency<sup>1</sup>.

On the other hand the Twelve are constantly calling for the South African Government to enter into a dialogue with this movement. I should appreciate a clear-cut statement from you, Mr President-in-Office of the Council, whether the Twelve do not believe that this attitude of the Council does not in fact constitute an encouragement to the African National Congress to continue with their publicly announced intention to use violence which will consequently hamper a peaceful dialogue of both sides, which all of us in this House so urgently want.

*Mr Pangalos:* Right now I do not have an answer on behalf of the Twelve to that question. If you will allow a personal view, I think that the violence of the oppressed, striving to revolt because no other means of political action are open to them, cannot be compared with the violence of those who oppress a people or a category of people. Thus, such action has an honourable history and I think it is natural that in our countries a large part of public opinion should view the problem of Southern Africa from that standpoint.

*Mr Pearce (ED):* How can the Council view favourably an organization like the ANC which was responsible in September for 29 bomb explosions in which 38 people were injured and killed? Why do we not hear a proper balance between condemnation of the violence they perpetrate, and the wish, which I can understand, for dialogue with them? Does the Minister not agree that the Community's attitude toward South Africa is quite unbalanced in that we do not hear the condemnation of violence by the African National Congress that we should?

*Mr Pangalos:* Mr President, I think my previous answer covers the point.

*Mr Duetoft (PPE):* I am pleased with the answer of the President-in-Office, to the extent that it is nice to know that the President-in-Office is against violence irrespective of where it occurs. I

cannot disagree with him on that, it is important for us to oppose violence. I just hope that the President-in-Office of the Council and the Council in general will honour that in practice. But I must admit that I find it a little difficult to understand the answer. Some months ago I asked the then Council Presidency about certain incitements on the part of the African National Congress, over what is known as Radio Freedom, to violence against civilians in South Africa and whether it was something which caused the Council Presidency to distance itself from the African National Congress. I could not get an answer to that. The only answer I got was that the view was that South Africa should negotiate with the African National Congress. Now we have it again, there is a clear reluctance to give an answer to the question of what is going on in the ANC camps. I should like to ask: Is the Presidency so frightened of the ANC that it cannot see economic pressure as an instrument in this context? After all it is possible to put pressure on South Africa and Israel, and we have just heard that it is possible to put economic pressure on the Soviet Union. Is it not time that we began to put pressure on the ANC to refrain from these outbreaks of violence and pointed out to them it is a condition for the support that the ANC can receive from the European Community?

*Mr Pangalos:* Mr President, I have already answered that. I answered the last two questions, which were equivalent.

<sup>1</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 88/257.

### **88/320. Question No H-527/88 by Mr Suárez González Concerning the Report on Human Rights in Cuba**

Date of Issue: 11 October 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

Is it true that one of the organs or departments of the Commission or of the Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation has drawn up a written report on the human rights situation in the Republic of Cuba? If so, in view of the European Parliament's denunciation of a number of cases of human rights violations in Cuba, when will the Ministers make this report available to the European Parliament?

*Mr Pangalos, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers:* I refer the Honourable Member of the European Parliament to our answer, given on 14 June, to his Oral Question No H-265/88<sup>1</sup>. The same answer applies.

*Mr Suárez González (ED):* Mr President, you are fully aware that if we ask a question again it is because we were not satisfied with the first reply. The first reply deferred, diluted and failed to be specific. It is very simple to be specific; has the Community or has it not, in the context of Political Cooperation, made a study of human rights in Cuba? Have the Community Ambassadors submitted or have they not submitted a report on human rights in Cuba? The Council should answer yes or no and if a report has been submitted the Council should tell us the reason for not divulging this, because there must be some reason and I am prepared to accept that the Council has one. What is unacceptable is that a single government or a few governments refuse to make such a report public, especially when we all have copies of it anyway.

*Mr Pangalos:* The reason why I cannot answer Mr González's question other than with the same answer given on 14 June is quite clear. It is because no other answer has become appropriate within the framework of the Council. Thus, though I sympathize with his frustration, I can only repeat the answer given at that time on behalf of the Council.

<sup>1</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 88/156.

**88/321. Question No H-531/88 by Mr Ephremidis Concerning the Trial of Mr Kutlu and Mr Sargin**

Date of Issue: 11 October 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

Having been adjourned 10 times in succession, the trial of the political leaders Mr Kutlu and Mr Sargin will be resuming in Turkey over the next few days.

Despite the well-publicized resolutions adopted by the European Parliament and the personal intervention by its President, Lord Plumb, the Turkish authorities are continuing to violate human rights and notably the right of defence of defendants. What specific measures do the twelve Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation intend to take in order to secure the immediate release of these two political leaders?

*Mr Pangalos, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers:* I would first like to refer to the answers we have already given to Honourable Members about this matter, and I can assure you that the position of the Twelve concerning human rights and the fundamental freedoms is very well known to the Turkish authorities. The Twelve are following developments in the trial of the two political leaders with particular interest, and hope that all steps will be taken to ensure that from now on it will be conducted with full respect for law and the related recognized principles.

*Mr Ephremidis (COM):* Of course we bear in mind the previous answers, but what is happening is this: It is nearly a year since the arrest of the two leaders, their trial has been adjourned more than 10 times, they have been tortured, and it is clear from the charge sheet that they are on trial only for their ideology, their thoughts. Unheard-of things! And while all this is going on we hear answers that 'the Council is taking an interest'. The question is: To what specific action by the Council does its interest lead? In other words, what specific action has been taken to bring this matter to an end with the release of the two leaders, as demanded both by the European Parliament in a resolution and in a letter from our Parliament's President? Because this situation is becoming impossible to understand. One could wonder whether there had been a war between the EEC and Turkey in which the EEC was defeated, since it makes concessions, unfreezes financing protocols, prepares to set in motion the Council of Association, the Joint Parliamentary Committee, while on its side Turkey provocatively violates the sacred right to a fair trial, and the right to defend oneself. This is my question: What specific action has the Council taken, or will it take?

*Mr Pangalos:* First of all, after reminding the Honourable Member that action by the Council requires unanimous agreement, let me tell him once more that the Council has the matter under review, and that of course violations of human rights in Turkey are a factor which affects the whole relationship between that country and the Community. Speaking personally, I can assure Mr Ephremidis that the Presidency is very sensitive on that issue, and that every time we meet, either at the lateral level or in connection with other matters, we express to the Turkish side our concern about the issue of human rights in their country. I myself have had the opportunity, at many meetings with my Turkish opposite numbers, to express my personal interest and that of the Greek Government about the fate of Mr Kutlu and Mr Sargin, as well as all the other political detainees in Turkey, and about the conditions prevailing in that country in relation to abuses in the area of human rights.

It is obvious to us, and I am still speaking personally, as a representative of the Greek Government, that any relationship between Turkey and the Community cannot but depend on progress in the area of human rights, and that so long as such treatment and behaviour persists, there will be problems between the Community and Turkey.

## 88/322. Statement at the United Nations Pledging Conference on Afghanistan

Date of Issue: 12 October 1988

Place of Issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

*Mr Zepos:* Mr Chairman, speaking on behalf of the European Community and its Member States I would like, at the outset, to reiterate our appreciation to the Secretary-General for having launched his 'Appeal for Humanitarian and Economic Assistance Relating to Afghanistan' and to thank you for your valuable efforts at coordinating the encouraging response of the international community and for having prepared the first consolidated report before us. We are fully aware of the magnitude of the humanitarian, economic and social problems involved and we stand ready to participate in the international efforts to help the Afghan people. In this context, we recall the ECOSOC resolution adopted at its second regular session of 1988 without a vote and co-sponsored by 21 States, representing a broad spectrum of the international community.

The policy of the Twelve on Afghanistan is well known and it was again reiterated on 27th September by the Foreign Minister of Greece Mr Karolos Papoulias in his speech on behalf of the European Community and its twelve Member States, at the General Assembly.

The Foreign Minister stressed the readiness of the European Community and its Member States to contribute, when the time comes, to the resettlement of refugees and displaced persons as well as to the reconstruction of the country, in accordance with the priorities laid down by the UN Coordinator for Humanitarian and Economic Assistance to Afghanistan.

In their statement, at the donors' meeting of 14 June 1988, the Twelve expressed their position *vis-à-vis* the two-phase approach contained in the report prepared by the coordinator (document SG/Conf.3/1) and *vis-à-vis* the broad outline of the coordination, proposed in the same document. At the same time, the Twelve stressed that the aid to Afghanistan should not be used for political purposes, thus sharing the view that the Secretary-General expressed in his appeal of 10 June 1988, that 'economic and humanitarian assistance should not be used for the purpose of influencing political developments, which can only be the result of the free expression by the Afghan people of their wishes'.

Mr Chairman, the efforts of the Twelve and their prompt responses to the appeal of the Secretary-General are guided by the recognition that rapid action is required to relieve the plight of the Afghan people. To this end the Twelve regard it as essential:

- to provide aid for the resettlement of the refugees and displaced persons in close consultation with the coordinator and, at the appropriate time, for the reconstruction of the country;
- to ensure that this aid, which will be channelled through the coordinated activities of UN organizations, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations, reaches those in need of aid as directly as possible rather than being channelled through non-representative authorities;
- to continue consultations with the UN Secretary-General, his personal representatives, the UN coordinator, the implementing organizations and non-governmental organizations;
- to consult with major bilateral donors and other parties directly involved.

Mr Chairman, the United Nations has a vital role to play with regard to emergency aid and efforts towards reconstruction and development in general and with regard to Afghanistan in particular. We hope that the international community will continue to respond to these efforts and that it will meet the enormous needs generated by the Afghan tragedy, which has not yet come to an end.

**88/323. Statement in the Special Political Committee of the UN General Assembly: the Effects of Atomic Radiation<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 12 October 1988

Place of Issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

*Mr Nezeritis:* Mr Chairman, it is my pleasure to take the floor today speaking on behalf of the European Community and its twelve Member States. Allow me, Sir, since this is the first time my delegation takes the floor, to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of the Special Political Committee. I would also like to congratulate the Vice-Chairman and the Rapporteur and wish all of you success in your important work.

Mr Chairman, the Community and its Member States attach great importance to the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation [UNSCEAR], which has effectively carried out the mandate conferred upon it in 1955 for over thirty years. We appreciate the ongoing cooperation with the UNSCEAR.

We welcome also the close cooperation that has been established between the Committee and other international bodies such as the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the International Commission on Radiological Protection and the International Commission on Radiation Units and Measurements. Their contribution is essential for the fulfilment of the task of the Committee.

Mr Chairman, the report submitted to the 43rd General Assembly by the Committee is the tenth in a series of substantive reports and constitutes the latest comprehensive assessment of the sources, effects and risks of ionizing radiation.

It summarizes the main conclusions drawn from the most recent studies in the fields of radiation physics and biology and shows that the Committee has been doing a great amount of useful work with technical competence and professionalism. The Committee gives us assessments in the fields of dose estimation (which pertains closely to the subjects of physics) and risk assessment (which involves physical as well as radio-biological and medical considerations).

The Committee has consistently provided estimates of doses of radiation received by the world's population and expected to be received in the future, from various natural and man-made sources of radiation.

It has also supplied information about the risks of induction of various types of harm by radiation, by individuals directly receiving such doses, or the hereditary harm caused by radiation.

The Committee was helped and advised by a small group of consultants. It was also assisted and financially supported by various international and national organizations. The Twelve would like to express their deepest appreciation for the work accomplished by the Committee and the support given to it.

Mr Chairman, although accidents causing serious exposures of the public have been extremely rare, the fact that nuclear industry is developed and a large number of radiation sources is used for industrial and medical purposes make us believe that accidents cannot be completely excluded.

The Twelve believe that should such accidents occur again, the need for international cooperation is imperative. It is therefore worth recalling that the Community has decided to become a party, together with all its Member States, to the International Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident, adopted under the IAEA auspices in August 1986. This convention provides for the exchange of extensive information to all States through the agency, in the event of a nuclear accident. The Community as such is involved with this convention since it operates nuclear plants [itself] within its joint Research Centre, and also because of its specific responsibilities in the field of radiological protection under the Euratom Treaty.



In 1986, an accident in a nuclear reactor, in Chernobyl, caused extensive contamination in the local area and resulted in radioactive material becoming widely dispersed and deposited in European countries. The extent to which such a wide region could be affected by an event of this type was unanticipated. The Committee collected useful data on that accident and provided by this report detailed information.

The Twelve hope that the Scientific Committee will continue to carry out its mandate successfully with the support of other international bodies related to the subject. We wish to compliment it for the work that has been accomplished and hope to be able to express our appreciation and support by our participation in the adoption by consensus of a resolution containing the renewal of the mandate of the Committee. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

<sup>1</sup> Agenda item 74.

### **88/324. Question No H-200/88 by Mr Arbeloa Muru Concerning the Death Penalty in the USA**

Date of Issue: 12 October 1988  
 Place of Issue: Strasbourg  
 Country of Presidency: Greece  
 Source of Document: Presidency  
 Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

I was pleased to read that the Council had condemned the recent executions in South Africa.

*Mutatis mutandis*, but mindful of the United States of America's major political and moral responsibilities, when will the Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation condemn the numerous atrocious executions carried out in that country, which is so closely linked to the European Economic Community?

*Answer:*

The question of the Honourable Member has not been dealt with in the framework of European political cooperation.

### **88/325. Question No H-390/88 by Mr Cabezón Alonso Concerning the Conditions for Holding the Plebiscite in Chile**

Date of Issue: 12 October 1988  
 Place of Issue: Strasbourg  
 Country of Presidency: Greece  
 Source of Document: Presidency  
 Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

The minimum conditions for holding the forthcoming plebiscite in Chile include the lifting of the state of emergency, equal access for the opposition to television and other media and guaranteed freedom of expression. What practical steps have the Foreign Ministers meeting in European political cooperation taken or do they intend to take to make these conditions a reality?

*Answer:*

The Honourable Member is undoubtedly aware of the Twelve's statement of 18 July 1988<sup>1</sup> which listed the same minimum conditions for the proper conduct of the plebiscite in Chile. This was communicated by the Twelve to the Chilean authorities at the highest level.

The Chilean Government has since then lifted the state of emergency on 25 August and announced the repeal of individual administrative banning orders on 1 September. Since 5

September, the date of the official start of the voting campaign, broadcasts in favour of 'Yes' and 'No' have been aired free of charge every day on all television channels, with each option being given a quarter of an hour.

The Chilean Government has made it known that foreigners will be able to observe the electoral process in the same way as Chilean citizens and in accordance with the arrangements on public order. The Twelve accordingly made available a system of logistic assistance to the European delegations who went to Chile to observe the conduct of the plebiscite.

<sup>1</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 88/234.

**88/326. Question No H-437/88 by Mr Vandemeulebroucke  
Concerning the Resolution of 18 June 1987 on the Armenian  
Question**

Date of Issue: 12 October 1988  
Place of Issue: Strasbourg  
Country of Presidency: Greece  
Source of Document: Presidency  
Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

Can the Ministers say whether the resolution adopted by the European Parliament on 18 June 1987 on the Armenian question<sup>1</sup> has been discussed by the Foreign Ministers meeting in European political cooperation? If not, when do they intend to discuss this question and adopt a position on it?

*Answer:*

The resolution adopted by the European Parliament on 18 June 1987 on the Armenian question has not been discussed in European political cooperation.

<sup>1</sup> *OJ* No C 190 of 20 July 1987, pp. 119-121.

**88/327. Question No H-468/88 by Mr Alavanos Concerning the  
Cocom lists**

Date of Issue: 12 October 1988  
Place of Issue: Strasbourg  
Country of Presidency: Greece  
Source of Document: Presidency  
Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

How does it come about that Cocom lists still come into play in relations between the EEC and CMEA countries following the signing of the relevant agreement between the two economic alliances?

*Answer:*

Questions relating to the joint declaration on the establishment of official relations between the EEC and the CMEA are being dealt with in the Council framework. With regard to Cocom rules, the Honourable Member may wish to know that these have not been discussed in the framework of Political Cooperation.

**88/328. Question No H-481/88 by Mr Ulburghs Concerning Relations with Zaire**

Date of Issue: 12 October 1988  
 Place of Issue: Strasbourg  
 Country of Presidency: Greece  
 Source of Document: Presidency  
 Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

On 7 July the European Parliament adopted a resolution on human rights in Zaire<sup>1</sup>. Paragraph 1 of the resolution calls on the Foreign Ministers to draw from the constant violations of human rights in Zaire the logical conclusions concerning relations with that country.

What action have the Foreign Ministers taken on this resolution?

*Answer:*

The Twelve are aware of the resolution on human rights in Zaire which was adopted by the European Parliament at the sitting of 7 July 1988.

Violations of human rights are a matter of great concern to the Twelve, and the European Parliament's concern is shared by the Foreign Ministers. Furthermore, respect for human rights is an important element in relations between the Community and third countries. This position was clearly voiced by the Foreign Ministers in their statement of 21 July 1986 on human rights<sup>2</sup>.

In line with these principles the Twelve are paying close attention to the situation in Zaire. The authorities there are aware of the importance which the Twelve attach to respect for human rights.

<sup>1</sup> OJ No C 235 of 12 September 1988, pp. 100-102.

<sup>2</sup> EPC Bulletin, Doc. 86/230.

**88/329. Question No H-504/88 by Mr Gerontopoulos Concerning the Compliance with the 1923 Treaty of Lausanne by Turkey**

Date of Issue: 12 October 1988  
 Place of Issue: Strasbourg  
 Country of Presidency: Greece  
 Source of Document: Presidency  
 Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

Do the Ministers meeting in European political cooperation consider that Turkey is fulfilling the obligations towards its non-Muslim minorities (Armenians, Greeks, etc.) which it undertook on signing the Treaty of Lausanne?

*Answer:*

The specific question to which the Honourable Member refers has not been considered in European political cooperation. The Twelve nevertheless expect Turkey to comply strictly with the international conventions and treaties to which it has freely acceded.

**88/330. Question No H-537/88 by Mr Dessylas Concerning the Use of Chemical Weapons Against the Kurdish People**

Date of Issue: 12 October 1988  
 Place of Issue: Strasbourg  
 Country of Presidency: Greece  
 Source of Document: Presidency  
 Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

In a resolution of 15 September 1988<sup>1</sup> the European Parliament condemned the use of chemical weapons by Iraq against the Kurdish people, which has now been established beyond doubt.

The United Nations has decided to send an international delegation to Iraq to put an end to the continuing genocide of the Kurds. What measures do the Foreign Ministers meeting in European political cooperation intend to take to implement this decision?

*Answer:*

The Honourable Member of Parliament is no doubt familiar with the declaration, issued by the Twelve on 7 September<sup>2</sup>, on the situation of the Kurds and the grave concern of the Twelve expressed therein, at the reports of the alleged use of chemical weapons against the Kurds. The Twelve at that occasion reaffirmed their previous positions, condemning use of these weapons.

From the rostrum of the UN General Assembly the Twelve on 27 September<sup>3</sup> have reiterated their support for action which could be undertaken to establish impartially the facts, relating to alleged use of chemical weapons against the Kurdish population.

The Twelve have also in direct contacts urged the Iraqi Government to reconsider its decision not to respond favourably to the UN Secretary-General's request to send a mission to investigate alleged use of chemical weapons.

<sup>1</sup> *OJ* No C 262 of 10 October 1988, pp. 123-124.

<sup>2</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 88/249.

<sup>3</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 88/298.

### **88/331. Question No H-540/88 by Ms Banotti Concerning Kampuchea**

Date of Issue: 12 October 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

Would the Foreign Ministers inform the Parliament of its position regarding the return to power of Pol Pot and the *Khmer rouge* in Kampuchea?

Would the Foreign Ministers agree that everything must be done to remove any support of the *Khmer rouge* at the United Nations?

*Answer:*

I would inform the Honourable Member that in the speech delivered by the Presidency at the 43rd session of the United Nations General Assembly on 27 September<sup>1</sup> the Twelve pointed out that 'the restoration of peace and stability in south-east Asia depended on a solution being found to the Kampuchean problem'. This conflict is the result of a foreign military occupation in violation of the fundamental principles of the United Nations and international law, and it must be brought to an end. In this connection, the informal meeting in Jakarta was an encouraging stage in moves towards a political solution to the conflict leading to the establishment of an independent, democratic, neutral and non-aligned Kampuchea. The Twelve express their firm support for ASEAN's constructive efforts towards finding a political solution to the Kampuchean problem whereby tensions in the region could be reduced and the Kampuchean people could be allowed to decide their own future freely. The Twelve stress, in particular, the vital role which Prince Sihanouk can play in a new Kampuchea in which any prospect of a return to politics and practices of the recent past, which were universally condemned, must be ruled out.

The Twelve have, furthermore, called on Vietnam to withdraw all its troops from Kampuchea. We call on all the parties concerned to pursue their efforts to achieve a just, overall

solution in accordance with successive United Nations resolutions. There is no doubt that the complete withdrawal of Vietnamese troops and the re-establishment of a genuine peace in Kampuchea would open the door to international cooperation with a view to the reconstruction of the region.

<sup>1</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 88/298.

**88/332. Question No H-545/88 by Mr McMahon Concerning Argentina**

Date of Issue: 12 October 1988  
 Place of Issue: Strasbourg  
 Country of Presidency: Greece  
 Source of Document: Presidency  
 Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

Has the Council of Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation discussed the relationship between the Republic of Argentina and the European Economic Community and is the Council close to an agreement on informal trading relations between the Community and Argentina?

*Answer:*

The question of the Honourable Member is of the Community's competence and has not been dealt with in European political cooperation. However, it must be pointed out that Argentina regularly participates in the informal ministerial meetings between the Twelve and the Group of Eight. The most recent of these meetings took place on 28 September in New York.

**88/333. Question No H-552/88 by Ms Dury Concerning Mr Yasser Arafat's Visit to the European Parliament's Socialist Group**

Date of Issue: 12 October 1988  
 Place of Issue: Strasbourg  
 Country of Presidency: Greece  
 Source of Document: Presidency  
 Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

When he visited the European Parliament's Socialist Group, Mr Yasser Arafat stated that he recognized UN Resolutions 242 and 338 and, indeed, all United Nations resolutions. Furthermore, Mr Arafat indicated that he was willing to take part in a UN-sponsored international conference with Israeli Government representatives.

Can the Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation say whether they intend to take steps to bring this about? What help will the European Community provide with a view to resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict?

Can the Foreign Ministers say whether they would recognize a provisional Palestinian government in exile?

*Answer:*

Allow me briefly to remind you of the Twelve's position in general towards the Arab-Israeli conflict. In their numerous contacts with the parties concerned as well as in contacts which they have had individually with the parties to this conflict, the Twelve have on many occasions stressed the key elements which must make up a solution to this conflict. These can be summarized as follows:

In accordance with the Venice Declaration and other subsequent declarations two principles are fundamental: the right of all States in the area, including Israel, to exist within secure, recognized and guaranteed borders, and the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination with all that this implies.

For the implementation of this policy, the Twelve have on several occasions reaffirmed their support for an international peace conference under the auspices of the United Nations as the suitable framework for the indispensable negotiations between the parties directly concerned.

In New York, just a fortnight ago, the Greek Presidency stated on behalf of the Twelve in the General Assembly of the United Nations that the time has come to break the vicious circle of repression and hatred. All parties concerned should recognize each other's rights.

From the rostrum of the UN General Assembly the Twelve therefore addressed an urgent appeal to all the parties concerned to make the necessary efforts to achieve this aim.

We said that at this particular moment it seems especially important for all parties concerned to show political responsibility in order to permit the peace process to move forward. The Twelve, for their part, remain ready to play their role fully in this effort.

#### **88/334. Question No H-562/88 by Mr Pranchère Concerning Human Rights in Morocco**

Date of Issue: 12 October 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

On 11 February 1988 the European Parliament adopted an urgent resolution condemning cases of arbitrary deportation and imprisonment in Morocco<sup>1</sup>. This resolution placed particular emphasis on the plight of Mr Serfaty and Mr El Bou, who have been imprisoned for many years, and called for their release.

What measures have the Ministers taken or planned to take in compliance with this resolution to persuade the Moroccan Government to put a stop to these arbitrary arrests and to release Mr Serfaty and Mr El Bou?

*Answer:*

All the Twelve have noted the resolution of 11 February, referred to by the Honourable Member. They have been aware of the plight of Mr Abraham Serfaty for quite some time and his case has been raised by individual members of the Twelve with the Moroccan authorities. While the particular situation of Mr El Bou has not been discussed among the Twelve, the Moroccan authorities are in no doubt of the Twelve's continued concern over human rights violations whenever they occur.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ No C 68 of 14 March 1988, pp. 73-74.

#### **88/335. Question No H-567/88 by Mr Iversen Concerning the IAEA General Conference in September**

Date of Issue: 12 October 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

What prompted the Community countries to vote against the resolution tabled at the IAEA general conference on 26 September 1988 (see *Agence Europe*, 26-27 September), in which the IAEA condemns 'the continuing refusal of Israel to give up their possession of nuclear weapons and to submit all nuclear installations to Agency inspections'? What exactly are the motives behind this decision not to support the inspection of nuclear power stations by the IAEA?

*Answer:*

The Twelve strongly support IAEA's inspection activities. They do not believe, however, that it is conducive to the long-term goals of non-proliferation that a country at an international conference is singled out for condemnation, thus totally disregarding the situation in a number of other countries with similar problems. That was the reason why the Twelve, together with all other Western countries, voted against the said resolution.

In an explanation of vote the Twelve stated that:

The twelve Member States of the European Community consider that the question regarding Israel was resolved in a general conference resolution of 1985.

They feel that the resolution before us singled out in an unbalanced way the nuclear policies of one country.

Furthermore, it has the effect of politicizing the Agency in a divisive manner.

The European Community Member States think it desirable that safeguards should be applied as widely as possible in furtherance of the cause of non-proliferation. However, since the application of safeguards, under the Statute, is a matter of decision by the country concerned, the non-submission of a Member State's nuclear facilities and installations to Agency safeguards cannot justify the action contained in the resolution. Therefore, the Member States of the European Community are not able to support this resolution.

### **88/336. Statement in the Second Committee of the UN General Assembly: Report of ECOSOC<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 13 October 1988

Place of Issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

*Mr Daras:* Mr Chairman, on behalf of the Member States of the European Community I would like to comment on some aspects of the ECOSOC chapter and in particular its Resolution 1988/77 on the revitalization of the Council.

I do not intend to address all the issues contained in it but to highlight some of the elements contained in the said resolution, which, when implemented should enhance the ability of the Council to work in a coherent and effective manner.

The revitalization of ECOSOC is part of the wider reform exercise to which we attach great importance. The Plenary of the General Assembly will deal with the broader issue of the reform. We shall contribute to the work of the Plenary to the best of our capacity. We agree with the Secretary-General's assessment that, and I quote, 'the Special Commission's discussions reveal substantial areas of agreement on important general principles, which could provide a basis for future action'. Towards that end our commitment remains strong.

We consider Resolution 1988/77 as another step which could help us move closer to remedy problems which have been besetting ECOSOC for a number of years. We consider Resolution 1988/77 a modest but none the less satisfactory approach to some critical areas where improvement is needed in a differentiated manner according to the broad areas of the Council's competence.

Clearly the main objective of the resolution is to find ways for the Council to organize and carry out its work better. All concerned should cooperate closely to ensure the successful implementation of the resolution. We attach importance to the provision under policy formulation which calls for a thematic approach through in-depth discussions of previously identified major policy themes. We fully concur with the emphasis that Resolution 1988/77 puts on ECOSOC's role in operational activities. We see ECOSOC's contribution as important for the implementation of Resolution 42/196 adopted by the General Assembly, last year, on operational activities.

We expect that the appropriate documentation should be available promptly and be streamlined. Some of the principles laid out in 1988/77 need to be translated into practical arrangements in the form of a coherent package aimed at improving the work at the Council. Past experience has shown that similar resolutions have not produced the expected results largely because of difficulties associated with implementation.

We expect that the working methods and the organization of work as outlined in the resolution will substantially contribute to the more effective operation of ECOSOC.

Mr Chairman, many of the problems that beset the Council up to this day still await a satisfactory solution. More so, in view of the importance we all attach to the effective reform of the Council.

Of course, reform is not an end in itself, but a means of improving the international economic and social cooperation for development. We should take advantage of the fact that our efforts towards this end take place in an improved political climate.

Mr Chairman, the Member States of the European Community attach particular importance to the success of the Council's mission and is prepared to contribute actively and effectively to that purpose. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

<sup>1</sup> Agenda item 12.

### **88/337. Question No 2745/87 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E) Concerning Executions and Torture in Burma**

Date of Issue: 13 October 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 25 March 1988

In the light of the growing reports of summary executions and people being tortured to death in Burma, have the Ministers for Foreign Affairs meeting in European political cooperation taken any steps to look into the situation in certain regions of the States of Karen, Kayah, Mon and Kachin, where government troops and opposition groups are engaged in combat?

*Answer:*

The specific cases referred to by the Honourable Member have not been discussed in the context of European political cooperation. However, in their declaration of 19 August 1988<sup>1</sup>, the Twelve stated that they were following the recent events in Burma closely and with concern. In this connection, the Twelve express their concern at the serious deterioration of the human rights situation. They vigorously deplore the fact that many people have lost their lives, been seriously injured or imprisoned for political reasons.

The Twelve are accordingly appealing urgently for efforts to be made to find a peaceful solution to the economic and political problems in Burma.

<sup>1</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 88/245.



**88/338. Question No 2752/87 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E)  
Concerning the Detention of the Kenyan Barrister, Gibson Kamau Kuria**

Date of Issue: 13 October 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 25 March 1988

Have the Ministers for Foreign Affairs meeting in European political cooperation taken any interest in the fate of the prominent Kenyan barrister and defender of human rights, Gibson Kamau Kuria, who was detained on 26 February 1987 in Nairobi, subsequently 'disappeared', was perhaps tortured and is now being held indefinitely, without charge or trial, in a maximum-security prison 1 000 kilometres to the northwest of Nairobi?

*Answer:*

The Honourable Member is asked to refer to the reply given to Written Question No 2380/87 put by him<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 88/137.

**88/339. Question No 2763/87 by Mr Robles Piquer (ED-E)  
Concerning the Attitude of the Black Minority Towards Economic Sanctions Against South Africa**

Date of Issue: 13 October 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 25 March 1988

The economic sanctions imposed on the South African Government because of its racist policy, which the European Parliament has rightly and repeatedly condemned almost unanimously, were applied in the belief that they were supported by the majority of the black population, the purpose being to release them from an oppressive and humiliating situation.

Can the Ministers, with the aid of the relevant specialized departments of the governments of the Member States and the Commission, comment on reports that the majority of black South Africans are now opposed to economic sanctions? This was claimed in a statement made by the executive director of the South African Institute for Race Relations on 9 November 1987, in which he maintained that black South Africans were not willing to sacrifice their jobs on the altar of economic war.

*Answer:*

The Twelve are endeavouring to pursue a policy which can contribute as effectively as possible towards the objectives which have won general agreement both within the international community and among the vast majority of the South African people: the peaceful abolition of apartheid, the achievement of a just and free society and the restoration of human dignity.

In their attitude towards South Africa, the Twelve are aware of the differing viewpoints expressed within South African society and are taking full account of the interests of the black population. They have therefore, at the same time as agreeing on restrictive measures, agreed on positive measures to assist the victims of apartheid financially and materially. In this area, the Community and the Member States have implemented a concerted programme in order to

ensure the maximum effectiveness of Europe's contribution. The Member States have continued to apply scrupulously the Code of Conduct for Community undertakings which have subsidiaries in South Africa.

**88/340. Question No 2919/87 by Ms Simons (S-D) Concerning the Changes in the Declaration of Origin of Natural and Processed Uranium**

Date of Issue: 13 October 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 8 April 1988

*Der Spiegel* reported on 15 February 1988 [that] the declaration of origin of considerable quantities of uranium from third countries was being altered for the purposes of sale and/or processing: in particular, consignments originating in South Africa and Namibia were being relabelled. The VWD press agency reported on 18 February that this practice had been confirmed by experts from the EURATOM Supply Agency.

According to Article 59 of the EAEC Treaty, the general interests of the Community must be safeguarded in trade in nuclear fuels. Article 102 lays down that agreements concluded with third States 'shall not enter into force until the Commission has been notified by all the Member States concerned that those agreements ... have become applicable in accordance with the provisions of their respective national laws'.

1. Do the Foreign Ministers agree that the trade in South African uranium with altered declarations of origin is a means of bypassing the anti-apartheid regulations of certain third countries, in particular the United States, Canada, Australia and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and violates the ban on all new cooperation in the nuclear field with South Africa agreed by the EEC Foreign Ministers in September 1985? Do they agree that the general interests of the Community are therefore not safeguarded?

2. What action do they intend to take to prevent infringements of the EAEC Treaty, the anti-apartheid laws of third States and their decision on South Africa of September 1985?

*Answer:*

The practices referred to by the Honourable Member do not consist in exchanges of origin but in exchanges of safeguarding obligations which do not affect in any way the origin of the materials involved and thus cannot interfere with any anti-apartheid measure.

Exchanges of safeguarding obligations on lots of uranium, equivalent in quantity and quality, are fully compatible with international non-proliferation obligations of Member States.

Under Regulation (EEC) No 802/68 the changing of origin can only take place if the material has been transformed in a substantial and commercially justified way. The Twelve have no knowledge of any misuse of this regulation in order to bypass the anti-apartheid regulations of third countries.

The ban on all new collaboration with South Africa in the nuclear field, agreed in Luxembourg on 10 September 1985, is being fully implemented. The Twelve are strictly pursuing a policy of no new collaboration with South Africa in the development of its nuclear programmes and do not therefore supply any nuclear material, facilities, equipment or related economic assistance.

The Twelve carefully monitor the application of this prohibition and undertake constant consultations so as to ensure that it is being properly and fully implemented.

**88/341. Question No 219/88 by Mr Stevenson (S-UK) Concerning the Whereabouts and Well-Being of Certain Named Citizens of South Africa who are Associated with the Kagiso Trust**

Date of Issue: 13 October 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 25 May 1988

Will the Council do all that is within its powers to ascertain from the authorities in South Africa the whereabouts of Khotso Crutse, Eric Molobi, Joe Mati and Mr and Ms Gugile Nkwinti, who are associated with the Kagiso Trust, which was set up by the EEC to administer the Special Programme for the Victims of Apartheid? Will the Council also do all that is possible to ensure the well-being of those named?

*Answer:*

The Twelve are deeply concerned by the detention of Mr Khotso Crutse, Mr Eric Molobi, Mr Joe Mati and Mr and Ms Gugile Nkwinti. They understand that Mr Crutse and Ms Nkwinti were released from detention in May. The Twelve are following these cases with particular attention and are making every possible effort to ensure the well-being of the remaining detainees.

The Twelve, both jointly and individually, have approached the South African authorities on a number of occasions to underline the strength of their concern, and to call for the release of those detained without charge. In doing so, they have drawn the South African Government's attention to the fact that Mr Molobi is a leading representative of the black community who works with peaceful means towards a democratic and non-racial South Africa.

**88/342. Question No 841/88 by Ms André (LDR-B) Concerning the Kurdish Question**

Date of Issue: 13 October 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 2 August 1988

What is the position of the Foreign Ministers meeting in European political cooperation in respect of the desire of the Kurdish people for self-determination?

*Answer:*

The question raised by the Honourable Member has not been discussed by the Twelve within the framework of Political Cooperation.

**88/343. Question No 856/88 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E) Concerning the Imprisonment of the 'Counter-Revolutionary' Liu Shanqing in China**

Date of Issue: 13 October 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 2 August 1988

Will the Foreign Ministers seek the release of Liu Shanqing, a salesman and electronics engineer aged 35 from Hong Kong, who was a supporter of the Democratic Movement in the late 1970s and who is now serving a ten-year sentence for 'counter-revolutionary offences' passed in February 1983 involving solitary confinement and a programme of 're-education'?

*Answer:*

The question raised by the Honourable Member has not been discussed in European political cooperation. The Chinese authorities are, however, well aware of the position of the Twelve on human rights.

**88/344. Question No 898/88 by Mr Vandemeulebroucke (ARC-B)  
Concerning the Arrest of the Chief Editor of *Analisis* in Chile**

Date of Issue: 13 October 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 2 August 1988

It has recently emerged that the chief editor of the influential opposition newspaper *Analisis*, Mr Cardenas, has once more been arrested in Santiago, Chile. This occurred when he was going to report to the police station where he is having to serve a sentence of 541 nights for 'insulting the Chilean President'.

Do the Foreign Ministers meeting in European political cooperation intend to bring their influence to bear to secure his release as soon as possible, since he was unjustly arrested?

*Answer:*

The Twelve are following developments in the situation in Chile very closely and have stated their position on a number of occasions.

More specifically, in their statement of 18 July 1988<sup>1</sup>, they stressed that it was essential that the Chilean Government should, without delay, lift the state of emergency, restore political liberties, respect human rights and ensure freedom of information and opinion in order for the plebiscite to be conducted properly.

The Chilean authorities were informed at very high level of this position.

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<sup>1</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 88/234.

**88/345. Question No 900/88 by Mr Vandemeulebroucke (ARC-B)  
Concerning Political Prisoners in Turkey**

Date of Issue: 13 October 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 2 August 1988

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the TAYAD, an organization set up by the friends and relatives of political prisoners to protest against abuses in Turkish prisons recently visited Brussels. According to their report, arbitrary arrests, years of detention without trial, torture and mistreatment before trial have regularly been the fate of between ten and fifteen thousand

political prisoners in Turkey. Ms Sesen, the Vice-Chairman of TAYAD, herself spent three months behind bars because of her activities. Is the Council aware of this and what representations does it intend to make to the Turkish authorities?

*Answer:*

The Twelve are keeping a very close watch on the human rights situation in Turkey. They have, on a number of occasions, expressed their concern to the Turkish authorities, who are well aware of the position of the Twelve on this matter. The Twelve have noted that Turkey is a signatory to both the Council of Europe and United Nations Conventions against torture. They expect the international conventions to which Turkey has freely acceded, as well as human rights, to be strictly observed.

The specific instance mentioned by the Honourable Member has not been discussed in European political cooperation.

**88/346. Question No 922/88 by Ms van den Heuvel (S-NL)  
Concerning Human Rights in Turkey**

Date of Issue: 13 October 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 18 August 1988

1. Are the Foreign Ministers aware of the statements made by Amnesty International on the treatment in Turkey of two political prisoners, Nabi Yagci and Dr Nihat Sargin (A.I. index EUR 44/06/87 and 44/86/87), which show that, during their detention, both were tortured and subjected to degrading interrogations?

2. Are the Foreign Ministers prepared to ask the Turkish authorities to respond to these serious allegations?

3. In the Foreign Ministers' opinion, how does the treatment and detention of Nabi Yagci and Dr Nihat Sargin accord with Articles 10 and 11 of the European Convention of Human Rights, which has been ratified by Turkey?

4. Given the special relationship between Turkey and the EEC, how do the Foreign Ministers feel they can improve the human rights situation in Turkey in general and the situation of Nabi Yagci and Dr Nihat Sargin in particular?

*Answer:*

The Twelve are keeping a very close watch on the human rights situation in Turkey. They have, on a number of occasions, expressed their concern to the Turkish authorities who are well aware of the position of the Twelve on this matter.

The Twelve have noted that Turkey is a signatory to both the Council of Europe and United Nations Conventions against torture. They expect the international conventions to which Turkey has freely acceded, as well as human rights, to be strictly observed.

**88/347. Question No 965/88 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E) Concerning  
the Massacre of Tikuna Indians in Brazil**

Date of Issue: 13 October 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 18 August 1988

Have the Foreign Ministers given consideration to the fact that on 28 March 1988, 18 armed men led by the timber merchant Oscar Castelo Branco killed 14 Tikuna Indians and wounded a further 23 in the São Leopoldo Indian reserve in the Brazilian district of Benjamim Constant in the State of Amazon?

Have they made any direct or indirect approach to the Brazilian Government with a view to urging it to take all the steps necessary to ensure that the culprits, some of whom are fugitives from the law, are duly punished? Will they do everything they can to prevent any more Catholic missionaries working alongside the native Indians from being expelled as a result of false accusations inspired by economic and political self-interest?

*Answer:*

The particular deplorable incident mentioned by the Honourable Member has not been discussed in European political cooperation.

The Twelve are, nonetheless, keeping a very close watch on the human rights situation throughout the world in pursuance of their common policy described in their statement of 21 July 1986<sup>1</sup>, and they act accordingly.

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<sup>1</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 86/230.

**88/348. Question No 1006/88 by Mr Vandemeulebroucke (ARC-B)  
Concerning the Petition by Central American Human Rights  
Organizations to the European Community**

Date of Issue: 13 October 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 18 August 1988

All the representatives of human rights organizations in Central America have tabled a petition to the Community calling on:

1. Spain, West Germany and Belgium to withdraw their support for Guatemala's policies, which are responsible for serious violations of human rights;
2. the governments of the Member States to ask the United States Government to withdraw its support for El Salvador and Honduras;
3. the Community to study the report of the International Verification and Monitoring Commission and to set up a committee of its own to monitor compliance with the Esquipulas-II peace treaty.

Can the President say what action will be taken on this petition within the framework of European political cooperation?

*Answer:*

The Twelve are not aware of the petition mentioned by the Honourable Member.

They are, however, keeping a very close watch on both the political and human rights situation in Central America and do not fail to stress to their Central American counterparts the importance which they attach to full and immediate implementation of the Esquipulas-II Agreement so that peace, democracy and observance of human rights may be restored.

The Twelve have, moreover, stated on a number of occasions, most recently at the ministerial meeting in Hamburg, their desire to cooperate to the best of their ability in the performance of the task of verification and following up entrusted to the Executive Committee, if so requested by all Central American States.

**88/349. Question No 1050/88 by Mr Pearce (ED-UK) Concerning South African Submarines**

Date of Issue: 13 October 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 25 August 1988

Are the authorities of the Federal Republic of Germany in breach of the ban on supply of arms to South Africa in the decision to build submarines to a West German design?

*Answer:*

The embargo on exports of arms and paramilitary equipment to the Republic of South Africa, agreed in Luxembourg on 10 September 1985, is being rigorously controlled by the relevant authorities of the Twelve, which have taken the necessary steps to ensure its proper and full implementation.

**88/350. Déclaration à la session plénière de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies: coopération entre l'Organisation des Nations Unies et le Comité consultatif juridique afro-asiatique<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 17 October 1988

Place of Issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

*M. Zepos:* Monsieur le Président, j'ai l'honneur de parler au nom des douze États membres de la Communauté européenne.

Les Douze ont toujours apprécié la qualité de travail du Comité consultatif juridique afro-asiatique et, en particulier, le travail qui a déjà été fait en vue de renforcer le rôle des Nations Unies et de ses organes principaux.

Les Douze tiennent à redire combien ils ont apprécié la contribution importante apportée par M. Sen dans ses fonctions de Secrétaire général du Comité. Ils tiennent également à féliciter très chaleureusement le nouveau Secrétaire général du Comité M. Frank Njenga et lui souhaiter plein succès dans ses nouvelles fonctions.

Nous avons entendu avec un grand intérêt son intervention et nous avons pris bonne note des activités en cours et de celles qui sont déjà projetées par le Comité consultatif juridique afro-asiatique. Il va sans dire que nous attachons une grande importance à la question qui se rapporte aux travaux de la Sixième commission, question que le Comité consultatif juridique afro-asiatique examine de nouveau au cours de la présente session de l'Assemblée générale.

Les Douze ont déjà eu l'occasion de soutenir dans le passé plusieurs initiatives du Comité consultatif juridique afro-asiatique relatives notamment à la rationalisation des procédures de l'Assemblée générale. Ils se félicitent tout particulièrement de la coopération fructueuse qui existe depuis déjà un certain nombre d'années entre le Comité consultatif juridique afro-asiatique et les Nations Unies et forment l'espoir que cette coopération devienne encore plus étroite et plus efficace dans l'avenir. Je vous remercie, Monsieur le Président.

<sup>1</sup> Point 20 de l'ordre du jour.

**88/351. Explanation of Vote at the Plenary Session of the UN General Assembly: Draft Resolution L.7 Concerning Cooperation Between the United Nations and the League of Arab States<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 17 October 1988

Place of Issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Mr President, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community.

While we have all voted in favour of the resolution on cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States just adopted we wish nevertheless once again to make a few general comments.

Over the last few years the General Assembly has been faced with a growing number of resolutions relating to the cooperation between the United Nations and various organizations holding observer status, a tendency which will continue during this General Assembly. The Twelve are well aware of the benefits of such cooperation and have been happy to join in expressions of support and encouragement for the further development of such cooperation within the framework of the United Nations Charter.

However, the Twelve would prefer that resolutions of this kind deal with the question of cooperation in terms which avoid introducing contentious elements.

In particular with regard to operative paragraph 3 of L.7 the Twelve wish to draw attention to the need to avoid prejudicing the role of the Secretary-General and also to the fact that the Twelve have not supported all the resolutions referred to in that paragraph.

The Twelve also urge that in view of current financial constraints efforts be made to limit the costs of such cooperation between the UN and various organizations with observer status. With regard to operative paragraph 12 we would like to state that its contents should not serve as precedent for the future. The UN should be free to make use in its various projects of the best and most economical expertise available to it. Thank you, Mr President.

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<sup>1</sup> Agenda item 25.

**88/352. Statement in the Special Political Committee of the UN General Assembly: Comprehensive Review of the Whole Question of Peace-Keeping Operations in All its Aspects<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 17 October 1988

Place of Issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

*Mr Nezeritis:* Mr Chairman, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community.

The peace-keeping operations of the United Nations, established in accordance with the purposes and the principles of the Charter and authorized by the Security Council, have long been one of the most successful manifestations of the activity of our Organization in the maintenance and restoration of international peace and security. There can be no more explicit sign of the recognition of the value the international community places upon peace-keeping operations than the recent decision of the Nobel Committee to award the Peace Prize to these forces. We would like to avail ourselves of this opportunity to convey to the Secretary-General of the United Nations our congratulations and our deep satisfaction for this decision which also



reflects credit upon his untiring efforts in the cause of peace. The award is most of all a tribute to the hundreds of thousands of men and women who, ever since the inception of peace-keeping operations, have served, sometimes under extremely difficult and dangerous circumstances, the cause all of us here have pledged to support, the cause of peace.

Peace-keeping forces have not had an easy road to travel. In the past their value was occasionally doubted and obstacles have been put in their way. In some cases, even now, they face difficulties in their efforts to carry out their mandate. However, we are happy to observe that negative and indifferent attitudes have to a very large extent disappeared and that there is practically universal recognition of the contribution of these operations to peace.

We live, Mr Chairman, in a rapidly changing world. A world where the pacific settlement of disputes has taken on a new urgency and a wider acceptance. A number of international problems with which the United Nations has been seized for a number of years are now subject to extensive negotiations and the prospects for their solution are much better than in the past. Peace-keeping forces, with different tasks, in accordance with varying circumstances, are envisaged. These operations are obviously not a substitute for real peace nor an end in themselves. They are a provisional arrangement to be seen within the broader context of the search of a permanent, peaceful, political settlement of a dispute. If these operations are made necessary it is because crises remain pending and the principles of the Charter have not been observed. In such cases, as unfortunate experience has shown, no one can foresee how long they might be required.

The Secretary-General in his recent report on the work of the Organization (document A/43/1) sets out a number of highly pertinent considerations regarding the functioning of peace-keeping forces within the context of the actual international situation. He appropriately points out that the success of a peace-keeping mission depends, not only on the consent of the parties, but also on the consistent support of the Security Council, on a clear and practicable mandate, on the readiness of member States to volunteer troops and on adequate financial arrangements. We share this assessment.

Mr Chairman, the Secretary-General appropriately points out in his report that in an evolving world situation, the peace-keeping operations of the UN could well undertake a broader role. This makes it all the more important that the Special Committee on Peace-Keeping Operations should fulfil its mandate to work towards the completion of agreed guidelines that would govern the conduct of peace-keeping operations of the United Nations, including ways of overcoming the financial difficulties they face.

Its recent report, unfortunately, does not indicate that significant progress has been made. Much as the Twelve regret this, we fully support the Committee's request that its mandate be renewed in order that it will be able to fulfil it. Within this context the Twelve have taken note with particular satisfaction of China's request to become a member of the Committee. The six members of the Twelve represented on the Committee will gladly contribute in all efforts aiming at the successful completion of the task of the Committee.

Allow me, Mr Chairman, to refer now to one of the major difficulties facing the United Nations peace-keeping operations, that is to say their financial problems.

The Twelve have consistently urged all member States to fulfil their financial obligations towards peace-keeping operations. The Twelve are of the opinion that all member States carry a joint responsibility for peace-keeping activities and for their financing. It would indeed be ironic if the expressed willingness of the international community to support them was not matched by effective support of their financial aspects. It is a fact that most existing financial difficulties are due to the failure of certain member States to pay their assessed contributions, in accordance with their obligations under the Charter. The outcome is that troop-contributing countries have often had to assume responsibility for an unduly large share of the costs of peace-keeping operations. It is our conviction that costs related to peace-keeping operations based on decisions of the Security Council are to be regarded as mandatory expenses, unless decided otherwise by the Security Council, to be borne by all Members of the United Nations. As we stated in the general debate at the General Assembly, we should be prepared to pay the price of peace.

We have noted with satisfaction that some countries with significant outstanding obligations have pledged to make them good. We urge them to do so in the most expeditious manner. I would like to remind that outstanding contributions to UNIFIL amount to 310 million dollars, while those outstanding to UNDOF and UNEP to almost 40 million dollars. The Twelve, whose assessed contributions to United Nations peace-keeping operations amount to 30% of the expenses involved, attach a particular importance to this point. We believe that the political credibility of such operations is diminished when member States do not fully carry out their financial obligations with respect to them.

The need for prompt payment of financial obligations becomes all the more evident in view of the expected increased presence of UN peace-keeping forces in areas where a political settlement is hoped for. This presence entails increased financial obligations, whose impact has not yet been assessed in its entirety. In this context the Twelve would like to reiterate the necessity that cost-effectiveness be borne in mind in the establishment of future peace-keeping operations which should be costed with the greatest care on the basis of precise and comprehensive information. We urge all member States fully to support UN peace-keeping operations and to ensure their proper financing on a sound and stable basis.

We would like, at this point, to draw attention to the two largest UN peace-keeping operations currently deployed, UNIFIL and UNFICYP, in which we take a special interest.

It is beyond doubt that UNIFIL, although still prevented from carrying out its mandate in full, plays an important role in the maintenance of peace in the area. The Twelve fully share the view of the Secretary-General who, in his report of 25 July 1988 on UNIFIL, stressed that 'the Force continues to play an important role in controlling the level of violence in a very volatile situation which, without it, could quickly escalate into wider conflict'.

The Twelve believe that, as the Secretary-General continued in his report, the necessary efforts should be made to bring about the Israeli withdrawal which the Council called for [in] its Resolution 425 (1978) so that UNIFIL can undertake the task originally assigned to it. It is imperative that all parties should fully cooperate in the exercise of its mandate and that they help ensure the safety of the personnel, which has repeatedly suffered hardship and casualties as a result of hostile acts.

The Twelve would also like to stress once again the importance they attach to the operation of UNFICYP. The Secretary-General stresses in his report of 31 May 1988 that 'at this time of both tension and hope it is more important than ever that UNFICYP should continue to fulfil its indispensable role'.

In the same report, the Secretary-General has drawn, once again, the attention of the member States to the serious financial difficulties of UNFICYP, the only UN peace-keeping force whose financing is based on voluntary contributions. In a further communication to the governments of all member States of the UN, he has pointed out that an unfair burden has been placed on the troop-contributing countries, which are already absorbing some 70% of the cost of UNFICYP and whose claims for reimbursement the UN have been able to meet only up to December 1979.

Mr Chairman, the Twelve have consistently supported peace-keeping operations and many of us have actively participated in them in the past and are participating in ongoing operations. In the same way Members of the Twelve would consider favourably calls to participate in future peace-keeping operations.

I should take the opportunity to express here the satisfaction of the Twelve at the creation recently of the UN Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG) and of the UN Good Offices Mission for Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP). They both have our total support, and we hope that they will be successful in carrying out their important duties. We also look forward to the setting up of the UN Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG), which will play a vital role in the process of bringing independence to Namibia.

I would like to close these remarks by reaffirming the commitment of the Twelve to the peace-keeping operations of the United Nations and our confidence in the manner in which the

Secretary-General has conducted them on behalf of our Organization. Peace-keeping is not the equivalent of peace. But it is an effective and successful way of averting war and of creating the necessary environment for the attainment of peace. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

<sup>1</sup> Agenda item 78.

### **88/353. Statement in the First Committee of the UN General Assembly: Disarmament – General Debate**

Date of Issue: 18 October 1988

Place of Issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

*Mr Stephanou:* Mr Chairman, it is my privilege today to take the floor on behalf of the European Community and its twelve Member States. In doing so, I should like to express to you, Mr Chairman, whom I welcome as representing a friendly country, our sincere congratulations on your election to this demanding office. It is known to all of us that you have spared no efforts in your endeavour to improve the working methods of this Committee. Our congratulations are also extended to the other members of the Bureau. We trust that under your leadership this Committee will conduct its business not only efficiently but with success and we can assure you of the full support of the Twelve in this work.

Mr Chairman, East-West relations have markedly improved during the last twelve months. While much remains to be done, new and more favourable conditions have nonetheless emerged for the achievement of significant progress in the process of arms control and disarmament and of strengthening peace. Unprecedented results have already been achieved in certain important areas.

A breakthrough was achieved mainly by the conclusion of the INF Treaty and the commitment by the United States of America and the Soviet Union to negotiate a 50 per cent cut in their strategic nuclear arsenals. The Twelve attach great importance to reaching an agreement on a 50 per cent reduction in the strategic nuclear arsenals of the two superpowers in accordance with their agreed objective.

Progress was recorded in the negotiations on a comprehensive ban on chemical weapons.

The Twelve have long advocated progress in these areas. They will continue to work resolutely for further results with a view to strengthening international peace and enhancing security and stability at the lowest possible level of forces.

Bearing in mind the primary responsibility of the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security in accordance with the Charter, the Twelve stress its importance in promoting a more stable political climate which in turn is conducive to arms control and disarmament. The Security Council also has a primary role in the prevention of use or threat of use of force and the solution of regional conflicts, thus contributing to an improvement of conditions in which arms control can be promoted.

The positive political climate created by the Washington and Moscow summit meetings and contacts at the highest levels between the United States of America and the Soviet Union, should be preserved. Such contacts have already amply demonstrated the impetus that they can add to the negotiations between the superpowers on the various aspects of their agenda and not least in the central area of arms control and disarmament. The Twelve hope that these high level contacts between the US and the USSR will continue into the future, thus consolidating this most vital of bilateral relationships and developing still further areas of cooperation and common ground. This enhanced US-Soviet relationship offers us an invaluable opportunity in this Committee to make speedy and substantial progress in the work before us.

Mr Chairman, the Twelve have frequently underlined the central role of the United Nations in the area of disarmament. In the statement made on behalf of the Twelve by Foreign Minister Genscher at the opening of the third Special Session devoted to disarmament, the Twelve stressed the need for constructive parallelism between the bilateral and multilateral processes. This implies a role for the UN which will allow it to make headway on the many important arms control and disarmament issues which are on its agenda. Multilateral action is of increasing importance and international peace and security will not be fully realized in its absence.

Despite the fact that the SSOD III was unable to agree on a concluding document, useful progress was made in some areas. The Twelve took an active part in the endeavours to make SSOD III a success and we regret that it was not possible to reach agreement in the end.

While it is natural that our deliberations will reflect on the outcome of the Special Session and on the differences that prevented the adoption of a final document, it is the sincere hope of the Twelve that this session of the First Committee will preserve the positive and constructive atmosphere of the Special Session and the 42nd UN General Assembly. We believe that our debate should be focused on concrete and constructive proposals. The task ahead now is to build on the areas of agreement — and many such areas were identified at the Special Session — and to redouble our efforts in these areas where agreement proved elusive. Numerous interesting and valuable ideas and proposals have been put forward and could be explored further during this session of our Committee. Only a positive approach towards the future can be of any value for our work. Our burden of work is a heavy one, as is our responsibility to make progress in those areas where progress is possible. For their part the Twelve will do their utmost to assist you, Mr Chairman, in your task. Thus, we look forward that this session of the General Assembly will give us new opportunities to promote the solution of problems unresolved by that session and to enhance consensus reached on a number of points. The challenge of interdependence must be met with a universal commitment to appropriate international action. International peace and security cannot be achieved in an atmosphere that fosters an ever-growing accumulation of weapons.

Mr Chairman, the Twelve firmly believe that recent progress in disarmament must gain global recognition in a framework of positive interaction between the multilateral and bilateral dimensions of the negotiating process. Concrete conclusions must be drawn from this progress with a view to pursuing significant efforts in all relevant areas which can ease international tensions and promote arms control and disarmament.

Military threats and existing imbalances challenge security and stability. They should be eliminated through balanced and verifiable arms control agreements, ensuring security at lower levels of forces and armaments. Resolving the underlying political tensions and differences between States, and building confidence between them, are important tasks for us all.

The reduction of nuclear arsenals remains one of the highest priorities, and the United States of America and the Soviet Union have a crucial responsibility in this respect. The Twelve continue to see as central and pressing tasks for the international community, progress towards balanced and verifiable reductions of conventional armaments as well as complete elimination of chemical weapons.

Specific efforts, bilateral, regional, and multilateral, should be further strengthened to reduce and ultimately eliminate the risk of war. In these efforts, the greatest emphasis should be placed on all elements across the range of military arsenals: nuclear, chemical and conventional. The Twelve welcome the ongoing efforts of the United States and the Soviet Union to consider ways to avoid unintended military confrontations.

The Twelve hope for a solution to the problems relating to the prevention of an arms race in outer space. They underscore the importance of the ABM Treaty, in the light of the recent consultations between the United States and the Soviet Union. The two superpowers should be encouraged to pursue their talks. The conference on disarmament should for its part be encouraged to continue its efforts on this point. All relevant questions, including multilateral and bilateral aspects of this issue, should be taken into account.

Mr Chairman, the INF Treaty is a milestone in the field of nuclear arms reduction. It marks a breakthrough from arms control to genuine arms reductions. For the first time an entire class of nuclear weapons is being eliminated. The conclusion of this treaty should give further impetus to substantive progress in the whole range of bilateral, regional and multilateral negotiations on arms control and disarmament. The far-reaching cooperative verification measures and asymmetrical reductions contained in it should serve as an important precedent.

The Twelve also welcome the agreement reached between the US and the USSR on notifications of launches of intercontinental ballistic missiles and submarine-launched ballistic missiles.

The agenda of the First Committee contains, like in previous years, proposals concerning nuclear weapon free zones in certain parts of the world. The creation of such zones could contribute to stability in the areas concerned, to non-proliferation and to the disarmament process in general, provided that the States concerned are prepared to participate on the basis of agreements freely entered into and in keeping with internationally recognized principles.

The Twelve believe that no one can gain through a proliferation of nuclear weapons. Greater cooperation by all States is necessary to strengthen non-proliferation, which makes an important contribution to international security. The Twelve attach the utmost importance to an effective international non-proliferation regime. They firmly support international cooperation for the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes under appropriate international safeguards. Those of the Twelve who are parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty hope that the forthcoming NPT Review Conference will further serve to underpin the non-proliferation regime.

The question of a comprehensive test ban remains on the agenda of the Conference on Disarmament. The Twelve note that agreement on a mandate to establish an *ad hoc* committee on this issue remains to be achieved. They also note the useful work of the seismic experts.

The Twelve also note the commencement of full-scale stage-by-stage negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union on nuclear testing in order to facilitate an early ratification of [the] US-USSR Threshold Test Ban Treaty of 1974 and the Peaceful Nuclear Explosions Treaty of 1976.

Mr Chairman, conventional disarmament is essential and should urgently be pursued as an integral part of the overall disarmament process, in which all the States of the world should be actively involved. The subject of conventional disarmament should thus be kept at the forefront of the multilateral debate on disarmament. We hope that UNDC at its 1989-session will be able to agree on a substantive report on the subject.

Innumerable lives have been lost throughout the world in conflicts waged with conventional weapons. Increasingly powerful weapons continue to be developed. Regional agreements are of particular relevance. The emerging consensus on these basic considerations as well as the growing recognition of the overall importance of conventional disarmament should be welcomed. Furthermore, the expenditure on conventional armaments and forces absorbs an overwhelming proportion of all military budgets in the world and thereby has increasingly become a serious economic strain on a large number of countries.

Conventional arms control is an issue which we take very seriously in Europe where the concentration of troops and armaments is high, and we are making urgent efforts to deal with this question. To enhance security in Europe it is necessary to establish a stable and secure balance of conventional forces at lower levels and to introduce a further set of confidence- and security-building measures. We look forward to the start within the framework of the CSCE process of negotiations on such confidence- and security-building measures and on conventional stability, where the aim will be to eliminate existing disparities prejudicial to stability and security and to eliminate the capability for launching surprise attack and for initiating large-scale offensive action. In view of the potential offered by negotiations on conventional stability covering the whole of Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals, particular importance is attached

to the achievement of a mandate and to the early commencement of these negotiations. A successful conclusion of the Vienna CSCE follow-up meeting would secure the opening of these negotiations.

The Twelve are firmly committed to a balanced outcome of the Vienna follow-up meeting which benefits all people in the 35 participating States. The CSCE process remains the central element of an East-West policy aimed at peace and security based on cooperation and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Mr Chairman, the Twelve are firmly convinced that reliable and effective verification is both feasible and indispensable. It remains an integral element of arms control. The development of confidence-building measures and the promotion of more openness and transparency in the military field are central elements for progress in arms control both at the global and regional level. The twelve Member States of the European Community remain convinced that a better flow of information on military capabilities would help to relieve international tension. They have consistently implemented a wide variety of measures whose aim is to contribute to the widest possible degree of openness in military matters in general. The adoption of measures that contribute to greater openness and transparency helps to prevent misperceptions and miscalculations of the intentions and military capabilities of others.

The convergence of views on issues related to verification and compliance with arms control and disarmament agreements achieved at the Disarmament Commission is most encouraging. These efforts should be resolutely pursued with a view to agreeing to a number of principles to be made applicable, when necessary, to various verification regimes tailored according to the particular needs of each arms control agreement.

Furthermore, multilateral aspects of the verification of arms control and disarmament agreements deserve further in-depth consideration.

The adoption of concrete confidence-building measures is required to strengthen international peace and security. The Twelve note with satisfaction an increased awareness of the importance of confidence-building measures for the enhancement of international peace and security. Measures in this regard would serve to reduce mistrust, misunderstanding and miscalculation and to further the relaxation of international tensions.

In this respect, the Twelve consider that the results achieved at the Stockholm Conference and the encouraging experience gained so far with the implementation of the Stockholm document have contributed significantly to improve confidence and mutual trust in Europe. What we now need is an enhanced system of such measures aimed at promoting more openness and transparency in the military field. The Twelve, as many other Europeans, are firmly committed to the new round of CSBM negotiations.

This year, the United Nations Disarmament Commission agreed, following the initiative of one of the Twelve, on a catalogue of guidelines for confidence-building measures. The Twelve wish to ensure that the network of confidence- and security-building measures is expanded and intensified on a global scale. This catalogue can now at last be adopted by the General Assembly and then applied by each country in accordance with their own particular situation.

Confidence building has played and will continue to play an important role in multilateral disarmament affairs. It is to be welcomed that this notion is now widely accepted. In this context the United Nations' standardized reporting system is an important means for making military expenditures comparable worldwide and more transparent. The Twelve call on all member States to take part in it in the near future.

Greater transparency and openness in military matters, including in defence budgets, is a fundamental requirement. Likewise, as noted by Foreign Minister Genscher in his statement on behalf of the Twelve at SSOD III, would it not be possible for the United Nations to provide a framework for more openness and transparency with regard to worldwide arms exports and imports?

Mr Chairman, the Twelve underline their commitment to the Conference on Disarmament as the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating forum in the UN system. It remains an

indispensable forum in the field of disarmament. The Twelve look forward to the results of the discussions undertaken within the Conference on Disarmament which we hope will enhance and strengthen the effectiveness of the Conference in its disarmament efforts.

The Twelve attach particular importance to the chemical weapons negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. They strongly advocate the early establishment of a global and effectively verifiable ban on chemical weapons and reaffirm their commitment to the total elimination of those weapons. Joint efforts can bring closer the resolution of the pending problems, including the complex but fundamental verification issues, in a way acceptable to all. Those of the Twelve who are participants in the Conference will continue vigorously to pursue this goal at the negotiations.

The use of chemical weapons during the Iran-Iraq conflict has been condemned resolutely by the Twelve and the international community. In this context the Twelve welcome the consensus reached for strengthening the application of the 1925 Protocol and Provisions for UN investigations of allegations of use of chemical weapons. They welcome and warmly support the proposals of the Presidents of the United States of America and of France, made before the General Assembly, to convene an international conference on the problems of the use and proliferation of chemical weapons.

The Twelve are also gravely concerned at reports of the alleged use of chemical weapons against the Kurdish civilian population. They call for respect of international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Protocol of 1925, and of Resolutions 612 and 620 of the United Nations Security Council. They confirm their previous positions, vigorously condemning use of these weapons.

The actual use of chemical weapons has underlined the importance and the urgency of the conclusion of a comprehensive, verifiable and global convention on the elimination of chemical weapons and has highlighted the consequences of their use in any regional conflict and the dangers of further proliferation.

The Twelve are encouraged by the results of the second review conference of the States parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological Weapons and Their Destruction. They welcome the measures adopted for voluntary confidence-building and look forward to a widespread response among States parties.

The International Conference on the Relationship Between Disarmament and Development was a significant event. It contributed to a more substantial and comprehensive understanding of the matter. The conference reaffirmed the crucial importance of the question of security in any detailed analysis of the relationship between disarmament and development. The Twelve participated actively in this conference and subscribe to the need to implement its Final Document.

Mr Chairman, the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament is an important subject which for some years has been under consideration in this Committee, in the Disarmament Commission and was also considered at the third Special Session.

The Twelve are convinced that in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter, the United Nations must play a central role in the quest for disarmament.

The General Assembly and its subsidiary bodies should continue to fulfil their deliberative functions. In particular, the First Committee of the General Assembly should continue to serve as its main committee for dealing with disarmament and related international security questions. It is important to enable this forum to become more effective. In the view of the Twelve it is the extent of meaningful consensus and not the number of resolutions tabled and voted upon which will enhance the credibility of the Committee. A serious and successful effort, supported by the Twelve, was made during the 42nd Session. Let us hope that this encouraging precedent will guide our work during this Session in order to expand the area of consensus.

The Twelve support the concept and objective of the UN Disarmament Studies Programme. The machinery provided by UNIDIR can in a useful way supplement the studies programme.

The role of the advisory board on disarmament studies quite evidently is a crucial one. It is important that we focus on study activities that can enhance the quality of our deliberations, taking into account that resources are scarce and that choices will have to be made.

The Disarmament Commission which held its session this year just a short while before SSOD III, achieved an agreement on verification as well as on confidence-building measures. It is a positive step. The Twelve hope that this achievement could prove conducive for the relevant work in the First Committee and must gain its recognition.

The Twelve wish to reaffirm their conviction that the Disarmament Commission serves as a place for in-depth deliberations and thus constitutes an indispensable link in the multilateral disarmament process.

Mr Chairman, we are looking forward to supply more specific comments when items in our agenda will be discussed and draft resolutions will be tabled.

In conclusion, I would like to pledge the full support of the twelve countries of the European Community for the work of this Committee. We are ready to play an active and constructive part and we will make every effort to contribute to a successful conclusion of the work in front of us. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

#### **88/354. Statement in the Fifth Committee of the UN General Assembly: Financial Reports and Audited Financial Statements and Reports of the Board of Auditors<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 18 October 1988

Place of Issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

*Mr Rallis:* Mr Chairman, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community.

At the very outset I wish to state that the Twelve attach great importance to the reports of the United Nations Board of Auditors. We appreciate the competent and diligent way in which the members of the Board carried out their work and wish to thank Mr André Chandernagor, Chairman of the Board of Auditors, for his clear presentation of the reports of the Board. Our gratitude also goes to Ambassador Mselle, Chairman of the ACABQ. We fully appreciate the valuable ACABQ comments on these reports, which are of great help for a careful study by the members of the Fifth Committee, especially considering the large number of reports under this item and the late date of their receipt by the delegations.

We are pleased with the inclusion in the reports of separate sections summarizing the recommendations for corrective action to be taken by the organizations and programmes concerned. We also welcome the inclusion of comments on specific measures taken by the Secretariat and executive heads of these organizations and programmes to implement previous recommendations of the Board, as requested by Resolution 42/206, operative paragraph 7. We thank the Board for providing us with a summary of its principal findings and conclusions of common interest classified by audit area, contained in document A/43/445, as recommended by operative paragraph 8 of said Resolution 42/206. We would appreciate it if, after each item, mention were made of the organization or the programme in which the reported problem was detected.

It has been noted that the work of the Board of Auditors has been receiving increasing attention by member States in recent years. This is due, no doubt, mainly to the wish of member States to make sure that their financial contributions are managed with the greatest possible efficiency, especially in this period of resource constraints. Another reason is the fact that the scope of the Board's audits has been extended beyond the traditional verification of figures also to include management.



The Twelve consider the audit reports as valuable tools in the process of evaluation of the audited organizations. The review of the above reports by the Fifth Committee is a first use of those tools, which the audited organizations must duly take account of, with the purpose of improving their management performance. The process will nevertheless not be completed until the main recommendations of the Board have been discussed and analyzed by the various governing bodies and decisions are taken as to their implementation.

In this respect, we would find it useful to have a representative of the Board of Auditors available for clarification of issues and for responding to questions at meetings of the governing bodies. We look forward to hearing the reaction of the Board to this idea, bearing in mind the need to minimize the cost.

Before entering into a brief review of the most relevant points of interest raised in the reports, I would like to call attention to two issues.

First, in connection with paragraph 5 of the ACABQ report, document A/43/674, where the opinion is expressed that it is the prerogative of the Board to determine the length of its reports, in particular concerning the inclusion of comments from the administrations concerned, we would like to stress that every effort should be made so that reports summarize accurately the viewpoints of the administrations, as well as the replies by the Board.

Second, we note with regret that the study on standardization of the presentation and format of financial statements of all audited organizations and programmes, which was requested in paragraph 9 of Resolution 42/206, has not been delivered. From the introductory statement made by the Chairman of the Board we learn that

the Board considered this subject at its last regular session in June 1988 and agreed to recommend to the General Assembly that this study be entrusted to a task force which would be established among the organizations which are ultimately responsible for the financial reporting. Representatives of the Board could be made available for consultations.

Since this proposal might entail considerable financial implications, we kindly request the Chairman of the Board to provide us with more information about this question, in order to enable us to consider what recommendation to make to the General Assembly.

The report on the financial reports and accounts of the United Nations raises various issues of budgetary control. As regards the question dealing with unliquidated obligations and accounting principles in financial regulation 4.3, we fully agree with the Board's opinion that the criteria followed by the United Nations should be brought into line. The same practice has been noted in UNDP. It seems to us that the analysis of the ACABQ which stresses budgetary principles is compatible with the finding of the Board of Auditors which stress[es] accounting principles. We think that the two bodies should continue their endeavours to find a joint practical solution to this matter.

We fully concur with the ACABQ that the routine charging of salaries of permanent staff members carrying out functions of a continuing nature to the general temporary assistance allotments at ECA and elsewhere should be eliminated.

We also request that the results of the long overdue reorganization of the UN Postal Administration be reflected in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-91.

Mr Chairman, we are pleased to note that the administration concerned has already taken steps to remedy the weaknesses revealed by the Board in the control and physical inventory of expendable and non-expendable property in the United Nations peace-keeping operations. This is encouraging especially in view of developments that are expected to increase significantly UN peace-keeping activities.

In the same report we note with concern failings in budgetary control and project management. Adequate procedures for budgetary control and management do exist. What seems to be lacking is appropriate enforcement mechanisms to ensure compliance with existing procedures.

The Board's qualified audit opinion on the International Trade Centre includes mention of three instances of departure from generally accepted accounting principles and from the UN financial regulations, rules and directives. We welcome the ITC administration's willingness to review the matter.

This year's report on UNDP is again a cause for concern, as the audit opinion is qualified by a number of observations. We find it encouraging that the Board has noted that improvements were made during 1987 and that the UNDP administration has shown its willingness to remedy the situation.

Some of the problems with UNDP are structural in nature. Some of the qualifications will be removed only with the adoption by UNDP of new procedures. We, therefore, encourage the administration to continue to develop proposals for new accounting guidelines where they are necessary, with a view to bringing its financial regulations into line with generally accepted accounting principles. Furthermore, we agree with the recommendations of the Board aimed at ensuring the examination and adoption of the UNDP budget in a more detailed way.

Mr Chairman, we have already mentioned before the need to correct the practice concerning unliquidated obligations. With regard to the certification of programme expenditures executed and reported by the UN executive agencies, we note that discussions are in progress among the various parties concerned, and trust that these will lead to a solution for UNDP as well as for UNFPA.

Turning now to the case of UNICEF, we consider it a very welcome development that as a result of the expanded audit, the Board has now rendered a clear opinion on UNICEF's accounts for 1986. We note that the UNICEF administration has accepted most of the recommendations of the Board, and wish to join the ACABQ in recommending that the administration clarify the remaining differences of opinion between itself and the Board, seeking the guidance thereon of its Executive Board at its 1989 Session. We hope that UNICEF will soon be able to address the problems still remaining to be solved, namely deficiencies in the accounting of voluntary contributions, as well as in the recording of pledges.

Mr Chairman, I will now turn to a question of a more general nature. Mr Chandernagor drew our attention to the fact that the Board came across many cases where expenses of an administrative nature have been charged to and accounted for as project expenditures without proper legislative authority. We must emphasize here that we strongly support the Board's recommendation that the administrations involved enforce a stricter budgetary discipline and exercise a real downward pressure on operating expenses.

Mr Chairman, I would like now to raise a problem to which the Twelve attach particular importance. I speak of the cases of fraud that have been detected within the audited organizations. We expect the administrations of the UN system to adopt the strictest and most effective measures to deal with and prevent cases [of] fraud. The United Nations is too precious to be tainted by such behaviour.

A final point I should raise before concluding my statement concerns the delay in making some of the audit reports available to delegations. This year the voluminous report on UNDP was issued only two days before the item was introduced, which makes in-depth consideration by delegations impossible. We expect an explanation.

In conclusion, the Twelve wish to reiterate our full support to the Board of Auditors, whose dedicated work strengthens the financial well-being of our Organization. We are convinced that the service rendered to the Organization by the Board of Auditors is particularly valuable in this period of resource constraints and reform.

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<sup>1</sup> Agenda item 113.

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**88/355. Statement in the Special Political Committee of the UN  
General Assembly: International Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses  
of Outer Space<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 20 October 1988

Place of Issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

*Mr Ioannou:* Mr Chairman, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community.

The Twelve have repeatedly made clear the importance they attribute to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space [COPUOS] and the international cooperation within its framework. The Twelve note with satisfaction that there was further progress in the work of the Committee and its two Sub-Committees contributing to the gradual enlargement of the principles governing the peaceful exploration and exploitation of outer space as well as to the advancement of the technical and scientific international cooperation in this field. Eight Member States of the Community, which are full members of the Committee, participated in COPUOS and promoted actively the efforts for a new impetus in the work of the Committee.

By their flexible attitude they contributed to the compromise for the formulation of the new agenda item for the Legal Sub-Committee, namely 'Consideration of the legal aspects related to the application of the principle that the exploration and utilization of outer space should be carried out for the benefit and in the interest of all States, taking into particular account the needs of developing countries', as well as to the possibility to deal with the consideration of legal aspects related to the development of exploration and utilization of outer space. Furthermore, they have spared no efforts to advance the work of the Sub-Committee in the other areas of its activity, with emphasis on the important issue of the principles of the use of nuclear power sources in outer space.

The Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee has constantly stressed the necessity of ensuring continuous and effective consultations and coordination in the field of outer space activities among organizations within the UN system. The Twelve have at many instances stressed the important role of COPUOS in elaborating new principles governing space activities and fostering international cooperation on the multifaceted, scientific and technological aspects of these activities. Indeed, they have in various occasions expressed their belief that the maximum benefit to be derived from the exploration, use and exploitation of the space environment and its resources will result from international cooperation, for the benefit and in the interest of all countries. Cooperation can also provide substantial benefits for those countries requiring a variety of space-oriented services. The Twelve have made clear their commitment to international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space by establishing a number of technical and scientific programmes and by assisting in the promotion of multilateral regional and bilateral cooperative activities in the scientific field. In this respect they are committed in the effort to explore possibilities for a more efficient use of all the mechanisms and procedures available through COPUOS.

The Committee has produced a series of international legal instruments covering space activities, the most notable being the Outer Space Treaty of 1967, which constitutes the fundamental instrument of space law and establishes the basic principles observed by all States in their space activities.

With regard to the new agenda item of the Legal Sub-Committee, the Twelve are determined to make a substantial contribution to the envisaged consideration of the relevant legal aspects. The Twelve believe that in order to make this consideration as fruitful and meaningful as possible, it is advisable that the deliberations on this new item should try to discover areas where meaningful consensus is most likely to be achieved.

The Twelve share the concern of the international community about the need to preserve outer space for peaceful activities only. To this end they have supported a number of UN resolutions on the prevention of an arms race in space. However, they believe that the forum of COPUOS should be preserved for examining the legal and technical aspects of peaceful space activities, while other competent organs of the UN system, disposing of the necessary expertise and institutional machinery, would deal with the other aspects of space activities. Furthermore, the Twelve believe that COPUOS through Article IV of the Outer Space Treaty, has already produced a solid principle whose strict application offers the necessary legal context in this respect. Finally, the Twelve believe that the over-all effectiveness of COPUOS should be increased. In fact, some partners have also made proposals for enhancing the efficiency of the work of the Committee.

The Twelve take into consideration the advisability of the UN General Assembly, at its next session, declaring 1992 as International Space Year within existing financial resources. The Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee should consider recommendations regarding possible activities to be undertaken during the International Space Year. Moreover, we note that many countries are already active in coordinating space science and technology efforts for 1992, a year which marks anniversaries of several important national and international events.

The role of information in the context of international space activities becomes more and more important as national and international actors expand their work and further progress is recorded towards the creation of an international space information service, as proposed by the second UN Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. The Twelve express their satisfaction for the progress made in the implementation of the UN Programme on Space Applications during the period 1988-89 and reiterate their wish for space information service to be strengthened and made easily accessible to all countries. They recognize the importance of continuing international efforts to ensure the continuity, compatibility and complementarity of systems for remote sensing of the Earth. Furthermore, they have put under their aegis a number of training projects in remote sensing which would benefit developing countries. They have also promoted the exchange of technical information between a broad spectrum of countries. With respect to proposals for the establishment of new institutions, the Twelve are of the view that, before creating new and costly bureaucratic machinery, existing mechanisms of international cooperation should be further developed. In this context, the Twelve do not share the view that new organs should be created. Efforts in financial and human power should be put into the maximum use of existing mechanisms rather than in the establishment of new ones.

Mr Chairman, at this moment a much improved international climate reflects favourably on the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and will contribute to the establishment of peace, international cooperation and mutual responsibility as guiding principles for man's presence in outer space. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

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<sup>1</sup> Agenda item 78.

### **88/356. Statement in the Second Committee of the UN General Assembly: External Debt Crisis and Development<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 20 October 1988

Place of Issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

*Mr Papadatos:* Mr Chairman, on behalf of the Member States of the European Community I would like to take the floor on agenda item 83: the external debt crisis and development.

In 1982, a period of heavy lending to developing countries ended in the face of a widespread payments disruption. A serious disruption of international trade and finance was averted by decisive efforts by debtors, creditors, central banks, governments and multilateral institutions. Their response was based on a cooperative approach which evolved as the debt strategy. Its elements were official liquidity support, commitment to free trade and world growth and a mix of debtor country adjustment with conditional finance properly placed under multilateral oversight. The strategy was designed to deal with the special circumstances of different debtor countries. The process of managing the debt problem evolved rooted in commonly accepted principles of financial relations with two long-term goals:

- a) to improve the developing countries' economic and financial performance with a view towards sustaining growth and, over time, restoring the credit-worthiness of individual debtor countries; and
- b) to reduce the vulnerability of the international credit system to risk on loans made to developing countries.

*Where we stand today — the record*

The dangers of a disruption of international trade and finance have been clearly reduced, partly as a result of the vigour of the economies of certain countries. Moreover, policies designed to promote relative exchange-rate stability have proved useful. The overall situation, however, is still one where systematic risks are present. We should also keep our attention on the 'broader picture'. Debtor countries have made some strides in improving both their policies and economic performance against strong countervailing forces. Progress particularly as regards growth in GDP and per capita GDP has been uneven and in some respects disappointing. For our purpose we can distinguish three categories of debtor developing countries:

- a) some which have successfully borrowed as part of their development process and have successfully managed their debt without major difficulties;
- b) the poorest which have encountered severe difficulties in servicing their mostly official debt; and
- c) a number of highly indebted middle-income countries which continue to have difficulties in servicing their external commercial debt and generating the investment necessary for sustainable growth.

Some countries have recently exhibited distinctly better growth patterns in the context of inflation performance. Key ratios of external interest payments to exports were falling in 1987 in many developing countries.

Finally, more than two hundred billion of existing debt has been restructured to the mutual benefit of debtor and creditor countries. We note that in the process a number of innovations have come about in the terms and conditions of the restructured debt.

The need was recognized for the strategy to develop differentiated approaches for the low-income debt-distressed and the heavily indebted middle-income countries. For the former, a number of encouraging steps were recently taken by official creditors and the financial institutions. Official creditors hold some 85% of the outstanding debt of the small low-income countries. They have a central role to play in easing the condition of these poorest countries. We have taken the lead in arguing for special debt-relief measures for the poorest countries undertaking internationally approved adjustment programmes. Participants in the Toronto Economic Summit reached agreement on proposals whereby creditors have a choice of methods of providing exceptional help when such countries seek rescheduling in the Paris Club. We welcome the completion in the Paris Club of arrangements for implementing these proposals. The financial institutions, while giving growing attention to the social impact of adjustment policies, especially on the poorest segments of the population, have also made significant progress. The World Bank, through its special assistance programme and its co-financing scheme with bilateral donors, has taken important steps in favour of low-income debt-distressed countries particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. The Fund has established the Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility and its Members have tripled the resources available for that purpose.

The external indebtedness of African countries is constraining recovery and development in the continent. The burden of debt is particularly heavy in view of the economic situation of many of the countries of the region and their low levels of income. Debt servicing draws substantially on scarce financial resources that otherwise could be used for development in the region. Substantial concessional flows are needed for the region to enable it to cope with its serious difficulties.

The recently concluded work of the *Ad Hoc* Committee of the General Assembly on the Review and Appraisal of UNPAAERD has adopted recommendations aimed at improving the overall indebtedness of the African countries which should be urgently pursued by all of the international community.

With respect to the middle-income indebted countries, an imaginative use of all possibilities available within the 'menu' approach is called for. The problem faced by these countries is not a simple one of failure to adjust. In many cases these countries have achieved major improvements in their trade balances, often despite adverse movements in their terms of trade. But their economies have not yet grown sufficiently to create adequate employment opportunities for their work force. Voluntary debt reduction has a significant role to play within the menu approach in strengthening the overall medium-term framework for promoting genuinely growth-oriented adjustment. Private participation in helping debt reduction should carry the risk on its own and this risk should not be transferred even partially to public agencies.

We are now at an important stage in the evolution of the debt strategy. The Secretary-General eloquently reminded us of that fact yesterday, in this room. The question of how to deal with the shortcomings that have emerged over the past several years must be addressed. The overall indebtedness of troubled debtor countries has, nevertheless, persisted and has increased. Credible growth-oriented adjustment programmes that can help restore domestic and foreign confidence remain necessary. Investment has remained depressed and the pace of structural adjustment in trade and production is slow. The need to increase domestic savings, necessary for productive investment, has grown rather than shrunk, particularly for countries having to make large interest payments on external debt.

It is recognized that in cases where the debt burdens are seriously impairing GDP growth and fiscal balances it is in the interest of both creditors and debtors to find ways of alleviating them, albeit no agreement generally exists on how to measure cases of 'over-indebtedness' and how to ensure that debt relief effectively translates in investment or alleviates the plight of the poor.

Evidence points out that the initial cooperative structure on debt management worked well in the beginning. Over subsequent years, however, implementation of adjustment programmes has often been politically and socially difficult. The IMF, the World Bank and the Regional Development Banks are trying to deal flexibly with these difficulties, but in many cases the severity of the debt problem persists. We are also fully aware of the particular difficulties faced by newly elected democratic governments or countries in the process of democratization.

#### *The 'broader picture' and the Second Committee of the United Nations*

The United Nations have a major role in supporting efforts for international agreement on concerted action for the promotion of global developments. United Nations documentation should facilitate the process, the dialogue, and the negotiations and resolutions should help contribute to the formation of an international consensus. The Second Committee is and has always been a forum for the interplay of ideas and initiatives. They matter, and over time their impact appears to change our preceptions.

The issue of debt has become a common topic in our discussions inside and outside the UN. It is on the global agenda. Countries and groups of countries have set out their positions in comprehensive fashion on this issue. I refer, in particular, to recent speeches at the Plenary of the General Assembly where Heads of State and Ministers have spoken repeatedly on the subject with a sense of urgency. Some of them went as far as to unveil concrete proposals.

Mr Chairman, debt is not an isolated subject in the international economic scene. It attracts public attention around the world. The increasing interdependence in international economic

matters has consequences for the livelihood of millions around the world and for our children and grandchildren. It appears that changing perceptions and thinking are bringing the subjects of economic analysis of the issues more in line with political realities. We support an open and comprehensive dialogue within the United Nations aimed at debating the debt problem and its far-reaching ramifications.

We are at a forum where problems of the world economy are considered in a constructive manner and where political impulses emerge.

#### *Towards a broadened 'menu approach'*

The international strategy has proved to be flexible in adapting to the special circumstances of different debtor countries. The approach should work to the mutual interest of creditors and debtors to assure a joint responsibility to the implementation of the strategy.

There is a growing consensus that further evolution of the debt strategy will be required to achieve the financial and economic recovery of the debtor countries. In this area there are growing indications that an expanded framework is under serious consideration by large private banks, governments, financial institutions and within the UN system itself. In this respect many recent initiatives have been taken. It was agreed to broaden further the menu approach. The major value of these techniques is that they are market oriented and constitute voluntary arrangements that can engender new financial flows and reduce the existing stock of debt. We hope that these efforts will succeed within the context of sustained growth and development. In the recent meeting of the IMF and the World Bank in Berlin, the President of the World Bank in his speech pointed out the need for a pragmatic evolutionary approach to the debt crisis in the heavily indebted middle-income countries. His prescription for debt was provision of financial support by catalysing new money and facilitating voluntary debt reduction, without shifting commercial bank debt to the official sector. Similarly, the main points of the Chairman of the Board of the IMF were that the provision of new money by the banking community remains essential and that at the same time debt-reduction operations have to form a significant part of financing-packages. Moreover, the medium-term growth outlook of middle-income countries would improve as the share of the national product and of the external resources allocated to debt repayment would revert to more tolerable levels. For these countries adequate resources must become available. As the Twelve have already stated in Berlin, international direct investment can also play an important role in spurring economic growth and promoting structural adjustment in developing countries, while at the same time contributing to alleviating the burden of servicing their debt obligations. We share the views expressed recently in the Development Committee over the decline in overall flows to developing countries and the negative net transfer to some of them. It was also reiterated that enlarged flows of all types of financial resources to developing countries are needed for economic growth, poverty reduction, structural adjustment, resolution of debt difficulties and environmental conservation. We urge developing countries to implement policies appropriate for encouraging investment. Such policies would also make an important contribution to preventing and possibly reversing capital flight.

Within the framework of the evolution of the debt strategy, several proposals have been put on the table by governments. We support the urgent consideration of the proposal to establish a mechanism, financed by voluntary contributions, to alleviate on a concessional basis the outstanding World Bank debt of low-income countries that are pursuing reform measures. Most recently in the general debate of our Assembly a suggestion was made by the Head of one of our Member States to the effect of creating a guarantee mechanism for the repayment of commercial debt converted into security.

We are giving all such proposals — many of which have yet to be explained in detail — careful consideration. The broader implications of a reduction of commercial bank debt for the economies of the highly indebted middle-income countries are explored in the Secretary-General's report. A number of benefits for the economies of these countries and for those of the

industrialized ones are also outlined in the same report. Most importantly, the credit-worthiness of troubled debtors should be restored. A debt strategy that cannot hold out the hope of renewed debtor access to market sources of external finance is no strategy at all. We understand that the 'Baker 15' debt reduction model in the Secretary-General's report does not in any way imply a forced writing-down of even a part of the debt. Such a proposal would run the clear risks of inevitably and fatally crushing the prospects for fresh money-financing [which is] so central to the growth prospects of troubled debtors.

In concluding, Mr Chairman, both the official and the commercial bank financing components of the strategy need continuous adjustment to changing circumstances. The broadened menu approach should appeal to the diverse needs of individual debtor countries. Strong and well funded official institutions are necessary, not only because they can provide financing to close the gaps, but [because they] themselves are centres of policy coordination. In many developing countries, growth rates are still below the potential increases in output that those economies can accommodate. Efforts from their part to address macro-economic and micro-economic reform must persist. However, our commitment to the community of interests must remain as the cornerstone to manage the debt problem. Differing views on the best tactics to deal with the difficulties of the problem of debt, it seems, are beginning to converge when moving towards the basic goals of sustained growth, restored access to financing, and reduced risk.

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<sup>1</sup> Agenda item 83.

**88/357. Question No 2236/87 by Mr Perinat Elio (ED-E)  
Concerning the Annual European Community-Latin America  
Meeting**

Date of Issue: 21 October 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 4 February 1988

In the wake of the recent summit of Latin American Heads of State in Acapulco, Mexico, a mechanism has been introduced for the future institutionalization of the Group of Eight, which is now expected to meet annually.

Given that this institutionalization marks an essential step forward in political 'maturity and imagination' (to quote the President of Mexico) on the part of the countries represented at the summit, it may be asked whether the European Community would be willing to invite the Group of Eight to hold a joint annual meeting with the Heads of State or Government of the Member States of our Community.

Could the Ministers indicate their feelings on the subject, and state whether they are willing to take steps towards holding an annual meeting, at the highest level, between the European Community and the Group of Eight?

*Answer:*

From the outset, the Twelve welcomed the holding of the summit meeting of the Heads of State of the eight Latin American countries in Acapulco on 27 and 28 November 1987. In this sense, the Twelve are supporting the efforts of the Group of Eight aimed at promoting peace, development and democracy by means of regional cooperation.

The Twelve have, moreover, initiated a dialogue with the Group of Eight on all subjects of mutual interest. In this connection, a third ministerial meeting will be held in New York on 28 September 1988.



**88/358. Question No 195/88 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E) Concerning Missing Persons in Guatemala**

Date of Issue: 21 October 1988  
 Place of Issue: Strasbourg  
 Country of Presidency: Greece  
 Source of Document: Presidency  
 Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 17 May 1988

Can the Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation take advantage of the present favourable situation in Central America to investigate the cases of Tomás Tujil Cocon, aged 25, a preacher of the Evangelical Church; Reyes Anibal Arizandieta, a member of a Christian community, kidnapped on 16 November 1987; and José Ruiz Ramirez and José Velázquez García, Catholic activists, kidnapped on 29 October 1987 on the San Basilio Estate, Rio Bravo municipality in the department of Suchitepequez (Guatemala), all of whose whereabouts are unknown?

*Answer:*

The Honourable Member is referred to the reply to his Written Question No 671/88<sup>1</sup> on the same subject.

<sup>1</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 88/277.

**88/359. Question No 362/88 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E) Concerning the Poisoning of Opposition Members in Iraq**

Date of Issue: 21 October 1988  
 Place of Issue: Strasbourg  
 Country of Presidency: Greece  
 Source of Document: Presidency  
 Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 9 June 1988

Are the Foreign Ministers meeting in European political cooperation aware that, at the end of 1987, the security forces used thallium to poison a group of Kurds opposed to the Government of Iraq, causing the death of some of them? Does it know whether such methods have been used in recent years in that country? Has it done anything to condemn such atrocities and prevent their recurrence?

*Answer:*

As was outlined in the answer to Written Question No 842/88 by Ms André<sup>1</sup>, the Twelve have consistently condemned any use of chemical weapons and have expressed their concern about military action against the Kurdish civilian population most recently in their declaration of 7 September 1988<sup>2</sup>. If the reports of poisoning are true, then the use of thallium can be considered no less excusable than that of chemical warfare agents.

<sup>1</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 88/360 below.

<sup>2</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 88/249.

**88/360. Question No 842/88 by Ms André (LDR-B) Concerning the Use of Deadly Gases by Iraq**

Date of Issue: 21 October 1988  
 Place of Issue: Strasbourg  
 Country of Presidency: Greece  
 Source of Document: Presidency  
 Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 1 September 1988

In recent months the press has widely reported the use of deadly chemical gases by the Iraqi army against the Kurdish population.

What is the position of the Foreign Ministers meeting in European political cooperation on this clear violation of the conventions of war?

*Answer:*

The Twelve have been and are following closely the situation of the Kurds.

In their recent declaration of 7 September 1988<sup>1</sup> they expressed their great concern about the military action against the Kurdish civilian population in the aftermath of the cease-fire in the Iraq-Iran war and called for the cessation of such action.

They confirmed their strong condemnation of any use of chemical weapons and called for respect of international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Protocol of 1925 and of Resolutions 612 and 620 of the United Nations Security Council.

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<sup>1</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 88/249.

**88/361. Question No 867/88 by Mr Newton Dunn (ED-UK)  
Concerning the Ill-Treatment of the Hungarian Minority in Romania**

Date of Issue: 21 October 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 1 September 1988

It is well known that the cultural identity of the Hungarian minority in Romania is under attack by the Romanian authorities on a scale and with a severity which amounts to deliberate persecution.

Can the Ministers state whether Political Cooperation among the Twelve has resulted in political and humanitarian initiatives being taken in this area in respect of a government which is a signatory of the Helsinki Agreements and their Third Basket? What results have been achieved to date?

*Answer:*

The Twelve's preoccupation with human rights in Romania, including those of national minorities, is well known to the Honourable Member from the answers to his questions Nos H-929/87<sup>1</sup>, H-93/88<sup>2</sup> and H-98/88<sup>3</sup>. Since June of this year when the latter question was answered, the Twelve have made clear to the Romanian Government their preoccupation with certain aspects of the so-called systematization programme, without positive response so far. On 7 September 1988, the Greek Ambassador to Bucharest carried out a *démarche* on behalf of the Twelve expressing their concern at the so-called systematization programme to the Romanian Government. The Head of the Greek CSCE Delegation in Vienna made a statement on behalf of the Twelve in the Plenary Session on 23 September 1988 on this programme. Furthermore, Members of the Twelve have bilaterally expressed their serious concern with the probable implications of this rural resettlement policy.

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<sup>1</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 88/069.

<sup>2</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 88/118.

<sup>3</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 88/165.

### **88/362. Question No 966/88 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E) Concerning Commutation of the Death Penalty in Indonesia**

Date of Issue: 21 October 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 1 September 1988

In the light of the declaration made by the Supreme Court of Indonesia on 21 January of this year to the effect that the death penalty is incompatible with the Constitution's five basic principles ('Panchasila'), do not the Foreign Ministers consider it opportune to request President Suharto to commute the death penalty in the case of the 30 individuals now awaiting execution?

*Answer:*

The Honourable Member's question has not been broached in European political cooperation.

### **88/363. Question No 976/88 by Mr Pordea (DR-F) Concerning the Danger of European Neutralism in East-West Relations**

Date of Issue: 21 October 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 1 September 1988

Prompted by the new US-Soviet policy on East-West relations and so-called progressive 'Europeanism', the present negotiations between the EEC and the Comecon Member States appear to be steering the Community towards a policy of pacifist neutralism in this area which, given its emotional appeal, is liable from the outset to sacrifice the peoples of Eastern Europe under Soviet domination.

Following the signing of the EEC-Comecon joint declaration and in view of the imminent conclusion of bilateral agreements which will in practice favour communism, at least in economic and cultural terms, what specific guarantees does the Community intend to seek, or indeed to impose in this case on its future partners, to ensure, in the interest of the free world as a whole, that this 'new Western approach' i.e. the 'European' non-alignment which is now emerging, does not coincide with the Soviet Union's manifest plans for global hegemony?

*Answer:*

The EEC-CMEA joint declaration, as well as bilateral agreements between the EEC and countries referred to in the question, have been or are being discussed in the Community framework.

The Twelve are paying much attention to the developments currently taking place in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. This is evident *inter alia* from their declaration on East-West relations, issued in Luxembourg on 13 June 1988<sup>1</sup> by the Foreign Ministers. In this declaration the Twelve welcome them and express the hope that these changes will contribute to openings in the political systems of these countries, both towards the citizens of these States and towards the outside world.

They are hopeful that such policies will contribute to a lasting improvement in East-West relations. Foreign Ministers state that the Twelve for their part are willing to use such opportunities constructively.

The European Council, in the conclusions on East-West relations<sup>2</sup> from its meeting in Hanover on 27-28 June, welcomed the more outward-looking attitude now being shown by

Eastern European countries in their economic contacts with the West, as witnessed by the establishment and development of relations with the Community. The European Council stated that this should be encouraged as contributing to the wider opening up of their economies and societies.

<sup>1</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 88/146.

<sup>2</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 88/181.

**88/364. Question No 1152/88 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E)  
Concerning the Release of Mr Mehdi Zana, Former Mayor of  
Diyarbakir**

Date of Issue: 21 October 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 1 September 1988

Have the Foreign Ministers meeting in European political cooperation recently made any representations to the Turkish Government with a view to securing the release of Mr Zana, as called for in the European Parliament's resolution of 21 January 1988 (doc. B 2-1631/87)<sup>1</sup>?

*Answer:*

The Twelve are closely following the human rights situation in Turkey. They have on several occasions expressed their concern to the Turkish authorities, who are well aware of the position of the Twelve in this matter. The Twelve have noted that Turkey signed the Council of Europe Convention and the United Nations Convention against torture. They expect that the international conventions to which Turkey freely acceded, and human rights, will be rigorously observed.

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

<sup>1</sup> *OJ* No C 346 of 22 February 1988, pp. 91-92.

**88/365. Question No 1153/88 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E)  
Concerning Threats Against Bishop Casaldáliga in Brazil**

Date of Issue: 21 October 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 1 September 1988

Can the Foreign Ministers meeting in European political cooperation make representations to the competent authorities in Brazil with a view to protecting the life of the Bishop of São Félix do Araguaia, Pedro Casaldáliga, who is the protector of the poor in his area, whom the military dictatorship has, on five occasions, attempted to expel from the country, who has been arrested several times, who has seen a number of his assistants murdered, whose archives have been broken into and ransacked, whose newsletters have been tampered with before publication, and whose life, together with that of other priests and pastoral workers in his diocese, has been frequently threatened, with a reward being openly offered for his death?

*Answer:*

The Honourable Member is well aware of the position of the Twelve as expressed in their declaration of 21 July 1986<sup>1</sup> on the observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms throughout the world.

In this context, the Twelve have taken note of the information which the Honourable Member conveyed to them in his question.

<sup>1</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 86/230.

### **88/366. Statement Concerning the Horn of Africa**

Date of Issue: 24 October 1988  
Place of Issue: Luxembourg  
Country of Presidency: Greece  
Source of Document: The Twelve  
Status of Document: Declaration

The Twelve have been monitoring closely developments in the Horn of Africa. They wish to see conditions for peace, security, stability and social and economic development prevail in an important region of Africa, and one where the Twelve have long-standing ties and interests. In this connection, the Twelve are determined to pursue their constructive role in the area.

They reiterate their conviction that problems in the region can only be solved by peaceful means and through negotiated political settlements, based on respect for territorial integrity, independence and the other principles of the UN Charter, ensuring where appropriate the full exercise of effective and genuine forms of regional autonomy.

On this basis, they welcome the 3 April 1988 Agreement between Ethiopia and Somalia. They have been encouraged by the progress made in this framework and urge the two countries to pursue the settlement of the remaining border questions.

They also express their satisfaction at the improvement of relations between Ethiopia and Sudan and call on the parties to take further steps which could lead to constructive cooperation between the two countries.

Nevertheless, the Twelve remain concerned about the persistence of internal conflicts and the resulting hardship and loss of human lives. They urge the governments concerned to take further steps to achieve the peaceful settlement of these conflicts, through a genuine process of national reconciliation. They further urge these governments to ensure respect for human rights in their countries. In this context they welcome recent releases of political prisoners in Ethiopia.

The Community and its Member States also remain deeply concerned at the extent of food shortages, human suffering as well as at the terrible plight of refugees. They have already provided massive food and other emergency aid, in addition to their considerable contribution in development assistance. They will continue this course of action, with the aim of promoting long-term development based on sound economic strategies. In this connection the Community and its Member States attach importance to regional cooperation, IGADD being a good example.

Finally the Twelve reaffirm their wish to pursue an active dialogue with the countries of the region.

### **88/367. Statement Concerning Namibia**

Date of Issue: 24 October 1988  
Place of Issue: Luxembourg  
Country of Presidency: Greece  
Source of Document: The Twelve  
Status of Document: Declaration

The Twelve remain committed to Namibia's independence in accordance with the United Nations Settlement Plan endorsed by UN Security Council Resolution 435 (1978) and have repeatedly called for its implementation without further delay or conditions. In this respect, they reiterate their wholehearted support to the important role and efforts of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

The Twelve express their satisfaction at the ongoing negotiations among Angola, Cuba and South Africa, mediated by the United States, which they support, and are gratified with the encouraging progress achieved so far. They wish that these developments will make the early implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 435 possible.

The Community and its Member States have already provided the Namibian people with assistance in various fields, including educational, training and professional secondment aid, humanitarian aid and self-help projects in favour of Namibian refugees, as well as support for victims of apartheid there. They reiterate their readiness to continue and, if necessary, expand their aid to the Namibian people with a view to securing a smooth transition to independence.

Furthermore, the Community and its Member States reaffirm their intention to assist Namibia economically in a substantial way once it becomes independent. In this connection, they are looking forward to receiving from an independent Namibia an application for association to the Lomé Convention.

**88/368. Déclaration à la Cinquième commission de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies: examen de l'efficacité du fonctionnement administratif et financier de l'Organisation des Nations Unies et budget-programme de l'exercice biennal 1988-1989<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 24 October 1988

Place of Issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

*Mr Rallis:* Monsieur le Président, j'ai l'honneur de prendre la parole au nom des douze États membres de la Communauté européenne.

Les Douze voudraient tout d'abord remercier le Secrétaire général adjoint M. Ahtisaari pour son excellente introduction des rapports A/43/286 et Corr.1, sur la mise en œuvre de la résolution 41/213 et A/ C.5/43/1/Rév.1 sur les montants estimatifs révisés pour le budget-programme 1988-1989, notamment ceux liés à l'application de la recommandation 15 du Groupe des Dix-Huit. Ils voudraient adresser aussi leurs remerciements à l'Ambassadeur Mselle, Président du C.C.Q.A.B., et M. Murray, Président du C.P.C., pour leurs présentations des rapports de ces deux comités. Cette intervention portera uniquement sur les questions présentées par le Secrétaire général adjoint M. Ahtisaari. Nous nous réservons le droit d'intervenir ultérieurement sur d'autres aspects de ces deux points de l'ordre du jour, y compris les dépenses additionnelles proposées par le Secrétariat.

Monsieur le Président, il n'est pas nécessaire de rappeler ici l'importance que les Douze attachent au processus de réforme initié par l'adoption de la résolution 41/213. Comme nous l'avons dit l'année passée, le débat sur la réforme et sur le budget-programme 1988-1989 va au-delà de l'adoption des mesures purement techniques et vise à une amélioration réelle du fonctionnement et de l'efficacité de notre Organisation.

Monsieur le Président, l'objectif de cette réforme n'est pas de réduire aveuglément les dépenses et les activités des Nations Unies mais, en créant une Organisation plus simple et plus cohérente, d'améliorer son efficacité à traiter des problèmes politiques, économiques et sociaux qui se posent dans le monde d'aujourd'hui. Comme le Secrétaire général dans son rapport A/43/286, les Douze pensent que tous les États membres doivent apporter, pour que le

processus de réforme porte ses fruits, leur appui politique et financier à l'Organisation. Pour ce qui les concerne, les Douze, qui contribuent pratiquement pour un tiers des ressources du budget ordinaire des Nations Unies, ont amplement prouvé leur soutien à la fois politique et financier à l'Organisation. Notre attitude a été renforcée et encouragée par l'engagement de l'Organisation dans le processus de la réforme. Nous pensons que celle-ci doit être poursuivie dans son ensemble et menée à son terme.

Le rapport du Secrétaire général A/43/286 est un témoignage éloquent des efforts faits pour appliquer le mandat qui lui a été confié par l'Assemblée générale dans son domaine de compétence. Des progrès ont été réalisés dans la réduction des dépenses de fonctionnement comme les frais de voyage et les consultants. Les Douze se félicitent de cette tendance et souhaitent que l'on continue dans cette voie. En outre, comme nous l'a indiqué Monsieur Ahtisaari, un certain nombre de réformes de structure ont été effectuées dans les secteurs politique et administratif du Secrétariat. Les Douze se réjouissent de la suite ainsi donnée aux recommandations du Groupe des Dix-Huit. Dans la mesure où ces recommandations concernent le Secrétaire général en tant que chef du Secrétariat, les Douze voudraient rappeler ici leur soutien et leur attachement au principe du respect de l'autorité du Secrétaire général tel que défini par la Charte et reconnu par la résolution 41/213. Nous jugeons positives les mesures prises par le Secrétaire général et nous l'encourageons à poursuivre ses efforts pour améliorer davantage le fonctionnement de l'Organisation.

Les recommandations du Groupe des Dix-Huit s'adressent également aux organes intergouvernementaux. Les Douze constatent avec regret que la mise en œuvre de la réforme dans ce domaine n'a pas été aussi prompte et approfondie. Ils notent par exemple les résultats décevants de la Commission spéciale du Conseil économique et social chargée de l'étude du fonctionnement du secteur économique et social. Il reste encore beaucoup à faire de la part des organes intergouvernementaux pour améliorer leur fonctionnement et rationaliser leurs méthodes de travail, ainsi que le calendrier de leurs réunions dans le cadre de la recommandation 8 du Groupe des Dix-Huit. Il est évident que la réforme de l'appareil intergouvernemental aura des conséquences sur la structure du Secrétariat, mais les Douze pensent qu'il n'est pas nécessaire que le Secrétaire général attende ces résultats pour prendre les mesures qu'il juge appropriées.

Venant maintenant au document A/C.5/43/1/Rév.1 concernant l'application de la recommandation 15 du Groupe des Dix-Huit, les Douze voudraient tout d'abord remercier le Secrétaire général et ses collaborateurs pour les propositions formulées dans ce rapport. Nous comprenons que ces propositions sont le fruit d'une étude approfondie à laquelle toutes les parties concernées du Secrétariat ont pu participer. Les Douze admettent que l'exercice de réduction des postes est une tâche difficile et délicate. Le résultat ne correspond pas totalement à ce qu'aurait souhaité chaque État membre. Nous considérons cependant qu'il existe une véritable volonté politique, comme le montre le rapport du C.P.C. pour arriver à un accord sur cette question difficile. Nous constatons que le C.C.Q.A.B. a également endossé dans une large mesure les propositions du Secrétaire général. Les Douze considèrent les recommandations formulées par les deux comités comme un bon point de départ et ils sont convaincus que la Cinquième commission parviendra à un accord encore plus large.

Dans cet esprit, les Douze ne souhaitent pas rouvrir la question du tableau des effectifs du Département des services de conférence. Ils sont prêts à accepter la recommandation du C.P.C. de réduire de 10 pour cent les effectifs des services de conférence, telle que formulée dans le paragraphe 36 de son rapport. Ils notent que, selon le Secrétariat, il ne serait pas nécessaire d'inscrire des crédits supplémentaires au budget en cours. Ils attachent de l'importance au respect de l'enveloppe budgétaire approuvée. Ils appuient le contenu du rapport complémentaire du C.C.Q.A.B. (document A/43/651/Add.1) sur les moyens de compenser les dépenses additionnelles qui résulteraient de la recommandation du C.P.C.

Monsieur le Président, un autre point important de la révision des estimations budgétaires pour 1988-89 est la restructuration du Département de l'information. Nous apprécions les efforts

du Secrétaire général pour améliorer le fonctionnement et l'organisation de ce Département. Nous sommes préoccupés par les modifications apportées au projet initial de la restructuration et le retard dans sa mise en œuvre. Les recommandations du C.C.Q.A.B. sur ce point méritent notre attention, y compris la proposition d'une nouvelle étude approfondie *avant* 1992 que nous approuvons. Nous considérons qu'il ne faut pas perdre de vue que l'objectif de la restructuration est d'améliorer l'efficacité du Département de l'information qui pose des problèmes depuis longtemps. Dans ce contexte, l'intérêt des utilisateurs pour les produits du Département devrait être l'un des principaux critères d'évaluation.

Monsieur le Président, dans son introduction, le Secrétaire général adjoint a attiré notre attention sur les paragraphes 23 et 24 du rapport A/C.5/43/1/Rév.1. Les Douze pensent comme lui que la réduction en volume de certaines activités n'est pas incompatible avec l'amélioration de la qualité des programmes. La réforme est d'une importance cruciale pour l'avenir des Nations Unies. Elle reflète la volonté collective des États membres. Des progrès ont été enregistrés dans sa mise en œuvre. Elle doit être poursuivie afin de donner à l'Organisation les nouvelles bases sur lesquelles celle-ci pourra répondre avec plus d'efficacité et de dynamisme aux besoins des États membres. Merci, Monsieur le Président.

<sup>1</sup> Points 49 et 114 de l'ordre du jour.

**88/369. Question No 942/87 by Mr McMillan-Scott (ED-UK), Mr Hitzigraht (S-D), Mr Newman (S-UK) and Ms Boot (PPE-NL)  
Concerning the Ratification by the Community Member States of the  
Council of Europe Convention of 24 November 1983 on  
Compensation for Victims of Violent Crimes**

Date of Issue: 24 October 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 27 March 1988

In recent years the Community has seen an alarming rise in the number of terrorist attacks within its borders, leading to deaths and horrific injuries such as those suffered by the authors of petition No 24/86: Mr and Ms W.D. Hunter and Mr and Ms P. Smith, without expectation of compensation.

The victims in such cases are unable to rely on insurance contracts, which in most cases contain a general exclusion in respect of terrorist activities unless the incident takes place in a Member State with comprehensive compensation provisions.

In order to help these victims the Council of Europe has drawn up, at the request of the European Parliament, a convention providing for compensation for victims of violent crimes. However, the convention has yet to enter into force because it must be ratified by at least three of the contracting parties and, as yet, only two countries have done so.

Would the Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation agree to:

1. consider the matter as part of their ongoing discussions on joint measures to combat terrorism;
2. urge their respective governments to initiate the relevant ratification procedures?

*Answer:*

The Presidency can inform the Honourable Member that the Council of Europe Convention of 24 November 1983 on compensation for victims of violent crimes has already been ratified by three Member States.

As the convention must be ratified by at least three of the Contracting Parties, the conditions for its entry into force have now been fulfilled.



**88/370. Question No 2579/87 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E)  
Concerning Conscientious Objectors in Israel**

Date of Issue: 24 October 1988  
Place of Issue: Strasbourg  
Country of Presidency: Greece  
Source of Document: Presidency  
Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 28 March 1988

Have the Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation concerned themselves with the problem of conscientious objectors in Israel?

*Answer:*

The specific question raised by the Honourable Parliamentarian has not been discussed in European political cooperation.

The Israeli Government, however, is well aware of the position of the Twelve on human rights.

**88/371. Question No 2672/87 by Mr Robles Piquer (ED-E)  
Concerning the Situation of the Turkish Minority in Bulgaria**

Date of Issue: 24 October 1988  
Place of Issue: Strasbourg  
Country of Presidency: Greece  
Source of Document: Presidency  
Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 14 March 1988

Can the Foreign Ministers provide reliable information on the situation of Muslims of Turkish origin in Bulgaria, including information on their numbers and the extent to which their human rights are respected?

*Answer:*

As stated in the answer to Written Question No 2195/87<sup>1</sup> from Mr Glinne, to which I would like to refer the Honourable Member, the Twelve follow the human rights situation for minorities also in Bulgaria. They have not, however, established common data enabling them to answer the question with the desired degree of precision. The Twelve note, however, that under the Bulgarian-Turkish Protocol concluded on 23 February 1988, both sides agreed to set up working groups to discuss bilateral questions. The Twelve hope that this dialogue will lead to concrete results and an improvement of Bulgarian-Turkish relations.

<sup>1</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 88/099.

**88/372. Question No 2742/87 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E)  
Concerning Political Activists who Have 'Disappeared' in the  
Philippines**

Date of Issue: 24 October 1988  
Place of Issue: Strasbourg  
Country of Presidency: Greece  
Source of Document: Presidency  
Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 25 March 1988

Have the Foreign Ministers meeting in European political cooperation sought any information on the fate of the activists belonging to the Alliance of New Politicians (ANP), a left-wing

coalition which took part in the 1987 elections, who have 'disappeared' since last February? Has the Philippine Government Human Rights Commission's promised investigation, which it was encouraged to undertake by the Foreign Ministry, achieved any results?

*Answer:*

The matter raised by the Honourable Member has not been discussed in European political cooperation. However, the Philippine authorities are well aware of the position of the Twelve on human rights.

**88/373. Question No 2746/87 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E)  
Concerning the Imprisonment of the Indonesian Muslim Preacher,  
Mawardi Noor**

Date of Issue: 24 October 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 25 March 1988

Have the Ministers for Foreign Affairs meeting in European political cooperation any new information on the Indonesian muslim preacher and former member of parliament, Mawardi Noor, who is still serving a fourteen-year prison sentence for 'subversion' imposed in January 1986?

*Answer:*

The matter raised by the Honourable Member has not been discussed in European political cooperation. However, the position of the Twelve on human rights is well known to the Honourable Member.

**88/374. Question No 2883/87 by Mr Rubert de Ventos (S-E)  
Concerning the Supplies of Basic Foodstuffs to Romania**

Date of Issue: 24 October 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 8 April 1988

Are the Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation aware of the restriction imposed by the Romanian Government to the effect that only those Romanians who have parents or children living in a Western country are allowed to receive parcels from the West? Are they aware that restrictions on supplies of basic foodstuffs from non-governmental organizations in the West constitute a violation of the Helsinki Final Act? What steps will they take?

*Answer:*

The Twelve are fully aware of the restrictions which have been introduced in Romania with regard to reception by Romanian citizens of parcels from abroad. They have made known to the Romanian authorities their serious concerns in this regard. The Romanian authorities in the meantime no longer insist that parcels can only be received by relatives from abroad.

**88/375. Question No 232/88 by Mr Hänsch (S-D) Concerning the Application to Emigrate from the USSR to Israel Made by Boris Chernobilsky and his Family**

Date of Issue: 24 October 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 25 May 1988

1. Are the Foreign Ministers aware of the case of Boris Chernobilsky who applied in 1976 to emigrate from the USSR to Israel with his family for which permission has not yet been granted?

2. Are the Foreign Ministers prepared to make representations to the Soviet authorities in this case, which is particularly severe as Mr Chernobilsky is officially prohibited from working in the USSR and his family, including three children who are still minors, are subject to constant pressures?

*Answer:*

Earlier this year the Presidency of the Twelve raised the particular case of Mr Chernobilsky — together with a number of other cases of 'refuseniks' — with Soviet authorities in the context of the CSCE Follow-Up Meeting in Vienna. Whereas certain other cases in the meantime have been resolved, Mr Chernobilsky has not been given an exit visa.

The Twelve have on many occasions, in Vienna and elsewhere, stated their firm belief that the right to freedom of movement is embodied in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which the Soviet Union is a party. This right is also embodied in the Helsinki Final Act and other CSCE documents. In Vienna, the Twelve are pressing to ensure better implementation of these commitments, freely entered into, as well as new commitments in this field.

**88/376. Statement at the Plenary Session of the UN General Assembly: Cooperation Between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 25 October 1988

Place of Issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

*Mr Zepos:* Mr President, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Community and its twelve Member States.

Mr President, the Twelve are pleased to speak once again in the debate on cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity. It is an opportunity for us to reaffirm the importance which we attach to the relationship between the two organizations. Cooperative efforts bring about positive results.

The close historical, cultural and geographical links between European countries and Africa give that continent a special place in our considerations. Our own long practical experience of regional cooperation makes us realize the very great benefits it can bring and therefore we wish to encourage it. The Twelve believe that the way in which African countries are working together deserves full support of the United Nations. We are pleased to note that the links between the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations have intensified over the years in all fields, as demonstrated in the Secretary-General's report.

The Twelve are convinced that an important role is reserved for the Organization of African Unity to play in consolidating the national independence of its members both politically and

economically, particularly in today's more positive international climate. Where there are conflicts we believe that the countries most directly concerned should be encouraged to find solutions to the conflict. This applies whether the problem is political, economic, social or environmental. African problems are best settled by African solutions. We are pleased to note the active work of the Organization of African Unity in a number of difficult areas. We particularly welcome the close cooperation between the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity in seeking peaceful solutions to African problems, notably that of Western Sahara. Indeed, the Organization of African Unity has an important role to play in ensuring the peoples of Africa are able to determine their own future freely and without outside interference.

Mr President, Africa is endowed with vast potential resources and yet it contains more than half the world's economically least developed countries. The Twelve wish to cooperate as much as possible with all African countries and to assist in finding solutions to their present economic and social problems. In recent years, the European Community and its twelve Member States have contributed over 50% of the total aid received by African countries. The European Community played an active role in the recently successfully concluded mid-term review of the Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development [UNPAAERD]. In order to solve their particular difficulties, African countries need additional resources. We stand by our commitment to participate in the efforts to provide these resources. The major contribution of the European Community and its Member States is evidence of their commitment to the objectives of UNPAAERD.

The Twelve regard their commitment to Africa in all these different areas as a way to safeguard the stability of that continent and to broaden our cooperation, both with African governments themselves and with regional organizations and the Organization of African Unity.

Mr President, we are convinced that the OAU will continue to play a significant role in African and world affairs, consistent with the principles guiding the United Nations and in pursuit of the goals of that organization. We are confident that the close ties of friendship and cooperation which exist between the Twelve and all Members of the Organization of African Unity will be even further strengthened in all fields in the years ahead. Thank you, Mr President.

<sup>1</sup> Agenda item 26.

### **88/377. Explanation of Vote at the Plenary Session of the UN General Assembly: Draft Resolution on the Municipal Elections in South Africa (UNGA Res. 43/13)<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 26 October 1988

Place of Issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

*Mr Dictakis:* Mr President, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community.

The Twelve are constant and united in their profound opposition to apartheid. We have expressed this position on many occasions in the General Assembly and in other international forums. We believe that the whole population of South Africa must enjoy equal and full political and other rights.

The twelve Member States of the European Community share the underlying concern about apartheid and about any efforts to entrench this system which has led the group of African States to initiate the draft resolution before us, on which, however, we have reservations on certain formulations. Thank you, Mr President.

<sup>1</sup> Agenda item 36.

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**88/378. Statement in the Second Committee of the UN General Assembly: Environment, Development and Energy Sources**

Date of Issue: 26 October 1988

Place of Issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

*Mr Christides:* Mr Chairman, on behalf of the European Community and its Member States, I would like to make the following statement on agenda items 82 [G], [D], [E] and 148, concerning environment, development and energy sources, which we perceive to be closely interrelated.

Mr Chairman, in recent years one of the most serious problems besetting the world community has been the degradation of our environment and the depletion of the planet's natural resources. It is clear today that the vastness and the importance of the environmental problems we face, and will continue to face in the future, have been neglected in the past and are still not adequately dealt with. We are in a situation where we could inflict incalculable and possibly irreversible damage to our ecosystem. International awareness and concern about our deteriorating environment have increased in the past few years. Disasters which have left large numbers of human victims have contributed to these concerns.

This increased awareness has led to the inclusion of related problems in the political agenda of every country. Statements by Heads of State and other dignitaries in the General Assembly of the United Nations bear proof to the fact that economic development is based on a very fragile ecological balance. As these problems have reached today global dimensions, the United Nations and its competent organs and organizations have to turn their efforts increasingly to assessing their magnitude and causes and finding solutions to them. Indeed, this is a process which has already begun.

Evidence of the significance attached to the earth's environment is the number of related items assigned to the General Assembly, the Second Committee and others. We believe that a substantive and biennialized focus on these problems, as well as a better division of work between the General Assembly, specialized agencies, subsidiary bodies and secretariat entities, will greatly enhance our ability to effectively address them. In this context we wish to acknowledge the essential and coordinating role of the United Nations Environment Programme in its work on environmental issues.

The European Community and its Member States will continue to contribute fully to international environmental cooperation. We hope that similar resolve will be demonstrated in all regions and organizations. We wholeheartedly support the action set in motion within the United Nations to promote sustainable and environmentally sound development.

Mr Chairman, the European Community and its Member States have devoted much attention during the current year to issues concerning environmental protection. They are already taking into account the environmental dimension in their economic cooperation with other countries, and are now working on generally applicable Community guidelines in this field. In June 1988 the Community adopted the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol on substances that deplete the ozone layer, as well as the regulation to implement these instruments. A resolution on the limitation of the use of CFC's and Halons has also been adopted.

Also within the framework of the UNEP the Community continues to be a major contributor to the Mediterranean Sea's Action Programme. Together with its Member States, as well as other Mediterranean countries, it is involved in concrete actions to improve the environmental quality of this important and ecologically threatened area.

The European Community is also playing a very active role in the negotiations for the UNEP Global Convention on Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes. The Commission of the EC has also offered to host the penultimate meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Group of

Experts preparing the convention. We will make our best efforts to ensure a successful conclusion of the negotiations, since it is essential for the global environment that illegal traffic in such dangerous substances be halted and legal traffic severely controlled. On the subject of nuclear wastes, we wish to affirm the proper role of the IAEA.

Mr Chairman, the objectives for environment and development policies should include securing growth on a sustainable basis and alleviating poverty. Sustainable development should meet the needs of all and extend to all the opportunity to fulfil their aspirations for a better life, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The responsibility of achieving the above goals rests with developed and developing countries alike.

Mr Chairman, we deem it necessary, at this point, to reiterate once more our commitment to the concept of sustainable development, as elaborated in the Brundlandt Report and to stress the importance we attach to initiatives and efforts that followed, in order to achieve the report's goals. We particularly wish to mention the General Assembly Resolutions 42/186 on the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond, 42/187 on the Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, as well as the conclusions reached at the Oslo Conference on Sustainable Development.

Both of the above resolutions provide for action to be undertaken by governments in cooperation with governing bodies of organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system as well as by other relevant multilateral development-assistance and financial institutions, with a view to strengthening their efforts and contributing to sustainable development. In this context we note with great interest proposals put forward by a number of member States aiming at intensifying the efforts of the international community to promote sustainable development in accordance with Resolution 42/187. We wish also to note with satisfaction the work that governing bodies and other intergovernmental organs and institutions have so far accomplished towards this end, as is stated in the progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Resolution 42/187.

Of particular interest to us is the work of UNEP in the area of the traffic of dangerous wastes and in that of climate. On the latter, we refer to Decision 14/20 of UNEP's Governing Council, concerning the global climate change.

Mr Chairman, during the past year a number of measures have been adopted by the international community towards sustainable development. We believe that much still remains to be done to achieve our common goal. We stand ready to face this joint responsibility, *inter alia*, through support of further initiatives, such as the proposed global conference on sustainable development in 1992.

Mr Chairman, our agenda includes two items on energy, namely item 82[D] on new and renewable sources of energy and item 82[E] on development of the energy resources of the developing countries.

On item 82[D], we have before us the Report of the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy on its fourth session (28 March-8 April 1988).

After analysing recent developments in the world energy situation, the Committee reiterated that the Nairobi Programme of Action was still valid, in particular for satisfying the energy needs for rural development and for increasing the long-term use of new and renewable sources of energy. It reaffirmed the need for efficient and concerted international cooperation for the effective and speedy implementation of the programme.

In this context it was stressed that lower oil prices had not made a substantial difference in the energy supply situation for the people in the rural areas of the developing world, for more than 2 billion people in these countries are largely disconnected from international energy markets and their fluctuations and new and renewable sources of energy will remain crucial for meeting their increasing energy requirements.

We consider the above issues of great importance and believe that they should continue to be addressed in the framework of the UN system.

Mr Chairman, we also welcome the Secretary-General's report on energy exploration and development trends in developing countries (A/43/476).

The report focuses on trends in the consumption and production of commercial energy sources, particularly in exploration and development of oil and gas in the energy-deficient developing countries.

As indicated in the Secretary-General's report, much has been accomplished in the developing countries since the adoption of General Assembly Resolution 37/251 of 21 December 1982 with regard to increases in the production of oil, natural gas, coal and hydroelectricity, especially in the non-OPEC oil-exporting and the oil-importing developing countries.

These accomplishments were largely due to the efforts of the developing countries themselves through higher investments of public funds which, however, had to be supplemented by borrowing from the world capital markets and multilateral financial institutions such as the World Bank.

With lower oil prices, however, investments in exploration and development have declined considerably, especially since 1986.

Developing countries in general depend on oil and gas for most of their commercial energy needs. This dependence is expected to continue beyond the year 2000. We therefore attach particular importance to programmes which enable developing countries to diversify their energy sources.

Mr Chairman, we also note with interest the initiative taken by the Government of Malta on climate change, a subject of increasing public anxiety around the world. Continued growth in atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases could produce global warming, with eventual rise in sea levels. We, therefore, believe that international organizations, governments and industry should work with urgency in order to take specific measures for reducing atmospheric pollution and other activities, including those that cause deforestation and desertification, which have a detrimental impact on climate. We welcome the establishment by UNEP, WMO and ICSU of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and hope that all member States will become parties to international instruments concerning the protection of the global environment.

Mr Chairman, as I noted in the very beginning, these important issues are interrelated and we believe that we do not only need the broadest possible participation for addressing them, but also the creation of a spirit of solidarity which will enable us to reach globally accepted solutions in a coordinated manner. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

### **88/379. Explanation of Vote in the Second Committee of the UN General Assembly: Draft Resolution L.13/Rev.2 on Assistance to the Palestinian People<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 26 October 1988

Place of Issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Mr Chairman, I have the honour to take the floor on behalf of the European Community and its Member States.

The Member States of the European Community have been unable to support the resolution regarding assistance to the Palestinian people, contained in document A/C.2/43/L.13/Rev.2. Our position does not reflect any doubts upon the desirability of granting aid to the Palestinian people or a question about whether such aid is needed. Our positive vote in past years amply reflects the commitment of the Community in this respect. We remain determined to work towards improving the living conditions of Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

We have been unable to extend our support to this year's resolution because, regrettably, it contained a large number of elements which are not acceptable to us because they are outside the scope of special assistance resolutions. There are others which pose problems on technical and, in some cases, financial grounds.

The European Community and its Member States have been giving substantial humanitarian assistance to Palestinian refugees through various means. This assistance includes food aid as well as financing through non-governmental organizations of projects for the benefit of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and elsewhere.

Furthermore, as regards trade, the European Community has adopted autonomous tariff arrangements which include duty-free access for industrial products and preferential duty treatment for certain agricultural products. It is well known that the European Community has accepted the Chambers of Commerce in the West Bank of the Jordan and the Gaza strip as authorities qualified for issuing certificates of origin and for ensuring the necessary administrative cooperation. The European Community has repeatedly stressed to Israel the importance it attaches to the effective implementation of its trade measures without any administrative or other obstacles to Palestinian exporters.

We shall continue, Mr Chairman, to grant this aid both bilaterally and for the Community, as well as through the competent organs of the United Nations system like UNRWA and UNDP, in order to respond to the best of our capacity to the needs of the Palestinian people.

Mr Chairman, the Twelve tried to cooperate in the negotiation of a draft text which would be acceptable to them and which would focus on the real question before us, i.e. assistance to the Palestinian people. We regret that our position and ideas were not taken into account.

For these reasons, Mr Chairman, the Twelve, much to their regret, were unable to lend their support to the draft resolution just now adopted by the Committee. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

<sup>1</sup> Agenda item 12.

**88/380. Déclaration à la Sixième commission de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies: rapport du Comité spécial pour l'élaboration d'une convention internationale contre le recrutement, l'utilisation, le financement et l'instruction de mercenaires<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 26 October 1988

Place of Issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

*M. Economidès:* Monsieur le Président, la délégation hellénique a l'honneur de prendre la parole au nom des douze États membres de la Communauté européenne sur le point de l'ordre du jour intitulé « Rapport du Comité spécial pour l'élaboration d'une convention internationale contre le recrutement, l'utilisation, le financement et l'instruction de mercenaires ».

Les Douze ont, à plusieurs reprises, condamné avec force les activités des mercenaires. Ils sont notamment conscients des dangers que présentent les bandes armées de mercenaires pour tous les États. Pour cette raison, les Douze, comme d'ailleurs tous les autres membres de l'Organisation, ont accueilli favorablement l'initiative entreprise par le Nigeria pour l'élaboration d'une convention spéciale dans ce domaine. Ils souhaitent que cette convention puisse être universellement acceptée.

Monsieur le Président, du rapport du Comité découle qu'un certain progrès encourageant a été réalisé au cours de sa dernière session. Pour cela, nous remercions le président du Comité, Son Excellence M. Werner Vreedzaam, du Surinam, pour la manière excellente avec laquelle il



a conduit les travaux du Comité. Nous remercions également tous les membres du Comité pour leur participation constructive et nous nous félicitons du bon climat qui a régné au sein du Comité.

La création d'un groupe de rédaction sous la présidence de M. Tullio Treves de l'Italie dénote que le projet devient de plus en plus mûr et semble s'acheminer vers sa phase finale. De fait, plusieurs questions ont pu être éclaircies et des progrès utiles ont été accomplis d'une façon générale, ce qui facilitera considérablement — du moins nous l'espérons — les travaux que le Comité entreprendra l'année prochaine. Un autre indice sérieux du progrès accompli réside dans le fait que le Comité a adopté la « Troisième révision de la Base consolidée de négociation pour une convention contre le recrutement, l'utilisation, le financement et l'instruction de mercenaires ».

D'ailleurs, il convient de noter que, même là où il y a encore des divergences de fond au sein du Comité — et nous pensons à l'article 1<sup>er</sup> qui contient la définition du terme « mercenaire » et aux articles du projet qui sont relatifs aux infractions —, il y a eu quand même un certain progrès qui est cristallisé dans les propositions qui ont été examinées par le groupe de rédaction. Ces propositions figurent aux paragraphes 100-103 du rapport. Nous nous félicitons que ces propositions aient permis au Comité de se rapprocher d'un consensus que nous espérons atteindre au cours de sa prochaine session. Les Douze ont la ferme intention de faire, lors de cette session, le maximum d'efforts pour aboutir à une solution définitive et ils espèrent que les autres États feront preuve du même esprit de bonne volonté et de compréhension. Il va de soi que, sans cet esprit, on ne pourra résoudre les difficultés rencontrées depuis plusieurs années.

La communauté internationale a déjà traité dans le passé des questions analogues à celle qui nous préoccupe. Des conventions internationales ont ainsi été adoptées pour combattre, entre autres, le détournement des aéronefs, la prise d'otages et pour assurer la protection des diplomates. Le but de ces conventions est d'intensifier la coopération internationale en prévoyant un mécanisme visant à extradier ou à poursuivre devant la justice nationale les personnes qui ont commis des crimes déterminés prévus par ces conventions et à les punir d'une peine sévère en tenant compte de la gravité de l'infraction.

Les Douze ont par ailleurs fait remarquer dans le passé qu'il faudrait définir les crimes et délits punissables d'une manière aussi précise que possible. Une telle tâche est évidemment étroitement liée à la définition même du mercenaire, question cruciale qui n'a pas encore été réglée. Pourtant, il va de soi que cette question très importante, qui commande en grande partie le reste du projet, devrait être traitée en toute priorité. Nous tenons à souligner à cet égard qu'une personne ne saurait être passible de sanctions que si elle commet des actes définis préalablement de façon précise et spécifique.

Par ailleurs, la question de la nationalité est essentielle. En effet, le critère de la nationalité contenu à l'article 47 du Protocole additionnel n° 1 aux Conventions de Genève de 1949 devrait figurer dans la définition du mercenaire, et cela pour éviter que des opposants politiques ne puissent être traités comme étant des mercenaires.

En outre, il est important que le critère de gain personnel, qui suppose une récompense matérielle excessive, soit retenu comme élément essentiel de la définition.

Il va également de soi qu'il est nécessaire que les personnes menées devant la justice soient traitées de manière humaine, comme cela est prévu à l'article 75 du Protocole additionnel n° 1 et par les autres conventions internationales pertinentes.

Avant de terminer, Monsieur le Président, les Douze tiennent à rappeler qu'ils estiment que la question que nous examinons relève de toute évidence de la compétence de la Sixième commission. Ils tiennent à exprimer de nouveau leur préoccupation du fait que cette question continue à être traitée par d'autres organes des Nations Unies. Cette situation regrettable sur le plan de la rationalisation des travaux de l'Assemblée générale ne peut que nuire au bon déroulement de l'exercice en cours.

En définitive, les Douze se prononcent pour la reconduction du mandat du Comité spécial et forment le ferme espoir que ce Comité n'épargnera aucun effort pour essayer de remplir l'année prochaine son mandat en adoptant un projet de convention contre le recrutement, l'utilisation, le financement et l'instruction des mercenaires. Je vous remercie, Monsieur le Président.

<sup>1</sup> Point 133 de l'ordre du jour.

**88/381. Statement at the Plenary Session of the UN General Assembly: Observance of the Fortieth Anniversary of the World Health Organization - Report of the ECOSOC on AIDS<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 27 October 1988

Place of Issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

*Mr Zapos:* Mr President, on behalf of the Member States of the European Community I welcome this opportunity to refer to the celebration of the fortieth Anniversary of WHO and, in particular, emphasize our concern over the continuing AIDS pandemic.

Allow me, Mr President, first to express our deep appreciation to Doctor H. Mahler, Director-General of WHO until July of this year, for his constant and untiring efforts in promoting and achieving the objectives of the Organization. At the same time we congratulate the new Director-General Doctor Nakajima for his assignment and wish him success in his important and difficult task ahead.

Mr President, forty years ago, in a war-weary and disease-ridden world, a fledgling World Health Organization began tackling the enormous challenge of finding solutions to the numerous health problems inflicting mankind. Today, four decades later, we can look back with great satisfaction at the achievements of international cooperation in the field of public health: under the guiding and coordinating role of the WHO, we were able to take great steps forward in combating and eradicating many deadly diseases, like smallpox.

We are convinced that in the coming decades WHO will demonstrate the same resolve and efficiency in achieving international health and mounting an effective response to health threats that might arise.

The AIDS pandemic is a case in point. Especially today, in the year 1988, which has been named by WHO as a Year of National and International Communication and Cooperation on AIDS, I wish to pay special tribute to the prompt reaction of the Organization and its leading role in coordinating and streamlining the efforts of more than 140 countries in our common fight for controlling and preventing AIDS. We hope that the holding of important manifestations will give to the day of 1 December 1988, which has been set as the World AIDS Day, the significance it deserves.

Mr President, there is no need to repeat the gravity of the AIDS problem, which is not only scientific and epidemiological but also involves a complex range of humanitarian, political, economic, social, cultural, educational and other factors. It is really worth noting that, although mankind has made spectacular breakthroughs in many fields of science, it still lacks the knowledge to penetrate all the mysteries of the human organism and find antidotes to many diseases which are incurable so far. Of course we do not underestimate the brilliant work already accomplished by doctors and researchers. In a very short time scientists have developed an understanding of the complex nature of the disease, which was virtually unknown ten years ago. Still it is evident that it will take more time and much effort before we can hope to control AIDS through medical techniques.

Being a global problem, AIDS calls for a global effort based on a common strategy. The disease does not distinguish between its victims on the basis of their culture, material wealth or

origin. The AIDS pandemic knows no borders, nor can it distinguish the nationality of people. Our strategy to fight the disease has to include leadership, coordination, education, information and the elaboration of guidelines at a global level. It can only succeed if national programmes are strong and complete. Bilateral and multilateral collaboration should be further developed.

Mr President, the Member States of the European Community fully support the WHO's guiding and coordinating role with respect to the global struggle against AIDS. In this context we would like to mention that we welcome and endorse the General Assembly Resolution 42/8 of 26 October 1987 on prevention and control of AIDS, the report of the Director-General of the WHO on the global strategy as well as the ECOSOC Resolution 1988/55 on prevention and control of AIDS. We further welcome the recent WHO/UNDP alliance to combat AIDS, as well as the contribution of UNICEF and UNFPA, as a pragmatic expression of the growing awareness of the need to pool forces within the UN system. We also welcome the Resolution of the World Health Assembly 41/24 of 13 May 1988 on avoidance of discrimination in relation to HIV-infected people and people with AIDS. We also wish to express our strong support for the conclusions reached at the world summit of Ministers for Health held in London this year. During that summit it was emphasized that information and education programmes, which took full account of social and cultural patterns, should be aimed at the general public. The need for the necessary human and financial resources was agreed upon by all participants. Further, the Member States of the European Community firmly supported the latest initiative on the prevention and control of AIDS, contained in document A/C.2/43/L.12, co-sponsored by several delegations of all Groups. We hope that this resolution, adopted by consensus in the Second Committee on 21 October, will help to better implement and coordinate the global strategy to combat the disease.

Mr President, I would now wish to elaborate on the efforts of the European Community and its Member States in the same field. At a Health Ministers meeting held on 31 May this year, it was noted with satisfaction that all [the] Member States are pursuing homogenous policies in the fight against AIDS, in accordance with the common approach outlined in their conclusions of 15 May 1987. They noted in particular that all Member States are ensuring complete freedom of movement of persons and equal treatment, as laid down in the treaties, and they reaffirmed their commitment to the following principles in particular:

- Since AIDS is a public health problem, the fight against that disease must be based on national health policy.
- In combating AIDS, absolute priority is to be given to prevention through health information and education.
- In terms of prevention, any policy of systematic and compulsory screening is ineffective.
- Any discrimination against or stigmatization of persons infected by HIV, particularly as regards employment, must be avoided.

Mr President, AIDS is more than a disease; it is a threat to the socio-economic development of mankind and imperils the stability of our societies by generating fear, ignorance and intolerance. We should make every effort not only to defeat the virus scientifically, but also to reduce the social impact of this terrible pandemic.

Mr President, before concluding, allow me to assure you of the strong and continuing support of the Member States of the European Community in order to achieve positive results in our common struggle. Thank you, Mr President.

<sup>1</sup> Agenda item 12.

## **88/382. Statement in the First Committee of the UN General Assembly: Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 27 October 1988

Place of Issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

*Mr Souliotis:* Mr President, speaking on behalf of the European Community and its Member States, I should like first of all to thank the Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency for his Annual Report on the work of the Agency during 1987.

I should also like to express appreciation of the comments made by the Director-General in his introductory statement on the main developments which have taken place in the Agency during 1987.

We wish to reaffirm our full support for the objectives of the IAEA; to encourage and facilitate international cooperation in the use of nuclear energy for peace, health and prosperity throughout the world and prevent nuclear proliferation.

The Agency remains, in our view, the primary international organization for the promotion of the application of nuclear energy for peaceful purpose.

Mr President, we should like to express our appreciation for the work which has been done in order to promote the safe use of nuclear energy in some areas of special interest to the Community Members.

First, we will repeat our support to the activities of the IAEA in the technical assistance programme. We are among the major contributors to the Agency's technical assistance and cooperation programme and it is our policy to maintain this position despite domestic budgetary problems.

The Agency's technical assistance and cooperation programme is a useful reminder that, in addition to the power applications of nuclear energy, nuclear techniques are increasingly being used to combat disease and improve human welfare in many parts of the world.

Of significance to us all is the application of nuclear techniques in medicine and agriculture. The work in this area is of special importance also for those member States for which the nuclear power option is still a distant possibility.

Further, we appreciate that the Agency is making a valuable contribution in nuclear research activities in the laboratories in Seibersdorf, Trieste and Monaco — activities in which scientists from both developed and developing countries participate actively. We are convinced that this work is in the long-term interest of all member States and deserves their full support and encouragement.

We [would] also like to stress our continuous support to and interest in the Agency's activities as regards waste management. These are of importance for the continued utilization of nuclear energy, the protection of the environment and public safety. This work should not be confined to safe storage but also comprise issues such as transport.

The Annual Report for 1987 records an increase of about 8% in total world installed nuclear power generating capacity. Twenty-two new plants came on line in nine member States of the Agency, bringing the total to 417 operating nuclear power plants in 26 countries. Within the European Community a third of our electricity is generated by 132 nuclear power reactors. It is thus clear that nuclear power is playing and will continue to play a substantial role as an energy source. Nuclear safety is recognized in the statute as a function of the IAEA and since the Agency's formation in 1957 it has been an important integral part of its programme.

We appreciate and support the activities of the Agency in the area of nuclear safety and believe that it is important for the Agency's activities, in this field, to maintain their momentum. Nuclear energy could not develop without rigorous safety measures which must be kept under regular review and the Agency's programmes in this area should be accorded high priority.

Chernobyl clearly illustrated that a nuclear accident can have transboundary effects and it underlined the vital importance of international cooperation in the nuclear field.

The Agency is fulfilling an essential role in the field of nuclear safety and radiological protection, not only by contributing to the establishment of enhanced safety principles, guides and standards but also in the way it provides focus for discussions on key subjects.

The entry into force of the two conventions on early notification of a nuclear accident and on assistance in the case of a nuclear accident or radiological emergency has been an important step towards improved international cooperation in the field of nuclear safety and radiological protection.

The two conventions have already been signed or ratified by a large number of member States.

It is gratifying that the revision and updating of the five Nuclear Safety Standards codes of practices have now been completed so as to make them reflect current thinking and the experience gained in accident prevention and management.

Nuclear safety is first of all a national responsibility, but it also has an international dimension. It is our hope that the acceptance of the updated NUS-safety standards can help obtain and preserve a high international level of nuclear safety and that member States will take them into account when elaborating their own national safety requirements.

In this context we also appreciate the work which has been carried out by the International Nuclear Safety Advisory Group (INSAG) during the last year. The INSAG principles, now completed, show once more that the establishment of INSAG was very useful.

We would like to express our support to the Agency's operational safety review programme OSART. These missions are a good example of the kind of services the Agency can provide to member States in order to secure a high international safety level and a reassurance that strict standards are being applied in the field of nuclear plant operation. We also welcome efforts by the Agency to encourage greater cooperation in the areas of regulatory regimes and legislation.

We should also like to express our appreciation for the efforts within the Agency and other forums to improve the liability regime for nuclear damage. We note with satisfaction that the text of the joint protocol relating to the application of the Vienna and Paris conventions on civil liability for nuclear damage elaborated during the IAEA-NEA experts meeting in November 1987, was adopted and opened for signature on 21 September 1988.

Mr President, having stressed the Agency's work in the support of nuclear safety, we wish to underline the importance of the Agency's safeguards activities.

We have noted with satisfaction from the Annual Report that the Agency has concluded that also in 1987 all nuclear material under Agency safeguards has remained in peaceful nuclear activities.

The safeguards system is an essential part of non-proliferation policy, which the European Community and its Member States strongly support. The European Community and its Member States consider it of great importance that safeguards should be applied as widely as possible in furtherance of the policy of non-proliferation. Thus, we repeat our appeal to those non-nuclear weapon States having nuclear facilities which are not under IAEA safeguards to place those facilities under safeguards. We also appreciate that the negotiations with China to place some of its civilian nuclear installations under Agency safeguards led to the conclusion of a voluntary offer agreement in September 1988. This means that such safeguards agreements have now been concluded with all five nuclear-weapon States. In reviewing the Agency's 1987 achievements I would like to express, finally, our appreciation for the initiation of a project under the auspices of the IAEA by the world's four major fusion partners (European Community, Japan, USA and USSR) for a conceptual design of an International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER).

Mr President, at the same time when member States have expressed their appreciation for the effectiveness of the IAEA and underlined the importance of its tasks, major problems threaten the smooth work of the Agency.

Firstly, we note that not all assessed contributions were paid in a timely fashion. In our opinion, it is important that the financial regulations of the Agency are respected as international obligations. If not, the IAEA will not be able to fulfil in a satisfactory way the important tasks to which I have referred in this statement.

Secondly, it is also of great concern for the European Community and its Member States that the Agency is brought to deal with political issues [which] belong to the responsibility of other forums. This jeopardizes the role of the Agency as an effective instrument for the promotion of cooperation in the field of peaceful application of nuclear energy.

Mr President, I should like to state [that] it is [the] firm wish of the European Community and of its Member States that the close cooperation which exists between them and the Agency in all peaceful nuclear activity fields should continue to develop successfully. Thank you, Mr President.

<sup>1</sup> Agenda item 14.

### **88/383. Statement in the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly: Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women to the Year 2000<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 27 October 1988

Place of Issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

*Ms Vassiliou-Zacharopoulos:* Mr Chairman, on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community, I have the honour to address this Committee on item 95 'Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women to the Year 2000'.

The successful adoption, by consensus, of the Forward-Looking Strategies at the Nairobi Conference in 1985, as the culmination of the United Nations Decade for Women, provided valuable guidelines for the advancement of the status of women at all levels. Although the methods and strategies for achieving improvement in the status of women differ from country to country, because they depend to a large extent on the cultural, economic and political situation, the Conference succeeded in placing the emphasis on common interests and priorities.

Since the Nairobi Conference, the translation of the Forward-Looking Strategies into national and international policies and programmes has been the main focus of our discussions at the Commission on the Status of Women, at the Economic and Social Council and at the Third Committee of the General Assembly. The Commission on the Status of Women was entrusted by the General Assembly with the important task of promoting the implementation of the Forward-Looking Strategies. The Commission's first session after Nairobi was a difficult one, lacking the momentum and the impetus which were established at the conference.

The special session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held in January 1987, revived the Nairobi spirit. In fact, the Commission was able at that session to fulfil its mandate by successfully dealing with substantial matters related to the strengthening of its central role in the monitoring of the implementation of the Forward-Looking Strategies. The Commission now meets annually. The restructuring of its agenda and the adoption of priority themes were the basis for the reform of the Commission. This reform gave new life to the Commission and enabled it to play a more forceful and dynamic role in promoting the implementation of the strategies. Furthermore, the Commission has demonstrated its ability and competence in its pioneering work, providing guidance on the integration of the Forward-Looking Strategies into the UN system-wide medium-term plan.

Mr Chairman, the Commission at its thirty-second session this year, laid down the new method of work based on the restructured agenda and held in-depth discussions on the priority themes, based on reports of expert groups and on reports prepared by the Secretariat.

The Twelve welcome the newly established method of work of the Commission and in particular the constructive discussions on priority themes striving towards adopting action-oriented policies which will tackle each specific problem by the roots, taking into account, in a

comprehensive way, the different cultural, economic and political aspects. We participated actively in these discussions and in the adoption of guidelines and measures concerning all issues and in particular those identified as priority themes. The Twelve support the proposals of the Commission, based on the recommendations of the expert group, concerning the strengthening of national machineries. The problems of rural women have always been of particular concern to us. In this context, we hope that the proposed seminar on women and rural development will bring about action-oriented recommendations. Furthermore, the issue of violence against women remains a very serious problem worldwide. We believe that the establishment of a broadly-based international network for cooperation is of particular importance. This development should be of considerable help in enhancing the safety, security, well-being and dignity of women worldwide.

In this connection, the Twelve would like to stress that the Commission must follow up and evaluate the progress achieved under each priority theme, based on the adopted recommendations and action-oriented policies.

Mr Chairman, we are looking forward to a constructive and in-depth discussion at the Commission's next session of priority themes. We believe that the preparations for this discussion are very important. These preparations can be achieved in two ways:

Firstly, by convening expert-group meetings and seminars — on the same lines as those organized last year — on priority themes to be discussed at the Commission on the Status of Women; these meetings will provide us with specific recommendations based on expert information.

Secondly, by transmitting to the Commission on the Status of Women the views and comments of all delegations expressed at the General Assembly on the priority themes to be discussed at the subsequent session of the Commission. To this end, the General Assembly, by its last year's Resolution 42/62, requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report providing an assessment of recent developments relevant to the priority themes to be considered by the Commission on the Status of Women at its next session in 1989. This report is now before us, contained in document A/43/638. We should like to commend the Secretariat for the useful information provided to us and the comprehensive way in which this report was prepared. It is now up to the delegations to read this report carefully and to offer their comments, based on their national experience. This will enable the Commission on the Status of Women to take into consideration all views expressed and the problems encountered in different countries, and to adopt action-oriented policies dealing thoroughly with each specific problem, taking into account the different experiences.

Allow me, Mr Chairman, to express the views of the Twelve on the report of the Secretary-General on the three priority themes to be discussed at the next session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

On the theme of 'equality in economic and social participation', we agree that the focus should be placed on the growing gap between progress in achieving equality reflected in legal instruments and the lesser pace of achieving *de facto* equality. We note that the report suggests that temporary measures could improve the situation.

In dealing with the question of equality of opportunity, due attention should be paid to the important contribution made by women in the informal economic sector, including in such areas as food production and processing, fisheries, agriculture and family enterprises. This contribution is inadequately reflected in official statistics and, in consequence, is too often ignored by planners and policy makers. We believe that consideration should be given to developing methods for determining with greater accuracy the contribution of women in informal economic activities.

On the theme of 'women and education, eradication of illiteracy, employment, health and social services, including population issues and child care', we agree that emphasis should be given to providing social support measures to enable women to contribute to and benefit from socio-economic development. Such measures could include child-care facilities, family planning,

parental leave, training programmes for re-entry into employment after maternity leave, etc. We note that a seminar is scheduled to be held in Vienna, in November this year, on that theme. We hope that the seminar will provide us with specific recommendations for action-oriented policies on these issues.

On the priority theme of 'full participation of women in construction of their countries and in the creation of just social and political systems', we believe that the emphasis here should be given to women's ability to participate in the political process. To this end, special attention should be placed on finding ways and means for the development of women's skills for political participation. It is also interesting to examine ways in which women may more effectively influence public authorities and decision-making processes, which is the subject of the meeting of experts, planned by UNESCO for September 1989, in Norway.

Mr Chairman, we consider the 1990 extended session of the Commission on the Status of Women an important one. At that session the Commission will review and appraise the progress in the implementation of the Forward-Looking Strategies. It will also make a recommendation to the General Assembly on the convening of a world conference, in accordance with ECOSOC Resolution 1987/20. We stand ready to work constructively for the adequate preparations of that session, so that the best possible results can be attained. In this connection, the early availability of the documentation for the 1990 session will facilitate our work. All States should provide timely and thorough responses to the questionnaire, on which the review and appraisal will be based.

Mr Chairman, as we all know, the Secretary-General has terminated the appointment of the Coordinator for the Improvement of the Status of Women in the Secretariat. At the spring session of ECOSOC we were informed by the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management that

the intention of the Secretary-General was to transfer the functions of the Office of the Coordinator to the Office for Human Resources Management as of July 1, 1988 and to designate a senior officer within that Office as the focal point or coordinator to ensure that the 47 recommendations which the Secretary-General has approved are implemented, and to monitor the situation of women in the Secretariat.

The Twelve would appreciate it, therefore, if the Secretariat could inform this Committee on what steps have been taken following the expiry of the mandate of the Coordinator.

Mr Chairman, the twelve Member States of the European Community have participated in all the activities of the decade and have contributed to the successful adoption of the Forward-Looking Strategies at the Nairobi Conference. They have further worked actively for the reform of the Commission on the Status of Women aiming at giving it new strength to deal with its difficult task of promoting the implementation of the strategies. If we all keep alive the spirit of consensus and make concerted efforts for the adequate preparations of the future sessions, we are confident that the Commission will be able to fulfil its mandate, to translate the strategies into concrete action.

<sup>1</sup> Agenda item 95.

### **88/384. Explanation of Vote in the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly: Draft Resolution L.6 on the Right of Peoples to Self-Determination (UNGA Res. 43/106)**

Date of Issue: 27 October 1988

Place of Issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

I have asked for the floor to make an explanation of vote on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community on draft resolution L.6.



The Twelve firmly support the right of self-determination in accordance with the Charter and the International Covenants on Human Rights and work for its universal application.

But we were unable to support the draft resolution in document L.6. There are several elements in the text which the Twelve consider raise substantial difficulties. We should also like to refer to the length of the draft resolution which every year increases, thus making it difficult sometimes to understand. Furthermore, we consider that the draft resolution does not take into sufficient consideration recent and positive developments leading to peaceful solutions of regional problems and lends itself to misrepresentations or to misunderstandings. Such misunderstandings are created by operative paragraphs concerning Angola and Southern Africa, namely 25 and 27, which are in opposition to each other.

We also wish to reiterate our view that the United Nations should above all encourage peaceful solutions to international problems in accordance with the principles of the Charter.

As regards South Africa, the Twelve have repeatedly condemned the abhorrent system of apartheid and demanded that it should be abolished. We have also repeatedly called for the unconditional release of Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners. We cannot, however, accept the assertion that the maintenance of relations with a State implies encouragement or approval of that State's policies.

Concerning Namibia, the Twelve have welcomed the recent encouraging steps of progress and both individually and collectively declared their support to the efforts currently undertaken, aiming at securing peace for Angola and independence for Namibia on the basis of Resolution 435 (1978).

As regards the Middle East, the Twelve have repeatedly deplored Israeli repressive measures in the occupied territories which make a peaceful settlement harder to find. Lasting peace can only be achieved if the right of all States in the area — including Israel — to exist within secure, recognized and guaranteed borders is confirmed and if the right of Palestinian people to self-determination, with all that implies, is also fully recognized.

With respect to other questions dealt with in the draft, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Greece has explained in detail the views of the Twelve in his statement in the general debate on 27 September 1988.

Finally, Mr Chairman, we should like to associate ourselves fully with the appeal in operative paragraph 16 for the immediate and unconditional release of Nelson Mandela, Zephania Mothopeng and all other political prisoners.

### **88/385. Explanation of Vote in the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly: Draft Resolution L.10/Rev.1 on the International Convention against Apartheid (UNGA Res. 43/97)**

Date of Issue: 27 October 1988

Place of Issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Mr Chairman, I have asked for the floor to make an explanation of vote on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community on draft resolution L.10/Rev.1 which is now before the Committee.

We would like to stress first of all that our votes on this resolution have no connection with our views on apartheid, which were clearly expressed in the statement of the Twelve before this Committee. Not only have we repeatedly condemned the abhorrent system of apartheid, and have called for it to be abolished, but we have also taken practical measures to combat it.

The Twelve have noted with serious concern that the resolution before us does not in any way take into account the practical and political efforts deployed by the international community,

including the EEC, to contribute to the abolition of apartheid. Nor does it reflect the overall political trends in Southern Africa which, compared to previous years, were described by many delegations in less negative terms. On the contrary, we again find more of a kind of language in the text of the draft resolution which is not only controversial to those who, like the Member States of the Twelve, strive to contribute in a way they consider the most efficient to abolish apartheid.

Even though we support the stated aim of the convention, we continue to have serious reservations about the means envisaged in the convention which raise legal difficulties. Our reservations are compounded by the fact that the convention defines the violations covered by it in an imprecise way.

Concerning the draft resolution before us we have a number of major difficulties on the following issues:

- As regards preambular paragraph 4, we regret the reference to State terrorism which is, to say the least, a controversial term.
- As regards preambular paragraph 6, genocide is clearly defined in the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. We do not accept that a resolution adopted by this Assembly can purport to extend that definition, or the area of application of that convention. Only international organs are competent to pronounce on its interpretation.
- Concerning operative paragraphs 6 and 10, this convention, like other international agreements, is applicable only to States which have ratified it and to the citizens of those States.
- Finally, we have also noted the continuing tendency to include new, controversial elements in this resolution, in particular, for instance, operative paragraph 7, which the Community is not in a position to support.

In order not to be misinterpreted on our motives and led by the wish to limit damages which might be caused by the kind of language we have referred to, the Twelve cannot, therefore, support preambular paragraphs 4 and 6 and operative paragraphs 6, 7 and 10.

**88/386. Explanation of Vote in the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly: Draft Resolution L.11/Rev.1 on Adverse Consequences for the Enjoyment of Human Rights of Assistance to South Africa (UNGA Res. 43/92)**

Date of Issue: 27 October 1988

Place of Issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

The Twelve were not able to support the draft resolution contained in document L.11/Rev.1. It should be [stressed, however,] that our votes on this resolution have no connection with our views on apartheid. The Twelve have repeatedly condemned the abhorrent system of apartheid which we regard as a gross violation of the most basic human rights and have called for it to be abolished. It should be further recalled that in 1986, the Twelve adopted decisions according to which our authorities took the necessary measures to prohibit new investments in South Africa as well as imports of iron, steel and gold coins.

As we made it clear in our statement in the debate on this item, the Twelve consider that the report of the Special Rapporteur once again did not represent a useful basis for our debate since the lists of companies included in the report were inaccurate, selective and — apparently for political reasons — excluded many States and other corporations which are well known to conduct regular trade with South Africa.

We voted against *preambular paragraph 11 and operative paragraph 3* because we reject all arbitrary or unjustified attacks, whether by name or implicitly on member States of the United Nations, or groups of countries.

**88/387. Explanation of Vote in the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly: Draft Resolution L.12 Concerning Mercenaries (UNGA Res. 43/107)**

Date of Issue: 29 October 1988  
 Place of Issue: New York  
 Country of Presidency: Greece  
 Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations  
 Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Mr Chairman, I have asked for the floor to make an explanation of vote on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community on the draft resolution L.12, which is now before the Committee.

The Twelve condemn unequivocally the recruitment, use or financing of mercenaries, and well understand the concerns which led to the submission of this proposal. We are nevertheless unable to support the text for reasons of both substance and principle.

The Twelve continue to regret that the co-sponsors of this text have ignored the fact that this question is regularly on the agenda of the Sixth Committee. At a time of financial crisis for our Organization, it is particularly regrettable that, so far from working to rationalize the Assembly's work the co-sponsors should be duplicating it.

We also regret that the co-sponsors have moved away from the consensus language which has been achieved in the past. In our view, this does not facilitate the chances of maintaining consensus on this question in the Sixth Committee. Nor will it facilitate the drafting of an international convention on this question in the *Ad Hoc* Committee, work in which the Twelve are actively participating.

In the continuing absence of even an agreed definition of a mercenary for the purposes of the draft convention, the Twelve continue to regard it as inappropriate that a Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights has been appointed to deal with this question.

But we have even more profound objections to the framework in which this question is now being discussed. The question of mercenaries is primarily a matter concerning relations between States rather than a human rights issue.

**88/388. Statement at the Occasion of Clodomiro Almeyda's Release**

Date of Issue: 1 November 1988  
 Place of Issue: Athens  
 Country of Presidency: Greece  
 Source of Document: The Twelve  
 Status of Document: Declaration

The Twelve welcome the release, following a decision by the Supreme Court, of former Foreign Minister of Chile, Clodomiro Almeyda.

On this occasion, they wish to express the hope that this and other recent positive developments will be followed by all necessary measures, including the initiation of a dialogue between the political parties and the Chilean Government, which would permit the full restoration of civil liberties and respect of human rights, a prerequisite for an early and orderly return to democracy.

**88/389. Statement at the Plenary Session of the UN General Assembly: the Situation in Kampuchea<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 2 November 1988  
 Place of Issue: New York  
 Country of Presidency: Greece  
 Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations  
 Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

*Mr Zepos:* Mr President, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community.

The problem of Kampuchea has been before the international community for over nine years. A return to peace and stability in South-East Asia is contingent upon a solution of this problem, which is the result of a foreign armed intervention and occupation in flagrant violation of the United Nations Charter and of international law.

The overwhelming majority of the international community, despite differences in political ideology, has repeatedly taken a clear stance on the continuing violations of Kampuchea's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. The General Assembly has consistently called for a withdrawal of the Vietnamese occupying forces. Last year, the resolution on Kampuchea was supported by 117 countries, including the twelve Member States of the European Community. This vote in favour of the resolution, the largest ever, should make Vietnam understand the strength of worldwide opposition to its unlawful and oppressive policy.

The Twelve have constantly supported the inalienable right of the Kampuchean people to determine their own destiny without outside interference. The present regime in Phnom Penh, which owes its existence to the presence of the Vietnamese forces, has no claim to legitimacy. The Kampuchean people must be given the opportunity to preserve their culture and national identity and to establish a pluralist society, involving respect for human rights and promotion of social justice.

There can be no return to the universally condemned policies and practices of a recent past. The Twelve have no intention whatsoever of contributing to the restoration of the abhorrent Pol Pot regime in Kampuchea. We share the collective outrage felt by the world community at the terrible abuses inflicted on the Kampuchean people under that regime. But this cannot justify Vietnam's illegal occupation and its imposition of an illegitimate regime.

Mr President, since the last General Assembly there has been much constructive diplomatic activity. In particular, the start of a dialogue between the parties directly involved and other concerned countries has given rise to hopes that prospects for a negotiated settlement have improved. In this connection, the process begun at the Jakarta Informal Meeting, which took place on 27 and 28 July 1988, was an encouraging step towards a political solution of the conflict. We reiterate our firm support for the constructive efforts made by ASEAN aimed at enabling the Kampuchean people freely to decide their own future. Nothing short of internationally supervised general and free elections can satisfy the genuine aspirations of the Kampuchean people for self-determination and independence.

We also wish to stress our full support for the central role that Prince Norodom Sihanouk is playing in the search for a negotiated political settlement. It is clear that he will have an essential role in a new independent, democratic, neutral and non-aligned Kampuchea.

Mr President, the aim of the General Assembly must be to give impetus to efforts to achieve a negotiated settlement, not one imposed by force of arms. The decisive step towards a settlement is the complete and unconditional withdrawal of all foreign occupation troops from Kampuchea under effective international supervision and control as well as guarantees that Vietnamese forces will not re-enter Kampuchea after their withdrawal. While noting the announcement by Vietnam of its intention to pull out 50 000 troops by the end of this year, we believe that partial withdrawal is incompatible with the repeated resolutions adopted by the General Assembly. The Twelve urge Vietnam to withdraw all its troops from Kampuchea and to abide by successive UN resolutions. We call upon all concerned to pursue their efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive solution in accordance with these resolutions and the principles adopted by the International Conference on Kampuchea.

Mr President, the situation within Kampuchea and in the Thai border area remains virtually unchanged. Within Kampuchea the war continues to take its toll upon the civilian population. The Kampuchean resistance continues to struggle against the occupying troops. Another matter of concern is the reports of demographic changes imposed in Kampuchea by the occupation forces. The prolonged Vietnamese occupation is increasingly acquiring colonial overtones.

It is important not to overlook the humanitarian aspects of the problem. In the last twelve months, even more Kampuchean have been forced by the continued fighting and instability in their country, to flee to the Thai-Kampuchean border. Once again the Twelve urge Vietnam to cease its cross-border incursions and artillery attacks into Thailand. Such acts are clear violations of international law and only add to the suffering of the population in the refugee camps. We also share the concern expressed by the Secretary-General about the security and protection of the border population and the need to respect their basic human rights. As the Secretary-General's report makes clear it is essential that regular and unhindered access should be provided to all the evacuation sites.

The presence of approximately over a quarter of a million refugees in encampments in Thailand places a heavy burden on that country. No humanitarian efforts should be spared by the international community for the relief of the refugees. The Twelve want once more to pay tribute to the Government of Thailand for its humanitarian efforts. They reiterate the commitment of the European Community and its Member States to continue to support the relief effort including programmes coordinated by the United Nations Border Relief Operation. In doing so, we do not forget the excellent role played by voluntary organizations comprising nationals of the member countries of the European Community. However, despite the humanitarian efforts of the international community there can be no end to the suffering of the Kampuchean people without a comprehensive political settlement of the conflict. There is no doubt that the full withdrawal of the Vietnamese troops and the re-establishment of a genuine peace in Kampuchea would open the way to international cooperation for the reconstruction of the region.

In conclusion, the Twelve wish to reiterate once again their full support to the efforts of the Secretary-General, his representatives and the *Ad Hoc* Committee of the International Conference on Kampuchea aiming at the paving of the way for a just and peaceful solution to the tragic situation in Kampuchea. The Twelve will once more give their full support to the resolution tabled by the ASEAN countries.

No country professing adherence to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations can escape its duty to do so too. Thank you, Mr President.

<sup>1</sup> Agenda item 23.

### **88/390. Statement in the Fifth Committee of the UN General Assembly: United Nations Common System and United Nations Pension System<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 2 November 1988

Place of Issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

*Mr Rallis:* Mr Chairman, I have the honour to take the floor on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community.

In this intervention I propose to address both the report submitted by the International Civil Service Commission (A/43/30) as well as the report of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board (A/43/9).

The Twelve would first like, Mr Chairman, to thank the Chairman of the ICSC, Mr Akwei, for his introductory statement as well as the ICSC members for their report. We welcome the efforts to improve the format of the report.

The Twelve attach great importance to the effective functioning of the ICSC as well as to its role as an expert body responsible to the General Assembly and dealing with the regulation and

coordination of the conditions of service including questions of remuneration. Every effort should be made to help the Commission carry out its mandate, thus strengthening the common system.

There is no doubt that the efficiency of the United Nations depends to a large extent on the performance of its Secretariat. The Twelve have always regarded qualified and competent staff members of this Organization as indispensable to its successful work. Therefore, the staff of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies should rest assured that the twelve Member States of the European Community attach importance to fair working conditions for members of the international civil service and their welfare as they do with regard to their respective national civil services.

The Twelve regret the decision of FICSA and CCISUA to suspend participation in all activities of ICSC. They take note that all previous speakers urged the staff representatives to reconsider their decision. They join those delegations in calling upon the staff representatives to resume their participation in the work of the Commission. The Twelve cannot accept any change in the existing consultation procedures which are the fruit of long deliberations in the past and which reflect the Charter prerogatives of the General Assembly with regard to budgetary matters. This is yet another area where long-term stability in institutional arrangements is an absolute necessity, but it is essential that all concerned participate with good will in order to make the institutional machinery work. The Twelve also noted with interest Mr Akwei's reference in his introductory statement to improvements made in the working methods of ICSC. We would appreciate further information on these improvements.

Mr Chairman, this year ICSC submitted in accordance with Resolution 42/221 its interim report on the comprehensive review of the conditions of service of the staff in the professional and higher categories, and asked the General Assembly for guidance on the various alternatives contained in it. I would like to stress the importance the Twelve attach to the submission of this review.

With regard to the guidance sought on the interim report's contents we would like to make at this stage some comments of a preliminary and general nature without of course prejudging our position on the outcome of the comprehensive review. We believe that the Noblemaire principle which has been applied to the UN system since its inception should continue to remain the basis for the determination of the level of remunerations. We see no reason at this stage why we should change the system by taking more than one national civil service or the private sector as comparators. Equally we note that it is not in line with the Noblemaire principle to compare the UN salary scale with those of other international or regional organizations.

We are in favour of the uniformity of the common system and therefore we support the maintenance of the present system of a single world-wide salary scale.

We regard the ideas mentioned in paragraph 60 of the report in the context of the post adjustment system to divide the remuneration package into distinct components or separating the housing from the post adjustment as ideas worth considering.

Introducing productivity incentives is theoretically an attractive idea. But we are not convinced that the present system of performance evaluation is advanced enough to enable it to serve as a basis for determining differential levels of remuneration. We believe rather that performance should be seriously taken into account by the administrations concerned when examining promotions. We think that the ICSC should examine thoroughly, within the framework of the comprehensive review, the mobility of staff as a possible element for career development. In this context, we join those delegations who have pointed out that the lack of distinction in remuneration between non-mobile and mobile staff is a major flaw in the present system.

In conducting the comprehensive review, the ICSC should above all bear in mind that to be acceptable to member States in present circumstances of financial constraints the cost of the rationalized and simplified arrangements proposed should be contained within the overall level of the existing scheme.

Mr Chairman, the Twelve will refrain from making at this stage more detailed comments in the framework of the review presented by ICSC. We trust that the Committee will benefit from the discussion in this Committee and duly take into consideration the views expressed by the various delegations.

With regard to the Commission's proposals for increasing the education grant and the dependency allowances, we believe that whatever decision will be taken this year by the General Assembly on them, this should not mean that they should not be reconsidered in the framework of the comprehensive review the Commission is carrying out, nor should they be considered as acquired rights pending completion of this review. We would be willing to consider the recommendations submitted on those matters by ICSC and participate constructively in the consultations ahead.

Mr Chairman, turning now to the report of UN Joint Staff Pension Board (A/43/9) the Twelve would like to thank Mr Zador, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Board, for his introductory statement. We equally thank Mr Foran for his report on investments of the Fund.

We believe that this year the debate on pensions should not take much of the time of the Fifth Committee, as the General Assembly last year by adopting Resolution 42/222 resolved for the time being the question of the level of contributions to the Fund. This resolution, however, also requested the Pension Board 'to continue studying all possible measures to restore the actuarial balance of the Fund over the long term, bearing in mind the desirability of avoiding further increases of the rate of contribution', and that an interim report on the study should be submitted to the 43rd session of the General Assembly. It also determined that the study should be completed in 1989, for presentation to the 44th session of the General Assembly, together with the results of the actuarial valuation of the Fund on 31 December 1988.

In fact, the Board had already decided, for reasons of economy, to meet only in summer 1989 and that in 1988 only its Standing Committee should meet. Therefore, the report before us is an 'interim report' containing the study carried out by the Standing Committee on behalf of the Board of the possible measures to restore the actuarial balance of the Fund. The report also considers other matters like the methodology and assumptions for the actuarial valuation of the Fund, the opinions expressed by the Committee of Actuaries, the annual review of the administrative expenses and operation of the Fund, the investments of its assets and the admission of the World Tourism Organization.

Mr Chairman, the Twelve are well aware of several factors which have contributed to a worsening of the actuarial balance of the Fund and are conscious of the fact that the envisaged reductions in the number of staff will affect the inflow of contributions to the Fund, while additional costs will arise from the combined effects of a mandatory age of separation of sixty and longer life-expectancy. Since 1982, various economy measures have had to be taken to stem the increase in the actuarial imbalance. These have for example included placing ceilings on the highest pensions and on the amount of the lump sum commutation, and reducing the frequency and amounts of adjustments of pensions in award. In this connection, the Twelve note that a further review of the level of pensionable remuneration and consequent pensions of staff in the professional and higher categories will be undertaken by the ICSC in 1990 in cooperation with the Pension Board. We also note that the Standing Committee has suggested that a similar review be undertaken in respect of staff in the general service and related categories, also to be completed, if possible, in 1990. The Twelve agree that this additional review should be started and that it should be also carried out by the ICSC in cooperation with the Pension Board. Both reviews should in our view be conducted with due regard to the conditions prevailing in the relevant comparators.

Mr Chairman, we are looking forward to reading next year the results of the actuarial valuation of 31 December 1988. It should tell us, among other things, whether the formula for determining their real rates of return, as spelled out in paragraph 59 of the report, is realistic or not.

Only in the light of the actuarial valuation of 31 December 1988 shall we be in a position to agree or disagree with the conclusions that the Board may arrive at on the subjects mentioned in the 'summary of conclusions' contained in paragraph 55 of the report before us. For instance, while we may share the opinion that, in the present period of retrenchment in several organizations, early retirement between age 55 and 60 should not be discouraged, we consider all subjects concerning retirement interconnected and requiring a more extensive examination in 1989. We agree with the opinion expressed by the ACABQ in paragraph 9 of its report (A/43/712) that the Board should not necessarily limit itself to an examination of the subjects proposed by the Standing Committee. At the same time, decisions on questions relating to retirement cannot be taken with reference only to the implications for the Pension Fund.

Mr Chairman, on the administrative expenses of the Fund we note that the highest increase was in the cost of actuarial consulting services, which went up from 131 000 US dollars in 1986 to 253 000 US dollars in 1987, and some explanation on this large increase would be appreciated.

With regard to investments, we note from paragraph 5 of the report of the Secretary-General, document A/C.5/43/3, that the 'real' rate of return achieved was better than might be expected given the difficult prevailing conditions. This underlines the importance for the Fund and its beneficiaries of continuing to exploit the best available options for investments. Thank you, Mr President.

<sup>1</sup> Agenda items 122 and 123.

### **88/391. Statement Concerning the Press Censorship in South Africa**

Date of Issue: 3 November 1988  
 Place of Issue: Athens  
 Country of Presidency: Greece  
 Source of Document: The Twelve  
 Status of Document: Declaration

The Twelve have on many occasions expressed to the South African Government their concern at the extensive restrictive measures that continue to be imposed on the media in South Africa, to which they are firmly opposed. The recent ban on the circulation of the *Weekly Mail*, despite the Twelve's *démarche* on 26 October, can only aggravate the existing tensions and polarization. The Twelve reiterate their belief in the freedom of the press being a constructive agent rather than an impediment to the peaceful process of reform in South Africa.

### **88/392. Statement at the Plenary Session of the UN General Assembly: Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 3 November 1988  
 Place of Issue: New York  
 Country of Presidency: Greece  
 Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations  
 Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

*Mr Zepos:* Mr President, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community.

When the Special Political Committee addresses agenda item 77, the Twelve will have the opportunity to express their views in a more detailed manner. At this stage, we would like to make some remarks of a more general nature.



Mr President, the Twelve attach, as a matter of principle, the greatest importance to all matters affecting the rights of the population of the Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967.

In the last twelve months we have followed with deep concern the situation in the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip which has seriously deteriorated as a result of the continuing Israeli occupation. Civilian resistance to the occupation has grown, and has undoubtedly been further intensified by the excessive level of force employed by the occupation forces. It reflects the wholly understandable frustration and resentment at the length of the occupation and at the still uncertain prospects for an early solution.

The civilian population of the territories, including in many cases women and children, has suffered tragically. The examples are too numerous to give here. A particularly shocking incident occurred only last Sunday. We express our heartfelt condolences to all those who have suffered as a result of violence, from whatever quarter it comes and which we can in no circumstances condone.

Mr President, the Twelve, on several occasions, have reiterated their concern with human rights and living conditions in the occupied territories. We have particularly expressed our concern at Israel's decision to pursue a policy of deportation and administrative detentions. We have deeply deplored the repressive measures taken by Israel including the destruction of houses and the restrictions on the media freedom and the prolonged closure of educational establishments. We have called upon the Israeli authorities to ensure the immediate protection of the inhabitants of the occupied territories, in compliance with international law and human rights obligations.

Mr President, the Twelve unreservedly support Security Council Resolutions 605, 607 and 608. We reiterate that the Geneva Convention relative to the protection of civilian persons in times of war, of 12 August 1949, is applicable to the territories occupied by Israel since 1967. Israel's persistent refusal to acknowledge this can in no way be justified and is a matter of great concern to the Twelve. Furthermore, the Twelve believe that a military occupation can only be regarded as a temporary situation and cannot confer upon the occupying power rights of annexation or disposal, or of extending its law, jurisdiction or administration in the occupied area.

Mr President, the events we witness in the occupied territories are likely to have the effect of deepening mistrust between Israelis and Palestinians and of making a peaceful settlement harder to achieve. There will be no end to the human suffering in the region without a negotiated solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict leading to a just, comprehensive and lasting peace. The position of the Twelve regarding such a settlement is set out in the Venice Declaration and subsequent statements and it is well known. All parties should clearly and unambiguously accept two principles: the right to existence and security of all States in the area, including Israel, and the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination with all that this implies. The Twelve's support for an international peace conference under the auspices of the United Nations is also well known. Our long-standing contacts with all parties to the conflict is but one expression of our ardent desire to see peace prevailing in the Middle East. At this crucial juncture we appeal to all parties concerned to redouble their efforts to reach a political solution, taking into account the legitimate interests and rights of all. Thank you, Mr President.

<sup>1</sup> Agenda item 77.

### **88/393. Statement in the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly: International Campaign Against Traffic in Drugs<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 3 November 1988

Place of Issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

*Ms Vassiliou-Zacharopoulos:* I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Community and its twelve Member States on agenda item 103 concerning drugs.

It has been recognized worldwide that the menace of drug abuse has grown in recent years. The consequences of the increasing illicit trafficking include a wide range of problems threatening our societies. Among those problems is the use of drugs which has now penetrated schools in many countries thus posing a formidable menace to young people.

The problem of drug abuse today affects virtually all nations and is equally serious for producer, consumer and transit countries. While we recognize that the main responsibility for action against drugs rests with the individual countries, we are aware that the problem has transcended national boundaries. The scope and complexity of the drug problem requires concerted efforts by all nations and extensive international cooperation to combat drug abuse and trafficking both at regional and global levels.

The United Nations has made the issue of drugs one of its highest priorities. It has engaged in combating drug abuse and trafficking for more than 40 years and has achieved important results. The Single Convention on Narcotics was adopted in 1961 and was supplemented by the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances.

Last year the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, held in Vienna, had a successful outcome. With the spirit of cooperation shown by the participating countries and the competent and careful preparation by the Secretariat, it was possible for the conference to adopt, by consensus, a declaration and a comprehensive multidisciplinary outline of future activities in drug abuse control, containing a wide range of issues deserving priority in our efforts to combat drug abuse. The targets include action by governments, intergovernmental bodies, United Nations organs and non-governmental organizations, concerning the prevention and reduction of the illicit demand for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, control of supply, suppression of illicit trafficking, the treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts.

The Twelve have welcomed the declaration that emerged from the conference and the suggested courses of action embodied in the outline. We support the elaboration and adoption of concrete measures aiming at achieving the objectives of the conference.

In this context, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the focal organ within the United Nations in policy-making in the field of drugs, has an important role to play in following up the results of the conference. We welcome the activities identified by the Commission at its last session and we expect that all United Nations drug control bodies, agencies and intergovernmental organizations give special emphasis over the coming years to those activities to follow up the guiding principles and the targets contained in the outline of the conference.

Mr Chairman, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Greece, speaking on behalf of the European Community and its twelve Member States in the plenary, stated:

The Twelve, considering that drug abuse and trafficking have become a terrible scourge for the whole of mankind, make an appeal for wider and strengthened international cooperation in this field. In this spirit, they call for a successful outcome of the plenipotentiary conference in November-December in Vienna, with a view to the adoption of the United Nations convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs.

We believe that the drafting of a new convention on illicit traffic and narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances is the first major concrete step towards realizing the objectives of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. It would supplement the existing legal provisions in that field and could provide for the appropriate machinery for international control of the production and traffic in all types of narcotic drugs. The Twelve have welcomed the initiative of drafting the new convention; they have contributed actively and they have played a constructive role in the efforts to complete the draft convention as soon as possible.

The drafting expert group has met in Vienna twice in 1987 and again in 1988, before the 10th special session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. Its task was not an easy one: it dealt with matters which were very complex and affect in various areas the different national legal systems in a fundamental way. With a spirit of cooperation shown by the participating experts, the group

made considerable progress. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs considered the work accomplished by the expert group and decided to convene a review group meeting in Vienna to review the draft texts of certain articles and to complete the draft convention with a view to submitting it to the plenipotentiary conference, scheduled to be held from 25 November to 20 December 1988, for the adoption of the draft convention.

The Twelve regret that the review group was not able to reach agreement on certain provisions. We are concerned that the consensus which prevailed in the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in June 1987 and made it a resounding success may now be weakening. We are anxious to avoid polarization of an issue on which close international cooperation is vital, if the drugs menace is to be effectively tackled. The Twelve are willing to cooperate on all aspects of drug abuse control by all means possible. We hope very much, therefore, that all States will work together in a spirit of constructive compromise to ensure the adoption of the new draft convention at the plenipotentiary conference and to give it maximum effectiveness. We urge all participants to work towards a successful outcome of this conference. Maintaining the consensus would ensure broad acceptance and effective implementation of the new convention. Unless the drug convention is treated as a vehicle for significantly developing international cooperation, a major opportunity to combat the international drug problem will be lost.

The Twelve believe that efforts to combat production and trafficking will be effective only if simultaneous efforts are made to reduce demand. In recent years, the twelve Member States have taken firm action to strengthen their effectiveness in this area through increased law enforcement activities and education and treatment programmes. We urge all nations to ensure that this aspect of the problem is addressed with vigour and determination.

Mr Chairman, the International Narcotics Control Board has played an important role in assessing the problems relating to drug abuse and trafficking and monitoring the implementation of the existing conventions on narcotics. In its report for 1987 it expresses concern over the deteriorating situation with respect to drug abuse and the illicit traffic. It draws attention to the spread of drug abuse to areas hitherto unaffected and points out the necessity for urgent countermeasures to be taken in those regions.

We should like to commend the Division on Narcotic Drugs in promoting regional cooperation in the area of international drug control for a number of years. In particular, we support the convening of regional meetings of the heads of national drug law enforcement agencies, in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific.

We should like to emphasize the importance of the contribution of the specialized agencies of the United Nations, in particular WHO, UNESCO, and FAO to the work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and of the Division on Narcotic Drugs. Furthermore, we recognize the important contribution of the non-governmental organizations to this cause.

The Twelve reiterate their confidence in United Nations efforts to maintain and develop the international cooperation essential for the success and promotion of regional and national programmes against drugs. It is our experience that regional cooperation and regional activities can make a valuable contribution to the promotion of more effective action against illicit drug trafficking.

The Twelve therefore note with concern the reference in the Secretary-General's report A/43/679 to the resources allocated to drugs work in the United Nations. Adoption of the new United Nations convention will increase the demand on the United Nations drugs bodies still further. We therefore urge those concerned with the staffing of the United Nations bodies to give this factor due weight, bearing in mind the high priority which the international community attaches to the United Nations's work in this field.

At the European level, the twelve Member States participate actively, together with five other European countries, in the activities of the so-called Pompidou Group, established under the Council of Europe, to combat drug abuse. The group has adopted a comprehensive plan for cooperation giving high priority to effective implementation of legislation to confiscate the

proceeds of drug trafficking, to improved coordination of controls, to the role of media and to the exchange of information. In addition the twelve Member States of the European Community have established the so-called TREVI Group which deals with the fight against drug-related crime.

Mr Chairman, the fight against drug abuse is fought at various levels. In order to contain the danger of drug abuse, it is vital that the cultivation of narcotic plants be curtailed. The Twelve are aware of the fact that this proposition raises wider developmental problems. In this context, crop substitution projects in the framework of broader rural development programmes are essential.

Since 1987, the European Community itself has undertaken a series of significant steps in this field in particular by introducing the drugs priority in its cooperation with the Third World and by launching a North-South cooperation programme with certain producing and consuming countries at both bilateral and regional levels.

The EC contribution for 1988 was 5 500 000 ECU, i.e. about 6 080 000 US dollars, used to finance eighteen projects, particularly in Latin America, Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. Furthermore, the Community contributed 1 250 000 ECU, i.e. about 13 000 000 US dollars for intra-European programmes for combating drugs.

A particularly significant role devolves upon the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse (UNFDAC). The Twelve endorse the activities of UNFDAC. Member States are considering increasing their support for projects aiming at better control of production and abuse of drugs. The European Community in 1987 concluded an agreement with UNFDAC which is intended to lay the foundations for intensified cooperation between the European Community and UNFDAC.

The Twelve welcome the manifold activities of UNFDAC, which has been actively involved not only in the field of rural development policy, but also in the field of law enforcement by organizing training courses, setting up laboratories for the control of narcotic substances and improving the equipment of drug investigators.

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<sup>1</sup> Agenda item 103.

### **88/394. Explanation of Vote in the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly: Draft Resolution L.15 on Ageing (UNGA Res. 43/93)**

Date of Issue: 3 November 1988

Place of Issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

The Twelve are pleased to have been able to join consensus on this resolution and are most grateful to the sponsors for showing flexibility on the text in response to various concerns. These concerns relate not to the question of United Nations activity in the field of ageing to which we attach high importance, but to the process of reform and renewal in the Organization launched by Resolution 41/213. The Twelve therefore accept L.15 on the understanding that its provisions have no implications with regard to the implementation of that resolution; that they in no way pre-empt the decision still to be taken by the Fifth Committee on the Secretary-General's report on the revised estimates in document A/C.5/43/1/Rev.1; and that, since no statement of programme-budget implications has been presented, there are none. Finally, Mr Chairman, the Twelve consider that the reference to programmatic issues and priorities must be subject to the regulations on programme planning, the programme aspects of the budget, the monitoring of implementation and the methods of evaluation as adopted by the General Assembly in Resolution 37/234.

**88/395. Explanation of Vote in the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly: Draft Resolution L.17/Rev.1 Concerning a Declaration on the Promotion of Understanding (UNGA Res. 43/136)**

Date of Issue: 3 November 1988  
 Place of Issue: New York  
 Country of Presidency: Greece  
 Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations  
 Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

The Twelve acknowledge the efforts made by the interested parties to reach a consensus text acceptable by all. However, we would like to underline our reservations to operative paragraph 2 which implies that governments can influence mass media, thus restricting freedom of the press and of the mass media in general.

Furthermore, it appears to us that a resolution dealing mainly with youth should not include paragraphs focusing in such a way on mass media.

**88/396. Statement in the First Committee of the UN General Assembly: the Question of Conventional Weapons Transfers<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 4 November 1988  
 Place of Issue: New York  
 Country of Presidency: Greece  
 Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations  
 Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

*Mr Stephanou:* Mr Chairman, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community on item 64 of our agenda, the question of conventional weapons transfers. The Twelve consider it important that this question of great concern to the international community is now being discussed by our Committee.

The Twelve have consistently stressed the importance they attach to greater transparency and openness in military matters. They generate confidence, remove mistrust and misperceptions, aims which are so significant to easing international and regional tensions, to promoting arms control and disarmament measures and contributing to international peace and security.

In his statement, before the Third Special Session on Disarmament, the Vice-Chancellor and Foreign Minister of the Federal Republic of Germany Mr Genscher, speaking on behalf of the Twelve, raised the question in connection with the major role the United Nations can play in transparency and openness: 'Would it not be possible for the United Nations likewise to provide a framework for more openness and transparency with regard to worldwide arms exports and imports?'

Under the Charter of the United Nations, Member States have undertaken to promote the establishment and maintenance of international peace and security. We wish to do so with the least possible diversion for armaments of the world's human and economic resources.

The Twelve wish also to reaffirm the importance they attach to the inherent right to self-defence, embodied in the Charter of the United Nations. They also stress the need of States to protect their security.

The Twelve further recall paragraph 22 of the Final Document of the First Special Session devoted to Disarmament which states that 'there should also be negotiations on the limitation of international transfers of conventional weapons'.

The views of the Twelve concerning conventional disarmament have been repeatedly underscored in this Committee as well as the particular relevance of regional agreements.

Furthermore, the Twelve have always expressed concern regarding the serious economic strain on a large number of countries, resulting from the absorption of an undue proportion of national resources for the increasing expenditure on conventional armaments and forces.

In discussing the problem of international arms transfer, it is clear that the exporters of conventional armaments include countries both large and small, developed as well as less developed. It is also clear that among the importers of large quantities of conventional armaments are some of the least well-off countries of the world, including many in areas beset by tensions. It is therefore a problem for us all, and begs the emergence of international consensus on the way forward.

The Twelve are convinced that new efforts are needed if we are to lower the level of conventional armaments throughout the world. Restraint in arms trade and the acquisition of armaments to levels which are legitimately needed for national or regional defence purposes could represent one means of achieving this.

We believe that with a view to such a restraint the time has come for joint efforts. A measure that we could take now is the identification of ways and means of promoting greater openness and transparency in international transfers of conventional arms, on a universal and non-discriminatory basis.

While illicit and covert arms trade is increasing, the nature and mechanisms of international arms transfers have become more complex. Governments, which are the main suppliers and buyers of armaments, should consult on how to strengthen the existing cooperation aimed at constraining international illicit trade in conventional arms and to identify possible additional measures to halt it.

We recognize that agreement on these issues is difficult. Everybody knows how complex they are. An approach is called for, which, while taking into account the right of States to self-defence and the protection of their security, allows us also to lay down a solid foundation for concerted international action for dealing with these pressing problems in all their dimensions. In this context, one of our partners, Italy, has tabled its draft resolution (document A/C.1/43/L.28).

The emergence of a general consensus on this agenda item would be an important achievement for this Committee.

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<sup>1</sup> Agenda item 64.

## **88/397. Statement in the Special Political Committee of the UN General Assembly: Questions Relating to Information<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 4 November 1988

Place of Issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

*Mr Nezeritis:* Mr Chairman, I have the honour to take the floor on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community.

Mr Chairman, it is with great pleasure that the Twelve are participating again in the deliberations and the discussions in the Special Political Committee on the question of information. The free exchange of ideas we will exercise during the present debate, the varying points of view we will hear, underline what are for us two self-evident concepts: First, the importance which all member States of our Organization attach to the question of information. Second, that this free exchange of information within this specific forum reflects the very subject of our deliberations. As we strive here to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome on the basis of

the views expressed, so on a larger scale should we aim at ensuring that the citizens of the world have the opportunity to be able to conclude informed judgements on the basis of full, impartial and comprehensive information.

One of the first resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly, Resolution 59 [I], unanimously adopted on 14 December, 1946, states: 'Freedom of information is a fundamental human right and is the touchstone of all freedoms to which the United Nations is consecrated'. Furthermore, Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights provides that everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression and that this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers. For us, Mr Chairman, freedom of information and freedom of thought, opinion and expression are basic tenets of our societies.

Regrettably, the basic right to freedom of information has often been the subject of violations. On many occasions, in all regions of the world, people have been deprived of their right to access to free and uncensored sources of information. Whatever the purposes of such restrictive acts may be, they are unacceptable.

For freedom of information to be attained, individuals need a free press which should seek and disseminate information without interference of authorities or governments. They must have the possibility to produce and freely obtain information, both from local sources and from those beyond their national frontiers. They need to have free and unhampered access to as diverse sources of information as possible: all kinds of newspapers, representing all points of view and a variety of television and radio channels and publications representing all sorts of political and cultural viewpoints.

These are the principles, Mr Chairman, which we have consistently supported. They form a cornerstone of our societies. We have repeatedly stated our readiness to cooperate, in a spirit of goodwill, with all others towards their promotion.

It is against this background and with these thoughts in mind that the Twelve view the work of the United Nations in the field of information, including in particular efforts towards a new world information and communication order, seen as an evolving and continuous process. We have explained in the past how we view this process.

The Twelve recognize the legitimate concern of all countries, but especially of the developing countries, at trivialization and distortion. It is aggravating when, as so often seems to be the case, bad news makes the headlines while good news is ignored. But we oppose proposals which could lead to restrictions, to less access to information or to limited access to sources of information, under the claim that such measures could lead to greater fairness. Freedom of information remains for us the basic underlying principle of this process.

Mr Chairman, one of the chief characteristics of our Organization is the extraordinary divergence and the wealth of cultural diversity of our world. We are aware that this cultural diversity contributes significantly to the richness of human society. This awareness should be fostered and the international community should realize the benefits that this diversity entails.

There is no question but that a significant gap still exists in the field of information and communication. This is due to a variety of historic and economic reasons. We have repeatedly stated that we are ready to consider practical steps. Within this context it is our conviction that improvement and facilitation of a free flow of information would offer a substantive assistance towards gradually redressing those imbalances. Creating obstacles to the free flow of information would only serve to increase them. They can only be addressed and dealt with by seeking to eliminate whatever obstacles are put in their way.

Those of the Twelve within UNESCO support a large number of programmes aiming at developing resources for communication and information in many regions of the world. They shall continue contributing to the constructive efforts undertaken by UNESCO.

Mr Chairman, the Twelve have read with attention the report of the Secretary-General on 'Questions Relating to Information'. We have noted with interest the increased activities of the Department of Public Information in view of the forthcoming fortieth anniversary of the

Universal Declaration of Human Rights; we have also taken notice with great interest of the activities undertaken by the department in this area in order to render all peoples of the world more aware of the question of human rights. We are also looking forward to the submission to the Committee on Information, at its eleventh session in 1989, of the study undertaken by the Management Advisory Services on the consolidation and coordination of all public information activities within the United Nations, with specific reference to the financial implications as well as to the effectiveness of the Department of Public Information as the focal point for public information activities.

The attention attached to this forthcoming study is due to the great importance we give to an efficient Department of Public Information. In this context we would like to reaffirm our continuing support to the Secretary-General and the Under-Secretary-General for Information in their efforts towards this goal. We all realize that the task is a difficult one, particularly in view of existing financial constraints. However, it is our conviction that it is possible to carry it out successfully.

Mr Chairman, allow me, at this point, to refer to the Report of the Committee on Information in front of us. For the Twelve it is a matter of disappointment that the Committee was unable to come to mutually agreed recommendations. Both during the summer session and during the resumed session in September, great efforts were made towards this aim. Those of the Twelve who are members of the Committee on Information made a sincere effort in order to reach consensus. Unfortunately, consensus remained beyond the grasp of the Committee in spite of progress achieved, progress far beyond what had been possible in previous sessions.

At the same time, the Committee took the rather unusual step of forwarding to the Special Political Committee the entirety of the draft recommendations, amendments etc. proposed by the regional groups and China during the Session. The underlying thought in the Committee, which we share, is that the question of information is a highly important one on which decisions should, if possible, be taken by consensus. The Twelve will do their utmost in the forthcoming deliberations to assist efforts in reaching such a consensus.

In our opinion, which we have also reiterated on a number of occasions in the past, the prime task of the Committee on Information is to develop guidelines for the Department of Public Information. Instead of formulating excessively selective and at times costly priorities for the Department of Public Information, the Committee on Information should help the department by streamlining its own recommendations in order to help the department fulfil its obligations. Furthermore, we believe that the Committee should avoid selectively focusing on issues on which its membership is divided. We are of the opinion that it does not help the effectiveness of a United Nations information policy, nor does it enhance the image of the United Nations, when we are faced with a long list of issues that regenerate an impasse created in the appropriate Committee.

It is obviously difficult to draw up recommendations in the information field which reflect all shades of political opinion. It would seem, therefore, advisable to avoid entering in excessive details and, on the contrary, assist the Department of Public Information in elaborating a set of guidelines aimed at rationalizing the Department of Public Information and facilitating the drawing up of an order of priorities. The Department of Public Information should, within its specific mandate, continue its efforts to promote an informed understanding of the work and purposes of the United Nations and strengthen the image of the United Nations as a whole.

Mr Chairman, as I had the opportunity to mention, the Twelve believe that we have now a unique opportunity to reach consensus. We strongly appeal to all to grasp that opportunity.

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<sup>1</sup> Agenda item 79.



**88/398. Statement in the Third Committee of the United Nations: Revision of the Medium-Term Plan 1984-91 and the Introduction of the Medium-Term Plan 1991-97<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 4 November 1988  
 Place of Issue: New York  
 Country of Presidency: Greece  
 Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations  
 Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Mr Chairman, the Twelve have taken note of the proposed revision to the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1991, and in particular of the amendments recommended by the CPC that concern the Third Committee. We should object to any recommendation from the Third Committee to the Fifth Committee suggesting that the matter be reopened. We should simply like to stress the priority that the Twelve attach in having the various UN and treaty bodies related to the protection of human rights and the Center for Human Rights, function in an efficient and effective manner.

Concerning the draft introduction for the next medium-term plan, the Twelve support the observations and recommendations of the CPC that are favourable to the structural simplification proposed by the Secretariat. The Twelve may take position again on this question, on the basis of a new draft that will be submitted to the 44th Session of the General Assembly.

<sup>1</sup> Agenda item 115.

**88/399. Question No 171/88 by Mr Glinne (S-B) Concerning the Significance of the Treaty Establishing a Special Association Between Italy and Argentina**

Date of Issue: 4 November 1988  
 Place of Issue: Strasbourg  
 Country of Presidency: Greece  
 Source of Document: Presidency  
 Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 17 May 1988

On 10 December 1987, President Alfonsin and the Italian Prime Minister signed a treaty whose avowed object is to provide an example of North-South cooperation.

1. The preamble of this document, indeed, contains a number of revealing passages.

Firstly, there is a solemn declaration on the need to consolidate democratic institutions in Argentina. Secondly, the desire to establish between Argentina and Italy a special association in the light of the 'bonds of blood and culture' which unite them (a reference to the substantial immigrant population of Italian origin). The text of the agreement describes this association as a new model of North-South cooperation, involving an industrialized country and country oppressed by its foreign debt.

2. In terms of specifics, the following characteristics are apparent:

The objective of the agreement is a programme of support for Argentina's economic development by investment in Argentina amounting to 5 billion dollars over the five years between 1988 and 1992.

This investment will consist, in more or less equal proportions, of grants of Italian aid, direct investment — both private and public — encouraged by guarantees on the repatriation of capital and dividends, and Argentine investment amounting to the equivalent of either the grants of aid or the direct Italian investment.

The two parties will work to encourage joint ventures in the industrial sector and the relevant programmes will favour projects submitted by small and medium-sized enterprises, thus encouraging the renewal and modernization of Argentinian industry.

The Argentine Government will guarantee Italian investors freedom to repatriate their capital and dividends.

The treaty will not be confined to economic matters, but provides for developments in political, social, cultural, technological and scientific relations (especially through the creation of an 'Italian-Argentinian Technological Club'). The proposal for inter-university agreements and the possibility of mutual recognition of degrees are also worth mentioning.

As for the working of the treaty, there will be a joint permanent secretariat, headed by a representative of the Argentine Foreign Ministry, to monitor the application of the treaty and to make suggestions to the existing range of Italian-Argentinian joint committees. There is provision for annual summit meetings of the President of Argentina and the Italian Prime Minister.

Would the Commission state its opinion on the significance of this bilateral agreement and the possibility of following the example it sets by a similar agreement between the Community and all the democratic countries of South America as a group?

*Answer:*

There are cooperation agreements with several Latin American countries:

- the cooperation agreement between the European Economic Community on the one hand and the Cartagena Agreement and its member countries, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela, on the other;
- the cooperation agreement between the European Economic Community on the one hand and the countries party to the General Central American Economic Integration Treaty (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua) and Panama on the other;
- the framework cooperation agreement between the European Economic Community and the Federative Republic of Brazil;
- the agreement between the European Economic Community and the United Mexican States;
- the trade agreement between the European Economic Community and the Eastern Republic of Uruguay.

The agreements which exist give wide room for cooperation with the Latin American countries involved and have already enabled relations between the Community and those countries to become significantly closer.

There is no cooperation agreement between Argentina and the Community.

The Argentina-Italy agreement referred to by the Honourable Member was notified to the Member States and the Commission under the procedure for consultations on cooperation agreements concluded by Member States with third countries, provided for in the Council Decision of 22 July 1974. As no consultation was requested within the prescribed time limit, the subordinate bodies of the Council have not discussed the content of the agreement.

Lastly, the Honourable Member's attention is drawn to the conclusions of the Council and the Member States of 22 June 1987<sup>1</sup>, in particular that 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.

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.

<sup>1</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 87/227.

## 88/400. Statement in the First Committee of the UN General Assembly: Conventional Disarmament<sup>1</sup>

Date of Issue: 7 November 1988

Place of Issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

*Mr Stephanou:* I have the honour to speak on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community, on item 64 [D] of our agenda, 'Conventional Disarmament'.

While the reduction of nuclear arsenals remains one of the highest priorities for the countries on whose behalf I speak, the Twelve have consistently stressed that conventional disarmament is an integral and essential part of the overall disarmament process and should urgently be pursued on a global as well as on a regional level. The process of arms control and disarmament must apply in the conventional as in the nuclear field. Both processes could contribute to enhancing security. The Twelve continue to see as one of the central and pressing tasks for the international community progress towards balanced and verifiable reductions of conventional armaments. The Twelve firmly believe that the aim of the process of conventional disarmament should be to seek effectively verifiable arms control agreements ensuring security at the lowest possible level of forces and armaments. Such a process should remove military threats and existing imbalances which challenge security and stability.

It is conventional weapons which have been the cause of many millions of lost lives throughout the world in conflicts. Increasingly powerful weapons continue to be deployed in all areas of the world. The expenditure on conventional armaments and forces absorbs an overwhelming proportion of all military budgets in the world and thereby has increasingly become a serious economic strain on a large number of countries.

The growing recognition of the overall importance of conventional arms control and disarmament should be welcomed. Not only the major powers, but all the States of the world have to become involved in the process of conventional disarmament. Regional agreements are of particular relevance. The approach on a regional level may well prove to be the most practical for achieving progress in the foreseeable future.

Conventional arms control is an issue which we take very seriously in Europe, where the concentration of troops and armaments is high, and we are making serious efforts to deal with this question. To enhance security in Europe it is necessary to establish a stable and secure balance of conventional forces at lower levels and to introduce a further set of confidence- and security-building measures. We look forward to the start within the framework of the CSCE process of negotiations on such CSBMs and on conventional stability where the aim will be to eliminate existing disparities prejudicial to stability and security and to eliminate the capability for launching surprise attack and for initiating large-scale offensive action. In view of the potential offered by negotiations on conventional stability covering the whole of Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals, particular importance is attached to the achievement of a mandate and to the early commencement of these negotiations. A successful conclusion of the Vienna CSCE follow-up meeting would secure the opening of these negotiations.

The Twelve are firmly committed to a balanced outcome of the Vienna follow-up meeting which benefits all people in the thirty-five participating States. The CSCE process remains the central element of an East-West policy aimed at peace and security based on cooperation and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

We support the draft resolution in document A/C.1/43/L.61 of 31 October 1988 on confidence- and security-building measures and conventional disarmament tabled by a number of Member States of the Twelve.

At the request of the General Assembly, the Disarmament Commission considered this year the item of conventional disarmament in a working group. The Twelve participated actively in

the deliberations of this working group. While many proposals on this question were put forward and a comprehensive report was presented by the Chairman, belonging to one of the Twelve, with a view to reaching consensus on a set of recommendations on the subject, it did not prove possible to find agreement on the substantive content of the draft report.

The twelve Member States of the European Community reiterate that the subject of conventional disarmament should be kept at the forefront of the multilateral debate on disarmament. We hope that UNDC at its 1989 session will be able to agree on a substantive report on the subject. We support the draft resolution in document A/C.1/43/L.10 introduced by Denmark, one of the twelve Member States of the European Community, on this issue.

In conventional disarmament, as in other areas of disarmament, the twelve Member States of the European Community remain convinced that a better flow of information would help to relieve international tension. In order to prevent misperceptions and miscalculations of the intentions and military capabilities of others, the Twelve have consistently advocated a more free and open flow of objective information on military matters and implemented a wide variety of measures whose aim is to contribute to the widest possible degree of openness to this end. The need for transparency, openness and reliable data is reflected in the draft resolution in document A/C.1/43/L.19 of 31 October 1988. We, of course, support that resolution. The Twelve also note with interest the draft resolutions by other States, including the one tabled by China A/C.1/43/L.15 of 31 October 1988, as well as the other A/C.1/43/L.70 as tabled by Peru, which we welcome.

<sup>1</sup> Agenda item 64 [D].

### **88/401. Statement in the First Committee of the UN General Assembly: Review of the Role of the United Nations in the Field of Disarmament<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 7 November 1988

Place of Issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

*Mr Stephanou:* I wish to make some comments on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community, on agenda item 64 [J], entitled 'Review of the Role of the United Nations in the Field of Disarmament'.

As I underscored in my statement on behalf of the Twelve in the general debate, the Twelve are convinced that the United Nations must play a central role in the quest for disarmament, pursuant to the purposes and principles of the Charter.

In this context, the Twelve have continuously supported endeavours aimed at strengthening the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament. The detailed views of the Member States of the European Community on this issue of our agenda have been submitted by the Federal Republic of Germany on behalf of the Twelve to UNDC in document A/CN.10/112, as well as to the third Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. The subject has been under consideration for four years now in the Disarmament Commission and we hope that a report and recommendations can be submitted to the next General Assembly.

The United Nations have played an important role in the field of disarmament and it should continue to do so. Serious efforts should be made with the aim of organizing the work within the United Nations in the field of disarmament in a more efficient way.

Let me first come to the work of our Committee. I would like to stress that we welcome particularly your personal efforts, Mr Chairman, that with the friends of the Chair you are pursuing with the goal of improving the working methods of the First Committee.

In particular, the First Committee, as the main subsidiary body of the General Assembly for dealing with disarmament and related international security questions, should continue to fulfil its deliberative functions. In the view of the Twelve it is the extent of meaningful consensus which will enhance the credibility of this Committee. The truly global character of our work is already achieved through the contributions of a great number of States with different geographical, economic and security backgrounds. If we can combine and optimize these advantages we will then perform our duty in helping the international community to accomplish progress in the field of disarmament. A serious and successful effort towards a meaningful consensus, supported by the Twelve, was undertaken during the 42nd Session. Let us hope that this encouraging precedent will be followed in this year's session, thus increasing the influence of the First Committee.

The Twelve fully support the contents and spirit of the General Assembly Resolution 42/42 [N] on the rationalization of the work of the First Committee.

Mr Chairman, the Twelve wish to reaffirm their conviction that the Disarmament Commission serves as a place for in-depth deliberation and thus constitutes an indispensable element in the multilateral disarmament process. It will have other important contributions to make in the future. The progress achieved outside the multilateral disarmament process should have a positive impact as well.

In this year's substantive session, the Disarmament Commission achieved an agreement on verification as well as on confidence-building measures. It is a positive step and an encouraging precedent for the work of the Commission. Members of the Twelve will continue to participate actively in the work of the UNDC.

Mr Chairman, the Member States of the European Community have always attached great importance to the work of the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum for global disarmament questions. They wish to reaffirm their commitment to the Conference. It remains an indispensable forum in the field of disarmament. The Twelve look forward to the results of the discussions undertaken within the Conference on Disarmament, which will strengthen the effectiveness of the Conference in its disarmament efforts.

The Twelve attach particular importance to the chemical weapons negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. We consider that the earliest possible conclusion of a global, comprehensive, effectively verifiable ban on chemical weapons remains one of the most urgent priorities in the Conference on Disarmament and will enhance its authority.

The Twelve wish to see the primary role of the Department for Disarmament Affairs strengthened in coordinating the resources of the United Nations in the field of disarmament, in order to avoid unnecessary duplication of work. The role of the department is equally important in regard to aspects of the activities of the specialized agencies which have a bearing on disarmament questions. In this context, the Twelve wish to praise the department for organizing an impressive number of events, both at the United Nations headquarters and elsewhere, with effectiveness and with very limited resources.

The Twelve consider very useful the United Nations Fellowship Programme and look forward to its continuation.

The Twelve firmly believe that United Nations studies can make a valuable contribution to the discussion and consideration of disarmament issues. In this context the Twelve have a long and consistent record of supporting the concept and objectives of the United Nations disarmament studies programme.

In accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the Twelve see the need that studies conducted under the United Nations auspices should be related to specific practical objectives and be the subject of proper consultations.

The Twelve further recall their interest for the effective functioning of the UNIDIR, to which certain Member States of the European Community contribute — with other States — voluntarily to its funding. They would also like to see the coordination role of the Advisory Body

on Disarmament Studies strengthened in order to ensure that studies and research are carried out as effectively as possible and avoid overlapping with other studies. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

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<sup>1</sup> Agenda item 64 [J].

## **88/402. Statement in the Fifth Committee of the UN General Assembly: Personnel Questions<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 8 November 1988

Place of Issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

*Mr Rallis:* Mr Chairman, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community.

At the outset, the Twelve would like to thank the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Resources Management, Mr Kofi Annan, for his introductory statement.

The Twelve appreciate the role of the Secretariat staff in the Organization's efforts to solve the problems confronting today's world. In this regard we underline the importance of a truly independent Secretariat with a highly efficient and competent staff committed to its work and to the ideals of the United Nations.

It is for these reasons that the Twelve attach particular importance to the questions related to personnel.

Mr Chairman, the Twelve have taken note of the Secretary-General's report on the composition of the Secretariat (A/43/659). Last year new desirable ranges were agreed by the General Assembly for nationals from individual countries. It is not our intention to reopen that debate this year, despite the reservations expressed by Community Members at the 42nd Session of the General Assembly. We note that the Twelve collectively are far below the mid-point of the desirable ranges and a number of them are under-represented — in some cases considerably so. The principles embodied in Article 101 paragraph 3 of the Charter should continue to guide the Secretary-General in the recruitment of staff. Provided that the paramount requirement for efficiency, competence and integrity is met, then in cases of equal competence, the Secretary-General should continue to make every effort to recruit candidates from un- or under-represented countries.

The Twelve wish to repeat their view that the holding of competitive examinations both for external as well as for internal candidates can improve, as practice has shown, the quality of the Secretariat. We trust that again in 1989 external examinations will be held with a view as far as possible to recruit personnel from un- or under-represented countries.

We would also like to repeat that recruitment to all posts, both fixed-term and permanent, should be open to nationals of all member States and that, as it follows from the principles embodied in the Charter, no post should be considered the exclusive preserve of any member State.

Mr Chairman, the Twelve appreciate the genuine efforts of the Secretary-General to improve the status of women in the United Nations and they take this opportunity to thank Ms Pulido de Briceno for her efforts to successfully carry out her duties as coordinator for the status of women in the Secretariat. We also thank her staff. We note the decision of the Secretary-General to transfer the functions of the former coordinator's office to a full-time senior staff member as a focal point within the immediate office of the assistant Secretary-General of Human Resources Management.

The Twelve note that the percentage of women in posts subject to geographical distribution continued to rise. We encourage the Secretary-General to see to it that this trend continues so

that a further amelioration of the status of women in the Secretariat, both qualitatively and quantitatively, can take place with a view to achieving the target of 30% set by the General Assembly by 1990. For this target however to be met, the active cooperation of member States is required.

The Twelve believe that equal treatment without discrimination of both women and men working in the Secretariat is an indispensable factor for the good functioning of the Organization. We note the low number of women at senior and decision-making levels and look to the Secretary-General actively to redress this situation.

The process of reform initiated by General Assembly Resolution 41/213 has inevitably created — as any process of change — certain difficulties of a practical and transitional nature, especially in duty stations with a higher vacancy rate. We appreciate the efforts of the Secretary-General to address these difficulties by *inter alia* encouraging mobility of the staff through the vacancy management and the staff redeployment programme designed to limit the impact of the recruitment freeze and the consequent uneven distribution of vacancies. The Twelve believe indeed that mobility and rotation of staff, especially with respect to places currently with higher vacancy rates are a necessity. The system of vacancy announcements should be improved. Greater effort also should be made, as we said in the past, towards working on a more coherent career development scheme related to the promotion system. Clearly, an impartial and reliable system of staff appraisal is an essential component. Better utilization of the human resources of the Secretariat should be made. In this regard, the Twelve welcome Mr Annan's assurances that training of staff will be expanded significantly. This will pay dividends to the Organization as well as provide greater job satisfaction and opportunities for staff.

Mr Chairman, regarding the question of safety of the United Nations staff raised by the assistant Secretary-General in his introductory statement, the Twelve are very much concerned by this matter and look forward to hearing in the near future the ideas Mr Annan referred to.

Finally, Mr Chairman, we look forward to receiving the Secretary-General's report on the situation with regard to the respect of the privileges and immunities of United Nations officials. They reserve the right to come back to this issue as soon as the relevant report of the Secretary-General appears, as well as on the Administration of Justice in the United Nations which report, we note, has just been issued. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

<sup>1</sup> Agenda item 121.

### **88/403. Statement Concerning Korea**

Date of Issue: 9 November 1988  
Place of Issue: Athens  
Country of Presidency: Greece  
Source of Document: The Twelve  
Status of Document: Declaration

The Twelve welcome the renewal of contacts between North and South. They are encouraged by the fact that new proposals which aim at reducing tensions on the Korean peninsula have now been put forward by both sides in a conciliatory tone. They welcome in particular those put forward by President Roh at the United Nations on 18 October and hope that both sides will show flexibility and imagination in seeking a peaceful solution to the problems of the Korean peninsula.

### **88/404. Statement in the First Committee of the UN General Assembly: Reduction of Military Budgets<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 9 November 1988  
Place of Issue: New York  
Country of Presidency: Greece  
Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations  
Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

*Mr Stephanou:* I have the honour to speak on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community on item 62 [A] of the agenda: 'Reduction of Military Budgets'.

The Twelve have retained a consistent and active interest in this subject. As I stated *inter alia* in the General Debate, speaking on behalf of the Twelve, greater transparency and openness in military matters, including in defence budgets, is a fundamental requirement. They welcome the fact that confidence-building is now a widely accepted notion. Moreover, in stressing that confidence-building has played and will continue to play an important role in multilateral disarmament affairs, the Twelve further underscored that the United Nations standardized reporting system is an important means for making military expenditures comparable worldwide and more transparent. The Twelve call on all member States to take part in it in the near future.

Mr Chairman, military budgets are absorbing a high proportion of the world's human, financial, natural and technological resources and thereby have increasingly become a serious economic strain on a large number of countries. This applies to governments both in industrialized as well as in developing countries. All support the view that governments have a duty to protect their national interest, including the right of States to undiminished security. However, there should be a strong mutual interest in achieving this at lower levels of armaments, thus reducing the present high military spending in order to increase the allocation of national financial resources for a number of urgent humanitarian needs.

The Twelve have for many years emphasized the necessity of establishing agreed methods of measuring and comparing military expenditures. An important step was the recommendation in the General Assembly Resolution 35/142 [B] which provides a universal framework for States to report to the Secretary-General about their military expenditures in a standardized form. All Members of the Twelve comply regularly with this resolution. We call on all States to take part in the standardized reporting, as soon as possible. We welcome the fact that more States have found it possible to complete the instrument whereas others indicated that they will do so in the near future.

Mr Chairman, given the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament, we believe that the United Nations should play a central part in encouraging negotiations on arms control and disarmament measures that could lead to the reduction in military expenditures. By supplying the Secretary-General with relevant information, member States would support the organization in carrying out its role within this field, through the collection and dissemination of information.

Since 1980 the Disarmament Commission has considered the principles which should govern further actions of States in the field of freezing and reducing of military budgets.

The Twelve have taken an active part in the deliberations and have contributed to various compromise formulations. We welcome the fact that there is wide acceptance of the need to exchange relevant data and to achieve comparability of military budgets.

The Twelve hope that with the growing awareness and importance attached to confidence-building, the Disarmament Commission at its 1989 session will be able to finalize the draft principles and solve the outstanding issues with regard to transparency and comparability.

<sup>1</sup> Agenda item 62 [A].

## **88/405. Statement in the First Committee of the UN General Assembly: Disarmament and Development<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 9 November 1988

Place of Issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

*Mr Stephanou:* I wish, on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community, to speak on agenda item 62 [B] concerning the relationship between disarmament and development.



The Twelve share the concern of the international community expressed by many speakers repeatedly in this committee at the high level of military expenditure in the world. In particular, the expenditure on conventional armaments and forces absorbs an overwhelming proportion of all military budgets in the world and thereby has increasingly become a serious economic strain on a large number of countries, whether developed or less developed.

On the other hand, the question of security emerges as a central feature. Decisions to increase or reduce military expenditure remain tied to issues of international and regional security, a point which applies equally to industrialized and developing countries.

The problem of the relationship between disarmament and development, taking into account the need for security of States, has always been a complex one. Nonetheless, the transfer of any resources released through arms control and disarmament measures and the growing awareness of the importance of the potential reallocation of resources for the benefit of mankind has been a matter of consistent concern in this forum. This concern led to the decision to hold, in 1987, the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development on the basis of the French initiative. It was a significant event and proved an additional successful manifestation of international cooperation.

The Twelve participated actively in the international conference on the relationship between disarmament and development and played their part in ensuring the successful adoption of its final document by consensus. The conference contributed to a more substantial and balanced understanding of the matter. In particular, the final document underlined that 'disarmament and development are two of the most urgent challenges facing the world today'. They constitute priority concerns of the international community in which all nations — developed and developing, big and small, nuclear and non-nuclear — have a common and equal stake. Disarmament and development are two pillars on which international peace and security can be built. Furthermore, the document reaffirmed the crucial importance of the question of security in any detailed analysis of the relationship between disarmament and development: security understood as a concept encompassing social, humanitarian, environmental, developmental, as well as military aspects.

The Twelve subscribed to the need to implement the final document of the conference.

The reference in the final document to the importance of greater openness, transparency and confidence among nations to facilitating progress in both disarmament and development is very important. This reflects a fundamental requirement. These notions are now widely accepted as indispensable elements for strengthening international peace and security. The adoption of such measures helps to prevent misperceptions and miscalculations of intentions and military capabilities, thus dispelling mistrust. Moreover, its importance lies in the fact that, if we seriously wish to reach the goal of reallocation of resources for development, we have to pursue it vigorously, taking into account all its aspects.

However, the question of international financial reallocation is only one aspect of the problem. We believe that it is an oversimplification. Disarmament measures may not automatically lead to savings, particularly in the short run. The Twelve are convinced that the world community faces a great challenge to create conditions enabling the present negative relationship of arms build-up to be turned into a positive interaction between security, disarmament and development. In showing the complexity of the relationship and the attempt to give a more comprehensive description of its dimensions, the Conference on Disarmament and Development has accomplished a valuable achievement.

Let us hope that the progress achieved this year in the field of arms control and disarmament and the growing awareness that international peace and security cannot be achieved in an atmosphere that fosters an accumulation of weapons will assist us in our task on this item. In particular, it will enable us to focus on solving the complexity of the issues involved for the benefit of the international community and its social and economic progress.

The Twelve would be happy to see draft resolution L.8, tabled by Zimbabwe on behalf of the non-aligned movement, adopted by consensus.

<sup>1</sup> Agenda item 62 [B].

### **88/406. Statement in the First Committee of the UN General Assembly: Chemical and Bacteriological (Biological) Weapons<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 9 November 1988

Place of Issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

*Mr Souliotis:* I wish, on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community, to address agenda item 63 concerning chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons.

The Twelve continue to see the complete elimination of chemical weapons as one of the central and priority tasks of the international community. To this end, the Twelve attach particular importance to the chemical weapons negotiations under way in the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva.

They strongly advocate an early establishment of a global, comprehensive and effectively verifiable ban on chemical weapons and reaffirm their dedication to the total elimination of these weapons. It is only by means of such a convention that mankind can once and for all be freed from the scourge of chemical weapons.

The negotiations for a global ban on chemical weapons have made encouraging progress. Joint efforts can bring closer the resolution of pending problems, including the complex but fundamental verification issues, in a way acceptable to all. Those of the Twelve who are participants in the conference will continue vigorously to pursue this goal at the negotiations.

From the outset of the negotiations, it was clear that reliable verification would be a crucial issue. Substantial progress has been made towards establishing an effective verification system. A recent positive development has been the initiation of trial inspections of chemical facilities. It is the hope of the Twelve that these inspections should help clarify some of the remaining problems in this area and contribute to their expeditious resolution.

In this context of constructive parallelism between the bilateral and multilateral process, the Twelve reiterate that they welcome the ongoing discussions between the United States and the Soviet Union on issues related to the prohibition of chemical weapons. Those discussions have contributed positively to the negotiating process in the Conference on Disarmament.

The use of these terrible weapons in the Iran-Iraq conflict and the compelling indications of their use against the Kurdish civilian population underline the compelling need for a comprehensive, verifiable and global convention on the elimination of chemical weapons. The Twelve are gravely concerned by the reports of the Secretary-General and confirm their position condemning such use of chemical weapons. They call for respect of the Geneva Protocol of 1925 and other relevant rules of customary international law. They also call for full implementation of Resolutions 612 and 620 of the United Nations Security Council. The Twelve endorse the Security Council's call on States to continue to apply, to establish or to strengthen strict control of the export of chemical products serving for the production of chemical weapons. This is particularly so in respect of parties to a conflict, when it is established or when there is substantial reason to believe that they have used chemical weapons in violation of international obligations. They commend its decision to consider immediately, taking into account the investigations of the Secretary-General, appropriate and effective measures in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, should there be any future use of chemical weapons in violation of international law. In this context, the Twelve welcome the consensus accorded to UNGA Resolution 42/37 [C] which *inter alia* urged all States to be guided in their national

policies by the need to curb the spread of chemical weapons, requested the Secretary-General to investigate reports of chemical weapons use and requested him to develop further technical guidelines and procedures to assist in the timely and efficient investigation of such reports.

Mr Chairman, the Twelve warmly support the timely initiative of the Presidents of the United States and France, made before the General Assembly in calling for a conference with the aim of reaffirming the authority of the Geneva Protocol of 1925. We expect this conference, at the same time, to give a new forceful impetus to the ongoing negotiations at the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. We welcome the invitation by President Mitterrand to hold such a conference in Paris, from 7 to 11 January 1989.

The Twelve are encouraged by the results of the Second Review Conference of the States parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological Weapons and their Destruction. They welcome the measures adopted for voluntary confidence-building and look forward to a widespread response among States parties, on a continuing basis as envisaged in the report of the *ad hoc* committee of scientific and technical experts (document BWC/Conf.II/Ex.2).

Several draft resolution texts have been submitted concerning the agenda item I am addressing. The Twelve very much hope that it will prove possible once again to reach consensus on these important issues.

<sup>1</sup> Agenda item 63.

### **88/407. Statement in the First Committee of the UN General Assembly: Confidence-Building Measures<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 9 November 1988

Place of Issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

*Mr Souliotis:* I wish to make some comments on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community on item 67 [A] entitled 'Consideration of Guidelines for Confidence-Building Measures; Report of the Disarmament Commission Incorporated in Document A/36/474'.

After several years of deliberations in UNDC, in which many Members have actively participated, this year the UNDC agreed, following the initiative of the Federal Republic of Germany, on a catalogue of guidelines for confidence-building measures. The Twelve would like to see the General Assembly endorse these guidelines and recommend their implementation by States in accordance with their own particular situation.

In the view of the Twelve, the concept of confidence-building is particularly important in a world where examples of the use and the threat of use of force still cause concern to the international community. Confidence-building measures have played and will continue to play a considerable role in multilateral disarmament affairs. They are not of course a substitute for arms control and disarmament. We welcome the fact that the supportive role of CBMs is now widely accepted.

The positive political climate that resulted from the Washington and Moscow summit meetings as well as from other contacts at the highest levels between the USA and the USSR has created new conditions which are conducive to the achievement of significant progress in the process of arms control and disarmament and of strengthening peace. In such a climate, confidence-building measures for their part can certainly promote the disarmament and arms control process as their foundation lies in the respect of the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. Thus, they contribute to preserving international peace and security.

The Twelve are firmly convinced that the development of confidence-building measures and the promotion of more openness and transparency in the military field are central elements for progress in arms control and disarmament both at the global and regional level. The adoption of measures that contribute to greater openness and transparency helps to prevent misperceptions, miscalculations of the intentions and military capabilities and to further the relaxation of international tensions.

As a concrete example, the results achieved at the Stockholm Conference and the encouraging experience gained so far with the implementation of the Stockholm Document have contributed significantly to improve confidence and mutual trust in Europe. As always, the Twelve made every effort to contribute to this result.

We feel that the existing net of provisions can still be improved by promoting more openness and transparency in the military field. The Twelve, as many other Europeans, are firmly committed to the new round of confidence- and security-building measures negotiations.

Equally, the Twelve support efforts in other regions, in Latin America, in Africa and in Asia which can contribute to a favourable atmosphere for regional disarmament measures. We hope that these efforts will succeed.

On the global scale too, the Twelve are encouraged by the results of the Second Review Conference of the States parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development and Stockpiling of Bacteriological Weapons and their Destruction. They welcome the measures adopted for voluntary confidence-building and look forward to a widespread response among States parties.

Much work has gone into drafting and finalizing the guidelines accepted at this year's substantive session of the Disarmament Commission. The Twelve hope that against the background of a generally improving atmosphere in international relations — no small part of which is due to the tireless and successful work of the Secretary-General and his staff — member States of the United Nations will draw upon these guidelines and implement the recommendations contained therein that they see fit to apply to their specific circumstances.

We fully support draft resolution L.49 tabled by the Federal Republic of Germany.

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<sup>1</sup> Agenda item 67 [A].

### **88/408. Statement in the Special Political Committee of the UN General Assembly: United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 10 November 1988

Place of Issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

*Mr Nezeritis:* Mr Chairman, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Community and its twelve Member States.

Continuing its achievements for thirty-eight years, UNRWA is currently working for the benefit of more than two million refugees in the Near East. This excellent record is an apt proof of its great value to the refugees both from a humanitarian and political point of view. As long as the Palestinian problem has not found a solution within the framework of a global political settlement of the conflict in the Middle East, UNRWA will continue to play an essential role in providing education, health and basic welfare services as well as emergency relief. Furthermore, the Agency has demonstrated during all these years its ability to cope with special needs because of emergencies, while maintaining regular services to the extent that local circumstances have permitted.

Recently, UNRWA has had to face new challenges: the emergency conditions in the territories of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip occupied by Israel. The situation created there, after the uprising of the Palestinian people, has obliged the Agency to adjust its operations to accommodate to the circumstances.

Mr Chairman, the Twelve wish to express to the Commissioner-General their greatest appreciation for his consistent efforts since taking office and for the excellent report that he has submitted to the General Assembly. The report, once again, points out the difficulties faced by UNRWA in providing services to refugees and the conditions of difficulty and danger in which the Agency is often forced to operate. It describes also the continuing emergency in Lebanon and the impact of the uprising in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank on the operations of UNRWA.

The unsettled conditions in Lebanon have continued to affect seriously the health services of UNRWA. Yet, the Agency was able to respond by establishing mobile medical teams when regular facilities were inoperative. In the same way, when the education programme was affected, many schools were kept open into the summer vacation period to complete the academic year.

The Twelve have profound sympathy for the civilian population caught up in the violence in Lebanon. They have consistently called for every effort to be made in order to end the bloodshed and for the sovereignty, unity, independence and territorial integrity of Lebanon to be respected.

This year UNRWA has faced emergency conditions in two other fields — the occupied territories of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. It has expanded relief and supplementary feeding programmes to counter new hardships. As the report points out, health centres and other UNRWA medical facilities have substantially increased their operations; vocational, technical and teacher training programmes in the four UNRWA training centres in the territories were disrupted throughout most of the year and remained suspended at the end of June; and elementary and preparatory pupils were unable to complete their curriculum when the authorities ordered schools to close. Under present circumstances, the refugees are in need of greater support from UNRWA to cope with the increased difficulties they are encountering, such as curfews, demolition of shelters, other forms of collective punishment and loss of income.

The Twelve welcome the efforts made by the Agency to promote income-generating projects to assist refugee families in becoming self-sufficient. These projects could help beneficiaries to improve their standard of living as an interim measure, pending a permanent peace settlement. The assignment of additional international staff to the UNRWA Field Offices in Jerusalem and Gaza increased the Agency's ability to respond quickly to the need for providing additional assistance and protection to refugees in the occupied territories.

The Agency has made representations to the authorities in the Gaza Strip to ensure proper housing for the families effected by the demolitions carried out. We are convinced that all activities undertaken to alleviate hardship and to improve living conditions in the occupied territories should be carried out in a manner to support, to the greatest possible extent, international efforts to reach a comprehensive and just solution to the Middle East problem.

Mr Chairman, the Twelve express their concern for the substantial increase in the number of staff arrested and detained without charge or trial in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Another matter of serious concern has been the infringements by Israeli authorities of the Agency's rights, privileges and immunities and of its abilities to discharge effectively its functions.

Throughout the year, the Agency has been preoccupied with problems of security in Lebanon. Despite extra measures taken, on 5 February 1988, two UNRWA international staff members were kidnapped by unknown persons. The two men were freed unharmed on 1 March. In the same year, four area staff members were killed. Those incidents are a dramatic reminder of the constant danger to which all UNRWA staff in Lebanon are exposed. Among those still missing is Alec Collett, who was kidnapped in March 1985 while working for UNRWA. We appeal once again for news of his whereabouts and for his release without further delay.

Mr Chairman, the Twelve are pleased to note that through careful planning, stringent budgetary measures and increased contributions from some donors, the Agency's financial position has improved in the period covered by the report. We note also that extraordinary measures in the occupied territories have been covered by special contributions received from a number of countries, including several that have not previously been regular contributors to the Agency's general funds. Yet, the Agency again faces financial difficulties. The 1986 and 1987 trend towards financial stability will not be sustained in 1988. In 1988 the working capital is very limited and would in fact cover the costs of the Agency's regular operations for only about six weeks. This makes the Agency vulnerable to unexpected shortfalls in its funding. Additional donations will be required if UNRWA is to be able to complete its programmes for repairing Agency's installations and refugee accommodations in Lebanon and to implement schemes for improving conditions for refugees living in camps in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Twelve have in the past stressed that financial support for the Agency is a commitment assumed logically by all those who voted and who continue to vote in favour of the relevant resolutions. While we fully appreciate the valuable services that the host governments continue to provide for the Palestinian refugees we remain concerned at the narrow funding base for UNRWA. A number of Western countries, including the European Community and its Member States, continue to provide close to 90 per cent of the Agency's total budget.

We note the absence from the contributor's list of countries which have expressed their concern for the plight of the Palestinian people, and which have the resources to contribute to this very important case. We urge all those countries able to do so, to respond effectively to the appeal of the Commissioner-General for generous donations.

Mr Chairman, I would like to take this opportunity to recall that under the convention covering the period 1987-89 between EEC and UNRWA, the European Community has agreed to increase its cash contribution to the education programmes of UNRWA by 20 per cent, i.e. 20 million ECU equivalent approximately to 22 million US dollars for 1987, 1988 and 1989 each. Together with the contributions to UNRWA's feeding programmes the total value of EC aid to UNRWA in the current year is expected to reach some 38.9 million ECU or approximately 42.8 million US dollars.

The European Community has also given duty-free access for all the industrial products exported to the Community as well as preferential duty treatment for some agricultural products originating from the occupied territories. These measures were taken with the hope that they will also help to improve the difficult economic situation in the occupied territories as well as to contribute to the reduction of unemployment and underemployment.

Mr Chairman, UNRWA remains a political and humanitarian necessity pending a solution to the conflict in the Middle East. The Twelve are committed to the search for peace in the region. Their position for a political solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict and their support for an international peace conference under the auspices of the United Nations are well known. In the meantime, the Twelve will continue to do their best in contributing to the work of UNRWA. We encourage other member States to join in the political and financial support of the Agency.

In concluding my statement let me, once again, congratulate the Commissioner-General for the dedicated manner in which he is carrying out his duties, and the staff of UNRWA for the devotion with which they fulfil their task. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

<sup>1</sup> Agenda item 76.

## **88/409. Statement in the Second Committee of the UN General Assembly: Medium-Term Plan<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 10 November 1988

Place of Issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

*Mr Adamides:* Mr Chairman, I take the floor on behalf of the European Community and its Member States.

The Twelve have some general comments to make, only on the economic and social topics on the introduction to the medium-term plan.

As our starting point, we take both the principles and the reality of things, both the targets and the available means. We will not lag behind. We see merits in the process of constant striving. If there are limitations to what realistically the United Nations can achieve, we feel that those very ideals which we believe are valued by all — namely peace, human rights, freedom, justice, overall progress, both social and economic — can be pursued through common efforts.

The Twelve, having attached particular importance to, and [having] constructively contributed to fruitful results of the United Nations reform exercise, are looking forward to the aggregation of the results in the final medium-term plan so that the effective, consistent, proper and coordinated application of the programme can be assured.

CPC met before and after ECOSOC, and consensus was reached there to the revisions of the medium-term plan, as suggested by the Secretariat. We maintain our support for the CPC consensus.

The Twelve have repeatedly in the past underlined their attachment to the promotion and protection of human rights universally. We believe that respect for basic human dignity is a central element in respect of human rights. We attach a paramount importance to the combat against another type of crime, terrorism. The innocent populations of our countries suffer from this kind of useless, politically nonsensical and cowardly bloodshed. We believe that the concept of human rights first and foremost denotes protection of the individual against the State and that it is always the individual human being who is the beneficiary of those rights. Bearing this in mind, the Twelve attach great importance to maintaining and strengthening the existing human rights mechanisms of the United Nations including the committees and special rapporteurs established to monitor their implementation. Particular attention should be paid *inter alia* to combating racism in all its manifestations, and torture, i.e. to implement the Convention Against Torture.

Let me now turn to issues of international economic cooperation which also play a central role in the activities of the United Nations. It is well known that the first part of the present decade has been a difficult time for the world economy in general and for the development process in particular. However, during the second part of the decade, positive rates of growth in both developed and developing countries have created a more favourable environment for tackling a number of problems, such as the external debt which constitutes a serious burden for many developing countries and the conditions of the poorest and the least developed countries.

Other questions, which also require well considered and consistent action, concern the population growth, the deterioration of the environment, the production of food and the management of water supply and energy. There are problems which have to be dealt with in the framework of wider dialogue involving the United Nations system and other governmental and also sometimes non-governmental organizations.

Allow me now, Mr Chairman, to turn to a series of points which are of particular interest to the European Community and its Member States. The first of them concerns the well-known interest of the Twelve in the field of environmental problems. The United Nations system has a very particular role to play by bringing together all governments to agree on shared concerns, perceptions and targets. Sustainable development needs a strong intersectorial approach, since it is a concept including demographic trends, food security, environment and energy.

The question of the integration of women in development is of equal importance. Therefore, we note with particular interest earlier comments made by the Secretary-General on this issue. The United Nations system should continue to disseminate information of national experiences and analyse the role of women in development.

The fight against drug abuse and enhancement of international drug control should be even more intensified with the assistance of the appropriate United Nations division. The declaration of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, proclaimed in 1987, was a welcome expression of the political will of all nations to combat the drug menace in all its forms.

As a result of the reform process, the United Nations may have first to go through structural and organizational changes before the medium-term plan will come into effect. The United Nations may be called to face different tasks and functions in the coming decade. The Member States may shift their position. We expect that in the 1990s more flexibility and efficiency will characterize the United Nations activities. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

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<sup>1</sup> Agenda item 76.

### **88/410. Statement in the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly: Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 10 November 1988

Place of Issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

*Mr Chrysanthopoulos:* Mr Chairman, speaking on behalf of the European Community and its twelve Member States, I have the honour to address the Committee on item 106 concerning torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Torture is one of the most horrifying abuses of human rights. It inflicts intense pain and suffering on its victims and causes permanent physical and psychological damage to those who survive torture. Torture is an affront to civilization.

As we all know, the ban on torture was laid down in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in its Article 5 and in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in its Article 7. But the international community did not limit itself only to those provisions. It went even further in its attempt to combat this abhorrent practice. The General Assembly adopted in 1975 the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Being Subjected to Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. In 1984, as an additional and more effective means to combat torture the General Assembly adopted the Convention Against Torture and the Human Rights Commission appointed a Special Rapporteur on the question of torture. However, in spite of all these efforts, we note with regret that in the last few years there has been an increase in the number of countries that practise torture, as pointed out, among others, by the Special Rapporteur on torture in his report.

The Twelve have welcomed the entry into force on 26 June 1987 of the Convention Against Torture, which they regard as a major step in promoting universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The Member States of the European Community have either become party to the convention or hope to do so at an early date.

We have studied carefully the report of the Committee Against Torture as well as the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the convention and note with regret that one more supervisory instrument of a human rights convention cannot function effectively. As a result of the financial problems that the Committee Against Torture faces, it was able to meet only for five days in its very first meeting, instead of three weeks.

The Twelve, therefore, urge all States parties to make the necessary financial arrangements in order to enable the Committee to carry out in an effective and efficient manner the functions entrusted to it under the convention.



Concerning the declaration made by one State party at the time of ratification regarding expenses for the Committee Against Torture, the Twelve hope that the party in question would reconsider its position, since it is not in conformity with international law. We strongly urge that State party to withdraw its declaration.

The Twelve fully support the work of the Special Rapporteur on torture, whose mandate has been extended by the Commission on Human Rights for two more years. The usefulness of the Special Rapporteur mechanism in this area is, of course, enhanced by the fact that it fulfils a different function from that of the Committee on Torture. Whereas the latter is essentially concerned with the largely quasi-judicial function of monitoring compliance with treaty obligations, the Special Rapporteur has to tackle the issue of torture in all its aspects and review the situation in all UN member States. We nevertheless support the conclusion reached by the chairpersons of treaty bodies at their recent meeting in Geneva regarding the value of exchanges of views — perhaps on an informal basis — between the Special Rapporteur and the treaty bodies on directly relevant issues. We would also like to point out that the Special Rapporteur on torture and the Committee must receive adequate support and staff assistance so as to fulfil their respective tasks.

The voluntary fund for torture victims has, since 1983, given approximately three million dollars for special projects in 27 countries. Most of these projects have addressed the psychological counselling needs of torture victims and their families. We consider it necessary that governments make further contributions to the fund, if possible on a regular basis, in order to provide continued support for projects that depend on it.

In concluding, Mr Chairman, we would like to stress that we are looking forward to the day that the fund will no longer need to exist; to the day when there will no longer be victims of torture. There is, however, still much to be done in this respect. And the Twelve will continue to do whatever is necessary to reach that level of civilization where the heinous act of torture shall no longer exist.

<sup>1</sup> Agenda item 106.

### **88/411. Statement at the Plenary Session of the UN General Assembly: Review of the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 11 November 1988

Place of Issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

*Mr Papadatos:* Mr President, I have the honour to take the floor on item 49 ('Review of the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations') on the report of the Special Commission, on behalf of the European Community and its Member States.

The work of the Special Commission was inspired by the report of the Group of Eighteen and was envisaged to be a comprehensive and necessary process aiming at the simplification of the intergovernmental structure and functioning of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations. Unfortunately, the Special Commission has not been able to fulfil the task called for by recommendation 8 of the Group of Eighteen. Its outcome has fallen short of our expectations.

Mr President, the Twelve remain committed to reform. We played an important part in the arduous task of the Special Commission and we want to draw upon the many areas of agreement revealed in the Commission's report which can form a basis for further work by the General Assembly.

It is our understanding that informal proposals are discussed among a number of delegations as to how to bring this process of reform forward. They merit our careful consideration. The

streamlining of the intergovernmental machinery remains a major concern and should be addressed. We are ready to work with others in creating a basis for further fruitful deliberations. Thank you, Mr President.

<sup>1</sup> Agenda item 49.

**88/412. Statement in the Second Committee of the UN General Assembly: Development and International Economic Cooperation — International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 11 November 1988

Place of Issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

*Mr Papadatos:* Mr Chairman, I have the honour to take the floor on behalf of the European Community and its twelve Member States on agenda item 82 Part II [A] on the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations Development Decade.

Let me at the outset express our appreciation for the report of the Secretary-General on this sub-item and for Mr Ohlin's contribution to the discussion in our Committee.

In the second regular session at ECOSOC held in Geneva this summer, the European Community and its Member States offered some preliminary views and ideas on an international strategy for the fourth United Nations Development Decade.

We hope that from our deliberations with all our partners common understanding will emerge about the limited effectiveness of past approaches. The diversity of experience in the 1980s has rendered generalizations about developing countries difficult to sustain and brought about a greater recognition to the understanding of how development is best pursued in individual countries. Looking back, serious questions are raised about the usefulness of what were considered at the time as the right priorities. Did we adjust quickly to changing world conditions and particularly to evolving political and economic realities? It seems that we chose instead too rigid a framework for changing perceptions and economic realities.

A new strategy should reflect present day realities, fresh approaches and changing perceptions about the development process and sustainable development in general. While underlining the developing countries' own responsibility for implementing adequate development policies, the major focus must remain cooperation for international development. A strategy cannot address all development problems in general. Problems should be addressed in their specific context and at an appropriate level. We believe that we should learn from the experience and incorporate the conclusions in planning for the future and in preparing a new, different international development strategy.

Prospects of promoting the growth potential of developing countries will *inter alia* be influenced by the economic performance of the developed countries. The 1990s will be a period of transition, where adjustment will continue. Its domestic implications will be more pronounced for some countries than for others and could even have a bearing on the international economic environment. Most likely the reorientation of international policies in the large centrally planned economies will also have an impact on growth and development. The challenge lies in safeguarding social priorities in the face of continuous adjustment and uncertain prospects of growth in the world economy.

A new strategy should be a more realistic one, and should concentrate first on how development is best carried out, both in individual countries and in a regional context, rather than aimed at a worldwide scenario for the 1990s. A closer look, for example, at the relationship between stability, savings and investment of the individual countries may be desirable.

More specifically, the broad desirable features of a new strategy should be reflected in a document:

- less rhetorical and more practical, geared towards solving specific problems;
- more realistic and taking into account the new realities of the international economic system, more selective and more focused;
- promoting greater convergence of views on issues of common concern;
- regional integration of the developing countries with a view to create larger economic areas;
- envisaging more flexible mechanisms for discussion and negotiation. The input of the private sector and of transnational corporations should be considered;
- with greater emphasis on tapping the potential of human resources, advancement of women, fighting poverty, improving public health and attaining sustainable development, based on ecologically sound policies;
- reaffirming the commitment of the international community to support the efforts of the developing countries in an adequate manner by various means, including the agreed provisions of ODA in appropriate volume and quality.

In concluding, Mr Chairman, it remains unclear to us what the relationship is between a new strategy the way we see it, i.e. a fresh approach to development and not a blue-print and the proposed special session which is also supposed to provide new guidance on how development problems should be addressed in the future free of ideological constraints. We hope that a clearer understanding will emerge of both concepts before we consider proposals on these subjects. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

<sup>1</sup> Agenda item 82.

### **88/413. Statement in the Second Committee of the UN General Assembly: Medium-Term Plan**

Date of Issue: 11 November 1988  
 Place of Issue: New York  
 Country of Presidency: Greece  
 Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations  
 Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

*Mr Papadatos:* Mr Chairman, I have the honour to take the floor on behalf of the European Community and its Member States.

After intensive discussions in different forums a new structure of the next medium-term plan was proposed. This is based on an approach of transparency and simplicity. It is our impression that the views of all groups have been taken into account. A comprehensive approach was reached which all of us had aimed at.

With new, additional proposals brought forward by the Group of 77 in the Second Committee yesterday the balanced result of the deliberations in the preparation of the structure would be disturbed. Therefore, we are not in a position to endorse now the changes proposed by the Group of 77 without carefully considering them. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

### **88/414. Explanation of Vote at the Plenary Session of the UN General Assembly: Question of Namibia<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 14 November 1988  
 Place of Issue: New York  
 Country of Presidency: Greece  
 Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations  
 Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

*Mr Dictakis:* Mr President, I have the honour to make the following statement on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community on the draft resolutions now before the General Assembly.

Mr President, the international community's goal is common and clear: Namibia's independence at the earliest possible date. The Twelve wish to stress once again our full, constant and unequivocal support for the settlement plan endorsed by Security Council Resolution 435 (1978). We have called on South Africa to implement the settlement plan immediately and without preconditions.

Against this background it is unfortunate that a number of controversial elements remain in the draft resolutions. We recognize the efforts made to shorten them substantially and the fact that some of the language which had caused problems in recent years has been omitted, particularly in resolution B.

Let me now briefly revert to some of the well known reservations the Twelve have on the draft resolutions.

Even though we share the impatience and frustration of the Namibian people at South Africa's continuing occupation of their country, we cannot support armed struggle as a means of bringing Namibia to independence. We remain convinced that the general and primary duty of the United Nations is to promote peaceful solutions in conformity with the Charter, thus avoiding any encouragement of the use of force. For this reason, we cannot endorse calls for military assistance to SWAPO.

The Twelve consider that under the provisions of the settlement plan, the constitution of an independent Namibia must be worked out by a constituent Assembly appointed as a result of elections in which all political groups are able to participate. None of these groups should therefore be designated in advance as the sole and authentic representative of the Namibian people.

Owing to our commitment to the principle of universality of membership of the United Nations, we cannot accept that it should be called into question or that the autonomy of the international financial institutions should be compromised. In our view, a total isolation of South Africa could but hinder efforts to secure the United Nations settlement plan.

The Twelve also reject any arbitrary and selective singling out of individual countries or groups of countries.

Unchanged also remains our respect for the division of competence among the main bodies of the Organization. The Security Council alone is authorized to take decisions binding upon member States.

I must also register our concern at the financial implications of some of the draft resolutions before us. We have particularly in mind *inter alia* the proposal that the Council of Namibia should hold extraordinary plenary meetings away from their headquarters contrary to the provisions of Resolution 40/243 of the General Assembly. As with any new expenditure in the current financial situation the position will need to be carefully monitored in the light of developments.

Furthermore, we note the failure of the resolutions to take into account the fact that the prospects of Namibia's independence have improved since last year, notably due to ongoing negotiations between Angola, Cuba and South Africa, with the mediation of the USA.

Mr President, the Twelve remain firmly and unequivocally committed to the independence of Namibia and the implementation of Security Council Resolutions 385 (1976) and 435 (1978) without delay or preconditions. We welcome the understandings reached recently in Geneva and hope that they will lead to the implementation of the UN settlement plan at an early date. The Secretary-General will of course have a crucial role to play in the settlement plan and its implementation.

We hope that in the near future Namibia will be able at last to take a seat in the United Nations as full and sovereign Member of our international community. Thank you, Mr President.

<sup>1</sup> Agenda item 29.

### **88/415. Statement in the Fourth Committee of the UN General Assembly: Question of Namibia<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 14 November 1988

Place of Issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

*Mr Zepos:* I have the honour to speak on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community and to reaffirm our full support for the right of the Namibian people to self-determination and independence.

Mr President, over the years the policy of the Twelve has been clear, consistent and unequivocal. We remain firmly committed to Namibia's independence in accordance with the United Nations settlement plan endorsed by Security Council Resolution 435 (1978) and reaffirmed by subsequent resolutions. This plan embodies the only internationally agreed framework to ensure Namibia's independence and its people's authentic expression of will through free elections under the supervision and control of the United Nations. The Twelve, in rejecting the establishment of a so-called transitional government in Namibia, have repeatedly called for the implementation of the settlement plan without further delay or preconditions. In this respect, we believe that the role of the Secretary-General will continue to be of great importance and we wish to reiterate our wholehearted support for his resolute action with a view to the implementation of Resolution 435.

The Twelve express their satisfaction for the ongoing negotiations among Angola, Cuba and South Africa, mediated by the United States. We strongly support the endeavours to find a peaceful solution to the conflict in the area and to secure an early independence of Namibia in conformity with Security Council Resolution 435. We welcome the progress achieved so far. We regret that November 1, the date set forth by the parties involved for an eventual beginning of the implementation of the settlement plan was not met. Nevertheless, we reiterate our wish that the momentum of the negotiations should not be lost and that the transition period under United Nations control leading to Namibia's total independence will at last start in the very near future.

Mr President, as the Secretary-General of the United Nations put it, 'Namibia's independence is long overdue'. The question of Namibia has been before the United Nations virtually since its inception; a decade has passed since the adoption of Security Council Resolution 435 (1978) and still the people of Namibia have not exercised their right to self-determination. The Twelve share the frustration felt by the international community and its anxiety for the early and full independence of Namibia.

The process leading to this independence is the responsibility of the United Nations — and in particular of the Security Council and the Secretary-General. However, the question of Namibia constitutes a moral responsibility of the international community as well. For their part, the Twelve wish to recall their established position on Namibia's independence and their previous statements deploring specific policies and acts of the Government of South Africa in this regard.

The Twelve have substantially contributed to efforts to alleviate the suffering of the Namibian people caused by South Africa's illegal occupation of the territory. The European Community and its Member States have provided the people of Namibia with assistance in various fields. On the one hand, educational training and professional secondment aid has ensured an improvement of the standards of living of the population. On the other hand, humanitarian aid and

self-help projects in favour of Namibian refugees and support for the victims of apartheid there, have helped to ease to a certain extent the negative impact of draconian policies exercised by South Africa, such as human rights violations, illegal detentions without trial and forced conscription of the people. We reiterate our readiness to continue and, if necessary, to expand our aid to Namibia's people with a view to securing a smooth transition to independence.

Furthermore, solid economic infrastructure is a prerequisite to full political independence, security, and stable and lasting socio-economic development. Namibia's genuine independence can only be assured through continuing assistance, particularly in the early period of freedom. Once again the European Community and its Member States reaffirm their intention to assist Namibia to that end as soon as it becomes independent. In the light of the above, we are looking forward to receiving from a sovereign Namibia an application for association to the ACP group of countries and to the Lomé Convention.

Mr President, our attention on the question of Namibia should remain focused on the fact that it is a question of illegal occupation in defiance of repeated resolutions of the United Nations. No excuse can justify the prolongation of this situation which constitutes a breach of fundamental principles of the United Nations Charter. The international community must spare no effort to secure Namibia's independence. We urge the Government of South Africa to comply forthwith with its obligations and to help to turn into reality the spirit of determination demonstrated over the last month and thus bring about a peaceful settlement of the Namibia question. We are convinced that an early and just solution to this problem will have positive repercussions for peace, stability, further settlements and cooperation in the region. Thank you, Mr President.

<sup>1</sup> Agenda item 29.

### **88/416. Question No 172/88 by Mr Glinne (S-B) Concerning South Africa's External Debt**

Date of Issue: 14 November 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 17 May 1988

Since September 1985, as a result particularly of the ever more massive obstacles standing in the way of the maintenance of apartheid, South Africa's international creditors have been wondering about their client's solvency.

South Africa was for a while refused time to pay, but, after declaring a moratorium on a short-term debt of 14 billion dollars, arrived at an agreement with the creditors in March 1986 whereby it undertook to pay off 5% of this debt by the end of June 1987. In March 1987, however, South Africa and a group of bankers who held 80% of its short-term debt agreed on a specific repayment term of 3 years.

New worries have arisen as a result of a deficit of 50 million dollars in South Africa's trade figures for January 1988, with South Africa's external debt still standing at 21 billion dollars. I should like answers to the following questions:

1. Since South African and/or Namibian exports to the United States have, according to the US Department of Trade's own figures, fallen by 40% (from 1.82 to 1.01 billion dollars) in the first nine months of 1987 as a result of the anti-apartheid law passed by Congress, what is the total of South African and/or Namibian exports to the Community during the same period? Has there been a fall and, if so, is it attributable not simply to the fall in the value of gold, but also to the 'sanctions' agreed by Europe?

2. What political view does the Commission take of the Republic of South Africa's external debt?

3. What is the external debt of Swaziland, Lesotho and Botswana?

4. What political view does the Commission take of the debts referred to in paragraph 3 above?

*Answer:*

1. The Honourable Member should refer to the reply given by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs on 13 September 1988 to Oral Question No H-499/88 put by Mr Fich<sup>1</sup>.

2, 3 and 4. Questions relating to debt fall within the competence of the Member States.

<sup>1</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 88/267.

### **88/417. Statement at the Plenary Session of the UN General Assembly: The Situation in Central America – Threats to International Peace and Security and Peace Initiatives<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 15 November 1988

Place of Issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

*Mr Zepos:* I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Community and its twelve Member States and to reiterate our full support for a peaceful and lasting solution of the problems besetting the Central American region.

The ties of friendship, culture and history that bind the Members of the Twelve to the Central American region are not only very close; they can be traced over the centuries as well. We maintain close ties and share common interests with the peoples of Central America based upon the ideals of genuine democracy and political pluralism, respect of human rights and economic and social justice. Therefore, we view with a special sense of concern the economic and political difficulties that continue to threaten the area.

The Twelve welcomed with particular satisfaction the initiative taken in August 1987 by the presidents of the five Central American countries. It was an act of courage and a demonstration of political will and determination. We adopted the same attitude towards the second summit meeting of the five presidents in January and we support their future efforts to bring about lasting peace, cooperation and progress among their countries. In this regard, we look forward to a successful outcome of the forthcoming summit of the five Central American presidents.

The desire of the Twelve to see peace re-established in this area was manifested by reaffirming that we are prepared, if asked so by all Central American countries, to contribute to the extent of our possibilities to the task entrusted to the Executive Commission for Verification and Follow-up of the Esquipulas-II Agreement.

We maintain once again that the parties to the agreement should, without further delay and reservations, make every effort to fully meet their outstanding obligations.

We are firmly convinced that real and lasting peace in Central America can only be attained through political means and the exclusion of all forms of violence or military pressure. It is for this reason that we have given our unremitting support to the peace process initiated in Esquipulas.

It goes without saying that authentic democracy is a prerequisite for durable peace in the region. It can only be achieved through political pluralism, involving full respect for human rights and civil liberties, full freedom of the press, as well as promotion of social and economic justice. At the same time it is impossible to achieve a durable solution in the area without respect for the principle of national sovereignty, territorial integrity and the recognition of the right of all peoples to choose without external interference their economic, political and social system. Firmly committed to these principles we reiterate our appeal to all countries with interests in the region to contribute to efforts to promote peace, democracy and economic development in the region.

Mr President, there have been disquieting signs over the last months of a stalemate in the Central American peace process. We are gravely concerned by the interruption of the national dialogue in several countries and by the adoption of measures which undermine democratic institutions and continued violations of human rights. The negative climate has also been reflected by the impasse in the talks of the Executive Commission and the difficulties encountered in the establishment of a mechanism of verification, control and follow-up of the peace agreement.

Nevertheless, one should not disregard the fact that some progress has also been made towards fulfilment of the obligations set forth in the Esquipulas-II Agreement. Although each country has responded to a varying degree to these obligations, we truly hope that the political determination, which a year ago led the five Central American Presidents to search for solutions to the problems afflicting their region, will prevail again, thus giving new impetus to the peace process. There are recent encouraging signs, including the draft resolution now before the General Assembly, that demonstrate once again the political will of the Central American countries to resolve peacefully their problems.

Major contributory factors to the vicious circle of violence, intervention and suffering in the region are the long-standing economic imbalances and social injustice. The interrelation between decreasing economic strength and political turmoil in the region is evident and the longer the economic and social decline is allowed to continue, the more difficult it becomes to check it at a later stage. As the Secretary-General of the United Nations put it in his recent report:

Not only has economic development been adversely affected by the political turmoil in the region, but the economic crisis is perpetuating the unjust socio-economic structures and prolonging internal conflicts, thus frustrating efforts to arrive at a consensus concerning the socio-political model for the Central American societies.

The socio-economic situation is further aggravated by the tragic plight of the refugees.

The Twelve have demonstrated in concrete terms their commitment to assist the Central American countries to overcome their political and economic problems. In September 1984, the European Community and its twelve Member States on the one hand and the States of Central America and the Contadora Group on the other, initiated a historic dialogue in San José, Costa Rica, and they laid the basis for a new political and economic relationship between the European Community and Central America. This dialogue continues on a regular basis. The San José IV conference held at Hamburg on 29 February and 1 March 1988 has successfully concluded and we are preparing for the next San José V to take place next year in Honduras.

The cooperation agreement between the European Community and the Central American countries plus Panama contributes to economic development and social progress in the region. The Community has more than doubled its aid since 1981. In 1988 the European Community and its Member States will contribute some 250 million ECU equivalent to 290 million dollars to Central American countries. At present the Community's aid is concentrated on aid to refugees and displaced persons, food aid and to integrated rural development projects. We welcome the Secretary-General's involvement in this field through the UN special plan of economic cooperation for Central America. We are also committed to promote regional projects with the aim of encouraging cooperation between the Central American countries.

Mr President, we wish to reaffirm our belief that the crisis in Central America can be resolved solely by a comprehensive negotiated dialogue based on the principles of the United Nations Charter and the objectives set forth by the Esquipulas-II Agreement. We attach equal importance to respect of the principles of national sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, non-intervention, non-interference and non-recourse to intimidation or force, as well as to the need for genuine democracy and respect for human rights in the region. Responsibility rests with each country individually and with all of them collectively. The arrangements provided for in the Esquipulas-II Agreement represent an indivisible entity and should be implemented collectively, not selectively.



The establishment and functioning of the Central American Parliament at the earliest possible date can make a major contribution to the strengthening of peace, democracy and cooperation in the region. We attach great importance to the development of democratic institutions. We are therefore prepared to provide, when required, assistance in an appropriate manner for the preparation of the elections to the Central American Parliament.

We urge the Central American countries to spare no effort in giving new impetus to the peace process. For their part, the European Community and its Member States wish to reaffirm that they remain committed to contribute, to the best of their ability, to the process set up in Esquipulas and to the economic and social development of the region. Thank you, Mr President.

<sup>1</sup> Agenda item 22.

### **88/418. Statement in the Fifth Committee of the UN General Assembly: Programme Planning<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 15 November 1988

Place of Issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

*Mr Rallis:* Mr Chairman, I have the honour to take the floor on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community.

I would like at the outset to thank Mr Ripert, Director-General of Development and International Economic Cooperation, the Chairman of CPC, Mr Murray, the Chairman of ACABQ, Mr Mselle, for their introductory statements, and the Chairman of the Joint Inspection Unit, Mr Martohadinegoro, for his introduction of the report on the performance and results of United Nations programmes contained in document A/43/124. We also thank the Secretary-General for his note A/43/124/Add.1.

The Twelve attach great importance to programme planning in the United Nations, which is admittedly a complex and difficult task. In order to make the medium-term plan the principle policy directive of the United Nations, various approaches have been followed in the past with a view to improving the system of programme-planning performance, monitoring and evaluation. We appreciate the progress made so far in this respect, and we state our readiness to contribute to further improvements. There remains scope for progress.

Mr Chairman, improvements in the present system should lead to simplification, not only of the procedure for the preparation of the medium-term plan, but also — and more importantly — of its presentation. Such simplification is all the more desirable since the medium-term plan is justly meant to be a guide for future activities of the Organization, at the disposal of both the Secretariat and delegations. If such a guide is to be useful and effective, it has to be clear and simple.

It may be appropriate at this stage to say a word about the Committee on Programme and Coordination which is and should remain the central organ for the programming and coordination of the activities of the United Nations, in accordance with its mandate. We believe that the Committee has done good work under the guidance of its distinguished Chairman. But we also share the feeling that there is scope for significant improvements in the organization of the Committee's agenda and working methods if it is to realize its full potential in providing an efficient and effective forum to arrive at decisions on key programmatic and budgetary issues.

Mr Chairman, the Twelve have taken note of document A/43/6 and Corr.1 regarding the proposed revisions to the current medium-term plan, which became necessary owing to the prolongation of the current plan through 1991. The CPC and the ACABQ have reviewed relevant sections of this document and the CPC has submitted to the General Assembly, in document A/43/16, its recommendations for further revisions to the medium-term plan. Despite

the reservations expressed during the CPC's session the Twelve believe that these recommendations should be seen as a package and discussion on them should not be reopened. We, therefore, are prepared to accept the Committee's recommendations.

Turning to the draft introduction to the next medium-term plan beginning in 1992 the Twelve would like first to express appreciation for the text submitted by the Secretary-General in document A/43/329 for consideration by member States. The Twelve have actively participated in the new process of consultations by submitting their views on the Secretary-General's earlier paper entitled 'Some perspectives of the work of the United Nations in the 1990s'. The draft introduction, as it now stands, does not fully coincide in analysis and outlook with the Twelve's position and consequently is not totally satisfactory to them. However, it reflects an attempt to strike a balance, as should also the final version.

With regard to priorities of the Organization it is clearly the responsibility of the Secretary-General to submit proposals in order to assist member States. However, the preliminary proposals in paragraphs 95 to 111 of the annex to the Secretary-General's report A/43/329 need further development and refinement. In this connection we would stress the importance of paying due regard to all of the criteria laid down in the programme planning regulations and rules, as well as to those suggested as additions by the Secretary-General in paragraph 7 of his report A/43/329. Like him, we consider it important that a matter can be regarded as a priority if the objective sought is of a nature that multilateral action is demonstrably important to its achievement. Equally, the extent to which the proposed activities contribute to the goal of maintaining peace and security by fulfilling the purposes set forth in the Charter should also be a consideration. It is essential that in planning the work of the Organization, we consider not only the importance of the issue to member States, but also the Organization's capacity to achieve it, as well as the possible impact of the activities proposed on the goal set.

For these reasons and in view of Mr Ripert's statement, we wish to repeat in general terms the opinions, comments and suggestions which I have already referred to. We wish to recall our view that the introduction of the medium-term plan should deal with long-term issues that are of concern to the international community, taking into account what the United Nations can realistically achieve. We reaffirm our attachment to the purposes and principles of the Charter, our belief that the maintenance of international peace and security is and remains the primary task of the United Nations, our conviction that the concept of human rights first and foremost denotes the protection of the individual against the State, and our commitment to the United Nations as a forum for dialogue and coordination in the area of international economic cooperation. We reaffirm also our conviction that the United Nations should contribute to activities in the field of disarmament, to the protection of the environment, to combating drug abuse and to promoting progress on other social issues. We attach fundamental importance to United Nations involvement in progressive development and codification of international law, and in the fight against terrorism, where the Convention Against Hostage Taking and Hijacking represents a good example of what can be achieved. Finally, we wish to repeat our continuing commitment to the process of reform in the Organization itself, which should be a continuing one.

Mr Chairman, this represents a brief summary of our views. We do not think it necessary to prolong this debate by repeating our statements made in other forums under specific agenda items. We look to the Secretary-General to give them due weight in preparing the final version of his introduction and in drafting the medium-term plan itself. In this connection we would welcome a less repetitive and more succinct redrafting of the introduction in line with the conclusions of ACABQ.

In view of some of the comments transmitted from the other Main Committees in response to your request, Sir, we wish to point out that the Twelve consider that they constitute a contribution to the deliberations of the Fifth Committee. We should therefore take them into account in so far as they relate directly to item 115, that is to the programmatic aspects of the proposed revisions to the current medium-term plan and to the preparation of the next medium-term plan and in so far as they represent the views of these committees as a whole.

As to the structure of the future medium-term plans, we believe, as I said earlier, that it would be for the benefit of the Organization if it [were] simplified. If we want it to become a dynamic instrument for the coordination of the activities of the United Nations and to really constitute the principal policy directive of the United Nations, its structure should become less heavy and complex. We find the arguments set out in document A/43/329 and in CPR.4 compelling. We agree also with the objective of seeking to comply more closely, in this as in other respects, with the relevant provisions of the programme planning rules, including the requirement that programmes should consist of all activities in a sector which are under the responsibility of a distinct organizational unit of the Secretariat, normally at division level. We believe that a close relationship between programmes and actions of the programme budget should be established. Just as the Secretary-General should have flexibility in deciding on the organizational structure of the Secretariat, he should be allowed the same flexibility also when finalizing his detailed proposals. In this connection we welcome the initiative of the Secretary-General to simplify the structure of the medium-term plan by reducing the number of major programmes. Despite some improvements in the proposed structure of the medium-term plan contained in CPR.4, we believe that the titles of certain major programmes and programmes should be revised in order to accurately reflect the purposes and principles of the United Nations as set out in the preamble and chapter 1 of the Charter and as proposed by the Secretary-General in paragraphs 33 and 34 of the annex to document A/43/329. We want to stress that the revision of the structure of the medium-term plan should not imply any reduction in mandated activities, nor any addition to them. We are ready to participate in consultations on this matter.

We are persuaded of the value of the recommendation of CPC in paragraph 104 of its report to devise a new and more practical type of presentation of the medium-term plan and of its revisions in loose-leaf form. This should be very helpful to all who need to consult the medium-term plan at any stage during its validity.

We note the recommendation of CPC in paragraph 71 of its report that the next medium-term plan should cover the period 1992 to 1997. We can go along with this proposal on the understanding that the Secretary-General will ensure coordination with the specialized agencies which have a different planning cycle.

The Twelve can agree with the proposed calendar of consultations subject to the recommendations of the ACABQ.

Mr Chairman, I will now turn to an important aspect of the programme planning, the evaluation of the performance of the various programmes. Although the title and format of the relevant report A/43/326 conform to the monitoring procedures prescribed in the programme planning rules, it does not substantially help in judging programme performance. It mostly gives statistics on the delivery of outputs without distinction as to the different weight of each one of them, rather than evaluation as to whether the performance of the various programmes has contributed in substance to the goals set by the Organization. As a result, the Twelve find it difficult to draw useful conclusions from this document which are of any help in the comparison of the Organization's performance from one period to the next. As a first step the output delivery report should be improved.

It is clear that the monitoring process alone cannot provide an adequate picture. The regulations provide for a complementary process of evaluation which is more qualitative in nature. This is an aspect which the CPC's conclusions, the JIU report (A/43/124) and the Secretary-General's report on the application of evaluation findings all highlight. This process is an important feature of the system as repeatedly reaffirmed by the General Assembly and we certainly agree with the recommendation that efforts to strengthen it must continue. The proposal put forward in the JIU's report for a short qualitative assessment of objectives achieved under each sub-programme deserves in our view careful consideration. The Inspector's report in A/43/124 which contains thought-provoking ideas and recommendations together with the Secretary-General's remarks on it (A/43/124/Add.1) will prove, we trust, helpful in our efforts

to improve programme evaluations. We are favourably inclined towards the proposal of the Secretary-General to implement recommendation 1 of this report on an experimental basis. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

<sup>1</sup> Agenda item 115.

**88/419. Statement in the Sixth Committee of the UN General Assembly: Progressive Development of the Principles and Norms of International Law Relating to the New International Economic Order<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 15 November 1988

Place of Issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

*Mr Roucouas:* Mr Chairman, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Community and its Member States.

In the discussion of agenda item 134 in previous years we have expressed the belief that progress is being made in international economic cooperation in order to meet the special needs of developing countries and that the process of cooperation should continue to develop in the years to come. With a long-standing awareness of the needs of developing countries the Community and its Member States have participated actively in this process.

We have also indicated that the study prepared by UNITAR and submitted to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session provides a valuable survey of the development and refinement of the principles and techniques adopted so far in the field of international economic cooperation as well as of the different opinions that exist as to the legal situation in the field. The Community and its Member States have already submitted comments on the UNITAR study pursuant to General Assembly Resolution 40/67 (note of 22 August 1986, document A/41/536).

We briefly reiterate this position: While recognizing that international law and practice will continue to develop in the area of international economic cooperation, it is worth noting that the progress made so far has been based upon a variety of instruments, some of which reflect adjustment made nationally by developing countries. Of the others, adopted in an international context, some are contained in legally binding instruments, while others do not seek to impose legal obligations.

We believe that this approach provides the flexibility which is necessary if solutions to the many complex and rapidly changing problems encountered in the field of international economic relations are to be found.

In last year's Resolution 42/149 on the present agenda it was recommended in operative paragraph 3,

that the task of completing the elaboration of the process of codification and progressive development of the principles and norms of international law relating to the new international economic order be undertaken in an appropriate forum within the framework of the Sixth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly.

As stated by the Twelve in their explanation of vote on that resolution, the Community and its Member States are unable to accept that [the] time is ripe for a codification process in this field.

It is difficult to establish any direct link between the various internationally agreed and by no means categorical texts within this field on the one hand and the concept of a new international economic order on the other hand.

A necessary condition for the codification of international law relating to a new international economic order would be that a sufficient degree of identification and of acceptance by the international community of legal principles and norms has developed. We do not believe that this essential requirement has been satisfied.

As already indicated, international economic cooperation is in a continuous process of development and does therefore not appear to call for further action by us in the Sixth Committee at this stage.

<sup>1</sup> Agenda item 128.

**88/420. Question No O-103/88 by Mr Poettering and Others on Assessment of, and Future Prospects for, Cooperation on Security Policy in the Context of European Political Cooperation at the Beginning of the Greek Presidency**

Date of Issue: 15 November 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

The beginning of the Greek Presidency coincides with the first anniversary of the entry into force of the Single European Act (SEA). Against this background the Foreign Ministers meeting in European political cooperation under the Greek Presidency are requested to give an initial evaluation of the application of the provisions on security policy contained in Article 30 of the SEA and to assess the prospects for the security policy initiatives scheduled to be carried out during the Greek Presidency.

More particularly, the Foreign Ministers are asked to define their position on the following questions:

1. In which sectors and to what extent have the Member States of the European Community over the last year abided by the undertaking they gave in the Single Act to coordinate more closely their position on security policy?

2. In which sectors and to what extent have the European Parliament's views on security policy, expressed on several occasions in its resolutions, been taken into consideration?

3. What measures have been taken in the last year to maintain the technological and industrial conditions necessary for the security of the Member States, as laid down in the Single Act?

4. What measures are to be taken during the Greek Presidency to promote cooperation between the Member States in branches of industry with a bearing on security policy and to guarantee that those sectors of the economy are included in the internal market planned for 1992?

5. In view of the various smouldering conflicts in the Mediterranean area, does the Greek Presidency consider a Community initiative, coordinated in the framework of European political cooperation and aimed at promoting peace in the region by making a specific contribution to the resolving of the conflicts, to be appropriate and feasible?

*Mr Pangalos, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers:* Mr President, first of all let me agree with the Honourable Member about the importance of security policy for the advancement of European unification. We all know, and I express this as a personal view, that the power of the State involves mainly two things: the use of defensive means and the use of currency. At present, of course, we are a long way from any such reality. But little by little we should start to think about it, and for that reason it is good to examine all aspects of our progress towards the

supranational entity we are creating on the basis of the Single Act. The Council is aware of the resolution you adopted on 14 October 1987<sup>1</sup>, and that resolution has certainly contributed much to the discussions in progress.

The Member States that signed the Single Act agreed to include in Article 30 the fact that they were prepared to coordinate their positions on the political and economic aspects of security still more closely. After that development, military matters and those relating to defence remain outside the sphere of our activities. Thus, we cover the political and economic sides of security but not the strictly military or strictly defence matters. Within that scope we should bear in mind that coordination of the positions of the Twelve in the sector to which the Honourable Member refers is proceeding satisfactorily. Thus, continuous deliberations have been developed at all levels about East-West relations, and more particularly about relations between the Community and its Member States on the one hand and the Soviet Union and Eastern European countries on the other hand. That is the context which I consider mainly relevant to our security.

We must develop a political dialogue which takes into account the human aspect of relations between all of Europe, with informative exchanges and freedom of information. We must create a steady and sure balance of conventional forces in Europe, at a level lower than that of today. We must promote free and open societies, to create a situation in which security will be consolidated and will be based on mutual knowledge and trust of the various peoples for one another, and less on the dismal logic of military supremacy. That is the direction in which the Twelve are exchanging views and attempting to harmonize them. The dedication and sincerity with which those exchanges and that effort are taking place have, I believe, produced important results.

In 1988 the Foreign Ministers met in Luxembourg on 13 June and in Athens on 18 July. But at the European Council of Hanover too, common positions were established which I think are most important. These not only concerned the general aspects of relations with the Soviet Union and the Eastern European countries but also touched upon matters relating to disarmament, the reduction of strategic weapons by the United States and the Soviet Union, the INF agreements, chemical weapons and the reduction of conventional forces in Europe. I would also like to remind you of the positions we adopted concerning the peaceful solution of regional crises.

All these matters, which concern the political aspects of security, were also the subject of a frank and in-depth discussion at the informal meeting of the Foreign Ministers in Ioannina last October. Obviously, when we meet in Brussels next week, we will again have an opportunity to exchange views on the subject. Our cooperation has continued energetically at international forums such as the United Nations and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. In these fora we strive for common aims, and the Presidency has until now been able to define them and support them during the past six months, on the collective behalf of the Twelve. We think our presence is both proper and effective, and I consider that Europe has contributed positively and creatively to what has been achieved in the contexts of both the United Nations and the Conference on Security and Cooperation. The speech delivered by the Presidency to the General Assembly of the United Nations in New York on 27 September included every one of the positions which we worked out collectively. We bear the views of the European Parliament in mind at all times. And I would like in particular to note the debate which took place here in Strasbourg and which, as you know, encouraged an in-depth discussion between the Ministers at the informal meeting in Constance. I think that during both those discussions the interest of European political cooperation in devoting increased attention to the security dimension, and in respecting the restrictions imposed by the Single Act, was reasserted.

Today's exchange of views is being expressed within the framework of the present debate, which I would wish to see continuing.

The situation in the Mediterranean, which was the last matter you referred to, Mr President, is continually at the forefront of the Twelve's attention. We firmly hold the view that the Mediterranean is a definitive factor in Europe's security and economic progress. It is to everyone's advantage to restore a situation of peace, stability and cooperation in that region.

You know that the Twelve have never failed to do what they could to contribute to the search for peaceful, just and enduring solutions to the crises in the Mediterranean region. You are aware of the positions maintained by the Twelve, mainly concerning the principles which ought to apply and the means to be used in order to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict, which has been particularly turbulent just in the last few days. We are monitoring with very great attention and intense interest the situation in the zones occupied by Israel. I will not go further into that, to avoid exhausting you with details.

*[Furthermore, after the debate Mr Pangalos stated as follows:]* Mr President, I have listened very carefully to this debate on a subject which concerns us all, our common defence and the establishment of prerequisites in Europe for the European peoples to live under conditions of security and optimism about the future. I will comment on three or four matters and would like to apologize in advance to the House if I do not, in fact, cover all the views we have heard here.

Many thoughts and views have been expressed. My first reference will be to the subject of industrial and technological cooperation. We heard mention of the need to coordinate our efforts for industrial and technological cooperation, and I think that is already happening. This process is closely linked to the unification that is taking place in the context of realizing the internal market, but also in the context of the associated policies.

We must wait for this cooperation to reach a more advanced stage before it becomes clear which elements in the process may also be related to research and production for defensive purposes. I think, however, that that industrial unification of Europe, as it progresses via the realization of the internal market and the acceleration of common scientific research, can in its own right strengthen the economic prerequisites for our security to which the Single Act refers. I think the Honourable Members who said here that a condition for our defence and security is to be in the forefront of technology and to have a strong and healthy industrial manufacturing base are quite right. Besides, Europe's history has taught that no effective defence can exist without a strong and healthy industrial base and without pioneering research.

The second matter to which I would like to refer is that of recent developments which fill us all with hopes of arms reductions, along with better understanding and closer cooperation with Eastern Europe. I do not see any contradiction between, on the one hand, the need to do all we can to further the negotiations on arms reduction of all kinds, including conventional weapons, and, on the other hand, while the present situation persists in Europe with the existence of the military alliances and the armaments, not neglecting our defence. And, Mr President, I do not think that the existence of two alliances offers better prospects of peace than if we strove to establish a self-sufficient defensive capability in Europe as well.

From time to time, situations have arisen in which the superpowers, the Soviet Union and the United States, might have solved their international problems on European territory without asking our opinion, and exclusively with their own means of defence. I think that such a situation, that of being the victim of circumstances, the object of developments as opposed to the subject in control of them, is something which a Europe in the process of uniting and gradually acquiring an autonomous political will should avoid at all costs.

We should therefore aspire to have a view on defence and in parallel to reduce armaments, and those two efforts should proceed simultaneously along the same lines, which must, of course, exclude an arms race and excessive destructive capability for ourselves and others but should involve the gradual reduction of armaments. I agree with those who said that real security and confidence in the future will only exist to the extent that we can achieve appreciable arms reduction and make progress towards the vision of disarming mankind in general and Europe in particular.

I would agree completely with our colleague Ms Charzat; the most important factor in the Community's effort is the political element. That is the way in which we should approach the problems of defence. We must work to establish the political climate for common defence, to define its conditions and concentrate the key strategic, technological and economic decisions to that end. The priorities she set are absolutely to be respected.

Finally, and I will end with this, allow me to comment on the existence in the Community of countries which would like to remain neutral and take no part in our preoccupation with defence. I think that is entirely permissible. As for the relations between Austria and the Community, there is, of course, no common position regarding the matter. I mentioned earlier that the Council is considering the eventuality of the Community's further enlargement. It is too early. However, I think that if Austria, or any other country in Europe which combines the economic, social, political and cultural prerequisites for membership of our family, were to apply for full membership of the Community, it would accept what membership entails. And in accepting what membership of the Community entails, namely, agreements, practices and methods of operation, it would undertake its obligations.

Thus, it is not up to us to pursue a process of saying 'you are ready or you are not ready, do this or do that', and indeed so prematurely. So far as the Greek Presidency is concerned, we have established and initiated with Austria a process of political cooperation, and that happened just a week ago in Athens. We think this process of political cooperation between the Community and Austria should be continued and enriched and that we should multiply our contacts. Then, when the time comes, we shall see who is disposed, and in which way, to accept curtailment of their autonomy and political alignment in order to become part of the great family of European countries which constitutes the Community. All of us, when we acceded to the Community, and I include our own experience in that, sacrificed certain ways of viewing reality, only to discover new and broader horizons which I am sure we all have in common.

<sup>1</sup> OJ No C 305 of 16 November 1987, pp. 81-84.

### **88/421. Question No H-576/88 by Mr Cabezón Alonso Concerning the Conflict in the Western Sahara**

Date of Issue: 15 November 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

How do the Foreign Ministers meeting in European political cooperation propose to contribute to or support the UN Secretary-General's recent efforts to put an end to the conflict in the Western Sahara by means of a peace plan acceptable to both belligerents?

How do they propose to help to bring about direct political dialogue between Morocco and the Polisario Front with a view to negotiations on the differences preventing the successful implementation of this peace plan?

*Mr Pangalos, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers:* As we have already stressed in answer to Question No 216/88<sup>1</sup>, the Twelve are closely monitoring the development of the situation in the Western Sahara. In our statement of 7 September 1988<sup>2</sup> we again confirmed our full support for the efforts of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to settle the conflict over the Western Sahara by negotiation. We support a referendum on self-determination under the aegis of the United Nations.

In this context I would like to remind Mr Cabezón Alonso that in their declaration of 27 May<sup>3</sup> the Twelve welcomed the resumption of relations between Morocco and Algeria, because they believe that this will contribute to the stability of the region and offer better prospects for the solution of the basic problems, chief among which is, of course, that of the Western Sahara.

*Mr Cabezón Alonso (S):* Mr President, I am aware that the Twelve are concerned about this. But when this concern is subsequently considered by the individual States, it is not translated into votes in the United Nations Assembly. The problem of the Sahara is a problem of



decolonization that has not yet been resolved and Europe cannot turn its back on this problem, because it is an obstacle, amongst other things, to the construction of the great Maghreb, and a State with which we maintain special relations is involved.

My actual question is: Given this interest of the Twelve in the problem of the Sahara and the initiative of the UN Secretary-General, do the Twelve not feel that, to solve the problem of decolonization *in practice*, there must be agreement between the two sides, the Polisario Front and the Kingdom of Morocco?

*Mr Pangalos:* All I can say is that I have listened very carefully to the Honourable Member's views and that I will bear them in mind.

<sup>1</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 88/158.

<sup>2</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 88/250.

<sup>3</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 88/142.

### **88/422. Question No H-593/88 by Mr Filinis Concerning the Prisoners of the Apartheid Regime in South Africa**

Date of Issue: 15 November 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

In a recent resolution, the UN called for the immediate release of Nelson Mandela and another ten prisoners of the racist regime in South Africa. Is the Greek Presidency prepared to support this earnest request, especially in view of the fact that one of the 11 political prisoners is the Greek citizen Demetrios Tzafentas, who has been in prison for 25 years?

*Mr Pangalos, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers:* The Presidency and the Twelve have always warmly supported the immediate and unconditional release of Nelson Mandela and the other political detainees in South Africa. As the Honourable Member of the European Parliament perhaps knows, this position was reiterated by the European Council of Hanover on 28 June 1988<sup>1</sup> and later in Athens by the Foreign Ministers on 18 July 1988<sup>2</sup>, on the occasion of Nelson Mandela's 70th birthday.

In their statement of 19 August 1988<sup>3</sup> the Twelve explicitly renewed their call, noting that the release of Nelson Mandela had now become even more important, for humanitarian reasons. This matter, along with the issue of the other political detainees, was raised by the Presidency in its speech on behalf of the Twelve to the General Assembly of the United Nations which met in New York in the autumn.

Each of our countries, but also the Twelve collectively, have through the Presidency made many approaches to the South African Government on behalf of the political detainees and any persons who are held without being charged, with the aim of stressing to the South African authorities the need to safeguard respect for human rights.

I would now like to answer Mr Filinis on behalf of the Greek Government, because he referred to a Greek person, Demetrios Tzafentas, who has been imprisoned for 25 years. Clearly there is some mistake. Mr Demetrios Tzafentas was a Portuguese national, after which he became South African. He may have a Greek name, but he speaks no Greek, has no Greek passport and, other than by name, neither he nor his father were Greek subjects. Unfortunately, the mistake also applies to the reasons why Mr Tzafentas was imprisoned. Mr Tzafentas stabbed President Verwoerd repeatedly in the abdominal region and justified his act by saying that Verwoerd was too liberal and allowed too many privileges to the blacks and coloureds, while neglecting the poor whites.

I presume that on the basis of those facts Mr Filinis will agree that his interest is rather misplaced.

*Mr Filinis (COM):* I thank the Minister for his answer. However, I would like to ask how it is possible, if Mr Demetrios Tzafentas is burdened by all those charges, that he is still detained today by the South African regime. That makes me wonder. As for the matter of his passport, I accept it. But in any case I think we ought to be interested in all our fellowmen, all the more so in those with whom we have some national relationship. That is why I would like to ask the Greek Foreign Minister for an assurance that he intends to look specifically into the matter lest some mistake may have been made and some action be necessary.

*Mr Pangalos:* Mr Filinis will have to make up his mind to abandon Mr Tzafentas. In the first place he is not a Greek subject and his special interest is thus unjustified. Secondly, Mr Tzafentas is not in prison but in a psychiatric clinic. The reason why he is there is that 25 years ago he assassinated the President of South Africa, whom he regarded as a dangerous liberal who granted exaggerated rights to the blacks and coloureds. [...]

*Mr Morris (S):* Recognizing that the limited economic sanctions are having an impact on the economic life of South Africa and contributing, in my opinion, to the early release of Nelson Mandela and others, would the President-in-Office please tell me what he is doing to persuade the Belgian Government to stop the importation of large quantities of coal into the Community for re-export to the French electricity industry?

*Mr Pangalos:* I can answer that, as our colleague knows, we have adopted certain economic measures against the South African Government. At present the Council is reviewing those economic measures to see whether they are being correctly and effectively applied by all the Member States. As we all know, no measure was adopted to restrict coal imports because the requisite unanimity was not achieved. I take note of his comments concerning those imports, but there is no Community policy which restricts coal imports. The Council cannot therefore enforce a policy which we have not yet adopted.

*Mr Marshall (ED):* Would the President-in-Office not agree that tougher sanctions could only result in fewer job opportunities for the Bantu and even hardship and deaths among that community? Would he not agree that there is no sense in the European Community inflicting hardship on those we seek to help? Would he not also agree that increased economic sanctions would not hurt the decision-makers in South Africa but rather the underprivileged and that that would indeed be an Alice in Wonderland situation to be advocating?

*Mr Pangalos:* I presume that by the word 'Bantu' Mr Marshall means the vast majority of the population of South Africa. I believe it is not our business, neither ours in Europe nor that of the minority which has improperly grasped and appropriated power in South Africa, to decide what should be the economic future and which the proper measures for the development of that country.

That is why the Community has always supported the view that, by peaceful means and without the use of force, we must progress towards the restoration of the essential democratic principle which decrees that the majority of the country's population must decide its destiny. I therefore think that we should not accept that kind of approach.

I disagree radically with the approach advocated by the Honourable Member, and I can say that the Council too, in all its considerations of the subject, has never expressed such views.

<sup>1</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 88/184.

<sup>2</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 88/231.

<sup>3</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 88/246.

### **88/423. Question No H-605/88 by Mr Tzounis Concerning Human Rights in Albania**

Date of Issue: 15 November 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

Have the Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation given, or do they propose to give, their attention to the human rights situation in Albania and to the fate of the Greek population of northern Epirus, it being a well-known fact that the Government of that country pursues a policy unique in Europe in the sector concerned?

*Mr Pangalos, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers:* Both at international organizations and elsewhere, the Twelve have repeatedly stressed with great emphasis the importance they attach to universal respect for human rights, including the rights of minorities. They have also carefully monitored the special situation in Albania on a bipartite basis. And the same has been done by each Member State acting separately.

The Twelve have drawn the Albanian Government's attention to the matter of human rights. The Twelve continually monitor the human rights situation in Europe and elsewhere. They decide to make representations to the governments of third countries whenever they think that collective action by the Twelve can best serve the interest of the individuals or groups involved.

*Mr Tzounis (PPE):* I thank the President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers and would ask him further if the Foreign Ministers would not agree that it is particularly reprehensible for a government to outlaw religious belief and practice. Should this very fact alone not raise doubts about the wisdom of the plan for a visit by the Greek Prime Minister to Albania, especially as this visit is scheduled to take place while Greece still holds the Presidency of the Community?

*Mr Pangalos:* I agree with Mr Tzounis that religious freedom is a fundamental personal right in all countries which respect democracy and individual rights. In all the countries belonging to the Community there is absolute freedom of worship, and respect is accorded to any religious belief as indeed also to the lack of any religious belief.

Consequently, I can agree with him absolutely thus far. However, I think the Community's Member States, including of course the Greek Government, cannot break their diplomatic relations with every country which does not respect human rights. Unfortunately, all the Member States have diplomatic, economic and political relations with several countries all over the world in which individual rights are not respected or are respected only in part. In this context it is natural for the Greek Government too to have relations with its neighbour Albania, as with all the other countries adjacent to it. And the same is true of all European governments.

The subject, of course, has not been discussed in the context of European political cooperation.

*Mr Pordea (DR):* Do the Foreign Ministers have an opinion on the Albanian authorities' ban on parents giving their children Christian or Moslem first names and, if so, as indeed should be the case, do they intend to give the Albanian Government the benefit of it?

*Mr Pangalos:* I have no such information. From my contacts with Albanian officials, I gather that they have all kinds of baptismal names, including Christian, Islamic and many ancient Greek names. If the measure in question is to apply from now on, I was not aware of this. I have just learned of it from our colleague.

*Mr Arbeloa Muru (S):* Mr President, as the instigator of so many questions on Political Cooperation, I find it increasingly strange and indeed sad that I always get the same old song from Ministers. The Ministers 'are aware', 'let it be known', the countries 'appreciate the feeling of the Ministers' etc. That is, they virtually never give a direct answer to a specific question.

For example, I have in front of me Amnesty International's latest report on Albania, which mentions detainees, lack of security, the death penalty and much else. I understand, Mr President, that for reasons of international delicacy, diplomatic reasons, we cannot be told what is being done or what has been done. I appreciate that. But in the case of Albania — a country as close as it is possible to be to the European Economic Community — the President cannot cite a single action that has been carried through to a conclusion, he cannot even tell us that there is the intention to take such action ... Mr President, I find that rather scandalous.

*Mr Pangalos:* Since Mr Arbeloa Muru's intervention was somewhat intense, I will answer him as follows. So far as the Community's position is concerned, which does not have particularly

warm or close relations with Albania, the question is not just what are the Community's intentions but also what are Albania's intentions. Albania is not a country that keeps on asking us to develop close relations with it, as I said at the start.

The questions that followed referred to the attitude of the Greek Government, and I answered very specifically. I said that the Greek Government is aware of the facts and monitors the human rights situation in Albania very closely. And since there is a Greek minority in Albania, the Honourable Member should allow me to say that we have good reason to monitor the situation there.

There is, however, the view, which I expressed to begin with, that interventions concerning human rights should always be made in a way which benefits the groups or individuals on whose behalf they are made.

In the context of that policy, Greece is developing all its political and economic relations with Albania as well as good neighbourly relations, as many other countries in the world, and all the Community's countries without exception, are doing towards regimes of whose practices in the sphere of human rights and democratic freedoms they nevertheless disapprove.

My answer is very specific, and I hope to have soothed our colleague's indignation.

*Mr Battersby (ED):* Following on the question by Mr Arbeloa Muru, have all the Foreign Ministers heard of or taken note of the references to Albania in the recent Amnesty International report, not just the Greek Foreign Ministry?

Can we hope that all the Foreign Ministers will make a statement in the not too distant future on the sad state of affairs which exists in Albania?

Can we hope that in the future all the Ministers will be less reticent than they have been in the past in making statement on the conditions existing in a country which is adjacent to one of our Member States and in which there is a significant and oppressed community, an ethnic and religious minority, whether or not the Albanian authorities recognize this minority as such?

*Mr Pangalos:* I am very grateful to the Honourable Member for his comments. In the past the Community has reacted to problems arising in connection with human rights in Albania. There have been reactions. I have described them. I will bear in mind his suggestion that greater vigilance is needed, but there is certainly no lack of interest on our part in the matter.

#### **88/424. Statement in the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly: Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 16 November 1988

Place of Issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

*Mr Chrysanthopoulos:* Mr Chairman, I have the honour to address the Committee on behalf of the European Community and its Member States on item 102, the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

The Twelve have carefully studied the report of the High Commissioner for Refugees which gives us, in a very comprehensive manner, a clear picture of the situation of the 12 million refugees existing in the world today.

Having also listened with interest to the introductory statement of the High Commissioner, we would like to thank him and his staff for their important work and efficiency in alleviating the suffering and misery of the world's refugees.

The Twelve are fully committed to ameliorating the plight of these people who are suffering from violations of their human rights and who have been forced to leave their country. Our total contribution of 176 320 264 US dollars in 1987 and for the first three months of 1988 towards

the UNHCR budget bears witness to this commitment. In addition to the Twelve's national contributions, the European Community contributed in 1987 a total amount of the equivalent of 136 million dollars in ECU, of which the equivalent of some 63 million dollars in ECU was given directly to the UNHCR. In the first eight months of 1988 the European Community's total contribution to refugees reached the equivalent of some 161 million dollars in ECU. The main fields of aid are food aid, as well as education and vocational training, medical assistance and training in agriculture. We would also like to stress that the Third Lomé Convention between the European Community and its Member States and 66 African, Caribbean and Pacific States devotes particular attention to the plight of refugees and returnees. In this connection, it stresses that emergency aid shall be accorded to African, Caribbean and Pacific States taking in refugees and returnees to meet acute needs not covered by emergency aid, and to implement, in the longer term[,] projects and action programmes aimed at self-sufficiency and the integration or reintegration of the refugees. For the financing of this aid a special appropriation of the equivalent of some 336 million dollars in ECU has been constituted. The Twelve will continue to provide financial support for the UNHCR's work and hopes that intergovernmental organizations will continue to regard the UNHCR as an important and relevant channel for refugee relief.

Furthermore, the Twelve have also granted asylum to increasingly large numbers of refugees over the years and have taken the appropriate measures in order to maintain their traditional policy towards refugees. We note the process of improved cooperation between the High Commissioner and Member States of the European Community in seeking humane solutions to those who seek asylum in European countries and we hope that the scope and effectiveness of these consultations can be further developed. The Twelve look forward to the achievement of a consensus allowing for an early adoption of conclusions on irregular movements. At this point, it needs to be stressed that such movements have put the established systems in our countries for the reception of refugees under severe strain. The Twelve recognize the need to address the issue of increasing abuse of asylum procedures by persons with economic or other motives.

The Twelve fully support the priority given to the three durable solutions — namely voluntary repatriation, local integration and resettlement — as a means to reduce the number of people with the status of refugee and assist them effectively. We note with satisfaction that in his report, the High Commissioner states that

more than a quarter of a million people shed their status as refugees and started new lives not only through voluntary repatriation but also through resettlement in third countries.

The Twelve remain convinced that voluntary repatriation is the best durable solution to any refugee situation. We were encouraged by the fact that in 1987, almost 160 000 refugees returned voluntarily to their countries. We fully share the High Commissioner's view that

if voluntary repatriation is to become a viable solution for more significant numbers of refugees, it is essential that States attend to the root causes of refugee movements. Only by removing the conditions that led to the original flight can larger numbers of refugees return voluntarily to their respective countries of origin in safety and dignity.

Concerning local integration, the Twelve applaud the generosity of many countries of first arrival, particularly those with limited resources of their own. We congratulate them for their efforts in providing shelter and food for refugees and we urge other States to increase their support for these efforts. We also welcome the continued emphasis on self-reliance among refugees since this not only helps to ease the burden on host countries and relief organizations, but also benefits the refugees.

The Twelve would also support the UNHCR in promoting resettlement as a durable solution, which in our view, should be made available to refugees who have no other option within reach. We believe that the UNHCR's role in promoting development of infrastructure projects must be a 'catalytic' one and not that of a development agency. The Twelve further recognize the value of NGO involvement in the implementation of assistance activities.

Mr Chairman, in our statement before this Committee last year, we drew attention to the result reached during the 38th session of the UNHCR's Executive Committee with regard to the vital issue of protecting refugees from military and armed attacks on their camps and settlements. We note, however, with regret that the security of refugees continues to be an issue and that such attacks occurred in Africa, the Middle East, Asia and South America, resulting in the loss of life and further suffering, particularly among refugee women and children. The Twelve condemn these attacks and urge those concerned to stop these unjustifiable acts which run directly counter to the principles of the Charter and international human rights instruments. We would also like to express our concern for the increasing number of refoulement cases which, according to the High Commissioner's reports, exceed several thousand.

In August of this year, the international conference on the plight of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Southern Africa was held in Oslo. The European Community and its Member States welcome the Oslo Declaration and the Plan of Action. They contain important elements which, if properly implemented, could further help to alleviate the tragic plight of the more than one million refugees of Southern Africa.

In concluding, Mr Chairman, we would like to stress that the question of refugees is and will remain a collective responsibility of the international community. We must continue to seek ways and means to prevent new situations from arising that force people to flee their homeland. Humanity — for the time being at least — cannot prevent natural catastrophes. But it can prevent — provided there is the necessary will — new flows of people including refugees stemming from the violation of human rights, from armed conflicts, acts of aggression, foreign intervention and occupation. Indeed, if all States fulfilled their obligations under the United Nations Charter and the international instruments on human rights, then the number of refugees would be drastically reduced. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

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<sup>1</sup> Agenda item 102.

### **88/425. Question No H-294/88 by Mr Arbeloa Muru Concerning the Palestinians Placed Under Arrest by 'Administrative Order'**

Date of Issue: 16 November 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

Are the Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation aware of the number of Palestinians who have been placed under arrest by 'administrative order' since 1987 in the territories occupied by the State of Israel? Are they aware, for instance, of the case of Ghazi Shashtari, a human rights activist and worker for the Al-Haq organization, affiliated to the International Commission of Jurists, who was imprisoned in January 1988? Have they taken any steps to put an end to this pernicious practice?

*Answer:*

The specific matter to which the Honourable Member refers has not been discussed in European political cooperation. However, he may like to be reminded that the Twelve have made representations on numerous occasions to the Israeli Government concerning deportations of Palestinians from the occupied territories and the continued use by the Israelis of administrative detention.

The Twelve have called on the Israeli authorities to ensure the protection of the inhabitants of the occupied territories in accordance with international law, including human rights and the Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949 relative to the protection of civilian persons in time of war.

**88/426. Question No H-534/88 by Mr Alavanos Concerning Trade Cooperation Between the EEC and South Africa**

Date of Issue: 16 November 1988  
 Place of Issue: Strasbourg  
 Country of Presidency: Greece  
 Source of Document: Presidency  
 Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

At a press conference in Athens on 19 September 1988 anti-apartheid organizations from the EEC Member States accused the EEC of being South Africa's principal trading partner. What measures do the Foreign Ministers intend to take to put an end to all trade cooperation with the racist South African regime?

*Answer:*

The Twelve agreed on a number of restrictive measures with regard to South Africa on both 10 September 1985 and 16 September 1986, and intend to continue careful monitoring of the structure of their trade with this country in order to ensure that the agreed measures are effectively implemented.

These measures are evidence of the Twelve's determination to contribute to the complete abolition of apartheid.

**88/427. Question No H-596/88 by Mr Newton Dunn Concerning Human Rights in Romania**

Date of Issue: 16 November 1988  
 Place of Issue: Strasbourg  
 Country of Presidency: Greece  
 Source of Document: Presidency  
 Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

Given the preferential relationship of the Hellenic Republic with the Socialist Republic of Romania, what steps does the Greek Presidency propose to take in order to follow up Parliament's resolutions on human rights in Romania, [17] December 1987<sup>1</sup> and 7 July 1988<sup>2</sup>?

*Answer:*

The Twelve are fully aware of the resolutions referred to by the Honourable Member which reflect well the widespread concern with the human rights situation in Romania.

Some weeks ago, the answer to question No 867/88<sup>3</sup> from the Honourable Member was transmitted to Parliament. From that answer as well as from replies to previous questions from the Honourable Member, he will be aware of the Twelve's preoccupation with human rights in Romania, including those of national minorities. On several occasions the Twelve have made clear to the Romanian Government their preoccupation with certain aspects of the so-called systematization programme. During the Greek Presidency the Greek Ambassador to Bucharest carried out a *démarche* on behalf of the Twelve on 7 September 1988, expressing their concern at the so-called systematization programme to the Romanian Government. The Head of the Greek CSCE Delegation in Vienna made a statement on behalf of the Twelve in the Plenary Session on 23 September 1988, on this programme. There was a new contact in early October between the Presidency and the Romanian Ambassador in Athens where the Twelve's preoccupations were expressed once again.

It should be recalled that any initiative taken by the Twelve within the context of European political cooperation is the result of a common line, agreed by the Twelve, on which bilateral relations have no impact.

<sup>1</sup> *OJ* No C 13 of 18 January 1988, p. 101.

<sup>2</sup> *OJ* No C 235 of 12 September 1988, p. 104.

<sup>3</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 88/361.

**88/428. Question No H-621/88 by Mr Ephremidis Concerning the Legalization of the Turkish Communist Party**

Date of Issue: 16 November 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

During his recent visit to Bonn, the Turkish President, Mr Evren, stated that the time would come when a communist party would be established in Turkey.

Since there is evidence that pressure brought to bear on the Turkish authorities can have results, what pressures do the Foreign Ministers meeting in European political cooperation intend to exert to bring about the legalization (and not the establishment) of the Turkish Communist Party and, in more general terms, the establishment of genuine democracy in the country?

*Answer:*

The Twelve are closely monitoring progress towards greater democracy in Turkey. Nevertheless, the specific issue raised by the Honourable Member has not been discussed within the framework of European political cooperation.

**88/429. Question No H-627/88 by Mr Dessylas Concerning the Indirect Recognition of the Denktash Pseudo-State in Cyprus**

Date of Issue: 16 November 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

What is the attitude of the Foreign Ministers meeting in European political cooperation to the disturbing events surrounding the separation of the Cyprus problem from EEC-Turkey relations, and, in particular, the indirect recognition of the Denktash pseudo-State in Cyprus implicit in the granting by the Commission of special aid for Turkey amounting to 10 million ECU and the granting of part of the EEC's aid for Cyprus directly to the Denktash pseudo-State?

*Answer:*

In answering your question H-332/88<sup>1</sup>, the President-in-Office has already had an opportunity of stressing that the attitude of the Twelve with regard to the Cyprus problem is based on the principles of the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and unity of the Republic of Cyprus, and that any solution must be achieved under the auspices of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and in accordance with UN resolutions.



Moreover, I would like to remind you of the joint declaration of 16 November 1983 in which the Member States denounced the unilateral declaration announcing the founding of a 'Turkish Republic of North Cyprus'. Similarly, addressing the 43rd Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations on behalf of the Twelve, the President-in-Office stated that the Twelve could not overlook the fact that the island continued to be tragically divided and that they rejected any move designed to create an independent State on Cyprus.

The issues of Community aid to Cyprus and of special Commission aid to Turkey are beyond the scope of European political cooperation.

<sup>1</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 88/210.

**88/430. Question No H-631/88 by Mr Mizzau Concerning Austria and the EEC**

Date of Issue: 16 November 1988  
 Place of Issue: Strasbourg  
 Country of Presidency: Greece  
 Source of Document: Presidency  
 Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

According to press reports, recent statements by the Soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachev, were designed to prevent Austrian accession to the EEC. Do the Foreign Ministers not consider they should intervene to safeguard Austria's sovereignty and its right to opt for a policy of European integration?

*Answer:*

The question has not been discussed in European political cooperation.

**88/431. Question No H-632/88 by Mr Iversen Concerning the Legitimization of the Turkish Socialist Party**

Date of Issue: 16 November 1988  
 Place of Issue: Strasbourg  
 Country of Presidency: Greece  
 Source of Document: Presidency  
 Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

What initiatives do the Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation intend to take in the next six months concerning legitimization of the Turkish Socialist Party and human rights in Turkey?

*Answer:*

The Twelve are following closely the process of democratization in Turkey. The specific matter raised by the Honourable Member has not however been discussed in European political cooperation. As for human rights, the Presidency has indicated on numerous occasions that the Twelve have voiced their concern to the Turkish authorities who are well aware of the Twelve's position on this matter.

**88/432. Question No H-658/88 by Mr Hindley Concerning Violations of International Law in Israel**

Date of Issue: 16 November 1988  
 Place of Issue: Strasbourg  
 Country of Presidency: Greece  
 Source of Document: Presidency  
 Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

Would the Ministers consider making representations to the Israeli Government concerning violations of international law in the Ansar-3 camp, under their obligations as signatories to the Fourth Geneva Convention, whose Article 1 obliges States to ensure respect for the terms of that convention?

*Answer:*

In the course of the past few months the Twelve have made repeated representations to the Israeli Government. At these occasions the Twelve have called on the Israeli authorities to comply with international law, such as the Geneva Convention, and human rights standards.

**88/433. Question No H-662/88 by Mr Battersby Concerning Cocom**

Date of Issue: 16 November 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

Do the Foreign Ministers intend to put Cocom on the agenda of their Political Cooperation meetings?

*Answer:*

East-West relations are of course the subject of in-depth discussions among the Foreign Ministers of the Twelve meeting in Political Cooperation. Cocom rules do not, however, form part of the agenda for meetings in European political cooperation. These rules are addressed by certain EC Member States in another framework.

**88/434. Question No H-666/88 by Mr van der Waal Concerning the Jewish Community in Syria**

Date of Issue: 16 November 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

Recently the European Parliament gave its assent to the conclusion of a protocol to the cooperation agreement between the Community and the Syrian Republic (12 October 1988).

There is, however, a community of about 5 000 Jews living in isolation, as quasi-hostages to the Syrian Government, deprived of the freedom to emigrate, despite Articles 13 and 14 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which has been signed by the Syrian Government.

In what way do the Ministers meeting in European political cooperation intend to take up the issue of the oppressed Jewish community with the Syrian authorities?

*Answer:*

The concern of the Twelve for the respect of human rights, in accordance with the principles of the Universal Declaration, and the importance they attach to them in their relations with third countries are fully known by the Syrian authorities.

**88/435. Question No H-669/88 by Mr Zahorka Concerning Statements on the Dutch Television by the Brussels Representative of the African National Congress, Including Death Threats Against Community Citizens**

Date of Issue: 16 November 1988  
 Place of Issue: Strasbourg  
 Country of Presidency: Greece  
 Source of Document: Presidency  
 Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

Is it true that on 16 October 1988 the African National Congress representative in Brussels, Mr Godfrey Motsepe, made statements on Dutch television on the subject of Community citizens in South Africa, explaining that, if an ANC government came to power:

- any such government of which he was member would certainly take a very strong line against Community citizens;
- many Community citizens in South Africa would end up in front of a firing squad because they would be regarded as 'mercenaries and murderers' who did not deserve a fair trial and should simply be 'lined up against a wall'?

What do the Foreign Ministers think of such threats, if they were in fact made, and is it possible to withdraw accreditation — where it has been given — from representatives of organizations that use this kind of language?

*Answer:*

The Twelve are aware that Mr Motsepe spoke words to the effect as referred to by the Honourable Member. Mr Motsepe indicated that this was not an official ANC point of view.

The position of the Twelve regarding South Africa and, in particular, the ANC, has been recently explained to the European Parliament on 13 September and 11 October 1988 in reply to Oral Questions H-354/88<sup>1</sup> and H-522/88<sup>2</sup> respectively. May I just recall that the Twelve have always expressed their unequivocal rejection of the use of force and of human rights violations, from whatever quarters, and their wholehearted support of a process of peaceful change towards a non-racial, free and united South Africa.

Finally, let me clarify that ANC representation in Member States is a matter for the individual governments concerned.

<sup>1</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 88/257.

<sup>2</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 88/319.

**88/436. Question No H-671/88 by Mr Raftery Concerning Ireland and Austrian Neutrality**

Date of Issue: 16 November 1988  
 Place of Issue: Strasbourg  
 Country of Presidency: Greece  
 Source of Document: Presidency  
 Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

At a recent meeting in New York, Dr Alois Mock, Vice-Chancellor of Austria, told the Irish Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Brian Lenihan, that Austria viewed Ireland's neutrality in the EC as a help towards overcoming the Soviet Union to an eventual Austrian application to join the Community. Taking into account Mr Delors' statement that there will be no new members admitted to the EC before 1992, could the Foreign Ministers give their opinion on the Austrian position as stated by Dr Mock?

Do the Foreign Ministers believe that the issue of neutrality might be a 'stumbling block' to eventual Austrian membership of the EC?

*Answer:*

The question of membership of the EC is not being discussed in European political cooperation.

**88/437. Question No H-675/88 by Mr Hutton Concerning Human Rights in Romania**

Date of Issue: 16 November 1988  
Place of Issue: Strasbourg  
Country of Presidency: Greece  
Source of Document: Presidency  
Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

Have the Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation discussed the Romanian Government's policy of destroying villages and the denial of social, cultural and spiritual freedoms of Romania?

*Answer:*

Allow me to refer the Honourable Member to the answer given to Mr Newton Dunn's Question No H-596/88<sup>1</sup>. In it I gave a succinct account of the Twelve's views on the subject matter raised in his question, and on what steps we have undertaken in recent months.

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<sup>1</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 88/427.

**88/438. Explanation of Vote in the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly: Draft Resolution L.32 on the Impact of Property on the Enjoyment of Human Rights (UNGA Res. 43/125)<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 17 November 1988  
Place of Issue: New York  
Country of Presidency: Greece  
Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations  
Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Mr Chairman, I have asked for the floor to make an explanation of vote on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community, on the draft resolution contained in document L.32.

The Twelve have voted against draft resolution L.32, concerning the impact of property on the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The Twelve acknowledge the improvements in the text of the draft resolution L.32. However, we still have difficulties with certain paragraphs. We would have liked to see a more balanced approach, which would have taken into account all aspects of property as it relates to human rights. In this context, we invite all delegations concerned to engage in negotiations next year at an early stage in order to explore all possibilities for a compromise on this issue.

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<sup>1</sup> Agenda item 104.

**88/439. Explanation of Vote in the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly: Draft Resolution L.33 on Alternative Approaches and Ways and Means Within the United Nations System for Improving the Effective Enjoyment of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (UNGA Res. 43/125)<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 17 November 1988  
 Place of Issue: New York  
 Country of Presidency: Greece  
 Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations  
 Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Mr Chairman, I have asked for the floor to make an explanation of vote, on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community, on the draft resolution contained in Document L.33, which is now before the Committee.

The Twelve will again this year abstain on the draft resolution. The Twelve attach particular importance to the pursuit of ways and means within the United Nations for the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. But we doubt whether this draft resolution, or indeed any of the resolutions referred to in the preamble, are helpful in the search for such ways and means.

We regret the tendency to distort the concept of human rights by emphasizing the collective approach, since it is the individual who is the beneficiary of human rights. We must avoid extending the concept of human rights by confusing it with other categories of rights, as is done in L.33.

We also believe that a fundamental flaw in the draft is the absence of an explicit acknowledgement that all violations of human rights, wherever they occur, under whatever political or social system, are a legitimate concern of the United Nations and the international community.

The draft deals with issues such as international economic questions and questions concerning disarmament which do not fall within the competence of this Committee and are being dealt with elsewhere in this Assembly.

We cannot agree with language which implies that there are preconditions for the enjoyment of human rights.

<sup>1</sup> Agenda item 104.

**88/440. Explanation of Vote in the Fifth Committee of the UN General Assembly: Programme Budget for the Biennium 1988-89<sup>1</sup> — Programme Budget Implications of the Recommendations in A/43/24 (Part II) on Agenda Item 29 (Question of Namibia) — A/C.5/43/34 and Add.1**

Date of Issue: 17 November 1988  
 Place of Issue: New York  
 Country of Presidency: Greece  
 Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations  
 Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

*Mr Rallis:* The Twelve have joined consensus on the decision just adopted because they support the international community's goal to bring about Namibia's independence at the earliest possible date. We wish to stress once again our full, constant and unequivocal support for the settlement plan endorsed by Security Council Resolution 435 (1978). We have called on South Africa to implement the settlement plan immediately without preconditions.

We have however reservations about certain aspects of the administrative and budgetary implications of the decision we have just taken. We have particularly in mind *inter alia* the proposal that the Council of Namibia should hold extraordinary plenary meetings away from their headquarters contrary to the provisions of Resolution 40/243 of the General Assembly. We also have in mind the request for provision of verbatim records which is inconsistent with Resolution 41/177 [D]. With regard to the proposal of the Council of Namibia to upgrade the post of the Council's Secretary from D1 to D2 we note the views of the Secretary-General and of the ACABQ. We recall that it is the prerogative of the Secretary-General to make such proposals. Similarly, proposals for budgetary appropriations should be put forward in conformity with the financial regulations and rules.

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<sup>1</sup> Agenda item 114.

### **88/441. Statement in the Sixth Committee of the UN General Assembly: Development and Strengthening of Good Neighbourliness Between States<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 17 November 1988

Place of Issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

*Mr Roucouas:* I have the honour to speak on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community.

Since the very beginning of the consideration of this agenda item by the Sixth Committee the Twelve have stressed their belief that the strengthening and development of relations between neighbouring States can make an important contribution to the cause of international peace and security. Indeed, the Twelve attach great importance to the enhancement of these relations based on fundamental principles and norms which govern international relations such as the respect of sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and non-intervention in the domestic affairs of States.

The wide and very close cooperation of the Twelve within the process of European integration as evidenced by the creation of the European Community is, among its other benefits, an illustration of good neighbourly relations in [everyday] practice.

However, while the Twelve recognize that the concept of good neighbourliness implies respect for and implementation of important rules of international law, which are already well established, we persist in questioning whether the notion itself corresponds to any specific principle or principles of international law.

This year's discussion in the Sub-committee, although concentrated again to the identification of some elements and areas of cooperation between neighbouring States, demonstrated either that many delegations continue to have general reservations as for the matter itself, or that continued attempts to identify and define precise elements of good neighbourliness in all good faith could only result in new misconceptions.

The discussion thus highlighted the elusive nature of the subject and in particular the risk of duplication with work which has already been carried out or is currently in progress within the United Nations or in other forums, including the International Law Commission.

Adequate principles and rules governing relations between States are contained in the Charter of the United Nations and in other international instruments such as the Friendly Relations Declaration, the definition of aggression and the Declaration on Non-Use of Force.

Mr Chairman, after so many years of efforts the Sub-committee did not reach agreement on the very elements that might enter into the concept of good neighbourliness. The lack of

consensus adds confusion to the discussion and could lead us to further difficulties. The question is put again as to the wisdom of continuing this process without positive indications for its fulfilment.

<sup>1</sup> Agenda item 136.

**88/442. Statement at the Plenary Session of the UN General Assembly: Critical Economic Situation in Africa — United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-90**

Date of Issue: 18 November 1988

Place of Issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

*Mr Papadatos:* Mr President, I have the honour to take the floor on behalf of the European Community and its twelve Member States, on agenda item 39: 'Critical Economic Situation in Africa: United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-90'.

Two years ago African governments presented, in the 1986 Special Session of the General Assembly, a strong case for concerted action towards economic recovery and development of the continent. It was the first session to address development problems of an entire region. African leaders did not merely call for support by the international community for their efforts but they laid instead the foundation for a unique partnership as expressed in the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-90 (UNPAAERD). The international community expressed in the programme its readiness to honour its commitments and to sustain the support for Africa's response to the challenge of economic renewal, while African governments have undertaken major policy actions to meet the responsibilities called for in the programme of action. The common recognition of the need for cooperative approaches by all involved participants to bring about an economic turnaround to the African crisis was a formidable achievement for the United Nations.

Only two months ago the *ad hoc* Committee of the Whole of the General Assembly successfully completed the review and appraisal of the implementation of UNPAAERD. It assessed the critical economic situation in Africa, took into account the constraints hampering Africa's development efforts and recognized the response of the international community in support of the efforts of African governments. The assessment exercise proved that African countries have taken courageous and impressive action aimed at reactivating their development process, while donor countries have played an important role in supporting the African policy measures undertaken in the context of UNPAAERD.

More important yet, a clear message that emerged for the implementation of the programme was that enhanced and sustained efforts from all sides were more necessary than ever given the unsatisfactory overall economic performance of Africa and the hope all of us hold for reversing Africa's economic decline. The recommendations cover a number of economic and other concerns essential for the development strategy of African countries. Women farmers, food security and population issues in a long-run development perspective deserve increased attention. The environment and natural resources should receive important consideration in development cooperation to enhance economic growth and combat poverty. The international community should increase its support for efforts undertaken by African governments to implement the programme of action. It should also provide an increased level of financial assistance to African countries, both bilaterally and multilaterally.

The Community and its Member States continue to play their part in demonstrating commitment to the objectives of UNPAAERD. Our contribution is multifaceted and can be portrayed in programming and financing activities, in enhancing the economic recovery of Africa, in improving the external environment and in taking the lead to alleviate the external debt problems of Africa's countries while supporting reforms. Significant initiatives undertaken recently by major creditor countries, the European Community and financial institutions should bear results in the future. Our approach, as reflected in Lomé III and to be further elaborated in Lomé IV, is intended to be a response to the particular problems of our ACP partners and is based on a policy dialogue in order to determine the priorities for the use of the Community's financing.

Mr President, we consider that the mid-term review of UNPAAERD has inspired efforts on further steps towards the implementation of the action programme in a constructive spirit. We welcome the resolution contained in the report of the *Ad Hoc* Committee (document A/43/664) adopting the conclusions of the mid-term review and appraisal of the implementation of UNPAAERD. We also look forward to the final review and appraisal to be conducted at the 46th session of the General Assembly. We are looking ahead in implementing the programme before 1991 and feel confident that through combined initiatives concrete results must be achieved. The same cooperative atmosphere which prevailed during the adoption of the programme of action was present during the mid-term review. It was shared by all participants, African countries, international institutions, NGOs and donors. Thank you, Mr President.

**88/443. Statement in the Special Political Committee of the UN General Assembly: Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 18 November 1988

Place of Issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

*Mr Papadopoulos:* Mr Chairman, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community.

As they stressed in their statement before the Plenary on 3 November 1988, the Twelve attach, as a matter of principle, the greatest importance to all matters affecting the rights of the population of the Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967. We have followed with deep concern the dramatic deterioration of the human rights situation in these territories since the beginning of the uprising of the Palestine population against the Israeli occupation and we have, on every occasion, expressed our firm commitment to the respect of international law and human rights.

The Twelve feel that a peaceful political situation is now more necessary than ever before. In that respect, the policy of the Twelve continues to be based on the one hand on the recognition of Israel's right to existence within secure and recognized borders and on the other on the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination with all that this implies. These principles have also been set out within the framework of European political cooperation in the Venice Declaration.

The Twelve have taken due note of the latest report of the Special Committee to investigate Israeli practices in the occupied territories presented by its distinguished Chairman, Mr Daya R. Perrera. In spite of repeated requests of the Secretary-General, the Government of Israel continues to maintain its position with regard to the Special Committee. Therefore, the report, in spite of the efforts made by the Committee to provide us with as full and objective data as



possible, does not present a complete picture of the situation. Consequently, the Twelve have availed themselves of other sources of information and we shall also take note of the views expressed by Israel as well as by other delegations.

Mr Chairman, the Twelve also reiterate that the provisions of the Hague Convention of 1907 and the fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 relative to the protection of civilian persons in time of war are applicable to the territories occupied by Israel since 1967. Israel's persistent refusal to acknowledge this can in no way be justified and is a matter of great concern to the Twelve. The Security Council has confirmed in many resolutions that the fourth Geneva Convention does indeed apply to the Israeli-occupied territories, recently so in its Resolutions 605 and 607 which the Twelve unreservedly support.

The Twelve, on several occasions, have reiterated their concern with human rights and living conditions in the occupied territories. We have called upon the Israeli authorities to ensure the immediate protection of the inhabitants of the occupied territories in compliance with international law and human rights obligations.

Mr Chairman, the situation in the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip has, over the last twelve months, seriously deteriorated as a result of the continuing Israeli occupation and is bound to remain critical in the absence of a political solution. This period was marked by numerous incidents such as violent demonstrations, armed clashes, shootings leading to serious injuries and killings. Civilian resistance to the occupation has grown and has undoubtedly been further intensified by the excessive level of force employed by the occupation forces, and by the increasing severity and scope of Israeli repressive measures. The resistance reflects the wholly understandable frustration and resentment at the length of the occupation and at the policy of the 'iron fist'. The extensive use of various forms of ammunition, as a form of punishment and disincentive to Palestinian demonstrators, has become widespread, causing an alarming increase in injuries. Furthermore, despite claims by the Israeli authorities that plastic bullets are non-lethal, a number of deaths have resulted from their use in the past few weeks. Fatalities have resulted from shots fired at close range. Furthermore, personnel using such weapons seems to have received inadequate training or control.

The Twelve have listened with care to the case put by the Israeli authorities that, in resorting to force, they are merely responding to violent protests. The facts do not bear this out. We judge that the level of force employed by the authorities has, in any case and by any standard, been excessive. There have also been specific incidents of violence directed against Israeli civilians in the occupied territories. We condemn all recourse to violence from whatever quarter it comes. The cycle of violence must be broken. We affirm once more that the only solution to the acute problems concerning the territories is through peaceful negotiation.

Mr Chairman, in accordance with their firm commitment to upholding international law, including in particular the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, the Twelve have repeatedly rejected the illegal Israeli practices in the territories occupied since 1967, such as the establishment of settlements and other measures affecting their demographic structure. All member States are under the obligation to abide by this binding principle which is enshrined in the Charter and is referred to in Resolution 242 of the Security Council.

The Twelve firmly believe that any increase of the number of settlements is bound to set back prospects for a comprehensive and lasting peace in the area. Establishing new settlements and enlarging existing ones are indeed the reverse of the kind of confidence-building measures which could contribute to a peaceful solution. The Foreign Ministers of the Twelve have declared that every new and every existing settlement is a clear violation of international law. They have also called on Israel to put an end to this illegal policy.

Mr Chairman, measures of collective punishment have reached new dimensions and continue severely to affect the daily lives of the Palestinian populations. Long-term curfews have affected large areas of the territories. Restrictions have been imposed on exports of basic West Bank Palestinian products to Jordan and on their marketing inside Israel, and even the domestic Palestinian market, resulting in economic deprivation. The case of the village of Qabatiya,

which was deprived for months of electricity, water and telephone, is a characteristic example. Poor living conditions of Palestinians kept in detention centres led to hunger strike, alleged suicide and protest which were violently suppressed. The Twelve have repeatedly deeply deplored these repressive measures taken by Israel and its practices of collective punishment and recourse to new forms of collective reprisals such as arbitrary arrests or detentions without charge or trial, town arrests, harsh economic sanctions, demolition and sealing of houses, house arrests, as happened recently in the village of Juflik as well as restrictions on freedom of movement.

The Twelve are seriously concerned at the restrictions of media freedom, the reported detention and harassment of journalists and the extension for a further year of the closure of the Palestinian Press Service: acts which undermine the Palestinian press and deny freedom of expression.

Furthermore, the Twelve have, on several occasions, reiterated their concern at Israel's policy of expulsions and deportations from the occupied territories carried out in violation of Article 49 of the fourth Geneva Convention which states that individual or massive forcible transfers from the occupied territory are prohibited, regardless of their motive. This policy under which, even now, further deportations are pending, exacerbates the already tense atmosphere and indicates the readiness of the authorities to make increasing use of this practice despite international pressure.

Mr Chairman, a form of collective punishment which also gives rise to concern is the prolonged closure of educational establishments. Palestinian academic life remains paralyzed and the closure of secondary schools and universities has again been extended by order of the Israeli authorities, thus depriving young Palestinians of the right to education.

The Twelve regret that non-violent forms of protest and even charitable and self-help activities by the inhabitants of the occupied territories have in several cases met with a harsh reaction from Israeli authorities. The Twelve view with concern the suppression of any and every form of peaceful political organization among the Palestinian population of the occupied territories.

Mr Chairman, the Twelve view with particular concern the question of the status of Jerusalem which is a holy city for three religions and of extreme importance to all the parties concerned. The Twelve will not accept any unilateral initiative designed to change the status of Jerusalem. The freedom of access for everyone to the Holy Places must be guaranteed in any future agreement on Jerusalem.

We continue to condemn Israel's decision to extend Israeli law, jurisdiction and administration to occupied Syrian territory in the Golan Heights. Such an extension, which is tantamount to annexation, is contrary to international law, and therefore invalid. This decision prejudices the possibility of the implementation of Security Council Resolution 242 and further complicates the search for a comprehensive peace settlement in the Middle East.

The Twelve wish to see an improvement in the living conditions of the inhabitants of the occupied territories, particularly in the areas of economic, social, cultural and administrative affairs. Under the convention covering the period 1987-89 between EEC and UNRWA, the European Community has agreed to increase its cash contribution to the education programmes of UNRWA by 20 per cent, i.e. 20 million ECU equivalent approximately to 22 million US dollars for 1987, 1988 and 1989 each. Together with the contributions of UNRWA's feeding programmes the total value of EC aid to UNRWA in the current year is expected to reach some 38.9 million ECU or approximately 42.8 million US dollars. This contribution is in addition to substantial contributions by individual Member States.

The European Community has also given duty-free access for all the industrial products exported to the Community as well as preferential duty treatment for some agricultural products, originating from the occupied territories. These measures were taken with the hope that they will also help to improve the difficult economic situation in the occupied territories as

well as to contribute to the reduction of unemployment and underemployment. The Twelve hope that the Palestinians of the occupied territories will be in a position to take full advantage of these measures.

Mr Chairman, the events we witness in the occupied territories are likely to have the effect of deepening mistrust between Israelis and Palestinians and of making peaceful settlement harder to achieve. There will be no end to the human suffering in the region without a negotiated solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict leading to a just, comprehensive and lasting peace. The position of the Twelve regarding such a settlement is set out in the Venice Declaration and subsequent statements and it is well known. All parties should clearly and unambiguously accept two principles: the right to existence and security of all States in the area, including Israel, and the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination with all that this implies. The Twelve's support for an international peace conference under the auspices of the United Nations is also well known. Our long-standing contacts with all parties to the conflict is but one expression of our ardent desire to see peace prevailing in the Middle East. We urge all parties concerned to seize now the new opportunities to achieve a just and lasting solution to the conflict. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

<sup>1</sup> Agenda item 77.

#### **88/444. Statement in the Fifth Committee of the UN General Assembly: Financing of the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 18 November 1988

Place of Issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

*Mr Rallis:* Mr Chairman, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community.

At the outset the Twelve would like to thank the Secretary-General for his report A/43/696 on financing of the UNIIMOG as well as the ACABQ for its thorough comments on it contained in document A/43/768.

The role of the United Nations peace-keeping operations has increased in significance. An explicit sign of the recognition of the value the international community places upon peace-keeping operations is the recent decision of the Nobel Committee to award the Peace Prize to these forces. We would like to take this opportunity to convey to the Secretary-General as well as to the commanders and men of the United Nations peace-keeping forces our appreciation for their untiring efforts and commitment in the cause of peace. These operations are provisional arrangements to be seen within the broader context of the search for a permanent, peaceful, political settlement of a problem in accordance with the principles of the Charter and the Security Council resolutions. Their existence is made necessary because crises remain pending and the principles of the Charter and the Security Council resolutions have not been observed. This is also the reason why, as experience has shown, no one can foresee for how long the Security Council might deem it necessary to prolong their mandate. They are obviously not a substitute for real peace nor an end in themselves.

UNIIMOG along with UNGOMAP are the two most recent operations approved by the Security Council. We trust that they will succeed in fulfilling their mandates. The responsibility for the peace-keeping operations is vested in the Secretary-General and they are under the authority of the Security Council. Their success depends *inter alia* on the readiness of member States to volunteer troops and on adequate financial arrangements.

Mr Chairman, the Twelve believe that all member States carry a joint responsibility for peace-keeping activities and for their financing. Peace has its price and member States should be prepared to pay it. We have consistently urged all member States to fulfil their financial obligations towards peace-keeping operations and to ensure their proper financing on a sound and stable basis. It is a fact that the present financial difficulties with regard to the existing peace-keeping operations are due to the failure of some member States to assume their financial responsibilities under the Charter. This has resulted in an undue burden on the troop contributing countries.

The need for prompt payment of financial obligations gains even greater importance in view of the expected establishment of United Nations peace-keeping operations in new areas too. As this will entail substantial additional financial obligations, the Twelve consider it important to stress the necessity that cost effectiveness be borne in mind in the establishment and management of peace-keeping operations.

Mr Chairman, the report of the Secretary-General on UNIIMOG as well as the relevant report of the Advisory Committee invite us not simply to comment on general aspects of the financing of this particular operation but also offer some comments on the receipt and management of voluntary contributions for application to peace-keeping forces generally.

The Twelve appreciate the efforts of the Advisory Committee to identify areas where possible savings could be achieved. We understand that the ACABQ's suggestions on further cost saving are general in their formulation to allow the Secretary-General the necessary flexibility. We recognize that a delicate balance should be drawn between the necessity for operational flexibility and the need for cost effectiveness. We welcome in this respect the efforts of the Advisory Committee. It is right that we should benefit from its role as the competent expert body for the detailed scrutiny of cost estimates, including for peace-keeping operations. We would appreciate it if, in the future, its suggestions could be more detailed. The same is valid also for the Secretariat's proposals. Transparency and clarity with regard to the actual requirements could make a greater contribution to cost effectiveness. We look to the Secretary-General to ensure that utmost attention be paid to avoiding unnecessary costs. We recall that the Fifth Committee just adopted draft resolution in L.4 in which the General Assembly *inter alia*,

requests the Board of Auditors and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to continue to cover in their reviews of the organizations and programmes, including peace-keeping operations, the areas relating to the efficiency and effectiveness of the financial procedures and controls.

With that in mind, the Twelve welcome the recommendations of the ACABQ, both for the amounts required to continue this operation through the six-month period ending in February 1989 as well as with the amounts foreseen for the next twelve-month period, provided that the Security Council will extend UNIIMOG's mandate. The Twelve concur with the opinion of ACABQ in paragraph 9 of its report that the ongoing negotiations on costs related to the Military Signals Unit should result in a substantially lower figure than anticipated.

With regard to the recommendation of ACABQ in paragraph 11 of its report concerning reductions in the level of civilian staff, we respect the opinion of the Advisory Committee. We look forward to receiving further information.

Mr Chairman, at this stage we feel obliged to express our concern for the impediments to the prompt collection of assessed contributions for UNIIMOG. The Advisory Committee, in paragraph 21 of its report, points out that only 17 out of the 35 million US dollars apportioned for the first three-month period have been collected by the Secretariat. Out of those 17 million more than 10 million have been paid by members of the European Community. It would be ironical indeed if some member States expressed their support on the one hand for the operation itself but unduly delayed the payment of their assessed contributions on the other. We therefore urge all member States to fully respect their legal obligations.

Financing of peace-keeping operations is the collective responsibility of all member States and should be based on assessed contributions. Nevertheless, the Twelve welcome the offer by some member States of voluntary contributions to help meet the costs of these operations. In this connection, we take due note of the remarks of the Advisory Committee with regard to the receipt and utilization of voluntary contributions. In our view, voluntary contributions in cash should be treated either as an advance or as a current income in accordance with the donors' wishes. In the latter case we agree that, once received, an equivalent sum should normally be deducted from the next appropriation. In this regard we consider it important that the Organization should retain the ability to secure continuing cooperation of troop contributing countries on an as wide as possible geographical basis.

We are favourably inclined on the recommendations of ACABQ with regard to voluntary contributions in kind. We concur that such contributions should normally be treated as current income and be limited to budgeted items. We further agree that great care is needed with regard to any voluntary contribution in kind which does not meet these conditions. Acceptance of all voluntary contributions in kind should be at the discretion of the Secretary-General and in accordance with his judgement.

Mr Chairman, the Advisory Committee has also discussed the possibility of establishing a working capital fund or funds for peace-keeping and related activities and has announced its intention to make in the future specific recommendations. The Twelve await the report of the Secretary-General on this matter requested by the ACABQ. We believe that the working capital fund of the Organization established at the level of 100 million US dollars could serve this purpose if it were not used to cover obligations of the United Nations arising from the non-payment of assessed contributions of member States. A strict fulfilment of member States' obligations under Article 17 of the Charter would, apart from solving the financial crisis of the Organization, lead also to the replenishment of the working capital fund at the current level or more if the General Assembly so decides. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

<sup>1</sup> Agenda item 147.

### **88/445. Statement in the Fifth Committee of the UN General Assembly: Respect for the Privileges and Immunities of Officials of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies and Related Organizations<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 18 November 1988

Place of Issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

*Mr Rallis:* Mr Chairman, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community.

The Twelve would like first to thank the Secretary-General for his report contained in document A/C.5/43/18 and for his statement on the same matter on 14 November 1988 as well as the Legal Counsel Mr Fleischhauer for the introduction of the Secretary-General's report. We also thank the UN Security Coordinator and the Heads of organizations of the UN system who are trying hard to defend the personal security and integrity of the international civil servants. This is an issue to which we attach particular importance not only because of its humanitarian aspects but also because it is directly connected with the ability of the Organization to effectively carry out its tasks.

The General Assembly by Resolution 42/219 expressed once again concern about the deterioration in the situation with regard to the respect for the privileges and immunities of

officials of the United Nations and the specialized agencies and related organizations and requested the Secretary-General to continue personally to act as the focal point in dealing with the matter.

The Twelve note with deep concern that during the past year there was a disturbing overall increase in the number of cases involving the arrest and detention of officials of the United Nations system.

Mr Chairman, the Secretary-General's report before us is a factual and objective account of cases involving the safety and well-being of United Nations officials and reflects the impediments put forward by member States to the effective work of the United Nations.

The Twelve wish to express their particular concern over the case of Mr Alec Collett, kidnapped in Lebanon on March 1985 over three and a half years ago, and over the fate of the Chief of the Military Observers of UNTSO, Lieutenant-Colonel William Higgins, who was abducted in the performance of his tasks. These are two cases to which the Secretary-General drew particular attention.

But the fact that we also mention these two cases should no way be interpreted as detracting from the importance of the other cases reported in A/C.5/43/18, to which we attach equal importance. We wish to express our continuing concern over these violations and particularly those relating to arbitrary detention, arrest or abduction of United Nations officials. We appeal once more to the governments involved to put an end to such acts and to allow servants of the Organization to exercise fully the right of functional immunity. We support the appeal addressed personally by the Secretary-General on 14 November to all member States to cooperate with him in his efforts for achieving the goal of assuring the respect of immunities of staff.

Mr Chairman, the legal status, privileges and immunities of officials of the United Nations are governed by Article 105 of the Charter and have been further elaborated in the 1946 Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations. They describe in detail the rights and duties of the United Nations. It is important to recall that these provisions have been introduced not for the personal benefit of the United Nations officials but in order to secure the unhindered and effective functioning of the Organization.

The Twelve have taken note with appreciation of the Secretary-General's endeavours and his diligence in taking every possible opportunity to press the issue with responsible governments. We would like to lend him our full support in his efforts, as chief administrative officer of this Organization, to safeguard the well-being and free functioning of the United Nations officials. We have also taken due note of the Secretary-General's intentions in paragraph 32 of his report. We welcome the proposal put forward by UNDP in paragraph 34 of the same report to the effect that

member States should agree that access by the designated official or his representative to detained United Nations staff be granted within 24 hours of their arrest, and a formal explanation for the arrest and detention be furnished through the designated official to the Secretary-General within 48 hours.

It is the common responsibility of member States to guarantee adequate protection for the international civil servants in the performance of their tasks. The Twelve, therefore, agree that in case of arrest and detention of UN officials, access by the designated official or representative of the Secretary-General should be granted and notification and explanation provided without delay.

The Twelve would like to conclude this statement by expressing their support to the Secretary-General in his endeavours and by expressing their wish that the General Assembly renews the mandate to him to report and follow up all present and future cases involving violation of the privileges and immunities of United Nations officials. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

<sup>1</sup> Agenda item 121 [B].

**88/446. Explanation of Vote in the Sixth Committee of the UN General Assembly: Draft Resolution Concerning the Peaceful Settlement of Disputes Between States<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 18 November 1988

Place of Issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

*Mr Roucouнас:* Mr Chairman, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community.

We belong to the — unfortunately rather small — category of States which in different contexts on international cooperation have accepted obligatory and binding dispute settlement procedures, be it at the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg, the Human Rights Commission and Court in Strasbourg or other international judicial bodies, for example in the International Court of Justice at The Hague.

This attitude to peaceful settlement of disputes is a fundamental and natural part of the Twelve's view on international relations and it is well-known to everybody that we are strongly in favour of any constructive step which may strengthen the principle of peaceful settlement at the universal level. Nevertheless, due to the contents of operative paragraphs 4 and 5 and of some preambular parts, most of us have been unable to support the resolution just adopted.

With regard to operative paragraph 4, I should like to recall that we joined in the consensus adoption of the Manila Declaration and have not changed our position in that regard. Last year we said that most of us failed to see the merits of establishing a questionnaire procedure on the implementation of a declaration that was adopted only 6 years before and in particular on ways and means to increase its effectiveness. It is obvious that such written replies could not remedy the real problem, namely the widespread lack of political will to use already well-established procedures for peaceful settlement of international disputes.

What is needed and should be repeated time and again is a strong appeal to governments to be aware of and to utilize the many existing procedures for settling international disputes that are referred to in the Charter. The logical place for such an appeal is in the Resolution on the Charter Committee which already deals with problems relating to dispute settlement. Thus a separate agenda item and a separate resolution concerning this subject as envisaged in operative paragraph 5 seem to most of us to be superfluous.

The reasons stated above have led most of our delegations not to support the resolution, and in particular paragraphs 4 and 5. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

<sup>1</sup> Agenda item 129.

**88/447. Statement Concerning the Decisions of the Palestinian National Council of 15 November 1988**

Date of Issue: 21 November 1988

Place of Issue: Brussels

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: The Twelve

Status of Document: Declaration

The Twelve attach particular importance to the decisions adopted by the Palestinian National Council in Algiers, which reflect the will of the Palestinian people to assert their national identity and which include positive steps towards the peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

They welcome in this respect the acceptance by the Palestinian National Council of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 as a basis for an international conference, which implies

acceptance of the right of existence and of security for all States of the region, including Israel. Respect for this principle goes together with that of justice for the peoples of the region, in particular the right of self-determination of the Palestinian people with all that this implies. For the Twelve it constitutes a necessary condition for the establishment of just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Near East, as they have repeatedly asserted since the Declaration of Venice. The Twelve also express their satisfaction that the Palestine National Council has explicitly condemned terrorism.

The Twelve appeal to all parties concerned, while abstaining from any act of violence and any action which could further aggravate the tense situation in the Near East, to take this opportunity and contribute to the peace process in a positive way with a view to a just, global and lasting solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. This solution can only be achieved through an international peace conference under the auspices of the United Nations, which represents the suitable framework for the necessary negotiations between the parties directly concerned.

The Twelve are deeply concerned by the deterioration of the situation in the occupied territories and the increasing feeling of disappointment and desperation among the population of these territories which might become worse if there is no prospect of a negotiated solution. They reiterate their commitment to participate actively in all efforts contributing to a negotiated solution.

#### **88/448. Statement Concerning Lebanon**

Date of Issue: 21 November 1988

Place of Issue: Brussels

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: The Twelve

Status of Document: Declaration

On the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Lebanon, the Twelve send their best wishes to the people of Lebanon. They hope that this friendly country can soon overcome the acute crisis through which it is going at present.

In this connection the Twelve reaffirm their support for all efforts aimed at the re-establishment and the protection of the full sovereignty, territorial integrity, independence and unity of Lebanon. They also stress the importance they attach to the full realization of the constitutional process and, in particular, to the election of a President of the Republic who, as a symbol of the unity of the country, could contribute to national reconciliation.

#### **88/449. Statement Concerning Afghanistan**

Date of Issue: 21 November 1988

Place of Issue: Brussels

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: The Twelve

Status of Document: Declaration

The Twelve continue to follow events in Afghanistan closely. Reaffirming the views expressed in their statement of 14 April 1988<sup>1</sup>, they support the efforts of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to achieve a comprehensive solution of the crisis and consider that the Geneva agreements must be faithfully implemented by all parties concerned.

The Twelve are deeply concerned at the recent intensification of Soviet bombing attacks in Afghanistan and at the deployment and use of Scud missiles there.

The Twelve have noted with concern recent Soviet public statements implying that the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan has been suspended. The Twelve continue to call for the prompt withdrawal of all Soviet forces from Afghanistan. They noted that Soviet



authorities have reiterated their commitment to conclude before 15 February 1989, the full withdrawal of their forces. This is essential to give the Afghan people an opportunity to determine their own future. The Twelve continue to believe that the key to peace in Afghanistan will be the establishment of a truly representative government by a genuine act of self-determination in which the resistance will have an important part to play.

They call on all parties, including the resistance, to exercise moderation and realism in the search for a comprehensive settlement.

<sup>1</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 88/094.

### **88/450. Statement Concerning the Sharpeville Six**

Date of Issue: 21 November 1988  
Place of Issue: Brussels  
Country of Presidency: Greece  
Source of Document: The Twelve  
Status of Document: Declaration

The Twelve welcome the decision of President Botha to commute the death sentences inflicted on the Sharpeville Six. The Twelve hope that this decision will be followed by further action conducive to the relaxation of tensions and peaceful change in South Africa.

### **88/451. Explanation of Vote at the Plenary Session of the UN General Assembly: Draft Resolution L.28/Rev. Concerning the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (UNGA Res. 43/47)<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 22 November 1988  
Place of Issue: New York  
Country of Presidency: Greece  
Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations  
Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Mr President, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community on the draft resolution A/43/L.28/Rev.1 now before us.

The Twelve are unable to support this draft resolution and, therefore, will abstain because it is clearly not in conformity with ECOSOC Resolution 1988/63 on Guidelines for International Decades, which was based on the report of the Secretary-General contained in document E/1988/58 and Corr.1 and which was adopted by consensus only on 27 July 1988. Thank you, Mr President.

<sup>1</sup> Agenda item 18.

### **88/452. Statement in the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly: Report of the Economic and Social Council<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 22 November 1988  
Place of Issue: New York  
Country of Presidency: Greece  
Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations  
Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

*Mr Zepos:* Mr Chairman, I have the honour to address the Committee today on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community on the human rights aspects of the report of the Economic and Social Council.

In the Charter, our Organization has pledged itself to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights and the dignity and worth of the human person. Thus, by accepting the Charter, States assume an obligation to promote human rights.

Forty years have elapsed since the adoption of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights that laid the foundation for the extensive system of the international protection of human rights as we know it today. It is beyond doubt that during these forty years there has been important progress in this domain. An increasing number of States saw fit to adhere to the principles contained in the international instruments on human rights. Some also established more rigorous provisions for promoting respect for human rights either in their national legislation or within regional international organizations.

This process of protecting and promoting human rights is far from being completed. We deplore that even the fundamental principles set out by the Universal Declaration, the two Covenants on human rights and the other related instruments are still flagrantly violated across the world. Summary executions, disappearances, arbitrary arrests and detentions, torture, religious intolerance and racial and other forms of discrimination, denial of the right to self-determination, of the right to take part in the government of one's country, directly or through freely chosen representatives, as well as denial of freedom of movement, of the freedom of expression and association, are but some of the outrageous violations that are daily occurrences worldwide. These take place in clear defiance of the body of international human rights law; and despite the far greater awareness of human rights issues today which has created an atmosphere in which human rights violations can no longer go unnoticed nor be kept from public scrutiny.

What is incomprehensible, Mr Chairman, is that some States violate repeatedly the very provisions to which they are freely committed. The protection and promotion of human rights is a fundamental obligation of the United Nations and of all its member States. Unless we all scrupulously and constantly uphold such obligations, we undermine the very foundations of the United Nations. The violation of human rights in any part of the world is a legitimate concern of States, the United Nations and world public at large. Such concern and its concomitant activity cannot be construed as constituting an unwarranted interference in the internal affairs of States. This point has been made very clear by the International Court of Justice.

In addressing human rights violations, criticism must be based on objective and universal criteria. The goal should under no circumstances be political expediency, since that would inevitably undermine the claim to a genuine concern for human rights. We should always be guided by the plight of all individuals subjected to human rights abuses.

It is worth remembering the experience of several States that have returned to civil rule and pluralism. Representatives of such States have almost invariably claimed that the involvement of third States and international organizations was salutary for their peoples' struggle for human rights and civil democratic rule. In many instances representatives of States have affirmed that the silence of the international community had contributed to the prolongation of periods of tyranny in their countries. The testimony of these countries from their bitter experience, even as a testimony *ex post facto*, should convince all of the need for international concern for human rights violations.

Mr Chairman, at this point it is perhaps time to go back to fundamentals. The twelve Member States of the European Community would like to stress that the concept of human rights denotes first and foremost the protection of the individual against the State, not the protection of the State against the individual. This is the essence of human rights. It is always the individual human being who is the subject of these rights. The State should refrain from abusing its citizens and should protect them. Any attempt to dilute or distort individual human rights, by confusing them with other categories of rights, such as the rights of States, can only weaken the cause of protecting the individual. Our principal preoccupation is the individual human being. We reject the notion that the individual should submit to the arbitrary exercise of power by the State. Too

many governments, whatever their ideology, display a cynical contempt for the individual and deny in practice the inherent dignity and equality of all human beings. At best they render lip-service to human rights or invoke the language of human rights for public relations purposes.

The establishment of universally accepted human rights standards has been a major achievement of our Organization. Implementation is now the primary task. The Commission of Human Rights through ECOSOC is entrusted with the task of implementing the objectives of the United Nations in the field of human rights. Its Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and the Protection of Minorities complements the work of the Commission. The existing machinery for monitoring implementation of the International Covenants on Human Rights and other human rights instruments (including the various optional procedures provided therein), must be used to the best effect.

For the Twelve it is essential that the necessary resources should continue to be made available in order to maintain and strengthen the United Nations machinery for the protection of human rights and to render it more effective. It should be recalled that human rights programmes constitute less than one per cent of the overall expenditure of the United Nations. Past experience has shown that cuts jeopardize the whole system and its important objectives.

Mr Chairman, it is worth pointing out that the United Nations has adopted, over the past decade, a far more dynamic profile in the field of human rights. The Commission of Human Rights has established, parallel with country rapporteurs, specialized thematic mechanisms that address specific categories of human rights violations. These include the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances and the Special Rapporteurs on torture, summary and arbitrary executions, and religious intolerance. They conduct their own independent investigation and intervene in emergency situations. It is important to note that thousands of cases of human rights abuses have been raised largely upon the initiative of the working groups and rapporteurs. We appeal to all governments to extend their full cooperation to these groups and to the special rapporteurs. However, cooperation alone, while an important step, does not suffice. The actual improvement of the human rights situation is the objective.

The Twelve would like to underline the importance they attach to the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances. Since 1980, it has asked some 45 governments throughout the world to justify more than 15 000 cases of 'disappearances'. Unfortunately, only 7-8 per cent of all such cases have been formally 'clarified'. But undoubtedly the publicity given to cases through the intervention of the Working Group has prevented more disappearances from occurring. The Twelve commend the Working Group for the responsible and effective manner in which it has conducted its activities, especially the urgent action procedure, and for the progress it has achieved. We welcome the extension for another two years of the Working Group's mandate. Furthermore, the Twelve urge all governments concerned to cooperate more actively with the Working Group by answering more completely to its enquiries and by responding favourably to requests for visits, as some countries recently did. We commend these countries. The Secretary-General will of course have to ensure that the Working Group has sufficient staff and financial resources at all times, particularly for missions to countries where disappearances have been reported.

In a very large number of countries there continue to be instances of summary or arbitrary executions. This constitutes a violation of the inherent right to life as stipulated by the Universal Declaration and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The Twelve commend the Special Rapporteur's efforts on behalf of those threatened with summary execution and welcome the renewal of his mandate for two more years. However, we note with regret that in his report to the forty-fourth session of the Commission on Human Rights, the Special Rapporteur asked twenty-seven governments to reply to his communications about alleged summary and arbitrary executions but received answers from eight governments only. In addition, he issued an urgent appeal to eleven governments (eight of which were not among the original 27) in an effort to forestall 'imminent or threatened' summary executions. It is regrettable that only three responded. States must cooperate with the Special Rapporteur and

take into serious consideration the recommendations he makes. The Twelve strongly appeal to the governments concerned to implement in good faith what they have freely accepted by ending forthwith all summary and arbitrary executions.

In our statement under agenda item 106, we dealt in detail with the question of torture. On this occasion the Twelve would simply like to reiterate their support for the work of the Special Rapporteur on torture and welcome the extension of his mandate. We further acknowledge his excellent report and welcome the emphasis that he puts on preventive measures and on the connection between torture and other human rights abuses.

The Twelve also welcome the extension of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on religious intolerance and commend the efficient manner in which he has sought to advance, on a world-wide scale, the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination based on Religion or Belief.

Mr Chairman, in line with their commitment to promote human rights, our twelve States are also all party to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, the earliest regional arrangement for the protection of human rights. The European Convention, which brings together the countries of Western Europe, is far-reaching, not only in its scope, but particularly in its enforcement machinery. The judicial framework of the Council of Europe provides for compulsory jurisdiction. It is within this framework, for example, that complaints of violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the Republic of Cyprus are being dealt with. An additional mechanism of great importance is the optional procedure — the right of individual petition to which all twelve States of the European Community have acceded to — which has enabled the European Convention to play an important role in the guaranteeing of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Our experience with the European Convention strengthened our conviction that ratification of human rights instruments is not sufficient on its own, but that implementation is the essential thing. The case of the Council of Europe clearly reaffirms that regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights can make a major contribution to the effective enjoyment of these rights.

The Twelve wish to underline the particular importance they attach to the right to set up free and democratic trade unions. It is of fundamental significance for the establishment and preservation of a democratic society that strong and independent organizations are in a position to defend, without interference, the interest of all those for whom they act and speak. In many countries, trade unionists are perhaps particularly vulnerable because they defend not only their own rights but also those of others. It is our duty as international community to see to it that they and all others who are seeking to defend these rights, in all countries, whatever their political, economic and social system, are protected against harassment, detention or worse.

The Twelve, in demonstrating the priority they attach to the respect for human rights, support the launching of a World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights in 1989. Such a campaign should be carefully focused and practically oriented. This would enable it to have beneficial results concerning the respect for human rights and fundamental freedom in the world. We intend to participate actively in this campaign.

The Twelve welcome developments in the Soviet Union and in some Eastern European countries which have led to the opening up of their political systems. These developments have led to certain progress in respect of fundamental rights and freedoms in those countries. We welcome in the Soviet Union, in particular, the release of a large number of prisoners of conscience, the signs of a new attitude towards emigration and improvement of religious freedom. We note also with interest the major review of criminal law that is taking place — apparently aimed at bringing it more closely in line with international standards — and the public discussion on the death penalty initiated by the authorities there. We furthermore welcome ratification by the USSR of the Convention Against Torture. However, systematic reforms should be implemented in order to secure lasting improvements in the field of human rights. Much remains to be done.

We welcome the fact that Hungary became party to the Optional Protocol, the first country of the region to do so. We hope that other States will soon follow.

There remain a few situations that continue to give rise to grave concern, notably that of Romania which has recently been the subject of a number of disturbing reports regarding violations of human rights. In particular, the Twelve have expressed their great concern of the policy of systematization that the Romanian Government is undertaking. The implementation of this programme has negative consequences on the preservation of cultural heritage and further undermines the respect of human rights. The Twelve renew their appeal to the Romanian Government to take into account the preoccupations of this question. The refusal of the Romanian authorities to allow Mr Mazilu, an independent expert assigned by the Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, to prepare a report on youth and human rights, to report to the Sub-Commission and to establish contact with the United Nations Secretariat is a matter of serious concern to the Twelve. We urge the Romanian authorities to respect the status of independent United Nations rapporteurs and to allow the Secretariat to establish personal contact with Mr Mazilu, in order to enable the expert to fulfil his mandate.

At the follow-up meeting of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe in Vienna, the Twelve continue to insist on a full and unreserved implementation of all commitments concerning human rights and fundamental freedoms, entered into by the States participating in the CSCE process. The Twelve believe that progress in the human dimension of the CSCE, which will hopefully soon be reflected in a balanced and substantive document, will make a meaningful contribution for the establishment of a real climate of confidence in Europe. Such progress can be achieved, for example, by facilitating reunification of families; the freedom of movement, which includes the right to leave a country and to return to one's country, as well as the free circulation within one's own country; the right freely to profess and practise one's religion or belief; the right freely to receive and disseminate information; and generally, the right to exercise and defend all human rights without any harassment or persecution.

Mr Chairman, the violation of human rights in South Africa has long been one of the central themes dealt with in the report of the Economic and Social Council. On several occasions at this Assembly, including our recent statement under item 87 concerning the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, the Twelve have expressed in detail their abhorrence for apartheid and their conviction that it must be abolished. The Twelve continued throughout this year to actively pursue their common policy designed at contributing to the total dismantling of apartheid through peaceful means. We have monitored very closely the situation in South Africa, in particular as regards human rights.

The Twelve were particularly disturbed by the adoption in February of new restrictive measures against a number of organizations peacefully opposing apartheid and several of their leaders, the arrests of church and trade-union leaders, the detention without charge of men, women and even young children and the maltreatment and torture inflicted on a number of detainees, the uncertain fate of the Sharpeville Six and the bill threatening to deprive peaceful anti-apartheid organizations of external funding. The Twelve, in pursuing actively their condemnation of all violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms in South Africa, carried out numerous diplomatic *démarches* on these grave issues, indicating that the persistence of those problems will further severely strain the relations between the Twelve and South Africa. We have also strongly appealed repeatedly to the South African authorities for the release of Nelson Mandela and of other political prisoners. The recent developments point to the fact that Pretoria is still unwilling to commit itself to real and significant change. The Twelve will continue to work for rapid and peaceful change, so that South Africa can become a fully democratic country in which all citizens can exercise their human rights.

The Twelve remain committed to Namibia's independence in accordance with the United Nations settlement plan endorsed by Security Council Resolution 435 (1978) and have repeatedly called for its implementation without further delay or conditions. We furthermore

welcome the recent understanding reached in Geneva by Angola, Cuba and South Africa, with United States mediation. We hope that these developments will bring about the implementation of Security Council Resolution 435, at an early date, thus allowing the people of Namibia to exercise their right to self-determination and enjoy the human rights and fundamental freedoms which are the common birthright of us all.

The report of the Economic and Social Council also deals with the question of human rights in the Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967. Our views on this question were set out in my delegation's intervention on behalf of the Twelve in the Plenary on 3 November and in the Special Political Committee on 18 November.

The Twelve have consistently attached importance to all matters affecting the human rights of the inhabitants of the occupied territories. The Twelve are deeply concerned by several reports that have reached us from various sources on the increasing climate of tension and the serious deterioration of the situation in general in the occupied territories.

The last twelve months were marked by numerous incidents such as violent demonstrations, clashes and shootings, leading in some instances to serious injuries and killings. The use of all forms of ammunition against Palestinian demonstrators has become widespread, causing an alarming increase in injuries. Furthermore, despite claims by the Israeli authorities that plastic bullets are non-lethal, a number of deaths have resulted from their use in the past few weeks. Since December 1987, well over 300 Palestinians, including children, have been killed. Measures of collective punishment have reached new dimensions and continue to severely affect the daily lives of the Palestinian population. We have equally expressed our concern on Israel's decision to pursue a policy of deportation and administrative detentions. We deplore the repressive measures taken by Israel, including the demolition and sealing of houses, restrictions of movement, arbitrary arrests or detention without charge or trial, house arrests, town arrests, restrictions on media freedom and the shutting down of educational establishments. The Twelve reiterate that the Fourth Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949, relative to the protection of civilians in times of war, is applicable to the territories occupied by Israel since 1967. Israel's persistent refusal to acknowledge this cannot be justified and is a matter of great concern to the Twelve. Finally, we cannot fail to note that the chronic unrest in the occupied territories is to a large extent a spontaneous reaction based on the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people.

The General Assembly has again before it a report on the human rights situation in Afghanistan prepared by the Special Rapporteur. The Twelve welcome once more the cooperation extended by the Afghan authorities to the Special Rapporteur, by inviting him to visit the country. However, we regret that the Special Rapporteur was unable to visit areas not under control of the Afghan authorities. The Twelve have welcomed the signing of the Geneva agreements on Afghanistan, which constitutes an important step forward to the settlement of the conflict. The Special Rapporteur, while recognizing in his report some improvements in the areas controlled by the authorities, reveals continuing violations of human rights throughout the country. Continuing allegations of torture and ill-treatment of prisoners on remand and political prisoners are the cause of great concern to the Twelve. Intense aerial bombardment, shelling and mines continue to claim victims from the civilian population, including children. The economic, social and cultural situation in the country, which has been deteriorating over the years of conflict has now become alarming. All these reasons are preventing the more than five million refugees from returning to their country. There has been, however, some small progress, in various areas, that gives us some hope for the future. In particular, we noted that the number of political prisoners has fallen significantly as a result of various measures which have been enacted since February of this year and that the conditions of detention in some prisons have improved. However, over 2 000 persons still remain in prison for political reasons. While a trickle of refugees started returning back, 100 867 new refugees from Afghanistan went to Pakistan in the last six months. A large number of displaced persons left Kabul to return to their villages after the Geneva Agreements were signed. We note that a new Constitution came into force and also note the enactment by law of several of its articles which include United Nations

human rights provisions. Nevertheless, we note that the Special Rapporteur doubts whether all human rights provisions are fairly implemented. These laws must be effectively implemented by the authorities if the human rights situation is to improve. Finally, the Twelve demand respect for international humanitarian law by all parties.

The unchanged situation of human rights violations revealed in this report leaves no doubt that the General Assembly should retain this question on its agenda, so that the situation is kept under constant review. We welcome the fact that the authorities improved their cooperation with the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and with the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The General Assembly voted this year by a record majority for the withdrawal of foreign forces from Kampuchea and the restoration of the country to its people and reaffirmed the fundamental right of the Kampuchean people to self-determination. The Kampuchean people must be given the opportunity to preserve their culture and national identity and to establish a democratic pluralist society. There can be no return to the universally condemned policies and practices of the recent past. We share the collective outrage felt by the world community for the terrible violence inflicted upon the Kampuchean people by the Pol Pot regime. But this cannot justify Vietnam's illegal occupation and its imposition of an illegitimate and unrepresentative regime. We therefore urge Vietnam to withdraw all its troops from Kampuchea promptly and unconditionally. The human rights situation within Kampuchea and in the Thai border area remains largely unchanged. We noted with great concern recent disturbing reports on the moving, by the *Khmer rouge*, of thousands of Kampuchean civilians out of refugee camps to so-called 'repatriation villages' which are situated in combat areas near the Thai-Kampuchean border, within easy range of the Vietnamese artillery. Within Kampuchea the war continues to take its toll upon the civilian population. There can be no end to the suffering of the Kampuchean people without a comprehensive political settlement of the conflict. In this connection, we commend the efforts of the ASEAN countries towards a political solution of the conflict resulting in an independent, democratic, neutral and non-aligned Kampuchea.

The Twelve are also concerned about human rights violations in Vietnam. While we welcomed the amnesty by which some 6 685 prisoners were released in September 1987, there remain a considerable number of prisoners still under detention on an indefinite basis since 1975, without trial, in violation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Vietnam has been a party since 1982. We hope that all political prisoners will soon be released. The Twelve remain disturbed by continuing reports that these detainees are subject to maltreatment by the police and public security forces.

The Twelve have expressed their deep concern over the dramatic levels of violence in Burma that has led to a great loss of lives since August of this year. We reiterate our appeal to all parties concerned to initiate without delay a meaningful dialogue aimed at restoring democracy and at organizing free, multiparty elections. We are fully convinced of the Burmese people's genuine desire to enjoy the benefits of peace, prosperity, full protection of human rights and a multiparty democracy, which are legitimate goals that should be met.

Concerning the situation of human rights in East Timor, the Twelve remain disturbed at the continuing information on violations provided by different sources, including the victims who testified before the Commission on Human Rights and Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. We express the hope that respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms of the people of East Timor will be rapidly restored and fully ensured.

Mr Chairman, the Committee has once again before it a report on Iran. We note as a positive development the improved cooperation extended by the Government of Iran to the Special Representative. But still much remains to be done in order to reach the desired stage of full cooperation. The Twelve remain concerned with the human rights situation in Iran.

According to the report of the Special Representative there continue to be specific and detailed allegations of human rights violations, including violations of the right to life, the ban on torture, the right to liberty and security of person, the right to a fair trial, the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. We are particularly concerned over the reports of an increase in the number of executions that have taken place from July to September of this year, principally in cases of prisoners that were members of various opposition groups. Torture and arbitrary detention continues on a systematic basis while we note with regret that family visits in many detention centres have been suspended since August 1988. Persons perceived as opponents of the regime are subjected to persecution. Members of minority groups, such as, for instance, the Baha'is, also suffer such treatment. It is nevertheless encouraging to note that since February 1988 no new arrests have been reported and that by July of this year, a number of Baha'is, including some prominent personalities, were released from prison, and that the sentences of others were reduced. Even so, 140 Baha'is continue to remain in prison.

The Twelve call upon the Government of Iran to live up to its obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. We recall the statement made in Geneva on behalf of the Government of Iran to the Special Representative, that Iran does not pursue a selective approach to international law. We urge the Iranian Government once more to extend its full cooperation to the Special Representative and, in particular, to invite him to visit Iran in order to make it possible for him to prepare a firsthand report on the human rights situation in that country. Finally, we endorse the view of the Special Representative according to which the persistence of alleged violations of human rights in Iran suffices to justify international concern and the need for the competent United Nations organs to continue monitoring the situation in that country.

Mr Chairman, the Twelve would also like to express their concern over the widespread violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms of the Kurds in countries with a substantial Kurdish population. In particular, the Twelve would like to express their concern at the Iraqi Government's recent treatment of its Kurdish population and the violation of this minority's human rights. Great suffering has been inflicted upon the Kurdish civilian population that has led to a mass exodus from the country. In March 1988 chemical weapons were allegedly used against Kurdish civilians and there have been further allegations of chemical weapons use against the Kurds on subsequent occasions. The Twelve condemn these actions and urge Iraq to respect the fundamental human rights of its Kurdish population.

The Twelve have at various instances reaffirmed that, if requested by the five Central American countries, they are prepared to contribute to the peace process in Central America and the development of the region. In this respect, the European Community and its Member States have a long established dialogue on political and economic issues with the countries of Central America so as to underline their firm support to the peace process aiming at guaranteeing stability, pluralistic democracy, social justice and full respect of human rights and civil liberties.

The international community warmly welcomed the historic decision of the five Central American Presidents to sign the Esquipulas-II Agreement in order to bring about lasting peace and stability in the region, a process which the European Community and its Member States unremittingly support. The Twelve express their concern for the lack of progress in the peace process and note that the continuing violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms threatens the peace process as a whole. In this connection, the Twelve once again underline the fundamental importance of a genuine democratization process and urge the Central American countries to give a new decisive impetus to the peace efforts.

We would like to refer to the human rights situation in El Salvador, which appears to have deteriorated. In his report, the Special Representative notes the alarming increase of politically motivated summary executions, including mass executions carried out by members of State apparatus and in particular by members of the armed forces. The report also notes disturbing cases of politically motivated disappearances. On the other hand, according to the Special



Representative, the number of political prisoners has decreased. We welcome this development, but we are deeply concerned about reports of strong psychological pressure, equivalent to inhuman or degrading treatment, of some of these prisoners. We note with concern the finding of the Special Representative that the capacity of the criminal justice system to investigate and punish serious human rights violations remains highly unsatisfactory. This, combined with the promulgation and application of the Amnesty Act of October 1987, fosters and reinforces the dangerous climate of impunity. We strongly encourage the Government of El Salvador to ensure the proper effectiveness of the judiciary as soon as possible.

The Report of the Special Representative also notes that the armed opposition forces are responsible for systematic attacks against the country's economic infrastructure and for summary executions and abductions of civilians. The report also refers to the large number of people killed by the explosion of mines, most of which, in the view of the Special Representative, were laid down by FMLN forces.

The Twelve call upon both sides to scrupulously observe the relevant international norms of humanitarian treatment set out in the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and the Second Additional Protocol. We furthermore strongly urge that the measures recommended by the Special Representative be immediately implemented by the interested parties. The Panama agreements on evacuation of wounded and disabled by the war has not been implemented. We would also like to express our concern that the dialogue between government and opposition forces has not been resumed. We hope that it can be continued soon in order to facilitate a process which would lead to the observance of human rights. We would finally like to express our appreciation for the full cooperation which the Government of El Salvador has extended to the Special Representative.

As regards the situation in Guatemala, the mandate of the Special Representative was brought to an end last year and an expert has been appointed by the Secretary-General to assist the Government of Guatemala in taking the necessary action for the further restoration of human rights. President Cerezo's Government has undoubtedly set itself the objective of improving the human rights situation. Yet, unfortunately, reports continue to be submitted to the Commission on Human Rights which indicate that during this year there has been an increase of human rights violations and, in particular, an increase in the number of killings and disappearances. The Twelve condemn the assassination on 14 October of a leading trade unionist, Carlos Martinez Godoy, and urge the Government to spare no efforts in bringing the murderers to justice. We also urge the Government of Guatemala to fully implement the commitments it has made in the field of human rights and we hope that all sections of Guatemalan society will play their part in this endeavour.

Mr Chairman, concerning Chile the Twelve welcome the results of the plebiscite as a first step towards the return to democracy and take note of the assurance of the Government that it would fully respect the expressed will of the people. We urge that Government to proceed to a dialogue with the democratic opposition, thus facilitating the restoration of democracy in that country. We believe that for an attainment of this goal full respect of human rights is necessary and that all parties should exercise self-restraint during the delicate transitional period. The Twelve pay special tribute to the courage and tenacity of the Chilean people in their endeavour to obtain the return to democracy.

We welcome other positive developments in the human rights situation in that country, such as the lifting of the state of emergency, the ending of the exile of all Chileans with minor exceptions and the release from internal banishment, following a decision by the Supreme Court, of the former Foreign Minister Mr Almeyda.

It should, however, be noted that the report of the Special Rapporteur also bears testimony that the situation in Chile still requires serious scrutiny. There continue to be many allegations of violations of the right to life, to liberty and security of person and to the right to fair trial. Significant numbers of people remain in detention charged with offences under the security laws. Despite repeated concern expressed by the Special Rapporteur and the international community, there continue to be reports of torture of detainees. We deplore these acts.

After the 5 October plebiscite, Chile took the first step forward towards restoring democracy. The initiation without delay of a genuine political dialogue between the Government and the

democratic opposition would constitute the next step in the process towards a peaceful and orderly transition to democracy and to the full respect for human rights.

No doubt this statement is far from a complete catalogue of human rights violations in the world. There are reports on numerous additional violations in documents from other sources of information, in particular from the main non-governmental organizations such as Amnesty International, the International League for Human Rights and the International Commission of Jurists and others. These organizations render a significant service for the world community in bringing these issues to public attention. We note that their independence from any specific national interest is an essential ingredient of their credibility. We applaud their valuable contributions in the fight against human rights violations in the world. The available information makes it clear that the list of countries in which serious human rights violations are reported is depressingly long. This Assembly cannot remain indifferent to the tyranny, the oppression and indiscriminate violence which persist in many countries.

The people in this world expect far more than mere words. They expect the full observance, in practice, of universally accepted rules of conduct by States. Above all, the people of this world require the full respect by governments of the United Nations Charter and the International Bill of Human Rights, which prescribe unequivocally the protection and promotion of human rights. The Twelve will continue to do their utmost to ensure that our Organization is capable of responding rapidly and effectively to human rights violations, whenever and wherever they occur.

<sup>1</sup> Agenda item 10.

**88/453. Explanation of Vote in the Sixth Committee of the UN General Assembly: Draft Resolution Concerning the Progressive Development of the Principles and Norms of International Law Relating to the New International Economic Order<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 22 November 1988

Place of Issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

*Mr Roucounas:* Mr Chairman, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community.

The Community and its Member States explained their views during the debate on this item. The study prepared by UNITAR provides a useful survey of the development so far as to legal aspects of international economic cooperation. But we find that it also showed that a sufficient degree of identification and of general acceptance of legal principles in this field is still far from being achieved. Thus, a basic condition for setting in motion a codification process is not fulfilled.

International practice will continue to develop in this area, and we think that the most useful approach is to apply a variety of instruments, be it bilateral or multilateral arrangements, legally binding instruments or texts of a recommendatory nature. This approach offers a flexibility which is needed, if we shall find solutions to the many rapidly changing problems encountered in the field of international economic cooperation.

As explained in our intervention in the debate, our conclusion is that at this stage no further action is called for in the Sixth Committee on this item. Operative paragraphs 2 and 3 in the resolution just adopted suggest that further work, including codification, is required. Against this background the Twelve have abstained in the vote on this resolution. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

<sup>1</sup> Agenda item 128.

**88/454. Explanation of Vote in the Second Committee of the UN General Assembly: Draft Resolution L.18 Concerning the Report of the Economic and Social Council on the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa (UNGA Res. 43/179)<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 23 November 1988  
 Place of Issue: New York  
 Country of Presidency: Greece  
 Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations  
 Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

The Committee has just adopted, by consensus, the resolution contained in Doc. L.18 proclaiming a second transport and communications decade in Africa.

The Second Committee has also before it, this year, proposals in Doc. L.2 which will provide guidelines for international decades. The procedures recommended for the proclamation of international decades contain specific references to their renewal. Paragraph 11(b) recommends that steps should be taken to ensure that the expertise and experience acquired in the first decade is retained and applied in the next decade. The Member States of the European Community attach particular importance to this. It is, in their view, essential that there should be an analysis of the strengths and weaknesses to be taken into account during any subsequent decade. We hope, therefore, that the Secretariat will ensure that the necessary analysis is carried out and that the findings are incorporated in their planning for the Second Transport and Communications Decade in Africa.

<sup>1</sup> Agenda item 12 [A].

**88/455. Explanation of Vote in the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly: Draft Resolution L.44 Relating to the International Covenants on Human Rights — Indivisibility and Interdependence of Economic, Social, Cultural, Civil and Political Rights (UNGA Res. 43/113)<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 23 November 1988  
 Place of Issue: New York  
 Country of Presidency: Greece  
 Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations  
 Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

I have asked for the floor to make an explanation of vote on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community on draft resolution L.44.

The Twelve will abstain on draft resolution L.44. We attach great importance to the implementation of both covenants, but we have a number of serious reservations about the text.

Firstly, the Twelve cannot accept the assertion made in preambular paragraph 5 in the title of the draft that all human rights are 'inter-dependent'. While we agree that certain rights are inter-related, and the enjoyment of some may contribute to the enjoyment of others, we cannot accept any implication that the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights, the implementation of which is gradual, can be a precondition for the enjoyment of civil and political rights, which in contrast must be implemented in full and immediately. Nor can we accept the implicit claim in preambular paragraph 7 that the principle obstacles to the full realization of human rights are those listed in the paragraph. If there were to be a complete list, other elements, such as totalitarian practices, would certainly have to appear in it.

The Twelve are unable to support preambular paragraph 8, since the language of that paragraph does not correspond to the language of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The Twelve also have difficulties with preambular paragraph 9 which

paints an over-simple picture of what is in fact a complex triangular relationship between disarmament, security and development, and which has no place in a resolution tabled under this item.

Finally, the Twelve wish to express the view that one comprehensive resolution on the Covenants, as contained in L.54, is quite sufficient to deal with the issues arising in this regard. We see little need for separate resolutions which deal with only certain aspects in a rather selective fashion.

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<sup>1</sup> Agenda item 100.

### **88/456. Statement in the First Committee of the UN General Assembly: General Debate on International Security<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 24 November 1988

Place of Issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

*Mr Stephanou:* Mr Chairman, I have the honour to make a statement on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community in order to address items 71, 72 and 73 of agenda, concerning international security.

These items touch directly and intimately the United Nations Charter, which all of us as member States of this Organization are pledged to strictly observe.

Mr Chairman, more than 43 years have elapsed since the United Nations Charter laid the groundwork for peace among nations. The United Nations was established to preserve international peace and security for future generations, after two most destructive world wars eliminated in the space of less than two generations innumerable human lives and inflicted destruction and suffering on an unprecedented scale. We are most fortunate today that we are remote from the trials of the two world wars that the drafters of the Charter had experienced. However, let us not forget that still many parts of the world are subject to regional and sub-regional conflicts. We have become aware that we can no longer live in a world with a constant accumulation of armaments. Our common and joint aim therefore must surely be to preserve and promote peace at the lowest possible level of forces, which at the same time ensures the security of all member States of the international community, while maintaining the inherent right of self-defence, as provided for in the Charter.

It is our duty to preserve international peace, and given the role of the United Nations, we have as member States of this Organization to be conscious that military threats and imbalances challenge security and stability. Moreover, we are also aware of the non-military threats which can always endanger international peace and security. The world is not perfect. Fear, mistrust, miscalculations and misperceptions have not been eradicated in a satisfactory way. However, the differences in the historical background, political institutions and socio-economic systems of States should not constitute obstacles to international cooperation in the pursuit of peace and security. In the final analysis the key to peace is cooperation and trust.

Arms control and disarmament have a very important role in the achievement of the goals in the Charter, as we have repeatedly stressed in this forum. The Twelve are convinced that pursuant to the purposes and principles of the Charter, the United Nations must play a central role in the quest for disarmament.

East-West relations have markedly improved during the last twelve months. New and more favourable conditions have emerged for the achievement of significant progress in the process of arms control and disarmament and of strengthening peace. We recognize that much remains to be done. The Twelve will continue to work resolutely for further results with a view to strengthening international peace and enhancing security and stability at the lowest possible

level of forces. The United States and the Soviet Union are at present engaged in an intense dialogue that affects all people, including disarmament, human rights and regional conflicts. Positive results in one area strengthen mutual confidence and thus enhance possibilities of progress in other areas. Substantial progress towards the resolution of certain regional conflicts reflects encouraging developments in easing international tensions. These developments enhance our hopes. They demonstrate the strength and the effectiveness of the United Nations Charter and the security system it provides.

Mr Chairman, governments alone can establish the framework for mutual confidence and therefore the mutual security which allows people to live in peace and prosperity. This will only flourish where the dignity of human beings is respected. The same applies to their right to freedom. One of the basic principles of the Charter is the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. These are essential elements for international peace and security. The Charter imposes clear and unequivocal obligations on all member States which they should and must live up to. The elimination of all violations of the fundamental rights established in the Charter and its relevant international instruments is vital for the enhancement of international peace and security. It will provide essential strong encouragement and hope for a secure world.

Ensuring the effective implementation of the fundamental obligations of the Charter should therefore be our main objective. The Charter of the United Nations is sufficient for the purpose of maintaining international peace and security. The challenges of our times make strengthening of multilateral cooperation in all fields indispensable. In addition to the special role that the United Nations has to play in connection with the maintenance of international peace and security, the Twelve attach particular importance to the development of friendly relations among nations and to the promotion of multilateral cooperation in solving international problems with respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It is the objective for the Twelve to strengthen the Organization as a framework for these activities.

Mr Chairman, the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations Charter is illustrated notably by the persistence of regional conflicts, foreign interventions and international terrorism which threaten international security.

The Twelve wish to reaffirm the importance they attach to regional approaches. Constructive dialogue and confidence-building should be actively promoted among States. There is now wide support for greater openness, transparency and predictability in military matters. Within the framework of the CSCE process, the outcome of the Stockholm Conference on confidence- and security-building measures and disarmament in Europe has significantly contributed towards strengthening cooperation and stability in the region. The CSCE process is a positive example of what can be achieved through multilateral cooperation within the regional context. This process remains the central element of an East-West policy aimed at peace and security based on cooperation and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. The Twelve are firmly committed to a balanced and substantial outcome of the Vienna follow-up meeting which benefits all people in the participating States. The Twelve support and encourage efforts in other parts of the world which can contribute to a lessening of tensions and promote multilateral cooperation in a regional context. The signing of the Esquipulas-II Agreement by the five Central American Presidents constitutes, also, if fully implemented as to its commitments, another valuable contribution to the lessening of tensions in Central America.

Mr Chairman, the Security Council has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. An effective Security Council is essential for the operation of the security system created by the United Nations. The Twelve wish to stress its importance in promoting a more stable international political climate. The Security Council also has a very important role to play in the solution of regional and sub-regional conflicts. We attach great importance to enhancing and strengthening the authority and role of the Security Council, and to the necessity of implementing the decisions adopted by this organ as provided by the Charter.

We support the Council and the Secretary-General in their common efforts to this end. It remains essential to enable the Council to deal with potential conflicts before they break into open hostilities.

In supporting the Secretary-General in his sustained and discreet efforts to promote international peace and security, the Twelve would like to underscore his outstanding personal contribution in resolving disputes peacefully. His efforts have borne considerable fruits, in particular this year. The Twelve wish to pay tribute to the Secretary-General and his staff for their endeavours.

Mr Chairman, the Twelve are strong supporters of peace-keeping operations which have greatly assisted in the maintenance of international peace and security. These operations contribute to bringing stability to conflict areas. They prove an effective instrument and one of the most practical current manifestations of the United Nations' commitment to preserving international peace and security. The Twelve welcome the fact that the increased international interest in this important instrument can prove a new area of convergence of views which will find a wider application. In this context, we are happy to observe that there is now universal recognition of the contribution to peace of these operations, which, in the view of the Twelve, should be placed on a sound financial basis. We should bear in mind that United Nations peace-keeping operations are not designed nor equipped to enforce the law against determined transgressors. However, there is no doubt that the peace-keeping has proved an effective instrument in bringing stability to conflict areas and in maintaining the delicate balance of international peace.

Member States of the European Community have participated in all but one of the 13 operations that have been mounted over the years.

The Twelve pay special tribute to all those who have served in United Nations peace-keeping operations and share the satisfaction for the undoubtedly merited award to them, this year, of the Nobel Peace Prize. We also wish to express our appreciation and respect to all those who have taken part and in some cases given their lives in United Nations peace-keeping operations.

The Twelve are also interested in strengthening the ways and means of judicial settlement of international disputes in accordance with the Charter. In many different contexts of international cooperation, the Twelve have accepted binding third-party dispute-settlement procedures, both at the European and global level.

Mr Chairman, our century has enriched human life with unprecedented progress in science, technology, health, education and the means of communication. Nonetheless, the full potential of human development for a large proportion of the world's population has yet to be realized. The gap between developed and developing countries has not narrowed. We have to face these problems in a decisive way and the Twelve are prepared to do so. We are fully aware of the non-military threats to security and if we wish to cope seriously with these problems, the strict observance of the Charter and the enhancement of international cooperation are high priorities to fulfil these goals. Within this context, the Twelve reaffirm the importance they attach to technical and regional bodies, and specialized agencies established under United Nations auspices in the discharge of the important task assigned to them.

Mr Chairman, in a world of growing interdependence, it is essential for the international community to stimulate and deepen awareness of the common interests of our global society and of our common interest in strengthening international peace and security. The Twelve remain prepared to effectively do so and to meet, within the framework of multilateral cooperation, the needs of present and future generations.

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<sup>1</sup> Agenda items 71, 72 and 73.

**88/457. Statement in the First Committee of the UN General Assembly: Comprehensive System of International Peace and Security<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 25 November 1988

Place of Issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

*Mr Zepos:* Mr Chairman, I shall speak on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community, on agenda item 73: 'Comprehensive System of International Peace and Security'.

Our statement made on 23 November 1988, [referred] from a broader perspective to agenda items 71, 72 and 73, concerning international security.

The Twelve hold the strong view that the challenges of our times make a strengthening of multilateral cooperation in all fields indispensable. The United Nations has a special role to play in connection with the maintenance of international peace and security, the development of friendly relations among nations and for the promotion of international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character, with respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. Our objective is to strengthen the Organization as a framework for these activities. From the very beginning, the Twelve welcomed the renewed interest in the United Nations indicated by those who introduced this initiative two years ago.

Mr Chairman, the draft resolution L.74 does not stand alone. It has to be considered against the background of the history of this item. The Twelve were unable to support previous resolutions on this topic, because they were not persuaded that it was necessary or even useful to establish a comprehensive system of international peace and security.

There has been a considerable evolution in the presentation of the ideas of the originators, as reflected in the present draft resolution L.74. The Twelve note with satisfaction that new formulations have been proposed to take into account their reservations against the establishment of a new, comprehensive system of international peace and security. However, indirect references are still being made to that notion and to related resolutions, which the Twelve are unable to support. Moreover, they fail to see the merits of reopening a discussion on such or similar comprehensive concepts, which might seem to compete with the UN Charter system. Instead, the Twelve are in favour of focusing the discussion on concrete measures.

We believe that it is more effective to treat each issue distinctively and on its own merits so as to contribute to the achievement of international peace and security, as is already the case under the existing UN Charter system.

The Twelve have stated, time and again, that they are ready to cooperate with all Members of the United Nations, in order to ensure that the Charter be fully implemented. The recent successful efforts of the United Nations amply demonstrate that the UN Charter and the security system it provides are strong and effective.

Many of the problems of the Organization result from the fact that not all Members fulfil their obligations to abide by the provisions of the Charter. If all member States do so, then we are convinced that the common objective of maintaining international peace and security is attainable.

Mr Chairman, the Twelve have with interest taken note of the ideas for the enhancement of the role of the United Nations, which the Soviet Union has advanced in various Committees during the 43rd session of the General Assembly and in some cases in the Soviet *aide-mémoire*. They believe that these ideas constitute a further indication of the renewed interest of the Soviet Union towards the United Nations. Some of these ideas are worth exploring, but outside the framework designated in the agenda item 73: 'Comprehensive System of International Peace and Security'. The Twelve remain prepared to consider any concrete proposals to be formally introduced in the appropriate organs and contexts, according to their merits and within the framework of the Charter.

Far from rejecting it, the Twelve welcome the idea of a constructive dialogue with the co-sponsors in the various United Nations forums and with a view to strengthening the role of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security. The Twelve strongly believe that it is in the interest of all to hold and to pursue such a dialogue. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

<sup>1</sup> Agenda item 73.

**88/458. Explanation of Vote in the First Committee of the UN General Assembly: Draft Resolution L.89/Rev.1 on a Comprehensive System of International Peace and Security**

Date of Issue: 25 November 1988  
Place of Issue: New York  
Country of Presidency: Greece  
Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations  
Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Mr Chairman, speaking on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community I will briefly explain our vote on draft resolution L.89 as revised and orally amended.

First of all, we would like to thank the co-sponsors of the draft resolution for their willingness to seek changes in the text. The present draft certainly contains elements to which the Twelve can easily subscribe. From the outset, the Twelve have welcomed the renewed interest in the United Nations which the originators have demonstrated through this initiative. We remain ready to join with the co-sponsors and all other member States in practical efforts in the relevant United Nations forums, directed towards strengthening international peace and security.

The changes, however, have not taken account of our fundamental problems with the draft which relate to the notion of a comprehensive system of international peace and security. Consequently, and for the reasons set out fully in our previous statements of 19 November and of yesterday we are unable to support the draft resolution before us. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

**88/459. Statement at the Plenary Session of the UN General Assembly: Policies of Apartheid of the Government of South Africa<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 28 November 1988  
Place of Issue: New York  
Country of Presidency: Greece  
Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations  
Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

*Mr Zepos:* Mr President, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community and to reiterate our views with respect to apartheid in South Africa.

The Twelve have repeatedly expressed their revulsion at the immoral system of apartheid and have demanded that it be abolished. It has no place in the international community and we have unequivocally condemned it in all its forms and manifestations, both in the United Nations and in other international forums.

Apartheid is an institutionalized system of State racism which deprives the majority of the people of South Africa of their basic civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. It is a flagrant violation of the human rights and fundamental freedoms set out in the Charter of the United Nations and in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Twelve attach the highest importance to this declaration, the 40th anniversary of which we will celebrate this



month. We utterly reject a system in which a person is treated solely on the basis of his or her colour. Apartheid is an insult to the dignity of those it affects and has bred hatred and violence. Indeed, violence is inherent in the system.

Apartheid survives through ruthless application of draconian measures against the great majority of the population by the South African authorities. The continuation of the state of emergency has further diminished prospects for peaceful change. The reforms introduced so far have proved too few and too slow. In addition, new serious and disturbing developments have again occurred this year, which have resulted in a further deterioration of the situation in South Africa. In February, the South African Government prohibited 17 South African organizations, peacefully opposing apartheid, from carrying on any activities whatsoever and severely restricted the activities of COSATU. The Twelve vigorously condemned this action and urged the South African Government to repeal these measures. But since then restrictions have been imposed on the activities of even more organizations.

These restrictions against a number of organizations peacefully opposing apartheid, the arrests of church and trade union leaders, and the bill aimed at depriving peaceful anti-apartheid organizations of external funding, underline Pretoria's lack of political will to commit itself to real and significant change. Because of this, we fear that the relations between the Twelve and South Africa will worsen even further.

The Twelve share the widespread anxiety felt by the international community over the conditions in which some of the detainees in South Africa are being held. The detention without charge of men, women and even young children, a number of [whom have] suffered maltreatment and torture, is an abhorrent violation of the most basic human rights. We once again condemn arbitrary arrests and detention without trial and call for the release of all who are imprisoned or deprived of their freedom because of their opposition to apartheid. We have also made clear our opposition to the policy of forced removals, and other discriminatory legislation, such as the Group Areas Act.

The Twelve welcome the decision of President Botha to commute the death sentences inflicted on the Sharpeville Six. The Twelve hope that this decision will be followed by further action conducive to the relaxation of tensions and to peaceful change in South Africa.

Freedom of information is a principle of fundamental importance and part and parcel of a genuine democratic process. The Twelve view with deep concern the continued curtailment of press freedom in South Africa under the state of emergency. We urge the South African Government to lift the restrictions on the press without delay.

Mr President, the Twelve reiterate once more their firm conviction that apartheid must be totally abolished by peaceful means. This can only be achieved if the vicious circle of repression and violence is replaced by a constructive dialogue, across lines of colour, politics and religion. Only broad-based negotiations involving the genuine representatives of the black community and all other elements of the South African population can lead to peace and prosperity in a free, democratic and united South Africa without racial discrimination, which takes into account the diversity of its society.

However, there can be no dialogue as long as the state of emergency remains in force, the ANC, PAC and other political parties are proscribed and leaders of the black majority remain imprisoned or detained. In this context, the Twelve believe that the immediate and unconditional release of Nelson Mandela would considerably improve the present tense climate in South Africa. The Twelve urge the Government of South Africa to remove the state of emergency, to lift the ban on the ANC, PAC and other political parties and to release unconditionally Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners. We deplore the refusal of the Government of South Africa to make efforts to establish a genuine national dialogue.

Mr President, in pursuit of these goals, the European Community and its Member States have adopted an active policy based on a two-track approach to the problem of apartheid. First, we have undertaken intensive diplomatic activity to persuade the South African Government of the

inescapable need for fundamental reform. These efforts have been reinforced by a number of restrictive measures designed to get the message home. Secondly, we have taken a series of positive measures to provide assistance to the victims of apartheid.

Our efforts to persuade the South African Government of the need for fundamental change have included numerous *démarches*, either collectively or on a national basis, on the question of political prisoners, detainees, those facing the death sentence, discriminatory legislation, the homelands policy and the restrictive measures taken against organizations peacefully opposing apartheid, and the bill aimed at depriving those organizations of external funds.

Our restrictive measures include:

- a ban on new investments;
- a ban on the import of iron and steel, and of gold coins from South Africa;
- an embargo on the export of arms and paramilitary equipment to South Africa;
- an embargo on imports of arms and paramilitary equipment from South Africa;
- a refusal to cooperate in the military sphere;
- the cessation of exports of sensitive equipment to the South African police and armed forces;
- the prohibition of oil exports to South Africa;
- the recall of military attachés accredited to South Africa and a refusal to grant accreditation to military attachés from South Africa;
- the freezing of official contacts and agreements in sporting and security matters;
- prohibition of all new collaboration in the nuclear sector;
- the discouragement of scientific and cultural agreements except where they might contribute towards the ending of apartheid or have no role in supporting it.

Coupled with these restrictive measures a series of concerted programmes have been taken both individually and collectively by the European Community and its Member States to help the victims of apartheid. Special emphasis is put on helping those arrested under the state of emergency and particularly on programmes of training and education for black South Africans. The European Community provided 30 million ECU, equivalent to 39 million dollars in 1986 and 1987. For 1988 alone the Community has allocated 25.5 million ECU, equivalent to 28 million dollars for the victims of apartheid. Since 1986, 178 projects in the fields of education, training, social and humanitarian aid and legal assistance have been channelled through organizations committed to peaceful change.

Since 1977, the Twelve have implemented a code of conduct for EC companies with branches or subsidiaries in South Africa. This code has been strengthened and updated over the years by the adoption of new guidelines. Its aim is to contribute to the abolition of apartheid, not least by substantially improving the standards of living and working conditions of the largest possible number of African workers. Greater emphasis is now being given to the role of independent trade unions representing black African workers. This code requires companies to pay greater attention to education, training, black career development and wider community projects.

The problems created by the system of apartheid in South Africa and the inability of its Government to resolve them affect the neighbouring countries and increase the political, military and economic difficulties of Southern Africa. The Twelve view this situation with great concern, and together with the European Community provide substantial assistance to those countries. A major priority is given to the reduction of their dependence on South Africa, particularly in the fields of transports, communications, agriculture, food and training. Since the inception of Lomé in 1975, the European Community and its Member States have consistently and substantially increased their assistance to the countries of the Southern African Development Cooperation Conference (SADCC). The total Community contribution for the period 1975-90 will reach 3.2 billion ECU, equivalent to 3.8 billion dollars, to which should be added the direct contribution of its Member States to SADCC.

Mr President, the Twelve will continue to monitor closely every aspect of the effects of apartheid, including human rights violations and other abuses. We will continue to use pressure

to bring about a peaceful change. In the absence of significant progress in the abolition of apartheid the attitude of the Twelve towards South Africa remains under constant review.

The Twelve have made clear on many occasions their abhorrence of apartheid. That evil system cannot endure, and the sooner the South African Government comes to terms with this the better. Our goal — which is shared by the entire community of nations — is to secure an end to that intolerable system and a South African society with freedom and justice for all. Thank you, Mr President.

<sup>1</sup> Agenda item 36.

**88/460. Explanation of Vote in the Sixth Committee of the UN General Assembly: Draft Resolution L.10/Rev.1 Concerning Observer Status of National Liberation Movements Recognized by the Organization of African Unity or by the League of Arab States<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 28 November 1988

Place of Issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

*Mr Roucouнас:* Mr Chairman, on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community I wish to explain why the Twelve will be abstaining on the draft resolution L.10/Rev.1.

The proposal contained in the draft resolution now under consideration was first put forward four years ago. At that time it was not pursued. At this Session of the General Assembly the proposal was revived, but at a late hour. Although you, Mr Chairman, were good enough to arrange for informal consultations to be held by His Excellency Ambassador José Jesus of Cape Verde — to whom we wish to express our gratitude — the tabling of the proposal so late in the Assembly has meant that delegations have not been able to study it or its wide implications in the necessary depth.

We notice that no thorough study by the Secretariat on the legal, constitutional and financial implications has been undertaken. The Twelve cannot agree that a decision of this kind should be taken without the benefit of such a study by the Secretariat, without any consideration of the proposal by the Fifth Committee and without time for delegations, and their governments, to consider fully the long-term implications.

On the basis of such information as we have been able to gather in the short time available, there appear to the Twelve to be a number of objections to the proposals. Firstly, it has not been demonstrated that the United Nations needs to give to observer missions these privileges. Observer status has been given primarily because it is in the interest of the United Nations that the organizations concerned should have such status. It has not been shown that it is in the interest of the United Nations that those missions or other observer missions should be given privileges enjoyed by member States.

Secondly, we are concerned at the financial implications of giving these privileges to observer missions. If an observer mission is allowed to circulate its documents as United Nations documents, this might open the door to excessive use of the privileges by those who are not bound by the financial obligations of member States.

Thirdly, a member State has obligations to the other member States of the United Nations; the situation is different for an observer mission.

This last point brings us to our most serious objection. We are gravely concerned at the long-term constitutional implications of the proposal. This Organization is composed of member States. Its constitution is the Charter to which only member States are parties. If we today give

privileges regarding the circulation of documents to some observer missions, what further privileges will be asked for tomorrow? We regard it as wrong that those who are not member States should nevertheless have the privilege of member States.

As to the text of the draft resolution we wish to make the following further remarks. Operative paragraph 3 purports to authorize the Secretariat to issue and circulate documents of the two organizations as official documents of the United Nations under the symbol of other organs of the United Nations. The International Court of Justice is a principle organ of the United Nations. Given the provisions of Chapter XIV of the Charter and the Statute of the Court, we assume that the resolution would have no application to the Court.

Similar considerations apply to operative paragraph 2, which purports to apply to all international conferences convened under the auspices of the General Assembly. The rules of procedure for such conferences are a matter for the participants in each conference to decide. We do not consider that the resolution could take away or pre-empt that right.

For all these reasons, the Twelve cannot support the resolution and will therefore abstain.

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<sup>1</sup> Agenda item 126.

### **88/461. Question No 1945/87 by Mr Romera i Alcàzar (ED-E) Concerning Acts of Piracy at Sea**

Date of Issue: 28 November 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 22 December 1987

In view of the continual acts of piracy committed in some cases against ships at anchor (mainly in ports on the west coast of Africa) and in others by attacks at sea (mainly in the maritime zones of Malaysia and Indonesia and in the straits of Malacca), which pose a serious threat to the lives and property of the crews and shipowners who operate in these areas:

Acts of this kind can only be committed if those concerned enjoy the necessary shelter on land, without which this scourge — an anachronism in the present era — would quickly vanish. Can the Council say whether it has made any representations to the countries which provide shelter for pirate ships, in order to safeguard the right of all ships to sail freely and in security, especially those belonging to the fleets of the Member States of the European Community?

*Answer:*

Freedom and security of navigation and particularly security of ports are of major importance to the Twelve.

They are therefore actively contributing to the work in international organizations such as in the International Maritime Organization and are promoting accession of all countries to the international convention elaborated in these organizations.

### **88/462. Question No 1977/87 by Ms Marinaro (COM-I) Concerning the TREVI Group**

Date of Issue: 28 November 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 10 January 1988

1. Can the Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation explain why the other Community institutions (Parliament and the Commission) are systematically and deliberately excluded from meetings of the TREVI Group even when the agenda does not include items strictly concerned with policy matters (the combating of terrorism and organized crime)?

2. Do the Ministers not consider that Parliament and the Commission should participate in their own right in meetings of the TREVI Group when it discusses questions such as the right of asylum, extradition and all other aspects of a new legal system which will have to be introduced in 1992 when the Community's internal frontiers are abolished?

*Answer:*

The TREVI Group is concerned with operational cooperation between Member States with regard to such matters as terrorism, serious international crime and police cooperation. Neither the Commission nor the Council's General Secretariat is involved in consultations within this group. On the other hand, matters such as the right of asylum, visa policies, fraudulent documents and other non-security questions arising from the abolition of international borders are discussed within the *ad hoc* group on immigration in which both the Commission and the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers are participating. The Parliament is also kept informed by the Presidency through its Committee on Legal Affairs and the Citizens' Rights.

**88/463. Question No 1998/87 by Mr Perinat Elio (ED-E)  
Concerning the Opposition of The Netherlands to Spanish  
Membership of the 'Group of Ten'**

Date of Issue: 28 November 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 10 January 1988

The recent official decision of The Netherlands to oppose Spanish membership of the 'Group of Ten' (the group of the world's ten richest countries, attached to the International Monetary Fund) has naturally come as a most unpleasant surprise to the Spanish financial and monetary authorities and to public opinion in Spain.

Spanish opinion fails to understand how, given the support of the other Member States of the European Economic Community which belong to the above group, The Netherlands should have registered its opposition, for the fourth time running.

This evident contradiction in Dutch Community policy makes it necessary to ask the Ministers whether they do not consider occurrences such as the present one involving The Netherlands to contradict both the spirit of international solidarity which should govern relations between the Member States of the European Economic Community and the very principle of Political Cooperation which it is up to the Ministers to guarantee.

*Answer:*

Matters relating to the Group of Ten do not fall within the scope of European political cooperation and have consequently not been discussed by Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation.

**88/464. Question No 463/88 by Mr Perinat Elio (ED-E) Concerning the Community Infrastructure for European Security**

Date of Issue: 28 November 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 17 June 1988

The recent open letter by Mr Eric Hinterman, a former senior official of the Western European Union, stating his doubts about the effectiveness of that organization, which he considers to be stagnating rather than revitalized, as is currently claimed, raises further questions about the future of the WEU and the political dimension which it actually represents.

This situation contrasts with the aspirations set out in Article 30 (6) (a), (b) and (c) of the Single European Act, which states that 'The High Contracting Parties consider that closer cooperation on questions of European security would contribute in an essential way to the development of a European identity in external policy matters'.

In view of these facts, it is clear that the Ministers need to clarify this situation and that the necessary conditions must be established for the creation of the infrastructure required for European security in the present world geo-political situation, with a view to the creation of a genuine political community with the security aims specified in the Single Act.

Can the Ministers provide any further information on this matter?

*Answer:*

As the Honourable Member knows from recent answers to questions in this field, political and economic aspects of security are regularly discussed by the Twelve, in accordance with Article 30 of the Single European Act. Military aspects of security fall outside the scope of European political cooperation as envisaged in the Act. Certain Member States of the Twelve cooperate on such issues in other forums, to which reference is made in Article 30 (6) (c) of the Single European Act.

**88/465. Question No 506/88 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E) Concerning the Varying Conceptions of Security and Disarmament Policy**

Date of Issue: 28 November 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 20 June 1988

In his speech to Parliament on 16 December 1987<sup>1</sup>, the President-in-Office of the Council, Mr Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, speaking about disarmament, stated that the differences among the Twelve regarding their conception of security and disarmament policy limited the possibilities of achieving greater convergence. What are these differences?

*Answer:*

The Honourable Member must be aware that broad consensus on the basic principles and objectives of disarmament policy exists among the Twelve. This has allowed them to formulate common positions on a number of fundamental issues, as expressed *inter alia* in the Presidency's speech at the SSOD III in New York<sup>2</sup>, in the ministerial declaration of 13 June in Luxembourg<sup>3</sup> and in the conclusions of the European Council at Hanover<sup>4</sup>.

In his speech to Parliament on 16 December 1987, Foreign Minister Ellemann-Jensen referred to votes on specific resolutions at the 42nd General Assembly of the United Nations. He, however, emphasized that cooperation among the Twelve on disarmament issues had been marked by a continuing trend towards closer consultation and coordination.

As far as the conception of security is concerned, the Honourable Member is well aware of the various positions existing among the Twelve, as reflected in Article 30(6)(c) of the Single European Act. This has, however, not prevented the Twelve [from] coordinating their positions more closely on the political and economic aspects of security, as envisaged in the same Article (paragraph 6(a)) of the Single European Act.

<sup>1</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 87/517.

<sup>2</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 88/145.

<sup>3</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 88/146.

<sup>4</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 88/181.

### **88/466. Question No 931/88 by Mr Perinat Elio (ED-E) Concerning Relations Between the European Community and the Neutral and Non-Aligned Group of Countries**

Date of Issue: 28 November 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 18 August 1988

The united Europe which is continually invoked by our Community is not, in reality, all of Europe, if the term is defined as including all the countries which in fact make up the European continent.

When we talk of 'building Europe', it should not be forgotten that many other European countries remain outside our Community — not only those forming the so-called 'Eastern bloc', but also those which make up the bloc of nine neutral and non-aligned countries (NNA), whose Foreign Ministers hold joint meetings and issue communiqués on political subjects, often with important implications for our continent.

Could the Ministers indicate the current state of relations between the Community and the so-called NNA group, how they think closer and more continuous relations could be set up and whether they believe it would be useful to introduce an annual meeting between themselves and the Foreign Ministers of the above NNA group to discuss the common interests of the European continent?

*Answer:*

The twelve Member States of the European Community are, of course, fully aware that they themselves are part of all of Europe. This is evident, not least from their so-called 'openness' declaration on Title III of the Single European Act<sup>1</sup>.

The Twelve fully recognize the importance of the NNA countries. In their declaration of 13 June 1988<sup>2</sup> on East-West relations, the Foreign Ministers of the Twelve paid tribute to the efforts of this group at the CSCE Follow-Up Meeting in Vienna.

The Twelve as a group have since long entertained relations with the other Council of Europe member States, amongst them most of the NNA countries referred to in the question. There have also been contacts with Finland and Yugoslavia. The Twelve welcome that Finland has now applied for membership of the Council of Europe.

Semi-annual consultations on a wide variety of subjects take place at ministerial level between the Twelve on the one hand and on the other hand Council of Europe member States. At the

regular ministerial sessions of the Council of Europe, all 21 member States meet. They normally adopt substantial communiqués on political subjects. At officials' level, there are also regular contacts among the 21 Council of Europe countries in Strasbourg. Political Directors of the Twelve meet as a group twice a year with their counterparts from the other Council of Europe countries for political consultations. In addition, there are regular experts' meetings on a number of subjects.

The Presidency of the Twelve have regular contacts as well with a large number of the neutral and non-aligned European countries individually, both at ministerial and officials' level.

The Twelve's contacts with other democratic European countries have recently been expanded significantly. In this process, the Twelve have been guided by their declaration on Title III of the Single European Act, referred to above. In this declaration they reaffirm their openness to other European nations which share the same ideals and objectives. They agree in particular to strengthen their links with the member countries of the Council of Europe and with other democratic European countries with which they have friendly relations and close cooperation.

<sup>1</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 88/090.

<sup>2</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 86/146.

### **88/467. Question No 932/88 by Mr Perinat Elio (ED-E) Concerning the Current Situation of the Secretariat for Political Cooperation**

Date of Issue: 28 November 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 18 August 1988

The development of the Single European Act implies the implementation of various provisions completing and developing the content of the provisions collected in the Treaties, to enable significant progress to be made through union towards a united Europe.

Among the provisions of the Single Act, stress may be laid, given their common political implications, on those referring to European cooperation in the sphere of foreign policy, which are collected in Article 30 and which, for those who believe in the European ideal, constitute one of the main axes of the possible effective union of the peoples of Europe.

Since the provisions contained in Article 30 make special reference to the Presidency of European political cooperation, it being specified in paragraph 10 (g) that a Secretariat based in Brussels shall assist the Presidency in preparing and in implementing its activities, can the Ministers indicate the current situation with regard to the development of this support body, how they expect it to develop, and what political characteristics it may be expected to have, given that it is to play a vital role in European cooperation in the sphere of foreign policy?

*Answer:*

The Secretariat for European political cooperation has been functioning since January 1987. Located in the Charlemagne building in Brussels, it consists of the Head of Secretariat, appointed by the Foreign Ministers, and of five members as well as administrative personnel, all seconded from Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the Twelve on a rotation basis.

The tasks of the Secretariat are laid down in the Single European Act and further defined by Foreign Ministers; they comprise:

- to assist the Presidency in preparing and implementing European political cooperation activities and in administrative matters;
- to assist the Presidency in ensuring the continuity of European political cooperation and its consistency with Community positions;



- to assist the Presidency in the organization of European political cooperation meetings, including the preparation and circulation of documents and the drawing up of minutes;
- to work with the European Correspondents Group in the preparation of conclusions and guidelines and in carrying out any task entrusted to the Group by the Political Committee;
- to assist the Chairmen of Working Groups as regards procedures and precedents and the drafting of oral reports and studies;
- to assist the Presidency in the preparation of texts to be published on behalf of the Member States, including replies to parliamentary questions and resolutions;
- to maintain the European political cooperation archives and assist the Presidency in preparing the six-monthly compilation of European political cooperation texts;
- to keep up to date the body of European political cooperation working practices;
- to assist the Presidency, where appropriate, in contacts with third countries;
- to make the necessary arrangements to provide interpretation into all the official languages of the Community at meetings of Heads of State and Government as well as ministerial meetings;
- to ensure that all European political cooperation texts submitted to or adopted at these meetings are immediately translated into all the official Community languages.

The Twelve consider that the European Political Cooperation Secretariat is a useful body, supporting the Presidency in its many tasks to the benefit of the endeavour of the Twelve jointly to formulate and implement a European foreign policy.

Although the Secretariat has been functioning for some 20 months, it has already fully demonstrated its effectiveness in carrying out the above tasks. An examination of arrangements concerning the Secretariat will form part of the wider examination of the provisions of Title III of the Single European Act due five years after the SEA's entry into force.

### **88/468. Question No 1235/88 by Mr Lomas (S-UK) Concerning Detainees in Singapore Under the Internal Security Act**

Date of Issue: 28 November 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 3 October 1988

Since April 1988, six Singaporeans have been detained by the Singapore authorities under the Internal Security Act (ISA) which allows for indefinite detention without trial of those alleged to be threatening national security. Some of these people had previously been imprisoned, together with others in 1987, for alleged participation in a Marxist conspiracy against the Government and were released after members of the European Parliament, Amnesty International, and other individuals and governments protested at the violation of human rights. The major lawyer of the earlier detainees, Francis Seow, has recently been released after serving a one-year detention order.

Will the Foreign Ministers inform the Singapore authorities that the release of Francis Seow is welcomed, ask for restrictions upon him to be lifted, urge the authorities to release all the ISA detainees immediately and unconditionally, or charge them and try them in a fair and prompt judicial proceeding, call for an investigation of the allegations of mistreatment by the former detainees, and ask for assurances that the detainees are being treated in accordance with internationally accepted standards and that they be allowed full access to their families, lawyers, and doctors.

*Answer:*

The Twelve are closely following the cases referred to by the Honourable Member. As the Presidency indicated in May 1988, they have expressed their concern in confidential exchanges with the Singapore authorities who are aware of the importance that the Twelve attach to human rights.

**88/469. Question No 1284/88 by Mr Glinne (S-B) Concerning the Status of Walvis Bay**

Date of Issue: 28 November 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 10 October 1988

Walvis Bay, the only large Namibian deep-water port, is the pearl of an area that the Republic of South Africa integrated into its territory under the League of Nations mandate for South West Africa after the First World War. In 1977, Pretoria unilaterally made the area part of South Africa.

How do the Foreign Ministers view the legal status of Walvis Bay, having regard to the attitude adopted by the United Nations, particularly within the UN Council for Namibia, the only legal authority for the territory?

*Answer:*

The question raised by the Honourable Member has not been discussed in the framework of European political cooperation.

**88/470. Question No 1363/88 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E) Concerning the Threatened Extinction of the Yuqui in Bolivia**

Date of Issue: 28 November 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 20 October 1988

Can the Foreign Ministers meeting in European political cooperation take up the cause of the Yuqui, who were the last native tribe in Bolivia without contact with the outside world and are now threatened with extinction? They live in the territory between the rivers Ichilo and Yapacani and their lands have been invaded by timber companies. According to the Italian Salesian priest Father Hermán Nigris they are being hunted down 'like big game'.

*Answer:*

The question raised by the Honourable Member has not been discussed in the framework of European political cooperation.

**88/471. Question No 1364/88 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E) Concerning the Imprisonment of Ivan Polansky in Czechoslovakia**

Date of Issue: 28 November 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 20 October 1988

Have the Foreign Ministers meeting in European political cooperation concerned themselves with the fate of Ivan Polansky, a technician from Nova Dubnica (Slovakia) and a practising Catholic, sentenced on 17 June 1988 to four years' imprisonment for 'subversion of the Republic'? According to Amnesty International, he has been imprisoned solely because he was peacefully exercising his right to freedom of expression and freedom to receive and impart information, in accordance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which was ratified by the Republic of Czechoslovakia.

*Answer:*

The Twelve have noted with concern the Czech authorities' treatment of Mr Polansky and Mr A. Navratil, two human rights activists who defend religious freedom in Czechoslovakia.

The principle of religious freedom — the various aspects whereof are enshrined in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights — is contained in the Helsinki Final Act and subsequent documents adopted in the ongoing CSCE process. The action of the Czechoslovak authorities is therefore in contradiction with commitments, freely entered into by Czechoslovakia.

On 11 October 1988 the Presidency's Ambassador in Prague approached the Czechoslovak authorities on behalf of the Twelve to express their concern at the cases of Mr Polansky and Mr Navratil.

**88/472. Question No 1365/88 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E)  
Concerning the Murder and Torture in Tibet**

Date of Issue: 28 November 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 20 October 1988

Have the Foreign Ministers meeting in European political cooperation concerned themselves with the events which happened in Tibet last March, when the police killed 30 people, including at least 12 monks inside the Jokhnang Temple in the centre of Lhasa?

Have they concerned themselves with the plight of those imprisoned?

*Answer:*

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

The Twelve have, however, followed the events in Tibet with care and concern and their position on human rights is well known to the Chinese authorities.

**88/473. Question No 1366/88 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E)  
Concerning the Detention of Members of the 'Partido Liberal  
Radical Autentico' in Paraguay**

Date of Issue: 28 November 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 20 October 1988

Can the Foreign Ministers meeting in European political cooperation take up the case of the following members of the 'Partido Liberal Radical Autentico' (PLRA):

Domingo Laino (Chairman of the party);

Ramón Ferreira;

Waldino Montes de Oca;

Anibal Rojas;

Avelino Encina,

who were arrested without a warrant in Ita and the district of San Juan de Neembucú on 11 July 1988, and, according to Amnesty International, have been kept in solitary confinement?

*Answer:*

According to information gathered in Paraguay, Mr Laino, Mr Ferreira, Mr Montes de Oca and Mr Rufino Rojas have been released. Mr Avelino Encina is not known at the PLRA.

**88/474. Question No 1369/88 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E)  
Concerning Land Mines and Booby-Traps in El Salvador**

Date of Issue: 28 November 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 20 October 1988

Have the Foreign Ministers meeting in European political cooperation condemned the campaign being conducted by guerilla organizations in El Salvador using land mines and booby-traps, which during the last three years have killed and injured hundreds of civilians in that country?

*Answer:*

The Twelve have several times condemned any act of violence which affects human rights, particularly when it leads to loss of human life. Furthermore, they are convinced that the problems of Central America can only be solved by peaceful means.

**88/475. Question No 1394/88 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E)  
Concerning European Parliament Resolutions on the Armenian  
Question**

Date of Issue: 28 November 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 20 October 1988

In the fourteen months since the European Parliament adopted a resolution on the Armenian question (Doc. A 2-33/87), what action have the Foreign Ministers meeting in European political cooperation taken to 'promote the establishment of a dialogue between Turkey and the representatives of the Armenians', as called for in the resolution?

*Answer:*

The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given on 11 October 1988 to Oral Question No H-437/88<sup>1</sup> put by Mr J. H. Vandemeulebroucke.

<sup>1</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 88/326.

**88/476. Question No 1395/88 by Mr Arbeloa Muru (S-E)  
Concerning Murders and Disappearances in Sri Lanka**

Date of Issue: 28 November 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 20 October 1988

Since the signing of the peace agreement with India nearly one year ago, what approaches, if any, have the Foreign Ministers meeting in European political cooperation made to the Sri Lankan Government to put an end to what are constant violations of human rights, including the disappearance of dozens of Sinhalese in the south of the country?

*Answer:*

The question raised by the Honourable Member has not been dealt with in the European political cooperation framework. However, the Twelve are still keeping a close watch on developments in the Sri Lankan situation. In this connection, the Twelve point out that in their statement on 20 August 1987<sup>1</sup>, they called upon the parties concerned to keep to the agreement signed by Sri Lanka and India on 29 July 1987 and to avoid any action that might be prejudicial to it.

<sup>1</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 87/291.

**88/477. Question No 1415/88 by Ms Dury (S-B) Concerning the  
Violation of Human Rights in Turkey**

Date of Issue: 28 November 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 20 October 1988

Recently the Turkish authorities have shown a particular lack of regard for human rights and political freedom.

Eleven people were arrested at a ceremony commemorating labour day and a number of prisoners have just been sentenced to death; the trial of two leaders of the Communist Party is in progress.

Have the Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation approached the Turkish authorities anew to persuade them to respect human rights and to show that they are determined to ensure a genuine process of democratization?

*Answer:*

As the Presidency has already stated on many occasions, the Twelve are keeping close track of the human rights situation in Turkey. On several occasions they have expressed their concern to the Turkish authorities, who are well aware of the position of the Twelve on this subject. The Twelve have noted that Turkey has signed the Council of Europe's Convention and the United Nations Convention against torture. They expect the international conventions to which Turkey has freely acceded to be strictly observed.

**88/478. Question No 1478/88 by Mr Lomas and Mr Newens (S-UK)  
Concerning Missing People in Cyprus**

Date of Issue: 28 November 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 28 October 1988

In Mr A. Coste-Floret's report on the situation in Cyprus (Doc. A 2-327/87), resolution PE 122.715 adopted by Parliament, III, Missing people in the Turkish military occupied zone of Cyprus (paragraphs 7 and 8) calls on the Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation to redouble their efforts to find a positive solution, in agreement with the Greek-Cypriot authorities and the representatives of the Turkish-Cypriot community, to this humanitarian problem and suggests that they endeavour to obtain agreement from all the sides involved to call in the International Committee of the Red Cross to carry out a search mission unimpeded whenever it feels it can uncover relevant facts, and draws the Ministers' attention to the need to find a final solution to this painful problem without delay, particularly through the release of those missing people who might be detained in prison. What steps have the Foreign Ministers taken to carry out Parliament's request?

*Answer:*

As the Presidency stated in its reply to Written Question No 2569/87<sup>1</sup>, the problem of the fate of the missing persons in Cyprus is being dealt with *inter alia* by a Committee of Enquiry set up under the aegis of the UN and made up of representatives of the two communities and of the ICRC. The Twelve are following this humanitarian problem with concern, particularly as the work of the Committee of Enquiry has not yet produced any concrete results.

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<sup>1</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 88/188.

**88/479. Question No 1616/88 by Ms Ewing (RDE-UK) Concerning  
Human Rights in Azerbaijan**

Date of Issue: 28 November 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Written Parliamentary Question of 15 November 1988

The recent fighting in the Nagorno Karabakh region of Soviet Azerbaijan has led to the intervention of Soviet troops to control the escalating inter-racial tension.

Do the Foreign Ministers have any information on the outcome of this intervention and can they say whether the human rights of either the Azerbaijanis or Armenians are at present being violated?

*Answer:*

The Twelve do not have specific information on the outcome of the involvement of Soviet military personnel with the tense situation in the Nagorno Karabakh region.

The Twelve's position with regard to human rights is well known to the Soviet authorities. The Twelve hope that solutions can be found, which will ensure lasting enjoyment of these rights by all people in the region.

**88/480. Explanation of Vote in the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly: Draft Resolution L.68 on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms in El Salvador (UNGA Res. 43/145)**

Date of Issue: 29 November 1988  
 Place of Issue: New York  
 Country of Presidency: Greece  
 Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations  
 Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Mr Chairman, I have asked for the floor to make an explanation of vote on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community on the draft resolution L.68.

The Twelve accepted in a spirit of compromise to agree to the consensus reached in draft resolution L.68 concerning the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in El Salvador. We would however like to stress that this resolution does not accurately reflect the deterioration of human rights in that country.

In his report, the Special Representative notes the alarming increase of politically motivated summary executions carried out by members of State apparatus and in particular by members of the armed forces. The report also noted disturbing cases of politically motivated summary executions as well as that the armed opposition forces are responsible for systematic attacks against the country's economic infrastructure, summary executions and abduction of civilians.

These acts constitute serious violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms in El Salvador and are thus deplorable.

We appeal once more to all parties concerned to refrain from such acts that have caused the human rights situation in that country to deteriorate.

We note with concern the finding of the Special Representative that the capacity of the criminal justice system to investigate and punish serious human rights violations remains highly unsatisfactory. This, combined with the promulgation and application of the Amnesty Act of October 1987, fosters and reinforces the dangerous climate of impunity. We strongly encourage the Government of El Salvador to ensure the proper effectiveness of the judiciary as soon as possible.

The Twelve wish to state further that, when the question of the extension of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur is examined at the Commission of Human Rights, the relevant decision should be taken on the basis of the actual human rights situation existing in El Salvador.

While we note with appreciation the efforts made by the co-sponsors in producing this draft resolution, thus demonstrating their concern for the human rights situation in that country, we hope that in the future such a resolution will be the object of wider consultations.

**88/481. Explanation of Vote in the Sixth Committee of the UN General Assembly: Draft Resolution L.25 Relating to the Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 29 November 1988  
 Place of Issue: New York  
 Country of Presidency: Greece  
 Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations  
 Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

*Mr Roucouas:* Mr Chairman, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community in explanation of vote on draft resolution A/43/C.6/L.25.

The Twelve have taken notice with concern of the refusal by the United States Government to grant an entry visa to Mr Y. Arafat, Chairman of the PLO, in order to visit the United Nations Headquarters and address the General Assembly on the question of Palestine.

The Twelve believe that in accordance with the Headquarters Agreement and the opinion of the Legal Council of the United Nations Mr Arafat should be allowed to address the United Nations Assembly in New York.

The Twelve are also firmly of the opinion that at this crucial stage of the situation regarding the Middle East it would be important not to hinder the role of the United Nations as a forum before which a leader of a party to the dispute would express his views on the matter.

Moreover, the Twelve feel it is necessary to maintain and encourage the momentum created by the recent decisions of the National Palestinian Council.

The Twelve call upon the United States Government to review the legal arguments and reconsider its decision.

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<sup>1</sup> Agenda item 137.

### **88/482. Statement Concerning Central America**

Date of Issue: 29 November 1988

Place of Issue: Athens/Brussels

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: The Twelve

Status of Document: Declaration

The Twelve are following closely the ongoing efforts to reactivate the peace process in Central America after months of stagnation. They consider the forthcoming meeting of the Central American Foreign Ministers as a promising sign of political will to continue the task of achieving peace, democracy and stability in the region.

The Twelve have lent their support to the Esquipulas process from its beginning and have urged the Central American countries to proceed without any further delay with the implementation of the Esquipulas-II agreement. In this spirit, they will continue their dialogue with Central America. As they have declared in Hamburg, 1 March 1988<sup>1</sup>, the Twelve remain prepared, to the best of their ability and if so requested by all Central American States, to support the task of verification, monitoring and follow-up of the Esquipulas peace process.

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<sup>1</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 88/052.

### **88/483. Explanation of Vote at the Plenary Session of the UN General Assembly Concerning the United States' Refusal to Grant a Visa to Mr Y. Arafat (UNGA Res. 43/48)**

Date of Issue: 30 November 1988

Place of Issue: Athens/Brussels

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: The Twelve

Status of Document: Declaration

The Twelve have taken notice with concern of the refusal by the US Government to grant an entry visa to Mr Arafat, Chairman of the PLO, in order to visit the UN Headquarters and address the General Assembly on the question of Palestine.

The Twelve believe that in accordance with the Headquarters Agreement and the opinion of the Legal Council of the United Nations, Mr Arafat should be allowed to address the UN Assembly in New York.

The Twelve are also firmly of the opinion that at this crucial stage of the situation regarding the Middle East it would be important not to hinder the role of the United Nations as a forum before which a leader of a party to the dispute would express his views on the matter.



Moreover, the Twelve feel it is necessary to maintain and encourage the momentum created by the recent decision of the National Palestine Council.

The Twelve call upon the US Government to review the legal arguments and reconsider its decision.

#### **88/484. Statement Concerning Sudan**

Date of Issue: 1 December 1988  
 Place of Issue: Athens  
 Country of Presidency: Greece  
 Source of Document: The Twelve  
 Status of Document: Declaration

The Twelve welcome the latest efforts undertaken towards peace in the south of Sudan. They urge all parties concerned to build on these efforts to conclude an early cease-fire so that peace can be restored and relief operations and reconstruction in Sudan — particularly in the south — can get under way.

#### **88/485. Statement in the Sixth Committee of the UN General Assembly: Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 1 December 1988  
 Place of Issue: New York  
 Country of Presidency: Greece  
 Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations  
 Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

*Mr Roucouas:* Mr Chairman, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community.

The Committee on Relations with the Host Country, since its establishment by the General Assembly in 1971, has proved to be an able and useful body to deal with the often difficult matters which are presented for its consideration. For this purpose, both the Committee's way of work and its composition, which takes due and just account of the need for regional representation, are satisfactory in the view of the Twelve. Both the smooth solution of concrete problems and the existence of a general legal framework which is in accordance with relevant international instruments, are of great importance for the working conditions at the Headquarters.

In this connection, the Twelve wish to express their appreciation of the work done throughout the Committee's existence and especially for the results achieved under the efficient chairmanship of Ambassador Constantine Moushoutas of the Republic of Cyprus.

We wish equally to express our appreciation for the efforts shown by the New York City Commission for the United Nations and the Consular Corps and other bodies and the New York City Police Department to accommodate the needs, interests and requirements of the diplomatic community in the host country.

The Twelve hope that efforts will continue in order to streamline procedures needed for the entry of delegates attending United Nations meetings.

This year's report reflects in detail the questions dealt with by the Committee and in particular those concerning the security of missions and the safety of their personnel as well as some more specific issues arising in connection with the implementation of the agreement between the United Nations and the host country regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations.

It is true that for such delicate matters related to the implementation of the said agreement, continuous vigilance combined with the necessary courtesy are indispensable. Our delegations are very keen that questions of principle as well as of practical importance in this field are to be dealt with full respect for international law.

Finally, the Twelve reiterate their satisfaction for the information contained in paragraph 4 and 5 of the Secretary-General's report (document A/42/915/Add.5), according to which 'on 29 August 1988 the United States Department of Justice announced that the United States have decided not to appeal the decision of the District Court for the Southern District of New York' and that 'the dispute between the United Nations and its host country concerning the PLO Observer Mission has thus come to an end'. The Twelve are of the opinion that disputes of this nature should be avoided.

<sup>1</sup> Agenda item 137.

**88/486. Statement in the Fifth Committee of the UN General Assembly: Programme-Budget Implications of Draft Resolution A/43/L.37. Agenda Item 36 — Dissemination of Information Against the Policies of Apartheid of the Regime of Racist South Africa<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 2 December 1988

Place of Issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

*Mr Rallis:* Mr Chairman, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community.

The Twelve's unequivocal condemnation of the pernicious system of apartheid is well known and will be repeated in detail in the Plenary when the draft resolution on apartheid will be before it.

We understand and support the wish of the co-sponsors of draft resolution A/43/L.37 to ensure wide dissemination of information on the system of apartheid and to counteract the restrictions of press freedom imposed by the South African Government.

However, we have serious difficulties with several aspects of this draft resolution. We will limit ourselves here to its administrative, programmatic and financial implications.

First of all, we attach particular importance to the full respect of the Secretary-General's prerogatives as Chief Administrative Officer in the selection and appointment of all staff without discrimination and therefore find operative paragraph 1(e) of this draft resolution contrary to the provisions of Chapter XV of the Charter. We are pleased to note in paragraph 15 of document A/C.5/43/50/Add.1 that the Secretary-General will continue to be guided by the provisions of the Charter.

Secondly, we do not feel committed to the implementation of operative paragraph 1(b) since we are of the opinion that we can take a position of principle on this matter only after we have seen the report of a consultant as mentioned in paragraph 11 of the Secretary-General's report A/C.5/43/50/Add.1 and have carefully measured all its possible consequences.

Thirdly, Mr Chairman, we agree with the Secretary-General's view in paragraph 3 of his report that 'outputs (i) to (iii) under programme element 2.3 of section 27 in the revised estimates for the biennium 1988-89 provide an adequate response to the request in paragraph 1(a) of the draft resolution'. We also support the Secretary-General's view as expressed in paragraph 16 of his report. We think, however, that this draft resolution may have serious implications for the reform process whose outcome should not be pre-empted here. We also have concerns about the eventual financial consequences and we think that the compromise reached in CPC should not be reopened.

Mr Chairman, these are the main reasons why the Twelve have not been able to support the programme-budget implications of draft resolution A/43/L.37. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

<sup>1</sup> Agenda item 114.

### **88/487. Statement Concerning East-West Relations**

Date of Issue: 3 December 1988  
 Place of Issue: Rhodes  
 Country of Presidency: Greece  
 Source of Document: European Council  
 Status of Document: Conclusions of the European Council

Within the framework of East-West relations, the European Council had an in-depth discussion of the overall relations with the Soviet Union and the countries of Eastern Europe, based on various contributions concerning the political and economic fields. Ministers for Foreign Affairs have been entrusted with ensuring the necessary follow-up.

The European Council has approved a paragraph on East-West relations, to be included in the text of a declaration on the international role of the European Community and its Member States, which it has decided to make public at the end of its meeting in Rhodes.

### **88/488. Statement Concerning the Middle East**

Date of Issue: 3 December 1988  
 Place of Issue: Rhodes  
 Country of Presidency: Greece  
 Source of Document: European Council  
 Status of Document: Conclusions of the European Council

#### *Israeli-Arab conflict*

The European Council had a thorough discussion on the situation in the Middle East. It reaffirmed the positions expressed by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs in their declaration of 21 November and in their declaration of 30 November last.

#### *Lebanon*

The European Council reaffirmed the importance it attaches to the election of a President of the Lebanese Republic.

It supports the efforts which the Lebanese are currently undertaking in order to search for a consensus which constitutes the condition for the maintenance of the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Lebanon.

The European Council considers it essential that the international community continues to demonstrate an active interest in Lebanon and in the election of the President.

It expresses the views that the United Nations could in particular, if that would be useful, contribute to the satisfactory holding of the Presidential election.

### **88/489. Statement Concerning Cyprus**

Date of Issue: 3 December 1988  
 Place of Issue: Rhodes  
 Country of Presidency: Greece  
 Source of Document: European Council  
 Status of Document: Conclusions of the European Council

The European Council had a discussion of the Cyprus problem. It acknowledged the fact that the tragic division of the island remains unchanged and reaffirmed the previous declarations of the Twelve, which support without any reservation the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and unity of Cyprus.

While expressing its satisfaction at the resuming of the inter-communal dialogue, the European Council expressed the wish that this dialogue should progress and lead rapidly to a solution of the problem, on the basis of the above principles and the relevant United Nations resolutions.

### **88/490. Statement on the International Role of the European Community**

Date of Issue: 3 December 1988

Place of Issue: Rhodes

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: European Council

Status of Document: Declaration

Reaffirming its commitment to achieve concrete progress towards European unity on the basis of the European Single Act;

determined to strengthen and expand the role of the European Community and its Member States on the international political and economic stage, in cooperation with all other States and appropriate organizations;

and aware that the completion of the Internal Market in 1992, which is already inspiring a new dynamism in the Community's economic life, will equally affect the Community's political and economic role in the world;

the European Council reaffirms that the Single Market will be of benefit to Community and non-Community countries alike by ensuring economic growth. The Internal Market will not close in on itself. 1992 Europe will be a partner and not a 'fortress Europe'. The Internal Market will be a decisive factor contributing to greater liberalization in international trade on the basis of the GATT principles of reciprocal and mutually advantageous arrangements. The Community will continue to participate actively in the GATT Uruguay Round, committed as it is to strengthen the multilateral trading system. It will also continue to pursue, with the United States, Japan and the other OECD partners, policies designed to promote sustainable non-inflationary growth in the world economy.

The Community and its Member States will continue to work closely and cooperatively with the United States to maintain and deepen the solid and comprehensive transatlantic relationship. Closer political and economic relations with Japan and the other industrialized countries will also be developed. In particular, the Community wishes to strengthen and to expand relations with EFTA countries and all other European nations which share the same ideals and objectives. Open and constructive dialogue and cooperation will be actively pursued with other countries or regional groups of the Middle East, and the Mediterranean, Africa, the Caribbean, the Pacific, Asia and Latin America, with special emphasis on interregional cooperation.

The European Council emphasizes the need to improve social and economic conditions in less-developed countries and to promote structural adjustment, both through trade and aid. It also recognizes the importance of a continuing policy to tackle the problems of the highly indebted countries on a case-by-case basis. It looks forward to the successful conclusion of the negotiations for the renewal of the convention between the European Community and its 66 African, Caribbean and Pacific partners during the coming year.

The European Community and its Member States are determined to play an active role in the preservation of international peace and security and in the solution of regional conflicts, in conformity with the United Nations Charter. Europe cannot but actively demonstrate its

solidarity to the great and spreading movement for democracy and full support for the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Twelve will endeavour to strengthen the effectiveness of the United Nations and to actively contribute to its peace-keeping role.

Against the background of improved East-West relations, the European Council welcomes the readiness of the European Members of the CMEA to develop relations with the European Community and reaffirms its willingness to further economic relations and cooperation with them, taking into account each country's specific situation, in order to use the opportunities available in a mutually beneficial way.

The European Council reaffirms its determination to act with renewed hope to overcome the division of our continent and to promote the Western values and principles which Member States have in common.

To this effect it will try to achieve:

- full respect for the provisions of the Helsinki Final Act and further progress in the CSCE process, including an early and successful conclusion of the Vienna follow-up meeting;
- the establishment of a secure and stable balance of conventional forces in Europe at a lower level, the strengthening of mutual confidence and military transparency and the conclusion of a global and verifiable ban on chemical weapons;
- promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms, free circulation of people and ideas and the establishment of more open societies; promotion of human and cultural exchanges between East and West;
- the development of political dialogue with our Eastern neighbours.

The European Community and the Twelve are determined to make full use of the provisions of the Single European Act in order to strengthen solidarity among them, coordination on the political and economic aspects of security, and consistency between the external policies of the European Community and the policies agreed in the framework of the European political cooperation. They will strive to reach swift adoption of common positions and implementation of joint action.

The European Council invites all countries to embark with the European Community as world partner on a historic effort to leave to the next generation a continent and a world more secure, and more just, and more free.

### **88/491. Explanation of Vote at the Plenary Session of the UN General Assembly: Draft Resolutions on the Policies of Apartheid of the Government of South Africa<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 5 December 1988

Place of Issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Mr President, the twelve Member States of the European Community made clear once again during this debate their utter revulsion against apartheid. We have repeatedly and unequivocally condemned it and demanded that it be abolished. There should be no doubt either about our objective, which is quite simply the complete eradication of this pernicious system, or of our determination to contribute to the abolition of apartheid. The United Nations has a primary role to play in this endeavour.

Mr President, unfortunately the trend towards moderation shown in the drafting of last year's resolutions has not been sustained. We regret that some of the draft resolutions now before us continue to contain elements which cause us well-known problems of principle.

First, the Twelve believe that the division of competence between the General Assembly and the Security Council laid down in the Charter must be respected. Only the Security Council is empowered to adopt decisions binding on member States.

We wish to reiterate our commitment to the principle of universality of membership of the United Nations. We cannot support calls for the total isolation of South Africa. This in our view would be of no benefit to the goal we all share, the total abolition of apartheid. We believe that channels of communication must remain open in order to enable the outside world to maintain and increase its pressure on the South African Government, for the establishment of a free and democratic society without racial discrimination.

The Twelve have stated during the debate their grave concern about the continuation of violence and repression in South Africa. However, we remain convinced that a process for peaceful change is still possible and that the United Nations must promote change by peaceful means as provided in the Charter. Although we share the frustration felt by the majority of the people of South Africa owing to the continuation of the unacceptable system of apartheid, we cannot agree that resolutions adopted by the General Assembly should endorse the use of force or armed struggle.

We reject all forms of apartheid in sports and we continue firmly to discourage all sporting contacts that may have any implication of racial discrimination. Sport activities are organized in our respective countries at private initiative. Sports organizations within our countries are aware of the opposition of their governments to sports competitions that violate the Olympic ideal of non-discrimination.

The Twelve reiterate their firm opposition against all arbitrary, selective and unjustified singling out of member States or groups of countries.

The Twelve understand and support the wish of the co-sponsors of draft resolution L.37 to ensure wide dissemination of information on the system of apartheid and to counteract the restrictions on press freedom imposed by the South African Government. However, we have serious difficulties with certain aspects of the resolution. We find operative paragraph 1(e) difficult to reconcile with the prerogatives of the Secretary-General as Chief Administrative Officer of the Organization as laid down in Chapter 15 of the Charter. It also contains too broad an interpretation of what may properly constitute the expenses of the Organization. It has serious implications for the reform process whose outcome should not be pre-empted here.

Mr President, the Twelve regret that, for these and other reasons, we are unable to vote in favour of all the draft resolutions before us today.

However, we remain firm and constant with our commitment to act collectively and individually to impress on the South African Government the inescapable need for fundamental reform. The South African Government must be brought to see that the only way forward lies in the abolition of apartheid and the introduction of the basic changes demanded by the international community. Thank you, Mr President.

<sup>1</sup> Agenda item 36.

**88/492. Explanation of Vote at the Plenary Session of the UN General Assembly: Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country (Refusal to Grant a Visa to Mr Yasser Arafat) (UNGA Res. 43/49)<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 5 December 1988

Place of Issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

In this Assembly, two days ago, I stated on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community that we believed (as we still do) that, in accordance with the Headquarters Agreement and the opinion of the Legal Counsel of the United Nations, the Chairman of the Executive Council of the Palestine Liberation Organization, Mr Yasser Arafat should have been

allowed to address the Assembly in New York. As far as the third preambular paragraph of the resolution just adopted is concerned, we concur with the interpretation of the Headquarters Agreement given in the opinion of the United Nations Legal Counsel.

<sup>1</sup> Agenda items 137 and 138.

**88/493. Explanation of Vote in the Second Committee of the UN General Assembly: Draft Decision L.75 Concerning Guidelines for International Decades (Decision 43/434)**

Date of Issue: 5 December 1988  
 Place of Issue: New York  
 Country of Presidency: Greece  
 Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations  
 Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

We would like to express our regret that no agreement has been reached on adopting decision L.75 entitled 'Guidelines on International Decades', during the present session of the General Assembly. We consider that the adoption and implementation of these guidelines is part of the overall improvement of the United Nations, aiming at rendering it more effective and efficient.

We hope that consideration of this issue will be undertaken by ECOSOC at its organizational session early in 1989, which will prepare the way for a consensus on the adoption of the guidelines by the 44th General Assembly, avoiding, hopefully, the procedural problems we have encountered this year.

**88/494. Statement at the Plenary Session of the UN General Assembly: the Situation in the Middle East<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 5 December 1988  
 Place of Issue: New York  
 Country of Presidency: Greece  
 Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations  
 Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

*Mr Zepos:* I have the honour to speak on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community.

The twelve Member States of the European Community have important political, historical, economic and cultural ties with the countries and peoples of the Middle East. They cannot be passive and or indifferent to the serious problems affecting a region so close to them and which have serious repercussions for international peace and stability. The Twelve have, on several occasions, expressed themselves in declarations on the Arab-Israeli conflict, the conflict between Iran and Iraq and the situation in Lebanon.

Although some positive developments have given rise to hope, other problems of the region remain unresolved and have, in some cases, even been aggravated. The Twelve are greatly concerned at the suffering of which the peoples in many parts of the Middle East continue to be the victims as a result of regional tensions and armed confrontations in the area.

The long-standing position of the Twelve is that there is an urgent need for negotiated solutions to these problems. The aim must be 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 in some cases has been for too long adversely affected.

Mr President, the views of the Twelve on the question of Palestine will be expressed more fully at the debate on item 37.

This year's debate comes shortly after the decisions adopted by the Palestinian National Council in Algiers, on 15 November 1988. The Twelve attach particular importance to these decisions, which reflect the will of the Palestinian people to assert their national identity and which include positive steps towards the peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The prolongation of this conflict endangers peace and security in the region. The Twelve have made repeatedly clear the principles for the establishment of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Near East, set out in the Venice Declaration of 13 June 1980 and in their subsequent statements on this issue. These principles must be respected by all the parties concerned, and thus by the Palestinian people, and by the Palestine Liberation Organization, which will have to be associated with the negotiations. In this context, the Twelve welcomed on 21 November 1988 the acceptance by the Palestinian National Council of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 as a basis for an international conference, which implies acceptance of the right of existence and of security for all States of the region, including Israel. Respect for this principle goes together with that of justice for the peoples of the region, in particular the right of self-determination of the Palestinian people with all that this implies. The essence of a settlement must be a full, just and lasting accommodation between Israel and the Palestine people, so that they can live together in peace and security.

The resolution of the problems between Israel and its neighbours should be based on the Charter principles of non-recourse to the use of force and of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war. Israel must put an end to the territorial occupation it has maintained since 1967 and give up its illegal policy of settlements. We reaffirm our position that any change in the status and demographic structure of the occupied territories is illegal under international law and constitutes a serious obstacle to peace efforts. Military occupation can only be regarded as a temporary situation and does not confer upon the occupying power rights of annexation or disposal, or of extending its law, jurisdiction, or administration in the occupied area. The Twelve reiterate that the Israeli policy concerning East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights is contrary to international law. Therefore, all measures taken within the framework of this policy are to be considered null and void.

The Twelve have had occasions in the debate on item 77 to set out in detail their deep concern, in particular over the past twelve months, at a number of Israeli actions and policies affecting the human rights and living conditions of the population of the occupied territories. In this debate, we shall confine ourselves to reiterating our call upon Israel, as the occupying power, to fulfil its obligations under the relevant Hague and Geneva conventions, pending its withdrawal, to ensure immediate protection of the population in compliance with international law and human rights obligations and to lift restrictions on political and economic activities.

Mr President, once again we stress the urgency of reaching a political solution. In a declaration on 21 November 1988 the Foreign Ministers of the Twelve called on all parties concerned, while abstaining from any acts of violence and any action which could further aggravate the tense situation in the Near East, to take the new opportunities and contribute to the peace process in a positive way with a view to a just, global and lasting solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. This solution can only be achieved through an international peace conference, under the auspices of the United Nations, which represents the suitable framework for the necessary negotiations between the parties directly concerned.

The Twelve are profoundly concerned that a breakthrough in the efforts to reach agreement on an international peace conference has not yet been made. In his report to the General Assembly in accordance with Resolution 42/209 [A] on the question of convening an international peace conference, the Secretary-General assessed that the necessary agreement does not exist for the convening of the conference, because of deep differences remaining on a basis acceptable to all. We have also taken note of the report of the Secretary-General in accordance with Resolution 42/209 [B], in which attention is drawn to the need for new and determined efforts to be made to bring about a peaceful settlement to the conflict. The Twelve fully support the Secretary-General in his efforts and they fully share his view for an urgent need to establish a



process acceptable to all for the negotiation of a just, lasting and comprehensive settlement in the Middle East. The Twelve will, for their part, continue their close contacts with all the parties concerned and will do all in their power to play their role fully in the search for such a settlement.

Mr President, in Lebanon, after 13 years of war and suffering, it is vital that a political solution be found. A worsened cycle of violence is bound to lead to a further deterioration of the situation. Whether, as a result of acts of resistance against foreign occupation, intercommunal strife, actions in southern Lebanon by the Israeli forces and their associates or attacks by whomsoever, of one kind or another, across the international border, there will always be innocent victims. This year again we have witnessed a very serious situation in and around some of the Palestinian camps in Lebanon alongside a continuation of violence, hostage taking and killings in different parts of Lebanon. Once again, we express our great concern for the fate of all hostages, including a number of our citizens held in Lebanon and appeal strongly on humanitarian grounds for their release as soon as possible.

In their statement on 21 November 1988, the Twelve expressed the hope that this friendly country can soon overcome the acute crisis through which it is going at present. The proper functioning and strengthening of Lebanon's constitutional bodies is a precondition for a political solution. We regret that the mandate of President Gemayel expired without a new President being elected. We strongly appeal to all parties to promote the election, in all freedom and without external pressures or interference, of a President able to carry out the task of national reconciliation, and to safeguard the unity, independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty in Lebanon. In this context, the Twelve recall the declaration on Lebanon adopted in Rhodes on 3 December 1988.

A solution also requires the total Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon. The so-called security zone and the continued presence of Israeli forces in South Lebanon, contrary to Security Council resolutions, can only hinder the restoration of stability to the area. Bearing this in mind, the Twelve firmly support the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon and urge that it be enabled to fulfil its mandate, in the best possible security conditions for its members, three of which belong to the Twelve. We reaffirm once more the obligation of all member States to meet their financial obligations so that a solution of the serious financial difficulties of UNIFIL may soon be found. We appeal to all parties to cooperate with the force in its effort to carry out its mandate and its task to maintain stable conditions and protect the civilian population in its area of operation.

Mr President, the Twelve welcomed the announcement by the Secretary-General of a cease-fire and its observance by the Governments of Iran and Iraq, followed by direct talks under the auspices of the United Nations Secretary-General. The success of the Secretary-General's efforts contributes to the prestige of the United Nations and paves the way for an increasing role of the Organization in maintaining international peace and security. The Twelve express their satisfaction at the observance of the cease-fire and at the establishment of UNIMOG to supervise the implementation of paragraph 1 of Resolution 598. However, Security Council Resolution 598 should be swiftly and fully implemented in all its parts. In this connection the Twelve continue to support the Secretary-General's efforts to secure the implementation of the resolution and urge both parties to cooperate closely with him in order rapidly to achieve a comprehensive, just, honourable and durable settlement of the conflict, in full compliance with Security Council Resolution 598, so that peace and security may be restored in the region.

Mr President, the Twelve will follow developments in the Middle East with great attention and concern. Peace in the region is of vital importance to the Middle East itself, to Europe and indeed to international peace and security at large. The Twelve, as in the past, will continue to support all efforts designed to bring about a peaceful and lasting settlement to the problems of the Middle East. Thank you, Mr President.

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<sup>1</sup> Agenda item 40.

**88/495. Déclaration de vote à la Seconde commission de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies: convention sur la notification en cas d'accident nucléaire et convention sur l'assistance en cas d'accident nucléaire ou d'émergence radiologique (décision 43/441)<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 5 December 1988

Place of Issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Au nom des douze États membres de la Communauté économique européenne, je voudrais dire que nous sommes satisfaits de l'adoption par consensus du projet de décision A/C.2/43/L.76, intitulé: « Convention sur la notification rapide d'un accident nucléaire et convention sur l'assistance en cas d'accident nucléaire ou de situation d'urgence radiologique ».

La question traitée par le document A/43/714 nous paraît effectivement importante et mérite une étude approfondie sur tous les aspects de la question. A cet effet, nous estimons qu'entre autres l'avis de la Sixième commission pourrait être un élément important.

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<sup>1</sup> Point 82 de l'ordre du jour.

**88/496. Explanation of Vote at the Plenary Session of the UN General Assembly: Draft Resolutions Concerning the Situation in the Middle East<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 6 December 1988

Place of Issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

Mr President, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community.

Our views on the principles which need to be applied to solving the conflicts of the Middle East were set out in full in our statement in this debate on 5 December.

The Twelve have serious reservations about the first two of the draft resolutions before the Assembly under this item. We are concerned by their lack of balance, and by the fact that they do not reflect basic principles which we consider essential for a solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Furthermore, we cannot accept language criticizing a Permanent Member of the Security Council for having exercised its rights in accordance with the Charter.

We are, however, glad to support the third draft resolution under this item, and in this regard wish to recall the importance we attach to Security Council Resolution 478 (1980).

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<sup>1</sup> Agenda item 40.

**88/497. Explanation of Vote in the Plenary Session of the UN General Assembly: Draft Resolution Concerning the Conservation of Climate as Part of the Common Heritage of Mankind (UNGA Res. 43/53)**

Date of Issue: 6 December 1988

Place of Issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

On behalf of the European Community and its Member States I would like to express our deep satisfaction at the adoption of the resolution L.17/Rev.1 entitled 'Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind'.

I would like to take this opportunity to emphasize the Community's deep interest in protecting the environment, as underlined at the highest level during the recent meeting of the Heads of State and Government in Rhodes. This holds also true in particular, on the issue of climate change. The ratification of the Montreal protocol by most Member States of the European Economic Community is an example of the importance we attach to this problem. Furthermore, the Commission of the European Community has prepared a report on the climate issue to be considered by the Council of Ministers very soon. This report contains a number of recommendations to combat effectively the greenhouse effect, addressing *inter alia* the question of assistance to developing countries, in their efforts to cope with the problems caused by it.

I would also like to stress that a number of Member States of the European Community have undertaken initiatives related to the climate question. Further initiatives have recently been announced in this respect.

Summarizing, Mr Chairman, I would like to assure you that the European Community and its Member States are looking forward to discussing the question of climate change in the 44th Session of the General Assembly.

### **88/498. Explanation of Vote in the Second Committee of the UN General Assembly: Draft Resolution L.77 on the Report of the Trade and Development Board<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 6 December 1988

Place of Issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

The European Community and its twelve Member States have joined the consensus on L.77 entitled 'Report of the Trade and Development Board'. I should, however, like to state that while agreeing to this resolution, it is our firm view that it does in no way prejudge the positions taken by Group B in Geneva in connection with the ongoing discussions of a draft provisional agenda for the spring session of 1989 of the Trade and Development Board.

<sup>1</sup> Agenda item 82 [B].

### **88/499. Report on European Union [EPC Aspects]**

Date of Issue: 6 December 1988

Place of Issue: Brussels

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Progress Report on European Union

#### *Political Cooperation activities*

In their Foreign Policy cooperation in 1988, the Twelve have been guided by their commitment under the Single European Act to endeavour jointly to formulate and implement a European foreign policy. They have achieved progress in this respect by making increasing use of all pertinent provisions of the Act.

In measuring progress in European political cooperation, what matters is the degree of cooperation on substance and cohesion in action. In this context, it is significant that the Twelve

have been able to adopt and express common positions on a growing number of subjects of international importance. In the first eleven months of this year, this has resulted in approximately 50 statements (compared to 25 for the whole of 1983 and 15 ten years ago).

European political cooperation has achieved a great number of joint positions of the Twelve and thus allowed for considerable convergence of policies as well as the implementation of joint action. The commitment to consult and coordinate has continued to be at the heart of EPC. The Twelve have reached common assessment of most major international issues as a basis for their developing joint policies. In this respect, common positions, as expressed in public statements, have been an important element in the formulation and implementation of such policies. The Twelve, making use of their numerous contacts with third countries and groups of States, have actively pursued their agreed policies and actions either by means of joint or coordinated *démarches* or through channels of quiet diplomacy.

In addition, the Foreign Ministers of the respective Presidencies have delivered major speeches on behalf of the Twelve at the San José IV Conference in Hamburg (February 1988), at the EC-ASEAN Conference in Düsseldorf (May 1988), at the 3rd Special Session devoted to Disarmament in the UN (June 1988) and at the 43rd UN General Assembly as well as on other occasions. In particular the General Assembly speech sets out in detail the Twelve's positions on the current international agenda.

The sheer amount of meetings and other contacts among the Twelve demonstrate the intensity of consultations and the extent of collective efforts jointly to formulate and implement a European foreign policy.

Over the last twelve months Foreign Ministers held seven meetings (formal and informal) devoted to European political cooperation and took up European political cooperation matters in the margin of most meetings in the General Affairs Council. All twelve Foreign Ministers and a Member of the Commission also met with Secretary of State George Shultz, with most Foreign Ministers from Latin America, with the Foreign Ministers from ASEAN and with their colleagues from the Gulf countries.

Both from the European Council in Copenhagen in December 1987 and from the European Council in Hanover in June 1988 substantial conclusions on European political cooperation subjects were made public.

During the last year approximately [one] hundred meetings of European political cooperation working groups took place, each involving on average 20 officials from the Foreign Ministries of the Twelve, responsible for a particular region or issue. The Commission is fully associated with the proceedings of Political Cooperation and represented at all European political cooperation meetings. The working groups, in addition to extensive exchanges of views and information, *inter alia* make recommendations, when necessary, to the Political Committee which consists of high officials (Political Directors) from the Foreign Ministries.

The Political Committee convened fifteen times over the past twelve months in order to give the necessary impetus, to maintain the continuity of European political cooperation and to prepare Ministers' discussions. The Political Committee is assisted by the group of European Correspondents who are in charge of monitoring the smooth functioning of European political cooperation.

Many questions were raised, much information shared and positions agreed via the cypher-telex net (called Coreu, *Correspondence Européenne*) which links the twelve Foreign Ministers, the Commission and the European political cooperation Secretariat. The number of Coreu telexes sent to all partners via this network is very considerable.

The Twelve, represented by the Presidency have numerous contacts with a great number of countries via normal diplomatic channels. On some occasions the Troika (the preceding, present and succeeding Presidencies plus the Commission), represents the Twelve. Many contacts take place in the Presidency capital, others in third countries. These contacts are used to receive or seek information, to present the common views of the Twelve or to make formal *démarches*.

Heads of Missions of the Twelve in all third countries and at international organizations as well as their collaborators also met regularly. This cooperation among missions in third countries constitutes a basis for projecting the common identity of the Twelve externally, it is an instrument for European political cooperation in third countries and it also serves as a useful framework for administrative cooperation. During the year under review the Twelve established a coordinated approach in order to stimulate administrative cooperation, particularly in the health field.

At the CSCE Follow-Up Meeting in Vienna, Heads of Delegation of the Twelve have had weekly meetings when the conference has been in session. The Twelve's experts in the various CSCE working bodies in Vienna also met very frequently.

At many other international meetings, in the United Nations framework and elsewhere, the Twelve also strive to coordinate their views and to speak and act with one voice. At the United Nations, where cooperation among the Twelve is intense, twelve meetings of Permanent Representatives took place in preparation of and during the 42nd General Assembly. Experts of the Twelve had 220 meetings, 92 common statements and explanation of votes were delivered orally. Twelve written statements were circulated as official UN documents. Cooperation at the ongoing 43rd General Assembly is equally comprehensive.

Over the last year, regular consultations with third countries and groups of such countries have been intensified.

During the first half of 1988 new arrangements were agreed upon for contacts with Norway, Austria, Malta, Canada and Finland. In the second half of 1988 arrangements for contacts with Cyprus were made.

The Presidency of the Twelve or the Troika — either at ministerial or Political Director level — met as part of regular consultations with *inter alia* the following countries in 1988: Austria, Canada, China, Cyprus, Japan, Malta, Norway, Turkey, the United States of America. There have also been meetings *inter alia* with Australia, India and the Philippines.

In the period under review the Twelve, the Troika or the Presidency, have also had contacts with groups of countries, including the other Council of Europe countries, ASEAN and the so-called Dialogue Partners, the Central American and Contadora countries, the so-called 'Group of Eight', Latin American countries, the five Central American countries alone, the ACP countries, the Gulf Cooperation Council and meetings in the framework of the Euro-Arab dialogue.

In February, 1988, the Twelve's Foreign Ministers met with King Hussein of Jordan in his capacity as Chairman of the Special Summit of the Arab League in Amman. In July 1988, the Troika at ministerial level met with Prince Sihanouk.

It is customary that the Twelve's Heads of Mission in many third countries meet as a group with Cabinet Members or high officials of the host country.

The European Parliament's close association with European political cooperation has been assured and further improved over the past twelve months.

The Twelve had on many occasions an extensive exchange of views on various aspects of the relations with the European Parliament, aiming at fully using the possibilities of contacts provided in the Single European Act and the Foreign Ministers' decision of 28 February 1986 (attached to this report)<sup>1</sup>.

Based on their assessment of the importance of the European Parliament being closely associated with European political cooperation, the Twelve worked towards improving their contacts with Parliament both in quality and quantity.

Through the statements by the Presidency to Parliament, in the colloquies with the Political Affairs Committee, through the monthly Question Time in Strasbourg, through the participation of the Presidency in major debates on foreign policy issues, as well as through the answers provided to numerous written questions, the views of the European Parliament, particularly as

expressed in its resolutions, were duly taken into consideration. The dialogue with the European Parliament on a wide range of foreign policy issues was of great importance. The Twelve are determined to further intensify this dialogue.

### *East-West relations*

The overall improvement in East-West relations continued in 1988. The Twelve have been actively supporting and contributing to this process. They are determined to continue to strive for a dynamic development of East-West relations and have made their views known publicly on many occasions: in the conclusions from the European Councils in Copenhagen (December 1987) and Hanover (June 1988), in declarations from European political cooperation ministerial meetings in Luxembourg (June 1988) and Athens (July 1988) and in the Presidency's speech on behalf of the Twelve in the general debate of the 43rd UN General Assembly.

These declarations reflect the steadily evolving positions of the Twelve on these matters of crucial importance.

East-West relations, and the role of the Twelve therein, were also the subject of in-depth discussions by Foreign Ministers at their informal meetings in Constance (March 1988) and Ioannina (October 1988). These exchanges of views on East-West relations are in particular aimed at developing possible lines of action by the Twelve.

With regard to particular issues, the Twelve have welcomed not only the developments in the Soviet Union and in some countries of Eastern Europe and expressed the hope that these may lead to openings of the political and economic systems of these countries. They have also welcomed the developments in the way these countries approach certain international issues. The changes contribute to consolidating and intensifying East-West relations. The Twelve have stated their willingness to use such opportunities constructively.

At the same time the Twelve continued to follow the human rights situation closely. They took up this issue at the CSCE Follow-Up Meeting in Vienna. They made *démarches* to certain governments of Eastern Europe to raise specific human rights violations.

With Romania they also voiced their concerns about the possible implications of the so-called 'systematization project' in that country.

They have defined, as in previous years, common positions on a wide range of questions on the international disarmament agenda, and actively pursued their views *inter alia* at the Third Special Session of the United Nations devoted to Disarmament in June of this year and at the ongoing 43rd General Assembly.

With regard to particular disarmament issues, the Twelve have fully supported the signature and ratification of the INF Agreement. They consider that many of the Treaty's provisions set important precedents for future arms control agreements, in particular asymmetrical reductions and intrusive verification procedures. They also support efforts to bring about a fifty per cent reduction in the strategic nuclear arsenals of the United States and the Soviet Union as well as an agreement on space issues.

The Twelve have reaffirmed on several occasions in 1988 their commitment to the total elimination of chemical weapons and actively supported steps to that end in the United Nations framework as well as the negotiations at the Conference in Geneva on such a ban. They have also supported the proposal to convene an international conference on the problems of use and proliferation of chemical weapons in Paris in 1989.

As is evident from their public statements of 1988, the Twelve attach particular importance to problems concerning security in Europe, where serious imbalances persist, in particular in the conventional field. The need for conventional arms control — the key issue of European security — is therefore especially urgent in this area also.

To enhance security in Europe it is necessary to establish a stable and secure balance of conventional forces at lower levels and to introduce a further set of confidence- and security-building measures. The Twelve look forward to the start within the framework of the

CSCE process of negotiations on such CSBM and on conventional stability where the aim will be to eliminate existing disparities prejudicial to stability and security and to eliminate the capability for launching surprise attack and for initiating large-scale offensive action. In view of the potential offered by negotiations on conventional stability covering the whole of Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals, particular importance is attached to the achievement of a mandate and to the early commencement of these negotiations. A successful conclusion of the Vienna CSCE follow-up meeting would secure the opening of these negotiations.

The CSCE process remains of particular importance to the Twelve. It shows the way to overcome the barriers of distrust which divide the European continent. The Twelve do not accept that military security agreements alone can bear the full weight of East-West relations.

In Vienna the Twelve have worked untiringly for more than two years now to secure a satisfactory outcome, ensuring substantial progress in the CSCE process not only as concerns security, but equally important in the fields of human rights and cooperation. Consultations among the Twelve with a view to ensure satisfactory reflection of their common proposals in the Vienna concluding document have been intense, particularly among their delegations in Vienna, but also at meetings among experts from capitals, in the Political Committee and among Ministers. Ministers met in March 1988 exclusively to discuss CSCE. At that meeting they took decisions to induce new momentum into the Vienna negotiations. From their meeting in Athens in July the Foreign Ministers issued a substantial declaration, focusing on CSCE.

On most issues in Vienna, the Twelve speak with one voice and are represented in the various negotiating sub-bodies by the Presidency. The persistence and overall cohesion of the Twelve which has been brought about and maintained through this constantly ongoing process of internal consultation and concertation is no doubt a major reason why a balanced and substantial result now seems to be within reach. This would secure the opening of negotiations on conventional stability in Europe, aiming at the establishment of a stable and secure balance of conventional forces in Europe, at a lower level, and on a further set of confidence- and security-building measures. At the same time it would establish a multilateral mechanism to achieve a better implementation of the commitments on human rights and human contacts and call for the convening of a Conference on the Human Dimension. It would also ensure the organization of other specialized meetings.

### *Middle East*

In the past twelve months the problems of the Middle East have attracted the particular attention of the Twelve in many respects. The Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories which has now lasted for eleven months has underlined the urgent need for a negotiated solution for the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Concerning the deteriorating conditions in the occupied territories and the repressive measures Israel has taken, the Twelve have made numerous *démarches* with the Israeli Government and issued several statements, in particular regarding the loss of life, deportations of Palestinians, the destruction of houses, the practice of administrative detention and the restrictions of media. In their declaration on 8 February 1988, the twelve Ministers stated that the status quo in the occupied territories is not sustainable and that they remain determined to work towards improving the living conditions of the inhabitants of the occupied territories. At the same time, the Community pursued its development programme for the territories, granted additional humanitarian aid to the Palestine population and promoted direct exports of agricultural and industrial products from the territories to the Community market. Parallel to these European Community actions, the Twelve have with their actions tried to improve the conditions of the population in the occupied territories.

The Ministers have repeatedly stressed their conviction that the only solution will be achieved by a comprehensive, just and lasting political settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict as proposed by the Twelve in their 1980 Venice Declaration, in the Ministerial Declaration of 23 February

1987 and in subsequent declarations. As the European Council of Copenhagen on 5 December 1987 had done, the Ministers reaffirmed their strong support for an international peace conference under the auspices of the United Nations. The European Council has expressly welcomed the endorsement given to such a conference by the Arab League Summit in Amman.

In the course of the year 1988, the Twelve made use of all open channels and opportunities to call for moderation of all parties concerned, and to contribute to advancing the peace process. Contacts at all levels have been sought: At the Foreign Ministers meeting in Bonn on 8 February 1988, the Twelve had a thorough exchange of views with King Hussein of Jordan in his capacity as Chairman of the Special Summit of the Arab League in Amman. In May, they met with the Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres on the occasion of a meeting of the Cooperation Council with Israel. Bilateral contacts with the PLO chairman, Mr Arafat, have been pursued on the occasion of his visit to the Socialist Group of the European Parliament.

In their dialogue with the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council, as well as in their efforts to revitalize the Euro-Arab dialogue, the Twelve saw also a great potential to contribute constructively to a peaceful dialogue within the region.

### *Lebanon*

Another focal point of the Twelve and of their discussions in European political cooperation was the situation in Lebanon. They have on several occasions appealed to all parties to work together constructively for a political solution of the Lebanese crisis. Before the presidential elections they called upon all parties to make mutual concessions and to ensure the proper functioning of Lebanon's constitutional bodies. They noted with great concern the failures to elect a President. The Twelve are convinced that a lasting political solution to the crisis which has brought thirteen years of war and suffering to the country can only be achieved through national conciliation. They will therefore continue to support all efforts aimed at restoring the sovereignty, the unity, the independence and territorial integrity of Lebanon. The Twelve have underlined their support for UNIFIL and called upon all parties to fulfil its mandate without hindrance.

### *Iraq-Iran conflict*

In their continuous efforts to convince both sides in the conflict of the need for a comprehensive and immediate implementation of Resolution 598 of the UN Security Council, the Twelve have given their unreserved support to the mediation efforts of the UN Secretary-General. In a statement issued on 10 August 1988, they welcomed the announcement of the cease-fire and paid tribute to the UN Secretary-General for his untiring efforts and dedication, which, with the cooperation of the parties involved, led to this historic decision.

In congruence with their former vigorous condemnations of the use of chemical weapons in the conflict, the Twelve in a *démarche* made to the UN Secretary-General on 25 March 1988 condemned again the use of chemical weapons against civilian populations and assured the UN Secretary-General of the full support of the Twelve for his efforts in this matter.

In the aftermath of the cease-fire in the Iraq-Iran war, the Twelve have on 7 September 1988 issued a statement in which they expressed great concern that military action was being taken against the Kurdish civilian population. They were gravely concerned at reports of the alleged use of chemical weapons against the Kurds and called for respect of international humanitarian law and of Resolutions 612 and 620 of the UN Security Council.

At the same time, they declared that the Community stands ready to play its part in the efforts to ease the plight of the refugee Kurdish population. Individual Members of the Twelve have together with the Community made financial contributions and given humanitarian aid to the refugees.



### *Maghreb*

In their statement of 27 May 1988, the Twelve welcomed the re-establishment of relations between Morocco and Algeria and considered the normalization as an encouraging sign for closer cooperation between the countries of the Maghreb.

### *Western Sahara*

The Twelve welcomed in a statement issued on 7 September 1988 the positive reactions of the parties concerned to the peace plan on Western Sahara, put forward by the UN Secretary-General. As they have encouraged the efforts of the UN Secretary-General in his mission, they also gave their support to his actions aimed at holding a referendum on self-determination, under the auspices of the United Nations.

### *Africa*

#### *South Africa*

The Twelve have actively pursued their common policy designed at contributing to the total dismantlement of apartheid through peaceful means. They have monitored very closely the situation in the country, in particular as regards human rights, and have adopted common positions concerning the major problems with which the South African population is confronted. They have continued their policy of pressure and persuasion based on a two-track approach — implementing positive and restrictive measures — and have taken joint action in cases of particular concern.

In the speech delivered on behalf of the Twelve at the 43rd Session of the UN General Assembly, the Presidency noted that 1988 has again been marked by serious and disturbing developments which point to the fact that Pretoria is still unwilling to commit itself to real and significant change.

On 24 February, the South African Government prohibited seventeen South African organizations peacefully opposed to apartheid from carrying on any activities whatsoever and restricted the activities of COSATU. The Twelve, in a statement issued the following day, vigorously condemned this decision and urged the South African Government most strongly to repeal the imposed measures without delay. However, since then a number of other organizations have had their activities prohibited.

Swift action has also been taken regarding the Sharpeville Six. Foreign Ministers in Luxembourg (14 June) and the European Council in Hanover (27-28 June) urged the South African authorities to use all options available to prevent the death penalty from being carried out. Numerous direct *démarches* to the authorities in Pretoria have been undertaken by the Twelve in this respect, recalling the European Council's conclusion that relations with South Africa run the risk of being worsened even further.

The situation of political prisoners has also been actively addressed by the Twelve. The European Council strongly appealed to the South African Government to free Nelson Mandela and all other political prisoners. On the occasion of the 70th anniversary of Nelson Mandela on 18 July, Foreign Ministers reiterated this appeal, which was again made on 19 August. The Twelve have also carried out joint *démarches* to press the South African authorities to reconsider their continuing policy of detention without charge, with particular reference to the situation of children and young people. Joint diplomatic action has also been taken regarding discriminatory legislation, such as the Group Areas Act.

The Community and its Member States attach great importance to their programmes of positive measures in favour of the victims of apartheid and, in this respect, have repeatedly voiced their concern at the bill introduced by the South African Government with the aim of precluding anti-apartheid organizations, striving for peaceful change, from receiving financial aid from abroad. The European Council stated that the enactment of the proposed bill would place additional strain on the relations of the Twelve with South Africa.

Throughout 1988, the Twelve continued the strict implementation of the restrictive measures agreed in 1985 and 1986. The Twelve closely monitor the application of these measures.

The Code of Conduct for Community companies with subsidiaries in South Africa is an important instrument of the Twelve's joint policy towards South Africa and is being applied with satisfactory results, as stated by Foreign Ministers on 8 February on the occasion of the approval of the Seventh Synthesis Report on the application of the Code.

This report was forwarded to the European Parliament and to the Economic and Social Committee of the European Community.

#### *Southern Africa*

The Twelve have followed with great interest developments in Southern Africa, in particular the negotiations aimed at securing peace in Angola and independence for Namibia. In view of South African aggression and destabilizing acts against neighbouring States, which have always been condemned by the Twelve, the efforts towards peace and stability in the region have been a matter of sustained attention in European political cooperation.

The Twelve have on several occasions supported the negotiations concerning Angola and Namibia and welcomed the progress achieved. In doing so, they have repeatedly called for the implementation without further delay or conditions of the UN Security Council Resolution 435 (1978) on the independence of Namibia and have supported the important role and efforts of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The long-standing common position of the Twelve has been reiterated by the European Council on 27-28 June, by Foreign Ministers on 18 July and 24 October, and by the Presidency on behalf of the Twelve, on the occasion of Namibia Day (26 August) and at the UN General Assembly.

In their declaration of 24 October, the Community and its Member States reiterated their readiness to continue and, if necessary, to expand their aid to the Namibian people with a view to securing a smooth transition to independence. Furthermore, they reaffirmed their intention to assist Namibia economically in a substantial way once it becomes independent. In this connection, they stated that they are looking forward to receiving from an independent Namibia an application for association to the Lomé Convention.

The Twelve remain committed to supporting politically and financially Southern African countries, and in this respect, they and the Community have continued their support to the substantial aid programmes.

#### *Horn of Africa*

The Twelve have been monitoring closely developments in the Horn of Africa and, following their statements of 21 April and 11 October, regarding the question of relief supplies in Ethiopia and Sudan respectively, issued a major declaration on 24 October expressing their wish to see conditions for peace, security and social and economic development prevail in the region and their determination to pursue their constructive role there. While welcoming the improvement of relations between Ethiopia and both Somalia and Sudan, the Twelve stated their concern about the persistence of internal conflicts and the resulting hardship and loss of human lives and urged the governments concerned to take further steps to achieve the peaceful settlement of these conflicts and to ensure respect for human rights. The Community and its Member States have undertaken to continue to provide food and other emergency aid, in addition to their considerable contribution in development assistance, with the aim of promoting long-term development based on sound economic strategies.

#### *Latin America*

The main developments in Latin America were the establishment and the consolidation of the permanent mechanism for consultation and for concerted political action among eight countries of the region, and the plebiscite in Chile, the result of which demonstrated the will of the Chilean people for a restoration of democracy.

As far as the Group of Eight is concerned, the Twelve welcomed their initiative, which opened up new paths for regional concertation and expressed their determination to pursue their dialogue with these countries aimed at promoting peace, development, democracy and stability in Latin America. In this context, the Twelve held two ministerial meetings with the Group of Eight, in Hamburg and in New York, where a frank and constructive exchange of views has taken place. A new meeting is scheduled for the first semester of 1989.

At their European political cooperation ministerial meeting in Athens last July, the Twelve reiterated their will to see an early and orderly restoration of democracy in Chile and recalled their attachment to free and democratic elections in that country. They also defined the essential elements for the proper conduct of this plebiscite.

Furthermore, the Twelve made numerous *démarches* to the Chilean authorities on cases concerning human rights abuses as well as civil liberties.

For the plebiscite, they established in Chile a network of logistic assistance to the European observers.

The Twelve are determined to continue their action until democracy, respect for human rights and civil liberties are fully restored in Chile, in conformity with the assessment of the European Council in Hanover, which underlined the fundamental importance of the rule of democracy and the normal functioning of democratic institutions as a key factor for stability in the sub-continent.

#### *Central America*

In Central America, the Twelve have been very active on two major issues: to maintain the momentum created by the Esquipulas-II Agreement and to support, to the best of their abilities, the peace process. The latter experienced different phases during the period in question.

From the optimism of the Central American Summit meeting on 15 and 16 January 1988 to the set-back registered at the Executive Committee meeting on 23-24 March 1988, through the Sapoa Agreement on 23 March 1988, the Twelve have always been present either by their declarations, or by their collective and bilateral *démarches*.

The main event in the contacts between the Community and its Member States on the one hand and the Central American States and the Contadora Group on the other was, as expected, the San José IV ministerial meeting, celebrated in Hamburg on 29 February and 1 March 1988. In this context, the Twelve reiterated their commitment towards the 'immediate plan of action' presented by the Central American countries, aiming at obtaining the support of the international community for the economic reactivation and development of their region. Furthermore, the Community stated its will to grant special emergency aid in food, to strengthen the programme for the voluntary repatriation of refugees and the relocation of displaced persons and to make a specific contribution to the material and technical organization of the elections to the Central American Parliament. Last but not least, the Twelve reiterated their desire to cooperate in the performance of the task of verification, monitoring and following up of the Esquipulas-II Peace Agreement, if so requested by all Central American States.

The European Council in Hanover reaffirmed, once more, the determination of the Twelve to provide continued support for this process. In this context, the Twelve have undertaken a new round of contacts with the five Central American countries in order to explore ways and means by which they could unblock the situation.

Furthermore, both in the Presidency's speech at the 43rd UN General Assembly and at their meeting in New York with the five Central American Ministers for Foreign Affairs, the Twelve expressed their concern for the slowing down of the process and urged them to make every effort to give new impetus to the peace process by fully implementing all the commitments they have assumed under the Esquipulas-II Agreement.

It is worthwhile to note that, once more, the role of the Twelve has been reaffirmed as a catalyst factor of the peace process as it was for the first time during the last few months that the five Central American Ministers were together again and agreed on a new Summit meeting.

The Twelve are determined to continue to play their constructive role in the region and they will spare no efforts so that the San José-V ministerial meeting be held in an improved climate and that the Ministers can focus their attention mainly on ways and means for further cooperation between Europe and Central America.

#### *Cyprus*

The tragic division of Cyprus, a member of the European family, remains unchanged. The Twelve have on many occasions called for a just and viable solution to this problem which provides for the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and unity of the Republic of Cyprus. They support fully the efforts of the Secretary-General of the United Nations which have permitted a resumption of the intercommunal dialogue and they have appealed to the parties concerned to cooperate in order to achieve these objectives. The Twelve intend to promote their political dialogue with Cyprus which was requested by the Government of the Republic in June 1988.

#### *Asia*

The Seventh EC-ASEAN ministerial meeting held in Düsseldorf in May 1988 marked the tenth anniversary of the formalized EC-ASEAN dialogue. It brought the two regional groups of States even closer together and determined common positions on important issues such as the Kampuchean conflict.

#### *Afghanistan*

The past year has been characterized by the signing of the Geneva agreements which were welcomed by the Twelve. They have clearly expressed themselves in favour of the pursuit of the peace process in Afghanistan that involves the complete withdrawal of all Soviet troops in accordance with the agreed timetable, the return of refugees, the establishment of a representative government, the exercise by the Afghan people of the right to self-determination as well as the involvement of the Afghan resistance in this whole process. At the same time, the Twelve have confirmed their readiness to contribute, when the time comes, to the resettlement of refugees and to the reconstruction of the country.

#### *Kampuchea*

At a moment when the Kampuchean problem entered into a decisive phase, the Twelve have on various occasions reaffirmed the principles of a political solution to the conflict which in their view is the result of a military occupation in violation of the fundamental principles of the United Nations and of international law.

They also called on Vietnam to withdraw all its troops from this country. At the occasion of the Jakarta informal meeting in July, they have strongly supported the constructive efforts of ASEAN in search for a comprehensive political settlement. They also supported Prince Sihanouk in his efforts to restore an independent, democratic, neutral and non-aligned Kampuchea that must be free from any prospect of return to the universally condemned policies and practices of the recent past.

#### *Burma*

The Twelve have followed the recent developments in Burma with deep concern. They have deplored the fact that violence has taken dramatic dimensions and led to a great loss of life.

They have called twice upon the military authorities to refrain from all acts of violence and to open a substantial dialogue with all political parties aiming at the restoration of democracy and the organization of free multi-party elections.

#### *Korean Peninsula*

The democratic reforms in South Korea and the atmosphere in which the Olympic Games have been held constitute encouraging signs.

The Twelve have welcomed the renewal of contacts between North and South. They are encouraged by the fact that new proposals which aim at reducing tensions on the Korean Peninsula have now been put forward by both sides in a conciliatory tone. They have welcomed in particular those put forward by President Roh at the United Nations on 18 October and hope that both sides will show flexibility and imagination in seeking a peaceful solution to the problems of the Korean Peninsula.

### *Human Rights*

Respect for human rights constitutes an essential element in the Twelve's policy. In their declaration of 21 July 1986, they set out the principles for their actions in this field. Violations of human rights have induced them to undertake numerous *démarches* as well of a general nature as on specific cases also this past year. These numerous interventions are the best proof that human rights constitute an integral part of the Community's relations with third countries. In this regard, the increasing coordination among the Twelve in this field demonstrates the priority interest which the Twelve attach to respect for human rights. This coordination takes place not least in the European political cooperation Working Group on Human Rights.

### *United Nations*

It is with great satisfaction that the Twelve have welcomed the United Nations' growing role, as well as its accomplishments in recent months. They stated, therefore, in the Presidency's speech at the 43rd UN General Assembly, that they are determined to support every effort in order to enhance the authority of the UN and render its existing mechanisms and activities, such as the UN peace-keeping operations, more effective. In this context, during the past twelve months, they spared no efforts to express their concern and to convince member States of the Organization to fulfil their financial obligations in full and on time according to the Charter. Recent developments justified our concerted and consistent action and give rise to a certain optimism.

In this new climate, the Twelve are the main group of Western countries capable of common action in the United Nations.

Over the years, the role and thus the responsibility of the Twelve within the framework of the UN system has considerably increased. This responsibility of the Twelve constituted one more reason for them [to make] their positions even more unified and more coherent.

Last year's efforts led to further improvement of their voting pattern. As already mentioned, Permanent Representatives as well as various expert groups of the Twelve met numerous times during the 42nd UN General Assembly. Many common statements and explanations of votes were delivered.

The analysis of votes cast by the Twelve during last year's session shows a continuation of the trend over previous years towards more coordinated positions. Thus, the Twelve achieved a common position over 75 per cent of the time (1986: 70 per cent), including the approximately 53 per cent of votes taken by consensus (1986: 45 percent). The number of three-way splits was reduced by approximately 50 per cent (from 34 in 1986 to 19 in 1987).

The Twelve are determined to safeguard these achievements and to further improve their UN voting pattern. For that reason, this issue has been almost constantly on the agenda of the European political cooperation with a view to explore ways and means aiming at a further considerable strengthening of the cohesion among the Twelve, during the 43rd session of the UN General Assembly.

### *Cooperation to Combat International Terrorism*

The Twelve have continued to develop and strengthen their cooperation to combat international terrorism. They have actively participated and coordinated their actions within various

international forums to strengthen measures against terrorism in all its forms. They have confirmed this determination in the Presidency statement in New York at the 43rd UN General Assembly and they have reiterated their appeal to all countries which have not yet signed international conventions on civil aviation and maritime security to accede to these important instruments.

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<sup>1</sup> Annex omitted. See *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 86/090.

### **88/500. Statement Concerning the Incidents Provoked by the Rebellion of Certain Army Elements in Argentina**

Date of Issue: 6 December 1988  
Place of Issue: Athens  
Country of Presidency: Greece  
Source of Document: The Twelve  
Status of Document: Declaration

The Twelve express their satisfaction at the reaffirmation of the legitimate authority of the State in Argentina, following the incidents provoked by the rebellion of certain army elements.

On this occasion, the Twelve express their solidarity and support to the efforts deployed for the consolidation and deepening of the democratic institutions in Argentina.

### **88/501. Explanation of Vote in the Second Committee of the UN General Assembly: Draft Resolution L.79 on Specific Measures in Favour of Island Developing Countries (UNGA Res. 43/189)<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 7 December 1988  
Place of Issue: New York  
Country of Presidency: Greece  
Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations  
Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

The European Community and its twelve Member States were pleased to join the consensus on resolution A/C.2/43/L.79 entitled 'Specific Measures in Favour of Island Developing Countries' just adopted.

I should like to take this opportunity to explain that the European Community and its Member States do not recognize island developing countries as a separate category. They do however, pay special attention to their specific needs and problems.

The European Community through the Lomé Convention and the Member States through their own programmes have established, on the basis of objectives and priorities of the individual countries, series of measures and provisions concerning financial and technical assistance with reference to their economic situation and to the nature of the needs specific to each country.

Considerations of the same nature equally apply to the relevant paragraphs in draft resolutions A/C.2/43/L.78 concerning operational activities for development and A/C.2/43/L.67 concerning special programmes of economic assistance.

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<sup>1</sup> Agenda item 82 [B].

## 88/502. Déclaration à la session plénière de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies sur le quarantième anniversaire de la Déclaration universelle des droits de l'homme<sup>1</sup>

Date of Issue: 8 December 1988

Place of Issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

*M. Zepos:* Monsieur le Président, j'ai l'honneur de m'adresser aujourd'hui à l'Assemblée générale au nom des douze États membres de la Communauté européenne.

Les Douze souhaitent s'associer à tous les autres États membres des Nations Unies dans la célébration du quarantième anniversaire de l'adoption de la Déclaration universelle des droits de l'homme. Il y a quarante ans, le 10 décembre 1948, les États membres des Nations Unies reconnaissent que la dignité inhérente à tous les membres de la famille humaine ainsi que leurs droits inaliénables et égaux constituaient les fondements de la liberté, de la justice et de la paix dans le monde, et que la méconnaissance et le mépris des droits de l'homme avaient abouti à des actes de barbarie qui indignaient la conscience de l'humanité. Ils ont alors proclamé, au Palais Chaillot à Paris, la Déclaration universelle des droits de l'homme comme « l'idéal commun à atteindre par tous les peuples et toutes les nations ».

Avec l'adoption de la Déclaration universelle, le processus historique sauvegarde de la dignité humaine, processus symbolisé par des textes tels que la *Magna Charta* et la Déclaration des droits de l'homme et du citoyen, est devenu universel. Dans le sillage de la Déclaration, les droits de l'homme ne constituent plus une affaire d'ordre interne mais une préoccupation légitime de la communauté internationale.

Au cours des quarante années qui se sont écoulées depuis cette Déclaration, son contenu et ses implications ont été considérablement commentés. Mais une chose est certaine: au cours des années, la déclaration n'a pas été dépassée par les événements et les changements rapides survenus; au contraire, elle a gagné en stature, jusqu'à devenir le modèle universel et incontesté qu'elle se trouve être pour tous les États, quels que soient leurs systèmes économiques, sociaux et politiques. Ainsi que l'a dit Dag Hammarskjöld, « la Déclaration s'est affirmée comme un document vivant ».

Monsieur le Président, depuis leur origine, les Nations Unies se sont trouvées au premier rang de la protection des droits de l'homme. La Charte des Nations Unies considère la protection et la promotion des droits de l'homme comme l'une de ses quatre pierres d'angle, avec la paix, la coopération et le développement. Cependant, la Charte n'ayant pas établi l'énumération des droits de l'homme, c'est à la Commission des droits de l'homme, nouvellement créée, qu'est revenue cette tâche majeure.

La Commission des droits de l'homme s'est engagée activement dans ce qu'elle a défini comme sa première mission: une déclaration de principes. Ce résultat a réellement constitué une prouesse considérable, étant donné la diversité des points de vue en présence apparemment inconciliables et dont — il est bon de le souligner — le texte final reflète d'une façon ou d'une autre tous les aspects.

La Déclaration universelle a été adoptée sans une seule opposition. Elle a inspiré la législation interne d'un grand nombre d'États et a été invoquée par les actes internationaux les plus importants, actes de nature politique ou actes créateurs de droits. Citons, par exemple, les deux Pactes internationaux sur les droits de l'homme et, au niveau régional, la Convention européenne de 1950 des droits de l'homme, la Convention américaine de 1969 des droits de l'homme, l'Acte final d'Helsinki de 1975 et la Charte africaine sur les droits de l'homme et des peuples de 1981. Ainsi donc, la Déclaration, dont l'autorité morale est toujours demeurée inattaquable, a aussi acquis une dimension juridique marquée.

Monsieur le Président, le respect des droits de l'homme est d'abord un impératif d'ordre moral. Il est fondé sur la dignité inhérente et la valeur de chaque homme et de chaque femme en

vertu même de leur condition d'être humain. Et l'on pourrait même aller jusqu'à dire que s'écarter de normes morales unanimement acceptées est aussi difficile à justifier que la violation de normes juridiques.

Ensuite, le respect et la promotion des droits de l'homme est un impératif d'ordre normatif, inscrit dans une série de documents politiques et juridiques d'une importance fondamentale. Les États devraient traduire leur adhésion aux droits de l'homme dans leur propre système juridique et se pencher sur la situation des droits de l'homme dans d'autres pays. Ce dernier point constitue un souci légitime, et même un devoir de tous les États, que l'on ne peut en aucun cas interpréter comme une forme d'ingérence dans les affaires intérieures.

Enfin, le respect des droits de l'homme est un impératif politique. Les gouvernements qui violent les droits de l'homme ne vont pas seulement à l'encontre de leurs plus hautes obligations en tant qu'autorités gouvernementales, mais ils risquent de remettre en cause leur propre survie à terme, leur légitimité se trouvant, alors, inévitablement sapée. Leur maintien au pouvoir ne serait possible que par une véritable coercition, c'est-à-dire par d'autres actes de violation des droits de l'homme.

En outre, le respect des droits de l'homme par les gouvernements est une condition « sine qua non » de la paix. Au contraire, des violations à grande échelle des droits de l'homme remettent la paix en question. La violation des droits de l'homme conduit à un conflit intérieur dont les répercussions sont internationales. De plus, les gouvernements qui ne sont pas démocratiques et qui utilisent des mesures contraignantes sur leurs propres territoires tendent à adopter une attitude agressive dans leurs relations avec les autres États. La logique est claire. Un État qui ne respecte pas ses propres citoyens n'est vraisemblablement pas susceptible de respecter d'autres États et d'autres peuples.

Monsieur le Président, les Douze accordent la plus haute importance au respect et à la promotion des droits de l'homme dans le monde entier. A cet égard, ils ont pris une part active aux efforts des Nations Unies et d'autres organisations internationales pour leur mise en œuvre. Ensemble ou séparément, ils ont exprimé à maintes reprises leur grande préoccupation devant certaines violations spécifiques des droits de l'homme.

Pour les Douze, le but d'une déclaration des droits de l'homme est la protection de l'individu: il faut scrupuleusement adhérer au respect des droits de l'homme qui sont avant tout les droits de l'individu. Dans le cas plus particulièrement des droits civils et politiques, les Douze ont déclaré à de multiples reprises que rien ne pouvait justifier le retard mis à les appliquer. Les droits économiques, sociaux et culturels se prêtent, en revanche, par leur nature même, à une mise en œuvre graduelle. La position commune des Douze en matière de droits de l'homme a été clairement définie dans un document officiel, la Déclaration des droits de l'homme de juillet 1986.

Si l'on se tourne vers le futur, on ne peut que souligner la nécessité d'être vigilant. Les récents développements technologiques en matière d'informatique, de médecine, de biotechnologies et dans d'autres domaines contiennent des menaces considérables pour le respect des droits de l'homme. Cette menace est insuffisamment comprise et nous devons étudier les moyens efficaces d'y remédier.

Nous désirons également souligner l'importance que nous attachons au remarquable travail du programme des Nations Unies pour les services consultatifs, ainsi qu'aux activités menées en matière d'information publique et d'éducation, qui contribuent à renforcer le respect et la promotion des droits de l'homme dans le monde. Après l'établissement d'une Charte internationale des droits de l'homme et son application dans le droit des États, il convient de poursuivre la tâche primordiale de sa mise en œuvre à travers le processus d'enseignement.

Enfin, Monsieur le Président, rares sont les occasions qui nous sont offertes de nous adresser de véritables compliments. La Charte des Nations Unies, la Déclaration universelle et les divers instruments normatifs sur les droits de l'homme ont fait du respect de ces droits à la fois une obligation et un sujet de préoccupation internationaux. Il s'agit là d'une des plus belles réussites des Nations Unies.



Malheureusement, les violations des droits de l'homme se poursuivent, à un degré inquiétant. Un coup d'œil, même rapide, sur la situation mondiale actuelle montrerait que l'écart reste grand entre les engagements et les réalisations. Mais aucun État ne peut désormais dégager sa responsabilité s'il ne respecte pas les droits de l'homme. Avant cette soirée du 10 décembre 1948, au cours de laquelle la Déclaration universelle a été adoptée, il n'en était pas ainsi. Aujourd'hui, des normes qui précisent les droits de l'homme ont été élaborées de façon suffisamment détaillée, et l'application rapide, complète et sans restrictions de ces normes constitue dans ce domaine la tâche majeure à accomplir. Les Douze s'engagent pleinement dans cette tâche et continueront à faire de leur mieux pour que les droits de l'homme et les libertés fondamentales soient respectés dans le monde entier.

<sup>1</sup> Point 38 de l'ordre du jour.

**88/503. Explanation of Vote in the Second Committee of the UN General Assembly: Draft Resolution L.15/Rev.2 Concerning the External Debt Crisis and Development (UNGA Res. 43/189)<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 9 December 1988

Place of Issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

The twelve Member States of the European Community were pleased to support resolution L.15/Rev.2 entitled 'External Debt Crisis and Development: Towards a Durable Solution of the Debt Problem', just adopted.

The dialogue, the negotiations and the resolutions should help contribute to the formation of an international consensus. The Second Committee is and has always been a forum for the interplay of ideas and initiatives. They matter and over time their impact appears to change perceptions.

Debt is not an isolated subject in the international economic scene. It appears that changing perceptions and thinking are bringing subjects of economic analysis of the issues more in line with political realities. We support an open and comprehensible dialogue within the UN aimed at debating the debt problem and its far-reaching ramifications. There is a growing consensus that further evolution of the debt strategy will be required to achieve the financial and economic recovery of the debtor countries. In this respect many recent initiatives have been taken. It was agreed to broaden further the 'menu approach'. The major value of these techniques is that they are market oriented and constitute voluntary arrangements that can engender new financial flows and reduce the existing stock of debt. We hope that these efforts will succeed within the context of sustained growth and development.

<sup>1</sup> Agenda item 83.

**88/504. Explanation of Vote in the Second Committee of the UN General Assembly: Draft Resolution L.40 Concerning the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade (UNGA Res. 43/182)**

Date of Issue: 9 December 1988

Place of Issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

The European Community and its twelve Member States were pleased to support resolution L.40/Rev.1 entitled 'Preparations for an International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade', just adopted.

The European Community attaches the highest importance to a thorough preparatory process based on the new challenges of the next decade and the experience of past strategies. We believe that draft resolution A/C.2/43/L.40/Rev.1 provides the basis for this work. The discussions which have been held this year in the Second Committee have identified many of the issues which now need to be addressed. In due course the European Community will be making its views known in detail on the contents of the next strategy.

The European Community and its Member States are concerned at the manner in which the programme budget implications of draft resolution L.40/Rev.1 have been handled. This document was circulated shortly before the adoption of the draft resolution on the international development strategy. No time was given for its consideration by delegations. Nor was any attempt made by the Secretariat to explain to the Committee the thinking behind the document. The document purports to be a statement of programme-budget implications. However, paragraph 8, which envisages five sessions of the *ad hoc* committee, including four weeks and three days of meetings during 1989, goes well beyond this.

The European Community and its Member States would have preferred some discussion of the preparatory process of the international development strategy before the conclusion of the work of the Second Committee. They can of course pursue their concerns in the Fifth Committee and the Committee on Conferences. However, they do not feel that these forums should address these points at this stage and should be grateful, therefore, for the views of the Secretariat on a appropriate procedure for ensuring that the preparatory arrangements for the international development strategy have the full support of all member States. We expect that the organizational meeting in March would allow for a thorough discussion of the preparatory process, in particular the calendar of meetings. In this regard we consider the Programme-Budget Implications as an indicative statement of possibilities by the Secretariat.

**88/505. Explanation of Vote in the Second Committee of the UN General Assembly: Draft Resolution L.56/Rev.1 on International Cooperation for the Eradication of Poverty in Developing Countries (UNGA Res. 43/195)<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 9 December 1988

Place of Issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

We would like to express our disappointment [at] not [being] able to support the text contained in resolution L.56/Rev.1 entitled 'International Cooperation for the Eradication of Poverty in Developing Countries'. The Twelve expressed their willingness during the informal consultations to support an earlier text presented by the Group of 77, which unfortunately was not brought for action to the Committee.

We recognize the seriousness of poverty in developing countries, and poverty eradication is one of the central objectives of the development policies of the Community and its Member States. In fact, we believe that the issue should be addressed by the new international development strategy. We believe, nevertheless, that the text put to the vote places too much emphasis on extraneous factors and pays little attention to the significance of reform in improving the overall economic situation of the countries where poverty exists. The implementation of reform requires taking full account of the needs of the most vulnerable groups in the society and its social dimensions while monitoring simultaneously the objectives of economic growth and social justice. We recognize that a favourable international economic environment is

essential for the success of the efforts undertaken by many developing countries in this field, but national efforts are also required to fight poverty and should have been more adequately reflected in the text.

<sup>1</sup> Agenda item 82 [F].

### **88/506. Statement at the Occasion of the Fortieth Anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights**

Date of Issue: 9 December 1988  
Place of Issue: Athens  
Country of Presidency: Greece  
Source of Document: The Twelve  
Status of Document: Declaration

The European Community and its Member States wish to join, today, the world community in celebrating the fortieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The twelve Member States of the European Community reaffirm their deep commitment to the respect, protection and further promotion of human rights, which they consider a cornerstone of European cooperation and security and an essential element in their relations with third countries, as the Foreign Ministers of the Twelve pointed out in their common statement of 21 July 1986<sup>1</sup>.

On this occasion, the twelve Member States of the European Community, while rejoicing for the noteworthy progress made in this field during these forty years, cannot but regret the persistent worldwide violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Regarding this question, the Twelve expressed their concern, in unequivocal terms, in their recent intervention in the Third Committee of the 43rd United Nations General Assembly. Today we reconfirm that recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world. We reaffirm that with the adoption of the Universal Declaration and the subsequent human rights treaties, the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms has become an essential duty of the international community as well as of each of its members which exceeds national boundaries and surpasses the principle of non-interference in domestic affairs. We firmly believe that the implementation of the universally accepted human rights standards, as laid down in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and made binding to States parties by the international covenants on civil and political as well as economic, social and cultural rights of 1966, should be a primary task of all States. We avail ourselves of this opportunity to reiterate our devotion to the concept of human rights which denotes the relationship between the State and the individual where the latter is the beneficiary. The twelve Member States of the European Community urge all governments to become party to the international treaties on the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms and stress the importance of efficient international supervisory bodies which are established to ensure effective monitoring of the implementation and respect for the commitments undertaken by the States parties.

<sup>1</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 86/230.

### **88/507. Déclaration à la session plénière de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies: la question de Palestine<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 13 December 1988  
Place of Issue: Geneva, Switzerland  
Country of Presidency: Greece  
Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations  
Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

*M. Papoulias:* Monsieur le Président, par ma présence ici, les douze pays membres de la Communauté européenne entendent témoigner toute l'importance qu'ils accordent à ce débat. Ils ont, avec les pays et les peuples du Moyen-Orient, des liens historiques, politiques, géographiques, économiques, religieux, culturels et humains particulièrement profonds et importants. Ils ne peuvent donc que suivre avec la plus grande attention les événements d'une région aussi proche et chercher à contribuer, dans la mesure de leurs possibilités, à la solution des problèmes qui l'affligent. Parmi ces problèmes, nous constatons l'urgence de la question palestinienne, la gravité de la situation dans les territoires occupés par Israël et l'absence d'un processus de paix.

Les Douze ont à plusieurs reprises exprimé leur profonde préoccupation, face à la détérioration de la situation dans les territoires occupés et à la montée d'un sentiment de déception et de désespoir dans la population de ces territoires, qui ne peut que s'aggraver à défaut de perspectives d'une solution négociée. Ils estiment que la recherche d'une telle solution constitue une responsabilité politique et morale à laquelle la communauté internationale doit faire face sans retard. Cohérents avec les principes fondamentaux qui inspirent leur politique étrangère, ils croient fermement et profondément au rôle des Nations Unies et considèrent qu'elles représentent le forum approprié dans lequel un vrai dialogue peut avoir lieu entre toutes les parties concernées.

Les Douze, qui auraient certes souhaité que ce débat puisse se dérouler dans son siège naturel, à New York, se félicitent toutefois qu'il se tienne avec la participation directe du Président de l'O.L.P. Ils estiment surtout important que ce débat puisse contribuer à atteindre le seul objectif qui compte, à savoir la mise en marche rapide d'une solution pacifique, juste et globale de la crise.

Monsieur le Président, dans la Déclaration de Venise de 1980 et dans leurs prises de position successives, les pays membres de la Communauté européenne ont défini avec clarté et cohérence les principes sur lesquels devrait se fonder la solution du conflit israélo-arabe. Permettez-moi d'en rappeler ici les éléments essentiels:

- retrait israélien des territoires occupés depuis 1967 et reconnaissance du droit à l'existence et à la sécurité de tous les États de la région, y compris Israël, sur la base des résolutions 242 et 338 du Conseil de Sécurité, et
- reconnaissance du droit du peuple palestinien à l'autodétermination, avec tout ce que cela implique.

Par ces prises de position, il est donc évident que les pays membres de la Communauté européenne accordent la même importance à ces deux principes fondamentaux et que, dans notre esprit, ils restent indivisibles.

Soucieux de contribuer de façon directe à la recherche d'une solution selon les principes que je viens d'indiquer, les pays de la Communauté n'ont ménagé aucun effort pour favoriser la mise en marche d'un processus de négociation. Dans cet esprit, en février 1987, ils se sont déclarés favorables à la tenue d'une conférence internationale de paix sous l'égide des Nations Unies. Ils se sont ensuite efforcés de contribuer activement à rapprocher les positions des parties, en vue de la convocation d'une telle conférence qui, à notre avis, doit constituer le cadre approprié pour les nécessaires négociations entre les parties directement concernées. A cette conférence devraient participer, outre les parties intéressées, toute partie en mesure d'apporter une contribution directe et positive à l'établissement de la paix et de la sécurité, ainsi qu'au développement économique et social de la région.

Nous n'avons ménagé aucun effort auprès des parties concernées pour qu'elles acceptent tout au moins les conditions aptes à favoriser une négociation. Dans le même esprit, nous avons soutenu tous les efforts déployés pour insuffler un nouvel élan à la recherche d'un règlement négocié du conflit.

Monsieur le Président, le soulèvement du peuple palestinien dans les territoires occupés est venu ramener au centre de l'attention mondiale le caractère urgent et dramatique du problème. De plus, il est venu démontrer qu'en dehors de la reconnaissance des droits légitimes du peuple

palestinien il n'y a pas — il ne peut pas y avoir — pour Israël comme pour les autres pays de la région, ni de paix, ni de sécurité, ni d'avenir. De même, le droit des Palestiniens à l'autodétermination ne saurait se réaliser sans l'acceptation du droit d'Israël à l'existence et à la sécurité.

Nous avons à plusieurs reprises souligné notre conviction que le statu quo dans les territoires occupés n'est pas tenable, et nous nous sommes prononcé contre les mesures répressives prises par les autorités israéliennes dans ces territoires. La Communauté européenne a œuvré pour améliorer les conditions de vie des habitants des territoires occupés, soit à travers des programmes de développement, soit à travers une aide humanitaire supplémentaire, soit en déployant des efforts pour promouvoir les exportations directes vers le marché communautaire de produits agricoles et industriels en provenance de ces territoires. Nous réaffirmons de même notre position que tout changement de la structure démographique des territoires occupés est illégal suivant le droit international et entrave le processus de paix. L'occupation militaire ne peut être considérée que comme provisoire et ne donne pas droit à la force d'occupation d'annexer, ou d'étendre sa juridiction ou administration dans les territoires occupés. La politique israélienne concernant les territoires occupés depuis 1967, y compris Jérusalem, est contraire au droit international et par conséquent ne crée aucun effet juridique. Dans ce cadre, nous renouvelons notre appel envers Israël de remplir ses obligations en tant que force d'occupation et de respecter les dispositions de la Convention de Genève du 12 août 1949 sur la protection des personnes civiles en temps de guerre.

Les Douze attachent une importance particulière aux décisions adoptées par le Conseil national palestinien (C.N.P.) d'Alger, qui reflètent la volonté du peuple palestinien d'affirmer son identité nationale et qui comportent des pas positifs vers le règlement pacifique du conflit israélo-arabe. A cet égard, nous avons salué l'acceptation par le C.N.P. des résolutions 242 et 338 du Conseil de Sécurité comme base d'une conférence internationale, ce qui implique l'acceptation du droit à l'existence et à la sécurité d'Israël comme de tous les autres États de la région. Le respect de ce principe, qui va de pair avec celui de la justice pour les peuples de la région et, en particulier, du droit à l'autodétermination du peuple palestinien avec tout ce que cela implique, constitue pour les Douze — je veux le répéter ici — une condition nécessaire pour l'établissement d'une paix juste, durable et globale, ainsi qu'ils l'ont affirmé à maintes reprises depuis la Déclaration de Venise. Nous avons aussi salué avec satisfaction la renonciation et la condamnation explicites du terrorisme. (Nous nous félicitons que ce choix de modération ait aussi trouvé une confirmation importante et attendue dans le discours prononcé dans cette enceinte par le Président Arafat.)

Nous nous adressons à toutes les parties concernées pour qu'elles rejettent la violence comme moyen de règlement du conflit israélo-arabe. Nous estimons que ce choix — le choix de la négociation au lieu de la violence et de la modération au lieu de l'extrémisme — est le choix de la raison, pour les peuples de la région, qui ont déjà largement payé leur tribut de souffrance et de sang.

Mais, Monsieur le Président, un tel choix mérite et même exige une réponse tout aussi modérée et constructive.

C'est pourquoi les Douze ont voulu lancer un appel pressant à toutes les parties concernées pour que, tout en s'abstenant de tout acte de violence et de toute action qui pourrait encore aggraver la situation, elles saisissent cette occasion et contribuent de manière positive au processus de paix. Nous espérons que les Israéliens verront dans les événements récents une ouverture dans le processus de paix et une raison d'accepter une conférence internationale de paix sous les auspices des Nations Unies. Entre-temps, la violence et la répression devraient cesser et la sécurité et le respect des droits de l'homme être assurés dans ces territoires.

Monsieur le Président, dans l'esprit de l'amitié sincère et profonde qui nous lie aux peuples de la région, les Douze désirent réitérer ici un appel chaleureux et pressant. Il ne peut y avoir de sécurité, ni de paix réelle, pour aucun des peuples de la région sans un règlement juste, global et durable. Toutes les parties doivent reconnaître leurs droits réciproques.

Nous croyons qu'un rôle important incombe aux organes compétents des Nations Unies, et en particulier au Conseil de Sécurité et au Secrétaire général. Les Douze souhaitent que ces organes puissent jouer pleinement leur rôle, comme ils l'ont fait si efficacement dans la solution d'autres conflits régionaux. Les Douze restent engagés à participer et à soutenir tout effort dans cette direction de la façon la plus active.

Monsieur le Président, les pays membres de la Communauté européenne, et moi personnellement, nous n'avons pas manqué de faire valoir à nos interlocuteurs palestiniens l'importance de la modération et la nécessité de se donner un programme politique modéré et constructif. Nous continuerons de le faire. Permettez-moi de renouveler ici cet appel à toutes les parties concernées — et donc aussi au peuple israélien — pour qu'elles sachent trouver le courage de la modération, de la confiance et de la justice.

Monsieur le Président, la paix doit se faire dans les esprits et dans les cœurs avant la table des négociations.

Laissez-moi exprimer l'espoir profond que ce débat marque le début d'un esprit nouveau et qu'un avenir de paix, de justice, de progrès économique et social s'ouvre pour tous les peuples de la région.

La Communauté européenne et ses pays membres sont déterminés à y contribuer de toutes leurs forces. Merci.

<sup>1</sup> Point 37 de l'ordre du jour.

### **88/508. Statement in the Fifth Committee of the UN General Assembly: the Current Financial Crisis of the United Nations and the Financial Emergency of the United Nations<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 13 December 1988

Place of Issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

*Mr Rallis:* Mr Chairman, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community.

First of all, allow me to convey our thanks to the Secretary-General for his reports contained in documents A/43/932 and A/C.5/43/39, as well as to Ambassador Mselle for the presentation of the comments of the ACABQ.

In this intervention we address both item 50 (Current financial crisis of the United Nations) as well as item 116 (Financial emergency of the United Nations) of our agenda as they cover the same problem. They refer to two aspects of one and the same coin, namely the unwillingness of some member States to promptly fulfil their obligations under the Charter, be it for the regular budget or for peace-keeping operations. We believe that in the future these items should be merged in one to facilitate their consideration.

The Twelve would like to stress that it is impossible not to be seriously concerned by the continuing increase in the deficit of the United Nations. Withholding of contributions and delays in payments are continuing clouds in the financial outlook of the Organization.

We are concerned that as of 30 November 1988 the total outstanding assessed contributions to the regular budget amounted to 450.1 million dollars. Despite all appeals and efforts of the Secretary-General it is disappointing to note that on that date 80 member States were still in arrears and 51 of them owed an amount equal to or greater than their 1988 contribution.

This year the Organization avoided insolvency because, as the Secretary-General stated, lower than anticipated expenditures were effected owing primarily to currency fluctuations and higher vacancy rates. This means that the financial situation of the United Nations could rapidly deteriorate if there is a negative impact of acute currency fluctuations or inflation.

Mr Chairman, the cash-flow projection makes no allowance for any additional unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for peace-keeping operations before the end of 1989. The fragility of the Organization's financial situation will continue so long as its reserves are not fully funded. The expanding responsibilities of the United Nations for peace-making and peace-keeping have placed new strains on the already precarious financial situation of the Organization. We must realize that should any additional requirements for new peace-keeping operations emerge, the Organization will not be in a position to face them.

We can understand that, in the face of a possible upcoming funding shortfall in 1989, the Secretary-General would feel the need to implement certain measures. We do not think that borrowing would solve the problem; it would only amount to a short-term remedy. The Secretary-General's request for authorization to borrow commercially is not new and has been rejected on many occasions, most recently by the General Assembly in 1987. We do not believe that interest-free loans from member States or international entities would be the correct means of replenishing the reserves. In fact, it would be another form of asking for voluntary contributions. We find it unlikely that such a measure would produce the desired effects since it would not address the core of the problem. Nor do we find the UNIDO case in any way a precedent to this effect.

Mr Chairman, we are, therefore, persuaded that the only durable solution to the financial crisis of the Organization is the payment by all member States of their assessed contributions promptly and in full.

While some progress has been made on the part of certain member States towards payment of outstanding arrears for peace-keeping operations, continued withholding is still causing major difficulties. As previously indicated, it is the view of the Twelve that the financial responsibility for peace-keeping operations duly authorized under the provisions of the Charter, should, in accordance with Article 17, be shared by all member States in the proportions established by the General Assembly for that purpose. Withholding of contributions to peace-keeping operations not only creates serious financial problems to the operations themselves but also imposes a disproportionate burden on troop-contributing countries, many of which are developing countries. It can also endanger efforts to ensure wide geographical representation in the composition of peace-keeping forces.

Mr Chairman, the financial position of the Organization is grave. With a total of 450.1 million dollars in assessed contributions to the regular budget and a total of 365.1 million dollars gross in arrears in assessed contributions for peace-keeping operations outstanding at 30 November 88, the Working Capital Fund, the Special Account and the monies realized from the suspension of the Financial Regulations have all been committed to meet shortfalls arising from past withholdings and from constant delays in the payment of assessed contributions to both the regular budget and peace-keeping operations.

With respect to peace-keeping operations financed by assessed contributions, it is estimated that at the end of the year unpaid reimbursements to member States will amount to 310.6 million dollars. This is deplorable. At the present time the Organization's peace-keeping activities remain in operation despite this serious deficit only because the troop-contributing member States continue unfairly to bear a heavy burden.

In the current circumstances, the failure of so many member States, and amongst them major contributors, to pay on time means in fact that those member States who met their obligations are carrying a relatively larger share of the actual expenditure of the United Nations than is reflected in their assessed share.

Finally, Mr Chairman, the Twelve would like to stress that they have always paid their contributions to both the regular budget and to the peace-keeping operations promptly and in full. We would like to appeal to all member States to live up to their obligations in accordance

with the principle of collective financial responsibility enshrined in the Charter and especially in Article 17. We, therefore, regard withholding of assessed contributions to be a breach of Charter obligations to which all member States subscribe. I thank you, Mr Chairman.

<sup>1</sup> Agenda items 50 and 116.

### **88/509. Question No H-694/88 by Ms Ewing Concerning the Plight of the Vietnamese Boat People**

Date of Issue: 13 December 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

At least one million people have fled Vietnam in the past decade. Now South-East Asian countries are considering a plan to force thousands of these refugees to return home by promising to pay resettlement money to the Vietnamese Government.

What action will the Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation take to prevent this forced repatriation of Vietnamese refugees, many of whom risked their lives to flee their country?

*Mr Pangalos, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers:* In keeping with the humanitarian traditions of Europe, the Community has already been active on behalf of the Vietnamese boat people. We have the support of the UN High Commission for Refugees, and in collaboration with this body we have been making great efforts during the past thirteen months. We are trying to facilitate the repatriation of refugees to Vietnam, and we have never stood in the way of those refugees whose wish it has been to return to their country.

In recent months the situation has changed, and many Vietnamese have been fleeing the country for economic reasons. The Twelve, acting in concert, as well as each Member State on a bilateral basis, have appealed to Vietnam to take realistic and effective measures to solve the problem it faces, and to take account, on the basis of international practice, of the right of the boat people to return to their country without fear and danger, particularly of the right of those who do not meet the refugee criteria. And, as I have said, the number of people in this category, who have been fleeing for economic reasons, has been increasing just lately.

*Ms Ewing (RDE):* Although the boat people are not so much in the headlines, I am very appreciative of the President-in-Office's answer that such serious consideration has been given recently.

However, I expressed concern in my question about the compulsory expulsions which we know mean certain death to some of these people. I wondered if we could not go a bit further, and be humanitarian not only in our sympathies, but perhaps also in our actions, for example by chartering a boat flying the European flag or perhaps by distributing some visas for the twelve Member States to take in people who are compulsorily expelled.

*Mr Pangalos:* The Member States of the European Community have made an important contribution to the resettlement of refugees who are now living in the camps in Thailand, Malaysia and Hong Kong. Together with the High Commission we have been active in providing financial support for this programme. We support the High Commission, and we are cooperating closely with the ASEAN countries which are hosting the refugees.

We recognize, and urge others to recognize, the inalienable right of the refugees and of the displaced persons, of those who, as Ms Ewing has said, have been compulsorily expelled, to return to their country of origin.

Over and above this, the Community has, as you know, helped to resettle considerable numbers of refugees in the various Member countries, according to their preference, and I think



that the whole matter, which falls within the Political Cooperation framework, must inevitably have a dominating influence on the Community's more general relations with Vietnam. And that, I think, is something that the Vietnamese Governments should be very mindful of.

*Mr Guermeur (RDE):* I thank the President-in-Office of the Council most warmly for the interesting information he has supplied. But it is one thing — and a remarkable achievement — to encourage settlement in South-East Asian countries, and another, though complementary, matter to encourage the settlement of those who decide to come to the European Community and are accepted here. The President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers is well aware that settling a family, creating employment, and offering work incurs costs for the State or the regional or local authority that takes that responsibility.

My question is as follows: Would the President-in-Office of the Council be prepared to arrange for a study to be made of the possibility of social cooperation, for example under the European Social Fund, to assist the settlement of those people to whom we might offer asylum on humanitarian grounds?

*Mr Pangalos:* The Community has various programmes for tackling social problems. One of these is the Social Fund, and there are also programmes for the combating of poverty and for forestalling the marginalization of groups within our society.

I do not know that the contingency referred to by the Honourable Member exists, but if he wishes to explore the matter he should first talk to the Commission which is responsible for the management of the funds and therefore for the formulation of proposals on such things.

**88/510. Question No H-704/88 by Ms Simons Concerning the Setting up of a Liaison Group of the Twelve to Investigate the Problem of Insecurity in Southern Africa**

Date of Issue: 13 December 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

On 7 July 1988 the European Parliament adopted by a very large majority a resolution on South Africa<sup>1</sup> which calls, in particular, on the Council to set up a liaison group on behalf of the Twelve to investigate the problems of insecurity in Southern Africa and consider the measures to be taken to protect the Community's cooperation projects in the front-line States.

Have the Foreign Ministers already responded to Parliament's request? If so, in what way?

*Mr Pangalos, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers:* Ms Simons' question falls into the category of several [questions] on the situation in Southern Africa that the Council has replied to over a period of time. As you know, in the framework of Political Cooperation the twelve Member States and the Commission consult regularly about the situation in Southern Africa. The general security conditions are often discussed, and we have frequently spoken out for the restoration of peace and security in the region.

Now, as regards the resolution referred to by the honourable lady in the second line of her question, it should be pointed out that Political Cooperation has not yet examined the possibility of contributing to the training of groups from the SADCC, the Southern Africa Development and Coordination Conference, to protect installations partly financed by the Community from attack by terrorist organizations.

*Ms Simons (S):* Mr President, I should like to ask the President-in-Office of the Council to be rather more specific. In its resolution Parliament called for a permanent liaison group to consider the question of military support for the front-line States. Some Member States, including Italy, grant non-lethal military aid to Zimbabwe and Mozambique in particular. The

Community also supports its projects in Mozambique with aid in the form of military equipment. Would it not be wiser for such measures taken by the Member States to be coordinated at Community level? I would be grateful if you could give me a rather more detailed answer to this question.

*Mr Pangalos:* The question of lack of security for the aid efforts and installations of the Community and of the Member States in Mozambique and other countries of the region has been discussed by the Council at various ministerial meetings, but has not been discussed within the formal Political Cooperation framework. The Political Cooperation working party which is discussing the political problems of the region could, I suppose, be construed as a liaison group in the sense Ms Simons describes. Political Cooperation has not excluded these matters from its concerns, but at present we have not reached the point of envisaging setting up a special group.

*Mr Guermeur (RDE):* The President-in-Office will doubtlessly consider that the best guarantee of security, to which reference has been made, is firstly, an end to military conflict and secondly, sound economic development in the region of Southern Africa. We note that the Community has, sadly, been conspicuous by its absence from the efforts made to bring peace to Southern Africa and end hostilities in Angola and Mozambique.

My question is as follows: Does the President-in-Office — if he would be kind enough to pay attention to what I am saying — consider that in the second phase, after the peace treaty has been signed, the Community will be able to contribute more effectively to the development of an independent Namibia in particular, since free elections should follow the forthcoming signature of the peace treaty?

*Mr Pangalos:* I cannot agree with the Honourable Member that the Community has been absent from the attempts to bring peace to the region. We have not been involved in the creation of the insecurity, and in this sense we do not have the same responsibilities as others. Nonetheless, we have endeavoured to exert influence on all the parties directly involved in the conflict in the direction described by the Honourable Member. Without any question, the security of the region does depend crucially, as he says, on a cessation of all hostile acts and on there being a prospect of sound economic and social development. Moreover, the Community has been trying to play a constructive and definitive role towards this end.

*Ms Ewing (RDE):* I would like to follow on from Ms Simons' question and ask the President-in-Office whether he would not, for his own enlightenment, dust off the report of the front-line States' delegation of which I was a member.

That delegation was composed half of MEPs and half of the representatives of ACP countries. Everyone agreed that that delegation did a very good job and was trusted. Therefore I would urge the Council most seriously to have a look at that report and the effect that it had at the time, and to show these countries that we do care about them as our ACP partners. We could have a standing committee either on the lines of the last *ad hoc* delegation or on the strict lines of the resolution passed by Parliament.

*Mr Pangalos:* Certainly, the Council is fully cognizant of the report Ms Ewing has mentioned. I can inform her that in the course of the recent negotiations with the ACP countries, the Greek Presidency made it abundantly clear that as soon as Namibia achieves its independence we will welcome it as a member of the ACP-EEC Lomé Convention. I think that a reply to the lady's anxiety has already been given.

<sup>1</sup> OJ No C 235 of 12 September 1988, pp. 115-117.

### **88/511. Question No H-346/88 by Mr Arbeloa Muru Concerning the Defence of the Palestinians in the Occupied Territories**

Date of Issue: 13 December 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

Almost every day for months one or more Palestinians have died in the occupied territories at the hands of the Israeli army, acting on orders from the Government. What have the Foreign Ministers done in recent months to protest and, in particular, to prevent this, apart from declaring its support for an international Middle East peace conference?

*Mr Pangalos, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers:* The Twelve have repeatedly made it plain that the status quo in the occupied territories cannot be sustained and that they are firmly committed to working for an improvement of the conditions under which the people of those territories are having to live. The Twelve have made numerous representations to the Israeli Government, particularly about the loss of life during the eleven months of the Palestinian uprising, the deportations of Palestinians and the bulldozing of houses, as well as about the practice of administrative detention, the restrictions on the mass media and the closing down of the Palestinian universities and charitable organizations.

At the same time, the Community has continued with its development programme for the occupied territories and has granted additional humanitarian aid to the Palestinian population, as well as making efforts to assist the export of agricultural and industrial products from these territories to the Community market.

In their statement of 21 November the twelve Foreign Ministers expressed deep anxiety about the worsening situation in the occupied territories and the growing disillusionment and desperation of the population there. The Twelve are convinced that a lasting solution to the problem can be achieved only through negotiation, and they are therefore advocating an international conference under the auspices of the UN in the belief that this offers the best possible framework for the necessary negotiations between the parties directly involved.

*Mr Arbeloa Muru (S):* Having taken leave of you in your capacity as President-in-Office [of the Council], I am pleased to meet you again in your role as President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers. I agree with what you have just been telling us; however, in a major statement on 19 November which was then approved by the European Council, Community Foreign Ministers, in a language more appropriate to diplomats than politicians, appealed 'to all parties concerned, in order that, while abstaining from any act of violence...' and expressed their grave concern at the 'deterioration' of the situation in the occupied territories.

I think that deterioration is not a strong enough word. Every day youngsters are killed and houses destroyed. Why should we always use this mock-diplomatic language? I think the Presidency of the European Community ought to say something stronger. The situation is much, much worse than that. What would happen if an Arab country were to kill several Jewish youths every day, or destroy large numbers of dwellings? Would we use the same language then? That is what worries us so much. For example, you never talk of the Jewish settlements in the occupied territories, that are the best way of eventually annexing them, as history has shown all too well.

Mr President, I ask you, personally at least, to be a little more resolute and courageous when you come to make statements that ought not be merely diplomatic!

*Mr Pangalos:* I want first of all to request my Spanish friend to bear in mind that this position of the Community, which he regards as inadequate, is nonetheless the most advanced of any in the West as regards the events taking place in the occupied territories: to bear in mind, that is, that we have exerted substantially more pressure in the direction he desires than other countries in the Western sphere.

The Council has given its reply and he is not satisfied with it, but that does not mean, as far as I understand, that any of us in the Member States are neglecting to take account of the aspects of the plight of the Palestinians to which he refers. It is quite manifest that the wish of everyone in the Council — of those who are obliging us to achieve the compromise I have referred to as well as of those who desire a more advanced position — is to do something really effective. That is to say, I do not think that any of the Member State governments is disregarding the human rights problems we are all aware of. It is simply that assessments differ as to how the Community should intervene in helping to steer this major international problem towards a just and peaceful settlement.

*Mr Falconer (S):* I think it is time the Council stopped showing concern. I think it is time they started showing some form of solidarity with the people in Palestine who are being killed on a regular basis by the Israeli troops and the activities of the Israeli Government. Is it not time that we adopted positive sanctions against such a regime? When it happens in South Africa we quite correctly call for sanctions. Last part-session we passed protocols in this particular Assembly allowing the extension of favourable trading relationships with Spain and Portugal. Is it not time we looked at the existing protocols with Israel and considered rescinding them until such time as it recognizes an independent Palestinian State? If that cannot be done, why can we not start or extend sharing or twinning arrangements with establishments such as the Palestinian health organization and educational organizations so that the State of Israel will know that if they attack them directly then they will be attacking an arm of the EEC. That is the question I would like to put to the Council. Hopefully the Council can start to think about ways and means by which we can express solidarity because we have to stop expressing concern and start taking action.

*Mr Pangalos:* I note what the Member has said and would like to remind him that the Community has already undertaken many significant actions to help these people, and that I listed these earlier on.

### **88/512. Question No H-726/88 by Mr Dessylas Concerning Recognition of the Palestine State**

Date of Issue: 13 December 1988

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Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

Why do the Foreign Ministers not grant immediate recognition to the newly-proclaimed independent Palestinian State, since they recently described the decision of the Palestine National Council as a positive step towards the achievement of peace in the Middle East?

*Mr Pangalos, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers:* In their statement of 21 November 1988, the Twelve attached great importance to the decisions taken in Algiers by the Palestinian National Council. These decisions reflect the desire of the Palestinian people to take their place in the international community and include positive factors that can help towards a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. In this framework, the Twelve welcome the advocacy by European political cooperation of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 as a basis for an international conference and also the explicit rejection of terrorism which has come from the Palestinian National Council. The question of the granting of recognition to the Palestinian State has legal and political implications which have not yet been discussed in the Political Cooperation framework.

*Mr Dessylas (COM):* The President-in-Office has not replied to my question. I would like to put a supplementary to him. Given that dozens of countries the world over — including, I might say, Turkey — have recognized the Palestinian State, does he not agree that the Twelve and the Greek Presidency are guilty of rather characteristic foot-dragging on this matter? Can the President-in-Office tell me, given that he often puts on his Greek Government hat, when the Twelve and also the Greek Government intend to recognize the Palestinian State? If possible, can he at least tell me when the Greek Government intends to?

*Mr Pangalos:* Exchanges between the Greek Government and Mr Dessylas's political party on this matter must be confined to the Greek Parliament. Here, replying on behalf of the Council of the European Communities I can only say that it is clear that, over and above the actual legal and political implications of granting recognition to the Palestinian State, there is at present no unanimity. As you know, the decisions of the Twelve on matters of Political Cooperation must

be unanimous. When this unanimity exists, namely when the legal and political problems have been solved to everyone's satisfaction, there will possibly be the outcome that Mr Dessylas desires. I cannot forecast when this might be. But having said that, I do not think the Community will be using Turkey as a model for its international conduct.

**88/513. Question No H-746/88 by Mr Saridakis Concerning the Vote Against Greece's Application for Membership of the UN Security Council**

Date of Issue: 13 December 1988  
 Place of Issue: Strasbourg  
 Country of Presidency: Greece  
 Source of Document: Presidency  
 Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

Can the President of Political Cooperation inform the House precisely why all the Member States of the Community voted against the application of an EEC Member State (Greece) for election as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council and supported the application of another, non-Community country?

*Mr Pangalos, President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers:* I would like to point out to Mr Saridakis that voting for non-permanent members of the Security Council is secret. It is true that the Western Group voted for Finland, which is not in the Community, and Canada, which in addition is not in Europe. However, the Presidency has every reason to believe that Greece did have the support of the Members of the Community right through the procedure.

*Mr Saridakis (PPE):* Does this mean that the President-in-Office of the Council is contradicting the reports in the international press that not a single European country supported the Greek candidature? But if there was a discussion, as I said in my previous question to the Council of Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation, was the Minister told that the Members of the Community would be supporting the Greek candidature?

*Mr Pangalos:* I can assure the honourable gentleman that in the contacts we had with our partners in the Community the Member States, with one exception, vouchsafed their support for the Greek candidature for membership of the Security Council. I assume that that was in fact how it turned out. As far as Mr Saridakis's reference to press accounts is concerned, I have been unaware of these and I have no wish either to contradict or confirm them. As you will understand, if I took to denying press stories every time I would never get round to doing anything else.

**88/514. Explanation of Vote in the Second Committee of the UN General Assembly: Draft Decision L.84 on a Special General Assembly Session on International Economic Cooperation in 1990<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 14 December 1988  
 Place of Issue: New York  
 Country of Presidency: Greece  
 Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations  
 Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

The European Community and its twelve Member States have joined the consensus on decision A/JC.2/43/L.84 entitled 'Special Session of the General Assembly in 1990 Devoted to International Economic Cooperation, in Particular to the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development in the Developing Countries'.

We supported in principle the convening of a special session in early 1990 and we were prepared to take a decision to this effect on the basis of the common understanding negotiated during this session. In this context we expressed our gratitude to the Chinese delegation for its efforts. We look forward to further elaboration of the preparatory process early next year. We will cooperate with all groups to ensure a positive outcome of the proposed special session. The session should address prospects for economic growth in various regions of the world, emphasizing particularly the promotion of growth and development of developing countries. It should take into account the diversity of the world economy and allow for flexible approaches avoiding the temptation to seek global panaceas.

The special session should take into account activities in other forums in order to avoid duplication of efforts. The Twelve, therefore, welcome the expressed intention to dedicate the special session to new pragmatic approaches for stimulating dialogue and cooperative solutions. We believe that the special session should also give impetus to the recent initiated process of formulating a new international development strategy. In the view of the Twelve, the preparatory process of both the special session and the international development strategy should be closely linked. This aspect should be addressed further at the resumed session next year.

Finally, Mr Chairman, the Twelve attach importance to the full participation of all member States in the special session.

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<sup>1</sup> Agenda item 82 [B].

### **88/515. Question No H-624/88 by Mr Alavanos Concerning the Settlement of the Middle Eastern Problem**

Date of Issue: 14 December 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

What specific steps do the Foreign Ministers meeting in European political cooperation intend to take to settle the Middle Eastern problem, particularly in the light of the recent statements by the PLO leader, Yasser Arafat, at the meetings which he had in the European Parliament at the part-session in September 1988?

*Answer:*

The Twelve are following the situation in the Middle East with particular attention and preoccupation. They have expressed their views and particularly the need for a negotiated, comprehensive, just and lasting solution on numerous occasions, most recently at the European Council in Rhodes.

They repeatedly manifested their readiness to actively participate in all efforts contributing to such a negotiated solution and they reaffirmed their strong support for an international peace conference under the auspices of the United Nations.

In their declaration of 21 November 1988, they stated that they attach particular importance to the decisions of the Palestinian National Council, which include positive steps towards the peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. In this respect, they welcomed the acceptance by the Palestinian National Council of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 as a basis for an international conference and expressed satisfaction that the Palestinian National Council has explicitly condemned terrorism.

As they have done during the past few months, the Twelve will continue to make use of all open channels and opportunities to call for moderation of all parties concerned and to contribute to advancing the peace process.

**88/516. Question No H-664/88 by Mr Newton Dunn Concerning the Human Rights Situation in Romania**

Date of Issue: 14 December 1988  
 Place of Issue: Strasbourg  
 Country of Presidency: Greece  
 Source of Document: Presidency  
 Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

What steps have the Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation taken to follow up Parliament's resolutions on Romania of 16 June 1988 and 13 October 1988<sup>1</sup>?

*Answer:*

The Twelve are fully aware of the European Parliament's frequent resolutions on various aspects of the situation in Romania. As I had the opportunity to state when answering another question (No H-596/88) by the Honourable Member recently, the resolutions of Parliament reflect well the widespread concern with the human rights situation in Romania. They have been taken duly into consideration by European political cooperation work.

Several of the points raised in these various resolutions have also been raised in the *démarches* which the Twelve have undertaken in Bucharest this year and on which the Parliament has been informed. Allow me in this respect to refer the Honourable Member to the answers to the following questions<sup>2</sup>: Nos H-596/88, 867/88, H-98/88, H-93/88, H-929/87 by the Honourable Member himself, and No 2883/87 by Mr Xavier Rubert de Ventos<sup>3</sup>. I can add that the position of the Twelve on human rights, including the situation in Romania, was set out in a recent statement in the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly and to the Romanian authorities in Bucharest on 25 November.

I understand that the draft resolution of 16 June is still pending in Parliament.

<sup>1</sup> *OJ* No C 290 of 14 November 1988, pp. 115-116.

<sup>2</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Docs 88/427, 88/361, 88/165, 88/118 and 88/069.

<sup>3</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 88/374.

**88/517. Question No H-684/88 by Mr Pearce Concerning Diplomatic Initiatives in Africa**

Date of Issue: 14 December 1988  
 Place of Issue: Strasbourg  
 Country of Presidency: Greece  
 Source of Document: Presidency  
 Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

Why are the Foreign Ministers so silent and inactive as regards political disputes in Africa, when they could take initiatives, alongside other powers, in the peace process in Namibia and in the search for mediation in the conflicts in Sudan, Somalia and Burundi?

*Answer:*

I thank the Honourable Member for this opportunity to explain the active policy of the Twelve as regards Africa.

1. *Namibia*: The Twelve have followed with great interest developments in Southern Africa, in particular the negotiations aimed at securing peace in Angola and independence for Namibia. They have on several occasions supported the negotiations and welcomed the progress achieved. In doing so, they have repeatedly called for the implementation without further delay or conditions of the United Nations Resolution 435 (1978) on the independence of Namibia and

have supported the important role and efforts of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The long-standing common position of the Twelve has been reiterated by the European Council on 27-28 June, by the Foreign Ministers on 18 July and 21 October and by the Presidency on behalf of the Twelve on the occasion of Namibia Day (26 August) and at the United Nations General Assembly.

2. *Sudan and Somalia*: The Honourable Member will be aware of the declaration on the Horn of Africa issued by the Foreign Ministers of the Twelve in Luxembourg on 24 October 1988. This major statement covered in a comprehensive way the situation in Ethiopia, Sudan and Somalia. The Twelve expressed their wish to see conditions for peace, security, stability and social and economic development prevail in this important region of Africa, where the Twelve have long-standing ties and interests. They also affirmed their determination to pursue their constructive role in the area. The Presidency has delivered this statement to all the governments concerned.

Furthermore, the Twelve issued separate statements on Sudan on 11 October and 1 December 1988.

3. *Burundi*: Please allow me to explain the position in the answer to Question No H-685/88.

### **88/518. Question No H-685/88 by Mr Mizzau Concerning the Release of Prisoners in Burundi**

Date of Issue: 14 December 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

It is reported in *Jeune Afrique* (No 1450, 19 October 1988) that seven Hutu intellectuals are being held at Mtimba in Burundi for signing an open letter to Major Buyoya, Head of Government of the Republic, expressing concern about the massacre which had occurred the previous month and about the desperate plight of the 63 000 Burundi refugees in Rwanda.

The periodical also names the seven detainees: Léon Bantigira, civil servant; Aloys Habonimana, Léonce Ndikimana and Augustin Nsanze of the University of Bujumbura; Déo Hakizimana, radio journalist; Térance Ndayikiré, employee of a private company; and Salvator Nsunzu, engineer.

If this very serious charge by *Jeune Afrique* is true, what action do the Foreign Ministers intend to take to secure the release of the prisoners and to ensure that the refugees can return home?

*Answer:*

The Twelve have followed the developing situation in Burundi with particular attention. In the wake of the tragic events of August they have noted with concern the dramatic situation in certain northern areas of the country and the repercussions for the human rights, safety and protection of the people there. The Government of Burundi is aware of the Twelve's concern.

Although the specific cases referred to by the Honourable Member have not been discussed in Political Cooperation, the Twelve intend to pursue their policy of support for the respect of human rights in Burundi. In this connection, they have noted some encouraging signs in recent weeks.



**88/519. Question No H-700/88 by Mr Wurtz Concerning the Problems Encountered by South African Non-Governmental Organizations which are Active in the Anti-Apartheid Struggle**

Date of Issue: 14 December 1988  
 Place of Issue: Strasbourg  
 Country of Presidency: Greece  
 Source of Document: Presidency  
 Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

The South African laws under which non-governmental organizations will be denied outside funding have not yet been formally adopted by the national parliament, but, in practice, the constant pressure exerted by the authorities on the non-governmental organizations tends to have a paralysing effect. Mr Pangalos announced, after the General Affairs Council of 26 September 1988, that the Political Affairs Committee was to submit a report to the Council on the problems encountered by non-governmental organizations in South Africa.

Could Mr Pangalos provide information on the outcome of this report and the measures taken by the Foreign Ministers with a view to enabling the non-governmental organizations to carry out their work in normal conditions?

*Answer:*

The Honourable Member's question refers to a matter which has been given a great deal of attention by the Twelve during the year. We attach great political and moral value to the concerted programme of positive measures by the Community and its Member States and we are keen to see this programme, in which the non-governmental organizations play a major role, operating normally and achieving the basic aim which is to help the victims of apartheid. The various departments of Political Cooperation, including the Political Affairs Committee, regularly review the situation with this end in mind.

The Twelve were thus greatly concerned when they heard of the South African Government's intention to deny foreign financial support to anti-apartheid organizations which are striving for peaceful change. The European Council stated at its meeting in Hanover on 27 and 28 June that the enactment of the proposed bill would place additional strain on the relations of the Twelve with South Africa. In the light of this conclusion, the Twelve have on numerous occasions indicated to the South African authorities their serious concern and the desire of the Community and its Member States to continue operating the programme of positive measures without hindrance.

**88/520. Question No H-721/88 by Mr Robles Piquer Concerning the Information on Human Rights in Nicaragua**

Date of Issue: 14 December 1988  
 Place of Issue: Strasbourg  
 Country of Presidency: Greece  
 Source of Document: Presidency  
 Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

Are the Ministers familiar with the information document published on 29 August 1988 by the Nicaraguan Association for Human Rights based in Costa Rica, which lists the names of 7 649 political prisoners, 1 028 of whom seem to have been pardoned?

Do the Ministers agree with the Association that this long list is incomplete, and with its assertion that the Nicaraguan Government refuses to give out information on the number of political prisoners, who have practically turned into hostages?

Are the Ministers able to confirm or deny the truth of this list or to give Parliament any reliable information on the political prisoners currently being held in Nicaraguan goals?

*Answer:*

The Twelve follow very closely the situation in Central America and, in particular, developments concerning the peace process and the human rights situation.

They have repeatedly made known to the Central American governments their attachment to the respect of human rights. As they have stated in their declaration on human rights of 21 July 1986<sup>1</sup>, the Twelve are convinced that neither lack of social and economic development, nor any persuasion or ideology may serve as a justification for the denial of civil and political rights.

In this context, the Twelve spare no efforts aiming at promoting respect for human rights in Central America. This issue constitutes a cornerstone of their political dialogue with the countries in the region. On 30 September 1988, at the Troika ministerial meeting with the five Central American countries, the Presidency expressed the concern of the Twelve for the slowing down of the peace process and pointed out that certain measures taken by some governments of the region constitute a violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms and could thus threaten the peace process as a whole.

In signing the Esquipulas-II Agreement on 7 August 1987, the Central American presidents committed themselves to guarantee the inviolability of life, liberty in all its forms, material goods and the security of persons. The Twelve have consistently supported the Esquipulas process and they intend to continue to do so, paying particular regard to human rights, fundamental freedoms and social justice, a prerequisite for an authentic democratization process.

As to the document mentioned by the Honourable Member, it has not been discussed in the framework of European political cooperation. However, the question of the numbers of political prisoners in Nicaragua has been considered at an earlier date, although it proved impossible to establish an exact figure.

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<sup>1</sup> *EPC Bulletin*, Doc. 86/230.

### **88/521. Question No H-724/88 by Mr Ephremidis Concerning the Illegal Detention of Four Greeks in Turkey**

Date of Issue: 14 December 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Answer to Oral Parliamentary Question

What measures have the Foreign Ministers taken in connection with the four Greek democrats being illegally detained by the Turkish authorities to meet the European Parliament's demand that the charges against them be dropped and that they be allowed to return home immediately?

*Answer:*

As the Honourable Member will be aware, the four citizens referred to in his question were deported to Greece by the Turkish authorities on 25 November.

**88/522. Statement Concerning the European Council Meeting in Rhodes on 2 and 3 December 1988 [EPC Aspects]<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 14 December 1988  
Place of Issue: Strasbourg  
Country of Presidency: Greece  
Source of Document: Presidency  
Status of Document: Report on European Council

*Mr Papoulias, President-in-Office of the European Council:* Mr President, ladies and gentlemen, it is a particular pleasure and honour for me to appear before you today to report briefly on the results of the European Council meeting in Rhodes. The Presidency is particularly pleased with the outcome of the meeting, where discussions were constructive and substantive and covered a considerable number of topics concerning the future of the Community. The details are as follows:

We devoted considerable time to reviewing progress to date in implementing the Single Act, and this of course enabled us to identify those areas where a political impetus at the highest level is necessary. We examined the prospects for the future development of the European Community and its place in the world on the basis of experience to date, and concentrated our attention on the progress in establishing the single market and developing accompanying policies to strengthen economic and social cohesion. Our discussions took place within a favourable framework since, with the decisions which had already been taken for the implementation of the Single European Act, we succeeded in creating favourable conditions for the smooth, steady and dynamic development of the Community as it moves towards 1992. [...]

We also adopted a separate declaration on the international role of the Community and texts on East-West relations, the Middle East and Cyprus.

To be more specific, in the case of Cyprus the European Council 'acknowledged the fact that the tragic division of the island remains unchanged and reaffirmed the previous declarations of the Twelve, which support without any reservation the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and unity of Cyprus'. The President of the European Council, Mr Papandreou, also gave his colleagues a briefing on this subject.

With regard to the situation in Lebanon, the European Council reaffirmed the importance it attaches to the election of a President of the Lebanese Republic, and expressed its support for the efforts which the Lebanese are currently undertaking in order to search for a consensus which constitutes the condition for the maintenance of the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Lebanon.

In the case of the Middle East, the European Council reaffirmed the positions expressed by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs in their declarations of 21 and 30 November 1988.

I should like in particular to emphasize the importance of the declaration on the international role of the Community, which was adopted on the initiative of the Greek Presidency.

In reaffirming their commitment to the achievement of concrete progress towards European Union and the promotion of solidarity, cohesion and coordination on the political and economic aspects of security, common positions and common action, the Twelve clearly expressed their wish to endow the Community with a greater political range with regard to its role in international relations.

In expressing clearly and constructively the principles which will govern our foreign policy we made an important contribution to efforts to achieve transparency and balance in international relations. On the basis of these principles we shall work towards a safer and better world.

<sup>1</sup> Cf. *OJ* No 2-372 of 14 December 1988, pp. 118-144.

**88/523. Statement on the Term of Office of the Greek Presidency  
[EPC Aspects]<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 14 December 1988

Place of Issue: Strasbourg

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Presidency

Status of Document: Balance Speech to European Parliament

*Mr Pangalos, President-in-Office of the Council and of the Foreign Ministers:* Mr President, ladies and gentlemen, [...] the annual report on European Union was approved by the Rhodes Council and will soon be submitted to you. It includes a very far-reaching analysis of everything concerning European political cooperation, and I am sure that it responds to Parliament's request for full information, not only about the relevant positions but also everything related to progress in the formulation and application of that policy.

The guidelines of the Greek Presidency were the commitments undertaken by the Single Act for deliberation, coordination, the attempt to converge our positions and the undertaking of common action. I do not propose to go into details on this, but let me mention in particular the problems of European security, as well as the entire course of the CSCE procedure and the conferences on cooperation and human rights. Our work in these areas was intensified and has developed during the last six months, as can be concluded from the published statements and the shared activities in Vienna and elsewhere.

The Foreign Ministers discussed the deepening of our relations with our Eastern neighbours in Athens last July, at their informal meeting in Ioannina last October and at the Ministerial Conference on European Cooperation in November. All those meetings were preceded by diligent and painstaking preparation by our responsible departments, and I think that is why the results were particularly positive. I think that a firm principle of our orientation is to try by every means to overcome the divisions within our continent and to promote common European values and principles. The encouraging developments observed in certain Eastern European countries raise our hopes in that direction.

The aims we are pursuing have been clearly stated and are as follows: full respect for the directives of the Helsinki Final Act, further progress in the CSCE procedures, including the speedy and successful completion of the Vienna Conference. In addition, the prompt establishment of a secure and steady balance of conventional forces in Europe at the lowest possible level, the strengthening of mutual trust and military transparency and agreement on the complete and verifiable banning of chemical weapons; the promotion of and respect for human rights and fundamental liberties; the free movements of persons and ideas; the creation of more open societies; the promotion of humanitarian and cultural exchanges between East and West; the development of political dialogue with our Eastern neighbours. On that point I would like to mention the decision we took to initiate political dialogue with the Soviet Union. To this end, we had planned a meeting with the Soviet Foreign Minister in New York during September, but events in the Soviet Union temporarily frustrated that meeting. We hope that a real opportunity to begin that dialogue will occur soon.

In addition, in the sector of external relations we managed to bring about all that had been agreed on contacts with Norway, Austria, Finland and Malta, as well as with Cyprus and Yugoslavia, as I mentioned earlier. Deliberations on various subjects with other countries or groups of countries, initiated long ago, have continued during our Presidency. Let me mention our participation in the dialogue which took place in Bangkok<sup>2</sup>, when I represented the Community together with my colleagues Mr Ordoñez and Mr Genscher as the Troika.

As for the Middle East, we have tried to exploit every opportunity for moderation, attempting to bridge the gulf between the interested parties. In Strasbourg the Presidency met Mr Arafat when you too met him, Mr President, and we visited Amman and Damascus. My colleague Mr

Papoulias spoke yesterday at the General Assembly of the United Nations on behalf of the Twelve and repeated the views we expressed concerning the Arab-Israeli conflict when Mr Arafat visited the Assembly.

I would like to stress what was declared and reiterated by the European Council on 2 and 3 December. The decisions of the Committee on Political Cooperation taken in Algeria, are particularly important for us. They reflect the wish of the Palestinian people to reassert its national identity and include positive steps in the direction of a peaceful solution of the conflict, such as the acceptance of Resolution 242 and 338 of the UN Security Council and the rejection of terrorism. [...]

The declaration concerning the Community's position in the world is noteworthy for what is written in it, but perhaps more important still is the fact that it was adopted by the European Council and the legal base on which it was supported. It is an act of United Europe. It is as if European Union had spoken, even before we have completed the task of realizing it. In terms of the perspectives it opens, it is a document of immense importance. In future the European Council will come together and speak with one voice about the totality of the Community's political positions in the world. Thus, the Community will have an overall European policy. Political Cooperation is no more than an intergovernmental dimension of cooperation policy.

Ladies and gentlemen, I do not wish to go into details. We could accept many of the criticisms we have heard. I think it is essential to study the documents. Let me make one comment about my Greek colleagues. They said that our position on the Cyprus problem was the same as in the past. That is not true. The position on Cyprus includes two phases, namely, 'progress in the negotiations' and 'rapid results', both of which are significant and different from the Community's attitude up to now. [...]

<sup>1</sup> OJ No 2-372 of 14 December 1988, pp. 122-144.

<sup>2</sup> See *Bull. EC* 7/8-1988, point 2.2.35.

#### **88/524. Statement in the Fifth Committee of the UN General Assembly: Review of the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations — Proposed Programme-Budget Outline for the Biennium 1990-91<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 15 December 1988

Place of Issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

*Mr Rallis:* Mr Chairman, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community.

The Twelve wish to thank the Secretary-General for his report A/43/524 containing the proposed programme-budget outline for the biennium 1990-91 and for his note A/43/324 on the use and operation of the contingency fund. We also thank Ambassador Mselle for the introduction of the ACABQ's report A/43/929 as well as Mr Chabala for the introduction of the CPC's report A/43/16 Parts I and II.

The outline of the programme budget for the biennium 1990-91 has been proposed by the Secretary-General in accordance with General Assembly Resolution 41/213 adopted by consensus. The new budget procedure mandated by this resolution represents an important step towards the strengthening of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations. The outline mechanism is a basic element in meeting that objective. We wish to reaffirm our dedication to the reform process as well as our intention to do our utmost to carry it forward. We appreciate the efforts made by the Secretary-General and his staff and the initiatives he has taken to carry out the reform especially in a period of financial uncertainty.

Our appreciation also goes to the CPC for its contribution to the reform as the first body to consider the Secretary-General's proposed budget outline and submit to the General Assembly its consensus conclusions and to recommendations thereon. Finally, we are grateful for the ACABQ's contribution to the matter under consideration.

Mr Chairman, it has been repeatedly pointed out that the main objective of the reform process is the improvement of the efficiency and effectiveness of the Organization. Within that general framework, the budgetary reform rests on the recognition of the need for member States to participate in the preparation of the budget from its early stages and throughout the process in order to promote broad agreement on the overall level of expenses of the United Nations and to ensure predictability of member States' contributions to these expenses.

At this, I should like to refer briefly to priority setting which is an important part of this process. We are disappointed that the Secretary-General has so far been unable to propose priorities for the consideration of CPC. In the circumstances, therefore, we look forward to the consideration next year of the Secretary-General's report on the setting of priorities of a broad sectorial nature, and his concrete proposals in the programme budget for 1990-91.

The Secretary-General proposes a preliminary estimate for the biennium 1990-91 that reaches 1 764 million US dollars. This level of resources represents, in the view of the Secretary-General, a reduction of 9.6 % in real growth over the current biennium. We see, however, that the ACABQ noted in paragraph 6 of its report that the total estimates in constant 1988 dollars for the biennium 1990-91 compared with the initial appropriations for 1988-89 are virtually the same.

However, it is made clear in the Secretary-General's report that this amount will only be a component — the biggest one, to be sure — of the overall level of resources that the General Assembly will be called to approve for the following biennium.

The report of the CPC (A/43/16 Part II) includes, in paragraph 30, an indication of the elements that will have to be added to the initial level of resources given in the Secretary-General's report, in order to arrive at the final figure. The ACABQ has, in fact, quantified these elements. I must say, the Twelve expected the level of resources in the Secretary-General's proposal to be all-inclusive. This was, and is our understanding of the budgetary process set out in Resolution 41/213. We recognize that, since this is the first full cycle of the new budgetary process and there is no precedent on which to rely, an exceptional procedure was necessary. We appreciate the difficulty that the Secretariat had in formulating this first outline. However, as a general rule to be applied in the future after the experience gained from the current exercise has been absorbed and fully taken advantage of, we believe that in the future the Secretary-General's proposals of the level of resources should be all-inclusive.

Mr Chairman, another point of the Secretary-General's proposed outline refers to the staffing tables and the vacancy rate in the professional and higher categories used in the calculation of the level of resources. Since the Secretariat have not provided a convincing explanation for the assumption of a 3% vacancy rate, we agree with the recommendation of the Advisory Committee that it is realistic to retain the standard 5% figure for professional staff. We also agree with the recommendation of the ACABQ with regard to the net addition of 50 posts.

As for the figures proposed in the outline, we note that the Advisory Committee recommends in paragraph 16 of its report that the total preliminary estimate for 1990-91, at 1990-91 rates, be 1 983 million US dollars. The Twelve could accept this recommendation.

Concerning the size of the contingency fund, to accommodate additional expenditures, expressed as a percentage of the overall level of resources, the Twelve can accept the Secretary-General's recommendation in Document A/43/524 that it be set at 0.75% of the programme budget.

We agree with the opinion of the Advisory Committee that the contingency fund remain at the level set in the outline, with the understanding that the amount so approved is a ceiling which need not be reached, but cannot be exceeded. Again we wish to stress that it is important that the size of the fund for any biennium, including the biennium 1990-91, not be subject to

modification once it has been adopted by the General Assembly. To do otherwise would amount to defeating the purpose of the whole notion of a contingency fund, since it would mean in effect a return to the old practice of adding new expenses to an already approved budget and would be contrary to a fundamental provision of the reform process. We attach importance to the adoption by the General Assembly, pursuant to Resolution 41/213, at its current session of an overall level of resources which, once adopted, should not be subject to modification.

Finally, Mr Chairman, I would like to refer to the long-standing problem of how to deal with the effects of inflation and currency fluctuation. The Twelve note that inflation has already been taken into account in the total estimates as calculated by the ACABQ in paragraph 16 of its report, through the recosting first at 1989 rates and further through the recosting at 1990-91 rates. The only element which is not included in the calculation of the total estimates and the contingency fund is the effect of currency fluctuations. In paragraphs 27-30 of its report, the ACABQ proposes an alternative to the present system, namely to establish a new reserve fund which initially is to be unfunded. Since we are not in favour of the continuation of the present system, we have considerable sympathy for this proposal which merits serious consideration. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

<sup>1</sup> Agenda item 49.

### **88/525. Statement Concerning the Situation in the Middle East**

Date of Issue: 16 December 1988  
Place of Issue: Athens  
Country of Presidency: Greece  
Source of Document: The Twelve  
Status of Document: Declaration

In the spirit of their statement of 21 November 1988, the Twelve welcome the decision by the United States Government to initiate a substantive dialogue with the PLO, following the confirmation of the acceptance by the latter of the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and of the right of Israel to exist, and its explicit renunciation of terrorism.

The Twelve believe that this dialogue opens positive perspectives for the peace process in the Middle East and that it should lead to the beginning of negotiations between the parties directly concerned in the framework of an international peace conference under the auspices of the United Nations, which they have referred to in previous declarations.

They urge all the parties to respond to the new situation and take the necessary steps for such a conference to be convened and direct negotiations within its framework initiated. In their endeavours for the achievement of a comprehensive, just and lasting peace, the Twelve will be guided by the principles of the Venice Declaration and the subsequent declarations they have adopted with regard to the situation in the Middle East. The Twelve express their intention to work to that end, including through appropriate contacts with the parties concerned.

### **88/526. Statement Concerning the Protocol of Brazzaville**

Date of Issue: 16 December 1988  
Place of Issue: Athens  
Country of Presidency: Greece  
Source of Document: The Twelve  
Status of Document: Declaration

The Twelve welcome the important protocol of agreement signed in Brazzaville on 13 December 1988 among Angola, Cuba and South Africa with the mediation of the United States, which brings the independence of Namibia on the basis of United Nations Security Council Resolution 435(1978) closer than ever before. They pay tribute to the constructive spirit and efforts of the

parties involved as well as of all those who have contributed to making possible the remarkable progress achieved so far. They also express their appreciation and support to the significant role and efforts of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

The Twelve have always been firmly and consistently committed to Namibia's independence in accordance with the United Nations settlement plan endorsed by Security Council Resolution 435(1978). They will do all in their power to contribute to its early implementation and to help restore conditions of peace, stability and dialogue in the entire region of Southern Africa.

In this connection, they welcome the agreement on a bilateral accord between Angola and Cuba, which will include a timetable acceptable to all parties for the staged and total withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola.

The Community and its Member States also wish to reiterate their readiness to continue and, if necessary, expand their aid to the Namibian people with a view to securing a smooth transition to independence. Furthermore, they reaffirm their intention to promote economic and social development in Namibia by providing it with substantial economic assistance once it becomes independent, as well as their willingness to receive from an independent Namibia an application for accession to the Lomé Convention.

**88/527. Explanation of Vote in the Fifth Committee of the UN General Assembly: Draft Resolution L.17 on the Scale of Assessments (UNGA Res. 43/223)<sup>1</sup>**

Date of Issue: 19 December 1988

Place of Issue: New York

Country of Presidency: Greece

Source of Document: Greek Delegation to the United Nations

Status of Document: Statement in International Forum

*Mr Rallis:* Mr Chairman, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the twelve Member States of the European Community.

The Twelve have joined consensus on the draft resolution just adopted, albeit with some reluctance, in the hope that this may contribute towards the long overdue need for a broad agreement among member States on the just sharing of the administrative expenses of the United Nations. By joining consensus last year on Resolution 42/218, we had hoped that this goal had already been achieved and that the scale proposed this year by the Committee on Contributions for the years 1989-91, prepared in accordance with the methodology accepted by consensus, would be approved easily at this Session of the General Assembly without a vote. Nevertheless, it is welcome that for the first time, for many years, the Fifth Committee has approved without a vote, although after difficult negotiations, a resolution adopting the scale of assessments.

By the proposed scale some members of the Twelve see their contributions increasing, some others decreasing and finally some see them unchanged. As we said in our statement of 27 October 1988 during the general debate on this item, such results reflect essentially changes in relative capacity-to-pay as measured by the methodology which the General Assembly has developed over the years and they also reflect the size and strength of individual member States' economies when compared to each other. These facts apply not only to the Twelve but generally to all member States of the United Nations. Contributing to the expenses of the Organization, in accordance with the capacity-to-pay of each member State, cannot be seen as a burden but as an honour. The Twelve wish to place on record the observation that their collective share of the United Nations regular budget would seem already to be appreciably in excess of the level that might be expected in the existing methodology, as approved by the General Assembly, were strictly applied without the mitigation process.



In this regard the Twelve have serious reservations as to this process of mitigation as followed by the Committee on Contributions. We believe that in the future such shifting of points should be avoided.

The Twelve have also accepted the consensus on part B of the draft resolution. We have certain reservations on this part but have not pursued them, in the hope that we may arrive at a fair system which will be acceptable to member States as a whole and will prove stable over time.

Mr Chairman, the views of the Twelve have been expressed in detail in our intervention before this Committee on 27 October 1988 and remain valid in their entirety. I will only refer, at this stage, to the basic principle, namely that the scale of assessments should be based on the capacity-to-pay of member States as reflected in the national income statistical data. The methodology which will be presented by the Committee on Contributions for its application to future scales should not depart from this principle and any other elements in the methodology should not be such as to contravene it. At the same time it should be simple. A system with too many individual elements, apparently aimed at improving the methodology, will only complicate it and make it less transparent, without achieving significant results. Finally, we stress once again that it is absolutely necessary that any element to be taken into account in the methodology should be based upon comparable and uniform statistical data if we are to objectively compare the capacities to pay all member States for the purpose of drawing up the scale of assessments. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

<sup>1</sup> Agenda item 120.

### **88/528. Statement concerning the Destruction of Pan Am Flight No 103**

Date of Issue: 31 December 1988  
Place of Issue: Athens  
Country of Presidency: Greece  
Source of Document: The Twelve  
Status of Document: Declaration

The Twelve note with grave concern the findings to date of the British Authorities' investigation into the destruction of Pan Am Flight 103 on 21 December which establish that there is conclusive evidence of the use of a high explosive.

The Twelve deeply regret the tragic loss of so many lives. They express their deepest condolences to the Governments and peoples of the countries of the victims, and notably to the Government of the United States of America from where so many of the victims came. They also wish to express their deepest sympathy to the villagers of Lockerbie.

The Twelve have repeatedly expressed their strongest condemnation of all terrorist actions, and in particular, terrorist acts against civil aviation. They utterly condemn this attack against a civil aircraft.

The Twelve reiterate their policy of combating terrorism in all its forms and in particular of solidarity between Member States in their efforts to prevent terrorist crimes and to bring the guilty to justice. The Twelve are confident that all concerned, inspired by the same solidarity, will give the fullest international cooperation to trace those responsible for this attack and to bring them to trial.

### **88/529. Statement on the Occasion of the Ninth Anniversary of the Invasion of Afghanistan**

Date of Issue: 31 December 1988  
Place of Issue: Athens  
Country of Presidency: Greece  
Source of Document: The Twelve  
Status of Document: Declaration

On the occasion of the ninth anniversary of the invasion of Afghanistan by Soviet forces, the Twelve note that possibilities now exist for finding a political solution to the conflict, and that there are numerous indications which seem to justify the hope that henceforth the Afghan people may regain their independence and control of their own destiny.

The Twelve find particularly encouraging the decision of the Soviet Government to engage in enlarged consultations, which will include representatives of the resistance, with a view to preparing for the establishment of a government which will be representative of, and acceptable to, all sides.

They call upon all sides concerned to implement the Geneva agreements and, in particular, upon the Soviet Union to respect its undertaking to proceed with a full withdrawal of its forces from Afghan territory before 15 February 1989.

## UN voting

This section contains:

- a voting-chart of resolutions adopted by the UN General Assembly, displaying information from the electronic score-board in the General Assembly hall (this excludes corrections to the scoreboard votes which may have been submitted by the countries concerned and which should be gathered from the verbatim records of the plenary meetings).
- a list of resolutions adopted by the General Assembly without having resort to voting.
- a voting chart of resolutions adopted by the UN Security Council, displaying votes as indicated in the provisional verbatim records of the Security Council.

For resolutions adopted by resort to voting, the charts report first of all the attitudes of the Member States of the Community. In case of the Security Council it reports the attitudes of those Member States which are represented in that organ in the period under consideration. The charts report also the attitudes of the United States and the Soviet Union and, for resolutions adopted by vote, the 'total vote' indicating the distribution of the votes cast by all members of the organ on the resolution in question.

The symbols Y, N, A indicate respectively a positive vote, a negative vote and an abstention. The asterisk (\*) means that no vote has been recorded for a particular country.

### Voting chart of resolutions adopted during the 43rd Session of the UN General Assembly

A/RES/43	Subject	Date	Total vote			B	D	K	F	D	G	R	I	R	L	I	L	N	L	P	S	P	U	K	U	S	A	S	S
			Yes	No	Ab.																								
3	Arab League – UN Cooperation	17.10	146	2	0	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
11	Judgement ICJ	25.10	89	2	48	A	Y	A	A	Y	Y	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	Y	A	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
12	OAS-UN Cooperation	10.10	140	1	0	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
13	South Africa – Racial Elections	26.10	146	0	2	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
14	Island of Mayotte – Question	26.10	127	1	25	A	A	N	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
18	Law of the Sea	03.11	135	2	6	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
19	Kampuchea – Situation	03.11	122	19	13	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
21	<i>Intifadah</i>	03.11	130	2	16	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
22	Peace – Right of Peoples	11.11	118	0	29	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
23	South Atlantic – Zone of Peace	14.11	144	1	7	A	Y	A	A	Y	Y	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
25	Falkland Islands (Malvinas) – Question	17.11	109	5	37	A	A	Y	A	Y	A	Y	A	Y	A	Y	A	Y	A	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
26[A]	Namibia – Situation	17.11	130	0	23	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
26[B]	Namibia – Resolution 435 (1978)	17.11	140	0	13	A	Y	A	A	Y	Y	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	Y	A	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
26[C]	UN Council for Namibia – Programme	17.11	147	0	6	Y	Y	A	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
26[D]	Namibia – Information	17.11	129	0	23	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
26[E]	Namibia – UN Fund	17.11	148	0	5	Y	Y	A	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
28	Non-Self-gov. Territories – Information	22.11	154	0	2	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
29	Foreign Econ. and Other Interests	22.11	133	9	14	N	A	N	N	A	A	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	A	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

UN voting

A/RES/43	Subject	Date	Total vote			B	D	K	F	D	G	R	I	L	N	L	P	S	P	K	U	S	A	R
			Yes	No	Ab.																			
29	Colonial Powers – Military Activities	22.11	128	12	15	N	A	N	N	A	A	N	N	N	N	N	A	N	N	N	Y			
30	Decolonization – Implementation of Declaration	22.11	124	4	27	A	A	A	N	Y	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	N	N	N	Y			
33	Western Sahara – Question	22.11	86	0	53	A	A	A	A	Y	Y	A	A	A	A	A	Y	A	A	Y				
45	Decolonization – Implementation of Declaration	22.11	147	2	7	A	Y	*	A	Y	Y	A	A	A	A	Y	Y	N	N	Y				
46	Decolonization – Information	22.11	149	2	5	A	Y	*	A	Y	Y	A	Y	A	Y	Y	N	N	Y					
47	Eradication of Colonialism – Decade	22.11	135	1	20	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	N	Y				
48	Host Country – Visa	29.11	154	2	1	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	N	Y			
49	Host Country – Change of Venue	29.11	154	2	1	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	N	Y			
50[A]	Apartheid – Liberation Struggle	05.12	131	3	21	A	A	A	A	A	R	A	A	A	A	N	A	N	N	Y				
50[B]	Apartheid – Military Collaboration	05.12	123	2	29	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	N	Y				
50[C]	South Africa – Mandatory Sanctions	05.12	123	12	19	N	A	N	N	A	A	N	N	N	N	N	A	N	N	Y				
Par. 3	South Africa – Mandatory Sanctions	05.12	50	41	43	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y				
Par. 6	South Africa – Mandatory Sanctions	05.12	82	27	31	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y				
50[D]	South Africa – Monitoring of Measures	05.12	136	4	14	A	Y	A	N	A	A	A	A	A	A	N	A	N	N	Y				
50[E]	South Africa-Israel – Relations	05.12	106	23	26	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y				
50[F]	Special Committee Against Apartheid – Programme	05.12	144	1	9	A	Y	A	A	Y	Y	A	A	A	A	Y	A	N	Y					
50[H]	South Africa – Dissemination of Information	05.12	132	1	21	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	N	Y				
50[J]	South Africa – Oil Embargo	05.12	138	2	14	A	Y	A	A	A	Y	Y	A	A	A	Y	N	N	Y					
50[K]	Apartheid – Concerted Action	05.12	149	2	2	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	N	N	Y					
54[A]	Middle East – Situation	06.12	103	18	30	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	A	N	A	Y					
54[B]	Middle East – Situation	06.12	83	21	45	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	A	N	A	N	Y				
54[C]	Middle East – Situation	06.12	143	2	7	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y				
57[A]	Palestinian Refugees – Assistance	06.12	152	0	1	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
57[D]	Palestinian Refugees – Scholarships	06.12	153	0	1	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
57[E]	Palestinian Refugees – Occupied Territories	06.12	152	2	0	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y				
57[F]	Palestinian Refugees – Ration Distribution	06.12	130	20	3	N	N	N	N	A	N	N	N	N	N	A	N	N	Y					
57[G]	Persons Displaced Since 1967	06.12	129	2	23	N	N	N	N	A	N	N	N	N	N	A	N	N	Y					
57[H]	Palestinian Refugees – Revenues Property	06.12	124	2	25	A	A	A	A	Y	A	A	A	A	A	Y	A	N	Y					
57[I]	Palestinian Refugees – Protection	06.12	151	2	1	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y				
57[J]	Palestinian Refugees – University <i>Al Quds</i>	06.12	152	2	0	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y				
58	Israeli Practices Occupied Territories	06.12	80	23	45	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y				

A/RES/43	Subject	Date	Total vote			B	D	K	F	D	G	R	I	R	L	L	N	P	S	P	U	K	U	S	A	U	S	S	R	
			Yes	No	Ab.																									
58[A]	Israeli Practices Occupied Territories	06.12	106	2	43	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	N	Y						
Par. 1	Israeli Practices Occupied Territories	06.12	150	1	0	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y						
58[B]	Israeli Practices Occupied Territories	06.12	148	1	4	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y						
58[C]	Israeli Practices Occupied Territories	06.12	149	1	2	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y						
58[D]	Israeli Practices Occupied Territories	06.12	150	2	0	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y						
58[E]	Israeli Practices Occupied Territories	06.12	152	1	1	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y						
58[F]	Israeli Practices Occupied Territories	06.12	149	1	3	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y						
58[G]	Israeli Practices Occupied Territories	06.12	147	2	3	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y						
60[A]	Information	06.12	128	8	16	N	A	A	N	A	Y	A	A	N	A	A	N	A	A	N	N	Y								
60[B]	Information	06.12	141	1	11	A	A	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	A	N	Y										
62	Treaty of Tlatelolco	07.12	149	0	5	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y							
63[A]	Nuclear Tests	07.12	136	4	13	A	Y	N	A	Y	Y	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	N	N	Y									
63[B]	Nuclear Tests	07.12	127	3	21	A	A	N	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	N	N	Y									
64	Nuclear Test Ban Treaty – Urgent Need	07.12	146	2	6	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	N	Y						
66	Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone – S. Asia	07.12	116	3	34	Y	A	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A						
68	Negative Security Guarantees	07.12	117	17	16	N	N	N	N	A	A	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	A						
69	Negative Security Guarantees	07.12	152	0	3	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y						
70	Militarization of Space	07.12	154	1	0	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y							
Pr.	Militarization of Space	07.12	138	1	13	A	Y	A	A	Y	Y	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	N	Y										
Pr.	Militarization of Space	07.12	139	1	11	A	Y	A	A	Y	Y	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	N	Y										
Par. 8	Militarization of Space	07.12	139	1	13	A	Y	A	A	Y	Y	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	N	Y										
71[A]	Denucl. of Africa – Implementation of Declaration	07.12	151	0	4	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	A	Y						
71[B]	South Africa – Nuclear Capability	07.12	138	4	12	A	Y	N	A	Y	Y	A	A	A	A	A	A	N	N	Y										
72	Mass Destruction Weapons	07.12	152	0	2	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y						
75[A]	Nuclear Arms – Bilateral Negot.	07.12	141	0	12	A	Y	A	A	A	Y	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	Y							
75[G]	Military Matters – Objective Information	07.12	130	0	10	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y							
75[H]	Disarmament – UNGA Resolutions	07.12	131	2	20	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	N	Y							
75[I]	International Arms Transfers	07.12	110	1	38	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y							
75[J]	Radiological Weapons	07.12	116	2	29	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	N	Y									
75[K]	Fissionable Material	07.12	144	1	7	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	A	Y	Y	A	Y	A	Y										
75[L]	Naval Arms	07.12	152	1	1	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y							
75[N]	Nuclear Arms – UN Study	07.12	141	1	9	A	Y	A	A	Y	Y	A	A	A	A	A	A	Y	A	N	Y									
75[O]	Nuclear Arms – Bilateral Negot.	07.12	103	0	46	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y							
75[Q]	Dumping of Radiological Wastes	07.12	129	1	10	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y							
75[S]	Disarmament – Conventional – Regional	07.12	125	0	23	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y						
75[T]	Radiological Wastes	07.12	141	0	13	A	Y	A	A	Y	Y	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	Y								

UN voting

A/RES/43	Subject	Date	Total vote			B	D	K	F	D	G	R	I	L	N	L	P	S	P	U	K	U	S	A	U	S	S
			Yes	No	Ab.																						
76[A]	12th Special Session – Disarmament, Security	07.12	129	1	21	A	A	A	A	Y	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	Y
76[B]	Nuclear Weapons – Freeze	07.12	135	12	3	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	A	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	
76[C]	Disarmament – World Campaign	07.12	144	0	10	A	Y	A	A	Y	Y	A	A	A	A	A	Y	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	Y	
76[E]	Nuclear Weapons – Non-Use – Convention	07.12	133	1	74	N	N	N	N	A	A	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	
77[A]	SSOD II – Scient./Techn. Developments	07.12	129	7	14	A	A	N	N	A	Y	N	A	A	A	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	
77[B]	SSOD III	07.12	152	0	2	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	A	A	A	Y	
78	UNGA – Tenth Special Session	07.12																									
78[B]	Nuclear War – Prevention	07.12	127	17	6	N	N	N	N	A	A	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	
78[C]	Disarmament – Cooperation	07.12	136	1	13	A	Y	A	A	Y	Y	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	N	N	N	Y		
78[D]	Nuclear War – Climate	07.12	145	0	9	A	Y	A	A	Y	Y	Y	A	A	A	Y	A	A	Y	A	A	A	A	A	Y		
78[E]	Nuclear Arms Control	07.12	135	13	5	N	A	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	
78[F]	Nuclear War – Prevention	07.12	136	3	14	A	A	N	A	Y	Y	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y		
78[I]	Conference on Disarmament – Report	07.12	96	0	53	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y		
78[J]	Arms Race – Economic and Social Conseq.	07.12	143	1	9	A	Y	A	A	Y	Y	A	A	A	A	Y	A	N	Y								
78[M]	Conference on Disarmament – Report	07.12	136	3	14	A	A	N	A	Y	Y	A	A	A	A	A	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y		
80	Israel – Nuclear Arms	07.12	99	2	51	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	N	Y							
81[B]	Verification – Role UN – Study	07.12	150	1	0	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y						
82	Non-Proliferation – 3rd Review Conference	07.12	137	0	11	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
83[A]	Antarctica – Question	07.12	100	0	7	*	*	*	*	*	A	*	*	*	A	*	*	*	*								
83[B]	Antarctica – Question	07.12	108	0	10	*	*	*	*	*	A	*	*	*	A	*	*	*	*								
86	International Situation – Dialogue	07.12	127	1	24	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	N	Y						
87	Peace – Declaration	07.12	128	0	24	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	Y		
88	Security – Declaration	07.12	128	1	22	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	N	Y						
89	International Peace and Security	07.12	97	3	45	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	N	Y							
92	Human Rights – South Africa	08.12	129	10	17	N	A	N	N	A	A	N	N	N	N	N	A	N	N	N	Y						
Pr.	Human Rights – South Africa	08.12	82	32	37	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y		
Par. 3	Human Rights – South Africa	08.12	84	32	36	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y		
97	Apartheid – Convention	08.12	128	1	26	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	N	Y						
Pr.	Apartheid – Convention	08.12	118	18	16	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y		
Pr.	Apartheid – Convention	08.12	122	15	15	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y		
Par. 6	Apartheid – Convention	08.12	119	17	12	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y		
Par. 7	Apartheid – Convention	08.12	123	8	19	N	A	N	N	A	A	A	N	N	N	A	N	N	N	N	Y						
Par. 10	Apartheid – Convention	08.12	126	15	11	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y		
106	Self-Determination – Right of Peoples	08.12	124	15	15	N	N	N	N	A	A	N	N	N	N	A	A	N	N	N	Y						
107	Mercenaries	08.12	125	10	21	N	A	N	N	A	A	N	N	N	N	A	N	N	N	N	Y						
Par. 11	Mercenaries	08.12	123	6	21	Y	A	N	N	A	A	Y	Y	Y	N	A	Y	N	Y	N	Y						
110	Human Rights – Scient./Techn. Developments	08.12	133	0	24	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	Y		
113	Human Rights – Indivisible	08.12	132	1	23	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	N	Y						
Pr.	Human Rights – Indivisible	08.12	133	7	16	N	A	N	N	A	A	N	N	N	A	N	N	N	N	N	Y						
124	Human Rights – Property	08.12	129	24	1	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y		
125	Alternative Approaches	08.12	130	1	25	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	N	Y						
126	Alternative Approaches	08.12	135	8	14	N	A	N	N	A	A	A	N	N	A	A	N	*	Y								
137	ECOSOC – Human Rights – Iran	08.12	61	25	44	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	*		

A/RES/43	Subject	Date	Total vote			B	D K	F	D	G R	I R L	I	L	N L	P	S P	U K	U S A	U S S R
			Yes	No	Ab.														
146	ECOSOC – Migrant Workers	08.12	154	1	2	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	N	Y
156	ECOSOC – Social Life	08.12	130	16	9	N	N	N	N	A	A	A	N	N	N	A	N	N	Y
158	ECOSOC – Human Rights – Chile	08.12	97	1	55	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y
160[A]	Liberation Movements – UN Observers	09.12	117	2	31	N	A	N	N	Y	A	N	N	A	A	A	N	N	Y
160[B]	Liberation Movements – UN Documents	09.12	124	9	18	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	Y
162	NIEO	09.12	129	0	24	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	Y
163	Peaceful Settlement of Disputes	09.12	132	0	22	A	A	A	A	Y	Y	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	Y
Par. 4	Peaceful Settlement of Disputes	09.12	118	9	22	N	A	N	N	Y	A	A	A	*	A	A	N	A	Y
Par. 5	Peaceful Settlement of Disputes	09.12	121	19	10	A	N	N	N	Y	A	Y	Y	*	N	N	N	A	Y
164	Crimes – Draft Code	09.12	137	5	13	A	A	N	N	Y	Y	A	A	A	A	A	N	N	Y
168	Mercenaries – <i>Ad Hoc</i> Committee	09.12	127	11	15	N	A	N	N	A	A	N	N	*	N	A	N	*	*
171[A]	Good Neighbourliness	09.12	67	9	65	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A
171[B]	Good Neighbourliness	09.12	124	8	22	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y
175[A]	Palestine Question	15.12	123	2	20	A	A	A	A	Y	A	A	A	A	A	Y	A	N	Y
175[B]	Palestine Question	15.12	123	2	20	A	A	A	A	Y	A	A	A	A	A	Y	A	N	Y
175[C]	Palestine Question	15.12	127	2	17	A	A	A	A	Y	A	A	A	A	Y	A	N	Y	
176	Palestine Question	15.12	138	2	2	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
177	Palestine Question	15.12	104	2	36	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	N	Y
178	Palestinians – Assistance	20.12	118	14	13	N	N	N	N	A	A	A	N	N	N	A	N	N	Y
182	4th UN Development Decade	20.12	151	0	1	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y
185	Nicaragua – Trade Embargo	20.12	89	2	50	A	Y	A	A	Y	Y	A	A	A	Y	A	N	Y	
187	Money – Conference	20.12	127	19	5	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y
195	Poverty in DCs	20.12	128	1	21	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	N	Y
197	ODA – Target	20.12	148	0	1	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y
198	Debt	20.12	150	1	1	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
209	Front-Line States – Assistance	20.12	152	0	1	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y
222[B]	UN Committee on Conferences – Status	21.12	129	4	14	A	A	A	N	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	N	N	Y
228	UNDOF – Financing	21.12	133	2	8	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
229	UNIFIL – Financing	21.12	134	1	8	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

## Resolutions adopted without resort to voting

A/RES/43/	Date	Subject
1	(17.10.88)	A-ALCC UN Cooperation
2	(17.10.88)	OIC-UN Cooperation
4	(17.10.88)	UN-OAS Cooperation
5	(17.10.88)	SELA-UN Cooperation
6	(17.10.88)	OPANAL — UN Observer
7	(18.10.88)	Jamaica — Emergency Assistance
8	(18.10.88)	Sudan — Emergency Assistance
9	(18.10.88)	Bangladesh — Natural Disasters
10	(18.10.88)	Credentials Committee — First Report
15	(27.10.88)	AIDS
16	(28.10.88)	IAEA Report
17	(03.11.88)	Emergency Assistance — Hurricane
20	(03.11.88)	Afghanistan — Situation
24	(15.11.88)	Central America — Situation
27	(18.11.88)	UNPAAERD — Mid-Term Review
31	(22.11.88)	South Africa — Training Programme
32	(22.11.88)	Non-Self-governing Territories — Study and Training
34	(22.11.88)	New Caledonia — Question
35	(22.11.88)	Tokelau — Question
36	(22.11.88)	Anguilla — Question
37	(22.11.88)	Cayman Islands — Question
38	(22.11.88)	Montserrat — Question
39	(22.11.88)	Bermuda — Question
40	(22.11.88)	Turks and Caicos Islands — Question
41	(22.11.88)	British Virgin Islands — Question
42	(22.11.88)	Guam — Question
43	(22.11.88)	American Samoa — Question
44	(22.11.88)	United States Virgin Islands — Question
50[G]	(05.12.88)	Apartheid — Special Session
50[I]	(05.12.88)	South Africa — UN Trust Fund
51	(05.12.88)	Disputes — Declaration
52	(06.12.88)	Sudan — Assistance
53	(06.12.88)	Climate — Conservation
55	(06.12.88)	Atomic Radiation Effects
56	(06.12.88)	Outer Space — Peaceful Use
57[B]	(06.12.88)	UNRWA — Financing — Working Group
57[C]	(06.12.88)	UNRWA — Persons Displaced Since 1967 — Aid
59[A]	(06.12.88)	Peace-Keeping Operations
59[B]	(06.12.88)	Peace-Keeping Operations
61	(06.12.88)	Science and Peace
65	(07.12.88)	Middle East — Nuclear-Free Zone
67	(07.12.88)	Conventional Weapons
73	(07.12.88)	Military Budgets Reduction
74[A]	(07.12.88)	Bacteriological Weapons — Geneva Protocol
74[B]	(07.12.88)	Bacteriological Weapons Convention — 2nd Review Conference
74[C]	(07.12.88)	Chemical and Bacteriological Weapons
75[B]	(07.12.88)	Disarmament-Development — Relationship
75[C]	(07.12.88)	Radiological Weapons



A/RES/43/	Date	Subject
75[D]	(07.12.88)	Conventional Disarmament
75[E]	(07.12.88)	Nuclear Disarmament
75[F]	(07.12.88)	Conventional Disarmament
75[M]	(07.12.88)	Mass Destruction Weapons – Seabed
75[P]	(07.12.88)	Confidence-Building Measures – Disarmament in Europe
75[R]	(07.12.88)	Disarmament – UN Role
76[D]	(07.12.88)	Africa – UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament
76[F]	(07.12.88)	Disarmament – UN Fellowships
76[G]	(07.12.88)	Asia – UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament
76[H]	(07.12.88)	Latin America – UN Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development
78[A]	(07.12.88)	Disarmament Commission – Report
78[G]	(07.12.88)	Disarmament Week
78[H]	(07.12.88)	Confidence-Building Measures – Guidelines
78[K]	(07.12.88)	Disarmament – Comprehensive Programme
78[L]	(07.12.88)	3rd Disarmament Decade – 1990s
79	(07.12.88)	Indian Ocean
81[A]	(07.12.88)	Verification – All Aspects
84	(07.12.88)	Mediterranean – Security
85	(07.12.88)	Peace and Security
91	(08.12.88)	Racism and Racial Discrimination – 2nd Decade
93	(08.12.88)	Ageing
94	(08.12.88)	Youth – Policies and Programmes
95	(08.12.88)	Racism – Status of Convention
96	(08.12.88)	CERD
98	(08.12.88)	Disabled Persons – Programme
99	(08.12.88)	Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice
100	(08.12.88)	Women – Committee on Elimination of Discrimination
101	(08.12.88)	Women – Implementation of Nairobi Strategies
102	(08.12.88)	Women – UN Fund
103	(08.12.88)	UN Secretariat – Status of Women
104	(08.12.88)	Women – Participation in Promoting Peace
105	(08.12.88)	Self-Determination
108	(08.12.88)	Religious Intolerance
109	(08.12.88)	Human Rights – Implications of Scient./Techn. Developments
110	(08.12.88)	Right to Life
112	(08.12.88)	Human Rights – Child – Convention
114	(08.12.88)	Human Rights Covenants
115	(08.12.88)	Human Rights Instruments – Obligations
116	(08.12.88)	Refugees – Southern Africa – International Conference
117	(08.12.88)	Refugees – UN High Commissioner
118	(08.12.88)	Refugees – Central America
119	(08.12.88)	Refugees – Indo-China
120	(08.12.88)	Drugs – Convention
121	(08.12.88)	Drugs Trafficking – Use of Children
122	(08.12.88)	Drugs Abuse – Campaign
123	(08.12.88)	Right to Own Property
127	(08.12.88)	Right to Development

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129	(08.12.88)	New International Humanitarian Order
130	(08.12.88)	Cooperation in the Humanitarian Field
131	(08.12.88)	Natural Disaster — Humanitarian Assistance
132	(08.12.88)	Torture — Status of Convention
133	(08.12.88)	Torture — UN Voluntary Fund
134	(08.12.88)	Torture of Children — South Africa
135	(08.12.88)	Development — Families
136	(08.12.88)	Youth — Responsibilities of States
138	(08.12.88)	ECOSOC — Genocide — Status of Convention
139	(08.12.88)	ECOSOC — Human Rights — Afghanistan
140	(08.12.88)	ECOSOC — Regional Arrangements
141	(08.12.88)	ECOSOC — Refugees — Sudan — Assistance
142	(08.12.88)	ECOSOC — Refugees — Djibuti — Assistance
143	(08.12.88)	ECOSOC — Returnees — Chad — Assistance
144	(08.12.88)	ECOSOC — Refugees — Ethiopia — Assistance
145	(08.12.88)	ECOSOC — El Salvador — Human Rights
147	(08.12.88)	ECOSOC — Refugees — Somalia — Assistance
148	(08.12.88)	ECOSOC — Refugees — Malawi — Assistance
149	(08.12.88)	ECOSOC — Refugees — Southern Africa — Assistance
150	(08.12.88)	ECOSOC — Nazism, Fascism — Measures
151	(08.12.88)	ECOSOC — Summary or Arbitrary Executions
152	(08.12.88)	ECOSOC — Regional Arrangements
153	(08.12.88)	ECOSOC — Human Rights — Administration of Justice
154	(08.12.88)	ECOSOC — Human Rights and Mass Exoduses
155	(08.12.88)	ECOSOC — Human Rights — Cooperation
157	(08.12.88)	ECOSOC — Elections
159	(08.12.88)	ECOSOC — Disappearances
161	(09.12.88)	1949 Geneva Convention — Additional Protocols
165	(09.12.88)	UNCITRAL — Bills of Exchange — Convention
166	(09.12.88)	UNCITRAL — Mandate
167	(09.12.88)	Diplomats — Safety
168	(09.12.88)	Mercenaries — <i>Ad Hoc</i> Committee
169	(09.12.88)	International Law Commission
170	(09.12.88)	Special Committee on the Charter — Report
172	(09.12.88)	Relations with the Host Country — Report
173	(09.12.88)	Detainees — Principles
174	(09.12.88)	UN — Administrative and Financial Functioning
179	(20.12.88)	Africa — Transport and Communications Decade
180	(20.12.88)	Year of Shelter
181	(20.12.88)	Shelter — Global Strategy
183	(20.12.88)	UNCTAD — 25th Anniversary
184	(20.12.88)	Transfer of Technology
186	(20.12.88)	LDCs — 2nd UN Conference
188	(20.12.88)	Trade and Development Board — Report
189	(20.12.88)	Developing Countries — Islands
190	(20.12.88)	Developing Countries — Food and Agriculture
191	(20.12.88)	Food and Agricultural Problems

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193	(20.12.88)	Developing Countries – Energy
194	(20.12.88)	Development – Economic and Social
196	(20.12.88)	Environment and Development – Conference
199	(20.12.88)	Development – Operational Activities
200	(20.12.88)	UN University
201	(20.12.88)	UNITAR
202	(20.12.88)	Natural Disaster Reduction – Decade
203	(20.12.88)	Locusts and Grasshoppers
204	(20.12.88)	Special Economic and Disaster Relief Assistance
205	(20.12.88)	Chad – Economic Assistance
206	(20.12.88)	Somalia – Emergency Assistance
207	(20.12.88)	Lebanon – Reconstruction and Development
208	(20.12.88)	Mozambique – Assistance
210	(20.12.88)	Central America – Economic Cooperation
211	(20.12.88)	Benin a.o. – Assistance
212	(20.12.88)	Environment – Responsibility
213	(21.12.88)	UN – Progress Report Biennium 1988-89
214	(21.12.88)	UN – Programme Budget Biennium 1990-91
215	(21.12.88)	UN – Financial Crisis
216	(21.12.88)	UN – Board of Auditors – Financial Reports
217	(21.12.88)	UN – Programme Budget Biennium 1988-89
218[A]	(21.12.88)	UN – Revised Appropriations for 1988-89
218[B]	(21.12.88)	Income Estimates Biennium 1988-89
218[C]	(21.12.88)	Financing of Appropriations for 1989
219	(21.12.88)	Programme Planning
220	(21.12.88)	UN – Financial Emergency
221	(21.12.88)	Joint Inspection Unit
222[A]	(21.12.88)	UN – Pattern of Conferences
222[C]	(21.12.88)	UN – Control and Limitation of Documents
222[D]	(21.12.88)	UN – Work Programme – Biennial Basis
222[E]	(21.12.88)	Resolution 42/207[C] – Implementation
223[A]	(21.12.88)	UN Expenses – Scale of Assessment
223[B]	(21.12.88)	UN Expenses – Scale of Assessment
223[C]	(21.12.88)	UN Expenses – Scale of Assessment
224[A]	(21.12.88)	UN Secretariat – Composition
225[B]	(21.12.88)	UN Secretariat – Administration of Justice
224[C]	(21.12.88)	UN Secretariat – Status of Women
224[D]	(21.12.88)	UN Secretariat – Working Language
225	(21.12.88)	UN Officials – Privileges and Immunities
226	(21.12.88)	ICSC – Report
227	(21.12.88)	UN Pension System
230	(21.12.88)	UNIIMOG – Financing
231	(16.02.89)	UN – Angola Verification Mission – Financing
232	(01.03.89)	UN – Transition Assistance Group – Financing

**Voting chart of resolutions adopted  
during the 43rd Session of the UN Security Council**

S/RES/	Subject	Date	Total vote			D K	F	I	U K	U S A	U S S R
			Yes	No	Ab.						
607	Territories Occupied by Israel	05.01.88	unanimous			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
608	Territories Occupied by Israel	14.01.88	14	0	1	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y
609	UNIFIL	29.01.88	unanimous			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
610	Apartheid	16.03.88	unanimous			Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y
611	Israel-Tunisia	25.04.88	14	0	1	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
612	Iran-Iraq	09.05.88	unanimous			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
613	UNDOF	31.05.88	unanimous			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
614	UNFICYP	15.06.88	unanimous			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
615	Apartheid	17.06.88	unanimous			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
616	Iran Air	20.07.88	unanimous			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
617	UNIFIL	29.07.88	unanimous			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
618	Hostages	29.07.88	unanimous			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
619	UNIIMOG	09.08.88	unanimous			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
620	Iran-Iraq	26.08.88	unanimous			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
621	Western Sahara — Question	20.09.88	unanimous			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
622	Afghanistan — Situation	31.10.88	unanimous			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
623	Apartheid	23.11.88	unanimous			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
624	UNDOF	30.11.88	unanimous			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
625	UNFICYP	15.12.88	unanimous			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
626	Angola Verification Mission	20.12.88	unanimous			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

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