

European Economic Community

—

Associated African States and Madagascar

PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE OF THE ASSOCIATION

TENTH ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE OF THE ASSOCIATION

SUMMARY RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 30 January 1974

ROME

IN THE CHAIR: Mr YACE

Retiring President

The sitting was opened at 4.40 p.m. in the Chamber of Deputies, Palazzo Montecitorio, Rome.

Opening of the annual meeting of the Conference

The PRESIDENT declared the tenth annual meeting of the Parliamentary Conference of the Association open.

He announced that the Upper Volta delegation had sent an apology for absence.

Composition of the Conference

The PRESIDENT announced that he had received from the Presidents of the Parliaments of the Associated African States and Madagascar, and the President of the European Parliament, the list of representatives to the Conference who had been appointed in accordance with the provisions of the Association Agreement and the Rules of Procedure.

The list of members and representatives to the Conference would be appended to the minutes.

Welcome to Mauritian representatives

The PRESIDENT recalled that, at the last meeting of the Conference the representatives of Mauritius had attended the Conference as observers. He, therefore, welcomed their presence today as full members of the Association.

(Applause)

Admission of observers to the Conference

The PRESIDENT recalled that representatives of the Member States of the East African Community had been admitted as observers to the last Conference.

He invited the Conference to take the same decision for this meeting.

The Conference agreed.

(Applause)

The PRESIDENT also invited the Conference to accede to the Joint Committee's request for representatives of the associable States to participate from now on in the proceedings of the Parliamentary Conference of the Association and the Joint Committee.

The Conference agreed.

Election of President

After drawing attention to the provisions of the Rules of Procedure concerning membership of the Bureau of the Conference, the President announced that he had received from the representatives of the European Parliament the nomination of Mr Cornelis Berkhouwer to the post of President.

The Conference elected Mr Cornelis Berkhouwer by acclamation. He was named President of the Parliamentary Conference of the Association and took the chair.

(Applause)

IN THE CHAIR: Mr BERKHOUWER

President

Election of vice-presidents

The Conference ratified the following appointments:

First Vice-President - Mr Philippe YACE
Vice-Presidents - Mr Giovanni BERSANI
- Mr Georges DAMAS-ALEKA
- Mr Ludwig FELLERMAIER
- Mr Dieudonné MIAKASSISSA
- Lord REAY
- Mr Satcam BOOLELL
- Mr Yvon BOURGES
- Mr AHMED OULD DIE

The sitting was suspended at 4.50 p.m. and resumed at 5.10 p.m.

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FORMAL OPENING

IN THE CHAIR: Mr BERKHOUWER

President

The PRESIDENT made the following speech:

Your Excellencies, my dear colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The first conference held in Europe under the First Yaoundé Convention took place in Rome in 1965. You doubtless all remember that our talks on that occasion were based on an excellent report by Mr PEDINI on behalf of the Joint Committee. We are extremely happy to see him here today as representative of the Italian Government - (Applause) - and I should like to express public appreciation for all the work he has done in the past in the cause of Europe.

President YACE has already alluded to Rome's historical significance in the development of the concept of association. It is therefore gratifying that this last conference in Europe - this time under the Second Yaoundé Convention - is also taking place in Rome. We have been particularly impressed by the hospitality extended to us on this occasion by our Italian colleagues. This undoubtedly augurs well for the success of the Conference, which is - and I would stress the point - a parliamentary conference. What is unique in our meetings is that they offer parliamentarians from both Africa and Europe a rare opportunity to come together as equals and to discuss ideas. In the past, cooperation between us has led to a useful and objective dialogue and the institutional build up of the Association is an achievement among others by which we all set great store.

The past year has seen major developments. First and foremost, the negotiations with our African partners in Brussels entered the definitive stage. The present Yaoundé Convention expires on 31 January 1975, which is why I agree with President YACE that the negotiations should now be speeded up if we wish to avoid the need to resort to transitional measures on 1 February 1975. Negotiations with more than 40 developing countries whose historical relations with Europe reveal so many varied aspects, are of course a particularly complicated matter. Our African partners in the negotiations have raised a good many questions and for this reason we are gratified that their secretariat is under the direction of Mr DJIN SYLLA whose competence and high sense of duty we have come to know and appreciate over these last few years.

The development of the Community customs tariff and the Community system of general preferences, one of the first to be applied, make it more than ever necessary to compensate our partners in the Association for the losses which they have thereby sustained. I therefore feel that in other fields, not only in trade but also in the matter of rules of origin and non-tariff measures, the Community must go as far as it possibly can. The harmonization of duties on tropical foodstuffs is a particular point in this connection and one which was put forward and endorsed at our conference last year in Kinshasa.

The Community has already informed its negotiating partners that in its view, the Associated African States, Madagascar and Mauritius must continue to enjoy in future the same advantages as in the past. The Community is further prepared to accord the same treatment to the new associates, so that there will be no question of discrimination between the new partners and the old. In so doing, the Community has of course made a commitment whose financial implications are difficult to foresee at the present time. Much will depend on the number of new countries that opt for association. Furthermore, account must be taken of the continued creeping inflation, the population growth and the steady rise in world prices for primary products. It is my belief, however, that the Community, convinced as it is of the value of our association both for Africa and Europe, will keep entirely to its word. As far as the European Parliament is concerned, our African friends may rely on our full support. I would remind you in this connection of the proposals, made by the Joint Committee and others, to finance EEC aid out of the Community's own resources beginning in 1975. In this way, it will be possible to strike a better internal balance in the Community's budget and to increase Community development aid as Community revenue grows.

In saying this, I am aware that many of you will think that in view of the present energy crisis, a promise of this kind is perhaps going rather far. But I believe that the crisis holds valuable lessons both for the industrial and the developing countries. It is fundamentally a good thing that the industrial countries should ultimately pay a price which is more closely in keeping than before with the economic value and the important role of oil in the production process of the western countries. For many years, international bodies and conferences have been loudly proclaiming that our relations should be governed by the motto 'TRADE NOT AID'. We now have the opportunity to show that we mean it. What is a matter for regret is the way in which things have been done. Had prices been fixed in a less abrupt and arbitrary manner, the major consumers would have been afforded the opportunity to adjust their economies better to the new situation. There can be no doubt that the changed economic relations between the industrialized and the oil-producing countries will mean a shift in responsibility towards the less favoured developing countries. This must not be taken by Europe as an excuse for shirking its own responsibilities. Given the standard of living in the Member States and the way in which the national income is distributed in most of them, the Community should be able to continue to play a leading role in the field of development cooperation. More than ever before, the position in which the less favoured developing countries find themselves makes cooperation a vital necessity. These very countries

are the first to feel the effects of higher prices for petroleum products. As a result of this alone, they are faced with annual additional expenditure amounting to more than they receive in development aid. The finished products which they import will undoubtedly rise in price and at the same time they are more than ever the victims of the huge increase in the prices of basic commodities, particularly rise and cereals but also rubber, cotton and tin, which have more than doubled over the past year.

Public opinion in Europe is concerned at the consequences of higher oil prices but all things considered, the increase should be fairly comfortably absorbed. What with the protection afforded by the common agricultural market, there is insufficient awareness of the severe effects of the sharp rise in the prices of primary products on the developing countries. The millions of people in these countries have practically no other resources to fall back on. The drought in the Sahel countries - and I am happy to say, your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, that the European Parliament took the initiative in bringing about a substantial improvement in Community aid to those countries - has opened the eyes of many. It is well known that a large number of the Associated States are among those which have the dubious honour of appearing on UNCTAD's list of the 25 poorest countries in the world. These countries are suffering more than ever from inflation and from the higher prices of petroleum and other primary products. More than ever they count - and rightly so - on our solidarity.

The many and various personal contacts which we have made with our African colleagues over the past few years have brought home to us how serious their problems are. We have thus been able, with proper knowledge of the facts, to make the situation of their countries clear to the general public here. At the same time, our African partners often had unique opportunities to meet each other, so that our meetings have also helped to strengthen African solidarity. For this reason I am particularly pleased that so many representatives from the associable countries now negotiating in Brussels with the Community have accepted the invitation to acquaint themselves with this very special form of parliamentary cooperation.

Your Excellencies, my dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, I am not deluded into thinking that our meeting can resolve most of our problems. The old dictum 'ROMA LOCUTA CAUSA FINITA' will certainly not apply in our case. But I am certain that we shall return to our various capitals with a deeper insight into our problems and a firmer conviction of the value of our parliamentary cooperation. Our solidarity finds expression in the smooth functioning of our Association. The present crisis will

strengthen our unity and make us aware that we have in the Association the very means of overcoming the difficulties now facing us. It will thus become apparent that our unity, and our sense of common purpose are our strength.

(Applause)

Mr Sandro PERTINI, President of the Italian Chamber of Deputies
made the following speech:

Mr President, dear colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure and honour for me to extend on behalf of the President of the Senate, Mr Spagnolli, and on my own behalf, a warm welcome to the Italian Chamber of Deputies at the Palazzo di Montecitorio in Rome, to the participants in the annual parliamentary conference of the Association between the European Economic Community and the Associated African States, Madagascar and Mauritius.

The Chamber of Deputies was happy to place its facilities at the disposal of the Conference and to suspend its own work for that period. All the parties in Parliament were quick to recognize the importance of your meeting, revealing a political sensitivity which should be duly acknowledged. This meeting forms part of the normal relations between the countries of the EEC/AASM Association, and Rome itself was the venue for one of the first sessions of the Conference.

There are two points about your meeting which I should like to make: first and foremost, parliamentary representatives of more than twenty countries interested in joining the Association, many of whom recently acquired their independence will be attending for the first time.

There are 15 African countries - Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia - three Pacific countries - Fiji, Western Samoa and Tonga - and six Caribbean countries, the Bahamas, Barbados, Jamaica, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago. I have named them individually because I wish to extend a warm welcome to each of them and to express to all of you the hope that the negotiations for association, begun last July with the preparatory conference in Brussels will be speedily brought to a successful conclusion.

The enlargement of the Yaoundé Convention and the Arusha Agreement, pending the introduction of the overall policy of aid to the developing countries which the EEC Commission has undertaken to formulate by January 1975 must certainly be welcomed as a highly positive development. An area of this huge size stretching from the Pacific to the Caribbean and including virtually the whole continent of Africa and almost a fifth

of the world's population must surely become a factor of the utmost importance in the search for international détente and the consolidation of peace throughout the world.

The second point which I would briefly make concerns the present situation. We are of course greatly heartened by the news from the Middle East where only yesterday there raged a war which deeply distressed us by the suffering it brought to the peoples of that area and made us tremble for world peace, leaving us the more firmly convinced that it is not through war but through peace that the problems caused by differences between peoples can and must be resolved.

From the Community's point of view, however, the situation unfortunately cannot be viewed in an optimistic light. The Community of course has lived through other difficult periods. It seems to me that even the recent Summit in Copenhagen threw the points of contention into sharper relief than those on which there is agreement. But simply by looking at the enormous complexity of the problems under discussion, I feel that no greater misfortune could befall the Community and each of our countries at the present time than if the sorry rule were to prevail 'each man for himself and God for the strong'.

It is therefore my hope, as an Italian citizen and, above all, as a citizen of the world, that from your high councils will come a clear call to the European countries to assume their full responsibilities so that the Community process does not dangerously mark time but continues to strive for greater understanding between the Community and the Third World.

You are the representatives of peoples who have known the humiliating and often cruel yoke of colonialism, that absurdity which flies in the face of history, and are now fully independent and on the path towards social, political and economic revival. For this they need peace, a peace they wish to see achieved through solidarity between all the peoples of the world without preposterous racial discriminations.

You representatives of the Third World and we Europeans are bound to the same destiny, as are all the peoples of the world.

With peace and brotherhood, we shall succeed in laying the foundations of a prosperous future for the generations to come.

War - that vestige of barbarism - would only set the stage for the tragic end of mankind.

Let not money be squandered in building engines of war but used to create a life of dignity for those who live in misery.

It is with these sentiments that I wish you all success in your endeavours.

(Applause)

Fr.-hm.jfh/gc

Mr Mohamed WARSAMA ALI, President-in-Office of the EEC-AASM Association Council made the following speech:

Mr President, Minister, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I should first like to thank the Parliamentary Conference for its warm welcome to the Association Council.

I am sure that this meeting, like the previous ones, will be an occasion for a constructive dialogue between the two institutions of great value to our Association.

During our discussions, we shall be able to review the work carried out in the Association Council, particularly when we examine the Ninth Annual Report on the activities of the institution which I have the honour to represent here.

I should like to stress the importance we attach to the work of this Parliamentary Conference, which has been very well prepared by the meetings of the Joint Committee.

The Parliamentary Conference is not only an ideal meeting ground for politicians from the Associated African States and Europe, but also allows a wide-ranging and free exchange of views and joint discussion on the implementation of the Yaoundé and Port-Louis agreements.

I also wish to thank the Italian Government and authorities for the welcome they have given us in the Eternal City, where I myself had the good fortune to study and whose history has great significance for the Associated States as well as the Community. I should also add that it gives us great pleasure to be here in the Palazzo Madama which the Chamber of Deputies has kindly made available to the Conference for its parliamentary meeting.

We are particularly happy to welcome the representatives of the signatory states of the Arusha Agreement, and the observers from the countries of Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific, who are negotiating with the Community in Brussels and have come to listen to our discussions.

May this twofold encounter between representatives of the Member States of the Community and representatives of the Associated States on the one hand, and between the Parliamentary Conference and the Association Council on the other, be governed by that humanist spirit which was born in Rome and which generates understanding, objectivity, moderation and generosity.

The humanist spirit of which President Leone has spoken must form the basis for cooperation between Europe and Africa.

In conclusion, I wish you, Mr President, and all the participants in the Conference, complete success at this tenth meeting.

(Applause)

Mr Mario PEDINI, Italian Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, made the following speech:

Mr President, Honourable Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Italian Government extends a warm welcome to you and recalls with pleasure that it was in Rome in 1961 that the first meetings took place between representatives of the Member States of the Community and the new independent African states, with the aim of setting not only economic but also political aims for the Association, established under Title IV of the Treaty of Rome, in the hope of directing the thoughts of the Community outwards to a new world.

By linking European integration with the consolidation of African independence we have this year inaugurated a form of global cooperation which, by ensuring a fair balance in the European Development Fund between trade, financial and technical aid, still seems to offer the best kind of cooperation between industrialized countries and developing countries all over the world.

Many psychological, political and economic difficulties have beset this cooperation. As an ideal it has enabled the Community to overcome some uncertainties and prompted it to define its own role in the world more precisely.

The Association has also helped the African peoples to strengthen their sovereignty in practical terms while making their proper contribution to an experiment in international cooperation appropriate to the needs of the time and promoting that international polycentrism in which we all hope to find a better guarantee of peace.

Italy has always recognized the special importance to the Association of having joint institutions at executive and parliamentary level.

It is through them that the colonialist spirit has been overcome and a true partnership ensured, that is, a partnership between peoples working together towards common objectives whilst retaining their independence. This cannot help but promote the cause of freedom in those countries where it has yet to be won.

Therefore the Italian Government is happy to welcome to Rome once again the Parliamentary Conference of the Association which in 1965 chose our capital as the venue of its first discussions.

That is why it is also happy to welcome the old partners and, above all, observers from the African and Pacific countries who are engaged in negotiating a new Association.

New problems face us today. The Community has been enlarged and the Europe which it now offers to you is bigger and culturally richer. The presence of the United Kingdom, Ireland and Denmark makes the Community the largest association of nations in the world. At the same time its economic dynamism makes it the main source of international trade.

European unification on this broader scale is bound to affect independent Africa: it was bound to become a catalytic force between French - and English-speaking Africa. So we have a larger Europe negotiating in Brussels terms of association with a larger Africa which, with the cooperation of its peoples, has a chance to achieve greater unity.

We shall have to work out new solutions to meet new needs. The need to stabilize the revenue of the Associated States means we must make a careful choice of effective technical instruments for this purpose. The system of trade preferences is not by itself, a guarantee of future cooperation. It must be supported by a system of economic cooperation whereby at regional level the associated States of Europe and Africa coordinate their action, adjusted according to the responsibility each of them bears in the vast context of modern industrial progress.

We must endow our cooperation with a deeper political purpose because of the unsatisfactory conditions prevailing at present throughout the world in international economic and social relations.

It was only to be expected that the new countries of the Third World, whose release from colonialism was due in the first instance to the concern for human liberty and other universal values of European culture should, after winning political freedom, demand economic freedom. We deplore the fact that today important natural resources required by every country including the poorest, should have been employed as a pressure device which could not help but prejudice future prospects of economic development. Nevertheless we think it right that the terms of international trade should be determined on a financially and socially fairer basis.

Our Association Agreement must be seen in the context of a profoundly changing world. As far as we, in particular, are concerned, it is clear that an enlarged Community and, equally, an independent Africa cannot but create a de facto European-African Community in which the Mediterranean can be the natural link and, God willing, a region where economic and cultural relations can be created and maintained in peace. Your Conference, ladies and gentlemen, is therefore rich in fresh themes and may well produce insights capable of making the negotiations for our third Association Agreement truly up-to-date: for if a Treaty is to be relevant to

present needs it must also be socially effective, using commercial and economic cooperation in such a way as to reassert the human values of coexistence in the European-African context, values shared by our civilizations. Parliaments are the direct expression of the wishes of citizens and individuals; clearly then, this meeting of the Parliamentary Conference of the Association between Europe and the African States and Madagascar is of exceptional importance.

However, the experience of past years has taught us that the need for development and change is less acutely felt by those who are still living in poverty than by those who already possess considerable resources but make poor use of them because their conception of human civilization is limited or because they succumb to the dictates of egoism, an egoism which can be displayed by the individual, the people or the nation, an egoism which is the most dangerous consequence of economic change, if this change does not go hand-in-hand with progress towards true civilization.

It is at this point that the problem for our Association becomes a political one. That is why the Italian Government wishes the meetings of this assembly the fullest success and hopes that the discussions will be inspired by those cultural and human values on which the association between Europe and Africa must be based.

(Applause)

Mr Moro, Minister of Foreign Affairs, has asked me to read you the following telegram:

'Regret travel abroad prevents me from attending the Parliamentary Conference of the EEC-AASM Association. I wish all participants a warm welcome to Rome and success in their work.'

Today it is clearer than ever that Europe and Africa are linked by a common destiny and the Community's timely efforts to define that destiny must be intensified and extended. It is in a positive spirit of friendly collaboration that our peoples will be able to advance together, contributing to the cause of justice and peace.'

(Applause)

Mr Philippe YACE, first Vice-President of the Conference made the following speech:

Minister, Mr President of the Chamber of Deputies, President Berkhouwer, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, Honourable Colleagues,

I, too, cannot refrain from recalling that it was in Rome that the representatives of the African States which had just won independence met their colleagues from the European Parliament for the first time. That was in January 1961.

Four years later these same Members of Parliament met here in Rome for the first meeting in Europe of the Parliamentary Conference of the Association.

The fact that eight years later we are now assembled from many capitals and cities of the European Economic Community in this august centre of European construction and European-African cooperation shows that the Association has that dimension peculiar to human undertakings: permanency, which enables men fighting for the same cause to measure the distance travelled, to judge the results obtained, and to reflect on future prospects.

Minister, allow me to express our appreciation of the honour which, in your person, the Italian Government has paid the Parliamentary Conference.

You are, indeed, in the eyes of our assembly a most eminent representative of the Italian Government. But even more than this, Sir, you represent for the Conference one of the pioneers of European-African cooperation, whose contribution to our joint efforts has from the beginning been unstinted and enthusiastic, inspired by an unshakeable conviction for which I honour you.

I should like to pay tribute at the same time to Mr Bersani, first Vice-President of the European Parliament, who has earned our profound gratitude for his invaluable work over so many years on behalf of the Association, to which his report bears testimony.

(Applause)

Finally, on behalf of the Conference, I should like to express to our Italian colleagues and especially to the President of the Chamber of Deputies, my gratitude for their hospitality on the occasion of this Conference and for giving us such a congenial setting for our meeting in the national Palace.

Friends and Colleagues, since our last meeting in Kinshasa many important events have taken place affecting our Association.

The official opening on 16 and 17 July last year of negotiations between the EEC and the AASM and a group of African states in the Caribbean and Pacific was an indication of the success of the formula for cooperation we have established and at the same time of our wish to extend it.

On various occasions, too, important para-African meetings have enabled the future partners of the Community first of all to get to know one another better and then to reach agreement so as to be able to speak with a single voice in negotiating with the EEC. These were the Conferences of Abidjan, Addis Ababa, Algiers and Dar-es-Salam, which gave clear expression to African solidarity and unity.

It is in this connection that at the suggestion of the Joint Committee in Lomé I invited the Associable States to send representatives to our discussions as observers to enable them to see how the Parliamentary institutions of our Association work. We are happy that some of these States have responded to our invitation.

(Applause)

We have no doubt that this will be an extremely important year for the Association. Indeed, the Association is to be enlarged just as the Community, itself enlarged, will have to make important decisions in order to consolidate its achievements and draw up a new trade policy.

As far as the Association is concerned, the progress of the negotiations has been slower than we should have wished. However, we recognize the complexity of the task.

More than 40 developing countries are trying to coordinate their trade policies and their criteria for cooperation, to align them with those of the Community and its Member States.

We need only remember some of the problems, such as free access to the Community for basic or processed agricultural products originating in the countries which are considering the offer of association, rules on origin or the method of financing the next European Development Fund, non-tariff barriers, all problems on which opinions are still very much divided if not totally conflicting, we need only think of such problems to realize the considerable efforts still needed to reach satisfactory solutions.

Nevertheless, the Associated African States and Madagascar, faithful to the concept of African unity, of economic consultation in the Third World and maintaining their own readiness which they have expressed on several occasions, to help in the enlargement of the Association, can be proud of the progress made so far despite difficulties remaining to be overcome and uncertainties regarding the outcome of the negotiations. They have at all events proved that cooperation between rich and poor is possible without infringing the independence and self-respect of the parties. They have also demonstrated their readiness to enlarge the circle of Associated Members by cooperating loyally with all the countries listed in Protocol No. 22.

Is there any need, then, to stress that the Community will have to define a new world trade policy in a general context dominated by the tensions resulting from the current crisis. We cannot deliberate effectively without considering the effects of this crisis in relation to the new Association. The Association, let it be realized, will, to a large extent, be our reply in future to present difficulties.

Indeed, this crisis which affects all countries and is having far-reaching consequences has created a new situation at world level, European level, and with regard to the evolution of the Association itself. We know this only too well, while realizing that it is far from easy today to judge the full implications and consequences.

We would simply note that the unequal relations resulting from balances of power established a long time ago to the detriment of the weakest are now being called in question. Trends have been reversed, thus radically changing the terms of trade at least so far as certain raw materials, and particularly oil, are concerned.

The sudden, sharp upturn in the price of oil products has highlighted again those excesses which we have always denounced, excesses due to the inadequate, even unfair, prices paid for the riches of the underdeveloped countries.

It is not our wish, conscious as we are of the fragile and interdependent nature of our own economic relations, to draw facile consolation from this situation, let alone analyse it in terms of defiance of the industrialized world.

But at a time when opinion in Europe is waking up to what it considers an unfair alteration in the terms of trade, I think we should recall the words of Mr PEDINI, our rapporteur at the time in Rome, in his introduction to the report submitted in 1965:

I quote: 'Our world is moving towards a new order in which, once the indispensable balances of strength - not only military strength - between nations is assured, peace will depend increasingly on the readiness of the rich countries to accept the problems of the poor countries as their own, and on the readiness of the latter to collaborate confidently with the highly industrialized countries.

This being so, it is essential that from now on, the world should turn towards new solutions for the creation of a new economic order ...

We are bound to recognize that the solutions which the Conference has always advocated, following Mr ARMENGAUD's report, for fair remuneration for raw materials, have not been heeded and that the decline in prices paid for raw materials has continued, aggravating with every passing day the position of the AASM.

That is why, in the face of a certain tendency on the part of European public opinion, to attack all the countries of the Third World without differentiation. We, and first of all our European partners, have an inescapable duty to enlighten public opinion in Europe as to the real nature of the conditions of international trade as they actually affect the AASM.

European opinion must be made to realize that the Associated African States and Madagascar will have to pay more, not only for hydrocarbons, but also for manufactured products and technical equipment from the industrialized countries. European opinion, itself enjoying the protection of the common agricultural policy, must be made to realize that the nations of Africa are suffering the full impact of the doubling of the price of cereals.

European opinion must be made to realize that when, for reasons peculiar to its own situation, Europe tries to break free from certain restrictions, the AASM are directly and unjustly affected.

European opinion must be made to realize that we are suffering cruelly from the effects of inflation imported, against our wishes, from outside, with concomitant monetary risks.

How can we be expected to plan ahead in such conditions? What is the point of drawing up development plans for our young states if their revenue is never assured and costs are constantly increasing? These are the facts, a virtually endemic situation of economic and, of course, social crisis.

Therefore, it would be totally wrong to talk of introducing retaliatory measures, restricting aid, or abandoning programmes.

But now, what is to be done in the face of a situation which is producing economic disorder in Europe and accentuating the insecurity of the associated countries?

We would hope that the soul-searching in Europe will make it aware of the need for concerted action by the AASM and the Community, and it is heartening that the Copenhagen Summit Conference and the Parliamentary Conference have understood this, judging by the introduction to Mr BERSANI's brilliant report in which our rapporteur calls for a new balance in world economy in order to achieve, in the general interest, a fair distribution of consumer wealth.

It is in such a revolution as this that we invite our partners to participate, not a revolution which could be produced by arbitrary changes, allowing us to fix unilaterally the prices and quantity of our export products; the real revolution will result from a fundamental adjustment of economic relations between the wealthy states and the poor states of such a kind that their cooperation will become a true social dialogue based on their choices and the interests of the different parties, so that each has a fair share of prosperity.

Whether the AASM and the Associable States remain in the Third World or find refuge in a 'Fourth World', the important thing is that Europe, on the one hand, and the Associated and Associable States on the other, should learn from the current crisis and fully recognize the complementary nature of their relationships and try to achieve, by joint effort, a revised formula for cooperation, in which the stronger party will be sufficiently reasonable and clear-sighted to take proper account of the interests of those who are, or are presumed to be, weaker.

Considering the history, purpose and permanent nature of the Association, we believe that it offers us precisely the means to put an end to the illusions and disillusion, and to ensure that the enlarged Association is an organization of balanced interests promoting wider and more effective cooperation than in the past.

The Community, as we all know, now has nine Member States and we also know that more than forty States from the Third World are negotiating with it and with one voice. We might well stop to consider the power such a combination represents: a real and stable force, if only we acknowledge this interdependence of the EEC and the Associated and Associable States and seize the opportunity presented to us by the present crisis and by the renewal of the Association Agreements to lay the foundations of a

new policy of balanced association in which our separate strengths increasingly fuse together in appropriate response to our respective economic situations, in other words, in appropriate response to that ideal of Man which, in the final analysis, our joint actions are intended to serve.

(Applause)

The PRESIDENT expressed his hope that in the next two days the Conference would produce an adequate response to the appeal made in Mr YACE's speech.

He also noted that this was the first time in the history of the Association that the representatives of the people of one of the Member States had suspended their work in order to place their Chamber at the disposal of the Conference. This was evidence of the importance attached by the Italian Republic to the relations established between the European Community and the Associated States. He thanked the Italian Chamber of Deputies warmly for this gesture.

At the President's suggestion, the Conference decided to adjourn and to resume its proceedings on the following day, Thursday, 31 January 1974 at 9.30 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 6.10 p.m.