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THE COMMISSION'S EXTERNAL DELEGATIONS
ACTION PROGRAMME FOR 1980

(Communication from the Commission to the Council)

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(Commission communication to the Council)

1. In its communication of 22 July 1977 (COM(77) 368 final), the Commission informed the Council of its medium-term priorities in the matter of opening external delegations. In accordance with that programme, the purpose of this communication is to inform the Council of the priorities which the Commission has set itself for strengthening external representation in the 1980 financial year, namely the opening of delegations in Australia (Canberra) and Yugoslavia (Belgrade).

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Delegation in Australia (Canberra)

2. It is increasingly recognised that Australia, as a major source of raw materials, is a country of potentially great importance to the Community in the 1980s and 1990s. Australia's resources of uranium, lead, zinc zircon, limenite and rutile as well as silver and gold and also iron ore, coal, bauxite, nickel and manganese will be increasingly needed by the Community's industries. Also, as the largest single source of Australian imports, the Community has a considerable interest in the Australian market. Australia, on its side, sees the Community as an important source of technology and investments for its own development.

3. However, the Community's relations with Australia have recently been less than satisfactory because of Australia's preoccupation about its agricultural exports. Moreover, increasingly protectionist policies by Australia have given the Community cause for concern.

4. The Commission believes that the opening of a delegation in Canberra will contribute to better communications on the manifold issues of common interest between the Community and Australia; will help to allay misunderstandings; and will contribute to the creation of a more confident and widely based relationship between Australia and the Community in the years ahead. It is important that the Community should be seen to recognise the importance that it attaches to its relations with Australia. It is not to be expected that all the current difficulties on detailed trade matters will disappear of their own accord. But there are many reasons for thinking that it is in both Australia's and the Community's interest in the longer term to cultivate the relationship, bearing in mind Australia's historical ties with Europe and its geographical isolation. Australia may be expected increasingly to see Europe as an important trade and economic partner to be valued alongside Japan and the US. Such a development will, however, need to be nurtured and encouraged. And it is something that only a Community presence as such can do.

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5. It is to be noted that the Australian Prime Minister has indicated that he would welcome the establishment of a Commission delegation in Canberra. The Commission believes that the present time is politically the right one for taking this step bearing in mind the Community's future economic interests and the matters of Community competence that are involved.

6. The Head of the Delegation needs to be of A 2 level in order to establish himself as an interlocutor mainly of the Australian Administration and the Member States' Ambassadors on the spot. The minimum A staff of the Delegation has to comprise, moreover,
 - 2 A/5-4 staff in charge of commercial and economic policies, raw material (including uranium) questions, industrial and agriculture policies,

 - 1 A/5-4 responsible for press and information.

Delegation in Yugoslavia (Belgrade)

7. The negotiations on a Cooperation Agreement between Yugoslavia and the Commission have given rise to a request on the part of the Yugoslav authorities to have a Commission delegation in Belgrade, which would confirm the political interest that the Community needs to attach to its relations with Yugoslavia.

8. After its contacts with the Yugoslav authorities and the Ambassadors of the Nine in Belgrade, who confirmed the need to open a delegation, the Commission feels that it is essential that such a delegation should be able to begin to operate as soon as the Agreement is signed between Yugoslavia and the Community. In addition to the considerations which led to delegations being set up in the Mediterranean countries, this decision is motivated by the following:

- i. The proposed Agreement between the Community and Yugoslavia is a very wide-ranging one, which forms part of the Community's overall Mediterranean approach, with particular stress on the cooperation aspect, which covers a whole range of sectors: commercial, financial, social, agricultural, industrial, transport and environment;
- ii. the implementation of this Agreement will require extensive information work and back-up measures in conjunction with the Yugoslav authorities;

Such action will have to be undertaken at several levels:

- a. Contacts will have to be made with the Yugoslav Federal departments for foreign affairs, commerce and finance, which are responsible for administering the Agreement;
- b. the decentralized organization of the Yugoslav Federation will require contacts to be made with the republics;
- c. the system of self-government on which the Yugoslav economy is based means that the relations to be established with Yugoslav undertakings will have to be defined. This will also require a detailed knowledge of the mechanisms peculiar to the Yugoslav economy.

iii. Yugoslav politics, and notably all the follow-up to the Belgrade Conference, could prove an important observation ground for a Community Delegation. As one of the group of non-aligned countries, because of the special position which it has always defended and the great stress it has laid on its independence, Yugoslavia requires a political approach deserving careful attention. The delegation should maintain numerous contacts with the diplomatic missions of the Member States in Belgrade on the subject.

9. The A grade staff needed to run the delegation comprise the Head of Delegation (A3 grade), one A5/4 official responsible for trade and cooperation matters, and one A5/4 official responsible for information matters.

