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THE IRAN CRISIS: AN EEC STATEMENT

HERE FOLLOWS THE TEXT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY'S DECLARATION ON IRAN. THIS TEXT WAS AGREED UPON IN LISBON ON APRIL 10.

The Nine's Foreign Ministers who met in Lisbon examined the situation caused by the continuing detention of hostages in the U.S. embassy in Teheran. They expressed their solidarity with the United States and the American people as well as strong concerns in relation to this serious violation of the fundamental rules of international law. They agreed on the following declaration:

1) The nine Foreign Ministers recalled that the Security Council of the United Nations demanded since November 25 and December 4, 1979 the immediate release of American Embassy personnel by the Iranian Government. They strongly regretted that these resolutions have so far had no effect.

They also recalled that the Security Council voted on January 13, 1980 in favor of a resolution which noted that the hostages' detention constitutes a threat to peace and stipulated the application of measures condemning the inadmissible attitude of the Iranian authorities. Only the veto of one of the permanent members of the Security Council prevented the adoption of this resolution.

2) The nine Foreign Ministers deeply regret that the negotiations, which started through the initiative and under the auspices of the Secretary General of the United Nations did not result, as expected, in the release of the hostages.

3) The Foreign Ministers stressed that the attitude of the Iranian authorities was unacceptable and contrary to the principles of the European Community which constitute the foundation of international society.

4) The nine Foreign Ministers ordered their ambassadors to carry out immediate steps demanding the release of the hostages and to obtain details and assurances from the Iranian authorities about a date and the conditions for the captives' release.

5) The nine EEC countries will then decide on their position and define their attitude in the light of the response they received from the Iranian authorities and on which they will ask their ambassadors to report.

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[Please note this is an unofficial translation]