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GASTON THORN: EUROPE'S VIEW OF WORLD AFFAIRS

GASTON THORN, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Luxembourg, President of the Council of Ministers of the European Community and President-designate of the Commission of the European Communities, presented the position of the European Communities during the 35th Ordinary Session of the United Nations General Assembly on September 23, 1980.

Thorn stressed the following points while dealing with the burning issues that confront the international community

AFRICA "The solution to the Zimbabwe crisis represents a very positive step - thanks to the joint action of all the interested parties, it has been possible to reach a peaceful solution. The nine countries of the E.C. congratulate again this country for its entry into the U.N.. An entry we expected with impatience for many years. They are convinced that the process which started in Zimbabwe shows that it is not utopian to conceive of a multi-racial state in Southern Africa, a state based on equality for all citizens. They express the hope that this solution will serve as an example in particular with regard to the granting of independence to Namibia and the abolition of "apartheid" in South Africa.... The Nine strongly condemned this system which is based on institutionalized racism and regret that it is being preserved in an authoritarian way in spite of universal disapproval and opposition".

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KAMPUCHEA "The Nine call for the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops that occupy Cambodia. This is a necessary condition for a solution to the Cambodian problem. Such a solution, according to the Nine, should be based on the existence of a neutral and independent Cambodia with a truly representative government and friendly relations with all the countries of the area".

AFGHANISTAN "The Nine express the firm hope that it will be possible to avoid the indefinite prolongation of this particularly cruel war by finding a solution conforming to the 1980 resolution of the United Nations. This solution would guarantee the withdrawal of the Soviet troops and the free exercise by the Afghan people of their right to self-determination".

IRAN "Confronted with the continued detention of the U.S. hostages, the Nine, like other countries, have been led to translate into concrete measures the profound opposition they feel before this flagrant violation of international law.

At a time when the Iranian Islamic Republic is giving itself democratic institutions and when its government has just assumed its functions, the Nine, and I think, the whole international community, hope that this problem will find a solution and that the hostages will be freed and Iran will respect all the principles of international law, in particular the one that ensures the protection of the foreigners who live in that country".

MIDDLE EAST "At the root of the Middle East problem lies the necessity to reconcile the two essential realities which are the State of Israel and the Palestinian people and to make them live together. Therefore, the recognition of the right to exist for Israel and the exercise of self-determination for the Palestinian people will be at the foundation of the negotiations that will lead to a global peaceful solution. Israel must, therefore, end the territorial occupation it maintains since 1967. In this respect, the Israeli settlements represent a grave obstacle to the peace process. The Nine consider that these settlements, together with the demographic and land property changes operated in the occupied Arab territories, are illegal with respect to international law.

Given also the particularly important role that the Jerusalem question plays for everyone involved, the Nine do not accept unilateral initiative with regard to changing the status of that city and emphasize that any agreement in this respect should guarantee the free-access to the holy places.