



Gaston Thorn, President of the Commission of the European Communities (right) conferred with UN Secretary-General Javier Perez De Cuellar.

UN Photo 160024 by Yutaka Nagata

President Thorn in New York

Gaston Thorn, President of the Commission of the European Communities visited New York at the end of September, where he gave a talk to the Women's Economic Roundtable on the issues facing the Europe and the US. He also had a series of high-level bilateral meetings with Ministers from twelve countries, including Mr. George Shultz, US Secretary of State, and with UN Secretary General Mr. Perez de Cuellar (see picture).

New EC Approach to Development Policy

After months of preparation, a major conceptual revision of EEC development aid and relations with Third Countries has emerged in a Commission's Memorandum which Mr. Edgard Pisani, Commissioner responsible for Development, recently presented to the European Parliament.

The new plan would emphasize future EEC aid policies on rural and food development, co-operative strategic planning between the EEC and recipient nations and longer term aid transfers.

There are four elements which form the backbone of this new proposed policy, which can be summarised as follows:—

- 1) Food aid has not and will not solve the problem of world hunger.
- 2) For the most part the ACP signatories of the Lome Convention have not been among the Third World nations to achieve "economic take-off."
- 3) The Mediterranean Basin is a single area and its problems cannot be solved by a multitude of separate agreements between the Community and the individual states. An overall approach is needed.
- 4) Third World countries which are not linked to the Community by special agreements have specific needs and aspirations, which Europe must accept with a view to renewing good relations and cooperation.

While Commissioner Pisani recommended an increase in the aid furnished by the EEC and its Member States, he emphasized that such an increase in itself would be insufficient and that more effective use of such funds to achieve a higher degree of self-sufficiency in the third world was needed. He added that in recent months, the EEC Commission had sought to develop this new type of joint strategic planning with pilot projects with several different countries. The difference in approach would mean that instead of merely working together on a given project, the two should in the future endeavour to have the recipient state prepare a coherent development strategy.

He also made the point that to attempt to relieve the current and looming world food crisis, greater emphasis had to be placed on rural and agricultural development in the third world. Failure, he said, would result in even greater exodus by the swelling third population away from the rural food-growing areas toward the overcrowded urban areas and toward greater dependence on food supplies from the outside.

This new approach will now have to be considered by the Council of Ministers as well as the EEC's third world associates.

EC Statement on the Situation in Kampuchea

The following statement was made by the Danish representative on behalf of the Ten Member Countries of the European Communities to the United Nations' 37th General Assembly on the situation in Kampuchea:—

“Mr. President,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the ten Member States of the European Community.

The situation in Kampuchea is a matter which continues to arouse deep concern among the Ten. All the more so because another year has passed without substantial progress towards a peaceful political solution that could bring about an end to the suffering of the sorely tried people of Kampuchea. For nearly four years the regime in Phnom Penh has been controlled by and remains totally dependent on the neighbouring country of Vietnam.

The Ten's attitude to the regime that preceded the Vietnamese invasion is consistent and clear. The atrocities of the Pol Pot regime are unmatched in recent history. This however gives no justification for the subsequent invasion and continuing occupation of Kampuchea by a foreign power.

Nevertheless, we are encouraged by the progress which has been achieved over the last year by international efforts to manage the continuing humanitarian problems. The increase in agricultural production inside Kampuchea and the continued general response of the international community has further alleviated the food deficit problem in the country. Furthermore, the prospects for the present monsoon crop are promising. We hope that this positive development will make it possible to terminate the emergency aid programme inside Kampuchea by the end of this year.

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Meanwhile, in the border area the Royal Thai Government has continued to demonstrate its generosity by absorbing Kampuchean refugees in large numbers despite the difficulties this has entailed for the Thai community. We have noted with satisfaction that the programmes in the border area are now fully funded for the rest of the year. The European Community will continue to assist the relief operations in the border area as long as a need persists.

Mr. President,

In 1979, 1980 and 1981 resolutions passed by an impressive majority of this Assembly have called for the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Kampuchea, the restoration and preservation of its independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, the right of the Kampuchean people to determine their own destiny and the commitment by all states to non-interference and non-intervention in the internal affairs of Kampuchea. Vietnam's failure to respect the rights of the people of Kampuchea is thus matched by a regrettable lack of respect for this Assembly's resolutions and for World opinion.

The persistent breach of fundamental international principles in Kampuchea continues to be of great concern to the whole world and in particular to the countries in the region. We share the concern of the ASEAN countries and deeply regret that their tireless efforts to bring about a solution to the Kampuchean problem have foundered so far on the refusal of Vietnam to accept the relevant United Nations resolutions as the basis for a genuine political settlement. The ASEAN countries have furthermore to cope with problems deriving from the Kampuchean situation, most notably the problem of refugees.

The Ten have noted with appreciation the report of the *Ad Hoc* Committee of the International Conference on Kampuchea. Equally, the Ten wish to welcome the Report of the Secretary-General and the Secretary-

General's determination expressed therein to continue to exercise his good offices in the search for a peaceful solution, based on the fundamental principles of the Charter.

There have nevertheless been developments of interest over the last year which may contribute towards the comprehensive political solution we are all seeking. Resistance parties have come together and announced the formation of a coalition under the leadership of Prince Norodom Sihanouk. We also note that there have been talks recently between Vietnam and other governments of the region.

Mr. President,

The complete withdrawal of Vietnamese forces is an indispensable step in returning Kampuchea to normality. Effective measures must also be taken to ensure that no armed group can either seize power by force or use the threat of force to intimidate the people of Kampuchea and so deprive them of their right to sovereignty and the exercise of free choice in determining their own future. As we said last year it is for the people of Kampuchea to decide who should emerge from free elections as their new government. In this connection we would like to reiterate our abhorrence of the Khmer Rouge regime which, we have no doubt, the Kampuchean people will reject decisively when given the chance.

The Ten are prepared to support any initiative which aims to establish a truly representative government in a neutral and independent Kampuchea maintaining friendly relations with all the States of the region. As ASEAN recognize, there can be no political solution without the participation and cooperation of all those concerned in the conflict. We hope that all parties concerned will be prepared to play their part in the search for a negotiated political settlement and fully to use the framework of the United Nations in seeking a lasting solution for the Kampuchean people.

It is high time that the suffering of the Kampuchean people ceased, and

that they regained their right to self-determination without disruption, intimidation or coercion. It should not be impossible to find a solution which accommodates the legitimate concerns of all interested parties, including Vietnam.

Let me conclude, Mr. President, by saying that the Ten will once again support the resolution which ASEAN have tabled, as we supported their resolutions at the 34th, 35th and 36th General Assemblies.

Thank you, Mr. President"

World Food Day Observed at United Nations

A special ceremony in observance of the second annual World Food Day was held recently in the UN General Assembly hall. The Day was commemorated on Saturday, 16 October.

World Food Day, which was established by the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in 1979, is dedicated to combating hunger and improving human nutrition. Its purpose is to call attention to global food problems, particularly in the third world, and to spur action by all Governments and peoples towards increased food production and a more equitable distribution. The date coincides with the thirty-sixth anniversary of the founding of FAO.

Amongst the speakers at this ceremony were UN Secretary General, Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar and Mr. Imre Hollai, the President of the 37th General Assembly. Mr. Michael Hardy, Head of Delegation of the Commission of the European Communities to the United Nations made the following statement on behalf of the EC:-

"The European Community and its Member States share the concern which has been expressed by other speakers over the grave problems which exist as regards the world food situation. The holding of the second

World Food Day calls attention once again to the sobering fact that adequate food, one of the most basic human needs, is not available for many millions of people. The considerable efforts made, at both national and international levels, have led to progress being achieved in various parts of the world. But much remains to be done before it can be said that the world has shown itself capable of producing a solution. The food situation in many developing countries has indeed worsened in recent years, to the detriment of already vulnerable populations.

It is against this background that the European Community, for its part, has sought to intensify its co-operation with developing countries in the agricultural sector. In order to accentuate its efforts further, the Community decided in November 1981 to launch a plan, to be undertaken in conjunction with developing countries, intended to combat hunger in the world, and including both short term measures and measures intended to attack the structural causes of this plague. By so doing the Community sought to reverse the tendency towards a worsening of conditions and to strengthen the resolve of those governments most immediately involved, so that the problem could be tackled and overcome.

The first element of this plan concerns short term measures: by the mobilisation of 100,000 tons of cereal equivalent, we have enabled the international emergency reserve to achieve, for the first time, its objective of 500,000 tons of cereals. Direct food aid has been increased by 130,000 tons.

The second and most crucial element of the plan concerns the support given to the food strategies drawn up by individual countries wishing to place their efforts and those of aid donors within an overall framework for action. Several countries have already expressed interest in such a course and coordination groups are being established.

The Community plan also includes actions on a regional scale, designed

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to help countries struggling to develop their potential against worsening natural conditions of production.

As a further element, the Community has always considered that it is essential to reinforce the security of food supplies of developing countries. For that reason we have continued to underline the need for a new international agreement on cereals which would be able to contribute in this respect. The World Food Council agreed at its last session that the Executive Director should hold consultations on the different aspects of his proposal to set up a system of cereals reserves which would be set aside for individual developing countries. This is an important step and we hope that the different elements of the problem can be clarified.

Besides the action plan to which I have referred, the many precarious situations which exist in the world will continue to make a substantial food aid programme necessary. Thus the Community and its Member States will contribute 1,650,000 tons of cereals this year under the Food Aid Convention. This aid will be concentrated on the poorest countries and those affected by the largest cereals deficits. The possibility of pluri-annual planning will enable us to integrate food aid more satisfactorily in future with the planning of the beneficiary countries themselves. Lastly I would point out that the Community and its Member States are in a position to assist rapidly in emergency situations caused by natural catastrophes or political events. In 1981 such interventions amounted in value to 30 million dollars.

Mr. President, I have sought in my brief remarks to sketch in a few lines the community's approach to the problems which are the subject of our meeting today, and the steps the Community has taken over the past year. We do not pretend to have produced an automatic solution to all the issues or that this is an area where easy and rapid results can be obtained. The difficulties are many. But the Community has sought to translate its concern into a practical

our, to be implemented in conjunction with the developing countries who are the most directly concerned.

We believe therefore, Mr. President, that the Community's efforts constitute a serious contribution to what remains a world problem, and one which will continue to require a sustained effort from us all."

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