



European Council—Copenhagen

The EC Heads of State and Government met in Copenhagen on December 3-4 for the second in 1982 of their regular 'summit' meetings. The following are excerpts of the conclusions drawn by the current EC Council President, Prime Minister Poul Schlüter of Denmark, on the European Council's discussions on a number of key issues: —

A) Political Issues

East-West Relations

The European Council reviewed recent developments in East-West relations.

Following the change of leadership in the Soviet Union, the governments of the Ten emphasized that their relations with that country will continue to be based on the same principles of firmness and dialogue. They call upon the Soviet Union to make the necessary contributions to improve confidence in international affairs. The Ten are ready to respond positively to such efforts and to work together with the Soviet Union and the countries of Eastern Europe for a more constructive East-West relationship.

Therefore, the European Council expressed the hope that all participating states in the CSCE-meeting in Madrid would take the necessary decisions to permit the meeting to arrive at an early and positive conclusion.

With this in mind, the Ten confirmed their commitment to real progress in Madrid by negotiating a substantial and balanced concluding document which will contain a precise mandate for a Conference on Disarmament in Europe as well as further progress within the human dimension of the Helsinki Final Act. In doing so they will cooperate with other allied and friendly states including the neutral and non-aligned participating states.

Poland

The European Council discussed recent developments in Poland and noted with regret that a large number of persons remain in detention, that martial law continues, and that the

free trade union—Solidarity—has been dissolved.

It also noted, however, that the recent release of some internees, including the leader of Solidarity, might constitute a step towards the fulfillment of the appeal made by the Ten on January 4, 1982.

The Ten will continue to follow developments in Poland closely and in particular study the implications of the possible lifting of martial law, including the conditions under which this will take place.

Afghanistan

The European Council, in particular, expressed the view that the new Soviet leadership could make an important contribution to the improvement of international relations in general and of East-West relations in particular by reassessing its position on the question of Afghanistan. It endorsed the verdict of the international community on the situation in Afghanistan, embodied in the fourth successive vote of the General Assembly of the United Nations. The people of Afghanistan should be permitted to regain their national sovereignty and independence and the status of a non-aligned state.

It expressed its readiness to support any realistic efforts to achieve a political solution and recalled the European Council proposal of June 30, 1981, for a comprehensive settlement of the conflict.

The Situation In The Middle East, Including Lebanon

Following a report by the Presidency on recent contacts the European Council discussed events in the Middle East where two aspects in particular continue to cause deep concern. First, as regards the Arab-Israeli conflict, the European Council expressed its disappointment at the delay in grasping the political opportunity created by the initiative contained in President Reagan's speech on September 1, 1982, and the will to peace expressed in the declaration of Arab Heads of State meeting at Fez on September 9, 1982.

It called upon each of the parties to assume its international respon-

sibilities without further hesitation. It expects each of the parties to cease to ignore the United Nations Security Council resolutions and explicitly make known their approval of these resolutions.

Secondly, the European Council continued to view the situation in Lebanon with the greatest concern. It particularly noted that in spite of the various efforts made by the negotiators on the spot, no significant progress had yet been achieved towards the withdrawal of the Israeli, Syrian, and other foreign forces

The persistence of this situation would constitute a threat to the integrity and unity of Lebanon, carrying serious dangers for the whole region.

The withdrawal of foreign forces could be of a progressive nature, but should take place within a fixed and short period of time and under conditions which would permit the Lebanese authorities to exercise fully their rights of sovereignty over all of Lebanon.

The Ten have already demonstrated their willingness to contribute to the solution of the problems, especially by giving their support to the UN forces and UN observers established by the Security Council as well as the multinational force in Beirut to which two of their number contribute. The Ten and the Community are equally prepared to continue to contribute to the reconstruction of Lebanon.

B) The Economic and Social Situation

The European Council welcomes the report from the General Affairs Council on the implementation, so far, of the economic strategy that it had itself laid down in March and June. In particular, it reaffirms the detailed conclusions from the Joint Council of 16 November 1982.

The European Council fully endorses the need for a comprehensive strategy for achieving a marked improvement in the employment situation through the creation of durable new jobs. The implementation of this strategy must be continued — comprising of a broad range of interlinked and mutually supportive economic and social policies both at

E.C. and national level. To this end the European Council agrees on the following priority goals:

- reestablishing economic stability;
- taking into account the degree of stability achieved, encouraging productive activity, and contributing to economic recovery and structural improvement, particularly through continued reduction of interests rates and through support for productive investments, especially in innovative sectors;
- creating more employment opportunities and professional training possibilities for young people to permit a fulfillment of their justified aspirations. In this connection it is important that they are given a chance to take advantage of the opportunities of tomorrow's high technology industries;
- exploring carefully the possibilities for creating flexibility offered by the reorganisation of working time and mobility of labour;
- strengthening the Common Market and intensifying action to eliminate practices and measures which restrict trade and distort competition
- pursuing a vigorous energy policy with a view to saving energy and diversifying supply
- strengthening the European Monetary System, increasing international cooperation and concertation in the field of monetary and financial policy and trade policy.

The European Council agrees that a time-scale for specific actions at Community level should be established to complement the parallel efforts being undertaken nationally by each Member State. It therefore instructs the Council:

- to speed up the adoption of the Commission's current and forthcoming proposals in the field of research, innovation and energy.
- to agree rapidly and before the next European Council on the Commission's proposal to expand the NCI (New Community Instrument) by a further 3 billion EC (European Currency Units).
- to give urgent consideration at the next Social Affairs Council to the Commission's proposals for ways and means to ensure young peo-

ple professional training or a first work experience, and on the reorganisation of working time.

Enlargement

The European Council reaffirms its political commitment to the enlargement of the community with Spain and Portugal. The European Council asks the Council (General Affairs) to press ahead with the negotiations with both countries as rapidly as possible.

The European Council welcomes the inventory presented by the Commission which in its view constitutes a new impulse to the enlargement process.

The European Council stresses the importance of rapid progress within the Community on a number of important issues in order to facilitate a harmonious enlargement of the Community. In particular, the European Council asks the Council (Agriculture) to complete urgently, and before March 1983, the revision of existing rules for certain Mediterranean agricultural products on the basis of Commission proposals.

The European Council invites the Commission to explore with the two candidate countries the introduction of certain measures in these countries before accession in order to prepare their economy for accession in particularly sensitive sectors.

A report on progress will be submitted for its next session.

Relations with Third Countries

The European Council stresses that the overriding priority for the Community's economic and commercial relations with other countries will be a strengthening of international co-operation in all major areas to counteract recession, with particular emphasis on a return to a stable monetary, financial and trade situation.

The European Council states the readiness of Member States to work for a substantial increase of IMF quotas and their determination to contribute to an early decision to this effect.

The European Council welcomes the outcome of the GATT Ministerial meeting and confirms the Com-

munity's readiness to take part constructively in the continuing work within the GATT.

The European Council recalls its conclusion of June that a genuine and effective dialogue should take place between the United States and the Community in areas of possible dispute. The European Community is determined to pursue a constructive dialogue in the appropriate fora with a view to ensuring solid and confident relations between the Community and the United States. It notes with satisfaction the EC/US arrangement on steel and the lifting of United States sanctions related to the Siberian pipeline.

With regard to relations with Japan the European Council was informed on the work already done by the Commission, and it expects the Council (General Affairs) at its session in December to take decision on the various ways and means of improving commercial relations between Japan and the Community.

The Community has successfully remained united in the face of difficult problems over recent months. The European Council is convinced that unified and coherent Community positions are more than ever indispensable to achieving the objectives set out above.

The European Council welcomes the work undertaken within the council on the recent important Commission initiative in the field of the Community's relations with developing countries. It stresses the importance of proceeding from this stage towards proposals to be followed up by Council on priority questions such as the negotiations for the new ACP-Convention.

There is agreement on the urgent need to bring about an improvement of developing countries' ability to cope with their economic and financial problems. This will be an important factor in favour of international economic recovery.

Common Fisheries Policy

The Council noted the progress made in the negotiations about a Common Fisheries policy. It emphasised the need for agreement at the

meeting of the Council of Fisheries Ministers on 21 December.

EC/ The Question of Palestine

At a special U.N. meeting to commemorate the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, the following text was issued by the Danish Mission to the United Nations on behalf of the Ten Member States of the European Community:—

“The Member States of the European Community recall on this day their positive attitude towards the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

This attitude was restated by Mr. Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Denmark, in the speech which he made on behalf of the Ten in the recent general debate in the General Assembly. He stated then the Ten’s belief that the need for a negotiated, comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict is more pressing than ever, and that there can be no real peace or stability in the region unless the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people are recognized.

The Ten remain convinced that a lasting settlement should be based on the essential principles of security for all States in the region, including Israel’s right to exist, justice for all peoples, including the right of self-determination for the Palestinians with all that this implies, and mutual recognition by all the parties involved. In this connection the Ten have stressed that Israel will not obtain the security to which it has a right by using force, but that it can find this security by satisfying the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people.

The Ten note that these principles are commanding increasing acceptance as the basis for a comprehensive, just and durable settlement. They are encouraged by the important peace initiatives advanced by the President of the United States, by the Arab Summit at Fez, and by France and Egypt in the Security Council. In the view of the Ten, all parties should

seize the present opportunity to initiate a process of mutual rapprochement leading towards a comprehensive peace settlement.

The Ten wish to see the Palestinian people in a position to pursue their demands by political means and by negotiation. For negotiations to succeed, the Ten believe that the Palestinian people must be able to commit themselves to them and thus to be represented at them. Consequently, the position of the Ten remains that the PLO must be associated with the negotiations.

They will continue to be active in pursuing their efforts to promote a peace settlement along these lines. They clearly recognize that it must be for the parties directly concerned to negotiate a lasting settlement themselves. The Ten will maintain and expand their contacts with all parties to help improve conditions for such negotiations.”

EC Statement on the Situation in Afghanistan

The following are excerpts from the statement made to the United Nations General Assembly by the Danish representative to the UN, on behalf of the ten Member States of the European Community, on the situation in Afghanistan:—

“Mr. President,

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

The conflict in Afghanistan continues to be a matter of profound concern to the ten Member States of the European Community and indeed to this Assembly. How many times, Mr. President, will this Assembly have to occupy itself with this flagrant breach by a Member State of its obligations under the United Nations Charter? It is particularly shocking that the people of a developing and non-aligned country should continue to be the victims of such an act of force.

Another year has passed without substantive progress towards a peaceful political solution that could bring about an end to the ever growing toll of human suffering of the courageous and dignified Afghan people, whose resolve to fight for their freedom and independence has won the world's respect.

The conflict in Afghanistan remains vividly before the international community. This was reflected inter alia in the European Parliament's initiative to declare 21 March 1982 Afghanistan Day. On that day demonstrations of solidarity with the plight of the Afghan people were held in Europe and world-wide.

Mr. President,

The large scale Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan and its three years of continuing occupation are a clear testimony of the willingness of the Soviet Union to pursue its aims by use of its massive military potential. This poses an increasingly severe burden on neighbouring states, an ever present threat to the stability of the region, and indeed a constant danger to international peace and security. Moreover, the nature of such a military presence, coupled with the force and duration of the Afghan resistance, clearly demonstrates the futility of the arguments which were put forward by the occupying power in order to justify the whole operation.

More than 20 per cent of the Afghan population have had to flee their home country. This exodus continues, and tens of thousands of additional refugees are reaching the camps in neighbouring countries each month. The Ten are deeply conscious of the great burden which this poses on the host countries. The European Community and its Member States have been making a significant contribution towards the international relief effort and we will continue to do so as long as this need persists.

What the refugees want, is to be able to go home. Before they will be able to do so there must be a genuine political solution enabling Afghanistan to return to its traditional independent and non-aligned status free from external interference, and with the Afghan people having full

capacity to exercise their right to self-determination. This requires above all the immediate withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan. The principles which must govern the search for this solution and which would enable the Afghan refugees to return to their homes in full security and dignity have been clearly laid down by this Assembly. It is a matter for our deepest regret that the Soviet Union remains unwilling, as yet, to accept a solution in accordance with these principles, even though they have been endorsed by 116 Member States of the United Nations. The Ten cannot accept the attempt to impose a regime by force on the people of Afghanistan.

In seeking a political solution, the Ten have continued to give their support and encouragement to the initiatives of the Islamic Conference. We have welcomed too the efforts made by the Non-Aligned Movement. We gave our full support to the General Assembly's resolution No 35/37 of 20 November 1980 which led to the appointment by the Secretary-General of a Representative who would be able to exercise his good offices in promoting a political solution in accordance with the provisions of that resolution. We welcomed the appointment of Mr. Perez de Cuellar to that post and following Mr. Perez de Cuellar's election to the post of Secretary-General—we welcome the Secretary-General's new Personal Representative Mr. Cordovez.

The Ten once again draw attention to the European Council proposal of 30 June 1981 for a comprehensive political settlement of the conflict. We continue to believe that only a settlement which is ultimately endorsed by the Afghan people and which takes fully into account their fundamental right to self-determination will be able to bring lasting peace and stability to the area. The European Council proposal seeks to bring about the cessation of external intervention and the establishment of safeguards to prevent such interventions in the future, and takes into full account the legitimate interests of the countries of the area. The Ten maintain their proposal and their readiness to enter into discussions about it.

Mr. President,

The General Assembly owes it to the suffering people of Afghanistan to show that its support for their rights continues as strongly as ever. It can do this by continuing to keep their plight closely before it, by rejecting

the attempt to impose a *fait accompli*, and by demonstrating in its vote the desire to seek a genuine political solution. The Ten urge the Members of the General Assembly once again to demonstrate clearly that this is their steadfast position and that it enjoys overwhelming support.”

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