



PRESS RELEASE

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EEC FOREIGN MINISTERS STATEMENTS ON SPAIN AND RHODESIA

Two statements, one relating to Spain and the other to Rhodesia, were made following the meeting of EEC Foreign Ministers in London on Monday, January 31.

On Spain, the statement said:

The Nine Ministers have discussed Spain and like the Spanish people themselves have condemned the recent wave of terrorism. They expressed confidence that the Spanish people will succeed in establishing a Democratic system.

On Rhodesia, the statement said:

The Foreign Ministers of the Nine Countries of the European Community recall their statement of 18 October last in which they welcomed the British Government's decision to convene a conference on Rhodesia in Geneva. They express their deep concern that Mr Smith's rejection of 24 January of British suggestions for a transitional Government has for the time being jeopardised the British Government's attempt to find an agreed basis for negotiation. They deplore the irresponsible attitude of the illegal regime.

They appeal solemnly to all the parties concerned to continue the search for a negotiated settlement designed to bring about a rapid and orderly transfer of power to the majority of Zimbabwe. They formally declare that the Regime cannot expect any assistance from the Nine, on the contrary the Foreign Ministers of the Nine confirm that they will continue to comply strictly with their obligations relating to sanctions.

Luxembourg, 7 February 1977

69/77

BACKGROUND NOTE TO ORAL QUESTION No. H-255-76 by
MR SPICER TO THE CONFERENCE OF FOREIGN MINISTERS

on 9 February 1977

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Subject - Relations with Cyprus

What policy approach does the Conference of Foreign Ministers have in relation to the problem of Cyprus?

1. Neither the attempts of the Nine nor of the United Nations Secretary-General to resolve the Cyprus problem created by the Turkish invasion of 1974 can be said to have had much success to date. The Nine Foreign Ministers have repeatedly had Cyprus on the agenda of their meetings since July 1974, and successive Presidents-in-Office have tried to bring both sides in the island together. Mr Waldheim, in his repeated contacts in 1975 and 1976 with the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders, has hardly even been able to institute 'jaw-jaw' in place of 'war-war'.

Recent events in Cyprus

2. In June 1976 elections were held in that part of the island occupied by the Turks in 1974, to elect a President and 40 members of the National Assembly of the Federal Turkist Republic of Cyprus.⁺ The result was a victory for Mr Denktash and his right-wing National Union party. These elections served to confirm the division of the island and the determination of the Turks to seek a federal solution.

3. On 5 September 1976 a parliamentary election was held in the Greek Cypriot part of the island. The result was a sweeping victory for a coalition of centrists, Socialists and Communists, pledged to support President Makarios. The Conservative party of Mr Clerides,

⁺ The Greek Cypriot population of the island numbers almost 700,000, the Turkist Cypriot population about 150,000 people. The Turks occupy an area of about two-fifths of the island.

