

THE SPOKESMAN'S GROUP

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PRIORITY - P 1

Note BIO(76)419 to the National Offices
c.c. to the Members of the Group and to the Directors General DG I and X and
to Mr. Finn Christensen, DG VIII

Subject:

1. Latin America

The 7th meeting between the Community institutions and the Latin American Ambassadors representing CECLA took place on Monday, 6 December. The Community spokesmen were MM. Lubbers, Deputy President of Coreper, and Hijzen, Director-General for External Relations, while the Latin American side was represented by Ambassador Grünwald (Uruguay).

Since this was the fifth anniversary of the birth of the dialogue in 1971, it was felt this was an appropriate moment to take stock. Both sides agreed that the dialogue had not satisfied all the hopes placed in it but the overall context had also changed considerably in the course of the last five years. The Community now has a global development policy including a generalised system of preferences for non-associated developing countries. It is also engaged in a global North-South dialogue with the developing countries as a whole. Finally, the Community has concluded agreements with four Latin American countries (Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil and Mexico) and established cooperation with the Andean Group and the Central American Common Market. In other words, there are now a large number of alternative fora for discussing EEC-LA relations, making it necessary to review the future of the "dialogue". It was decided to use the next six months to hold informal contacts between the two presidencies (with the participation of the Commission) to see what can be done to clarify the future rôle of the dialogue. The normal press communiqué will be issued by the Council Secretariat.

2. Greece

The negotiations for a new financial protocol (to succeed the 1962-67 financial protocol which has now been used up) opened on Monday in the framework of the EEC-Greece Association Committee. The two delegations were led by MM. Sassen, President of Coreper, and Varfis, Director General of the Greek Ministry of Coordination. The amount of the protocol (280 MUC of which 225 MUC in loans by the EIB and 55 MUC on the Community budget) is agreed but certain technical aspects have still to be settled (DIS. including the question of whether Greece can benefit from the protocol before ratification End DIS.). It is hoped to hold a second and concluding round of negotiations in the near future.

The first round of membership negotiations at deputy level (MM Sarsen and Kyriassidis) will take place on Friday, 10 December. The meeting will be devoted essentially to problems related to the customs union.

3. Canada

The next round of high-level consultations between the Commission and the Canadian Government will take place on 8 and 9 December. The two delegations will be led by MM Gallagher, Director in DG I and Donald McPhail, Assistant Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, respectively.

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The agenda for Wednesday covers both multilateral trade questions (MTN, MFA, steel, etc.), the North-South dialogue and relations with the LDC, and bilateral trade issues. Thursday will be devoted essentially to discussing future prospects for commercial and economic cooperation between Canada and the Community under the new framework agreement.

The high-level consultations will be followed on 10 December by the first meeting of the EC/Canada Joint Cooperation Committee set up under the terms of the framework agreement. The Committee will be inaugurated by President Ortoli and Mr. Jamieson, the Canadian Minister for External Affairs, after which the rest of the meeting will be handled by MM Hijzen and McPhail. The main business will be the adoption of the programme of work for 1977-78 and the creation of a general sub-committee to prepare meetings of the Joint Committee and supervise cooperation in general and a specialised sub-committee for industrial cooperation, which is the heart of the agreement. For your information, the priority sectors provisionally identified include non-ferrous metals, forest-based products, nuclear, coal and steel, aero-space, telecommunications and construction industries. A press communiqué will be issued on Friday afternoon.

4. Norway

Nothing to report on the meeting of the EEC-Norway Joint Committee. The negotiations on fish are being conducted separately and were not mentioned.

Regards

B. Olivi

