

LONDRES 26.27/11/81

EUROPEAN COUNCIL : CONCLUSIONS ON PORTUGAL AND SPAIN

The European Council recalled that the member states of the Community decided to open negotiations for the accession of Portugal and Spain in the knowledge that all the objectives of the Community, as set out in the preamble to the EEC Treaty, were shared by the democratic governments and by the peoples of the two countries concerned.

The European Council confirmed the political commitment which was the basis for that decision and emphasised the determination of the Community to bring the negotiations to a successful conclusion and stressed the importance of continuing progress. It recalled the acceptance by the applicant countries that they will accede on the basis of the Community treaties and subordinate legislation in force on the date of accession, subject only to such transitional arrangements as may be agreed. It emphasised the need for both the Community and the acceding countries to make good use of the period until accession for careful preparations for the Community's further enlargement by introducing the necessary reforms so that the potential benefits for both sides can be realised. The Council agreed that in the Community's deliberations on its internal development, regard would need to be paid to the importance of the accession of Portugal and Spain. It also agreed on the importance of the contacts established between the Ten and the applicant countries in the framework of political co-operation and confirmed that it is their intention to continue to keep Portugal and Spain closely informed about developments in political co-operation. It looks forward to the day when the leaders of those two countries will take their places in the European Council as full and equal members.

EUROPEAN UNION

1. The European Council received the initiative of the German and Italian governments on European Union and took note of their proposals.
2. The Council recognised the importance of strengthening economic integration in parallel with political development.
3. The European Council invited the Foreign Ministers in co-operation with the Commission to examine and clarify the German/Italian proposals and to report back to a future meeting of the European Council.
4. The Council took note of the reports of the Commission and of the Foreign Ministers of the Ten on European Union, and received the report on Political Co-operation agreed by the Foreign Ministers of the Ten in London on 13 October.

A. The Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany gave his colleagues an account of his conversations with President Brezhnev in Bonn on 22-25 November. The European Council were in full agreement on the significance of this meeting, and on the need to keep channels of East/West communication open between governments at all times. The European Council welcomed the presentation by the Federal Chancellor on detente, cooperation and disarmament.

B. The European Council welcomed the commitment of the United States, announced in President Reagan's speech of 18 November, to the goal of major disarmament by means of mutual reductions in nuclear and conventional forces and Confidence Building Measures. They looked forward to the opening next week of negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union on intermediate range nuclear weapons, and expressed the hope that these would lead to early and positive results.

C. The European Council considered the state of negotiations at the CSCE follow-up meeting at Madrid. Despite the difficulties, they expressed the desire for a positive outcome in the form of a substantive and balanced document by the end of the year, including agreement on a precise mandate for a Conference on Disarmament in Europe to negotiate Confidence Building Measures in the whole of Europe. They are ready to make every effort towards this end and they look to all participants to show the same positive spirit.

D... The European Council heard a report from Lord Carrington about the visit of the Polish Foreign Minister to London on 20 November. They took note of past and current Community programmes to supply food at special prices to Poland and welcomed the Budget Council's recent acceptance of an initiative from the European Parliament to make additional sums available for this purpose. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed their willingness, within the limits of the means of the Community and its member states and in collaboration with others, to respond to the requests of the Polish Government for continued support for the efforts of the Polish people to promote the recovery of their national economy. They believe that the rescheduling of the Polish debt and the provision of new credit would make an important contribution to that end.

E. The European Council considered the continuing tragedy of Afghanistan. They noted that, in flagrant defiance of international opinion as expressed in three successive resolutions passed by overwhelming majorities of the General Assembly of the UN, the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan continued with its associated repression and bloodshed. The Heads of State and Government agreed that the situation was immensely damaging to international trust and confidence. They confirmed their belief that their proposals of 30 June offer a reasonable and practical approach to solving the problem.