



Marco PANNELLA  
*Deputato al  
Parlamento europeo*

Rt Hon Margaret THATCHER  
House of Commons  
LONDON SW1A

Bruxelles, 12th november, 1981

Dear Colleague,

irrespective of our verdict on the Cancun Conference, the objectives proposed in the Manifesto of the 54 Nobel prize winners, translated and adopted by the European Parliament by an unprecedented majority, and with the very clear emergence of new alignments and points of convergence, unfortunately failed to find any echo but only met with deaf ears. However it is not our intention to stand back and contemplate with resignation the worsening disaster confronting us and the collapse of every new, tangible and immediate hope or proposal.

The next few days will witness the expiry of the deadline set for the Commission and the Council of the European Communities for preparing the emergency plan and discussing the financial appropriations as set out in the resolution.

As present, the situation is as follow:

1. The decision of the European Parliament remains fully valid, with all the institutional and political force vested in it under the powers recognized by the Treaties of Rome.
2. The European Commission, i.e. in particular the President, Gaston Thorn, and Commissioner Pisani, has the duty and the responsibility to carry out the mandated entrusted to it, i.e. to submit (even if in summary general terms) the proposal for a financial project to save at least 5 million lives in 1982.
3. The Council of Ministers can, theoretically, adopt four decisions:



- (a) to leave in practical terms without reply or follow-up the European Parliament's resolution, which is undoubtedly a source of disturbance since it claims to change the anti-hunger programmes already drawn up by each of the 10 governments;
- (b) to reject the European Parliament's resolution either by a majority or unanimously, or even with only one government opposed;
- (c) to approve unanimously the principle that the Community will proceed to comply with the European Parliament's requests, but with the financial contribution limited to countries declaring their approval of the resolution;
- (d) to accept, with the procedures and limits set out heretofore, only that part of the resolution concerning the extraordinary aid and the UN initiative, while rejecting the item relating to the immediate and integral appropriation of the 0.7% of gross national product.

It is in any case only the definite interest of, and attention brought to bear by, public opinion and those eminently qualified to represent or to activate it that permits the hope that this decision may not be the worst of those which I have illustrated.

Unfortunately, it is not ill will alone, but sheer disbelief that we are faced with, the lack of self-confidence, the tendency to resign themselves fatalistically to events on the part of these, our ruling governments - however good and estimable individually - so that, if we do not help them by prodding them on and also by shaking them out of their passive lethargy, it is my sincere belief that the battle for life will once again be lost for now, and forever lost for victims.

If the most eminent opinions, which have in the past been at great variance with each other, have come together to propose, nay to demand action and a policy which can finally be understood by public opinion not only in Europe, and in the



countries in which we live, but also throughout the world, we believe that this new reality can and must give rise to initiatives in each and every one of our parliaments.

In order for this to be possible, dear colleague, it is of paramount importance that we keep each other informed, so that each of us may act according to his or her beliefs and make the choice he or she considers most appropriate. It is for this reason that I venture once more to bring the matter to your attention and to send you, for information, the motion which is about to be submitted to the Chamber of Deputies of the Italian Republic and which has already, in the space of just 48 hours, been given backing up by over 100 members from nearly all parliamentary groups.

It is, dear colleague, in a spirit of friendship that I venture to express concern over the fact that, in your parliament, as far as we know, no tangible initiative has yet emerged, following or convergent, with the Nobel prize winners' Manifesto, the European Parliament resolution and the parliamentary initiatives undertaken in a number of other parliaments and about which we made a point of keeping you specifically informed in the course of the summer.

It would be regrettable, aside from any contingent consideration, were this situation to continue and we therefore trust that your parliament will ensure its own contribution towards the adjustment which we believe must be made in North-South policy and in development aid policy.

I say this with all humility and with the deepest respect for the democratic traditions of your country.

It would be for us a duty and a valuable instrument of action to be able to inform members of parliaments of other countries immediately of your initiative, prior to the European Council meeting on 26th and 27th November in London and possibly even prior to the meeting on 17th November in Strasbourg.



This occasions represent, for us, two extremely important if not absolutely final deadlines for the achievement of the objectives set out in the European Parliament's resolution.

If, on the occasion of these meetings -one of which I shall surely attend, since the Foreign Ministers of the 10 EEC member countries will, for the first time, be meeting on the 17th of November with the enlarged Bureau of the European Parliament, of which I am a member, and at which the problem of hunger and its practical implications will be certainly raised,- it were possible for us to document initiatives under way in other national Parliaments or if the Council of Ministers as a whole and each Minister singly, were faced by messages and pressure to achieve this end, then the hopes of seeing the European Parliament's resolution applied would certainly not be in vain.

As far as we are concerned, as perhaps you already know, we are using every legal method to preerve hope and to maintain our campaign (these include parliamentary, political, humanitarian, and cultural initiatives, public demonstrations, non-violent campaigns such as my own hunger-strike which is still under way and in which I am to be joined by others, the preparation we are attempting of a vigil on Christmas Eve in Rome, and the various marches wich have already taken place in many European capitals).

The objective of our non-violent campaign is to live with at least one tenth of those who are otherwise certainly condemned to death due to hunger or malnutrition in 1982.

Dear Colleague, please forgive me for addressing you once more unbidden, and accept my very best wishes for yourself and for those you love,

*Marco Pannella*

P.S. Please send your answer to :

Marco PANNELLA, 3, Bd. de l'Empéreur, 1000 BRUXELLES (Belgium)



The House,

confirming its support to the Manifesto Appeal of the 54 Nobel prizewinners,

taking note of Resolution 375 of the European Parliament adopted on September 30th 1981, signed by the absolute majority of MEP and supported by Members of Government, international organizations and religious authorities,

confirming the commitment already undertaken in its resolution of July 30th 1981,

States,

that the Italian government declares war to hunger by means of extraordinary and immediate aid to the men, women and children who would otherwise die, thus undertaking - through the necessary action at Community and international level - to implement the Resolution of the European Parliament,

The Government must therefore :

- increase public development aid appropriations to 0.70% GNP as of 1982, thus at last implementing U.N. Resolution 2626 of October 24th 1970,
- associate with the setting up of the Community fund of 5 billion EUA needed to "save from death by hunger or malnutrition at 5 million human lives before the end of 1982", by subscribing its share or any additional amount necessary,
- ensure that the Commission of the EEC and the Council of Ministers of the Community comply with deadline laid down in the Resolution for setting up an emergency plan by requesting an immediate formal decision of the Council,
- ensure that the Council of Ministers of the Community or, as an alternative, as many Member States as possible, together with the Italian government, refer the "problem of world hunger in all its aspects as a serious threat to international peace and security" to the United Nations Security Council as a matter of urgency,
- earmark the sum of 3 billion dollars to finance its own emergency plan to save at least 3 million lives from death by hunger in 1982, mobilizing all possible means, if necessary disarmed army personnel and equipment
- invite to Rome within the next 30 days heads of specialized U.N. organizations to study a practical aid plan,



- return to the House before the end of the year the above-mentioned plan, with a project concerning legislative and budget instruments.

List of signataires

Christian Democratic Group :

Usellini, Silvestri, Costamagna, Rubino, M.S.Piccoli, Caccia, Pucci, Tesini, De Poi, Perrone, F. Bressani, Gitti, G. Bernardi, Abbate, Picano, Grippo, Pisoni, Napoli, M.Manfredi, C. Pomicino, Mastella, Lo Bello, Faraguti, P. Fiori, G. Fiori, Zoppi, Fornasari, Pezzati, Viscardi, Mazzola, Fusaro, Cattanei, Caroli, Sangalli, Felici, Cerioni, Allocca, Fontana, Borruso, Boffardi, Anselmi, Gava, Ciannamea, Casati, Carlotto, Scalia, Balestracci, Tassone, Carenini, De Mita, E. Rubbi, Evangelisti, Erminero, Belussi, Lamorte, Tombesi, Carelli, Pandolfi, Patria, Misasi, Pumilia, G. Fontana, Rocelli, Briccola, Bassetti, Ligato, A. Rossi.

Socialist Group :

Lombardi, Covatta, Mondino, M. Ferrari, Santi, Bassanini, Fortuna, A. Canepa

Republican Group :

Agnelli

Liberal Group :

Biondi, Bozzi

Proletarian Unity Group :

Catalano, Crucianelli

Social Democratic Group :

Sullo, Reggiani, Vizzini, Cuojatti

Indipendent :

M. Galli, Dujany

Radical Group :

Aglietta, Ajello, Baldelli, Bonino, Cicciomessere, Crivellini, Boato, Rippa, Pinto, Roccella, De Cataldo, Sciascia, Teodori, Faccio, Mellini  
Tessari