



SECRETARY OF STATE

Declaration on Central and Eastern Europe

The latest version of the draft text which will be the one put to the Council, contains a small modification to the key sentence on German unity (paragraph 4 on page 1 of that text).

The original NATO text was "We seek a state of peace in Europe...". Yesterday this was modified to "We seek the establishment of a state of peace in Europe..." in order to make it read better in French. This is the text I submitted this morning. The new version says "We seek the strengthening of a state of peace in Europe...".

This has no significance in itself: it is if anything an improvement. I draw attention to it only because it might be argued that this is no longer language sanctified by long usage. The answer is that it repeats the original language with a minor emendation to make it read better in a text drafted in French.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John Fretwell".

JOHN FRETWELL

9 December 1989

cc: Mr Ingham
Mr Burns

EUROPEAN COUNCIL
(Strasbourg, 8-9 December 1989)

DECLARATION BY THE TWELVE ON CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

Each day in central and eastern Europe change is asserting itself more strongly. Everywhere a powerful aspiration toward freedom, democracy, respect of human rights, prosperity, social justice and peace is being expressed. The people are clearly showing their will to take their own destiny in hand and to choose the path of their development. Such a profound and rapid development would not have been possible without the policy of openness and reform led by Mr. Gorbachev.

Expressing the feelings of the people of the whole Community, we are deeply gladdened by the changes taking place. These are historic events and no doubt the most important since the Second World War. The success of a strong and dynamic European Community, the vitality of the CSCE process, and stability in the area of security, in which the United States and Canada participate, have contributed greatly to them.

These changes give reason to hope that the division in Europe can be overcome in accordance with the aims of the Helsinki Final Act which seeks, through a global and balanced approach and on the basis of a set of principles which retain their full value, to establish new relations between European countries whether in the area of security, economic and technical cooperation, or the human dimension.

We seek the strengthening of a state of peace in Europe in which the German people will regain its unity through free self-determination. This process should take place democratically and peacefully, in full respect of the relevant agreements and treaties, as well as of all the principles defined by the Helsinki Final Act, in a context of dialogue and East-West cooperation. It has to be placed in the perspective of European integration.

Already the hopes which we expressed a year ago in the Rhodes Declaration have begun to take shape. The progress recorded in the negotiations on conventional and chemical disarmament, the greater freedom of movement of persons and ideas, the greater

assurance of respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the different agreements concluded between the Community and certain of these countries are substantially changing the climate of relations in Europe.

The European Council is convinced in the present circumstances that all must, more than ever, demonstrate their sense of responsibility. The changes and transitions which are necessary must not take place to the detriment of the stability of Europe but rather must contribute to strengthening it.

Far from wanting to derive unilateral advantages from the present situation, the Community and its member States mean to give their support to the countries which have embarked upon the road to democratic change. They deplore all the more so that in certain countries this process is still hindered.

The Community and its member States are fully conscious of the common responsibility which devolves on them in this decisive phase in the history of Europe. They are prepared to develop with the USSR and the other countries of central and eastern Europe, and with Yugoslavia, in so far as they are committed to this path, closer and more substantive relations based upon an intensification of political dialogue and increased cooperation in all areas. The Community has in particular decided to support the economic reforms undertaken in these countries by contributing -in collaboration with its western partners- to the establishment of healthy and prosperous economies within the framework of appropriate structures.

The European Council has drawn up conclusions which illustrate this intention.

For the future and in accordance with the developments taking place, the Community is willing to implement still closer forms of cooperation with these countries.

At this time of profound and rapid change, the Community is and must remain a point of reference and influence. It remains the cornerstone of a new European architecture and, in its will to openness, a mooring for a future European equilibrium. It is obvious that this equilibrium would be still better ensured if there were a parallel development of the role of the Council of Europe, EFTA and the CSCE process.

Construction of the Community must therefore go forward: the building of European Union will permit the further development of a range of effective and harmonious relations with the other countries of Europe.