

26 June 1990

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PRESS CONFERENCE: OPENING STATEMENT

THIS HAS BEEN A ROUTINE COUNCIL WITH NO GREAT DECISIONS BUT SOME USEFUL WORK IN MOST AREAS. IT HAS TO SOME EXTENT BEEN OVERSHADOWED FOR US BY THE TERRORIST BOMB AT THE CARLTON CLUB. ALL THOSE WHO WERE INJURED HAVE OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY. AND WE UTTERLY CONDEMN THOSE RESPONSIBLE. EVEN THOUGH THEIR MAIN TARGET WAS OBVIOUSLY CONSERVATIVES, IT IS CLEAR THAT THEY DON'T CARE WHO THEY KILL OR MAIM - ~~INNOCENT~~ PASSERS-BY, TOURISTS, ANYONE. I HOPE THE TIMING OF THE ATTACK TO COINCIDE WITH THIS EUROPEAN COUNCIL WILL BRING HOME INTERNATIONALLY JUST WHAT DEPRAVED AND EVIL CRIMINALS WE FACE.

TO COME BACK TO THE BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL, WE HAD A USEFUL DISCUSSION OF THE SINGLE MARKET AND THE AGREED PRIORITIES FOR THE ITALIAN PRESIDENCY ARE VERY MUCH THE ONES WHICH WE WANT TO SEE. I WAS DELIGHTED THAT THE COMMISSION CIRCULATED A TABLE SHOWING CLEARLY THAT BRITAIN LEADS THE COMMUNITY WHEN IT COMES TO IMPLEMENTING SINGLE MARKET DECISIONS. WE ALSO CALLED ON GERMANY TO RECONSIDER ITS DISCRIMINATORY TAX ON LORRIES. THE COMMISSION ARE OF COURSE TAKING THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT TO THE EUROPEAN COURT OVER THIS.

1 } ~~WE AGREED TO BEGIN AN INTER-GOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE ON~~ POLITICAL UNION IN DECEMBER. OUR CONCERN TO SEE NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND NATIONAL IDENTITIES RESPECTED AND PRESERVED HAS BEEN TAKEN ON BOARD. WHAT WE SHALL BE CONSIDERING IN ESSENCE IS HOW THE FUNCTIONING OF EXISTING COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS CAN BE IMPROVED.

WE DISCUSSED ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION AND CONFIRMED THAT AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE ON THIS WILL ALSO START IN DECEMBER. I EXPLAINED OUR PROPOSALS FOR A HARD ECU AND A EUROPEAN MONETARY FUND, AND THEY WILL GO FORWARD WITH OTHER PROPOSALS FOR FURTHER WORK.

WE AGREED A DECLARATION ON THE ENVIRONMENT, INCLUDING A PROPOSAL FOR AID TO HELP PRESERVE TROPICAL FORESTS - AN AREA IN WHICH BRITAIN HAS GIVEN A LEAD. WE ALSO CALLED FOR MORE RAPID IMPLEMENTATION OF MEASURES AGAINST DRUGS, AND IN PARTICULAR THE BRITISH PROPOSALS FOR A EUROPEAN DRUGS INTELLIGENCE UNIT, AND FOR AN EARLY CONFERENCE OF EASTERN AND WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES ON DRUG ISSUES.

WE UNDERLINED THE VERY GREAT IMPORTANCE THE COMMUNITY ATTACHES TO A SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME TO THE URUGUAY ROUND OF TRADE NEGOTIATIONS AND OUR INTENTION TO MAKE A FULL CONTRIBUTION TO THAT. THIS IS A SUBJECT WHICH WILL BE PROMINENT AT HOUSTON.

LAST NIGHT WE HAD A VERY THOROUGH DISCUSSION OF ASSISTANCE TO THE SOVIET UNION. BRITAIN HAS CONSTANTLY BEEN AT THE FOREFRONT IN GIVING SUPPORT TO MR. GORBACHEV AND HIS POLICIES OF GREATER DEMOCRACY AND REFORM. WE ARE VERY READY TO CONSIDER FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, PROVIDED IT IS CLEARLY LINKED TO ECONOMIC RESTRUCTURING SO THAT WE KNOW IT WILL ACTUALLY BE EFFECTIVE. I FAVOUR SUPPORT FOR ECONOMIC REFORM, BUT THERE HAS TO BE REFORM TO SUPPORT. AFTER ALL WE ONLY GAVE AID TO POLAND AND HUNGARY WHEN THEY COMMITTED THEMSELVES TO FULLSCALE ECONOMIC REFORM PROGRAMMES.

In my view,
~~SO~~ THE FIRST TASK, AFTER CONSULTATION AT THE ECONOMIC SUMMIT,
~~THE COMMISSION ASSISTED BY~~
IS A THOROUGH ANALYSIS TO BE CONDUCTED BY EXPERTS FROM THE
NEW EBRD, THE WORLD BANK AND THE IMF, THE OECD, THE COMMISSION
AND OTHERS. THEN WE AND OUR OTHER WESTERN PARTNERS CAN SEE
WHAT REALLY NEEDS TO BE DONE AND TAKE DECISIONS.

FOREIGN MINISTERS DISCUSSED A NUMBER OF FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES
AND AGREED STATISTICS. I THINK IT IS A GREAT PITY THAT THE
TWELVE WERE UNABLE TO AGREE PUBLICLY TO MAKE A START NOW IN
EASING SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA. SEVERAL HAVE OF COURSE
DONE SO PRIVATELY. BUT WE DID AT LEAST CALL ON EVERYONE IN
SOUTH AFRICA TO REFRAIN FROM VIOLENCE AND ADVOCACY OF VIOLENCE
- WHICH OF COURSE COVERS THE ANC'S SUPPORT FOR ARMED STRUGGLED.
I AM SURE THAT IN PRACTICE RESTRICTIONS ON SOUTH AFRICA WILL
CONTINUE TO BE EASED.

ALL IN ALL A USEFUL COUNCIL - AND MAY I CONGRATULATE IRELAND
ON ITS SUCCESS IN THE WORLD CUP LAST NIGHT. ENGLAND HOPES
TO EMULATE THEM THIS EVENING.

26 JUNE 1990