

- (c) It is the Community's opinion that the accession of new members will lead to the enlarged Community having new responsibilities towards developing countries, which it will have to meet in appropriate ways.

With this in view, the enlarged Community must be ready to continue its policy of association, both as regards the existing associated African and Malagasy states and for the benefit of the independent African countries of comparable structure and level of development which request association with a view to promoting their economic and social development.

The enlargement of the Community and, with it, the possible extension of the policy of association should not lead to a weakening of relations with the present associated states.

The terms and conditions of association with all these African countries could be defined during negotiations which might take place at the same time as the renegotiations with the states at present associated with the Community, which are to be held as from 1 August 1973.

In connection with the new responsibilities of the enlarged Community to which I have just referred, it would also be desirable for the Six and the applicant states to consult each other, preferably in the initial stage of the negotiations, with a view to adopting a joint position on the problem of generalised preferences.

.../...

When, during the course of the negotiations we reach the most important problems concerning relations with the Commonwealth, we will suggest guidelines as regards Commonwealth countries other than the African countries which I have mentioned.

- (d) The Community is prepared to open discussions with the European States which are members of EFT, but which have not applied for Membership of the Community, with a view to seeking possible solutions to the problems raised by enlargement, and thus to enable these States to contribute to the construction of Europe.

With reference to these discussions, I would remind you that it follows from the decisions taken at The Hague that it is not possible to conceive of an enlarged Community except in equality of rights and obligations of all the Member States.

The Community could agree to discussions starting in the autumn with a meeting at ministerial level with any of these countries which so desire.

The agreements concluded with these countries would be binding on the enlarged Community. It will therefore be necessary to seek appropriate formulae which will enable the States which have applied for Membership to be associated in due course with the preparation and conclusion of these agreements.

.../...

The Community considers that it would be desirable, for practical reasons and in the interest of all the countries concerned, for these agreements to come into force at the same time as the accession treaties.

- (e) The Community is aware that the applications for membership raise both problems peculiar to each of the Applicant States and problems which will have to be examined jointly.

The organisation of the negotiations must therefore take this situation into account, it being understood that, during the first stage in any case, most of the work will have to be done on a bilateral basis.

This situation raises the problem of providing each of the Applicant States with adequate information on the progress being made in the other negotiations.

The Community proposes to put forward appropriate suggestions to this end at a later date, so that the exchange of information and the necessary consultations take place to the satisfaction of all concerned.

- (f) The statement which I have just made on the Community's position is not exhaustive and does not therefore touch on all the problems which will arise during the negotiations. I am thinking here, in particular, of the questions raised by the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community and the Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community, and also of the discussions which we shall be having with the United Kingdom on certain special questions relating to the economic, monetary and financial problems connected with accession.

The Community will have the opportunity to set out its views on these questions, in more detail during

the negotiations.

- (g) Finally, the Community will employ a uniform negotiating procedure at all levels and for all questions. This time, therefore, the negotiations will take place in the framework of a Conference between the Communities and the States which have applied for Membership of the Communities.

#### IV. CONCLUSIONS

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen and dear colleagues,

The work which we are undertaking today is of considerable importance for the destiny of Europe.

It is arousing among our peoples an interest and a hope which we must not, which we cannot, disappoint.

If we have the political aims of the Treaties, the development of the Communities, so much at heart it is because we have the profound conviction that the European Communities have been the original nucleus around which European unity has taken shape, has burgeoned and will continue to grow unchecked in the future.

The enlargement of the Communities which we all wish to achieve together will give new dimensions and new possibilities to the undertaking which we have successfully brought thus far.

.../...

At present, we can only glimpse these prospects of future developments. But we must ensure that they trace a picture of the Europe of the future which will be attractive to our peoples, presenting not only a vision of increased prosperity, but also of human, social and cultural values.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen and dear colleagues, I have presented to you some of our reflections at this initial stage of our work.

I am certain that our views, together with the declarations which you may wish to make, can constitute a good start for the negotiations which are commencing under such excellent auspices.

The task which awaits our negotiators is vast; the problems which they will have to solve are numerous and complex. But their efforts, and ours, will be sustained by a common political will to spare no effort to reach agreement in the shortest possible time.

The Community will do everything in its power to achieve this end.

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