

DECLARATION ON THE GULF CRISIS

1. The European Community and its Member States remain firmly committed to full implementation of the UN Security Council Resolutions. Complete Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and the restoration of Kuwaiti sovereignty and of its legitimate government remain the absolute conditions for a peaceful solution of the crisis.

2. Security Council Resolution 678 sends the clearest possible signal to Iraq that the international community is determined to ensure full restoration of international legality. The responsibility lies on the Iraqi government to ensure peace for its people by complying fully with the demands of the UN Security Council, in particular by a complete withdrawal from Kuwait by 15 January.

3. The European Community and its Member States earnestly hope that implementation of the UN Security Council Resolutions can be peacefully secured. To this end, they support a dialogue of the sort President Bush has offered. They also favour action by the UN Secretary General and hope that the UN Security Council's Permanent Members will remain actively involved as well. They wish Arab countries to continue to play an important role in the efforts for a peaceful solution. The European Community and its Member States underline the value of a contact between the Presidency and the Foreign Minister of Iraq, aimed at securing, in co-ordination with other members of the international community, full compliance with UN Security Council Resolutions.

4. The European Council expresses relief at Iraq's decision to release all foreign hostages, but underlines its deep concern at Iraq's failure to withdraw, at its oppressive and inhuman occupation of Kuwait and its attempt to destroy the fabric of the country.

DECLARATION ON THE MIDDLE EAST

1. The European Council expresses its dismay at the continuing lack of clear prospects for a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict and to the Palestinian problem, and at the renewed acts of terrorism and violence. It expresses its deep concern at the rising incomprehension and tension in the Occupied Territories. It renews its call to the parties concerned to refrain from violence that can only engender new violence. It expresses its concern about the Israeli practices of collective reprisals, such as the destruction of houses or restrictions on freedom of movement, and deplores the recent decision to place moderate Palestinians under administrative arrest.

The European Council calls once again on Israel to comply with Resolutions 672 and 673 of the UN Security Council, to act in conformity with its obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention on the Protection of the Civilian Population, and to co-operate with the United Nations. It welcomes the recommendations by the UN Secretary-General in this regard and fully supports every effort of the UN Security Council to achieve a better protection of the Palestinian population and to promote peace in the area. It reaffirms the determination of the European Community and its Member States to further assist the Palestinian population in its serious plight.

2. The European Council reiterates its longstanding commitment to a just and lasting solution to these problems, in conformity with the relevant Resolutions of the UN Security Council and with the principles expressed by the European Community in its previous Declarations. To this end, the European

Council reaffirms its support for the principle of convening, at an appropriate time, an international peace conference under the auspices of the UN.

3. The serious deterioration in the economic situation in the Occupied Territories is a source of great concern to the Community. In this connection, the European Council reaffirms its commitment to the economic and social development of the Palestinian people and considers that, in the new circumstances, the doubling of Community aid to the Occupied Territories decided on by the Strasbourg European Council appears particularly appropriate and timely.

The European Council also considers it vital for all efforts to be made to create the conditions for facilitating and increasing trade between the Occupied Territories and the Community.

4. As expressed in its Declaration of 28 October 1990, the European Council remains convinced that relations of mutual confidence and co-operation must be encouraged among the countries of the region, with a view to establishing a situation of stability, security, economic and social well-being, and respect for civil and political rights, to forestalling the recurrence of crises, and to preventing the spread of weapons of mass destruction. The European Community and its Member States remain ready actively to co-operate with the concerned countries to achieve these goals and to contribute to the success of the task entrusted by relevant Resolutions to the UN Secretary-General to examine measures to enhance security and stability in the region. In this connection, the European Council reaffirms the importance of a meaningful and constructive Euro-Arab Dialogue.

DECLARATION ON LEBANON

The European Council expresses its satisfaction at the implementation of the security plan in greater Beirut following the withdrawal of all militias from the Lebanese capital. It expresses the hope that the recent developments can foster the process of national reconciliation and lead to the full implementation of the Taif Agreements, thus bringing about the restoration of the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of a Lebanon free of all foreign troops and enabling the Lebanese people to express their will through free elections.

It appeals to the parties concerned to release all remaining hostages.

The European Community and its Member States reaffirm their commitment to help provide Lebanon with the assistance needed to build its future and view favourably the participation of the Community in the pledging conference for the creation of a Lebanon Assistance Fund.

DECLARATION ON SOUTH AFRICA

The Community and its Member States have consistently followed developments in South Africa with the greatest attention and have given a favourable reception to the initiatives which have been taken to bring about the abolition of apartheid and the establishment of a united, non-racial, and democratic South Africa. They have already expressed approval of the results of the talks between the Government and the ANC, in particular those of the Pretoria meeting in August which opened the way to the negotiation of a new Constitution.

They deplore the phase of serious violence through which South Africa is passing which may endanger these developments. They welcome, however, further indications serving to confirm that the process of change already begun is going ahead in the direction advocated by the Strasbourg European Council. They have decided to continue to encourage this process.

Against this background, the European Council has decided that as soon as legislative action is taken by the South African government to repeal the Group Areas Act and the Land Acts, the Community and its Member States will proceed to an easing of the set of measures adopted in 1986.

As of now, so as to contribute to combating unemployment and improving the economic and social situation in South Africa, and to encourage the movement under way aimed at the complete abolition of apartheid, the European Council has decided to lift the ban on new investments.

At the same time, the Community and its Member States, with the objective of sending a clear signal of political support to the victims of apartheid, and intending to contribute to a new economic and social balance in South Africa,

have agreed to strengthen the programme of positive measures and to adapt it to the requirements of the new situation, including requirements related to the return and resettlement of the exiles.

The Community and its Member States hope in this way to be able to contribute to the speeding up of the process under way through sending to all the parties involved in negotiation a concrete sign of support for the establishment of a new South Africa, united, non-racial, and democratic, and capable of resuming the place which it deserves in the international community.
