

NOTES FOR THE SPEECH BY MR EMILIO COLOMBO  
PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, ON THE OCCASION  
OF THE DINNER GIVEN BY HIM FOR THE DELEGATION FROM  
THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS

WEDNESDAY, 6 JULY 1977, 9 P.M.

IN THE PRESIDENTIAL SUITE

1. I SHOULD FIRST LIKE TO TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT'S THANKS TO MR SAM GIBBONS, WHO HEADS THE AMERICAN DELEGATION, AND WHO HAS BEEN AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT IN THESE OUR INTER-PARLIAMENTARY CONTACTS FROM THE VERY BEGINNING. I SHOULD ALSO LIKE TO INCLUDE IN THIS TRIBUTE TWO OTHER CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS, MR FRASER AND MR ROSENTHAL, WHOM I WANT TO ASSURE THAT, ALTHOUGH THEY HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO COME TO LUXEMBOURG, THE PART THEY HAVE BEEN PLAYING IN THESE RELATIONS IS HIGHLY APPRECIATED. MAY I HERE EXPRESS MY HOPE AND WISH THAT THE 11TH MEETING IN LONDON - WHICH WILL BE HELD FROM 11 TO 13 JULY - WILL SERVE TO STRENGTHEN THE LOYAL FRIENDSHIP OF OLD MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN DELEGATION AND STIMULATE THE INTEREST OF THE NEW.

RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO PARLIAMENTS HAVE BEHIND THEM NOW A LONG-STANDING TRADITION AND CLEAR PROSPECTS AHEAD. IT IS THUS WITH EAGERNESS THAT WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE 12TH CONSECUTIVE MEETING BETWEEN OUR DELEGATIONS, TO BE HELD IN THE UNITED STATES BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR, AND ARE HAPPY TO EXTEND TO YOU HERE AND NOW AN INVITATION FOR THE MEETING THAT IS TO FOLLOW NEXT YEAR IN EUROPE.

OVER THE COURSE OF THE YEARS, OUR RELATIONS HAVE BECOME A WELL-TRIED PARLIAMENTARY COMPLEMENT TO THE FOREIGN POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES ON THE ONE SIDE, AND OF THE COMMUNITY ON THE OTHER. OUR MEETINGS CONSTITUTE THAT 'SPECIAL POLITICAL LINK' WHICH PROVIDES A CHANNEL FOR THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND FOR INTER-PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE AND A WORKSHOP FOR THE FORGING OF SOME JOINT POLITICAL INITIATIVES. (I HAVE IN MIND SUCH PROJECTS AS THE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES, THE QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, ETC.)

2. THERE IS A NEW SPIRIT ABROAD AT THIS TIME BOTH IN THE LIFE OF OUR COMMUNITY AND IN THE UNITED STATES, AND PERHAPS ALSO IN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THESE TWO GREAT ENTITIES.

NEW DECISIONS HAVE RECENTLY BEEN TAKEN IN A NUMBER OF AREAS TO FACE UP TO THE CHALLENGES THAT HAVE ARISEN AND TO SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITIES THAT HAVE PRESENTED THEMSELVES.

3. A DOMINANT FACTOR IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY'S LIFE IS THE APPROACH OF DIRECT ELECTIONS TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT. PREPARATORY LEGISLATIVE ACTION FOR THESE ELECTIONS, TO BE HELD IN 1978, IS ALREADY WELL ADVANCED, AND IN ALMOST ALL THE MEMBER COUNTRIES IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO COMPLETE IT WITHIN THE NEXT HALF-YEAR. SIMULTANEOUSLY, ALL THE GREAT POLITICAL MOVEMENTS NOW REPRESENTED IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT HAVE BEEN MAKING PREPARATIONS FOR THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN: JOINING IN TRANS-NATIONAL GROUPINGS, DRAWING UP ELECTION PLATFORMS, INFORMING AND MOBILIZING THE ELECTORATE. WE CAN THUS CONFIDENTLY EXPECT THAT THE EUROPE OF THE PEOPLES WILL AT LAST MAKE ITS VOICE HEARD AND THAT EUROPEAN UNIFICATION WILL BECOME NOT ONLY THE RESULT OF GOVERNMENT DECISIONS, BUT AN EXPRESSION OF THE FREE WILL OF ITS NATIONS.

THIS UNITED EUROPE MUST PRESERVE THE SPECIFIC CHARACTERISTICS OF ITS CONSTITUENT PEOPLES WHILE IT STRIVES TO ELIMINATE BY COMMON ACCORD THE CAUSES OF DISSENT, OLD AND NEW. IT IS IN THIS WAY THAT EUROPE WILL FIND ITS IDENTITY AND BECOME ONCE AGAIN A DYNAMIC AND ESSENTIAL FULCRUM OF A COMPLEX PATTERN OF BALANCE AND, IN FULFILMENT OF ITS MISSION, FIND ITS DUE PLACE IN THE LARGER PATTERN OF THE WORLD.

4. FOR SIX MONTHS NOW THE UNITED STATES, TOO, HAS BEEN SPEAKING WITH A NEW VOICE THAT ECHOES THE NEW SPIRIT TO WHICH I HAVE REFERRED.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE SEEM TO HAVE PUT THEIR TRUST AGAIN IN THE IDEALS THAT INSPIRED THEIR GREAT REVOLUTION. WE WARMLY WISH THEM SUCCESS IN GAINING AN UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT, IN THE 'AMERICAN DREAM' WAS ILLUSORY, AND WHAT HAS A UNIVERSAL APPEAL, AS, NOTABLY, THE PROCLAMATION OF THE INALIENABLE RIGHTS TO DIGNITY FOR THE INDIVIDUAL AND FREEDOM FOR NATIONS.

5. RELATIONS BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND THE UNITED STATES ARE ALSO, WE HOPE AND TRUST, IMBUED WITH A RENEWED SPIRIT.

FORMER AMERICAN SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER SAID ON 6 JUNE 1974 THAT THE UNITED STATES WANTED TO SEE A STRONG AND UNITED EUROPE, AND DECLARED - WITH A TOUCH OF IRONY, NO DOUBT - THAT IF A UNITED EUROPE WAS NOT IN AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES, THE LATTER WOULD SUPPORT IT WITH THE PATIENCE, GOODWILL, GOOD GRACE AND MODERATION TYPICAL OF HIS COUNTRY. WE SHOULD LIKE TO BELIEVE THAT THIS STATEMENT IS EVEN MORE TRUE TODAY THAN EVER, AND THAT, DESPITE ITS INADEQUACIES, EUROPE HAS BUILT UP SUFFICIENT CREDIT TO BE REGARDED AS AN EQUAL PARTNER AS OF RIGHT IN ITS RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES. GENUINE PARTNERSHIP IMPLIES NOT MERELY THE RECOLLECTION OF HISTORICAL TIES OR THE SETTLEMENT OF INEVITABLE ECONOMIC DIFFERENCES, BUT ALSO UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT - EVEN IN THOSE SITUATIONS WHERE THE PARTNERS FAIL TO AGREE - AND THE WILL TO LOOK TOGETHER IN THE SAME DIRECTION.

IT FOLLOWS, THEN, THAT WHEN EUROPE AND AMERICA JOIN FORCES IN THIS NEW SPIRIT, IT IS NOT TO DEFEND OLD WAYS AND PATTERNS, BUT, ON THE CONTRARY, TO WORK TOGETHER, EACH IN HIS OWN MANNER, FOR THE PEACEFUL TRANSFORMATION OF THE WORLD, WHERE IT IS OUR POLITICAL DUTY TO FIGHT IN THE CAUSE OF MAN - THAT IS, FOR MORE FREEDOM AND GREATER JUSTICE IN THIS WORLD.