

MR GEINSCHER APPEALS TO SOVIET UNION

The following is an excerpt of a statement by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany delivered at the thirty-eighth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations in New York — 29 September 1983.

I appeal to the Soviet Union not to block the INF negotiations any longer by insisting that the British and French systems be included. The Soviet Union should take good note of what President Mitterrand and the British Foreign Secretary, and also the Chinese Foreign Minister have said before this General Assembly about taking into account and limiting strategic systems in terms of arms control policy. We must view these disarmament negotiations in Geneva in the overall context of east-west relations . . .

DISARMAMENT

The conference on disarmament in Europe due to begin in Stockholm on 17 January 1984 will for the first time open the whole of Europe, from the Atlantic to the Urals, to arms control. Military stability in the field of conventional forces in Europe can only become a reality if confidence-building measures and arms control encompass all European territory. Thus the conference on disarmament in Europe is a necessary complement to the Vienna MBFR negotiations, which cover only Central Europe.

NUCLEAR CAPABILITIES

In the first phase of negotiations the conference will seek agreement on verifiable confidence-building measures to reduce the danger of a conventional surprise attack in Europe. A further phase of the conference could lead on to disarmament negotiations proper. The sooner stability in the conventional sphere is established at the lowest possible level of forces, the easier it will become possible to reduce also nuclear capabilities in Europe step by step on the basis of agreements. We must remain constantly aware of this broad

perspective. Disarmament oriented to the establishment of equilibrium is the aim of German peace policy. We want to achieve peace with ever fewer weapons . . .

POLITICAL DIALOGUE

The political dialogue between west and east must not stop. Indeed it must be intensified precisely when the going is rough. And this applies in particular to the dialogue between the two super-powers. My government regrets that Foreign Minister Gromyko is not attending this session of the General Assembly. We strongly advocate a summit meeting between President Reagan and General Secretary Andropov and welcome America's willingness to take part in such a meeting . . .

PRINCIPLES

The principles guiding our co-operation with third world countries are clear:

We respect the right of all nations to independence and self-determination. We support genuine non-alignment.

— We see it as a stabilizing element of international relations.

— We plead the case of renunciation of force worldwide. We support the peaceful settlement of conflicts.

— We are helping to eliminate hunger and want everywhere in the world.

— We are striving for progress in the global realization of human rights. Without the exercise of human rights nations will find no lasting peace, internally or in their external relations . . .

The worsening conflicts in Asia, Africa and Latin America are accompanied by an increasing

arms build-up in these countries. Military spending in the third world has quadrupled over the past twenty years and today accounts for a quarter of global military expenditure. Thus arms control and disarmament are becoming an increasingly urgent task for many regions of the third world also. Confidence-building measures are indispensable for the third world too. An international symposium held in the Federal Republic of Germany in the spring also called for such measures in order to defuse tensions in the third world.

CATALOGUE OF GUIDELINES

Within the United Nations Commission on Disarmament our work on the catalogue of guidelines for confidence-building measures continues. An effective and promising concept for the promotion of peace and stability in the third world is regional co-operation. My government sees it as the best way of safeguarding and strengthening the political and economic independence of the developing countries.

THE LOME CONVENTION

A model for a regional grouping in which all members have equal rights is the European community. It has long since become a factor of stability in Europe and in the world. Through co-operation agreements with regional groupings in the third world it has created a model for future co-operation between industrial and developing countries. The Lome Convention, which links the European community with African, Caribbean and Pacific nations, and the successful co-operation between the European community and Asean, testify to this . . .

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

We support the proposal for the appointment of a High Commissioner for human rights. We call upon the family of nations, conscious of the good done by the European court of human rights, to agree on the institution of a court of human rights of the United Nations. We hope that the next session of the General Assembly, acting on the basis of the report submitted by the commission on human rights, will approve our proposed optional protocol for the abolition of capital punishment.

It was a mark of progress when, on the initiative of my country, the thirty-fifth General Assembly included in its agenda international preventive measures to avoid new flows of refugees . . .

COMMERCIAL BANKS

Co-operation between the IMF, development and commercial banks as well as between the governments of debtor and creditor countries, must be intensified. The commercial banks must be ready to provide even more loans. The international monetary fund, the world bank and the regional development banks must render their contribution. To do so they must receive the necessary funds from their member countries.

PROTECTIONIST POLICIES

The ability of these proven institutions to function must be preserved if the basic conditions for the economic recovery of the third world and of the world as a whole is not to be placed in jeopardy. Rescheduling must allow for special individual circumstances and take place within the scope of sensible stabilization programmes. More effective measures are needed to counter protectionism. Commodity markets and the earnings from commodity exports must be stabilized by means of such measures, coupled with resolute adjustment policies on the part of the developing countries, the present crisis can be overcome and the development process consolidated and energetically continued. To ensure the success of development efforts the industrial countries must not only keep their markets open to exports from developing countries but widen them. Protectionist policies towards the developing countries are tantamount to refusing development.

COMECON COUNTRIES

East-south trade must also be intensified. The industrialized state-trading nations of eastern Europe account for only four per cent of exports from developing countries, whereas the market economy industrial countries

absorb 67 per cent. Thus the western industrialized countries import more than 16 times as much from the developing countries as the comecon countries, although they have only about twice their population . . .

PRIVATE INVESTMENT

Official development aid must be complemented by private direct investment in the third world and by co-operation between companies in the developed and industrialized countries. In the third world too private investment must become one of the driving forces of growth . . .

DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

Preserving the natural basis of life on an earth that has become smaller means a task that will be crucial for the future of mankind. In Europe the forests are dying in other regions of the world the deserts and steppes are spreading, the land is becoming barren. The air is becoming more and more polluted, the ecological balance of lakes and rivers, even of the oceans, is in jeopardy. The ecosystems of tropical regions, too, are particularly sensitive, and many developing countries have suffered environmental damage which at the same time does great harm to the economy. Thus environmental protection must even now be an integral part of any development strategy . . .

THE CURSE AND WASTE OF BEING BLACK

Mr C.D.S. Mbutu writes from KwaMashu — Durban

The life of any human being is beset between eternities, namely, the "ETERNITY OF BIRTH AND THE ETERNITY OF DEATH". Both these eternities are imposed upon us by the Almighty. None of us ever asked to be born and none of us asks to die. None of us ever chose the continent or country of our origin. None of us ever chose the tribe into which we were born. None of us ever asked for the colour and language of our tribe. For all I can imagine, one could easily have been born an insect, a lizard or a beast, but thank God we are humans. Black, white, brown or yellow, we are all humans.

Currently, we in Natal/Kwazulu have an intelligent, practical and far sighted national leader, Dr. Chief M.G. Buthelezi, who has hitherto displayed wonderful dedication in his leadership. He has geared and swung his leadership into the realm and wave

length of the times, which is God's plan. He says coolly that revolution and violence is not the answer to the cause of our struggle because violence can be stopped and completely killed by force of arms, but evolution and non-violence can't. So I want to assert here the

natural evolution of the African. They can thwart and retard it, as they are doing, but for how long? So we Africans need enough strength and faith to strive on knowing that time is on our side and that we will win the struggle for liberation with or without loss