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agenda*

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* A/41/150.

Letter dated 12 September 1986 from the Permanent Representative
of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to
the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On behalf of the twelve member States of the European Community, of which the United Kingdom currently holds the Presidency, I have the honour to send you herewith a copy of the declaration on human rights adopted on 21 July 1986 by the Foreign Ministers of the Twelve.

I should be grateful if you could arrange to have the statement circulated as a document of the General Assembly under items 12, 78, 85, 90, 91, 94, 96, 97, 98, 99, 103 and 105 of the provisional agenda.

(Signed) J. A. THOMSON

ANNEX

Declaration on human rights adopted on 21 July 1986 by the Foreign
Ministers of the twelve member States of the European Community

1. The Foreign Ministers of the European Community, meeting in the framework of European political co-operation and of the Council, have reviewed the principles of the human rights policy of the European Community and its member States. They reaffirm that respect for human rights is one of the corner-stones of European co-operation. They further reaffirm their commitment to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms and emphasize the importance in this context of the principles of parliamentary democracy and the rule of law.
2. The Twelve seek universal observance of human rights. The protection of human rights is the legitimate and continuous duty of the world community and of nations individually. Expressions of concern at violations of such rights cannot be considered interference in the domestic affairs of a State. The major United Nations instruments in the field of human rights should be universally ratified as soon as possible. States should co-operate with intergovernmental organizations which monitor implementation of human rights and of which they are a member. Respect for human rights is an important element in relations between third countries and the Europe of the Twelve.
3. The world-wide human rights situation remains alarming, in particular persistent violations of individual liberties as well as tyranny, oppression and indiscriminate violence in many countries. Concern for violation of human rights forms an important focus of attention for the Twelve, a concern Ministers share with the European Parliament. In recent years, the European partners have delivered various declarations on behalf of Foreign Ministers and made representations on numerous occasions with many Governments, attempting to ameliorate the human rights situation in the countries concerned and to counter cases of specific human rights abuse. Joint statements in international forums on human rights issues have become standard practice for the Twelve, as have frequent discussions at all consultative levels existing among them. The Twelve will continue action within the framework of European political co-operation against violations in any part of the world.
4. Individuals and non-governmental organizations the world over have made valuable and courageous contributions to the protection and promotion of human rights. The Twelve appeal to all States to enhance public awareness concerning the cause of human rights through educational programmes and by allowing non-governmental organizations freely to disseminate human rights information.
5. The Twelve deplore the fact that countless people around the world suffer from hunger, disease and lack of opportunity, thus being denied the enjoyment of the most basic economic and social rights. The promotion of economic, social and cultural rights as well as of civil and political rights is of paramount importance for the full realization of human dignity and for the attainment of the legitimate aspirations of every individual. Neither lack of social and economic development, nor any persuasion or ideology may serve as a justification for the denial of civil

and political rights. The Foreign Ministers affirm that in the development of their relations with non-member States as well as in the administration of aid the European Community and its member States will continue to promote fundamental rights so that individuals and peoples will actually enjoy to the full their economic, social and cultural rights and their civil and political rights.

6. Lasting peace and security are unattainable without universal enjoyment of human rights. In view of their special responsibility as Europeans, the Twelve emphasize that respect for human rights by all States participating in the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe is an essential factor in achieving peace and security, justice and well-being in Europe.
