

The final session was also notable for the emergence of the GATT negotiations, and the Community's non-position, as a substantive conference issue (although it had been keenly debated on the margins of the conference. Walter Kittel (Germany) spoke a great deal on the German Resolution adopted at the Agriculture Council of EEC on 19 October. Brian Chamberlain (Special Trade Envoy for New Zealand) led the attack, referring to the CAP as a "monster" despised by the rest of the world" whose cost was carried by the farmers of the rest of the world, particularly developing country farmers. The Americans (surprisingly) and Japanese kept their heads down in this session; the East and Central Europeans made clear (picking up Bylinski's response from the first session) that they would develop their own market institutions having regard to their circumstances as well as their objective of EC membership, but would use these mechanism to support prices at levels they could afford. (This is likely to be much closer to world prices than to EC prices).

The final communique (attached) was agreed to without debate. Despite pressures for a further similar conference in 12 to 18 months' time, to review where the reforms stand, I gained the impression from private discussions that the IPC at present is thinking more in terms of organising an annual summer school for either government officials/policy makers from these countries, or possibly for enterprise managers, to enable experiences to be shared on the conduct and promotion of the reform process. I consider this would be a valuable initiative, particularly if concentrated on policy makers, and we should consider supporting in view of the likely spin-off in terms of influence and contacts it could generate for us.

A session by session summary report along with the text of a most interesting speech are also available.



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