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## Howe welcome for CAP reform

From Andrew McEwen  
Venice

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, said yesterday that the final declaration of the Venice economic summit amounted to a strong commitment to reform the European Community's Common Agricultural Policy.

Three Community countries which are also major agricultural producers — France, West Germany and Italy — were among the seven industrialized nations which signed a declaration that included a call for "concerted reform of agricultural policies."

Although the Venice Economic Declaration had a global, rather than European, scope, Sir Geoffrey said that the recognition of the need for CAP reform was implicit.

The agricultural statement formed part of the Economic Declaration read at the end of the summit by Signor

Leaders of the seven main industrial countries pledged to sustain non-inflationary world growth, to act on trade imbalances, and called for international rate cuts, in their final summit declaration yesterday.  
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Amintore Fanfani, Italy's interim leader.

He also read separate statements on Aids and on drugs, and a further document described as the "chairman's summary on political issues," which contained a mild reference to the need to promote dialogue in South Africa.

The heads of state and government said that Aids "is one of the biggest potential health problems in the world."

They identified the World Health Organisation as the best forum for international co-operation to fight it.

The statement on drugs included a commitment to work for the eradication of their illegal cultivation.

The Prime Minister of Canada, Mr Brian Mulroney, had hoped for a separate statement on South Africa, but Britain was one of several nations which opposed it. Although the final declaration included a strong condemnation of apartheid it did not go as far as the Canadians would have liked.

Sir Geoffrey said there was a strong feeling that it was the wrong moment to launch any kind of initiative.

Britain was supported by West Germany and the United States in blocking Canada's initiative. Mr Mulroney later indicated his strong disappointment.

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## Satisfied world leaders leave behind some differing impressions

From Andrew McEwen, Venice

The Venice economic summit broke up last night leaving three of the participating groups with different impressions. The leaders were satisfied, the American journalists disappointed, and the Venetians both proud and impatient.

Judged on the basis of the original intentions, the leaders were right. When President Giscard d'Estaing convened the first economic summit at Rambouillet, France, in 1975, the idea was to bring together leaders for an informal chat without an agenda.

The 12 subsequent summits have come under increasing pressure to be more obviously productive. Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, and Mr Frank Carlucci, the National Security Adviser, faced hostile questions this week from American journalists who expected the summit to produce agreements for Britain and France to step up naval patrols in the Gulf and for Japan to help pay for them.

British officials were barracked and jeered when they reported that the leaders had talked until midnight on Monday without coming to any clear conclusions. Yet that sort of discussion was the whole point of the exercise. The pressure has gradually compelled leaders to respond to issues of the day in their final declarations, as the mention of Aids yesterday demonstrated. But the original 1975 spirit has survived.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, commented yesterday: "I think the real worth of the economic summits is that they enable heads

of government to stand back from their own scenes, to take a broad view, and to realize that to some extent they are facing the same problems and can help each other."

Economic summits were not designed to produce winners, but at the 13th the venue has scored more public opinion points than the participants. Long after the public has forgotten what was said at Venice, its stunning images will be remembered.

● REYKJAVIK: On the eve of today's meeting of Nato foreign ministers, which is expected to give backing at last to a superpower deal on Euro-missiles, Lord Carrington, the Nato Secretary-General, said a deal appeared to be "within reach" (Richard Owen writes). But he acknowledged that there were still difficulties, including a dispute between France and the United States over the best forum for new talks in Vienna on reducing conventional forces in Europe.

Diplomats said France was firmly opposed to direct negotiations on conventional reductions between Nato and the Warsaw Pact, and preferred a 35-nation forum involving the neutral and non-aligned states of Europe within the framework of the European Security Process.

The diplomats said that West Germany was also causing last-minute problems by insisting that the imminent INF deal should be followed immediately by talks on tactical nuclear weapons with a range of less than 500 kilometres.

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