

**H.B. MR. WILHELM HAFERKAMP'S
SPEECH AT FOREIGN MINISTER'S LUNCH**

DELHI - 14 May 1977

Mr. Minister, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for your warm words of welcome to myself and my colleagues.

This is my first visit to India, and I should like to thank the Indian Government through you for having given me the opportunity to see your wonderful country at first hand and to have discussions with yourself, the Prime Minister and several of your colleagues.

As you know, a new Commission took office in January. I am very glad that my first visit outside Europe as Vice-President of the new Commission responsible for external relations has been to India. This is a mark of the importance which the commission attaches to co-operation with your country.

The European Community brings together in one framework nine European countries with a long history of Rivalry and conflict. It is based on the simple idea that the way forward for our countries lies in co-operation not confrontation. I am convinced that India shares this philosophy, and it is my belief that your country has a great role to play in fostering this co-operative approach in this region of the world.

Both the Commission and the Indian Government share a Common concern about the development of the international economy as regards both the developed and developing nations. I hope that the Downing Street summit between the major Industrialised powers will have succeeded in giving an impulse to the upswing of the world economy. This is essential if we in the community are to succeed in overcoming our own economic problems with all the social problems that high unemployment brings. Europe will only be able to contribute to the development of the Third World on the scale required if its own economy is prospering. I recognise of course that the economic progress of the Third World will be a powerful factor in stimulating the European economy. In the modern world prosperity is interdependent.

I would like to say a few words about the bilateral relations between India and the Community. We have an on-going programme of co-operation under our commercial co-operation Agreement of 1973 which seems to be going rather well. Of course, we have met certain difficulties, such as on textiles. They do

not reflect any lack of goodwill on our part towards India, but rather the extremely difficult economic and social situation in Europe. When such problems arise, we must discuss them frankly with a view to finding agreed solutions. We must use the existing machinery of the commercial co-operation Agreement and our bilateral agreement on textiles. If necessary, this co-operation machinery must be strengthened.

I would like to conclude by thanking you once again, Mr. Minister, for your warm welcome and by expressing the hope that my visit to India will have helped to strengthen co-operation between Europe and India and consequently co-operation between the developed and the developing nations.