

REMARKS BY WILHELMUS SCHULJT, LEADER OF A DELEGATION
OF VISITING MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
AT A PLENARY MEETING WITH MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS
IN WASHINGTON, D.C., ON MAY 31, 1972

In January of this year, we enjoyed an opportunity to meet, in Brussels and Luxembourg, with members of the Ways and Means Committee and later of the Subcommittees on Europe and on International Organizations and Movements.

We came away with the impression that these modest initial discussions between elected representatives of the American people and parliamentarians from the EEC countries answered a real need. We saw that further contacts could become a valuable support to negotiations which will continue between the United States and the European Community in the months and, indeed, years to come.

We appreciate the initiative, taken by our American colleagues, Mr. Rosenthal and Mr. Fraser, of sending the invitation which has enabled us to be here today.

A few words about the nature of our Delegation:

My colleagues and I are not members of a single committee set up to deal specifically with relations between the United States and the European Community. Our Delegation includes members of the four political

groups in the European Parliament (Christian-Democrats, Socialists, Liberals and members of the European Democratic Union) which are broadly representative of the political structure of our Member States; we come from all the Community countries with the exception of the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg.

The Delegation as such has no binding mandate or preconceived position on any matters concerning relations between the United States and European Community. Its main task is to gather information and establish contacts. Above all we hope to ascertain the opinions and feelings of our American colleagues on the different issues which we shall have occasion to consider. Each one of us will set forth his personal point of view and take note of relevant information learned here so that he can discuss these matters, with a full knowledge of the facts, in his own political group and make his voice heard in the internal debates of the Community institutions.

Our Delegation does not intend merely to repeat the arguments which have been put forward on either side at the level of governments or experts but rather to enquire into the background of these arguments, their justification and the underlying objectives. Above all we wish to open a dialogue which will not end when we leave the United States but may be continued at regular intervals and developed further in a spirit of mutual understanding.

This is not merely a diplomatic or even a governmental concern. But it should be, I venture to say, a matter of permanent preoccupation for the elected representatives of our peoples -- which we are.

We have had opportunity to discuss political and economic matters of immense interest to all of us. I am convinced that these open and frank discussions will contribute to a deeper mutual understanding, and this conviction is based on my experience as a Member of the European Parliament.

As you know, this Parliament is composed of parliamentarians from all the Member States. Despite, however, the rich variety of our parliamentary traditions and the fact that we usually have to make ourselves understood through simultaneous interpreters, we have managed to develop a common parliamentary language. We have discovered among ourselves a common concern to dismantle the highly developed technocracy of political and even more of economic decision-making, and a common concern to bring some common sense into the process, common sense being one of the basic values of democracy.

The prospective enlarged Community of Ten will, in my opinion, have to develop this incomplete structure very rapidly in order to be able to grapple with the crucial problems that will face it. To cite but one example - external relations - we can surely expect that this enlarged Community will, together with the United States, have to bear the important

responsibility for initiating and carrying through the next major liberalization round in the framework of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. I would even venture to say that this next round will go beyond trade liberalization in the classical sense and will have to sketch out the guidelines of a future and more balanced world economy. The same can be said of financial relations where we also have to face the prospect of transforming the existing system.

The Community will have to take highly important decisions directly affecting the welfare and security of its citizens. Since our citizens will not accept that these decisions should be taken without their direct consent and participation, the Community will, I am sure, have to grow into a much more politicized organism.

I would like to draw your attention to the fact that we are still at a pre-federal stage when the problems we are faced with greatly exceed the answers that might be offered.

The point I would like to make is this: most federations, including the federation of the United States, had sufficient time to develop internally before coming under the pressure of predominantly international problems. In the case of the European Community it is rather the other way around: the pressure to contribute to the settlement of international

problems precedes internal development. As a result, the outside world often regards the Community as similar to a nation-state although its policy-making ability is far less. I think it is not unfair to ask you to bear this fact in mind.

I am aware that this emergent European Community is not an easy partner for our American friends, but, on the other hand, there is no alternative to partnership. There are too many basic values common to Europe and to the United States. If we look at the burning problems of our fellow-men, most of whom are still unable to satisfy their basic needs, we realize that we must not behave as though we were two islands cut off from the rest of the world. On the contrary, we must pool our resources in a long-term effort to help mankind to a better social, economic, democratic and peaceful future.
