

Statement by Nyboe Andersen regarding Denmark's membership negotiations (7 June 1971)

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Statement by Mr. P. Nyboe Andersen, Minister for Economic Affairs and European Integration, at the meeting between Denmark and the European Communities in Luxembourg at June 7, 1971

Mr. Chairman,

My Government has noted with great satisfaction the considerable progress made in the British negotiations with the Community and the general agreement' that the main issues of these negotiations could and should be agreed in principle before the summer recess of the Community. At the same time quite naturally we had to consider how this important step forward would affect our own negotiations as well as the public debate in Denmark concerning these negotiations. We have come to the conclusion that an effort should be made to establish agreement in principle between Denmark and the Communities on the main issues of our negotiations. It will be useful in itself and have a favorable influence on public opinion in Denmark, if we could agree sometime in the beginning of July on all the main problems in the negotiations between Denmark and the Communities in a satisfactory way.

It should not be difficult to obtain this result, since the agreement which is reached, or is likely to be reached in the negotiations with, the United Kingdom seems to meet Danish interests in an acceptable way. I am referring here to three questions:

- First the transitional arrangements for the customs union. The agreement reached here calls for a transitional period during which tariffs will be dismantled in 5 steps of equal size between the candidate countries and the present Community, while the common external tariff will be adopted by the candidate countries starting with a 40 per cent adjustment one year after entering into force of the accession treaties; subsequent moves towards the common external tariff would be of the same magnitude and take place on the same date as the internal reductions.
- Secondly I refer to the common agricultural policy. It is to be introduced over the same 5 years by applying from the 1st January 1973 the mechanisms of the common agricultural policy with the ensuing consequences with respect to the Community preference. The gradual adjustment towards Community prices will start from the internal market price level of each candidate Country and arrive at the common price level in 6 steps within the 5 year transitional period. It being understood that for each commodity sector the first adjustment would be made at the beginning of the marketing year as the case may be and that the last move would be made uniformly for all the products in question on 31st December 1977. We have presented to the Community certain Danish views on the agricultural transitional arrangements on specific products the most important are beef and cattle and horticultural products. These questions, we hope, will be settled during the clarifying talks before the next meeting at deputy level.
- Thirdly I am thinking of the transitional arrangement for the adoption by the candidate countries of the financial regulation. We understand that each candidate country shall apply from the date of accession the provisions of the decision of 21st April 1970 on the Communities' own resources; that the financial contributions according to Article 3 (ii) of the said, decision shall be calculated by means of a scale to be fixed on the basis of a GNP comparison to be decided in consultation with the candidate countries; that the total financial contribution of the new Member States shall be called up only to a certain percentage to be fixed for each calendar year of the 5 year transitional period and that from 1st January 1978 the total contribution shall be called up; and finally that any post-transitional corrective which may be decided on will apply equally to all candidate countries.

To sum up, Mr. Chairman, the transitional arrangement for the customs union, the common agricultural policy and the financial regulation as we understand them are acceptable to my Government. I would be grateful to have agreement on these questions confirmed by the Communities before the next meeting between the deputies on the 29th of June.

3. Mr. Chairman, besides the 3 main areas just mentioned, 3 other questions raised by Denmark are important enough to justify their inclusion with the 3 main issues among the questions on which we would

like to have a positive reaction before the summer holiday.

The first one is our request for an exception from the common fisheries policy as regards access to the fishing territories of Greenland and the Faeroe Islands. In case the whole question of the adoption of the common fisheries policy by the candidate countries is to be left open for further discussion after the summer holidays, my Government would accept a postponement. If, on the other hand, the Community were to reach agreement in principle with any of the other candidate countries on the question of access to the fishing territory, we should also, expect agreement in principle to be reached on the particular request made by Denmark as regards Greenland and the Faeroe Islands.

The second of the particular Danish questions is our request for a transitional period as regards the right to establishment in the agricultural sector. We have submitted a short note to clarify our position on this question which is one of a certain political importance in Denmark and plays a role in the debate especially in the border regions.

It is my hope to find the Community willing to arrive at a positive position in the very near future on this particular issue.

The third and last question, Mr. Chairman, is our request for transitional arrangements as regards capital movements.

Even on this point we have submitted, a short clarifying note to the Community in order to facilitate it for you to arrive at a position at the same time that decision is reached on the requests made by the United Kingdom in this field. We have limited our requests to the minimum considered necessary for our efforts to overcome the present balance-of-payments difficulties, and we do not see any conflicts of interest here between the Community and Denmark.

A number of other questions remain to be settled in our negotiations with the Community. They are, however, mostly of a technical nature and we have no reason to doubt that they can be dealt with adequately during the negotiations after the summer holidays. Just to indicate their nature let me mention the fixing of Danish quotas for road transport, the transitional arrangements for iron and steel and scrap, the determination of the Danish sugar production quota; the classification of bacon under the pig meat regulation and the rules on duty free imports of travelers.

4. To conclude, Mr. Chairman, I propose to use our negotiations during the month of June to establish a basis for an agreement between the Community and Denmark in the beginning of July that, the main issues are or will be settled in a satisfactory way for both parties.

In our opinion this should not create any particular difficulty for the Community' provided that agreement is reached with, the United Kingdom on the three main, issues of the transitional period. The two particular Danish points I have just mentioned, transitional arrangements for agricultural establishment and for capital transactions, do not seem to be so difficult, that agreement could not be reached very quickly. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I hope to have your agreement that we should envisage another meeting on ministerial level not later than, the beginning of July, on which occasion we should reach agreement in principle on the questions I have dealt with today. The preparation of a text to that effect should be undertaken during the month of June - I hope in conformity with this declaration of mine.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman