

## José Medeiros Ferreira and Portugal's application for accession to the European Communities (29 November 1976)

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[Journalist] Minister, has there been any opposition from the EEC Member States to our accession to the Community?

[José Medeiros Ferreira] No, I think that that might result from a lack of historical knowledge about the accession of the various countries which were not among the original six. It should not be forgotten that the accession process of countries such as the United Kingdom, Denmark, Ireland and, more recently, Greece undoubtedly gave rise to much greater hesitation and much greater speculation than Portugal's application for accession to the European Communities.

This is clearly a case of nine countries acting unanimously, by consensus. An issue of such importance as Portugal's accession — which is, incidentally, referred to in all the documents produced by the EEC and its leaders — naturally requires discussion and exchanges of points of view among the EEC Member States. And there is nothing more natural than starting from positions which are actually relatively different.

We firmly believe that the final answer will be positive, and that is what counts in the end.