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cc PS  
PS/Mr Eggar  
PS/Mr Patten  
PS/Pur

Mr J Hall O2 DTI

Ms Vowles (A) O2 DTI

Mr Redmayne EC2 D

PS/No 10

PS/Writer Cab Office

News Dept

HKD

PS/Sir J Footwell

Mr Fellmore

Mr Melave

Mr Ratford

H of C  
Mr Peter Davies  
Mr Brian Davidson

② Mr Mellinger

Mr Wye

Mr Sydney

CHINA/EC RELATIONS

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Ms Smith EC2 (E)

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1. On the morning of 29 June the head of the western European Department in the MFA summoned the representatives of European TROIKA and the Head of the EC delegation to read out a statement by the Foreign Ministry in response to the European Council's statement in Madrid. The Spanish Ambassador gave a briefing to his European colleagues on the night of 29 June and reported that the Chinese statement had been on the following lines:

"The European Council position has challenged the point of view of China concerning the counter-revolutionary rebellion. The statement in Madrid has made baseless statements about the situation in China and contains slanders. Unilateral measures have been taken which are going to damage the bilateral relations between China and the European Community. The Chinese Government deeply regrets this and expresses its strong indignation. The Chinese Government has already told the EC Governments that it had to suppress a counter-revolutionary rebellion. We have also indicated that we distinguish between students and demonstrators on the one hand and a small number of criminals on the other. Only the latter will be punished according to the law. These are people who sabotaged public order subverting the Government. In punishing these criminals we want to preserve the Constitution and to maintain public order and the security of the population. Any Government of a sovereign state would have to act in the same way. We find it difficult to understand that the declaration of the European Council refers to these criminals as people who defend democratic rights. The statement has accused the Chinese Government of repressing them in a brutal way. We are greatly shocked by the European Governments' wanton interference in the internal affairs of China confusing right and wrong. The Government of China attaches importance to human rights. The Chinese Constitution and law guarantee the rights of citizens, but the exercise of human rights has to be limited at the same time. To say that punishment according to the law of a small group of criminals is a violation of human rights is at the least one-sided and ignorant if it is not due to ulterior motives.

We want to point out solemnly that the Chinese Government and people will not accept interference in their internal affairs, nor the exercise of pressure in the name of human rights. These attempts will never succeed.

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The Chinese Government has on many occasions tried to persuade the European Community Governments to adopt sober-minded and prudent attitudes concerning the situation in China, but this time the European Council has unilaterally and rashly taken a number of measures in an effort to exercise pressure on China and damage bilateral relations. By doing so we cannot understand where the EC countries want to lead our relations. We are of the view that such acts are unwise and useless, and finally will do no good to the EC countries. Member States of the European Community must take all responsibility for any damage between China and the EC because of having taken this unilateral action. We reiterate that the policy of reform and opening to the outside world will remain unchanged. After summing up our experience we will carry out reform even further and faster. China's foreign policy of peace and independence will remain unchanged. China remains ready to keep and develop good relations with EC countries on the basis of the five principles of peaceful co-existence. We hope the EC and member states will take a long term view. We believe that people of vision in the EC and Member States will cherish the good relations developed over the years and will desist from taking wrong actions as they are doing now".



Alan Donald

STATEMENT ON CHINA AT THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL

Declaration on China

The European Council, recalling the Declaration of the Twelve of June 6, strongly condemns the brutal repression taking place in China. It expresses its dismay at the pursuit of executions in spite of all the appeals of the international community. It solemnly requests the Chinese authorities to stop the executions and to put an end to the repressive actions against those who legitimately claim their democratic rights.

The European Council requests the Chinese authorities to respect human rights and to take into account the hopes for freedom and democracy deeply felt by the population. It underlines that this is an essential element for the pursuit of the policy of reforms and openness that has been supported by the European Community and its Member States.

The Twelve are aware that the recent events have caused great anxiety in Hong Kong.

In the present circumstances, the European Council thinks it necessary to adopt the following measures :

- raising of the issue of human rights in China in the appropriate international fora; asking for the admittance of independent observers to attend the trials and to visit the prisons,
- interruption by the Member States of the Community of military cooperation and an embargo on trade in arms with China,
- suspension of bilateral ministerial and high level contacts,
- postponement by the Community and its Member States of new cooperation projects,
- reduction of programmes of cultural, scientific and technical cooperation to only those activities that might maintain a meaning in the present circumstances,
- prolongation by the Member States of visas to the Chinese students who wish it,

Taking into account the climate of uncertainty created in the economic field by the present policy of the Chinese authorities, the European Council advocates the postponement

of the examination of new requests for credit insurance and the postponement of the examination of new credits of the World Bank.