

## Declaration of the Nine Foreign Ministers of 6 November 1973, in Brussels, on the Situation in the Middle East

The Nine Governments of the European Community have continued their exchange of views on the situation in the Middle East. While emphasizing that the views set out below are only a first contribution on their part to the search for a comprehensive solution to the problem, they have agreed on the following:

1. They strongly urge that the forces of both sides in the Middle East conflict should return immediately to the positions they occupied on 22 October in accordance with Resolutions 339 and 340 of the Security Council. They believe that a return to these positions will facilitate a solution to other pressing problems concerning prisoners-of-war and the Egyptian Third Army.

2. They have the firm hope that, following the adoption by the Security Council of Resolution No. 338 of 22 October, negotiations will at last begin for the restoration in the Middle East of a just and lasting peace through the application of Security Council Resolution No. 242 in all of its parts. They declare themselves ready to do all in their power to contribute to that peace. They believe that those negotiations must take place in the framework of the United Nations. They recall that the Charter has entrusted to the Security Council the principal responsibility for international peace and security. The Council and the Secretary-General have a special role to play in the making and keeping of peace through the application of Council Resolutions Nos. 242 and 338.

3. They consider that a peace agreement should be based particularly on the following points:

I. the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force;

II. the need for Israel to end the territorial occupation which it has maintained since the conflict of 1967;

III. respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of every State in the area and their right to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries;

IV. recognition that in the establishment of a just and lasting peace account must be taken of the legitimate rights of the Palestinians.”

4. They recall that according to Resolution No. 242 the peace settlement must be the object of international guarantees. They consider that such guarantees must be reinforced, among other means, by the despatch of peacekeeping forces to the demilitarized zones envisaged in Article 2 (c) of Resolution No. 242. They are agreed that such guarantees are of primary importance in settling the overall situation in the Middle East in conformity with Resolution No. 242, to which the Council refers in Resolution No. 338. They reserve the right to make proposals in this connexion.

5. They recall on this occasion the ties of all kinds which have long linked them to the littoral States of the south and east of the Mediterranean. In this connexion they reaffirm the terms of the Declaration of the Paris Summit of 21 October 1972 and recall that the Community has

decided, in the framework of a global and balanced approach, to negotiate agreements with those countries.