

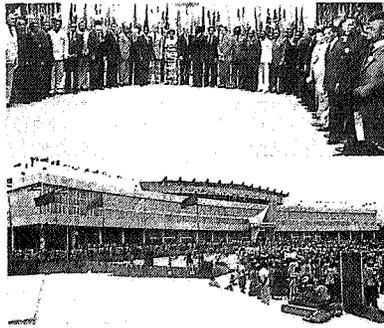
November 1979

LOMÉ II DOSSIER

AFRICA-CARIBBEAN-PACIFIC — EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

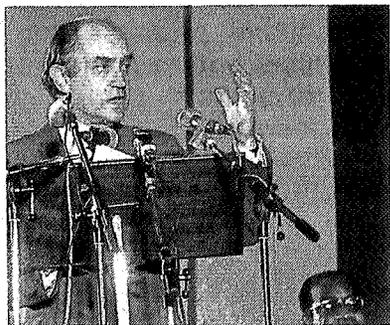
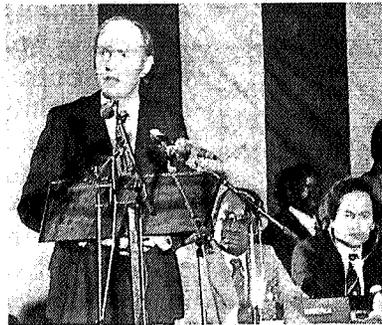
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Signing ceremony — At the end of over a year of negotiations, the new convention on cooperation between the European Community and the ACP states was signed in Lomé on 31 October 1979. It was difficult to reach an agreement, but the final outcome was a major victory, achieved through the political will of the ACP and European partners. This special issue of the *Courier* carries the complete text of the second Lomé Convention (yellow pages), a report on the signing ceremony, the views of the main negotiators, and brief profiles of the signatory countries. **Pages 3 to 19**



European Community — Michael O'Kennedy, President of the Council of the European Communities, spoke briefly of the history of the negotiations. He then gave his view of the policy undertaken under Lomé, a policy which was bound to continue. Lomé II and Lomé I were "solid steps" along the road. **Page 7**

The ACP Group — The President of the ACP Council of Ministers, Bernard St John, made a long speech in Lomé during the signing ceremony in which he spoke of the "satisfaction" of the ACP countries in having reached an agreement. But he also spoke of a certain number of points where the ACP countries felt "a deep sense of frustration" with the general content of the Convention. However, the president of the ACP Council also believed that Lomé II was an act of "hope". **Page 4**



Claude Cheysson — On behalf of the Commission of the European Communities, development commissioner Claude Cheysson spoke of his great belief in the reasons for close cooperation between the EEC and the ACP countries. If, as things stand, the ACP states depended economically on the industrialized countries, particularly for technology, for Europe the future would in part depend on relations with the Third World where raw materials were produced. **Page 8**

Lomé — The signing of the ACP-EEC Convention provided a chance to discover, however briefly, the charm and hospitality of the Togolese capital and its people. The signing of the new agreement between the ACP and EEC countries was accompanied by an enjoyable round of receptions and by songs and dancing by young men and women in organized displays. **Page 10 to 19**



THE COURIER

AFRICA - CARIBBEAN - PACIFIC
— EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

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From Lomé I to Lomé II

The new ACP-EEC Convention signed in Lomé on 31 October is another major step forward in the strengthening of co-operation between the EEC and 58 countries of Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific.

Like any agreement reached after long and difficult negotiations, Lomé II is a compromise that does not fully satisfy either party. The EEC had to concede more to the strength of the ACP arguments than it had anticipated and did not get what it wanted on several points it held dear. The response made to the ACP countries' requests did not always meet their expectations, either. But compromise is the inevitable conclusion of any well-balanced negotiations.

Let us not waste time listing the omissions and points of friction like cold-hearted accountants. We could lose sight of the considerable progress that was made.

The new agreement contains improvements in most areas which are far more than mere window-dressing or tinkering with details. And it contains innovations that augur well for the future, the most significant of which are the guarantee system for ACP economies largely dependent on mineral exports and a series of measures to develop the mining and energy potential of the ACP countries. A succinct description of these various innovations and improvements appears in this special issue.

The basic nature of the first Convention has not, of course, been changed. Lomé II carries on and builds on its achievements.

For my part, far from seeing the less than prolific number of innovations as a sign of a lack of ambition or foresight, or a harbinger of a decline in our cooperation, I see both a consolidation and a deepening of Lomé I, which for two

basic reasons makes this an important stage for us.

First, if we judge Lomé II and trends in co-operation from the point of view of the changes alone, we would thereby discount the maintenance of past achievements and the consolidation of those aspects of the first Convention which were only experimental and will now be consolidated in day-to-day implementation: the change, in fact, from an experiment to a policy.

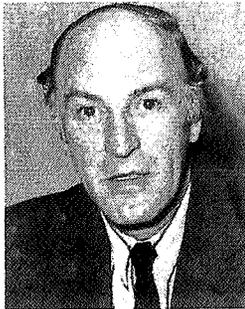
By embodying the achievements of Lomé I, the new Convention ensures that ACP-EEC relations retain that unique quality that is lacking and will continue to be lacking in North-South relations—namely the security and reliability of the contract over its five-year period of validity, its permanent and versatile nature and the close ties and dialogue that the institutional provisions provide between the partners; the acceptance of different economic and political systems in the ACP States and the respect for their sovereignty, their cultural identity and the type of development to which they aspire.

Second, the undeniable progress contained in Lomé II reflects both a desire for solidarity and a kind of political maturity in the two groups of partners.

This is all the more impressive in view of the unfavourable international environment that has blighted the major international negotiations between North and South and cast a shadow on the economic and social prospects of the EEC.

So the ACP and the EEC countries can face the future with confidence. Their pact of solidarity has stood the test of time and emerged from the negotiations all the stronger. □

JEAN DURIEUX



The rostrum in the main hall of the "Maison du Parti" (party HQ) where Lomé II was signed

THE SIGNING IN LOMÉ

A ceremony worthy of the Convention

In Lomé on 31 October 1979, in the heady atmosphere of festivity African-style, moving yet joyful, 58 ACP and nine EEC plenipotentiaries signed the second ACP-CEE Convention that will govern relations between the two groups of countries from 1 March 1980 to 28 February 1985.

Three or four thousand people were crammed into the vast hall at the Maison du Parti for an unforgettable ceremony that fully reflected the great interest the Togolese government has in Lomé II and in its principal objective—the economic development of the ACP states.

A warm welcome was extended to the many representatives of the 67 ACP and EEC countries and the

pressmen were equally appreciative of the technical facilities provided for coverage of the event.

Throughout the trip to Togo, and particularly during the ceremony itself, thousands of young people singing and dancing created a festive atmosphere and generated a youthful enthusiasm that no one could resist.

So Lomé II was born. There were problems, right up to the last minute. But the determination of the ACP countries (all of whom were represented in Lomé) to refrain from signing any text that was not a fair reflection of their vision of cooperation was also an indication of their desire to maintain and strengthen their ties with the EEC.

For Lomé II may now be the basis of a process that could gradually bring about fundamental changes in the relations that industrialized countries have so far had with the developing countries that are their main suppliers of raw materials, as well as in relations between the ACP countries themselves.

This idea of redefining and altering the approach to ACP-EEC relations was the main theme of all the speakers at the Lomé ceremony.

This is why, as the extracts from the main speeches make clear, the ACP countries are concerned both with setting up a system of trade that is profitable to them, and with ensuring certain economic rights for countries of the Third World.

As Bernard St John, chairman of the ACP Council of Ministers, put it: "the convention we have signed is full of hope—but we must not lose sight of the fact that a whole series of demands and desires for the economic life and the progress of the ACP countries still need to be examined in a favourable light..."

And Togolese premier General Gnassingbé Eyadéma said that what must be remembered is "the worldwide need to guarantee every individual living conditions ranging from personal protection to the basic necessities of life which ensure a decent existence".

On the Community side, Michael O'Kennedy, President of the Council of Ministers, said that, although Lomé I and Lomé II were only moments in time, they were nevertheless firm steps along the path of cooperation. Development commissioner Claude Cheysson commented on the contractual aspect and the reliability of the Convention, although he admitted there were gaps. But he stressed the solidarity now established between the ACP group and the EEC.

A lot had been said about human rights during the negotiations and Mr Cheysson broached the subject, mentioning the resolutions adopted at the Commonwealth meeting in Lusaka and the OAU in Monrovia, saying that "the commitment that the highest authorities of all the ACP countries have made echoes what the Europeans have decided to apply in their own countries and in their relations with all the other countries of the world, without exception".

Simone Veil, President of the European Parliament and joint President of the ACP-EEC Consultative Assembly, was invited to Lomé by the Presidents of the ACP and the EEC Council. She stressed the importance of this ceremony which, she said "will go down in the history of our continents." She went on to congratulate the negotiators, emphasizing their "generous wisdom", their "will" and their "determination", which "when harnessed in a great cause, will overcome many an obstacle".

H. Bernard St John

"The groundwork of our continued cooperation in the 1980s"

The President of the ACP Council of Ministers, Bernard St John (Barbados), gave a clear expression of how the ACP countries felt about the negotiations. They had been "long and arduous" and their results were "satisfactory" but nonetheless left "a sense of frustration", he said. Mr St John went on to examine the scope of the new convention and its significance to the ACP countries in the context of "the new international order".

"We of the ACP countries", Mr St John said, "have come here to renew the community which we jointly undertook with the European Economic Community nearly five years ago—a commitment to establish a new model for relations between industrialized and developing countries, a model for cooperation on a basis of complete equality of partnership, a cooperation whose ultimate objective was the fulfillment of those over-riding aspirations that are of importance to all mankind.

"When the 46 ACP countries, on 28 February 1975, signed the first Convention of Lomé, they were hopeful then of making a significant contribution to that objective. And indeed, we believe that we did so, gauging from the recognition by the international community of the exemplary nature of the Convention and from the importance which the contracting parties—a grouping of nearly six hundred million people—attach to the satisfactory conclusion of the negotiations for a successor agreement. These considerations assure us that the first Convention of Lomé was indeed a first step, albeit a significant one, towards a fundamental restructuring of the international economic system and global power relations. Today we take the second step, this time not a great leap forward, but hopefully a firm stride towards our common and urgently needed goal.

"The advances made in the new Convention"

"The second Convention of Lomé is being launched on the eve of the third development decade. We of the ACP States believe that in Lomé II we have laid the groundwork for our continued cooperation in the 1980's. This groundwork fully recognizes the increasing mutuality of interests which has led us

H. Bernard St John

"The world is in a state of turmoil and travail, much of it is the result of the inequities and disequilibria that characterizes the present economic order"

to this juncture of history today. The world is in a state of turmoil and travail, much of it the result of the inequities and disequilibria that characterize the present economic order. Our efforts at devising a more just and more relevant vehicle for the progressive development of our economic relations with a major part of the developed world would hopefully provide an example of the progress that might be made given, and I repeat, given, the necessary political will.

"The advances we have made in this new Convention deserve at least a passing mention. In the general area of trade cooperation, conditions of access to the EEC market have been improved for some products. More diversified goals have been set for trade promotion and the special arrangements for certain problem products have been liberalized. The coverage of the Stabex system has been

