

# Excerpts From Italian Conference On European-Arab Cooperation

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## SPECIAL REPORT

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*The excerpts and summaries of speeches which appear below are from an April 23-24 meeting at the Palazzo Vecchio in Florence, Italy on European-Arab cooperation. The meeting was one of a continuing series begun in 1973 between representatives of the nine EEC countries and the 21 member countries of the League of Arab States. The theme of the Florence meeting was European-Arab collaboration on economic and political issues. Third World and European leaders attended including former Mexican President Luis Echeverria Alvarez.*

*Couve de Murville, former French prime minister and foreign minister under De Gaulle: Couve de Murville expressed pessimism about the prospects for the European-Arab dialogue, saying that there is little political cooperation now, and that all that can be expected is to continue to carry on a dialogue.*

*Giancarlo Pajetta, member of the Secretariat of the Italian Communist Party (PCI): "We cannot content ourselves with bilateral relations between Europeans and Arabs, because the unity of the Arab world is important for Europe. For this reason, the Arabs must overcome their divergences, like that between Libya and Tunisia, on the definition of a continentwide platform."*

*Jaker, vice-president of the Algerian National Assembly: "It is necessary to see the European-Arab dialogue in the context of the new world economic order of (Algerian president) Boumedienne. The real danger is recession, for the West as well." Jaker then attacked Italian Foreign Trade Minister, Rinaldo Ossola, who had given a speech calling for Arab support of the Witteveen*

plan, the proposal for the Oil Producing and Exporting Countries to increase their financial support of the International Monetary Fund: "Ossola wants to put a limit on the development of the Third World," Jaker said.

*Cardia, PCI representative: "It is necessary to place the dialogue in the context of the North-South Conference. Political relations with the Arabs are necessary; the PCI will continue to press the matter."*

*Granelli, Christian Democrat parliamentarian expert on foreign relations and member of the party's Directorate: "The first point to be resolved if one wants to talk of dialogue is that of the Middle East war...It is necessary to develop a political dialogue...One cannot make a polemic on a multilateral or bilateral approach, because both are necessary. The first point is to resolve the Middle East war that threatens to destabilize not only the Mideast, but also central Europe. Europe must be more aggressively at the window. Israel must retire from occupied territories, recognize the Palestinian state and in this regard must take note of the agreement signed in London by the EEC ministers. Italy appreciates the interests of the Arabs at Belgrade who can support detente and European cooperation if there is a hot situation in the Mediterranean...It is necessary to change the international order to depart from the International Monetary Fund toward commercial agreements, without forgetting the construction of the new world economic order."*

*Fracanzani, Christian Democrat Deputy: Fracanzani called for the creation of a Palestinian state, and said that Israel must understand the dangers of aggravating the situation and Europe must refuse to submit to alliances that would render it impotent. It is necessary to censure France for its initiative in Zaire, he said, but it is realistic to speak of initiatives to gradually demilitarize the Mediterranean.*