

Communiqué issued by the OAPEC member countries (Kuwait, 25 December 1973)

Caption: On 25 December 1973, the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) confirms in a communiqué that it intends to continue its oil embargo and asks for the opening of international negotiations on the Israeli–Palestinian conflict.

Source: Western European Union Assembly-General Affairs Committee: A retrospective view of the political year in Europe 1973. April 1974. Paris: Western European Union Assembly-General Affairs Committee. "Communiqué issued after the OAPEC ministerial meeting (Kuwait, 25 December 1973)", p. 323-324.

Copyright: (c) WEU Secretariat General - Secrétariat Général UEO

URL: http://www.cvce.eu/obj/communique_issued_by_the_oapec_member_countries_kuwait_25_december_1973-en-9e37c930-15cf-4466-9e82-0845b41a46e6.html

Last updated: 16/03/2015

Communiqué issued after the OAPEC ministerial meeting, Kuwait

25th December 1973

Meeting in Kuwait, the Arab Oil Ministers were addressed by His Excellency Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, Saudi Arabian Minister for Oil and Mining Resources, and His Excellency Belaid Abdesselam, Minister of Industry and Energy of the Algerian Republic. Referring to the results of their visits to certain western capitals, the two Ministers described their impressions and made proposals, taking account of the results and effects of their visits.

The Ministers present considered the real aim of the oil measures they had taken and which was to make international public opinion aware — without however bringing about an economic collapse which might affect one or more of the world's nations — of the injustice done to the Arab nation as a result of the occupation of its territories and the expulsion of an entire Arab people, the Palestinian people.

They again reaffirmed — as stated continuously since 17th October — that the measures taken should in no way affect friendly countries, thus drawing a very clear distinction between those who support the Arabs, those who support the enemy and those who remain neutral.

The Arab Ministers present noted the changes which had occurred in Japanese policy towards the Arab cause as demonstrated in several ways, including the visit by the Japanese Deputy Prime Minister to certain Arab countries. They also took account of Japan's difficult economic situation and decided to accord it special treatment, excluding it completely from the application of the general cut in output in order to protect the Japanese economy and in the hope that the Japanese Government will appreciate this position and persevere in its fair and equitable attitude towards the Arab cause.

The Arab Ministers also considered Belgium's political stand. They decided not to apply the planned cut to its oil supplies and authorised the transit of its supplies through the Netherlands, provided there were full guarantees that all such oil would be delivered to Belgium. Furthermore, they decided to meet the real requirements of certain friendly countries even if such supplies raised their imports above the September 1973 level and provided Arab oil supplied to them was not diverted and did not replace oil from non-Arab sources.

In order to ensure the application of the abovementioned decisions, the Arab Ministers present decided to increase output in their respective countries by 10 % as compared with September output, the new cut in output thus being reduced from 25 % to 15 %.

They also decided not to apply the 5 % cut planned for January.

The Arab Ministers present noted with satisfaction the progressive trend emerging in American public opinion. Certain government circles are thus beginning to become aware of Arab problems and expansionist Israeli policy. This has been particularly clear in the objective and neutral positions towards the Arab-Israeli problem adopted by certain members of the American Senate and House of Representatives.

The Arab Oil Ministers hope that the desire of the American Government to help to find a peaceful and fair solution is a positive factor which will allow beneficial results to be achieved for all the nations of the world and for bilateral relations between the American nation and the Arab nations in particular. The embargo will be maintained for the United States and the Netherlands.

The Arab Ministers will meet in Tripoli in the Libyan Arab Republic on 14th February 1974 after the round of visits which the two Ministers representing them are to make, provided circumstances do not make it necessary to convene an earlier meeting.

Source: El Moudjahid , 27th December 1973 (WEU translation).