Mr President, colleagues, the first thing I should like to say to you is that this delegation was a composite one: its members were different, from different political backgrounds, and different in human terms, and what we saw was seen by all of us together, and we all share the conclusions that will be reported to you.

It was indeed necessary to act quickly, because the matter was one of urgency. And we did act quickly. I am aware of the fact that it was already too late for some hundreds of thousands, or even millions, of people, and that when we reacted it was a reaction more against the spectacle of cholera rather than against that of genocide. We acted quickly, but it was very late.

I ask you pardon if, in the procedures that we have adopted we may have offended some people, or if perhaps we acted a little too quickly. If so, it was not because it was our intention to offend, but rather because of the need for urgency.

Between the 27th and the 31st we saw many things, but, above all, we saw people and situations that called for our presence, that called for more from Europe, more commitment. The financial commitment was exceptional - ECU 350 million - but those decisions that they were calling for are the decisions that you now have to take. They are still waiting for us to act. The urgency is still there.

The resolution tabled includes a recommendation for the recognition of the new government and a recommendation for the creation or coordination of humanitarian relay stations. Everyone agrees that they ought to be put in place, but this has not yet happened. In other words, on the way back from the camps - which still contain over two million people, because very few have returned - there should be NGOs and UN agencies who would undertake, in order to restore confidence in a country that has been completely torn apart, and where human tragedies are still occurring on a daily basis, to provide support in the form of medicine and food, but who would, above all, take charge of the situation.

This is why, for these humanitarian relay stations along the return route, we need human rights observers, technicians from the European Union, which we call for in this resolution, so that a minimum level of organization can be restored. There would have to be at least two for each prefecture, in other words about 150. The European Union has already done this elsewhere, with a great deal of success. Naturally that was in conjunction with the United Nations, in conjunction with the Organization of African Unity. I think you know how things stand: no typewriters. At the moment, visitors are being asked to bring pencils. No electricity: ministers can only talk to one another via notes carried by messengers. It is absolutely