

NYM 8/2040/12

Programme

Wednesday March 3

Leave at 7.00 a.m. from The Hague

Arrival at 10.30 at the European Parliament (Belliardstraat 97)

Themes to be discussed:

- \* Structure and working fields of the European Parliament
- \* The European Parliament and the external relations of the European Community, specifically economic relations with Africa
- \* Contacts with Dutch members of the European Parliament

Programme:

10.30: Speech by Ms. M. van Putten, Member EP, Socialist Party  
11.00: Introduction on the working of the European Parliament  
11.30: Speech by Mr. J. Penders, Member EP, Christen Democrat  
12.00: Speech by Mr. G. de Vries, Member EP, Liberal  
12.30: End of the programme

Arrival at 14.00 at the European Commission (45 Avenue d'Auderghem)

14.00: Welcome  
14.15: The European Commission: Role, by Mr. D. Spence, Directorate-General Audiovisual, Information, Communication, Culture  
15.15: The Community: World Trading Partners, by Mr. P. Guilford, Member of the Spokesman's Service, Spokesman for Sir Leon Brittan  
16.00: Meeting with Mr. H. van den Broek, Member of the European Commission for External Relations  
16.45: The Lome Agreements, by Mr. J. Russell, Directorate-General Audiovisual, Information, Communication, Culture  
17.30: EG Special Programme For South Africa, by Mr. S. Stenberg-Jensen, Directorate-General Development  
18.00: End of the programme

Check in in the hotel and dinner in the hotel (20.00)



#### Thursday March 4

The morning is free

Workvisit at the Dutch Permanent Representative at the European Community at 14.30 (Kunstlaan)

Themes to be discussed:

- \* The Netherlands EC-policy
- \* The Netherlands and the external relations of the European Community
- \* The workings of a Dutch embassy

Speeches will be made by Mr. Oostra (Deputy Permanent Representative), Mr. J.P. Roosegaarde (First Embassy Secretary) and Mr. L.S. Veer (Spokesman).

#### Friday March 5

Arrival at 9.00 a.m. at the NATO Headquarters

Programme:

09.00: Arrival

09.15: Video "How NATO ticks"

09.45: The political decisionmaking process in NATO

10.45: Coffeebreak

11.15: NATO's new strategic concept

12.15: NATO's political agenda

13.15: Lunch in NATO's Cafeteria

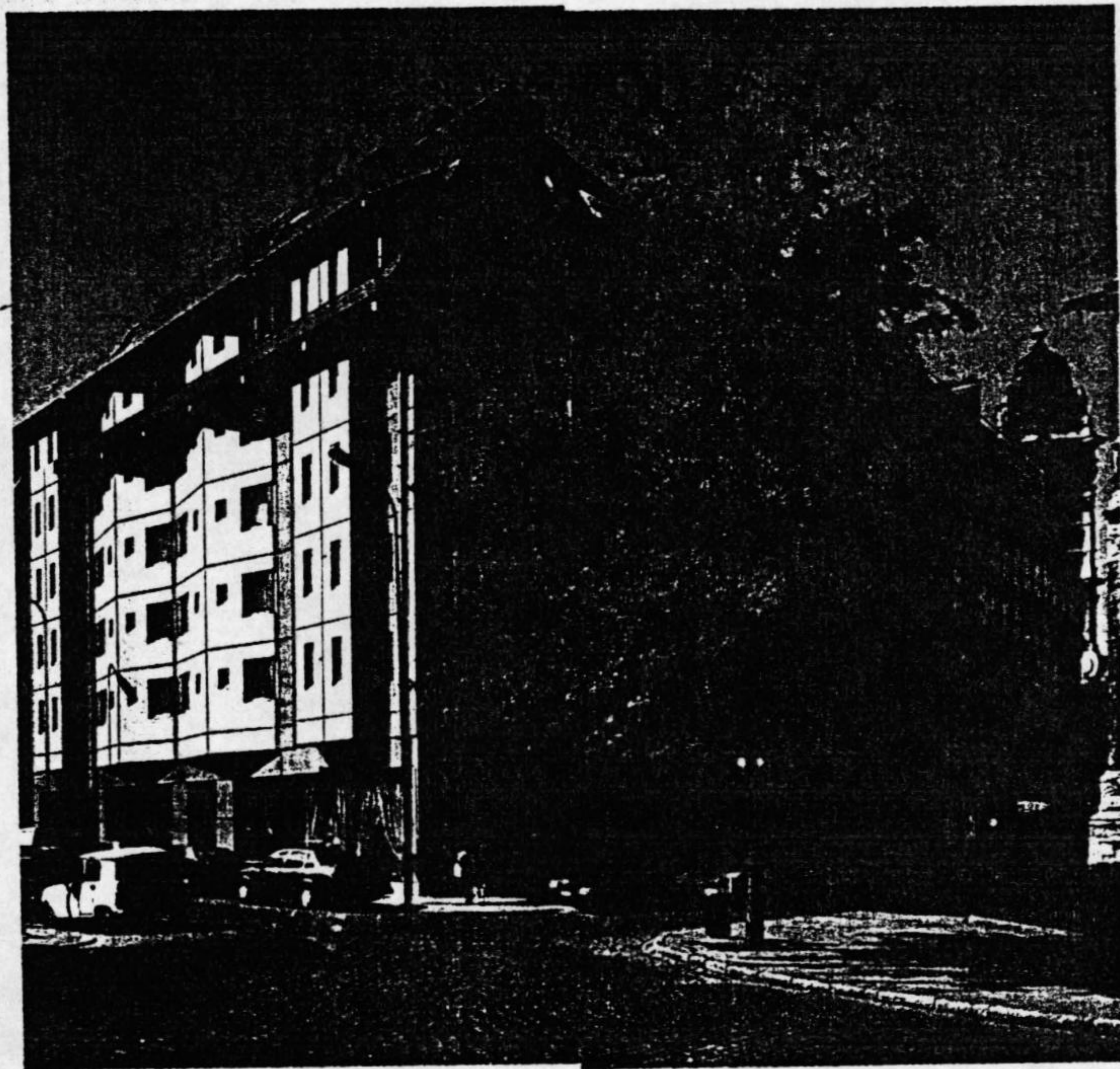
14.15: Departure





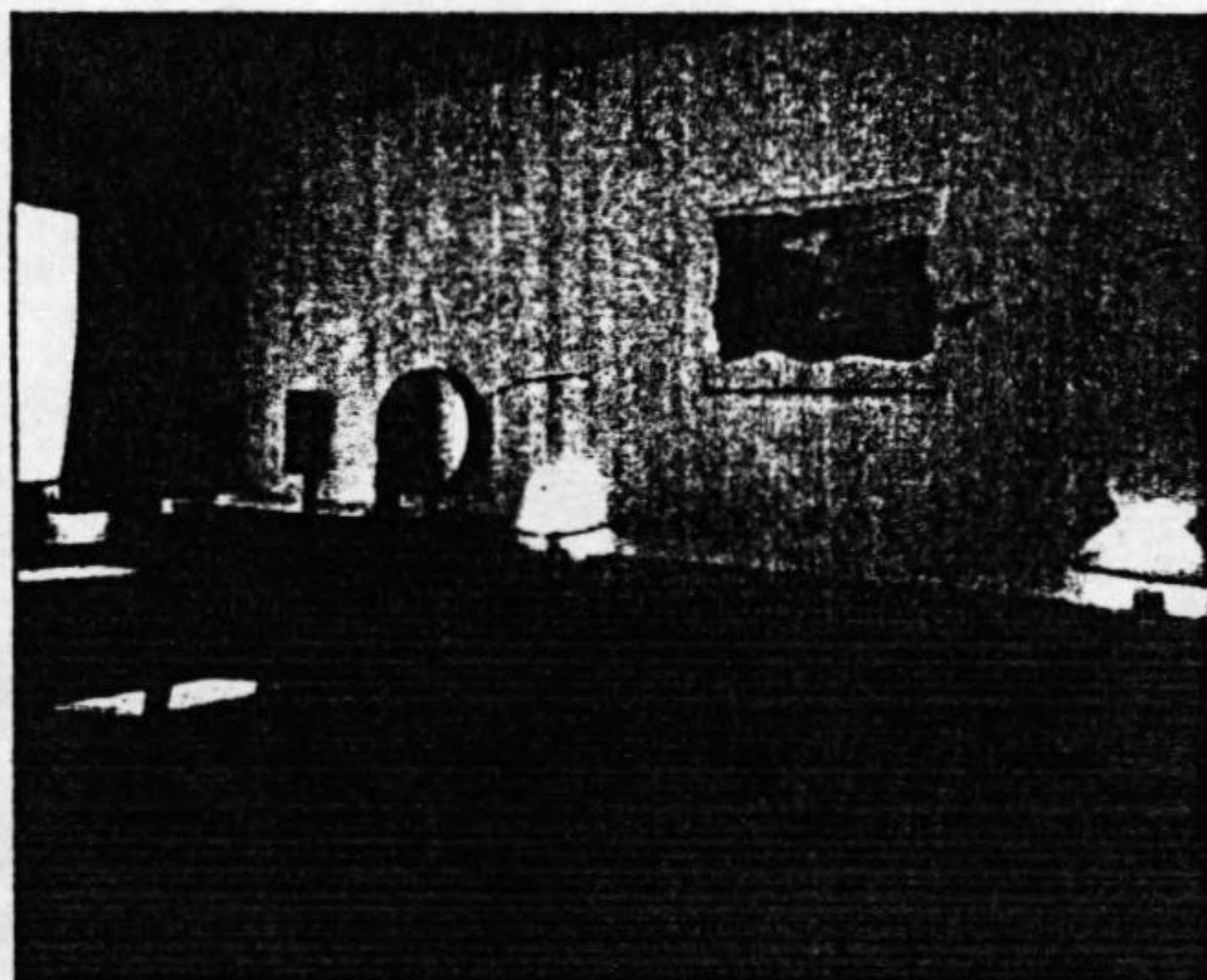
**ARCADE**

**BRUXELLES**  
**BRUSSEL**





vous serez en plein cœur de Bruxelles, à 2 pas de la fameuse "Grand Place" et des nombreux restaurants du "Marché aux Poissons".  
 D'un rapport qualité/prix intéressant, nos chambres sont modernes et vous procurent tout le confort souhaité.  
 Pour vos séminaires, 2 salles de réunion parfaitement équipées sont à votre entière disposition (info sur demande).



Large bedded room

U bevindt zich in het hartje van Brussel, op 2 stappen van de bekende "Grote Markt" en de vele restaurants van de "Vismarkt".

Onze kamers zijn modern en voorzien van al het gewenste comfort en dit alles voor een interessante kwaliteit/prijsverhouding.

Voor uw seminaries stellen wij 2 volledig uitgeruste en verzalen tot uw beschikking (info op aanvraag).

You'll be in the heart of Brussels, just 2 steps away from the famous "Grand Place" and the numerous restaurants of the "Fish Market".

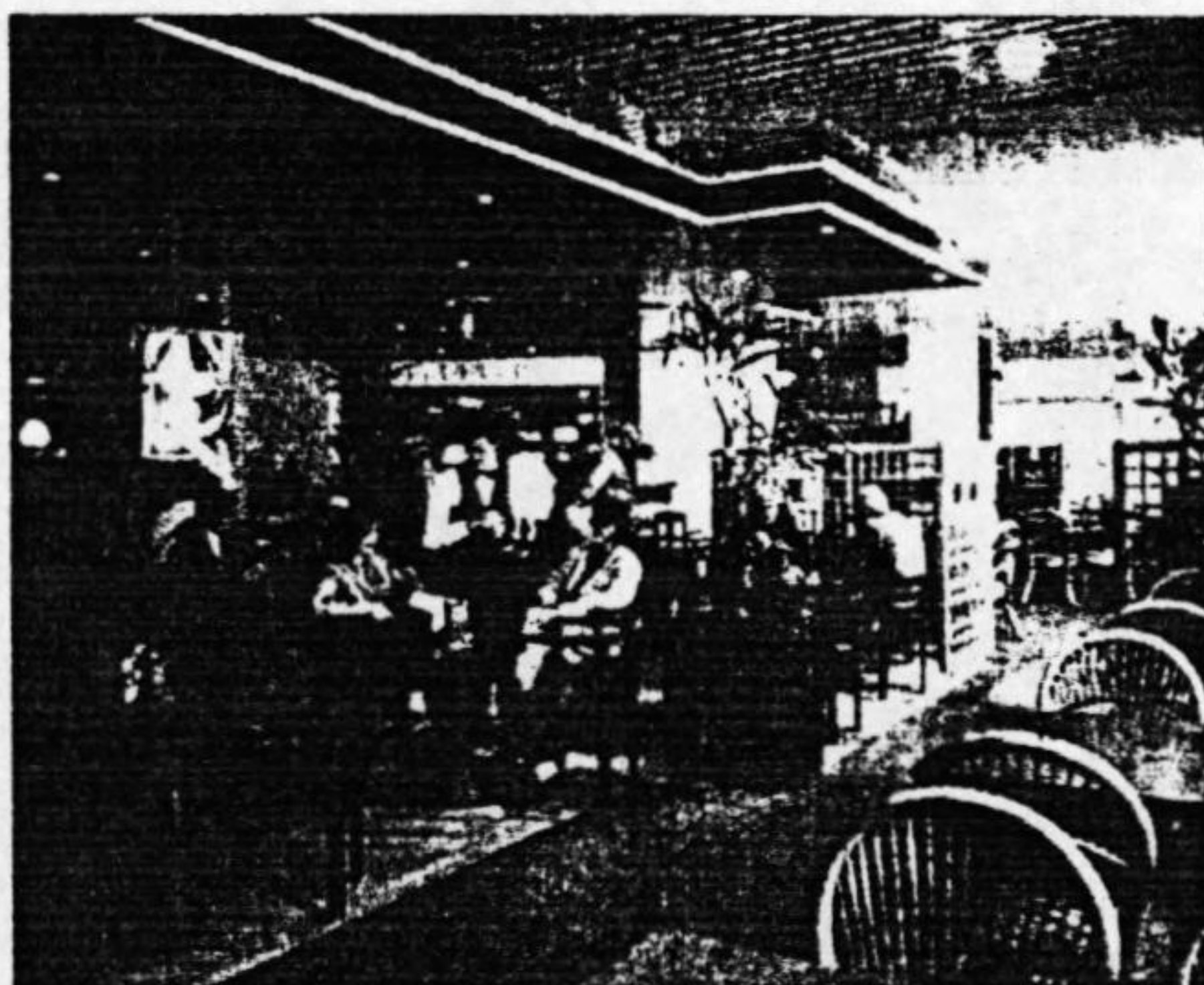
Our modern comfortable en-suite rooms are excellent value for money.

2 fully equipped conference rooms are available for your seminars (info on request).

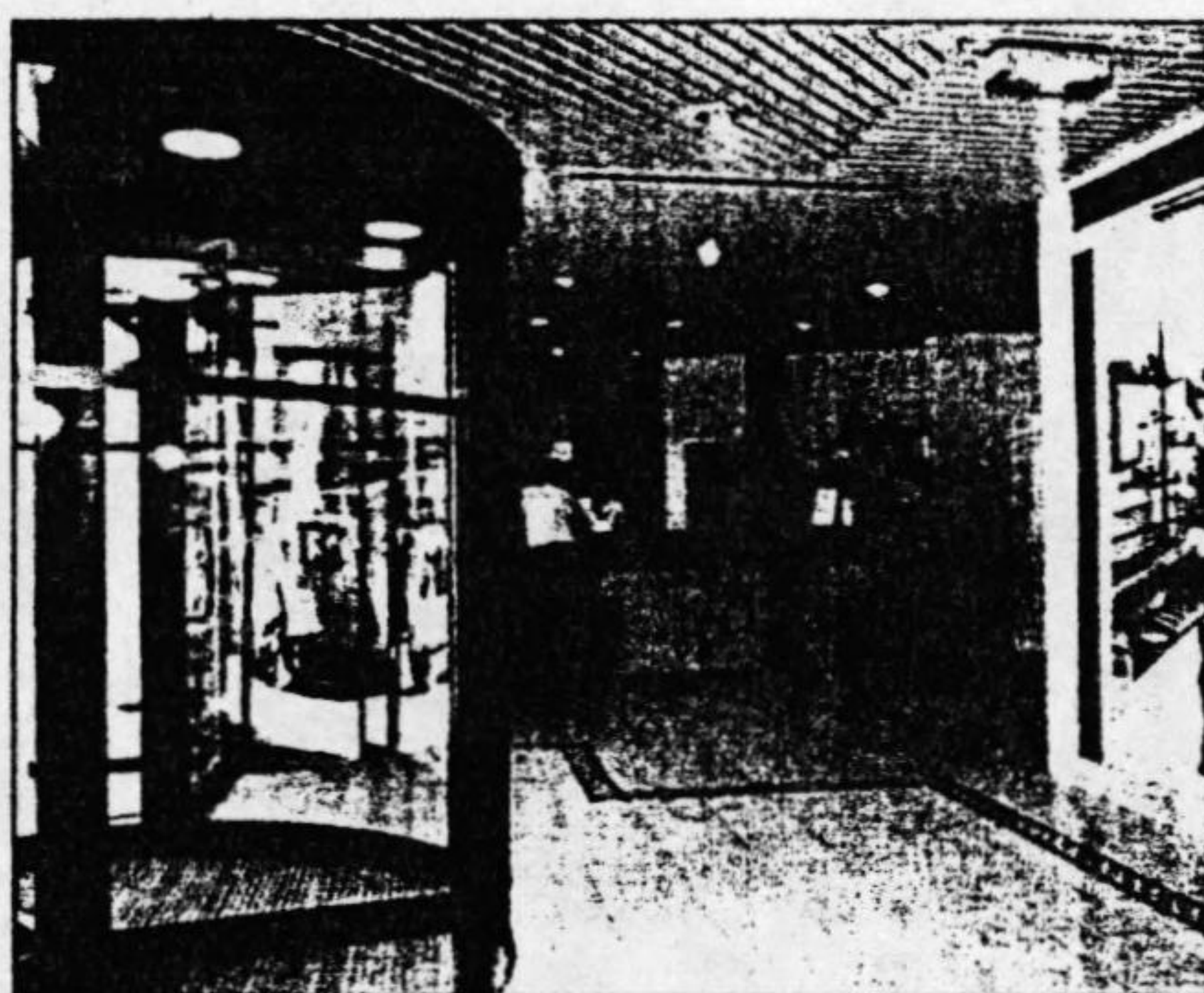
Sie befinden Sich im Herzen von Brüssel, 2 Schritte des bekannten "Grossen Markts" entfernt und in unmittelbarer Nähe der vielen Restaurants des "Fischmarkts".

Unsere Zimmer sind modern und mit allem gewünschtem Komfort ausgestattet und das alles für ein ausgezeichnetes Preis-Leistungsverhältnis.

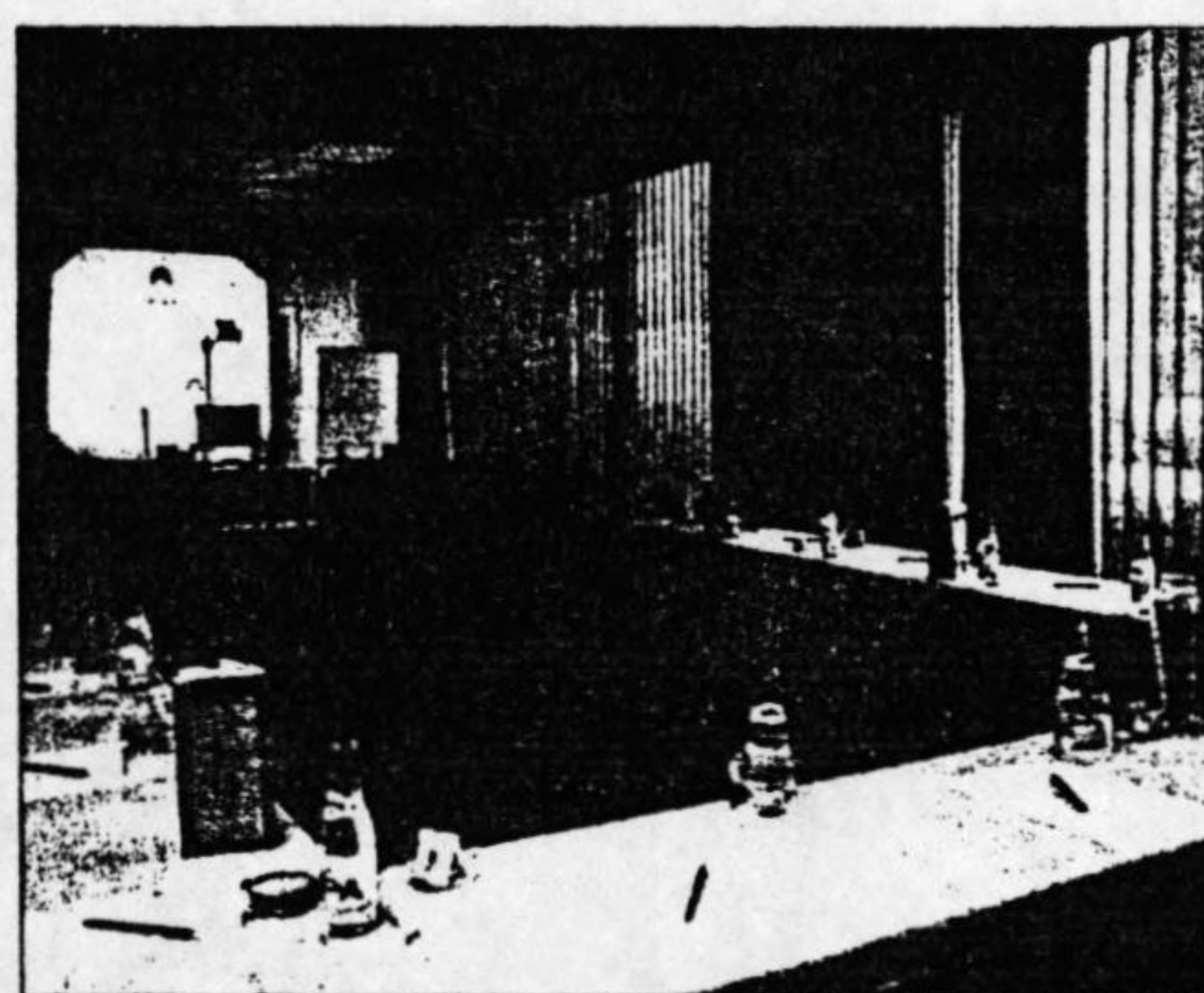
Für Ihre Seminare stehen 2 völlig ausgerüstete Konferenzräume zur Verfügung (info auf Anfrage).



Bar



Reception desk / Entrance hall



Conference room



- 235 chambres (dont 1 suite)
- 235 kamers (waarvan 1 suite)
- 235 rooms (among which 1 suite)
- 235 Zimmer (wovon 1 Suite)



- Accueil 24h sur 24h
- Onthaal 24 op 24 uur
- Twenty four hour welcome
- Rund um die Uhr geöffnet



- Chambres à 1,2,3 ou 4 lits avec douche, wc et lavabo
- Kamers met 1,2,3 of 4 bedden met douche, wc en lavabo
- 1,2,3 or 4 bedded rooms with shower, toilet and washbasin
- Zimmer mit 1,2,3 oder 4 Betten mit Dusche, Toilette und Waschbecken



- Chambres équipées pour handicapés
- Kamers uitgerust voor gehandicapten
- Rooms equipped for disabled persons
- Zimmer eingerichtet für Körperbehinderte



- Téléphone avec ligne directe dans la chambre
- Telefoon met directe buitenlijn in de kamer
- Direct dial telephone in the room
- Direktwahltelefon in Zimmer



- Television couleur
- Kleurentelevisie
- Color T.V.
- Farbfernseher



- Coffres gratuits à votre disposition
- Gratis safe tot uw beschikking
- Free safe at your disposal
- Gratis Safe zu Ihrer Verfügung



- Cartes de crédit acceptées
- Aanvaarde kredietkaarten
- Accepted credit cards
- Angenommene Kreditkarten



- Parking à proximité
- Publieke parking
- Public parking nearby
- Parkplatz in der Nähe



- Bar



- Snack au bar
- Snack in de bar
- Snack in the bar
- Imbiss in der Bar



- Buffet petit-déjeuner
- Ontbijtbuffet
- Buffet breakfast
- Frühstücksbuffet



- Salles de conference
- Vergaderzalen
- Conference rooms
- Konferenzräume

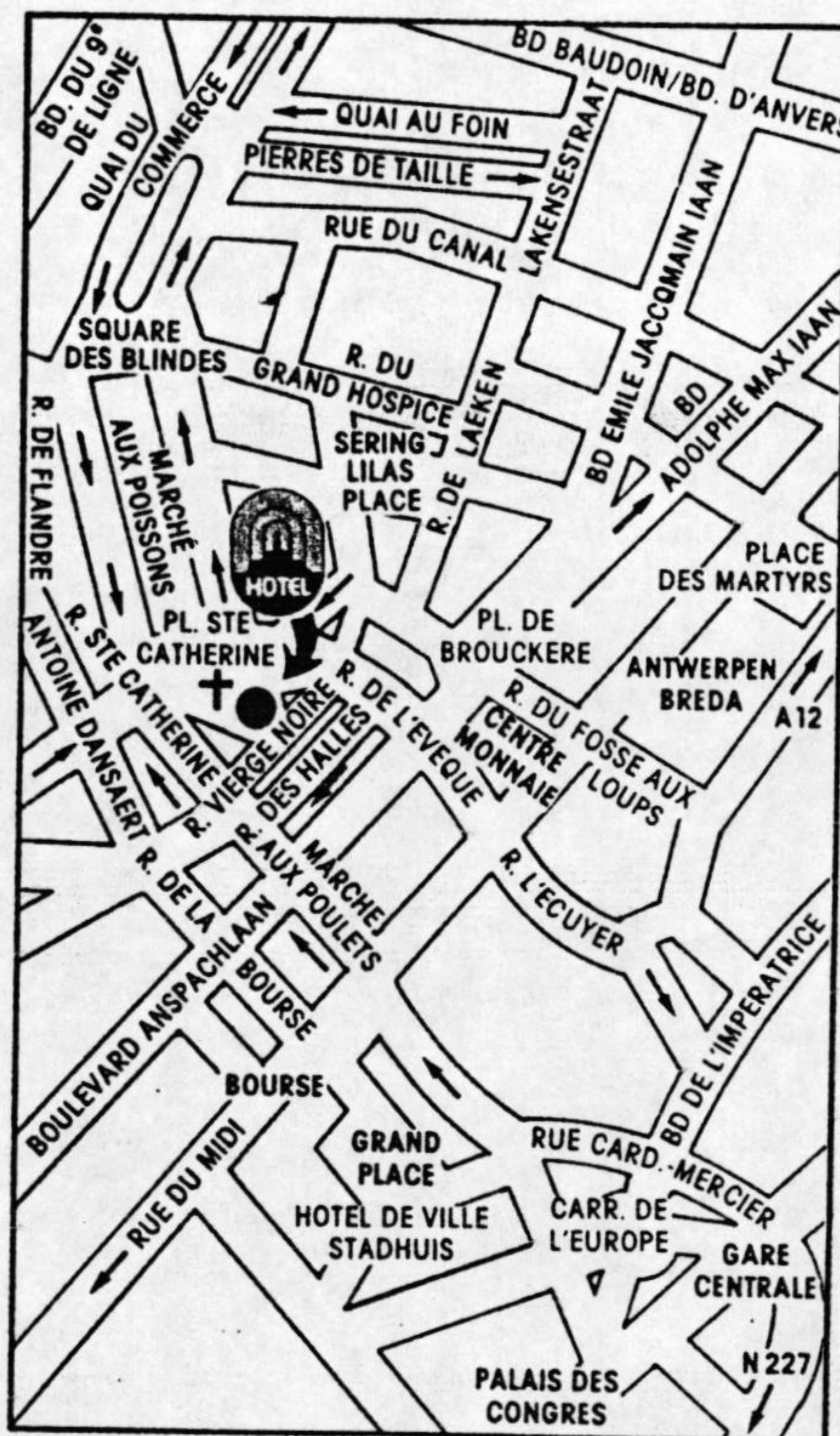


- Service de telex, telefax
- Telex, telefax dienst
- Telex, telefax service
- Telex, Telefax Dienst



- Chiens admis
- Honden toegelaten
- Dogs admitted
- Hunde zugelassen



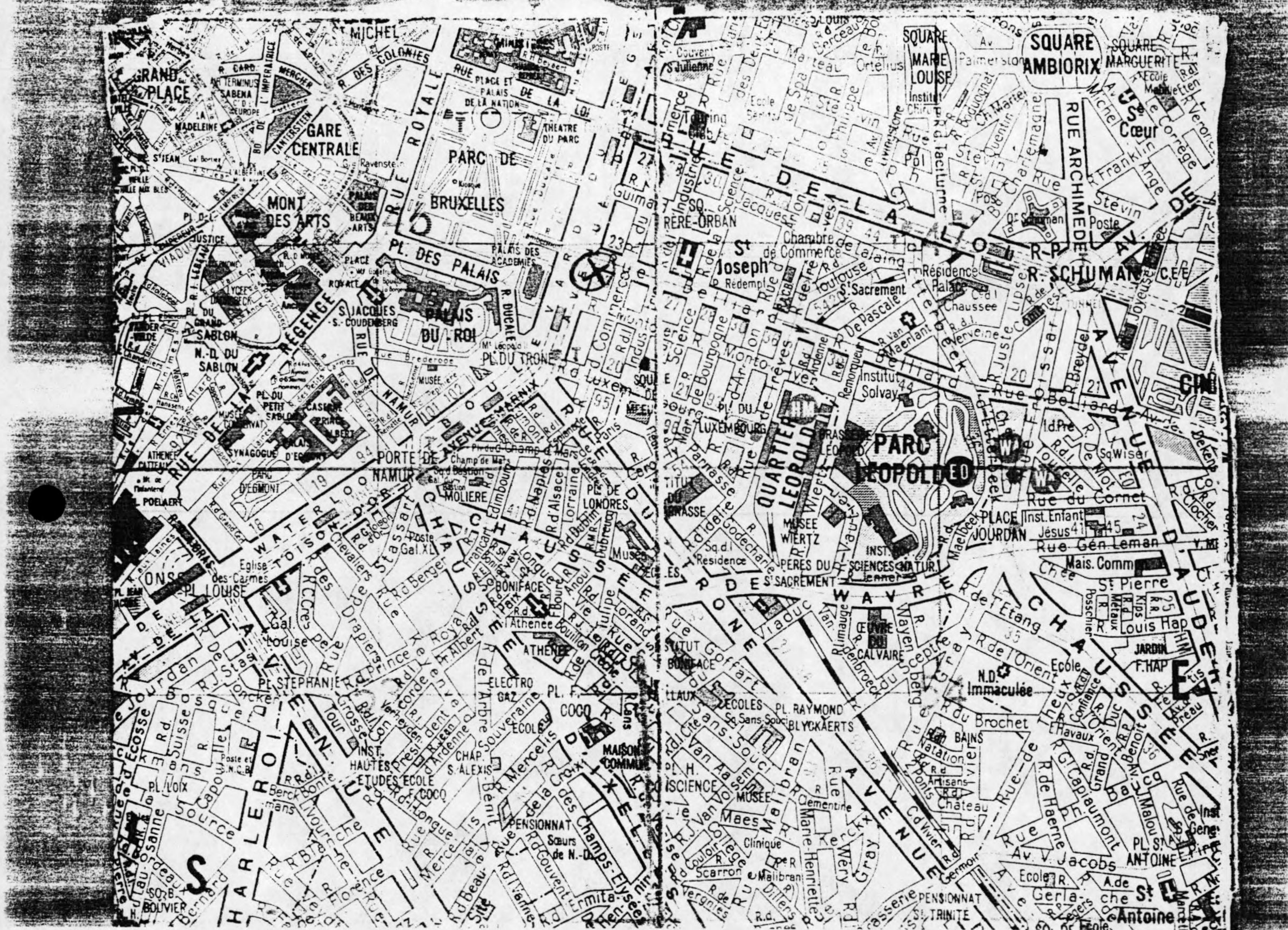


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Rue J. Plateaustraat 2 - 1000 Brussels  
tel. 02/513.76.20 - fax 02/514.22.14  
telex 22476 catbru



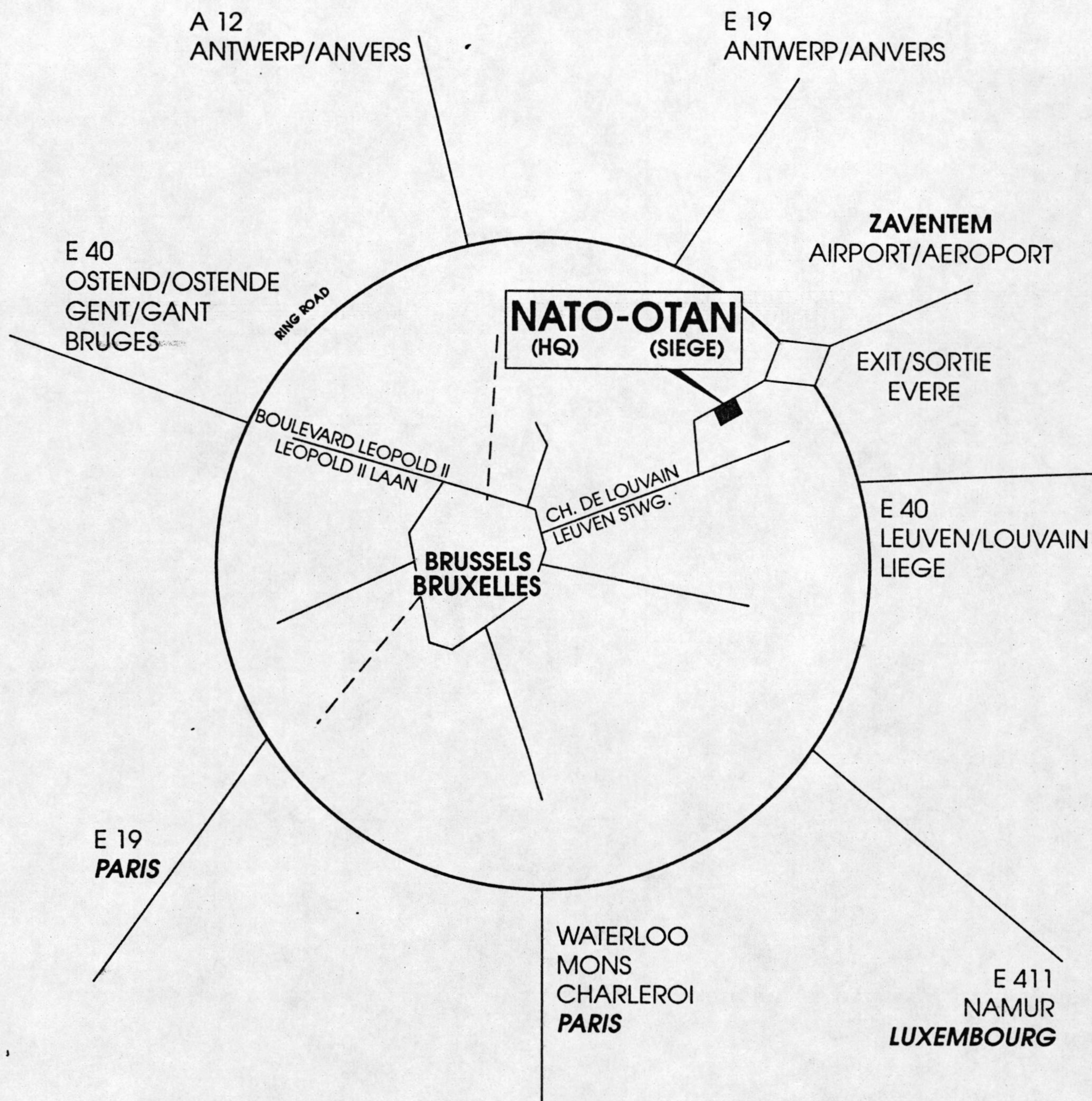


Adres Permanente Vertegenwoordiging:

(X) Kunstlaan 46 (hoek Belliardstraat - Kunstlaan)  
8e verdieping

Vanuit het Centraal Station (uitgang Ravensteinstraat) loopt U  
alsmaar rechtdoor, door de Gallerij Horta, door het "Parc de  
Bruxelles" zo recht op ons gebouw aan de Kunstlaan af.







# Brussels — a cosmopolitan city of ghettos

Lucy Kellaway reports from the European capital, which isn't the melting pot it seems

THE HOSTS were a British MEP and his French wife, a smartly dressed Eurocrat. The guest list for dinner in their large and more than comfortable house in Brussels included: an English expert on eastern Europe married to a German radio broadcaster, a Belgian lawyer with his Italian wife, a German industrial expert married to a Belgian, two British journalists, and an Australian politician.

The food was mainly Italian, the wine French. The language was English, with patches of French and German; the conversation turned politely around European politics and Brussels gossip. Apart from the visiting Australian — who was on an EC fact-finding trip — the only thing that was not thoroughly European was the behind-the-scenes help, who was a Filipina.

The party answers to the popular image of Brussels as a great melting pot. In the European capital, people from different countries live, work and play together; they intermarry; and they have lots of money. They are a real-life model for the future when 12 nation states no longer exist.

The idea delights some — these new citizens drop their narrow national prejudices to become big-picture Europeans — and repels others. Indeed, the likes of Mr Nicholas Ridley would warn you that into the pot go 12 perfectly respectable varieties of cheese, and out comes one bland spread.

In fact, neither response is apt, for the image itself is sheer fantasy. Brussels is not a melting pot at all: each nation-

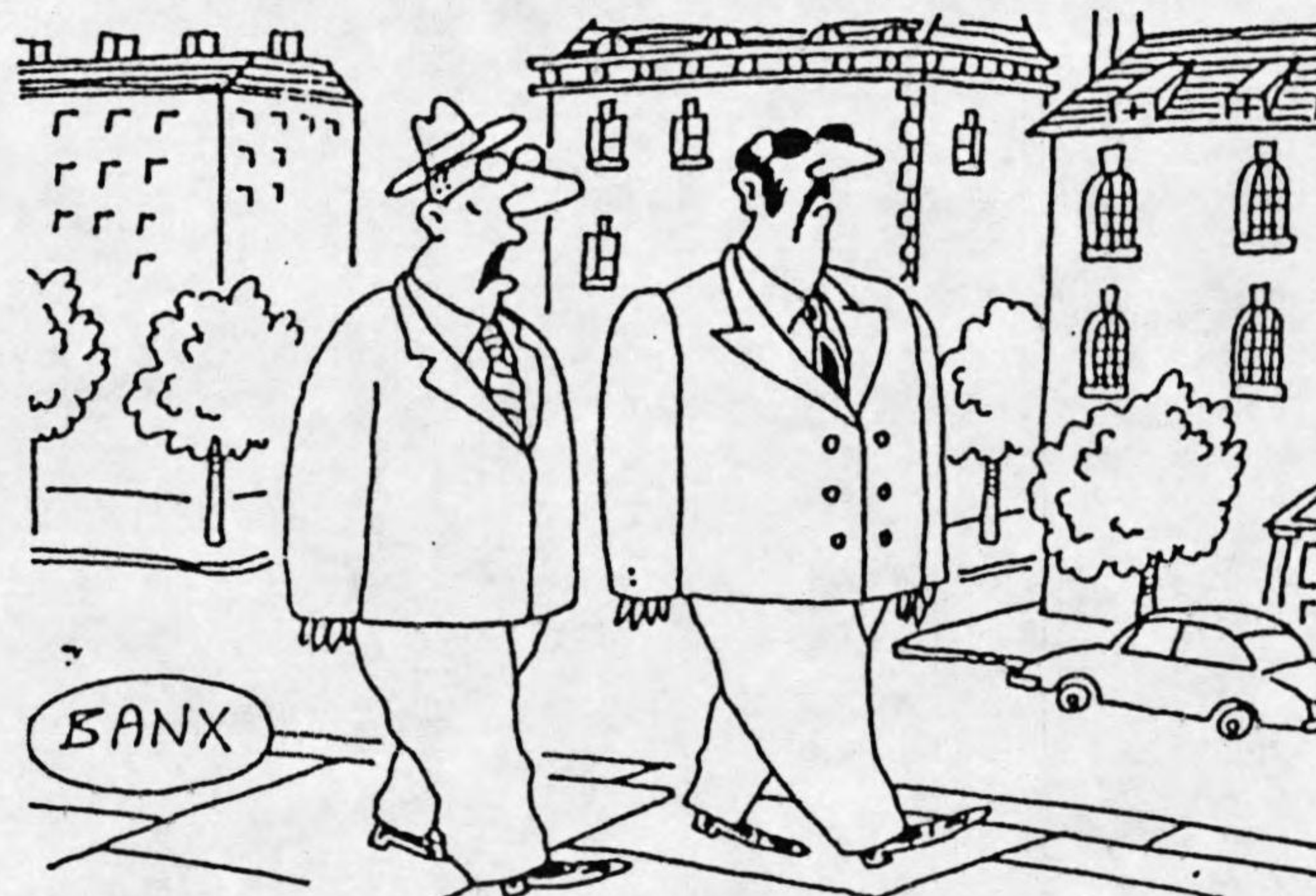
ality keeps to itself, remaining true to all its prejudices, persuasions and preferences. Even the pan-European dinner party is a rarity: people from different countries in Brussels comport themselves as much as possible as if they were still at home.

In every Commission building, smooth, linen-suited Italians work efficiently and happily enough with badly-dressed Brits and Danes at every level from office cleaner to Commissioner. But outside work they stick to themselves. They live in little pockets, send their children to national schools, and, distance permitting, go home to their own countries at weekends.

During ministerial council meetings the lack of mixing is at its most evident. Downstairs in the press room, the journalists cluster in groups round their own national spokesmen to hear what happened, coming away with 12 rather different stories, suitable for 12 different audiences.

Strong national habits are also on display in the subsidised Commission supermarket, where the Italians buy large chunks of parmesan, talking loudly in Italian in the checkout queue, while the Danes quietly fill their trolleys with unbelievably large quantities of pickled fish.

Language is only partly to blame for this isolationist behaviour. After all, anyone who works in the Commission must be able to speak French, and most people can muster decent English and probably another language too.



"WE MUST BE NEAR THE ENGLISH QUARTER — I CAN SMELL CRUMPETS."

The English, by far the worst at languages, are also by far the most insular. They have built a little England in the suburbs complete with at least one church and several English schools (so that children who have lived in Brussels for 10 years may speak only the most halting French).

Every possible sort of club and entertainment is provided for, including groups for square dancing and choral singing; there is the British Badminton club, the Gilbert and Sullivan society, the Shakespeare Society, the Society for Suppressed Songsters, the Girl Guides and Brownies. For homesick shoppers there is a W.H. Smith bookshop, a branch of Marks & Spencer, and The English Shop, where Marmite can be obtained.

Nearly as bad are the Irish, with their hard-drinking eve-

nings in the bars around the Commission — the James Joyce and Kitty O'Shea — their Irish club and their folk singing groups, their special golfing clubs.

Then there are the southern member states, whose diplomats and bureaucrats practise a sort of double isolation. Brussels has long welcomed Greek, Spanish and Portuguese migrant workers, but these live out by the Gare du Midi and have nothing to do with the rich bureaucrat newcomers, who occupy big houses in the suburbs.

Meanwhile, the French live in Brussels under a general air of suffrance. On Friday evening there is a great exodus by rail, air and road, all in the direction of Paris. During the week the French may socialise a little with Italians and perhaps Spaniards, but there is lit-

tle contact with the British and even less with the Germans.

The Germans appear happier in Brussels, although they too keep a low profile. They live out in Tervueren round the German school, entertaining each other at home in the evenings.

While member states mix little with each other, they do not mix with the Belgians at all. Most of that is a matter of money. Eurocrats, MEPs, journalists and the scores of lawyers, consultants and other EC hangers-on in the European capital live well. They have more money than at home, so that the civil servant who in London lived in a two-bedroomed flat in Tooting, can throw big parties in Brussels, with men in white jackets handing around the canapes.

Belgians may be proud of their role as the capital of Europe, but they are also resentful of the conspicuous consumption that goes on mid-day and evening in the most expensive of the city's 1,400 restaurants. The foreigners live in the suburbs to the south and west of Brussels, paying three times as much rent as an average Belgian could afford.

The greatest affront is that Commission employees pocket most of their big pay packets without paying Belgium's high taxes.

As for Brussels' own two people, the Flemish and the Walloons, they are barely on speaking terms. The French look down their noses at the Walloons, while the Flemish remain the butt of every Dutch joke. Brussels is a fitting city for non-mingling of nationalities.