

GRS 320

UNCLASSIFIED [FRAME GENERAL]

FM BONN 192020Z MAY 83

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 520 OF 19 MAY

INFO PRIORITY PARIS UKREP BRUSSELS

INFO SAVING ATHENS EMBASSY BRUSSELS COPENHAGEN DUBLIN LUXEMBOURG

ROME THE HAGUE

POSTPONEMENT OF EUROPEAN COUNCIL: GERMAN MEDIA COMMENT

1. THE POSTPONEMENT IS GENERALLY WELCOMED IN THE MEDIA HERE YESTERDAY AND TODAY. THE SUMMIT IS SEEN AS HAVING HAD LITTLE CHANCE OF SUCCESS IF THE PRIME MINISTER HAD BEEN UNABLE TO ATTEND, AND GOVERNMENT SOURCES HERE HAD REPORTEDLY FEARED THAT IF SHE MADE A BRIEF APPEARANCE IT WOULD HAVE BEEN MAINLY FOR ELECTORAL PURPOSES.

2. POSTPONEMENT, HOWEVER, IS ALSO SEEN BY THE MEDIA AS REMOVING THE ONLY EXCUSE THERE MIGHT HAVE BEEN FOR FAILURE AT STUTTGART. SEVERAL PAPERS (MOST NOTABLY WELT AND FAZ) BELIEVE IT DOES NOTHING TO INCREASE THE CHANCES OF SOLVING THE MASSIVE PROBLEMS FACING THE COMMUNITY, WHILE THE SUEDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG ACTUALLY FEELS THAT IT HAS INCREASED THE PRESSURE ON KOHL TO PRODUCE A SUCCESS. ONLY HANDELSBLATT SUGGESTS THAT THE PRIME MINISTER MIGHT BE MORE FLEXIBLE AT STUTTGART IF SHE GOES THERE AFTER AN ELECTION VICTORY.

3. STUTTGART IS WIDELY SEEN BY THE MEDIA AS A MOMENT OF TRUTH FOR THE COMMUNITY AND THERE IS SOME RECOGNITION THAT GERMAN CONCESSIONS ON FINANCING MAY HAVE A PART TO PLAY IN MAKING A SUCCESS OF THE MEETING. NEVERTHELESS THE PRESS REPORTS THAT THERE IS STILL NO AGREEMENT IN BONN TO RAISE THE ONE PER CENT CEILING AND DOES NOT ITSELF SHOW ANY ENTHUSIASM FOR SUCH A COURSE. SZ IS OPPOSED TO ANYTHING THAT MIGHT LEAD TO MORE MONEY BEING WASTED ON AGRICULTURE WHILE THE FAZ THINKS THAT RAISING THE CEILING WOULD ONLY BE JUSTIFIABLE, IF AT ALL, IN EXCHANGE FOR GREATER READINESS BY PARTNERS TO PUT THE EUROPEAN INTEREST FIRST. FAZ HIGHLIGHTS BRITISH INSISTENCE ON RETAINING A RIGHT OF VETO IN THE COUNCIL NOTING THAT THIS VIEW IS ALSO SHARED BY FRANCE AND DENMARK. FRANCE FOR HER PART HAS A CONCEPT OF THE COMMUNITY DIFFERING FUNDAMENTALLY FROM THOSE HELD BY HER PARTNERS - A BLOC TO GIVE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ROOM FOR MANOEUVRE VIS A VIS THE US FOLLOWING FRENCH-STYLE DIRIGISTE AND PROTECTIONIST ECONOMIC AND INDUSTRIAL POLICIES.

FCO PLEASE PASS TO ABOVE SAVING ADDRESSEES

TAYLOR

[REPEATED AS REQUESTED]

[THIS TELEGRAM WAS NOT ADVANCED]

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