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TO IMMEDIATE FCO

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INFO IMMEDIATE UKREP BRUSSELS

INFO PRIORITY UKDEL NATO ATHENS BRUSSELS COPENHAGEN DUBLIN

LUXEMBOURG PARIS ROME THE HAGUE

YOUR TELNO 606: ANGLO-GERMAN RELATIONS

SUMMARY

1. AS KOHL WAS ENGAGED TODAY I GAVE THE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE TO TELTSCHIK FOR DELIVERY. I PRESSED HIM ON GERMAN IDEAS ON EUROPEAN INTEGRATION. HE WOULD NOT BE MORE SPECIFIC THAN TO REPEAT THOSE IN RUHFUS' DOOGE COMMITTEE PAPER ON POLITICAL AND SECURITY COOPERATION. I EMPHASISED THE IMPORTANCE WHICH THE PRIME MINISTER ATTACHED TO CLOSE COORDINATION WITH THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT ON ALL EUROPEAN QUESTIONS.

DETAIL

2. CHANCELLOR KOHL HAD HIS WEEKLY CABINET MEETING THIS MORNING AND IS APPEARING BEFORE THE BUNDESTAG COMMISSION OF ENQUIRY INTO THE FLICK AFFAIR THIS AFTERNOON. I THEREFORE GAVE THE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE TO TELTSCHIK (KOHL'S DIPLOMATIC ADVISER) FOR DELIVERY. HE HAD TO COME OUT OF THE CABINET MEETING TO SEE ME.

3. IN GOING THROUGH THE POINTS IN THE MESSAGE WITH TELTSCHIK I EMPHASISED THAT THIS YEAR HAD SEEN THE SYSTEMATIC DEVELOPMENT AND PRESENTATION OF THE BRITISH CONCEPT OF EUROPE. MILESTONES HAD BEEN THE PRIME MINISTER'S PAPER ON THE FUTURE OF EUROPE, MR RIFKIND'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE DOOGE COMMITTEE, YOUR OWN SPEECH IN BONN ON 17 OCTOBER, AND THE PRIME MINISTER'S INTERVIEW IN DIE WELT OF 2 NOVEMBER. I WAS NOT AWARE THAT ANY OTHER MEMBER STATE HAD MADE A BETTER CONTRIBUTION TO THE EUROPEAN DEBATE. OUR IDEAS WERE MORE REALISTIC THAN SPINELLI, AND MORE CONCRETE THAN, FOR INSTANCE, MITTERRAND'S STRASBOURG SPEECH. I COULD SEE NOTHING IN THEM WHICH CONTRADICTED THE SUGGESTIONS WHICH RUHFUS HAD PUT FORWARD IN THE DOOGE COMMITTEE. IT WOULD HOWEVER HELP ME - AND ALSO, I THOUGHT, THE PRIME MINISTER - IF WE COULD KNOW THE ANSWER TO TWO QUESTIONS. FIRST, WAS THERE ANYTHING IN OUR APPROACH WHICH THE GERMANS FOUND UNACCEPTABLE OR INADEQUATE? AND SECOND, WHAT EXACTLY DID THE CHANCELLOR KOHL HAVE IN MIND WHEN HE SPOKE OF TREADING THE PATH TO EUROPEAN UNION?

4. TELTSCHIK DID NOT ANSWER EITHER QUESTION DIRECTLY. HE SAID THAT THE GERMANS FOUND "EUROPE - THE FUTURE" A VERY PRAGMATIC PAPER WHICH OFFERED A GOOD STARTING POINT. THEY WERE IN COMPLETE AGREEMENT WITH US ON THE NEED TO FULFIL THE TREATY AND COMPLETE THE INTERNAL MARKET. BUT THEY ALSO BELIEVED THAT THE TIME HAD COME FOR A QUALITATIVE STEP FORWARD IN POLITICAL UNION. THAT WAS THE SENSE OF RUHFUS' PAPER ON POLITICAL AND SECURITY COOPERATION. THE TREATY OF ROME OFFERED NO FORMAL BASIS FOR THESE ACTIVITIES. HENCE THE GERMAN PROPOSAL FOR A NEW TREATY, COVERING ONLY POCO AND SECURITY. PROGRESS ON THIS IDEA IN THE DOOGE COMMITTEE WOULD SHOW HOW FAR AGREEMENT WAS POSSIBLE. THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAD SAID THEY WERE PREPARED TO CONSIDER IT (INS AUGF FASSEN). THE GERMANS HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT WE WERE MORE RESERVED.

5. I REPLIED THAT MY EXPERIENCE OF THE GENSCHER/COLOMBO PROPOSALS SUGGESTED THAT IT WOULD BE THE DANES, DUTCH AND IRISH WHO WOULD HAVE THE MOST DIFFICULTY WITH RUHFUS' PAPER. TELTSCHIK SAID THAT THE GERMANS ENVISAGED THE NEW TREATY BEING SIGNED ONLY BY THOSE MEMBER STATES WILLING TO PARTICIPATE.

6. I REPEATED THAT WE SHOULD BE INTERESTED TO KNOW WHETHER A NEW TREATY ON POCO AND SECURITY WAS ALL THAT THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT HAD IN MIND BY "EUROPEAN UNION", OR WHETHER THEY MEANT SOMETHING MORE. TELTSCHIK SAID THAT IT WOULD BE TOO AMBITIOUS TO PUT FORWARD MORE WIDE-REACHING PROPOSALS AT PRESENT. THERE WERE IDEAS BEING DEBATED INTERNALLY WITHIN THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT, AND THEY WOULD WILLINGLY DISCUSS THESE BILATERALLY WITH US IN PARALLEL WITH THE WORK IN THE DOOGE COMMITTEE. I SAID THAT WE WOULD LIKE TO DO THIS, AND INDEED THIS WAS THE SENSE OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE. I HOPED TO TALK TO THE CHANCELLOR AND/OR TO TELTSCHIK AT MORE LEISURE IN THE NEAR FUTURE, AND WAS READY TO ACT AS A CHANNEL FOR THE REPLY WHICH THE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE WOULD NO DOUBT RECEIVE.

EC COMMISSION

7. I TOLD TELTSCHIK THAT THERE HAD BEEN MANY POINTS OF AGREEMENT WITH DELORS WHEN HE HAD PAID HIS INTRODUCTORY VISIT TO LONDON LAST MONTH, THOUGH LESS SO ON BUDGETARY DISCIPLINE AND THE CAP THAN ON OTHER ITEMS. TELTSCHIK SAID THAT DELORS HAD CAUSED SOME CONSTERNATION IN BONN BY PROPOSING A RADICAL REARRANGEMENT OF COMMISSION PORTFOLIOS AND OF THEIR ALLOCATION BETWEEN MEMBER STATES. THIS HAD INCLUDED A PROPOSAL TO GIVE NARJES THE NON-JOB OF OVERSEEING THE COMMISSION'S RELATIONS WITH OTHER COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS. THESE IDEAS WERE UNACCEPTABLE TO THE FRG. AT THE FRANCO-GERMAN CONSULTATIONS IT HAD BEEN CLEAR THAT THEY WERE NO MORE ACCEPTABLE TO MITTERRAND, NOT LEAST BECAUSE THE FRENCH WOULD LOSE THE DEVELOPMENT AID PORTFOLIO CURRENTLY HELD BY PISANI. I SAID I KNEW WE WERE ANXIOUS TO KEEP THE BUDGET PORTFOLIO OUT OF THE WRONG HANDS.

BULLARD

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SENT AT 071540Z PD