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DESKBY 301830Z

FM BONN 301730Z NOV 84

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1135 OF 30 NOVEMBER

INFO IMMEDIATE DUBLIN, UKREP BRUSSELS

INFO PRIORITY ATHENS BRUSSELS COPENHAGEN LUXEMBOURG PARIS ROME
THE HAGUE

GERMAN VIEWS ON THE DOOGE COMMITTEE

SUMMARY

1. RUHFUS'S DEPUTY FOR THIS SUBJECT REAFFIRMS THAT THE FEDERAL CHANCELLOR WILL WANT CONCRETE STEPS FORWARD IN A NEW TREATY, NOT JUST A DECLARATORY DOCUMENT. HE EMPHASIZES GERMAN WISH FOR CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH THE UK. HE EXPECTS KOHL TO SPRING NO SURPRISES AT DUBLIN COUNCIL.

DETAIL

2. FOLLOWING YOUR MEETING WITH RUHFUS ON 26 NOVEMBER, MINISTER AND COUNSELLOR (ECONOMIC) HAD A LONG TALK TODAY WITH TRUMPF, WHO UNDERSTUDIES RUHFUS ON DOOGE COMMITTEE MATTERS. WE SAID THAT IT WOULD BE EVIDENT TO THE GERMANS, FROM MR RUFKIND'S APPROACH IN THE DOOGE COMMITTEE, THAT THE UK WAS POSITIVE ABOUT MAKING PROGRESS: THAT THOROUGH DISCUSSION OF SUBSTANCE AMONG ALL THE TEN WAS MUCH MORE IMPORTANT THAN SPEED: THAT BRITISH VIEWS WOULD BE GREATLY AFFECTED BY THE DEGREE OF PROGRESS ON CONCRETE MATTERS LIKE COMPLETING THE INTERNAL MARKET: AND THAT WE VERY MUCH HOPED THAT THE GERMANS WOULD NOT (NOT) SPRING ANY SURPRISES AT DUBLIN.

3. TRUMPF RECOGNISED THAT THE BRITISH APPROACH WAS POSITIVE. HE SAID THAT KOHL WOULD NOT (NOT) TRY AT DUBLIN TO BOUNCE THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL INTO ANY NEW DECISIONS, BUT WOULD PROBABLY WARMLY ENDORSE THE IDEA IN THE INTERIM REPORT OF AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE AND SUGGEST THAT THE DOOGE COMMITTEE SHOULD CONSIDER THE MODALITIES. ASKED WHY THE GERMANS WERE IN SUCH A HURRY, TRUMPF SAID THAT THE INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION IN FRANCE (INCLUDING THE ATTITUDE OF THE PRESIDENT) AND THE FRG, AND THE TIME THAT REMAINED BEFORE ENLARGEMENT, PRESENTED A WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY THAT HAD TO BE SEIZED. THE CHANCELLOR WAS ALSO PERSONALLY IMPATIENT TO SEE PROGRESS: HE HAS DETERMINED THAT THE WESTERN ORIENTATION OF THE FRG SHOULD BE FURTHER STRENGTHENED, NOT LEAST BECAUSE VOICES MIGHT OTHERWISE BE RAISED IN PARTS OF PUBLIC OPINION FOR "DIFFERENT OPTIONS". TRUMPF RECOGNISED THAT MORE HASTE COULD MEAN LESS SPEED, AND THAT THE CONSEQUENCES OF FAILURE COULD BE GRAVE. BUT PROGRESS VIA THE INTEGRATIONIST APPROACH HAD BEEN TOO SLOW AND ANOTHER METHOD HAD TO BE TRIED. SPAIN AND PORTUGAL WOULD NEED TO BE CONSULTED. THAT COULD DELAY

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IMPLEMENTATION

IMPLEMENTATION BEYOND 1985. WE EXPRESSED SCEPTICISM ABOUT THE POINT ABOUT INTERNAL POLITICS: THE NEXT GERMAN ELECTIONS WERE NOT UNTIL 1987 AND THE PACE IN DEVELOPING EUROPE COULD HARDLY BE DETERMINED BY THE DATE OF THE ELECTIONS TO THE FRENCH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

4. ASKED TO DEFINE EUROPEAN UNION, TRUMPF SAID THAT THE RESULTS OF AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE WOULD ONLY BE A STEP TOWARDS THIS DESTINATION: HE WAS NOT CERTAIN THAT THE WORD "UNION" WOULD BE ESSENTIAL TO THE CHANCELLOR. WHAT WAS ESSENTIAL WAS A SUBSTANTIVE AND QUALITATIVE MOVE FORWARD. A MERELY DECLARATORY ACT WOULD NOT (NOT) SUFFICE. THE FRG ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE TO INCREASING THE POWERS OF THE PARLIAMENT AND TO MAJORITY VOTING. HE ACCEPTED THAT MANY OF THE THINGS THAT THE FRG WANTED WOULD REQUIRE TREATY AMENDMENT AND THAT COULD BE VERY DIFFICULT TO ACHIEVE. BUT HE THOUGHT THAT THE GREEKS AND OTHERS (BY IMPLICATION INCLUDING THE UK) COULD BE BROUGHT ALONG BY MEANS OF ECONOMIC CONCESSIONS. TRUMPF CONCEDED THAT IT WAS NOT QUITE HONEST TO MAKE FULFILMENT OF THE EXISTING TREATY DEPENDENT UPON CONCLUDING A NEW TREATY. HE COULD NOT ANSWER A QUESTION ABOUT WHAT A NEW TREATY COULD SAY ON SECURITY COOPERATION ON THE WAKE OF THE REANIMATION OF WEU.

5. TRUMPF WAS AT PAINS TO STRESS THAT THE FEDERAL CHANCELLERY AND THE AUSWAERTIGES AMT WERE DETERMINED TO MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTACT ON THIS SUBJECT WITH THE UK. OFFICIALS HAD CONSIDERED ADVISING THE FEDERAL CHANCELLOR TO SEEK A BILATERAL WITH THE PM IN DUBLIN TO TELL HER HIS THINKING ON DOOGIE COMMITTEE MATTERS. ON REFLECTION THEY HAD CONCLUDED THAT THE PRESS OF OTHER COUNCIL ISSUES WOULD GET IN THE WAY AND THAT IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO FIND TIME TO DO JUSTICE TO THE SUBJECT. IT WOULD BE BETTER TO PLAN ON A THOROUGH DISCUSSION BETWEEN THE TWO HEADS OF GOVERNMENT AT THE ANGLO/GERMAN SUMMIT ON 18 JANUARY.

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