

RR UKREP BRUSSELS

RR BONN

RR ROME

GRS 296

UNCLASSIFIED

FM PARIS 311135Z MAY 86

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 532 OF 31 MAY 1986

INFO ROUTINE UKREP BRUSSELS BONN AND ROME

INFO SAVING TO BRUSSELS COPENHAGEN DUBLIN LUXENBOURG THE HAGUE

NIPT: THE BRUSSELS PACKAGE: FRENCH PRESS

ADVANCE C:

IMMEDIATE

(FCO/L2)

18

PS
PS/LPS
PS/PUS
Sm D. Platt
A. Bullard
Lord Bridges
A. Hannay
A. Ferguson
Hd ECD (C)
Hd News D
RC

No 10 Downing St

1. THIS MORNING'S PRESS SEES THE RESULT AS A NEGOTIATING VICTORY FOR MRS THATCHER. COMMENT HAS BEEN LIMITED SO FAR AND OVER-SHADOWED BY THE POPE'S VISIT, BUT THE TONE IS MOSTLY RATHER SOUR.

2. LE MATIN (SOCIALIST) HAS A LEADER SAYING THAT THE AGREEMENT WILL COST BRITAIN'S PARTNERS DEAR BOTH IN MONEY AND IN PRINCIPLE, SINCE IT IS LIKELY TO BE THE BEGINNING OF A FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE IN THE NATURE OF THE COMMUNITY. IT SEES THE RESULT AS "A DIPLOMATIC ROUT" FOR FRANCE, ADDING THAT IT IS NOT EASY TO NEGOTIATE WITH A COUNTRY WHICH NEITHER WISHES TO LEAVE A CLUB NOR RESPECT ITS RULES, OR TO MANOEUVRE "WITH THE KNIFE OF A PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION AT ONE'S THROAT".

3. A STATEMENT BY THE GAULLIST PARTY (ALREADY REPORTED IN THE BRITISH PRESS) IS WIDELY QUOTED, PARTICULARLY THE PART WHICH CLAIMS THAT THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAS ALLOWED FRENCH TAXPAYERS TO BECOME PERMANENT HOSTAGES TO THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT. HUMANITE'S HEADLINE READS "FRENCH FARMERS SACRIFICED TO THE COMMON MARKET".

4. FIGARO (CENTRE RIGHT) TAKES A MORE BALANCED VIEW COMMENTING THAT THE BUDGETARY OUTCOME SEEMED FAIR AND THE BRITISH MADE SOME CONCESSIONS. IT SEES THE AGREEMENT AS OPENING THE WAY TO A NEW BALANCE BETWEEN AGRICULTURAL AND OTHER EUROPEAN POLICIES BUT POINTS OUT ELSEWHERE THAT THE AGREEMENT WILL COST FRANCE MUCH LESS THAN THE PROPOSED UNILATERAL MEASURES FOR AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT.

~~THIS DOCUMENT IS UNCLASSIFIED FOR ADDITIONAL REPORTS~~

5. MEHAIGNERIE, QUESTIONED ON FRENCH TELEVISION LAST NIGHT, DEFENDED THE AGREEMENT AS THE BEST THAT FRANCE COULD OBTAIN, AND IN ANSWER TO A PROVOCATIVE QUESTION ABOUT GIVING IN TO BRITISH BLACKMAIL, ARGUED THAT IN BRITAIN'S DIFFICULT ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES IF SHE ACCEPTED THE CAP COMMUNITY SOLIDARITY REQUIRED HER PARTNERS TO HELP HER.

FCO PLEASE PASS TO SAVING ADDRESSEES

HIBBERT

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OO FCO

RR UKREP BRUSSELS

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GRS 160

CONFIDENTIAL

FH PARIS 311127Z MAY 80

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 501 OF 31 MAY 1980

INFO ROUTINE UKREP BRUSSELS BONN AND ROME

INFO SAVING TO BRUSSELS COPENHAGEN DUBLIN LUXEMBOURG THE HAGUE

THE BRUSSELS PACKAGE

1. MIFT GIVES A PRELIMINARY SUMMARY OF FRENCH PRESS REACTIONS. THE FRENCH MEDIA ARE HAVING DIFFICULTY IN DIGESTING AN OUTCOME FOR WHICH FRENCH OPINION HAS NOT BEEN PREPARED. THE FRENCH RESISTANCE TO BRITAIN'S CASE HAS BEEN SO PERSISTENT, EXPRESSED IN SUCH CONDEMNATORY TERMS AND BASED ON SUCH UNCRITICAL ACCEPTANCE OF THE MYTHS WHICH HAVE FOR SO LONG BEEN DRESSED UP AS IMMUTABLE, COMMUNITY PRINCIPLES, THAT IT IS DIFFICULT FOR THE BRUSSELS' OUTCOME TO BE MADE TO LOOK LIKE ANYTHING BUT A DEFEAT FOR FRANCE. MEMBERS OF THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT AND THEIR SUPPORTERS ARE TRYING TO DESCRIBE IT AS REASONABLE AND COMMUNAUTAIRE, BUT THEY HAVE A SOMEWHAT UPHILL TASK.

2. FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THIS POST IT WILL BE AS WELL IF BRITISH COMMENT STRESSES THE BALANCED NATURE OF THE PACKAGE, THE POSITIVE PROMISE WHICH CAN BE FOUND IN IT FOR FUTURE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND THE EXTENT TO WHICH IT INVOLVES EFFORT IN THE COMMON CAUSE BY BRITAIN.

FOR PLEASE PASS TO CIVILIAN SECRETARIES

SECRET

PS
 18/1PS
 PS/PUS
 Supt. Tait
 N. Bullard
 Lord Bridges
 N. Hannay
 N. Ferguson
 Hd ECD (6)
 Hd News & AC

(Prop/2)

ADVANCE

IMMEDIATE!
 No. 10 Downing St