

RR COPENHAGEN

ADVANCE COPY

RR THE HAGUE

RR BRUSSELS

RR BONN

RR LUXEMBOURG

X-10

PS
PS/LPS
PS/PUS
LORD BRIDGES
MR FRETWEN
HD E1 D-1

IMMEDIATE

GRS 450

CONFIDENTIAL

DESKBY F C O 271900Z

Prime Minister
27.11.79
PS/M.10 Downing St
Treasury (2)
R.C.

FROM PARIS 271805Z NOV 79

TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 898 OF 27 NOVEMBER 1979

INFO IMMEDIATE UKREP BRUSSELS

INFO ROUTINE ROME, DUBLIN, COPENHAGEN, THE HAGUE, BRUSSELS,
BONN AND LUXEMBOURG.

(Fics)

PREPARATIONS FOR DUBLIN SUMMIT :
FRENCH VIEWS AND TACTICS

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1. WHEN I CALLED ON THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ELYSEE TODAY I FIRST ASKED HIM WHAT HIS IMPRESSION HAD BEEN OF THE LONDON MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT GISCARD AND MRS THATCHER (WAHL HAD NOT HIMSELF BEEN PRESENT). HE SAID THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD BEEN VERY PLEASED WITH THE ATMOSPHERE AT THE MEETING AND WITH THE EXTENT TO WHICH BRITISH AND FRENCH POLICIES CONVERGED AND COINCIDED ON MOST SUBJECTS OF IMPORTANCE IN THE WORLD. HE HAD BEEN DISAPPOINTED ON ONLY TWO QUESTIONS, ALTHOUGH BOTH WERE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE AND BOTH WERE COMMUNITY SUBJECTS - THE BUDGET QUESTION AND SHEEPMEAT.

2. WAHL SAID THAT THE PRESIDENT WAS PERPLEXED AT THE BRITISH ATTITUDE ON THE BUDGET. HE COULD NOT SEE HOW PROGRESS COULD BE MADE UNLESS THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WAS PREPARED TO DISCUSS DETAILED FIGURES. THERE HAD BEEN NO SIGN THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WAS PREPARED TO MOVE FROM THE FIGURES FOR A BROAD BALANCE PRODUCED BY ITS OWN ARITHMETIC. THE COMMISSION AND OTHERS HAD PRODUCED IDEAS WHICH POINTED IN THE DIRECTION OF SOLVING THE PROBLEM, BUT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAD NOT SHOWN ENTHUSIASM FOR ANY OF THEM.

3. I REPLIED THAT FOR ITS PART THE BRITISH SIDE WAS PERPLEXED BECAUSE OF THE FAILURE OF ITS PARTNERS TO RISE TO THE LEVEL OF THE VERY GREAT LOAD WHICH WAS BORNE BY BRITAIN. IT WAS UNDERSTANDABLE THAT OTHERS SHOULD BE DISMAYED AT THE SIZE OF BURDENS WHICH THEY MIGHT BE ASKED TO BEAR, BUT IT WAS STRANGE WHEN THEY SHOWED NO SIGN OF UNDERSTANDING THE POLITICAL UNACCEPTABILITY OF THE GREAT BURDEN WHICH THE UK WAS BEARING. I SPOKE TO WAHL ON THE LINES OF THE STATEMENT IN YOUR TELEGRAM TO UKREP BRUSSELS NUMBER 1308 AND I GAVE HIM A PIECE OF PAPER WHICH WAS THE TEXT IN THAT TELEGRAM EDITED SO AS NOT TO BE A PERSONAL STATEMENT. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD PUT THIS BEFORE THE PRESIDENT. HE COMMENTED THAT HE THOUGHT IT SHOWED A LITTLE MORE FLEXIBILITY THAN THE PRESIDENT HAD DETECTED DURING HIS VISIT TO LONDON.

4. AS REGARDS SHEEPMEAT, WAHL SHOWED NO MORE READINESS TO BE CONSTRUCTIVE THAN M. MEHAIGNERIE SHOWED TO MR WALKER YESTERDAY EVENING, NOR DID HE PUT UP MUCH OF A DEFENCE FOR THE FRENCH POINT OF VIEW. IT SEEMED CLEAR THAT SHEEPMEAT WAS BEING RESERVED BY PRESIDENT GISCARD AS A BARGAINING COUNTER FOR DUBLIN.

5. WAHL ACKNOWLEDGED BRITISH HELPFULNESS IN THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OVER THE HANDLING OF THE EUROPEAN ASSEMBLY'S AMENDMENTS TO THE COMMUNITY BUDGET FOR 1980.

6. FOR FURTHER DETAILS ABOUT LIKELY FRENCH ATTITUDES ON VARIOUS SUBJECTS ON THE AGENDA SEE MY TWO IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING TELEGRAMS.

HIBBERT

NNNN

CCN PARA 3 LINE 3 CENTRE SHD READ ".....WHICH WAS BEING BORNE BY BRITAIN."

SENT/RECD 271853Z BC/DE