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EHG(L2)(80) 24

COPY NO 1

28 November 1980

EUROPEAN COUNCIL, LUXEMBOURG

1/2 DECEMBER 1980

ITALIAN EARTHQUAKE

Brief by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office

OBJECTIVE

1. To endorse the principle that further aid be allocated to Italy.

POINTS TO MAKE

2. Support principle of further aid from the Community. Must reach quickly to the enormous problems. Have greatest sympathy for the plight of those suffering. Detailed proposals should be remitted to the appropriate Council body for early approval.

BACKGROUND

References : A Commission document setting out their proposals will be available in Luxembourg.

3. Commission has already agreed 1.5mEUA to help Italy

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NOTE : THIS IS AN ADDITIONAL BRIEF.
PLEASE ADD TO INDEX.

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(the large portion of the unspent Emergency Aid Provision). The Commission is meeting today to adopt proposals for further measures to help Italy. Telegram comment on these will be sent to Luxembourg on Monday when they have been considered by departments.

4. The new proposals may involve a supplementary budget for 1980. This will be technically complex in the time remaining in 1980 but should not affect the advances we expect in respect of our budget refunds. An alternative would be to provide the funds through a transfer from unspent monies. This should be done by transferring from sums which would otherwise be unspent and carried forward into 1981. Otherwise the transfers could affect the UK advances under the Supplementary Measures Scheme which are to come from those unspent monies which cannot be carried forward.

5. There will probably be three parts to the proposals;

- a) financing of the supply of unspecified quantities of foodstuffs (cereals, meat and olive oil).
- b) a Commission management committee ability to provide stocks of certain foodstuffs held in intervention.
- c) reconstruction aid.

The financial scope of these measures is not yet known. The President of the European Council may raise this subject during the Council.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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