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FRAME GENERAL
DESKBY 171030Z
FM UKREP BRUSSELS 162040Z MAR 81
TO IMMEDIATE F C O
TELEGRAM NUMBER 940 OF 16 MARCH
INFO ROUTINE ALL EC POSTS.

*This does not sound
very promising!*

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS (FOREIGN AFFAIRS) 16/17 MARCH :

PREPARATION FOR EUROPEAN COUNCIL

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SUMMARY

1. PRESIDENCY CONFIRMED THAT THEY WOULD CONCENTRATE DISCUSSION AT MAASTRICHT AROUND THE THEMES ALREADY PROPOSED. THE GERMANS GAVE NOTICE OF THEIR INTENTION TO RAISE FISH, STEEL AND POSSIBLY JAPANESE CAR EXPORTS; AND TO VOICE THEIR CONCERN ABOUT THE UNBALANCED WAY IN WHICH THE BURDEN OF DEVELOPING THE COMMUNITY FALLS. ITALIANS WILL ALSO MAKE STATEMENT ON THE LINES ALREADY FORESHADOWED.

DETAIL

2. VAN DER KLAUW (PRESIDENCY) ASKED WHETHER, IN ADDITION TO THE THEMES ALREADY PROPOSED BY THE PRESIDENCY, OTHER MEMBER STATES WISHED TO PROPOSE OTHER SUBJECTS SUCH AS FISH OR STEEL. IF SO, THESE COULD BE TAKEN UNDER THE FIRST HEADING, THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SITUATION IN THE COMMUNITY.

3. DOHNANYI (FRG) SAID THAT, UNDER THE HEADING ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SITUATION, CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT WOULD WISH TO RAISE STEEL AND FISH AND POSSIBLY ALSO THE QUESTION OF CAR IMPORTS FROM JAPAN. THE PRESENT ECONOMIC SITUATION SEEMED TO HAVE MADE CERTAIN MEMBER STATES LESS ABLE TO MAKE COMPROMISES AND TO HOLD TO AGREEMENTS ALREADY MADE. EACH MEMBER STATE FACED THE TEMPTATION OF, FOR INSTANCE, INTRODUCING NATIONAL SUBSIDIES. ON THESE AND OTHER MATTERS IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO SHIFT THE BURDEN OF THE COMMUNITY'S DEVELOPMENT ON TO JUST ONE OR TWO MEMBER STATES. THE COMMUNITY WAS IN SERIOUS DANGER BECAUSE A FEW MEMBER STATES HAD INTERNAL DIFFICULTIES WHICH MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR THEM TO BEHAVE IN A COMMUNAUTAIRE FASHION,

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AND THIS MADE IT DIFFICULT FOR OTHERS TO MAINTAIN COMMUNAUTAIRE POSITIONS. SCHMIDT HAD DISCUSSED THIS PROBLEM WITH M. THORN DURING THE LATTER'S VISIT TO BONN.

4. FOR THE UK YOU SAID THAT THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD ALSO WISH TO DISCUSS SUBJECTS PROPOSED BY THE PRESIDENCY IF THEY ALLOWED SUCH ITEMS TO BE RAISED. FRANSOIS-PONCET (FRANCE) SAID THAT HIS PRESIDENT WOULD WISH TO RAISE THESE KINDS OF ISSUES, UNFORTUNATELY IN THE SAME SPIRIT AS THE GERMANS. SPERANZA (ITALY) SAID THAT FORLANI WOULD WISH TO RAISE SIMILAR ISSUES, BUT MORE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE ENLARGEMENT OF THE COMMUNITY. HE INTENDED TO DRAW ATTENTION TO THE REDUCTION IN THE ROLE OF THE COMMUNITY IN THE PRESENT ECONOMIC SITUATION, AND TO THE LACK OF ANY CLEAR COMMUNITY DESIGN FOR RELAUNCHING THE COMMUNITY'S ECONOMY AND REDUCING ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DIVERGENCE. THE PURSUIT OF NATIONAL AIMS WAS CALLING IN QUESTION THE ACQUIS COMMUNAUTAIRE AND THIS THE CREDIBILITY TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD OF THE COMMUNITY.

5. VAN DER KLAUW DID NOT ATTEMPT TO SUM UP. THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION OF ANY POSSIBLE DECLARATION ON SPAIN AND PORTUGAL.

FCO ADVANCE TO:-

FCO - PS/SOFS, PS/PUS, PS/LPS, BRIDGES, DE FONBLANQUE ECD(I)
CLARKE (ECD(I)) PIRNIE (ECD(I))
CAB - FRANKLIN, GOODENOUGH.

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[ADVANCED AS REQUESTED]

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