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FM PARIS 19163φZ JUN 81

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 527 OF 19 JUNE 1981

INFO ROUTINE UKREP BRUSSELS, THE HAGUE AND BONN

INFO SAVING ATHENS, BRUSSELS, COPENHAGEN, DUBLIN, LUXEMBOURG AND ROME

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FRANCE AND THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL

1. WHEN I CALLED ON THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ELYSEE THIS AFTER-NOON I TRIED TO DRAW HIM ON THE AGENDA FOR THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL, ASKING WHETHER HE COULD GIVE ME ANY INDICATION OF THE WAY IN WHICH THE PRESIDENT ENVISAGED THE VARIOUS SUBJECTS WHICH WOULD COME UP FOR DISCUSSION. THE ONLY POINT ON WHICH HE WAS ROUSED TO ENERGETIC ENQUIRY WAS THE HANDLING OF THE 3φ MAY MANDATE. HE WAS AT PAINS TO REITERATE THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT'S DESIRE FOR A PAUSE. I DREW HIS ATTENTION TO THE TEXT TABLED AT COREPER YESTERDAY BY THE NETHERLANDS PRESIDENCY FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL (FOREIGN AFFAIRS) ON 22 AND 23 JUNE (PARA 6 OF UKREP BRUSSELS TELNO 2263). HE SEEMED A LITTLE UNCERTAIN ABOUT FRENCH READINESS TO AGREE TO ANY SORT OF WORK STARTING IN JULY, SO I PRESSED HIM ON THIS AND SAID THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WAS MEETING FRANCE'S WISHES BY AGREEING THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO ATTEMPT TO REACH DECISIONS UNTIL NOVEMBER, BUT IT WAS NECESSARY TO BEGIN THE WORK OF STUDY AND ANALYSIS WITHOUT WHICH DECISIONS WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE, AND IT WAS DEFINITELY THE BRITISH WISH THAT THIS WORK SHOULD BE BEGUN BY COREPER IN JULY IN PREPARATION FOR A FIRST DISCUSSION BY FOREIGN MINISTERS IN SEPTEMBER. HE SAID HE TOOK NOTE OF THIS.

2. HE TOLD ME THAT THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT WAS GOING TO HOLD A RESTRICTED MEETING OF MINISTERS ON 25 AND 26 JUNE TO CONSIDER THE POSITIONS WHICH FRANCE SHOULD ADOPT AT THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD BE ABLE TO SAY MORE TO ME AFTER THAT, BUT WHEN I SAID THAT I WOULD SEEK AN APPOINTMENT WITH HIM NEXT FRIDAY OR SATURDAY HE BACKED AWAY A LITTLE AND TRIED TO SUGGEST THAT THE RIGHT SOURCE OF INFORMATION WOULD BE THE QUAI D'ORSAY. I SAID I WOULD GET IN TOUCH WITH HIM.

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3. I ASKED HIM WHAT LAY BEHIND THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT'S INDICATIONS THAT AFTER THE PAUSE FOR REFLECTION IT WAS GOING TO PROPOSE SOME NEW IDEAS FOR THE COMMUNITY. COULD HE GIVE ANY INDICATION OF THE LIKELY NATURE OF THESE IDEAS? HE SAID THAT THE GENERAL CONCERN OF THE NEW FRENCH GOVERNMENT WAS TO SEE THAT THE SOCIAL CONTENT OF THE COMMUNITY'S ACTIVITY WAS INCREASED. I WOULD KNOW, HE SAID, FROM THE NEW GOVERNMENT'S PRONOUNCEMENTS ON INTERNAL POLICY THAT THEY WERE EMBARKED ON AN EFFORT TO ENLIVEN ECONOMIC ACTIVITY IN FRANCE AND TO IMPROVE THE SOCIAL CONTENT OF THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT'S ACTION. THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT WANTED THE SPIRIT WHICH INSPIRED ITS INTERNAL POLICY TO INSPIRE COMMUNITY POLICY ALSO. IF THIS COULD BE DONE PROGRESS COULD BE MADE ON OTHER MATTERS TOO.

4. IN A QUICK RUN OVER THE MAIN HEADINGS OF THE AGENDA FOR THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL, M BEREGOVY SAID THAT THERE WERE OBVIOUSLY VARIOUS FIELDS IN WHICH FRENCH AND BRITISH IDEAS WOULD BE CLOSE TOGETHER AND HE SPECIFICALLY QUOTED TRADE RELATIONS WITH JAPAN AND POLITICAL COOPERATION QUESTIONS. HE SAID THAT HE WAS INFORMED ABOUT THE UNITED KINGDOM'S INITIATIVE ON AFGHANISTAN. I TOLD HIM THAT THE UK HOPED THAT BRITAIN'S NINE PARTNERS WOULD GIVE IT WARM SUPPORT AT THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL.

FCO PLEASE PASS SAVING TO ATHENS, BRUSSELS, DUBLIN, COPENHAGEN  
LUXEMBOURG AND ROME.

THIS TELEGRAM  
WAS NOT  
ADVANCED

HIBBERT.

(REPEATED AS REQUESTED)

FRAME GENERAL  
ECD (E)