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TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 281 OF 25 JANUARY 1982

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON UKDEL NATO MOSCOW WARSAW

INFO PRIORITY PARIS BONN

INFO SAVING BRUSSELS COPENHAGEN THE HAGUE ROME DUBLIN

LUXEMBOURG ATHENS

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS (FOREIGN AFFAIRS) 25 JANUARY: POLAND

SUMMARY

1. AGREED THAT FUTURE AID TO POLAND WOULD BE CHANNELLED THROUGH HUMANITARIAN ORGANISATIONS, AND THAT SALES OF FOOD ON SPECIAL TERMS WOULD BE DISCONTINUED. GREEK RESERVES HELD UP AGREED CONCLUSIONS ON TRADE POLICY MEASURES VIS-A-VIS THE U S AND NON-UNDERMINING: THE COUNCIL WILL RETURN TO THESE TOMORROW. IN THE MEANTIME, PRESIDENCY WILL BRIEF HAIG ON COMMUNITY ATTITUDES, MAKING CLEAR ALSO THAT THE COMMUNITY DID NOT AT PRESENT WISH THE MADRID CONFERENCE TO BE SUSPENDED.

DETAIL

2. SCRAPPY DISCUSSION OVER LUNCH ON GUIDELINES FOR PRESIDENCY TO FOLLOW IN BRIEFING HAIG ON COMMUNITY ATTITUDES, AS A RESULT OF WHICH PRESIDENCY LATER CIRCULATED A TEXT. A NUMBER OF AMENDMENTS WERE PROPOSED TO THIS IN SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION AND ARE REFLECTED IN THE VERSION IN MIFT (NO AUTHORITATIVE VERSION YET EXISTS). AS A RESULT MOST DELEGATIONS WERE ABLE TO ACCEPT THE TEXT (THOUGH CHEYSSON PUT A WAITING RESERVE ON PARA 2). HOWEVER, HARALAMBOPOULOS INSISTED THAT PARAS 2, 3 AND 4 DID NOT REFLECT THE VIEWS OF THE GREEK GOVERNMENT AND PLACED A RESERVE ON THEM. AFTER SEVERAL FRUITLESS ROUNDS IT WAS AGREED TO RETURN TO THESE POINTS WHEN THE COUNCIL RESUMES TOMORROW (THE PRESIDENCY MAY PROPOSE VOTING ON THEM.)

3. ON CSCE IT WAS AGREED TO INFORM THE AMERICANS THAT THE COMMUNITY DID NOT AT PRESENT WANT THE MADRID TALKS TO BE SUSPENDED (AT PRESENT BEING ADDED AT YOUR INSISTENCE).

4. AT HIS SUBSEQUENT PRESS CONFERENCE, TINDEMANS READ OUT PARA 1 OF THE TEXT IN MIFT (ON HUMANITARIAN AID). IN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS HE SAID THAT OTHER ASPECTS, FOR EXAMPLE POSSIBLE RESTRICTIONS ON EXPORT CREDITS FOR THE SOVIET UNION, WOULD BE DISCUSSED TOMORROW. HE ADDED THAT MINISTERS HAD AGREED TO ATTEND

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THE RESUMED MADRID CONFERENCE ON 9 FEBRUARY: THEY WOULD MEET BEFORE AND DURING THE CONFERENCE. THEY HAD ALSO AGREED NOT TO PRESS FOR SUSPENSION AT PRESENT, BUT RATHER TO USE THE CONFERENCE TO FOCUS ATTENTION ON THE SITUATION IN POLAND. HE WOULD BE CONTACTING HAID TO EXPLAIN COMMUNITY VIEWS.

5. PLEASE SEE MIFT.

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