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FROM UKMIS NEWYORK 092310Z NOV 81 PS TO PM 10, DOWNING STREET.
TO IMMEDIATE F C O
TELEGRAM NUMBER 1196 OF 9 NOVEMBER
INFO IMMEDIATE UKREP BRUSSELS (FOR EVANS) WASHINGTON
INFO PRIORITY UKDEL OECD UKMIS GENEVA

MY TELNO 1185: GLOBAL NEGOTIATIONS.

1. MRS KIRKPATRICK ADDRESSED THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TEN THIS MORNING. SHE OFFERED NO SIGHT OF THE BRASS TACKS TO WHICH WE ARE EXPECTED TO GET DOWN, AND HER PRESENTATION OF EXISTING U S IDEAS WAS TO SAY THE LEAST INCOHERENT.
2. MRS KIRKPATRICK SAID THAT GLOBAL NEGOTIATIONS LACKED CLARITY. NOBODY KNEW WHAT THEY WERE, OR IN WHAT ARENAS THEY SHOULD HAPPEN. THE U S WAS PREPARED TO TALK ABOUT THE CENTRAL ROLE OF THE GA, BUT CENTRAL IN RELATION TO WHAT? BEDJAOUI WAS OPERATING AT AN ABSTRACT LEVEL. NOBODY WAS PREPARED TO SAY WHO SHOULD DO WHAT TO WHOM, AND WHERE. THERE WAS ENORMOUS AMBIGUITY ON THE SUBJECT WITHIN THE G77.
3. THE U S WANTED TO CONDUCT SYSTEMATIC BUT INFORMAL CONVERSATIONS WITH INTERESTED GROUPS, OF WHICH THE PRESENT MEETING WAS ONE. SHE WOULD BE MEETING SIMILARLY WITH THE G77 AND OTHERS. THE BASIC U S POSITION WAS THE ONE SET OUT AT CANCUN AND IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON 5 NOVEMBER (MY TELNO 1175). THE AMERICANS WERE PREPARED TO ENGAGE IN QUOTE ANY FORM OF REASONABLY PROMISING DISCUSSION UNQUOTE PROMOTING GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT, TO WHICH THEY ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE.
4. THE AMERICANS WERE PREPARED TO TALK AND TO ENGAGE IN PREPARATIONS BUT NOT TO FOLLOW QUOTE PROCESSES THAT WOULD LEAD TO DISAGREEABLE CONFRONTATION UNQUOTE. THEY LIKED TO DEAL IN CONCRETE PROBLEMS AND SPECIFIC SOLUTIONS. AT THE UN THE PROBLEM WAS TO FIND A FITTING INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK. THE ORIGINAL AGENDA LIST WAS QUOTE NOT BAD UNQUOTE (ALTHOUGH SHE DID NOT MENTION MONEY AND FINANCE). THE SUBJECT MATTER COULD BE BROKEN DOWN BY TOPICS OR BY REGIONS, BUT THIS HAD TO BE DONE ON THE BASIS OF AGREEMENT ON WHAT CONSTITUTED A PROMISING APPROACH.
5. AFTER A THOUGHTFUL PAUSE, ITALY ASKED WHAT MRS KIRKPATRICK THOUGHT OF KITTANI'S APPROACH. WHAT CLARIFICATIONS MIGHT THE U S REQUIRE? SHE REPLIED THAT SHE NEEDED MORE INFORMATION ON SUBSTANCE AND PROCEDURES. DENMARK SAID THAT AMBIGUITIES WERE SOMETIMES CONSTRUCTIVE. WAS THE U S WITHDRAWING FROM 34/138? MRS KIRKPATRICK REPLIED THAT 34/138 WAS ON THE BOOKS. IF THE U S WERE BACKING DOWN ON THIS SHE WOULD HAVE SAID SO.
6. MRS KIRKPATRICK SAID THAT DISCUSSION WITH BEDJAOUI HAD NOT HELPED HER. HE HAD NOTHING CONCRETE TO SAY. ON THE OTHER HAND, SHE ESTEEMED KITTANI AND SAW SOME MILEAGE IN A RESOLUTION FROM THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO THE SECRETARIAT REQUESTING THE LATTER TO UTILISE ALL INSTITUTIONAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE, INCLUDING THE SPECIALISED AGENCIES, TO DRAW UP PROPOSALS FOR NEGOTIATION. IRELAND

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ASKED, WAS THERE NO MILEAGE IN REAFFIRMING THE COMPREHENSIVE CHARACTER OF GLOBAL NEGOTIATIONS AND LEAVING THE NEXT AND CONCRETE STEP TO THE SPECIALISED AGENCIES? MRS KIRKPATRICK REPLIED THAT THE U S WAS VERY DISINCLINED TO ENDORSE THE UNDEFINED. THIS WAS MORE THAN A MATTER OF STYLE. IN RESPONSE TO FURTHER IRISH PRESSURE, SHE REPLIED, TO GENERAL SURPRISE, QUOTE DONT WORRY ABOUT WHAT'S ACCEPTABLE TO THE U S; THAT'S NO PROBLEM UNQUOTE.

7. MRS KIRKPATRICK SAW MORE PRACTICAL MERIT (THOUGH THERE MAY HAVE BEEN SOME MISUNDERSTANDING) IN THE SUGGESTION BY BELGIUM THAT IN STAGE ONE THE GA COULD REMIT PROBLEMS TO THE SPECIALISED AGENCIES WHILE IN STAGE TWO THE LATTER, ARMED WITH GUIDELINES, RESPONDED WITH SOLUTIONS. THE GA COULD THEN QUOTE SEE ABOUT UNQUOTE THE RESULTS THAT CAME BACK FROM THE SPECIALISED AGENCIES, AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF THE CONSENSUS REQUIREMENT. BUT SHE THOUGHT THIS APPROACH WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE TO THE G77. KITTANI'S CONCEPT OF VESTING THE ORGANISATIONAL FUNCTION IN THE SECRETARIAT, WHO WOULD CONTACT THE SPECIALISED AGENCIES, WAS EMINENTLY SENSIBLE.

8. GREECE, ITALY AND THE FRG IN TURN UNDERLINED THE DISREGARD IN THIS DISCUSSION OF POLITICAL FACTORS. THE FRG PRESSED MRS KIRKPATRICK TO SAY WHETHER THE U S FELT A SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CURRENT STALEMATE AND WHETHER SHE PLANNED TO BE ACTIVE IN PROMOTING DISCUSSION AND SEEKING TO ACHIEVE A RESULT BEFORE THE END OF THIS SESSION OF THE GA. SHE REPLIED THAT THE U S HAD NO MORE A UNIQUE RESPONSIBILITY FOR LAUNCHING OR MAPPING THE COURSE OF THE GN'S THAN ANYONE ELSE, INCLUDING THE FRG. THE AMERICANS WERE PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE. BUT THE BALL WAS NOT IN THEIR COURT. ASKED BY FRANCE WHETHER THIS MEANT THAT, ASSUMING A DECISION TO START ON A PARTICULAR DAY, THE U S WOULD BE THERE, SHE SAID THAT WOULD DEPEND. SHE ADDED THAT SHE COULD NOT IMAGINE WHY THE SOVIET BLOC WERE BEING LET OFF THE HOOK.

9. BEFORE THE END OF THIS CONVERSATION, I POINTED OUT THAT A SOLUTION WOULD NOT GENERATE ITSELF. SOMEONE HAD TO ORGANISE IT. I THOUGHT WE ALL ACCEPTED THAT KITTANI WAS THE BEST MAN. ITALY POINTED OUT THAT WE MUST GIVE HIM THE MATERIAL. MRS KIRKPATRICK REAFFIRMED HER POSITIVE VIEW OF KITTANI'S EFFORTS, BUT HE WAS PLAYING HARD TO GET.

10. THIS DISCUSSION CONTRIBUTED NOTHING TO RATIONAL HANDLING OF GN S. I UNDERSTAND THAT THE U S EMBASSY HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH IN LONDON TO PRESENT THEIR IDEAS BILATERALLY. HERE THE G77 ARE STANDING PAT AND MRS KIRKPATRICK (WHO MUST CALCULATE THAT TIME IS ON HER SIDE) IS SHOWING NO DESIRE TO CAPITALISE ON THE OPENING PROVIDED BY CANCUN. AS ONE WAY OUT THE JAPANESE ARE SHOWING AN UNHEALTHY INTEREST IN A PERMANENT SYSTEM OF MINI-SPECIAL SESSIONS TO ASSESS RESULTS EMERGING FROM SPECIALISED AGENCIES AND ISSUE NEW GUIDELINES. GIVEN THE VACUUM IN THE AMERICAN POSITION SUCH ACTIVITY IS INEVITABLE.

11. THE VACUUM HAS ALSO STRUCK OUR COMMUNITY COLLEAGUES AND WE WILL NO DOUBT FIND OURSELVES UNDER PRESSURE AS PRESIDENCY IN DUE

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COURSE TO SHOW GREATER ACTIVISM IN SEEKING TO BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN THE G77 AND THE AMERICANS. FOR THE PRESENT HOWEVER I BELIEVE THAT WE CAN HOLD THE COMMUNITY TO THE AGREED POSITION EXPRESSED IN MY TELNO 1175. IT IS DIFFICULT TO RECOMMEND FURTHER WORK FOR THE NORTH/SOUTH GROUP UNTIL THE G77 OR THE AMERICANS SHOW A WILLINGNESS TO ENTER THE NEGOTIATING ARENA. BUT WE SHOULD PERHAPS GIVE SOME PRELIMINARY THOUGHT TO THE PROBLEM OF THE INEVITABLE PRESSURE IN DUE COURSE FROM WITHIN THE COMMUNITY OR FROM THE G77 TO MOVE TO A POSITION FAVOURING A SIMPLE DECISION TO LAUNCH GN S WITHOUT DEFINING PRECISE TERMS.

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