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TO IMMEDIATE BONN
TELEGRAM NUMBER 136 OF 5 MARCH
INFO UKREP BRUSSELS, UKDEL OECD

MAR 16 1984		
RECEIVED		No.76
6 MAR 1984		
DESK OFFICER		REGISTRY
INDEX	PA	Action Taken

IEA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

1. WHEN CHANCELLOR KOHL SAW THE PRIME MINISTER ON 28 FEBRUARY HE COMPLAINED THAT THE GERMANS COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHY, DESPITE EARLIER COMMUNITY AGREEMENT TO PUT FORWARD AN EC CANDIDATE FOR THE POST OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE IEA, THE UK HAD VOTED AT THE POLITICAL CO-OPERATION MINISTERIAL MEETING IN PARIS ON 27 FEBRUARY FOR THE AMERICAN CANDIDATE. THE PRIME MINISTER SAID SHE WOULD ENQUIRE INTO THIS AND LET THE CHANCELLOR HAVE AN EXPLANATION.

2. PLEASE NOW GIVE THE FOLLOWING EXPLANATION TO THE CHANCELLOR'S STAFF IN WHATEVER FORM YOU CONSIDER APPROPRIATE:

(I) SIR GEOFFREY HOWE HAS CONSISTENTLY TAKEN THE LINE IN DISCUSSIONS ON THIS SUBJECT IN THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS THAT IF A COMMUNITY CANDIDATE WERE TO BE SUCCESSFUL AGAINST THE AMERICAN IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT THE COMMUNITY SHOULD SELECT THE BEST MAN AVAILABLE FOR THE JOB. IT WAS ALSO IMPORTANT THAT THE SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATE SHOULD

ENJOY A WIDE MEASURE OF SUPPORT WITHIN THE IEA AS A WHOLE.

(II) WE HAVE NOT BEEN AWARE OF AN AGREEMENT WITHIN THE COMMUNITY THAT THERE SHOULD AT ALL COSTS BE A COMMUNITY CANDIDATE. WHEN THIS WAS DISCUSSED BY MINISTERS ON 23 JANUARY AND AGAIN ON 20 FEBRUARY, IT WAS AGREED TO CONSULT URGENTLY WITH A VIEW TO SEEING WHETHER AGREEMENT COULD BE REACHED ON A COMMUNITY CANDIDATE. BUT IT HAS ALSO BEEN RECOGNISED FROM THE BEGINNING THAT THE US CANDIDATE WAS WELL QUALIFIED.

(III) THREE COMMUNITY CANDIDATES HAVE BEEN PUT FORWARD. NONE HAS WITHDRAWN DURING THE CONSULTATIVE PROCESS: ON 20 FEBRUARY SIR GEOFFREY HOWE MADE CLEAR THAT HE WAS UNABLE AT THAT STAGE

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TO CHOOSE BETWEEN THE THREE COMMUNITY CANDIDATES WHO ALL SEEMED EQUALLY WELL QUALIFIED. WHEN THE MATTER WAS PUT TO THE VOTE ON 27 FEBRUARY WE THEREFORE ABSTAINED. THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF OUR 'VOTING FOR' A US CANDIDATE. IN THE EVENT, NONE OF THE CANDIDATES WAS SUPPORTED BY A MAJORITY OF MEMBER STATES.

(IV) OUR ABSTENTION WAS, THEREFORE, IN LINE WITH THE COMMENTS OF SIR GEOFFREY HOWE AT SUCCESSIVE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COUNCILS.

HOWE

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