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UNCLASSIFIED

DESKBY 171730Z

FRAME AGRICULTURAL/INSTITUTIONAL

FM BONN 171630Z MAY 85

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 506 OF 17 MAY

INFO PRIORITY UKREP BRUSSELS

INFO ROUTINE EMBASSY BRUSSELS, COPENHAGEN, DUBLIN, LUXEMBOURG, ROME,  
PARIS, THE HAGUE

INFO SAVING MADRID, LISBON

AGRICULTURAL COUNCIL: GERMAN GOVERNMENT PRESS CONFERENCE

SUMMARY

1. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN AT PAINS TO EMPHASISE THAT FRG HAD NOT CAST A VETO ON CEREAL PRICES, BUT HAD MERELY INSISTED, AS FORESEEN IN THE LUXEMBOURG COMPROMISE, THAT DISCUSSION CONTINUE UNTIL AGREEMENT COULD BE REACHED. GERMAN VITAL INTERESTS HAD NOT YET BEEN MET. SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT KOHL WOULD ONLY AGREE AT MILAN TO INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE ON EUROPEAN UNION IF ALL 10 PARTNERS WERE PREPARED TO GIVE IT A MANDATE.

DETAIL

2. AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN, SUDHOFF, SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WAS DISSATISFIED WITH PRESS REPORTING OF THE AGRICULTURE COUNCIL. THE GERMAN DELEGATION IN BRUSSELS HAD NOT SPOKEN OF A VETO. KIECHLE HAD INSTEAD INVOKED THE 1966 LUXEMBOURG AGREEMENT (NOTE CALLED BY SUDHOFF THE "LUXEMBURGER ERKLAERUNG", ALTHOUGH IT HAS USUALLY BEEN KNOWN HERE AS THE "LUXEMBURGER DISSENS" TO INDICATE THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAD NOT ACCEPTED ALL ITS PROVISIONS). SUDHOFF QUOTED THE WORDING OF THE FIRST PARAGRAPH ABOUT REACHING SOLUTIONS WITHIN A REASONABLE TIME WHICH CAN BE ADOPTED BY ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL WHILE RESPECTING THEIR MUTUAL INTERESTS.

FIRST PARAGRAPH ABOUT REACHING SOLUTIONS WITHIN A REASONABLE TIME WHICH CAN BE ADOPTED BY ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL WHILE RESPECTING THEIR MUTUAL INTERESTS. A VETO, SUDHOFF SAID, SMACKED OF FINALITY. KIECHLE HAD ON THE CONTRARY MADE IT PLAIN IN BRUSSELS THAT CEREAL PRICES HAD NOT BEEN DEALT WITH CONCLUSIVELY, BUT WOULD BE DISCUSSED AGAIN IN A FURTHER ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS IN THE COMING WEEKS. SUDHOFF CLAIMED THAT THE BELGIANS AND GREEKS ALSO HAD DIFFICULTIES WITH THE COMMISSIONS'S PROPOSALS FOR CEREALS.

3. SUDHOFF ADDED THAT THE VITAL INTERESTS OF GERMAN AGRICULTURE WERE AT STAKE IN THE CEREAL PRICE NEGOTIATIONS. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WOULD AGREE TO A SENSIBLE SOLUTION. BUT A POINT HAD NOT BEEN REACHED YESTERDAY IN BRUSSELS AT WHICH KIECHLE COULD SAY THAT VITAL GERMAN INTERESTS HAD BEEN MET.

4. IN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS SUDHOFF SAID THAT DECISION-TAKING WOULD BE DISCUSSED AT THE MILAN EUROPEAN COUNCIL. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAD A CLEAR POSITION ON MAJORITY VOTING.

5. SUDHOFF ADDED THAT KOHL WOULD ONLY AGREE TO AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE (IE ON EUROPEAN UNION) IF ALL TEN EC PARTNERS GAVE A CLEAR MANDATE FOR IT. KOHL EXPECTED BROAD AGREEMENT ON THIS POINT.

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