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CONFIDENTIAL

FM THE HAGUE 021635Z DEC 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 305 OF 02 DECEMBER

INFO IMMEDIATE UKREP BRUSSELS, COPENHAGEN

IMMEDIATE

ADVANCE COPY

MY TELNO 301: EUROPEAN COUNCIL 3/4 DECEMBER

1. I UNDERSTAND FROM POSTHUMUS MEYJES THAT LUBBERS IS KEEN THAT THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL SHOULD BE SEEN TO ACT TO FOLLOW UP ITS OWN DECISIONS. THUS HE WILL BE PREPARED TO ANNOUNCE A YOUTH EMPLOYMENT SCHEME AS CONSEQUENT UPON THE MARCH COUNCIL. HE WILL ALSO BE FIRM ON NOT BREACHING THE 1% CEILING, IF THIS SHOULD COME UP.

2. IF THERE IS FULL DISCUSSION ABOUT FISH (UKREP BRUSSELS TELNO 4607), THE DUTCH WILL BE FIRM, THOUGH THEY ARE CONCERNED THAT THIS COULD LEAD TO DETAILED REQUESTS FROM THE DANES FOR E.G. MORE MACKEREL, POINTS WHICH THEY FEEL MAY BE DIFFICULT TO HANDLE IN THE COUNCIL.

3. POSTHUMUS MEYJES SAID THAT HE FELT IT WAS PERFECTLY REASONABLE

3. POSTHUMUS MEYJES SAID THAT HE FELT IT WAS PERFECTLY REASONABLE FOR US TO ARGUE (PARA 6 OF MY TELNO 301) THAT WE NEEDED A NEW AND EARLY DEADLINE FOR THE UK BUDGET PROBLEM AND THE DUTCH WOULD SUPPORT THIS. BUT HE FEARED THAT INSISTENCE ON MARCH WOULD MAKE IT EASIER FOR THE FRENCH TO TAKE A VERY HARD LINE.

4. ON EC/US RELATIONS, POSHUMUS MEYJES HOPED THERE WOULD NOT BE DETAILED DISCUSSION BECAUSE OF THE FRENCH. HE THOUGHT THE COMMISSION WERE PROCEEDING ON THE RIGHT LINES AND FELT THAT DISCUSSION IN THE COUNCIL WOULD ONLY BE LIKELY TO TIE THE COMMISSION'S HANDS AND MAKE THEIR TASK MORE DIFFICULT. THORN WOULD BE ABLE TO REPORT ON THE COMMISSION'S DISCUSSIONS WITH THE AMERICANS TO THE GENERAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL IN MID-DECEMBER.

5. SCHULTZ WILL BE COMING TO THE HAGUE ON 11 DECEMBER AND WILL LUNCH WITH LUBBERS. IN ADDITION TO SECURITY QUESTIONS, EC/US RELATIONS ARE ON THE AGENDA.

MANSFIELD

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