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FM THE HAGUE 300945Z NOV 84
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 395 OF 30 NOVEMBER
AND TO ROUTINE INFO UKREP BRUSSELS, DUBLIN

[FRAME EXTERNAL]

EUROPEAN COUNCIL : DUBLIN 3/4 DECEMBER : DUTCH OBJECTIVES

SUMMARY

1. THE DUTCH HOPE THAT NEXT WEEK'S EUROPEAN COUNCIL WILL RESOLVE THE OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS OVER ENLARGEMENT (PARTICULARLY WINE), TAKE STEPS TO IMPROVE CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELDS OF RESEARCH AND NEW TECHNOLOGY (TO MEET THE CHALLENGE OF COMPETITION FROM THE US AND JAPAN AND OF LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYMENT) AND TO CONTINUE PREPARATIONS FOR THE RELAUNCH OF THE COMMUNITY.

DETAIL

2. WITH LUBBERS AND VAN DEN BROEK IN PORTUGAL, IT IS DIFFICULT TO GET AN AUTHORITATIVE ACCOUNT OF DUTCH OBJECTIVES IN DUBLIN. BUT A RECENT MEETING OF THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF THE SECOND CHAMBER ATTENDED BY THEM BOTH, PROVIDED SOME USEFUL POINTERS.

3. FIRST, THEY HOPE THAT THE BACK OF THE ENLARGEMENT NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE BROKEN WITH AN AGREEMENT ON WINE LEADING TO COMPROMISES ON THE OTHER OUTSTANDING DOSSIERS. BUT THEY DO NOT, IN VAN DEN BROEK'S WORDS, WANT THE COUNCIL TO BE DEVOTED TO DISCUSSING 'SARDINES AND TOMATO PASTE'. SECONDLY, LUBBERS WILL URGE THE CREATION OF A 'TECHNOLOGICAL COMMUNITY' DESIGNED TO PROMOTE IMPROVED CO-OPERATION AMONGST THE TEN IN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT; THEY SEE EUROPE AS AN ALSO-RAN IN THE TECHNOLOGICAL RACE, WITH DAMAGING IMPLICATIONS FOR THE LONG-TERM PROSPECTS OF EUROPEAN INDUSTRY AND IN PARTICULAR EMPLOYMENT IN THE COMMUNITY. GOSSSES (MFA) SAID THAT DUTCH MINISTERS HAD PARTICULARLY IN MIND THE THREAT TO THE EUROPEAN CONSUMER ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY FROM JAPAN BUT HAD NOT YET DECIDED WHAT SPECIFIC COMMUNITY MEASURES WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO COUNTER THIS.

4. THIRDLY, THE DUTCH WILL BE LOOKING TO THE COUNCIL TO GIVE A GENERAL STEER TO THE DOOGE COMMITTEE TO ENSURE THAT ITS REPORT TO THE MARCH EUROPEAN COUNCIL IS ALONG THE DESIRED LINES. THEY SHARE OUR VIEW THAT MUCH STILL NEEDS TO BE DONE TO ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVES LAID DOWN IN THE EXISTING TREATIES. PARTICULAR DUTCH CONCERNS ARE THE INTERNAL MARKET AND TRANSPORT; ON THE LATTER LUBBERS WILL PRESS FOR INCLUSION OF A TEXT CALLING FOR A SPECIFIC TIMETABLE FOR DECISIONS, BUT ARE UNLIKELY TO RESIST PROPOSALS FOR A NEW TREATY OR AN INTER-GOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE IF THESE ARE PRESSED BY OTHERS. THEY

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AGREE THAT THE FONTAINEBLEAU AGREEMENT - PARTICULARLY ON BUDGETARY MATTERS - MUST NOT BE UNDERMINED AND ARE WORRIED THAT CURRENT DIFFICULTIES WITH THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT MAY SPILL OVER INTO THE COUNCIL : BUT THEY SEE A REAL NEED FOR INSTITUTIONAL REFORM IF THE COMMUNITY IS TO BE REINVIGORATED IN THE LONGER TERM : THEY FEEL THAT INCREASED USE OF MAJORITY VOTING IS ESSENTIAL, THAT THE COMMISSION SHOULD RETURN TO ITS ORIGINAL ROLE AS EXECUTOR OF THE COUNCIL'S DECISIONS AND THAT THE POWERS OF THE PARLIAMENT MUST EVENTUALLY BE STRENGTHENED (PERHAPS IN THE LEGISLATIVE FIELD).

CHAPMAN

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