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PARIS, ROME, THE HAGUE

DUBLIN EUROPEAN COUNCIL: GERMAN PRESS REACTION

SUMMARY

1. GERMAN REPORTING IS DOMINATED BY THE AGREEMENT ON WINE. KOHL GETS A GOOD PRESS FOR DEFENDING GERMAN INTERESTS. EDITORS NOTE THE BETTER ATMOSPHERE AT DUBLIN THAN AT RECENT EUROPEAN COUNCILS, BUT FIND THE OUTCOME UNINSPIRING, AND THE ISSUES COVERED MOSTLY TOO TRIVIAL FOR HEADS OF GOVERNMENT. LITTLE COMMENT ON THE DOOGÉ COMMITTEE AND EUROPEAN UNION, THOUGH SOME EDITORS CALL FOR A TWO-SPEED EUROPE.

DETAIL

2. TODAY'S GERMAN PRESS IS UNENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE OUTCOME OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL, THOUGH RATHER LESS GLOOMY THAN BEFORE AND DURING THE TALKS, WHICH WERE DESCRIBED BY A SOURCE IN THE GERMAN DELEGATION AFTER THE FIRST DAY AS "VERY, VERY BAD". REPORTING CONCENTRATES ON THE CONFLICT BETWEEN ITALY AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OVER WINE. CHANCELLOR KOHL GETS A GOOD PRESS FOR DEFENDING THE INTERESTS OF GERMAN WINE-GROWERS AGAINST ATTEMPTS TO CURTAIL ENRICHMENT. HE IS HELD TO HAVE GIVEN A GOOD ACCOUNT OF HIMSELF AND TO HAVE SURPRISED HIS PARTNERS WITH HIS COMMAND OF THE DETAILS OF THE PROBLEM, BASED ON HIS EXPERIENCE AS PRIME MINISTER OF RHINELAND-PALATINATE.

3. PAPANDEOU'S DEMANDS ON INTEGRATED MEDITERRANEAN PROGRAMMES AND THEIR LINK WITH ENLARGEMENT ARE REPORTED BRIEFLY IN MOST PAPERS, AS ARE THE AGREEMENT ON BUDGET DISCIPLINE, AND THE OUTCOME OF DISCUSSION OF THE DOOGÉ COMMITTEE REPORT.

4. A NUMBER OF COMMENTATORS OBSERVE THAT THE ATMOSPHERE AT DUBLIN WAS BETTER THAN AT RECENT EUROPEAN COUNCILS, AND THAT THE PRIME MINISTER AND HER DELEGATION APPEARED TO BE IN PARTICULARLY GOOD FORM. SOME PAPERS POINT UP THE CONTRAST WITH THE GERMAN DELEGATION, WHICH FELT UNDER PRESSURE ON WINE, AND APPARENTLY COMPLAINED IN THE CORRIDORS THAT THE GERMANS WERE ONCE AGAIN BEING ASKED TO PAY FOR A SOLUTION TO COMMUNITY PROBLEMS.

5. A RECURRENT THEME IN EDITORIAL COMMENT IS THAT THE COMMUNITY CANNOT CONTINUE AS AT PRESENT, CRIPPLED FINANCIALLY BY AGRICULTURAL SURPLUSES AND UNABLE TO RESOLVE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN MEMBER STATES THROUGH NORMAL COUNCIL PROCEDURES. A NUMBER OF EDITORS FIND IT ABSURD THAT HEADS OF GOVERNMENT SHOULD HAVE SPENT HOURS DISCUSSING ADDITIVES TO WINE, RATHER THAN ADDRESSING MAJOR STRATEGIC ISSUES.

6. THERE IS SURPRISINGLY LITTLE EDITORIAL DISCUSSION OF THE DOOGUE COMMITTEE AND EUROPEAN UNION. HELD IN THE FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE EMPHASISES THE NEED FOR PRAGMATIC IMPROVEMENTS RATHER THAN INSTITUTIONAL CHANGES, AND ARGUES FOR THE RETENTION OF THE LUXEMBOURG COMPROMISE. HE SEES THE WAY AHEAD AS A DE FACTO TWO-SPEED EUROPE, IN WHICH PARIS AND BONN SET THE PACE. OTHER PAPERS (EG WELT, GENERAL ANZEIGER, FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU) CLAIM THAT BRITAIN WILL NOT BE ABLE TO AGREE TO EUROPEAN UNION, AND THAT A TWO-SPEED EUROPE IS THEREFORE THE ANSWER. HHLAU IN DIE WELT SAYS THAT THE PRIME MINISTER ASKS PROVOCATIVELY WHAT EUROPEAN UNION MEANS, AND ARGUES FOR MORE SUBSTANCE IN COOPERATION WITHIN THE EXISTING FRAMEWORK, RATHER THAN CHASING AFTER SHADOWS. KOHL, HE SAYS, SENSES HER RESISTANCE, AND IS PREPARED TO WAIT UNTIL JUNE RATHER THAN FORCING THE PACE IN THE "PSYCHOLOGICALLY SENSITIVE" BATTLE FOR THE SOUL OF EUROPE.

BULLARD

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