

# Restricted

RESTRICTED

FRAME AGRICULTURE

FM PARIS

TO DESKBY 211230Z FCO

TELNO 326

OF 211113Z MARCH 86

INFO IMMEDIATE UKREP BRUSSELS,

INFO PRIORITY OTHER EC POSTS, WASHINGTON AND WELLINGTON

[COLAZ]

## NEW FRENCH AGRICULTURE MINISTER

1. PARIS TELNO 324 OF 20 MARCH REPORTED THE APPOINTMENT OF FRANCOIS GUILLAUME AS AGRICULTURE MINISTER IN THE NEW FRENCH GOVERNMENT. GUILLAUME IS WELL KNOWN AS PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERATION NATIONALE DES SYNDICATS D'EXPLIITANTS AGRICOLES (FNSEA), A POST HE HAS HELD SINCE 1979. HIS APPOINTMENT IS SEEN AS CONFIRMATION THAT A CHIRAC GOVERNMENT WILL ACCORD GREATER NATIONAL PRIORITY TO AGRICULTURE AND TAKE A TOUGH LINE IN DEFENCE OF FRENCH INTERESTS IN THE CAP.

2. GUILLAUME IS 54 YEARS OLD, COMES FROM A FARMING FAMILY, AND HIMSELF FARMS A MIXED HOLDING OF 115 HECTARES (INCLUDING DAIRYING) IN LORRAINE. HE IS MARRIED WITH 4 CHILDREN. HE HAS ACHIEVED PUBLIC PROMINENCE THROUGH HIS TENURE OF OFFICE IN THE PROFESSIONAL FARMING ORGANISATIONS, FIRST AS SECRETARY OF THE CENTRE NATIONAL DES JEUNES AGRICULTEURS, THEREAFTER AS SECRETARY-GENERAL, SUBSEQUENTLY PRESIDENT, OF THE FNSEA. HIS REPUTATION AS A EUROPEAN FARM LEADER HAS BEEN BUILT ON HIS STOUT DEFENCE OF THE PRINCIPAL TENETS OF THE CAP AND HIS ABILITY TO BRING FRENCH, OFTEN EUROPEAN, FARMERS ON TO THE STREETS IN LARGE SCALE DEMONSTRATIONS. HE HAS RECENTLY CAST HIMSELF IN THE ROLE OF DEFENDER OF EUROPEAN FARMING INTERESTS AGAINST THE THREAT OF AMERICAN ENCROACHMENT ON THE EC'S TRADITIONAL EXPORT MARKETS. A CLOSE COLLEAGUE OF CHIRAC, GUILLAUME HAD DIFFICULT RELATIONS WITH THE 3 AGRICULTURE MINISTERS OF THE SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT, MOST NOTABLY WITH MME CRESSON.

3. AGRICULTURE MINISTRY STAFF FULLY EXPECT THEIR NEW MINISTER TO ATTEND THE AGRICULTURE COUNCIL ON 24/25 MARCH. GUILLAUME WILL NOT PROVE AN EASY COLLEAGUE THERE. HE TAKES ON HIS ROLE AS AGRICULTURE MINISTER WITH A CONSIDERABLE LEGACY OF COMMITMENTS TO THE DEFENCE OF FRENCH AGRICULTURE AND RESISTANCE TO REFORM OF THE CAP AND CONTROL OF AGRICULTURAL EXPENDITURE. AS FORESHADOWED IN THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN, NEW ZEALAND IMPORTS ARE LIKELY TO BE ONE OF HIS SPECIAL TARGETS. FRENCH FARMERS WHO HAVE GENERALLY WELCOMED HIS APPOINTMENT WILL EXPECT GUILLAUME TO PROVE A VERY TOUGH NEGOTIATOR ON THEIR BEHALF. HIS PERFORMANCE ON THE PRICES PACKAGE (SEE PARIS TELNO 187

# Restricted

1 of

# Restricted

OF 19 FEBRUARY FOR GUILLAUME'S REACTION TO THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSALS) WILL PROVE AN IMMEDIATE TEST OF STRENGTH FOR HIM. A STRONG PERSONALITY, BORDERING ON THE AGGRESSIVE IN NEGOTIATIONS, GUILLAUME NONETHELESS HAS A GOOD DEAL OF PERSONAL CHARM.

4. NO JUNIOR AGRICULTURE MINISTER HAS BEEN APPOINTED. I RECOMMEND THAT MR JOPLING SHOULD WRITE BOTH TO M. NALLET AND TO M. GUILLAUME.

5. FCO PLEASE PASS IMMEDIATE TO PS MR JOPLING, PS SIR MICHAEL FRANKLIN, ANDREWS AND HADLEY, MAFF.

FRETWELL

EUROPEAN POLITICAL  
WED.

-2-  
Restricted