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TO ROUTINE FCO
TELNO 1303
OF 161815Z DECEMBER 88
INFO ROUTINE EC POSTS

CORRECTED VERSION FRAME MONETARY

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EUROPEAN MONETARY UNION

SUMMARY

1. BEREGOVOY SETS FRENCH PRIORITIES FOR EUROPEAN MONETARY UNION IN TERMS OF MANAGING THE ECU AGAINST EXTERNAL CURRENCIES.

DETIAL

2. AT A PRESS CONFERENCE ON 15 DECEMBER BEREGOVOY (MINISTER OF THE ECONOMY) SAID THAT FRANCE'S TOP PRIORITY IN THE DEBATE ON MONETARY UNION WAS TO ARRIVE AT A COMMON MANAGEMENT OF THE ECU AGAINST THE DOLLAR AND THE YEN, ADDING THAT THIS WAS THE POSITION TAKEN BY LAROSIERE ON THE DELORS GROUP BEREGOVOY SAID THAT HE DID NOT THINK PEOPLE WERE YET READY FOR A EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK WITH ISSUING POWERS. THE MANAGEMENT OF THE ECU WOULD BE THROUGH A FUND - OR A BANK - WHICH WOULD HAVE CONTROL OF PART OF THE EXCHANGE RESERVES OF EACH PARTICIPATING COUNTRY. THE MANAGEMENT OF INTRA-COMMUNITY PARITIES WOULD REMAIN THE RESPONSIBILITY OF NATIONAL CENTRAL BANKS.

LLEWELLYN SMITH

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