

CONFIDENTIAL

GRS 340

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FRAME GENERAL

FM DUBLIN 191508Z JUN 84

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 275 OF 19 JUNE 1984

INFO IMMEDIATE PARIS

INFO SAVING ATHENS BONN BRUSSELS UKREP BRUSSELS COPENHAGEN
THE HAGUE LUXEMBOURG AND ROME

MY TELNO 260 PARA 3: THE TAOISEACH'S VISIT TO PARIS

1. SEAN O'HEIGEARTAIGH, DEPT OF THE TAOISEACH, (PLEASE PROTECT) HAS GIVEN US AN INFORMAL (SECOND-HAND) ACCOUNT OF THE TAOISEACH'S TETE-A-TETE DISCUSSIONS WITH PRESIDENT MITTERRAND, EMPHASISING THAT THE CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE TWO HEADS OF GOVERNMENT CONSISTED OF AN EXCHANGE OF GENERALITIES. (AMBASSADOR DILLON HAD BEEN THE NOTE-TAKER). THE FOLLOWING IS THE GIST OF THE TAOISEACH'S SUBSEQUENT REMARKS TO O'HEIGEARTAIGH.

2. BUDGETARY IMBALANCES: PRESIDENT MITTERRAND GAVE NO HINTS THAT THE FRENCH WERE WILLING TO MOVE FROM 1000 MECU BUT HAD TOLD THE TAOISEACH THAT THERE HAD BEEN LONG DETAILED BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE PRESIDENCY AND THE UK WHICH WERE BEING CONTINUED IN LUXEMBOURG BETWEEN M. CHEYSSON AND YOURSELF. THE MODALITIES WERE COMPLEX AND A NUMBER OF POSSIBILITIES WERE STILL BEING DISCUSSED. (FRENCH OFFICIALS IN THE MARGINS WERE MORE OPTIMISTIC THAN THEY HAD BEEN AND PUT THE CHANCES OF AGREEMENT AT 50:50.)

3. NEW COMMISSION: PRESIDENT MITTERRAND HAD AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE RIDICULOUS TO HAVE 17 COMMISSIONERS SHARING AT MOST 8 OR 9 JOBS BUT HE WOULD ACQUIESCE IF THE GERMANS AND ITALIANS INSISTED ON SENDING TWO COMMISSIONERS FROM EACH OF THE LARGER MEMBER STATES. IT WAS THE GERMAN TURN TO PROVIDE THE PRESIDENT OF THE COMMISSION BUT CHANCELLOR KOHL HAD NOT YET PROPOSED A CANDIDATE ALTHOUGH BIEDENKOPF'S NAME HAD BEEN FLOATED.

4. PRESIDENT MITTERRAND HAD REFERRED TO THE POLITICAL COMMITMENT TO ENLARGEMENT AND HAD SPOKEN VAGUELY AND INCONCLUSIVELY ABOUT PREPARATIONS FOR A CONFERENCE ON EUROPEAN UNION. GENERALITIES WERE SIMILARLY EXCHANGED ON CENTRAL AMERICA, WEU AND THE PROBLEM OF UNEMPLOYMENT.

FCO PLEASES PASS TO SAVING ADDRESSEES.

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(REPEATED AS REQUESTED)

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