

BUFO 008/13

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GRS 320

CONFIDENTIAL

FM BRUSSELS 13/1545Z MAY 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 176 OF 13 MAY

INFO IMMEDIATE EC POSTS UKDEL NATO UKMIS NEW YORK

YOUR TELNO 122 TO ATHENS : FALKLANDS - RENEWAL OF SANCTIONS

1. THE BELGIAN PRIME MINISTER RECEIVED ME THIS AFTERNOON (13 MAY) SO THAT I COULD BOTH MAKE AN INITIAL CALL AND DELIVER THE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE.

2. WHEN WE REACHED THE FALKLANDS ISSUE MR MARGENS ASKED A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CURRENT SITUATION WHICH SUGGESTED (AS WE

ER

(152)

HAD BEEN TOLD EARLIER BY OFFICIALS THAT HE IS NOT FOLLOWING EVENTS IN GREAT DETAIL AND IS LEAVING THE BELGIAN RUNNING ON THIS LARGELY TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER. I EXPLAINED HMG'S POLICY AND THE PRESENT STATE OF NEGOTIATIONS IN GENERAL TERMS AS NECESSARY, AND ASSURED HIM IN ANSWER TO FURTHER QUESTIONS THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY HAD THE BROAD SUPPORT OF THE COUNTRY AS A WHOLE, DESPITE THE PUBLICITY GIVEN TO SOME DISSENTING VOICES.

3. I THEN HANDED OVER THE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE. I ACCOMPANIED THIS WITH A REFERENCE TO THE APPRECIATION WHICH WE HAD ALREADY EXPRESSED TO TINDEMANS FOR BELGIUM'S SUPPORT IN BOTH HER NATIONAL AND HER PRESIDENCY CAPACITIES. I ALSO DREW MR MARTENS' ATTENTION TO THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSAL AND TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT'S RESOLUTION YESTERDAY FOR CONTINUATION OF SACTIONS. I SAID WE HOPED THIS WOULD HELP TO OVERCOME THE APPARENT DOUBTS FROM THE IRISH AND DANISH SIDE, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF THE COURSE OF YESTERDAY'S DEBATE IN THE FOLKETING (COPENHAGEN TELNO 125), WHICH HE HAD EVIDENTLY NOT YET HEARD OF.

4. MR MARTENS SAID BELGIUM HAD SUPPORTED US WHOLEHEARTEDLY OVER THE FALKLANDS AND WOULD OF COURSE CONTINUE TO DO SO . I THANKED HIM.

5. IN DISCUSSING THE MACHINERY NECESSARY FOR RENENWAL MARTENS SAID THAT TINDEMANS WAS OF COURSE AT PRESENT IN LIBREVILLE. TINDEMANS HAD SUGGESTED BEFORE HE LEFT THAT BELGIAN MINISTERS SHOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ON SATURDAY NIGHT OR SUNDAY MORNING IF THAT SHOULD PROVE NECESSARY. MARTENS RECALLED THAT THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS HAD MET SPECIALLY IN ORDER TO APPROVE THE IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS DURING THE EASTER HOLIDAYS.

6. SEE SEPARATE TELEGRAM FOR DISCUSSION OF BUDGET/CAP ISSUES - NOT TO ALL.

JACKSON

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SEMT/RECD 131600Z PD/HK