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FM BRUSSELS 15/1930Z MAY 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 180 OF 15 MAY

INFO IMMEDIATE ALL ECPOSTS WASHINGTON UKMIS NEW YORK UKDEL NATO

OTTAWA OSLO CANBERRA WELLINGTON ROUTINE UKDEL STRASBOURG TOKYO

EUROPEAN POLITICAL COOPERATION : POLITICAL COMMITTEE, BRUSSELS
15 MAY

FALKLANDS : COMMUNITY SANCTIONS

SUMMARY

1. NO AGREEMENT TO PROLONG SANCTIONS. MINISTERS TO
DISCUSS BUT TIME NOT SETTLED (TINDMANS IS TELEPHONING GENSCHER
AND CHEYSSON TO URGE THEM TO ACCEPT SUNDAY 16 MAY). FRENCH AND
GERMANS SAID DECISION BETTER TAKEN AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL. IRISH AND
ITALIANS HAD INSTRUCTIONS WHICH DID NOT ALLOW THEM TO AGREE AT THIS
STAGE TO RENEWAL OF SANCTIONS. DENMARK UNDER FIRM INSTRUCTIONS NOT
TO AGREE TO ACTION UNDER ARTICLE 113, NOR TO DISCUSS WAYS AROUND
THIS PROBLEM EITHER IN THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE OR IN COREPER.
STRONG EXPRESSIONS OF SOLIDARITY WITH UK FROM ALL THE OTHERS AND
ALSO FROM FRENCH AND GERMANS. MINIMAL PRESIDENCY STATEMENT TO THE
PRESS.

DETAIL

BULLARD SPOKE USING NOTES IN MIFT. A TOUR DE TABLE ON RENEWAL OF SANCTIONS FOLLOWED.

3. DYVIG (DENMARK) SAID THAT IN THE LIGHT OF EFFORTS IN TRAIN TO FIND A PEACEFUL SOLUTION HIS INSTRUCTIONS WERE TO AGREE ON PROLONGATION OF SANCTIONS IF THERE WAS A GENERAL WISH AMONG THE TEN TO DO SO. HOWEVER THIS COULD NOT BE ON THE BASIS OF ARTICLE 113. HIS GOVERNMENT HAD GONE ALONG WITH USE OF THIS ARTICLE ON 10 APRIL ONLY BECAUSE OF THE URGENCY OF THE SITUATION. IT HAD SINCE CREATED SERIOUS PARLIAMENTARY PROBLEMS FOR THE DANISH GOVERNMENT AND IT WAS A POLITICAL FACT THAT PROLONGATION COULD ONLY BE ON THE BASIS OF ARTICLE 224. DENMARK HAD PREPARED A DRAFT LAW WHICH COULD BE PASSED IN TWO DAYS. THE POSITION HAD NOT BEEN HELPED BY THE COMMISSION'S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT IT WOULD PROPOSE RENEWAL OF SANCTIONS. AT VILLERS-LE-TEMPLE THE DANISH FOREIGN MINISTER HAD SPECIFICALLY ASKED THE COMMISSION NOT TO MAKE SUCH AN ANNOUNCEMENT.

4. PFEFFER (FRG) SAID THAT HIS INSTRUCTIONS FROM GENSCHER WERE TO SAY

A) THAT A DECISION TO PROLONG SANCTIONS SHOULD BE TAKEN AT THE LAST POSSIBLE MOMENT, IE ON 17 MAY;

B) THAT MINISTERS THEMSELVES SHOULD TAKE THE DECISION AND

C) THAT IN TAKING THAT DECISION THE FRG WOULD BE GUIDED BY THE SAME CONSIDERATIONS IT HAD TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT SINCE THE START OF THE CONFLICT.

AS AN INDICATION OF WHAT THESE WERE HE QUOTED GENSCHER'S REMARK AT VILLERS-LE-TEMPLE THAT QUOTE A FRIEND IS A FRIEND, A PARTNER IS A PARTNER, AN ALLY IS AN ALLY UNQUOTE.

5. KATOPODIS (GREECE) SAID HIS GOVERNMENT'S POSITION WAS UNCHANGED. THERE HAD BEEN AN ILLEGAL INVASION, USE OF FORCE AND OCCUPATION. ALL POSSIBLE PRESSURES SHOULD BE BOUGHT TO BEAR ON ARGENTINA TO SEEK A POLITICAL SOLUTION. GREECE WOULD THEREFORE SUPPORT A ONE MONTH EXTENSION. EFFORTS SHOULD MEANWHILE CONTINUE FOR A POLITICAL SOLUTION AND ANY INITIATIVE TO THAT END SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED.

6. DUPONT (FRANCE) CONFIRMED FRENCH SOLIDARITY WITH THE UK AND THEIR WISH TO SEE SCR 502 IMPLEMENTED. HOWEVER FRANCE WISHED THAT SOLIDARITY WITH THE UK SHOULD BE SOLIDARITY OF THE TEN. THE CRISIS IN THE FALKLANDS SHOULD NOT LEAD TO A CRISIS IN THE COMMUNITY. MINISTERS SHOULD THEREFORE DISCUSS THE QUESTION AND REACH A CONSENSUS. HE SUPPORTED THE GERMAN PROPOSAL OF A MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION ON MONDAY 17 MAY.

7. MCKERNAN (IRELAND) RECALLED IRISH STATEMENTS OF 2 AND 4 MAY AND SAID THAT THE IRISH BELIEVED THAT THEIR REACTIVATION OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL HAD BEEN QUOTE OBJECTIVELY UNQUOTE HELPFUL. AT VILLERS-LE-TEMPLE THE IRISH FOREIGN MINISTER HAD EXPLAINED THAT SANCTIONS SHOULD BE DROPPED SINCE THEY NOW COULD BE SEEN AS OPERATING IN SUPPORT OF MILITARY MEASURES. HIS INSTRUCTIONS WERE NOT TO AGREE TO A PROLONGATION. BUT HE COULD AGREE TO A DISCUSSION BY MINISTERS. HE AGREED WITH DYVIG'S CRITICISM OF THE COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENT.

8. BOTTAI (ITALY), ECHOING A GENERAL SENTIMENT, THANKED THE UK FOR THEIR THOROUGH BRIEFINGS ESPECIALLY THOSE IN NEW YORK ON 13 AND 14 MAY. COLOMBO ALSO WISHED TO SEE A DECISION DELAYED AS LONG AS POSSIBLE IE UNTIL MONDAY EVENING. HE UNDERSTOOD THE IMPORTANCE OF REAFFIRMING POLITICAL SOLIDARITY WITH THE UK AND THOUGHT THAT MINISTERS SHOULD REINFORCE THEIR CONDEMNATION OF ARGENTINA AND THEIR EMPHASIS ON SCR 502. THEY SHOULD ALSO MAINTAIN AND IF POSSIBLE STRENGTHEN THE ARMS EMBARGO.

9. AS FAR AS ECONOMIC SANCTIONS WERE CONCERNED THERE HAD BEEN A VIGOROUS DEBATE IN THE ITALIAN PARLIAMENT. THERE WERE MANY IN ITALY WHO THOUGHT THAT SANCTIONS HAD ONLY TENDED TO UNITE THE ARGENTINE PEOPLE AROUND THE JUNTA. THESE CRITICISMS HAD BECOME STRONGER OVER THE PAST MONTH AND HAD BEEN REINFORCED BY ARGENTINE PROPAGANDA. BOTH THE EXTREME LEFT AND THE EXTREME RIGHT NOW TOOK THIS POSITION AS A RESULT OF GROUND SWELL AMONG THEIR MEMBERS. EVEN AMONG THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS THERE WAS NOW A MAJORITY AGAINST SANCTIONS. THE ARGUMENT OF THESE GROUPS WAS THAT THIS WAS A MOMENT TO MAKE A FAVOURABLE GESTURE OF UNDERSTANDING TOWARDS ARGENTINA WHICH WOULD ENCOURAGE A PEACEFUL SOLUTION. THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT HAD NOT TAKEN ITS DECISION BUT HE HAD BEEN ASKED BY HIS MINISTER TO GIVE A FRANK ACCOUNT OF THE DOMESTIC SITUATION.

10. ON A PERSONAL BASIS BOTTAI WONDERED WHETHER IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE FOR THE COMMUNITY TO TAKE A DECISION ON MORE SELECTIVE SANCTIONS, OR TEMPORARILY TO SUSPEND SANCTIONS WITH A DECISION TO REEXAMINE AND POSSIBLY REINTRODUCE THEM LATER. THIS COULD BE PRESENTED AS A GESTURE OF GOODWILL TOWARDS THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT WITH THE INTENTION OF GIVING THEM AN OPPORTUNITY TO CLIMB DOWN WITHOUT LOSS OF FACE. MINISTERS SHOULD BE PREPARED TO CONSIDER THIS AND OTHER FORMULAE.

11. BLOSS (LUXEMBOURG) CONFIRMED SOLIDARITY WITH THE UK AND SAID THAT HE COULD AGREE TO SANCTIONS THEN AND THERE. BUT LUXEMBOURG STILL WISHED TO SEE A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT. JACOBSON (NETHERLANDS) WAS ALSO READY TO AGREE SANCTIONS FOR A FURTHER MONTH. ANY WEAKENING WOULD REDUCE THE CHANCE OF A PEACEFUL SOLUTION. EVEN A DELAY IN TAKING A DECISION COULD GIVE THE WRONG SIGNAL TO ARGENTINA. CAHEN (FOR BELGIUM) SAID HIS GOVERNMENT CONTINUED TO SUPPORT THE UK AND WISHED TO SEE A PEACEFUL SOLUTION BASED ON SCR 532. HXQFCSRTEMPSQ

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DELAY IN TAKING A DECISION COULD GIVE THE WRONG SIGNAL TO ARGENTINA. CAHEN (FOR BELGIUM) SAID HIS GOVERNMENT CONTINUED TO SUPPORT THE UK AND WISHED TO SEE A PEACEFUL SOLUTION BASED ON SCR 982. HE WAS READY TO AGREE THAT SANCTIONS SHOULD BE PROLONGED FOR ONE MONTH OR MORE.

12. JENKINS (COMMISSION) SAID THAT THE COMMISSION HAD TAKEN ITS DECISION TO PROPOSE THE EXTENSION OF SANCTIONS AT THE LAST POSSIBLE MOMENT. IT WAS TO BE INTERROGATED ABOUT THIS IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND IT WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE COMMISSION NOT TO STATE ITS POSITION. THE COMMISSION BELIEVED THAT THE TECHNICAL REASONS FOR CONTINUING ON THE BASIS OF ARTICLE 113 WERE STRONG. A SWITCH TO ARTICLE 224 COULD CREATE A GAP SINCE PROBABLY ONLY DENMARK WAS READY TO LEGISLATE IMMEDIATELY. DISCUSSION OF THIS POINT WAS HOWEVER FOR COREPER. HE THOUGHT THE IDEAS MENTIONED BY BOTTAI WERE TECHNICALLY POSSIBLE BUT POLITICALLY UNDESIRABLE.

13. IN DISCUSSION ON DATES, BULLARD SAID THAT THE UK SAW NO NEED TO WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MOMENT. WITH SUPPORT FROM OTHERS HE MADE THE POINT THAT BY DELAYING TOO LONG THE COMMUNITY MIGHT EFFECTIVELY BE TAKING TO ALLOW SANCTIONS TO LAPSE.

14. IN PRIVATE DISCUSSION AFTERWARDS JENKINS (COMMISSION) SAID HE THOUGHT THAT A SOLUTION TO THE DANISH DIFFICULTIES MIGHT BE POSSIBLE BY WHICH A DECISION WOULD BE TAKEN UNDER ARTICLE 113 BUT THE DANES IN PARALLEL WOULD BE ALLOWED TO TAKE NATIONAL MEASURES. HE PROMISED TO BRIEF THORN ON THIS POSSIBILITY. HE WAS INCLINED NOT TO TRY THIS ON THE DANES BEFOREHAND, BUT RATHER TO SPRING IT ON THEM AT THE MINISTERIAL MEETING IF AGREEMENT COULD BE REACHED ON NO OTHER BASIS.

15. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE PRESIDENCY SHOULD TELL THE PRESS ONLY THAT THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE HAD MET TO PREPARE FOR THE MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION ON THE MEASURES AGAINST ARGENTINE IMPORTS BEFORE THEIR EXPIRY.

JACKSON