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TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 2821 OF 21 SEPTEMBER

RC
PS (6)
Mr POWELL - No 10
DST

(x9)

Mr WILLIAMSON CAB
OFFICE

Mr UNWIN HM TREASURY

PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO ADVANCE ADDRESSEES ONLY
FOR PS TO FOREIGN SECRETARY FROM PS TO CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

IN THE MARGINS OF THE INTERIM COMMITTEE DISCUSSION DE
CLERCQ HAD A PRIVATE TALK THIS MORNING WITH THE CHANCELLOR
ABOUT APPOINTMENTS IN THE NEW COMMISSION.

2. HE MADE CLEAR HIS OWN VERY STRONG DESIRE FOR THE PORTFOLIO OF
FINANCIAL AND MONETARY AFFAIRS.

3. HE RECOGNISED THAT THERE COULD WELL BE DEMAND FOR THIS
POST TO GO TO ONE OF THE BIG COUNTRIES, THOUGHT THAT FRANCE
WOULD CLEARLY NOT HAVE AN ENTITLEMENT, HOPE THAT THE UK
WOULD NOT BE INTERESTED (HE FELT THAT OUR NON-MEMBERSHIP OF
THE ERM WOULD BE AN OBJECTION IN ANY CASE) AND WAS MAINLY
WORRIED ABOUT GERMANY. HIS SUGGESTION WAS THAT GERMANY, WHO
WOULD INSIST ON ONE OF THE PRESTIGE POSTS, WOULD WELCOME
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND HE THOUGHT THIS WOULD BE THE BEST
SOLUTION.

4. IF THE UK WANTED THE BUDGET PORTFOLIO - AND I CONFIRMED
THAT WE WOULD INDEED BE INTERESTED - HE INDICATED THAT HE
WOULD SUPPORT US IF WE COULD SUPPORT HIS INTEREST IN
FINANCIAL AND MONETARY AFFAIRS.

5. A PARTICULAR PROBLEM HE FORESAW ON HIS IDEA OF A GERMAN
FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS WAS HOW TO PLACE ANDRIESEN. HE SAID
THAT THE DANISH GOVERNMENT WERE NOT REPEAT NOT INTERESTED IN
AGRICULTURE. HE REPORTED THAT ANDRIESEN HIMSELF WANTED
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS RATHER THAN AGRICULTURE AND THAT THE DUTCH
GOVERNMENT WAS SPLIT, WITH ONE SCHOOL ANXIOUS FOR

GOVERNMENT WAS SPLIT, WITH ONE SCHOOL ANXIOUS FOR AGRICULTURE AND THE OTHER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS. HE HOPED IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO ENCOURAGE THE FORMER AND THAT WE COULD ACCEPT A DUTCHMAN WITH FINANCIAL BACKGROUND AS A SUITABLE APPOINTEE.

6. HE ALSO SAID THAT NATALI VERY MUCH WANTED AGRICULTURE. I AGREED WITH HIM THAT AN ITALIAN WOULD NOT BE THE MOST HELPFUL CHOICE FOR CONTROL OF EXPENDITURE ON THIS FRONT.

7. I INDICATED INTEREST IN WHAT HE HAD TOLD ME, AND SYMPATHY WITH SEVERAL OF THE POINTS HE HAD MADE, INCLUDING HIS INDICATION OF SUPPORT FOR US ON THE BUDGET PORTFOLIO.

8. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THE PATTERN WHICH EMERGES COULD BE A VERY SATISFACTORY ONE FOR US. IT WOULD PRESUMABLY MEAN GIVING ITALY THE INDUSTRY OR INTERNAL MARKET PORTFOLIO. BUT IF WE COULD GET THE BUDGET, WITH A PROBABLY RELIABLE DUTCHMAN ON AGRICULTURE AND THE BEST QUALIFIED COMMISSIONER ON FINANCIAL AND MONETARY AFFAIRS, I THINK WE COULD BE REASONABLY SATISFIED WITH THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE TOP POSTS.

9. FCO PLEASE ADVANCE TO POWELL (NO.10), WILLIAMSON (CABINET OFFICE) AND UNWIN (HMT).

WRIGHT

NNNN

2/1/2025