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FM UKREP BRUSSELS  
TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELNO 905  
OF 141145Z MARCH 86  
INFO PRIORITY EUROPEAN COMMUNITY POSTS

FRAME EXTERNAL

MY TELNO 739: MEETING BETWEEN COMMISSION AND ARGENTINE FOREIGN MINISTER.

1. I TELEPHONED CHEYSSON ON 13 MARCH ABOUT HIS MEETING NEXT WEEK WITH CAPUTO.

2. AFTER REPEATING OUR CONCERN THAT WE HAD FOUND OUT ABOUT THIS VISIT FROM THE PRESS, I SAID WE WERE LOOKING FOR ASSURANCE ON TWO POINTS:

(I) THAT AT ALL LEVELS OF DISCUSSION WITH THE ARGENTINIANS, INCLUDING THE TALKS BETWEEN HIMSELF AND CAPUTO, THE POINT ABOUT THE COMMUNITY'S DRIVE TO NORMALISE ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL RELATIONS, AND THE ESSENTIAL PRE-CONDITION FOR THAT THAT ARGENTINA TREAT ALL MEMBER STATES IN THE SAME WAY, BE PUT FIRMLY:

(II) THAT THERE WOULD BE NO INSTITUTIONALISATION OF COMMISSION/ARGENTINE CONTACTS UNLESS THAT CONDITION WAS FULFILLED.

3. CHEYSSON SAID HE COULD GIVE FIRM ASSURANCES ON BOTH POINTS. HE WOULD MAKE CLEAR AGAIN, AS HE HAD DONE IN THE PAST, THAT THERE COULD BE NO NEW EC/ARGENTINE AGREEMENT AND NO INSTITUTIONALISATION OF THE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE COMMISSION UNTIL ARGENTINA TREATED ALL MEMBER STATES IN THE SAME WAY.

4. CHEYSSON ADDED THAT THE TALKS WERE LIKELY TO BE PRETTY STICKY. THE ARGENTINES HAD A MAJOR, AND LARGELY JUSTIFIED, COMPLAINT AT THE WAY THE COMMUNITY WAS CAPTURING ITS TRADITIONAL EXPORT MARKETS FOR BEEF, IN EGYPT PARTICULARLY. APART FROM THAT THE MAIN TOPIC WAS LIKELY TO BE DEBT.

HANNAY

(ADVANCED AS REQUESTED)

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