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FM BONN
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 1135
OF 201649Z NOVEMBER 89
INFO ROUTINE UKREP BRUSSELS, PARIS

FRAME ECONOMIC

MY TELNO 1131: ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION

SUMMARY

1. AMBIVALENT STATEMENT BY KOHL AT A PRESS CONFERENCE AFTER THE PARIS SUMMIT.

DETAIL

2. ACCORDING TO A TRANSCRIPT OF CHANCELLOR KOHL'S PRESS CONFERENCE IN PARIS AFTER THE SUMMIT HE ANSWERED THE QUESTION WHETHER THE STRASBOURG SUMMIT SHOULD TAKE CONCRETE STEPS IN THE DIRECTION OF ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION AS FOLLOWS: 'I BELIEVE THAT WE SHALL FIND A SENSIBLE WAY. THERE ARE A WHOLE SERIES OF CONSIDERATIONS. THE TIMETABLE IS ONE THING: ANOTHER IS THE SUBSTANCE OF A MANDATE FOR A GOVERNMENTAL COMMISSION' (PRESUMABLY HE MEANT TO SAY CONFERENCE.) 'WE HAVE THE DELORS REPORT AS A STARTING POINT. BUT THE DELORS REPORT MUST BE SUPPLEMENTED/COMPLETED WITH A SERIES OF VITAL DETAILS, IN OTHER WORDS THE SMALL PRINT, WHICH CAN BE DECISIVE. AND SINCE WE ARE TALKING ABOUT CURRENCY AND ITS STABILITY, ABOUT THE QUESTION OF THE BUNDESBANK'S INDEPENDENCE, I AM OF COURSE EXTREMELY INTERESTED IN HAVING EVERYTHING VERY CAREFULLY CONSIDERED. ON MONETARY ISSUES ONE CANNOT BE LED BY EMOTION.'

3. ASKED WHETHER THE STRASBOURG SUMMIT SHOULD GIVE A CLEAR SIGNAL, KOHL SAID 'THERE IS NO DOUBT AT ALL THAT IN STRASBOURG WE SHALL MARK OUT THE GROUND. THERE ARE IN ANY CASE GOOD REASONS FOR DOING THAT, BUT NOW, IN VIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THE GDR AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA ... IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THAT WE DO NOT SUDDENLY STOP ... OUR POLICY IS NOT 'EITHER OR' BUT 'AS WELL AS' ... ANYONE WHO SAYS THAT WE SHOULD NOT TALK ABOUT EUROPE BUT DEVOTE OURSELVES TO GERMAN AFFAIRS IS BETRAYING THE INTERESTS OF THE GERMANS IN THE OTHER PART OF GERMANY.'

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