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TO IMMEDIATE FCO

PS / PUS

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1078 OF 12 NOVEMBER 1982

PS / M' (Hans)  
PS / W Belstead  
GRT J Bullard

YOUR TELNO 612: CLOSER CONTACTS BETWEEN BRITISH AND FRENCH GOVERNMENT S

*mt*

1. YOU ASKED FOR ADVICE ON HOW WE MIGHT TAKE FORWARD THE AGREEMENT ON CLOSER CONTACTS AND HOW THE FRENCH WILL INTERPRET THE AGREEMENT. YOU ALSO GAVE INSTRUCTIONS THAT THE APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS IN THE FRENCH ADMINISTRATION SHOULD BE CONTACTED IN RELATION TO THE ECONOMIC/COMMUNITY SUBJECTS ON WHICH URGENT ACTION IS REQUIRED.

2. THE RESULTS OF OUR CONTACTS ON THE LATTER POINT ARE AS FOLLOWS:

(A) COMMUNITY BUDGET PROBLEM: MEETING MOREL/HANCOCK. AS REQUESTED BY HANCOCK, MINISTER PROPOSED TO MOREL THAT HE SHOULD VISIT LONDON ON 16, 17 OR 18 NOVEMBER. MOREL REPLIED THAT HE WELCOMED THE SUGGESTION AND SAW THE DESIRABILITY OF A MEETING IN THE WEEK BEGINNING 15 NOVEMBER. UNFORTUNATELY HE WAS MUCH INVOLVED IN WORK FOR THE VERSAILLES TECHNOLOGY GROUP. MOREOVER HE WOULD NEED TO CONSULT OTHERS BECAUSE HIS OWN CONTACTS NEEDED TO BE FITTED INTO THE WIDER FRAMEWORK OF CONSULTATIONS AGREED BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND THE PRIME MINISTER. MOREL, AND MOST OF THE REST OF THE ELYSEE OFFICIALS, ARE NOW TAKING A LONG WEEKEND OFF FOR ARMISTICE DAY

(B) COMERCIAL POLICY

THE MEETING BETWEEN GRAY AND DAVID HAS BEEN PROVISIONALLY FIXED FOR 18 NOVEMBER IN PARIS.

(C) ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SITUATION IN THE COMMUNITY.

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LITTLE (TREASURY) HAS TOLD FINANCIAL COUNSELLOR THAT HE HAS SPOKEN TO JURGENSEN (TRESOR) AND CONFIRMS THAT HE WILL CONSULT THE FRENCH IN THE MARGINS OF THE JUMBO COUNCIL ABOUT THE NEED FOR A BILATERAL BEFORE THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL AND WILL THEN TELEGRAPH THE EMBASSY ACCORDINGLY. WE ASSUME THAT THERE WILL BE DIRECT CONTACTS BETWEEN THE DEPT OF EMPLOYMENT AND THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR ON THE SAME OCCASION TO DISCUSS THE SUGGESTION IN PARA 7 OF TUR.

3. WE AGREE GENERALLY WITH THE GUIDING ELEMENTS LISTED IN PARA 2 OF TUR ALTHOUGH IT WILL NOT BE EASY TO BALANCE THE REQUIREMENTS IN SUB-PARAGRAPH (III). THE AIM SHOULD BE TO ENSURE THAT CERTAIN KEY INDIVIDUALS MEET REGULARLY, THOUGH NOT NECESSARILY AT FIXED INTERVALS, TO TACKLE THE KEY CURRENT SUBJECTS. IF NECESSARY THEY COULD BRING IN SPECIALIST ADVISORS. ON OCCASIONS THEY COULD PROPOSE A MEETING AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL. YOUR INTENTION TO BUILD ON THE EXISTING PATTERN OF BILATERAL RELATIONSHIPS WOULD FIT WELL INTO THIS APPROACH. A POSSIBLE STRUCTURE DESIGNED TO BE AS FLEXIBLE AS POSSIBLE, MIGHT BE AS FOLLOWS:

(A) A COORDINATOR SHOULD BE NOMINATED IN BOTH THE FCO AND THE QUAI. THEY SHOULD BE AT LEAST AT ASSISTANT UNDER SECRETARY/DIRECTEUR LEVEL IN ORDER TO HAVE SUFFICIENT WEIGHT WITHIN THEIR ADMINISTRATIONS. THE OBVIOUS CANDIDATES WOULD BE IN THE FCO THE ASSISTANT UNDER SECRETARY FOR EUROPE AND IN THE QUAI THE DIRECTEUR FOR EUROPE (DUFOURCQ) OR THE DEPUTY POLITICAL DIRECTOR. THEY WOULD BE ASSISTED BY THE HEADS OF THEIR RESPECTIVE DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED WE WED IN THE FCO AND ITS EQUIVALENT IN THE QUAI. THEY WOULD MEET, OR AT LEAST COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY ONCE A MONTH. THE FIRST SUCH OPPORTUNITY COULD OCCUR ON 25 NOVEMBER, WHEN GOODISON ACCOMPANIES THE PUS TO PARIS. HE WILL ALSO BE SEEING DUFOURCQ IN PARIS ON 30 NOVEMBER.

(B) THE FIRST TASK OF THE COORDINATORS WOULD BE TO PLAN THE PATTERN OF MEETINGS ACROSS THE BOARD TO ENSURE THAT KEY SUBJECTS WERE TACKLED ON A COORDINATED BASIS. THEY WOULD EXAMINE THE LIST OF MEETINGS OR VISITS ALREADY ARRANGED AND WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR DRAWING ATTENTION TO THE OBVIOUS GAPS AND ENSURING THAT THEY WERE FILLED.

(C) THEY WOULD REPORT REGULARLY TO THEIR OWN AUTHORITIES ON THE WORKING OF THE SYSTEM AND WOULD MAKE JOINT REPORTS TO THE BILATERAL ANNUAL SUMMITS AND TO THE INTERVENING BILATERAL MEETINGS OF FOREIGN MINISTERS.

4. THE TWO COORDINATORS WOULD NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR DETAILED PLANNING OF MEETINGS BEYOND, POSSIBLY, THOSE BETWEEN THE TWO FOREIGN MINISTRIES. OTHER MEETINGS WOULD CONTINUE TO BE ARRANGED THROUGH EMBASSIES IN THE LIGHT OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS AGREED BY THE TWO COORDINATORS, ALTHOUGH THIS WOULD BY NO MEANS PRECLUDE DIRECT CONTACTS BETWEEN OTHER PARTS OF THE ADMINISTRATIONS. THE IMPORTANT THING WOULD BE TO ENSURE THAT THE COORDINATORS AND THE EMBASSIES WERE INFORMED.

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#### NEXT STEPS

5. ONCE YOU HAVE AN IDEA OF A POSSIBLE SYSTEM TO PUT TO THE FRENCH, WE SUGGEST THIS EMBASSY SHOULD FEED IT INFORMALLY INTO THE QUAI AND THE ELYSEE BEFORE THE PUS AND GUTMANN MEET WHEN IT CAN BE DISCUSSED IN DETAIL. IT WOULD ALSO BE NECESSARY TO DECIDE ON A LIST OF THE AREAS TO BE COVERED IN REGULAR TALKS AND A LIST OF THE PEOPLE ON BOTH SIDES WHO SHOULD BE INVOLVED IN REGULAR MEETINGS.

#### FRENCH VIEWS

6. MOREL TOLD THE MINISTER THAT THE FRENCH HAD NOT YET WORKED OUT THEIR IDEAS ON THE WIDER FRAMEWORK OF CONSULTATIONS. HE THOUGHT IT POSSIBLE THAT BIANCO (THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ELYSEE) WOULD ASK ME TO CALL TO HEAR FRENCH VIEWS WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. FROM A SUBSEQUENT CONTACT WITH JOUANNEAU (HEAD OF WESTERN EUROPEAN DEPARTMENT, QUAI) IT APPEARS THAT HE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR DRAFTING PROPOSALS FOR THE QUAI TO PUT TO THE ELYSEE AND THAT THE DIRECTION FOR EUROPE HAS ALREADY BEEN MADE THE GENERAL COORDINATION POINT FOR THE FOLLOW UP.

7. JOUANNEAU SAID THAT THE FRENCH INTERPRETED THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER AND PRESIDENT AS LEADING TO A GRADUAL MIXING TOGETHER OF THE TWO ADMINISTRATIONS SO THAT THEY COULD SOLVE PROBLEMS BEFORE THEY BECAME SERIOUS AND AVOID MIS-UNDERSTANDINGS. HE QUOTED THE MEETINGS BETWEEN FISHERIES DIRECTORS AS AN EXCELLENT EXAMPLE OF WHAT THIS SORT OF CO-OPERATION COULD ACHIEVE. JOUANNEAU HAS NOT YET SUBMITTED ANY PROPOSALS BUT HIS IDEAS HAVE THE GENERAL BLESSING OF DUFOURCO AND LEGRAS (HEAD OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS, QUAI). HE ENVISAGES THAT THE COORDINATORS WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR KEEPING A RUNNING PROGRAMME 3 MONTHS AHEAD. THE MEETING ON 25 NOVEMBER BETWEEN GUTMANN AND THE PUS WOULD BE THE FIRST IN THE SERIES. (HE WAS NOT AWARE THAT A MEETING BETWEEN GRAY AND DAVID HAD BEEN ARRANGED). HE THOUGHT THAT THE PRINCIPAL GANDONNEX (INDUSTRY) AND HIS UK OPPOSITE NUMBER TO DISCUSS LUCAS/DUCELLIER. LOOKING AHEAD TO JANUARY, HE WAS THINKING IN TERMS OF POSSIBLE MEETINGS BETWEEN PAYE AND EVANS OR LEGRAS AND HANNAY, AND BETWEEN WARIN (INDUSTRY) AND SIR P CAREY. NONE OF THESE OF COURSE WOULD PRECLUDE OTHER DIRECT CONTACTS E.G. BETWEEN THE CABINET OFFICE AND THE ELYSEE.

8. THIS APPROACH IS COMPATIBLE WITH THE IDEAS IN PARAGRAPHS 3-5 ABOVE, BUT WE WOULD HAVE TO ENSURE THROUGH THE TWO CO-ORDINATORS THAT ADEQUATE ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE TO COVER THE MOST IMPORTANT SUBJECTS, ESPECIALLY THE COMMUNITY BUDGET,

8. THIS APPROACH IS COMPATIBLE WITH THE IDEAS IN PARAGRAPHS 3-5 ABOVE, BUT WE WOULD HAVE TO ENSURE THROUGH THE TWO CO-ORDINATORS THAT ADEQUATE ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE TO COVER THE MOST IMPORTANT SUBJECTS, ESPECIALLY THE COMMUNITY BUDGET, IN DEPTH AND ON A SUSTAINED BASIS.

9. ONE FURTHER COMMENT: THERE WILL BE SOME JOCKEYING BETWEEN FRENCH OFFICIALS FOR A PRE-EMINENT ROLE ON CERTAIN SUBJECTS AND WE SHALL WANT TO ENSURE THAT INDIVIDUALS WHO COULD BE HELPFUL TO US, SUCH AS SOME OF THOSE IN THE TRESOR AND THE QUAI WHO DEAL WITH THE COMMUNITY BUDGET, ARE NOT CUT OUT. AT THE SAME TIME IF WE CAN DETECT A GENUINE IMPULSION FROM THE ELYSEE TOWARDS REACHING AGREEMENT WE MUST TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF THAT TOO. WE SHALL HAVE TO RETAIN CONSIDERABLE FLEXIBILITY TO ACHIEVE THIS. WE SHALL ALSO ON OCCASION WANT TO BRING IN THE ELYSEE EITHER TO TAKE AN OVERVIEW OF THE WHOLE PROCESS OR TO QUESTION THE LINE BEING TAKEN ELSEWHERE IN THE FRENCH MACHINE.

FRETWELL

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