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GRS 600

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TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 213 OF 26 FEBRUARY

INFO IMMEDIATE UKREP BRUSSELS

INFO PRIORITY PARIS ROME

INFO SAVING ATHENS BRUSSELS EMBASSY COPENHAGEN DUBLIN LUXEMBOURG
THE HAGUE

VISIT OF KOHL TO PARIS: CRAXI TO BONN

1. THESE VISITS RECEIVED FULL AND PROMINENT COVERAGE IN TODAY'S PRESS, THE FORMER DOMINATING WITH HEADLINES SUCH AS "BONN AND PARIS GETTING TOGETHER?" AND "BONN READY TO MAKE FINANCIAL SACRIFICES (FOR EUROPE)." STORIES LARGELY SPECULATIVE: DETAIL SCANTY.

2. KOHL BEING AWAY FROM BONN THIS WEEKEND, OFFICIALS ARE UNABLE TO BRIEF US BUT WE SHALL BE IN TOUCH WITH GRIMM ON 27 FEBRUARY AND WILL REPORT FURTHER. GRIMM, LIKE TELTSCHIK EARLIER IN THE WEEK, DOUBTED THAT KOHL AND MITTERRAND WOULD MAKE MUCH PROGRESS.

KOHL TO PARIS

3. KOHL'S VISIT TO PARIS SEEN AS EVIDENCE OF HIS DETERMINATION TO SOLVE EUROPE'S CRISIS BUT ALTHOUGH HE IS RECORDED AS READY TO MAKE THE FINANCIAL SACRIFICES NECESSARY, THAT COULD ONLY BE IF OTHER PARTNERS WERE READY TO MAKE COMPROMISES AND ON CONDITION THAT THE STUTTGART PACKAGE WAS KEPT TOGETHER. CLOSER FRANCO/GERMAN COOPERATION WAS ESSENTIAL FOR SUCCESS, ESPECIALLY TO SOLVE THE MCA PROBLEM, AND FOR THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COMMUNITY AFTER THE EUROPEAN ELECTION. THE FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG ASSUMES THAT FRENCH READINESS TO SECOND KOHL IN HIS AIM TO ACHIEVE CLOSER SECURITY COOPERATION IN EUROPE (INITIALLY VIA DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN FRENCH AND GERMAN OFFICIALS ON STRATEGIC AND NON-NUCLEAR QUESTIONS) IS DEPENDENT UPON KOHL'S READINESS TO HELP SOLVE THE IMMEDIATE FINANCING PROBLEMS. BUT IT ADMITS THAT BECAUSE EXCHANGES SO FAR HAVE BEEN AT HEAD OF GOVERNMENT LEVEL IT IS NOT YET POSSIBLE TO DISCERN WHAT MAY BE ENVISAGED. THE GENERAL ANZEIGER SEES THE FRG'S AGREEMENT TO SUPPORT ESPRIT AS THE FIRST CONCRETE SIGN OF BONN'S WILLINGNESS TO GO FORWARD, NOTES THAT CONCESSIONS FROM OTHERS WILL ALSO BE NECESSARY TO SOLVE THE OTHER FINANCING PROBLEMS BUT SUGGESTS THAT KOHL IS HAVING PROBLEMS WITH A RELUCTANT STOLTENBERG.

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4. IN A COMMENT, THE SAME PAPER EXPRESSED DOUBTS THAT A TWO HOUR DINNER WILL GIVE THE TWO HEADS OF GOVERNMENT ENOUGH TIME TO ASSESS THE RESULTS OF MITTERRAND'S TOUR OF CAPITALS, TO CLEAR UP OUTSTANDING BILATERAL QUESTIONS AND AGREE A COMMON TACTIC TOWARDS THE UK. IT GOES ON TO WARN THAT, TIME BEING SHORT, THE TWO WOULD BE WELL ADVISED TO SET ASIDE THEIR DREAMS ABOUT THE FUTURE OF EUROPE AND CONCENTRATE ON SOLVING IMMEDIATE ISSUES. ASSERTING THAT THE KEY TO THE FUTURE OF EUROPE LIES IN MRS THATCHER'S HANDS BUT NOTHING THAT VISITORS TO LONDON SEE LITTLE SIGN OF COMMUNITY SPIRIT THERE IT CLAIMS THAT PARIS SEES TWO POSSIBILITIES FOR PUTTING PRESSURE ON LONDON A) A DEMONSTRABLE INTENSIFICATION OF COOPERATION BETWEEN PARIS AND BONN AND B) A DECLARATION OF INTENTION THAT IF THE MARCH EUROPEAN COUNCIL FAILS, FRANCE AND THE FRG ARE DETERMINED TO PURSUE THEIR OWN COOPERATION WITHOUT TOO MUCH CONCERN FOR OTHER PARTNERS.

CRAXI IN BONN

5. CRAXI AND KOHL AGREED THAT A FAILURE IN MARCH WOULD BE A CATASTROPHE, THAT POSTPONEMENT WOULD ONLY MAKE DIFFICULTIES WORSE BUT WERE UNABLE TO AGREE ON REFORM OF THE MILK REGIME. KOHL REJECTED CRAXI'S DEMAND FOR AN EXCEPTION FOR ITALY. KOHL EMPHASISED THAT IT WAS ILLUSORY TO THINK IN TERMS OF EUROPEAN UNION UNTIL THE CURRENT FINANCING AND RELATED PROBLEMS WERE SOLVED. CRAXI ASKED KOHL FOR CLARIFICATION OF HIS IDEA FOR CLOSER FRANCO/GERMAN COOPERATION WITHIN THE EC AND WARNED THAT CLOSER FRANCO/GERMAN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO WOULD ONLY BENEFIT EUROPE IF THAT LEAD TO 'NO NEW IMBALANCES'.

6. ANDREOTTI AND GENSCHER DISCUSSED FRENCH IDEAS FOR A REVIVAL OF WEU TO WHICH IN ADDITION TO FRANCE, ITALY AND THE FRG, BENELUX ALSO BELONGED (NO MENTION OF UK). PROVISIONS PREJUDICIAL TO THE FRG IN THE TREATY WOULD THEY AGREED HAVE TO BE REMOVED. WEU COULD STRENGTHEN THE EUROPEAN PILLAR OF THE ALLIANCE.

7. WITH REFERENCE TO THE ITALIAN CUSTOMS GO SLOW KOHL DECLARED A EUROPE WITHOUT FRONTIERS FOR GOODS OR PEOPLE WAS NEEDED.

FCO PLEASE PASS TO SAVING ADDRESSEES.

TAYLOR

FRANC ECONOMIC
ECD (1)

(REPEATED AS REQUESTED)

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