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INFO ROUTINE UKREP BRUSSELS ATHENS BONN BRUSSELS COPENHAGEN PARIS
THE HAGUE LUXEMBOURG ROME
INFO SAVING LISBON MADRID WASHINGTON UKDEL NATO UKDEL STRASBOURG
UKDEL OECD UKMIS NEW YORK

PROSPECTS FOR THE IRISH PRESIDENCY

1. THE IRISH WERE RELIEVED BY THE OUTCOME OF FONTAINEBLEAU BUT ARE SOMEWHAT DAUNTED BY THE VOLUME OF COMMUNITY BUSINESS IN PROSPECT OVER THE NEXT SIX MONTHS. DESPITE THIS THEY ARE DETERMINED TO MARK THEIR PRESIDENCY BY CARRYING THE COMMUNITY FORWARDS AND AVOIDING CONFUSION. THEY WANT TO MAKE THEIR PRESIDENCY A NATIONAL SUCCESS AND WILL SPARE NO EXPENSE OR OFFICIAL EFFORT TO THIS END.
2. ENLARGEMENT IS SEEN AS THEIR MOST IMMEDIATE TASK AND THEY ARE A BIT ALARMED ABOUT THE AMOUNT OF THE SPANISH DOSSIER STILL TO BE DEALT WITH AND THE PARALLEL DIFFICULTY OF COPING WITH PORTUGUESE IMPATIENCE. THEY HAVE A NATIONAL PROBLEM OVER SPANISH ACCESS TO IRISH FISHING GROUNDS BUT WILL HOPE TO SHELTER SOMEWHAT BEHIND THEIR PARTNERS' SIMILAR WISH FOR PROTECTION AGAINST THE SPANISH FISHING FLEET.
3. THERE IS ALSO THE QUESTION OF FINANCE FOR THE BUDGET OVER-RUN IN 1984, WHERE THEIR INSTINCT TO ACCEDE TO THE COMMISSION PROPOSALS PARALLELS THEIR CONCERN TO AVOID NATIONAL FINANCING OF EC PROGRAMMES. THE FINANCE MINISTERS' WORK ON BUDGETARY DISCIPLINE AND THE WORK ON THE TEXTS ON BUDGETARY IMBALANCES AND NEW OWN RESOURCES WILL SET THE SCENE FOR RESOLVING THE PROBLEM OF THE CURRENT DEFICIT. IN MR DUKES WE SHOULD FIND AN IMAGINATIVE AND RESOURCEFUL CHAIRMAN, BUT HE WILL HAVE LITTLE ENTHUSIASM FOR BUDGETARY DISCIPLINE.
4. ON CAP ISSUES MR DEASY WILL ACCEPT THE LOGIC OF REFORM BUT WILL SEEK TO AVOID CONTROVERSY AND RADICAL ACTION. HE WILL NOT CEASE TO LOOK FOR PRIVILEGES FOR IRISH AGRICULTURE. DIFFICULT DECISIONS, E.G. ON WINE, MAY BE REQUIRED IN THE ENLARGEMENT CONTEXT, BUT THE IRISH CAN AFFORD TO BE IMPARTIAL ON WINE.
5. ON THE INTERNAL MARKET, AS THEY ASSURED MR CHANNON LAST WEEK, THE IRISH WILL WORK FOR THE REMOVAL OF BARRIERS TO TRADE, BUT THEY MAY LACK THE IMAGINATION TO CIRCUMVENT OBSTACLES.
6. THE LOME NEGOTIATIONS ARE ALSO SEEN AS IMPORTANT. THIS IS A POPULAR FIELD DOMESTICALLY, AND THERE WILL BE PRESSURE ON THE GOVERNMENT TO BE GENEROUS ON BOTH TRADE AND AID.

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7. ON THE WIDER POLITICAL ISSUES, IRISH MINISTERS WILL WISH TO AVOID ANY DISCUSSIONS WHICH MIGHT SEEM TO AFFECT THEIR NEUTRALITY, WHICH IS A VERY SENSITIVE EXPRESSION OF THEIR SOVEREIGNTY AND NOT A TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION WITH THEIR PARTNERS. THEY WILL BE UNWILLING TO DISCUSS DEFENCE COOPERATION. AT THE SAME TIME, THEY WILL TRY TO OPPOSE ALL SUGGESTIONS OF A TWO-SPEED EUROPE. THEIR APPROACH TO THE NEW COMMITTEES FOR THE EXPRESSION OF EUROPEAN UNITY AND FOR INSTITUTIONAL REFORM WILL THEREFORE BE WARY: THE TAOISEACH WILL HAVE HIS OWN VIEWS. THE PRESIDENCY WILL BE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR IRELAND TO TAKE A PLACE AT THE FRONT OF THE WORLD STAGE AND PARTICULARLY AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, AND IRISH MINISTERS MAY WELL APPEAR TO BE IRRITATINGLY SELF-RIGHTEOUS IN THEIR ROLE, PARTICULARLY WHERE THIRD WORLD AND LATIN AMERICAN PROBLEMS ARE AT ISSUE. ON THE OTHER HAND, IRISH OFFICIALS WILL BE RELIABLE COLLEAGUES IN POLITICAL COOPERATION.

8. THE IRISH DO NOT EXPECT AN EASY PRESIDENCY EVEN THOUGH, HAVING ACHIEVED A TEMPORARY VICTORY ON MILK, THEY HAVE NO VERY BIG AXES TO GRIND THEMSELVES. ALTHOUGH IMPROVISATION COMES MORE NATURALLY TO THEM THAN METHODOLOGICAL PREPARATION, IRISH OFFICIALS EXPECT TO WORK VERY HARD AND ARE WILLING TO DO SO TO PREPARE MEETINGS WELL. THE TAOISEACH, WHO PRIDES HIMSELF ON HIS KNOWLEDGE OF THE COMMUNITY, IS KEEN TO PROMOTE GREATER ECONOMIC ACTIVITY IN EUROPE IN THE HOPE THAT THIS WILL PROMOTE HIS OWN ECONOMY. HE CANNOT AFFORD TO IGNORE THE PROBLEM OF HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT. THE IRISH WILL IN GENERAL SEE THE PROMOTION OF COMMUNAUTAIRE SOLUTIONS AS SERVING THEIR OWN INTERESTS.

9. IN DEALING WITH THE IRISH PRESIDENCY WE SHALL HAVE TO KEEP CONTINUALLY IN MIND THAT, FROM THE IRISH POINT OF VIEW AT LEAST, THE MORE IMPORTANT ASPECT OF OUR RELATIONS CONCERNS NORTHERN IRELAND AND NOT THE COMMUNITY. THE IRISH WILL NOT BE INCLINED TO HELP US IN COMMUNITY MATTERS IF CONTACTS OVER THE NORTH, WHICH WILL MOVE THROUGH A PARTICULARLY DELICATE STAGE, DO NOT GO WELL. IRISH OFFICIALS INSTINCTIVELY ADMIRE OUR EXPERTISE AND MAY BE GLAD AT TIMES OF PRIVATE INFORMATION AND ADVICE FROM US. BUT ANY EVIDENCE OF ANGLO-IRISH GETTING TOGETHER WILL BE EMBARRASSING FOR THEM. IRISH OFFICIALS AND MINISTERS ALIKE ARE MORE LIKELY, IF THEY HAVE TO FOLLOW ANYONE ELSE'S LEAD, TO PREFER THOSE OF THEIR PARTNERS WHO DO NOT AROUSE HISTORICAL PREJUDICES OF SUCH COMPLEXITY AND DOMESTIC CONTROVERSY OF SUCH DEPTH.

FCO PLEASE PASS TO ALL SAVING ADDRESSEES.

**THIS TELEGRAM
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