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TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1294 OF 22 NOVEMBER

MS

ANGL0-FRENCH SUMMIT: 29-30 NOVEMBER

1. FOLLOWING MAIN POINTS EMERGED FROM MY REVIEW WITH SECRETARY-GENERAL AT THE ELYSEE THIS MORNING OF PREPARATIONS FOR SUMMIT.

ATTENDANCE

2. BIANCO NOTED THAT MINISTERS OF INTERIOR AND AGRICULTURE WOULD NOT TAKE PART. IN ADDITIN TO THE LIST ALREADY AGREED OF MINISTERS WHO WOULD ATTEND, HE URGED AGAIN THE FRENCH SUGGESTION FOR ATTENDANCE OR MINISTERS CONCERNED WITH (A) CULTURE: M LANG WOULD WELCOME SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS FOLLOWING HIS RECENT VISIT TO LONDON, PARTICULARLY ON LIBRARIES AND PUBLISHING: AND (B) THE CHANNEL FIXED LINK (CFL): THE FRENCH WOULD LIKE QUILES AND AUROUX TO TAKE PART ALONG WITH MR RIDLEY TO LEND CREDIBILITY TO THE STATEMENT ABOUT PROGRESS WHICH WOULD BE MADE AT THE END OF THE SUMMIT, EVEN THOUGH THAT STATEMENT WOULD NOT GO BEYOND WHAT THEY HAD AGREED IN PARIS LAST WEEK - EXCEPT PERHAPS TO MAKE PUBLIC THE COMPOSITION, TERMS OF REFERENCE AND SUBJECTS TO BE DISCUSSED BY THE OFFICIAL WORKING GROUP. I QUESTIONED WHETHER IT WAS ESSENTIAL FOR MINISTERS TO MEET AGAIN AT THIS STATGE ON THE CFL. BIANCO WONDERED WHETHER MR RIDLEY MIGHT COME JUST FOR THE FRIDAY MORNING. I SUGGESTED THE SUBJECT MIGHT BE HANDLED BY FOREIGN MINISTERS, BIANCO THOUGHT THIS POSSIBLE BUT LESS SATISFACTORY.

SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION

3. I OUTLINED THE APPROACH SET OUT IN THE STEERING BRIEF (YOUR TELNO 699). BIANCO INDICATED GENERAL AGREEMENT. THE PRESIDENT'S OVERALL APPROACH WAS THE FRENCH AND BRITISH INTERESTS WERE CLOSE ON MANY SUBJECTS AND THAT GOVERNMENTS SHOULD SEEK TO IDENTIFY AND EXTEND AREAS OF COLLABORATION AS FAR AS THEY COULD. IN THE CASE OF TECHNOLOGY AND INDUSTRIAL COLLABORATION, THE FRENCH OFTEN FOUND BRITISH VIEWS WERE AS CLOSE TO THEIR OWN AS ANYONE'S (THEY REMEMBERED THE PRIME MINISTER'S FORCEFUL ANALYSIS OF THE NEED FOR TECHNOLOGICAL INDEPENDENCE IN THE LIGHT OF THE SIBERIAN PIPELINE ISSUE TWO YEARS AGO). UNFORTUNATELY THERE WERE SOME OPPORTUNITITES THAT HAD BEEN MISSED OR WERE SLIPPING PAST, EG IN TELECOMMUNICATIONS, SPACE AND RADIO TELEPHONES. THIS WAS PARTLY BECAUSE OF LACK OF WILL BY THE INDUSTRIES CONCERNED TO COLLABORATE, BUT GOVERNMENT ALSO HAD A ROLE IN SEVERAL RESPECTS EG RESEARCH, SETTING OF STANDARDS, CREDIT POLICY, TARIFF LEVELS. BIANCO AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO ENCOURAGE FURTHER COLLABORATION BY MAKING PUBLIC THE LIST (UNDER DISCUSSION BETWEEN THE COORDINATORS) OF COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS ALREADY UNDER WAY OR IN PROSPECT. HE THOUGHT SOME OF THE POINTS MIGHT BE SHARPENED UP TO ADD TO THEIR POLITICAL IMPACT.

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4. SIMILARLY ON DEFENCE QUESTIONS, BIANCO AGREED THAT MINISTERS MIGHT USEFULLY COMMENT ON THE ALREADY THICK NETWORK OF BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS AND ASK THEIR OFFICIALS TO EXAMINE WHETHER THESE COULD BE IMPROVED OR BETTTER CO-ORDINATED.

5. ON COMMUNITY QUESTIONS BIANCO EXPECTED DISCUSSION OF THE SUBJECTS THAT WOULD COME UP AT THE DUBLIN SUMMIT, PARTICULARLY ENLARGEMENT. ON THE DOOGE COMMITTEE, HE SAID THE FRENCH HAD NOT YET TAKEN AN OFFICIAL POSITION. I POINTED TO THE FRENCH EMPHASIS ON INSTITUTIONAL ASPECTS, WHICH CONTRASTED WITH OUR OWN APPROACH OF FIRST ESTABLISHING WHAT NEEDED TO BE DONE AND THEN CONSIDERING HOW TO DO IT. WE SHOULD SEE IF OUR REQUIREMENTS COULD BE RECONCILED. BIANCO REPLIED, SURPRISINGLY, THAT THE FRENCH APPROACH TOO WAS FIRST TO IDENTIFY AGREED POINTS ON WHICH IMPROVEMENTS MIGHT BE MADE TO THE COMMUNITY AND THEN CONSIDER WHAT INSTITUTIONAL ADJUSTMENTS MIGHT BE NEEDED. HE ALSO NOTED THE PROBLEM THAT MIGHT ARISE FOR THE COMMUNITY DURING THE ITALIAN PRESIDENCY FROM THE FACT THAT IMPORTANT ELECTIONS WERE DUE IN ITALY IN MARCH. HE AGREED THAT THIS WAS A REASON TO MAKE HASTE ON DIFFICULT DOSSIERS, INCLUDING ENLARGEMENT, DURING THE REMAINDER OF THE IRISH PRESIDENCY. HE ALSO APPEARED TO AGREE THAT THE HERITAGE OF FONTAINEBLEAU SHOULD BE SAFEGUARDED AGAINST THE EXPECTED ASSAULTS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT.

6. BIANCO THOUGHT THAT TERRORISM WAS A SUBJECT THAT THE PRIME MINISTER AND PRESIDENT MIGHT WISH TO DISCUSS TETE-A-TETE.

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