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TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 69 OF 20 JANUARY

INFO ROUTINE PARIS UKREP BRUSSELS UKMIS GENEVA

INFO SAVING ROME BERNE BRUSSELS COPENHAGEN ATHENS THE HAGUE

OSLO VIENNA STOCKHOLM MADRID WASHINGTON

PROPOSED REVIEW OF HIGH-ENERGY PARTICLE PHYSICS

YOUR TELNO 36 OF 18 JAN

1. THE GERMANS WOULD REGARD SERIOUS DISCUSSION OF OUR POSSIBLE WITHDRAWAL FROM CERN WITH SOME DISMAY: A DECISION TO WITHDRAW WOULD CARRY POLITICAL AS WELL AS SCIENTIFIC AND COMMERCIAL PENALTIES. IT WOULD BE SEEN AS EVIDENCE OF A PENNY-PINCHING UNENTHUSIASTIC ATTITUDE TO COLLABORATION WITHIN EUROPE IN AN AREA OF IMPORTANCE AND IT WOULD CAST DOUBT ON OUR ABILITY TO MAINTAIN OUR POSITION IN SCIENTIFIC, TECHNOLOGICAL AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENTS.

2. THE GERMANS SEE CERN AS A MOST SUCCESSFUL EXAMPLE OF INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION IN SCIENCE. ITS EXISTENCE HAS ENABLED EUROPEAN MEMBER STATES AT REASONABLE COST TO STAY IN THE FOREFRONT OF DEVELOPMENTS IN A FIELD WHICH IS NOT ONLY SCIENTIFICALLY IMPORTANT BUT WHICH HAS ALSO STIMULATED HIGH-TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY AND PROVIDED CONTINUOUS OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE RIGOROUS TRAINING OF MANY OF EUROPE'S FIRST CLASS MINDS. THE RECENT PROOF BY THE CERN TEAM OF THE BASIC TRUTH OF THE ELECTRO-WEAK HYPOTHESIS RANKS WITH ANY OF THE GREAT LEAPS OF UNDERSTANDING OF THE PAST. IN DOING THIS CERN BEAT THE LARGER AND BETTER FUNDED US AND RUSSIAN TEAMS VERY CONVINCINGLY AND US PHYSICISTS ARE NOW TALKING OF BUILDING A "SUPER CERN" - THE DESERTRON. THE US GOVERNMENT AWARE OF THE NEED TO RETAIN SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL SUPREMACY WILL UNDOUBTEDLY FUND THE DESERTRON. THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO SUPPLEMENT THE CERN PROGRAM WITH A NATIONAL ONE OF ITS OWN AT DESY IN HAMBURG WHOSE COST ALONE CONSIDERABLY EXCEEDS OUR CONTRIBUTION TO CERN.

3. IN THE UK WE NOW HAVE NO INDIGENOUS HIGH-ENERGY FACILITIES SO WITHDRAWAL FROM CERN WOULD BE SEEN AS TANTAMOUNT TO A WITHDRAWAL FROM FUNDAMENTAL PARTICLE PHYSICS AS WELL. THE GERMANS WOULD TAKE THIS AS A CONFESSION BY THE UK THAT WE NOW RANK OURSELVES WITH THOSE SMALLER POWERS WHO CAN NO LONGER AFFORD TO PLAY A ROLE IN THE SIGNIFICANT SCIENCE OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY. THE CONTRAST WITH SPAIN WHICH HAS RECENTLY DECIDED TO JOIN CERN WOULD BE POINTED. THE GERMANS WOULD NOTE THAT OUR CONTRIBUTION TO CERN IS ONE QUARTER OF THEIR RESEARCH MINISTRY'S UNDERSPEND FOR 1983 EXCLAM.

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4. WITHDRAWAL WOULD INEXORABLY, IN GERMAN EYES, LEAD TO A DOWN-GRADING OF OUR TECHNOLOGICAL REPUTATION AND THIS IN TURN WOULD MAKE IT THAT MORE DIFFICULT TO SELL UK HIGH TECHNOLOGY HERE. WITHDRAWAL WOULD ALSO ENSURE THAT OUR HIGH TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRIES WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE TO GET FURTHER CONTRACTS FROM CERN ITSELF. ALREADY THE GERMANS HAVE INDICATED THAT WE WILL GET NO SIGNIFICANT ORDERS FOR EQUIPMENT FOR HERA AT DESY BECAUSE WE ARE NON-PARTICIPANTS.

5. WITHDRAWAL OR EVEN A DISCUSSION OF WITHDRAWAL WOULD PREJUDICE THE EFFORTS OF SERC TO ALLEVIATE ITS OTHER BIG PROBLEM, THE FUNDING OF ITS OWN LARGE NATIONAL ESTABLISHMENTS DARESURY, RUTHERFORD ETC. THESE EFFORTS RELY ON AN INFUX OF GERMAN AND OTHER EUROPEAN RESEARCHERS BRINGING WITH THEM RESEARCH FUNDS. HOBBS AND ATKINSON OF SERC WERE HERE VERY RECENTLY DISCUSSING SUCH A SCHEME WITH MEMBERS OF THE RESEARCH MINISTRY. IF WE WITHDRAW FROM CERN HIGH ENERGY PHYSICS WOULD BECOME ONE MORE FIELD WHERE THE GERMANS MIGHT TURN TO EVEN CLOSER COOPERATION WITH THE FRENCH. THE GERMANS AND FRENCH WOULD THEN PROBABLY GO AHEAD WITH BUILDING EUROPEAN SYNCHROTRON RADIATION AND SPALLATION NEUTRON FACILITIES IN THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES. SERC MIGHT THEN BE IN EVEN WORSE FINANCIAL PLIGHT.

6. THE GERMAN SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY WOULD FIND IT HARD TO UNDERSTAND THE REASONING BEHIND ANY WITHDRAWAL FROM CERN. IN PARTICULAR THEY WOULD QUESTION WHETHER THE ALTERNATIVE SMALL SCIENCE COULD HOPE TO BE EQUALLY GOOD SCIENCE WITH CLEAR COMMERCIAL VALUE. THEY WOULD ARGUE THAT SCIENCE WAS A CULTURAL ACTIVITY IN ITS OWN RIGHT; AND THEY WOULD ALSO RECALL THAT HAHN AND STRASSMAN'S PURE SCIENCE LED EVENTUALLY TO NUCLEAR POWER STATIONS.

7. THE GERMANS WOULD FIND OUR DILEMMA OVER PAYMENT CURIOUS IN THAT THEY SEPARATE SUBSCRIPTIONS PAYMENTS (BMFT) FROM THE ACADEMIC RESEARCH SUPPORT SYSTEM (BMBW VIA DFG). THERE IS THUS NO CONFLICT OF INTEREST.

8. THE GERMANS HAVE A HEALTHY REGARD FOR BRITISH SCIENCE AND CONSIDER OUR ACHIEVEMENTS A VALUABLE ASSET FOR EUROPE AND ONE MOREOVER WITH GREAT POTENTIAL FOR FURTHER EUROPEAN COLLABORATION. WITHDRAWAL FROM CERN, ARGUABLY ONE OF EUROPE'S MOST SUCCESSFUL SCIENTIFIC VENTURES WOULD SORT ALL WITH OUR PROCLAIMED READINESS TO BE EAGER PARTICIPANTS IN NEW EUROPEAN INITIATIVES AND POLICIES FOLLOWING THE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION TO THE POST-STUTTGART NEGOTIATIONS. -2-

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9. WE CONCLUDE THAT DISCUSSION OF WITHDRAWAL FROM CERN AND, A PRIOR, WITHDRAWAL ITSELF WOULD SERIOUSLY DAMAGE OUR SCIENTIFIC AND EUROPEAN CREDENTIALS WITH THE GERMANS AND PLACE US AT A COMMERCIAL DISADVANTAGE HERE, IN THE FIELD OF HIGH TECHNOLOGY.

FCO PLEASE PASS TO SAVING ADDRESSEES.

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SIR J BULLARD

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COPIES TO:-

MR D TANNER

DOE ELIZABETH HSE. —

(REPEATED AS REQUESTED)

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