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FM UKMIS GENEVA 201655Z JAN 84

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 20 OF 20 JANUARY 1984

AND TO PRIORITY BONN, PARIS, ROME, BERNE, BRUSSELS, COPENHAGEN,  
ATHENS, THE HAGUE, OSLO, VIENNA, STOCKHOLM, MADRID, WASHINGTON  
UKREP BRUSSELS

YOUR TELNO 36TO BONN: PROPOSED REVIEW OF HIGH ENERGY PARTICLE  
PHYSICS

1. IN VIEW OF THE LINE WE HAVE BEEN TAKING RECENTLY OVER FINANCE  
FOR FUTURE PROJECTS, THE CERN MANAGEMENT WOULD NOT BE GREATLY  
SURPRISED BY THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE PROPOSED REVIEW. BUT  
IT WOULD BE A SERIOUS BLOW FOR THEM - PARTICULARLY IF, AS  
SEEMS TO BE THE CASE, THE REVIEW COMPRISES SOLELY HIGH ENERGY  
PARTICLE PHYSICS. CERN WOULD SEE THIS AS A PRELIMINARY STEP  
TO ALMOST CERTAIN UK WITHDRAWAL, EITHER PARTIAL OR COMPLETE.
2. THE CERN MANAGEMENT AS SUCH COULD HARDLY OBJECT TO THE  
SETTING UP OF A REVIEW.. BUT THEY - VERY POSSIBLY WITH MEMBER  
GOVERNMENTS - WOULD NOT FEEL INHIBITED IN USING THEIR WIDE  
CONTACTS WITHIN THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY INFORMALLY TO ADVANCE THE  
CASE FOR CONTINUED BRITISH PARTICIPATION IN CERN . ANXIETY  
AMONG THE 300-ODD BRITISH SCIENTISTS AND TECHNICIANS  
EMPLOYED BY CERN ABOUT THEIR FUTUTRE IF THE UK WITHDRAWS WOULD  
REINFORCE THIS PRESSURE.
3. THE CERN MANAGEMENT MIGHT SEE THIS REVIEW AS THE THIN END  
OF THE WEDGE, FEARING THAT IF THE UK, AS A MAJOR PARTICIPANT,  
CALLS INTO QUESTION THE PRACTICAL VALUE OF CERN'S WORK, OTHER  
MEMBER GOVERNMENTS MAY SIMILARLY RE-EXAMINE THEIR OWN INVOLVEMENT,  
WITH A POSSIBLE KNOCK-ON EFFECT. PERSONALLY, HOWEVER I WOULD  
BE MORE INCLINED TO EXPECT THAT BOTH CERN AND OTHER MEMBERS  
WOULD REGARD OUR DEPARTURE MORE AS A REFLECTION ON OUR  
FINANCIAL POSITION AND SCIENTIFIC ASPIRATIONS IN THIS FIELD FOR THE  
FUTURE THAN ON THE VALIDITY OF THEIR VISIBLY SUCCESSFUL PROJECTS.
4. THE CERN AUTHORITIES MIGHT ALSO PUZZLE OVER HOW SOON THE  
UK COULD EXPECT TO SAVE ITSELF SUBSTANTIAL SUMS BY REDUCING  
ITS INVOLVEMENT IN CERN. THEY WOULD PROBABLY ASSUME THAT  
WE WERE COMMITTED TO CONTINUING TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE MAJOR LEP PROJEC  
T  
UNTIL IT IS COMPLETED AROUND THE END OF THE DECADE.
5. ASSUMING THAT THE ANNOUNCEMENT GOES AHEAD AS PLANNED, I WOULD  
RECOMMEND THAT THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF CERN BE GIVEN ADVANCE WARNING  
EITHER BY SERC OR VIA THIS MISSION.

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