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FM ATHENS 101600Z DEC 84

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 567 OF 10 DECEMBER 1984

AND TO IMMEDIATE UKREP BRUSSELS

INFO ROUTINE EC POSTS, MADRID, LISBON

MY TELS NOS 559 AND 560: IMPS AND ENLARGEMENT.

1. PAPANDREOU SPEAKING IN PARLIAMENT ON 7 DECEMBER CORRECTED WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS MISLEADING REPORTS ABOUT THE GREEK STANCE AT THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL.

2. HE SAID GREECE WELCOMED THE ACCESSION OF SPAIN AND PORTUGAL TO THE COMMUNITY. SHE COULD NOT, HOWEVER, AGREE TO ENLARGEMENT WITHOUT AGREEMENT ON IMPS. HE DID NOT SPECIFY AN EXACT FIGURE BUT SAID THAT THE TOTAL AMOUNT SHOULD BE SATISFACTORY WITH REGARD TO THE OBJECTIVES WHICH IMPS WERE GOING TO SERVE. GREECE HAD NOT BLOCKED THE ENLARGEMENT NEGOTIATIONS, BUT HAD INSISTED THAT THE AGREEMENTS REACHED WOULD BE AD REFERENDUM AND LINKED TO IMPS. THIS MEANT THAT THE ENLARGEMENT PACKAGE, INCLUDING IMPS, WOULD BE SUBMITTED 'IN ITS TOTALITY' FOR APPROVAL AT THE NEXT EUROPEAN COUNCIL IN MARCH.

3. HE SAID THAT THERE HAD ALSO BEEN A MISUNDERSTANDING CONCERNING THE GREEK RESERVATION ON WINE. 'I STATE HERE RESPONSIBLY THAT WE DO NOT HAVE A PARTICULAR RESERVATION ABOUT THE SQUARE BRACKETS WINE AGREEMENT, BUT ONLY AS A GENERAL RESERVATION WHICH WE HAVE TO PUT DOWN, THAT IS TO SAY AD REFERENDUM UNTIL MARCH'.

4. THE GREEK GOVERNMENT'S POSITION ON IMPS HAS COMMANDED WIDE SUPPORT IN GREECE BOTH FROM THE OPPOSITION IN PARLIAMENT AND THE MEDIA. NEW DEMOCRACY HAS CRITICISED ONLY THE HANDLING OF THE ISSUE CLAIMING IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN SOLVED LONG BEFORE DUBLIN. MITSOTAKIS'S INCAUTIOUS REMARK THAT GREECE IS TOO SMALL A COUNTRY TO USE THE VETO HAS BEEN SEIZED UPON BY THE GOVERNMENT AS EVIDENCE THAT HE IS A FOREIGN STOOGES 'ECHOING MRS THATCHER'S VIEWS'.

5. THE UK IS IDENTIFIED IN ALL THE MEDIA AS THE MAIN OBSTACLE TO GREEK OBJECTIVES. PAPANDEOU IN ADDRESSING PARLIAMENT THANKED THE ITALIANS FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND SAID THAT THE FRENCH WERE ALSO ON THE GREEK SIDE, ALTHOUGH THEY HAD RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE TOTAL AMOUNT FOR IMPS.

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