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TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 97 OF 27 MARCH

INFO PRIORITY UKREP BRUSSELS ATHENS BONN BRUSSELS COPENHAGEN

INFO PRIORITY DUBLIN LUXEMBOURG PARIS ROME

NETHERLANDS APPROACH TO THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL, 29/30 MARCH

1. THE POSTHUMUS MEYJES/BRAITHWAITE TALKS ON 15 MARCH WILL HAVE COVERED THE ISSUES AT THE FORTHCOMING COUNCIL MEETING. THE MFA HOPE THAT THE OUTSTANDING ENLARGEMENT PROBLEMS CAN BE SETTLED AT THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COUNCIL ON 28 MARCH, LEAVING THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL FREE TO CONCENTRATE ON OTHER ISSUES (E.G. SOUTH AFRICA IN THE LIGHT OF RECENT SHOOTINGS). THE DUTCH SEE IMPS AND DOOGE AS BEING OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE.

IMPS

2. ALTHOUGH THEY MAY BE OVER-OPTIMISTIC, THE DUTCH BELIEVE THAT GREECE RECOGNISES THAT NO FIGURE WHICH CAN REALISTICALLY BE AGREED AT BRUSSELS (THE DUTCH THEMSELVES WILL ARGUE FOR A SUM OF 1.1 BECU ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE ON IMPS) WOULD HAVE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE GREEK NATIONAL ELECTIONS. THEY THEREFORE BELIEVE THAT PAPANDEAU WILL SETTLE FOR THE BEST HE CAN GET RATHER THAN PUT A DEAL ON IMPS AT RISK AND INCUR THE OBLOQUY ON HOLDING UP ENLARGEMENT.

DOOGE REPORT

3. THE NETHERLANDS HOPE THAT DISCUSSION OF THIS SUBJECT WILL LEAD TO FOLLOW UP ACTION BETWEEN NOW AND THE JUNE COUNCIL. THEY THEMSELVES SEE FOUR AREAS ON WHICH GUIDANCE FROM THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL IS DESIRABLE:

(I) WHETHER THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE, IF ANY, SHOULD ACT AS A DECISION-MAKING BODY OR BE ESTABLISHED TO DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO THE TREATY,

(II) WHETHER THE INFORMAL FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING ON 8 JUNE CAN USEFULLY SERVE TO DRAW TOGETHER THE THREADS OF THE PRECEDING BILATERALS,

(III) WHETHER THE COMMISSION AND COUNCIL LEGAL SERVICES SHOULD BE INSTRUCTED TO WORK OUT THE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE TREATY OF IMPLEMENTING THE DOOGE REPORT,

(IV) WHETHER THERE SHOULD BE A CONTINUING ROLE FOR THE DOOGE COMMITTEE IN ADVISING THE COUNCIL OR PRESIDENCY ON HOW TO CARRY FORWARD THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THEIR REPORT IN THE LIGHT OF BILATERALS.

MARGETSON
FRAME EXTERNAL
ECD (e)

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