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FROM EXTERNAL  
FM LISBON 171630Z APR 85

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 202 OF 17 APRIL

AND TO PRIORITY UKREP BRUSSELS

INFO ROUTINE OTHER EC POSTS AND MADRID

*Prime Minister*

*The question may arise whether you should attend. But it's in the recess, & you ought to keep that inviolate.*

**E C ENLARGEMENT**

1. THE ITALIAN AMBASSADOR GAVE A COMMUNITY LUNCH TODAY FOR THE PORTUGUESE PRIME MINISTER. SOARES CAME ACCOMPANIED ONLY BY A COUPLE OF PERSONAL STAFF, AND SPOKE VERY FREELY. THE FOLLOWING IS WORTH NOTING.

*ought to keep that inviolate.*

**1) SIGNATURE OF TREATY (UKREP TELNO 1323 REFERS)**

*CDD  
10/4.*

SOARES SAID THAT THIS HAD BEEN DISCUSSED AT LENGTH IN MADRID AT THE MEETING OF SOCIALIST LEADERS, AND THAT CRAXI, GONZALEZ AND HIMSELF HAD AGREED THAT THE BEST POSSIBLE TIME FOR SIGNATURE WOULD BE ON A DAY BETWEEN 30 MAY AND 2 JUNE. BOTH IBERIAN PRIME MINISTERS WANTED, FOR PUBLICITY REASONS, TO HAVE A SIGNATURE CEREMONY IN CAPITALS. WHAT SOARES ENVISAGED WAS THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TEN SHOULD ARRIVE IN LISBON EITHER EARLY IN THE DAY OR ON THE PREVIOUS EVENING, FOR A SIGNATURE CEREMONY IN THE LATE MORNING FOLLOWED BY A LUNCH. GONZALEZ WOULD ALSO ATTEND. THE WHOLE PARTY WOULD THEN FLY ON TO MADRID, SOARES INCLUDED, FOR AN IDENTICAL CEREMONY THERE IN THE LATE AFTERNOON.

*ms*

SOARES HOPED THAT MEMBER STATES WOULD BE REPRESENTED AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL, IF POSSIBLE BY HEADS OF GOVERNMENT. HE SAID THAT HIS PERSONAL IDEA WAS TO HAVE THE CEREMONY IN THE TORRE DE BELEM, FOR SYMBOLIC REASONS. IT WAS FROM THERE THAT PORTUGUESE NAVIGATORS HAD SAILED CENTURIES AGO TO OPEN UP THE WORLD AND FIND AN OVERSEAS DESTINY FOR PORTUGAL. HE WISHED TO SYMBOLISE PORTUGAL'S NEW DESTINY BY HAVING THE ACCESSION TO EUROPE CONFIRMED THERE.

**2) PRESIDENCY**

ASKED WHETHER PORTUGAL WISHED TO PRESS FOR THEIR FIRST PRESIDENCY IN THE SECOND HALF OF 1986, SOARES SAID THAT THERE WERE VARIOUS VIEWS WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT HERE. HE WAS INCLINED TO TAKE THE ADVICE OF ENANI LOPES, WHO WAS BEST INFORMED AND REALISTIC. LOPES THOUGHT THAT PORTUGAL SHOULD PASS UP ITS TURN IN 1986. BUT SOARES CLAIMED THAT GAMA AND THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WERE KEEN TO HAVE THE PRESIDENCY AT THE FIRST POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITY FOR REASONS OF PRESTIGE. THE DECISION WOULD BE TAKEN BY THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS BEFORE LONG. SOARES SAID THAT HE WAS AWARE THAT THE IDEA HAD BEEN

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FLOATED THAT PORTUGAL WOULD QUOTE SWITCH PLACES WITH THE UK UNQUOTE ALLOWING THE UK TO PRESIDE IN THE SECOND HALF OF 1986 AND PORTUGAL IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1987. SPEAKING PERSONALLY, HE THOUGHT TO WAIT SIX FULL YEARS WOULD BE TOO MUCH.

III) THE FUTURE OF EUROPE

ASKED ABOUT PORTUGAL'S VIEW ON FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS OF THE COMMUNITY SOARES SAID THAT THERE WAS NO OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT POSITION BUT HE COULD GIVE HIS OWN STRONGLY HELD VIEWS. HE WAS A COMMITTED EUROPEAN AND BELIEVED THAT COUNTRIES LIKE PORTUGAL WOULD BE WISE TO CAST THEIR DESTINY FIRMLY WITH A STRONG DEMOCRATIC WESTERN EUROPE.

IF THEREFORE THERE WERE TO BE THE EMERGENCE OF A QUOTE TWO SPEED EUROPE UNQUOTE HE WOULD EXPECT TO FIND PORTUGAL IN THAT GROUP WHO WISHED TO MOVE FASTEST TOWARDS UNITY.

BYATT

FRAME EXTERNAL

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