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FM UKREP BRUSSELS

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 3270

OF 082015Z OCTOBER 85

INFO IMMEDIATE COPENHAGEN

INFO PRIORITY EUROPEAN COMMUNITY POSTS, LISBON, MADRID

INFO SAVING BRUSSELS

FRAME INSTITUTIONS/GENERAL

PREPARATORY GROUP FOR IGC: BRUSSELS 7/8 OCTOBER

SUMMARY

GENERAL

1. THE COMMISSION WENT THROUGH DEATH OF A THOUSAND CUTS ON MOST OF THEIR FUNCTIONAL PROPOSALS, WITH THE FRENCH, GERMANS AND BRITISH GENERALLY STRIKING AT THE SAME TARGET. BY CONTRAST THEIR PAPER ON THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT HAD A COMPARATIVELY FAVOURABLE RECEPTION.

INTERNAL MARKET

2. CLARIFICATION OF THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSALS HELPED TO CLARIFY THE DISLIKE OF MEMBER STATES, IN PARTICULAR THE FRENCH AND GERMANS, FOR THE COMMISSION'S DEFINITION OF THE INTERNAL MARKET AND THEIR IDEAS FOR MAJORITY VOTING OVER A WIDE RANGE OF ARTICLES, IN PARTICULAR ARTICLE 99.

TECHNOLOGY

3. THE COMMISSION'S AMENDMENTS LEFT DELEGATIONS ONLY marginally LESS DISSATISFIED. THE MORE TECHNOLOGICAL MEMBER STATES REMAIN SUSPICIOUS ABOUT THE COMMISSION'S PLANS FOR COORDINATION: WHILE THE LESS TECHNOLOGICAL ARE WORRIED ABOUT HOW TO GET IN ON THE ACTION AND THE MONEY.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

4. AT FIRST SIGHT, BENELUX, ITALY AND IRELAND ALL WELCOMED THE COMMISSION'S APPROACH. GERMANY WAS RESENTFUL AT THE TABLING OF A RIVAL PAPER. FRANCE, DENMARK AND UK ALL EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSALS WOULD DELAY AND COMPLICATE DECISION MAKING AND UPSET THE INSTITUTIONAL BALANCE.

5. LARGELY REPETITIVE DISCUSSIONS OF ENVIRONMENT, POWER OF THE COMMISSION, CULTURE. THE NORTHERNERS CRITICISED THE PAPER ON COHESION AS OVER-AMBITIOUS, DANGEROUSLY VAGUE AND LARGELY MISCONCEIVED WHILE IRELAND AND GREECE LAMENTED THAT IT DID NOT GO FAR ENOUGH.

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6. I REMINDED THE GROUP OF THE DOOGUE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS ABOUT THE NUMBER OF COMMISSIONERS AND EUROPEAN COUNCILS.

7. DETAIL IN MY 3 IFTS.

BUTLER

YYYY

FRAME INSTITUTIONS/GENEERAL

FCO ADVANCE TO:-

FCO - RENWICK, WALL, RICHARDSON, PARKER

CAB - WILLIAMSON, JAY

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MR POWELL

CDP 107X.

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY: WORK OF THE PREPARATORY GROUP,
INTER-GOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE

Attached is the summary telegram (UKREP Brussels tel. No. 3270 of 8 October). This gives a good summary of the way in which, in substance, we have been able to cut back the Commission's over-ambitious proposals on the internal market and technology and we shall certainly achieve the same on the so-called cohesion of the Community. The preparatory group is at a very early stage of the discussion on the European Parliament and the process of "constructive questioning" has not yet had time to take its toll.

I am sending a copy to Sir Robert Armstrong.

D F WILLIAMSON

10 October 1985

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