

GRS 140

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FM ROME

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELNO 1013

OF 270800Z NOVEMBER 85

INFO PRIORITY EC POSTS, MADRID, LISBON

FRAME INSTITUTIONAL

MYTELNO 1009: ITALY/IGC

1. AT A COMMUNITY AMBASSADOR'S LUNCH AT THE FRENCH EMBASSY FOLLOWING HIS TALKS WITH WILLIAMSON THIS MORNING, RUGGIERO WENT FURTHER THAN HE HAD DONE WITH WILLIAMSON AS REGARDS THE LIKELY ITALIAN ATTITUDE TO THE OUTCOME OF THE IGC IF THAT OUTCOME FAILED TO SATISFY THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT. OVER LUNCH HE SAID IN TERMS THAT IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIS GOVERNMENT TO LIFT A GENERAL ITALIAN RESERVE ON THE OUTCOME OF THE IGC IF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT THEN VOTED DOWN THE IGC CONCLUSIONS. HE SAID IT WAS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT, THEREFORE, THAT THOSE CONCLUSIONS SHOULD BE PRESENTED TO THE PARLIAMENT IN SUCH A WAY THAT THE LATTER FELT THAT ITS OPINION ON THE SUBJECT WAS NOT IRRELEVANT.

2. THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED SCEPTICISM ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT ITALY MIGHT IN THIS WAY BLOCK ALONE THE DECISIONS OF NEXT WEEK'S EUROPEAN COUNCIL. THE BELGIAN SUGGESTED THAT ITALY MIGHT NOT FIND HERSELF ALONE. RUGGIERO REPEATED WHAT HE SAID TO WILLIAMSON TO THE EFFECT THAT A FAILURE TO AGREE ON THIS OCCASION WOULD NOT BE THE END OF THE WORLD: A FAILURE TO CONCLUDE WOULD BE LESS DAMAGING THAN AN INADEQUATE RESULT WHICH WAS THEN PRONOUNCED MISLEADINGLY TO BE A SUCCESS.

FITZHERBERT

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