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CONFIDENTIAL

DD 212200Z TOKYO

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TO DESKBY 212200Z TOKYO

TELNO 797

OF 212000Z SEPTEMBER 89

INFO IMMEDIATE UKREP BRUSSELS, ANKARA, THE HAGUE, PARIS

INFO IMMEDIATE BONN, BRUSSELS, COPENHAGEN, ROME, DUBLIN

INFO IMMEDIATE LUXEMBOURG, LISBON, MADRID, WASHINGTON

INFO IMMEDIATE UKDEL NATO

FOR PRIME MINISTER'S PARTY

UKREP BRUSSELS TELNO 2754 AND ANKARA TELNO 475: EC/TURKEY:  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

1. IT IS UNFORTUNATE THAT THE TURKS APPEAR TO HAVE OBTAINED A COPY OF THE COMMISSION'S DRAFT REPORT. NO 10'S PARTY MAY LIKE TO HAVE THE FOLLOWING BACKGROUND AND A RECOMMENDED LINE, IN CASE OF A TURKISH APPROACH IN JAPAN.

2. WE HAVE NOT OURSELVES YET SEEN THE COMMISSION'S DRAFT REPORT. THE LATEST INDICATIONS WE HAD (UKREP BRUSSELS TEL NO 2708 OF 19 SEPTEMBER - NOW BEING REPEATED TO YOU) WERE THAT THE COMMISSION ARE STILL WORKING TOWARDS A REPORT (NOT A FORMAL OPINION) WHICH WOULD BE DISCUSSED IN THE MARGINS OF THE 3 OCTOBER FAC AND THEN FORMALLY SUBMITTED TO THE 7 NOVEMBER FAC. THE REPORT WOULD BE CAREFULLY NEUTRAL: IT WOULD EXPLAIN WHY THE TIME WAS NOT RIPE TO TAKE A DECISION ON THE OPENING OF NEGOTIATIONS: THE EC WAS NOT READY (ABSORPTION OF SPAIN AND PORTUGAL, COMPLETION OF THE INTERNAL MARKET) NOR WAS TURKEY IN A POSITION TO TAKE ON THE BURDENS OF MEMBERSHIP (AN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ANALYSIS WOULD HIGHLIGHT THE HUGE GAPS BETWEEN THE EC AND TURKEY). THE POSSIBILITY OF TURKISH ACCESSION AT A FUTURE DATE WOULD BE LEFT OPEN.

3. THE COMMISSION HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT THE TURKS HAD NOW REALISED THAT THE REPORT NEITHER BE POSITIVE, NOR OVERLY NEGATIVE. THE TURKS HAD SAID THAT AT THE VERY LEAST THEY WANTED A POLITICAL DECLARATION BY THE COMMUNITY THAT ONE DAY THEY WOULD BE READY TO ACCEPT TURKEY. THEY WOULD ALSO SEEK A SECOND DECLARATION THAT FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS WOULD START IN 1993. ON THE FORMER, COMMISSIONER MATUTES THOUGHT THAT A VERY ANODYNE FORMULA COULD BE FOUND WHICH WOULD NONETHELESS SATISFY THE TURKS: ON THE LATTER, THE MOST THE COMMISSION WOULD BE PREPARED TO PROMOTE WAS A STATEMENT IN THE REPORT TO THE EFFECT THAT IN 1993 THE COMMUNITY SHOULD START A LONG PROCESS OF REFLECTION ON WHAT HAD BEEN SO FAR ACHIEVED AND WHERE THE NEXT STEPS SHOULD LEAD.

4. THE TURKISH REACTION, AS REPORTED BY THE NETHERLANDS PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE, IS NOT UNEXPECTED, AND TURKISH TACTICS DURING THIS PERIOD MAY WELL BE TO TRY TO STAMPEDE THE COMMUNITY INTO (IN EC TERMS PREMATURE) SUBSTANTIVE DECISIONS ABOUT THE PRINCIPLE OF TURKISH MEMBERSHIP AND THE TIMING OF ANY NEGOTIATIONS. BUT THERE IS NO PROSPECT OF ACHIEVING AN EARLY COMMUNITY CONSENSUS OTHER THAN ON THE LINES THE COMMISSION ARE NOW DEVELOPING.

5. IF YILMAZ SHOULD MAKE AN APPROACH IN TOKYO WE RECOMMEND HE BE TOLD THAT SINCE WE HAVE NOT SEEN THE COMMISSION'S REPORT WE CANNOT COMMENT ON ITS CONTENTS. HOWEVER, IN PRINCIPLE WE WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTIONS TO A GENERAL STATEMENT REFERRING TO THE IMPORTANCE THE COMMUNITY ATTACHES TO DEVELOPING ITS RELATIONS WITH TURKEY (BY WHICH, WHILE THE TURKS COULD INTERPRET IT DIFFERENTLY, THE COMMUNITY COULD MEAN NO MORE, AT LEAST FOR THE MOMENT, THAN THE BROADENING OF THE EXISTING EC/TURKEY ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT). AS FOR A DECISION NOW ON THE OPENING OF NEGOTIATIONS IN 1993, THE TURKS SHOULD REALISE THAT THE ISSUES ARE COMPLEX AND DESERVE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION BY ALL MEMBER STATES: IT WOULD NOT BE IN TURKEY'S INTEREST TO PUSH FOR A PRECIPITATE DECISION. WHEN THE TIME COMES, WE SHALL, AS THE PRIME MINISTER SAID IN ANKARA LAST YEAR, GIVE FULL WEIGHT TO THE HISTORY OF OUR RELATIONS WITH TURKEY AND THE FACT THAT WE ARE ALREADY PARTNERS IN MANY COMMON ENDEAVOURS. UNTIL THEN IT IS NOT SENSIBLE TO PREJUDGE THE ISSUE.

MAJOR

OCMIAN 4989

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