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cc: *Garden Rooms*

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FM UKDEL NATO
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 348
OF 211717Z NOVEMBER 89
INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON, BONN, PARIS
INFO PRIORITY OTHER NATO POSTS, MOSCOW

Appendix/CF
to note
 timings
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NATO HEADS OF GOVT MEETING 4 DECEMBER:

SUMMARY

1. PROVISIONAL PLANS EMERGE FOR NATO SUMMIT. WORKING SESSION FROM 1100 TO 1600 HOURS. NO COMMUNIQUE. NAC MINISTERIAL ON 14/15 DECEMBER WILL STILL TAKE PLACE.

DETAIL

2. AT TODAY'S INFORMAL LUNCH OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES, IT EMERGED THAT THE SUMMIT ON 4 DECEMBER WOULD BE BRIEFED NOT ONLY BY PRESIDENT BUSH BUT ALSO BY ANDREOTTI (ON GORBACHEV'S VISIT TO ITALY) AND MULRONEY (ON THE LATTER'S VISIT TO MOSCOW). THE GREAT MAJORITY OF MY COLLEAGUES (INCLUDING THE GERMAN AND ITALIAN) SAID THAT THEIR HEADS OF GOVERNMENT WOULD ATTEND, AND THAT THEY WOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY FOREIGN MINISTERS. NO PERMREP SAID THAT HIS HEAD OF GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT ATTEND: OJEDA (SPAIN) SAID THAT 4 DECEMBER MIGHT BE THE DAY WHICH THE NEW SPANISH GOVERNMENT WAS PRESENTED TO THE CORTES: IF THIS HAPPENED, GONZALEZ WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO COME TO BRUSSELS ALTHOUGH HE WAS KEEN TO DO SO. ROBIN (FRANCE) WAS CHARACTERISTICALLY CAGEY BUT APPEARED TO ASSUME ATTENDANCE BY MITTERRAND AND DUMAS. I SAID THAT THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD BE COMING BUT THAT I HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS ABOUT YOUR PLANS THOUGH I ASSUMED, IN THE LIGHT OF YOUR COLLEAGUES' INTENTIONS, THAT YOU WOULD WISH TO COME IF POSSIBLE.

TIMETABLE

3. TAFT (U S) CONVEYED THE PERSONAL WISH OF PRESIDENT BUSH THAT THERE SHOULD BE A 'GENUINE DISCUSSION' AMONG THE PARTICIPANTS. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE MEETING SHOULD ASSEMBLE AT 1100 HOURS (THE EARLIEST TIME POSSIBLE FOR PRESIDENT BUSH) IN ROOM 16. THIS LARGE ROOM IS THE ONLY ONE WHICH PERMITS ACCESS BY PHOTOGRAPHERS IN THE NUMBERS EXPECTED: THE PHOTO SESSION WOULD LAST SOME 15 MINUTES. BUSH, ANDREOTTI AND MULRONEY WOULD THEN MAKE THEIR PRESENTATIONS, TOTALLING ABOUT ONE HOUR. FOLLOWING SOME PRELIMINARY REACTIONS THE MEETING WOULD ADJOURN FOR LUNCH AT 1230. ATTENDANCE AT THE MORNING SESSION WOULD BE TWO PLUS NINE.

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4. TWO SEPARATE INFORMAL LUNCHES ARE ENVISAGED, BOTH AT NATO HQ: ONE FOR HEADS OF GOVERNMENT AND ONE FOR FOREIGN MINISTERS AND PERMREPS. THE MEETING WOULD REASSEMBLE AT 1400 IN ROOM ONE (ATTENDANCE TWO PLUS SIX): THIS, SMALLER, ROOM SHOULD FACILITATE A MORE FREE-RANGING DISCUSSION. THE MEETING WOULD END AT 1600.

OTHER POINTS

5. IT WAS AGREED THERE WERE STRONG ARGUMENTS AGAINST ATTEMPTING TO HAVE A COMMUNIQUE. WORNER WAS NOT AT TODAY'S LUNCH BUT IT WAS PROVISIONALLY AGREED THAT THE BEST WAY TO PROCEED MIGHT BE FOR HIM, SHORTLY BEFORE THE END OF THE MEETING, TO SUM UP THE MAIN POINTS WHICH HE WOULD MAKE AT HIS OWN SUBSEQUENT PRESS CONFERENCE: ASSUMING HEADS OF GOVERNMENT WERE CONTENT, THIS WOULD CONSTITUTE THE MESSAGE TO BE CONVEYED ON BEHALF OF THE ALLIANCE AS A WHOLE. HEADS OF GOVERNMENT WOULD OF COURSE ALSO GIVE THEIR OWN PRESS CONFERENCES.

6. THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTERIAL NAC SHOULD BE HELD AS PLANNED ON 14/15 DECEMBER. TAFT (U S) SAID THAT THIS MEETING, AND THE COMMUNIQUE WHICH IT WOULD ISSUE, WOULD HAVE 'ADDED IMPORTANCE' IN THE LIGHT OF THE SUMMIT.

7. THERE WILL BE FURTHER DISCUSSION AMONG OFFICIALS ON 23 NOVEMBER (AT 1430) OF THE MODALITIES FOR THE MEETING. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO HAVE BEFORE THEN PRELIMINARY REACTIONS TO THE PROPOSALS SUMMARISED ABOUT.

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