

UNCLASSIFIED  
FM DUBLIN  
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INFO PRIORITY UKREP BRUSSELS, EC POSTS, EAST BERLIN

(FRAME GENERAL)

FOR RESIDENT CLERK

DELORS INTERVIEW FOR THE IRISH TIMES

SUMMARY

1. MR DELORS SAYS IT IS TOO EARLY TO CHOOSE BETWEEN DIFFERENT SCENARIOS FOR THE POSSIBLE ENLARGEMENT OF THE COMMUNITY BUT EXPRESSES HIS PERSONAL VIEW THAT IF EAST GERMANY BECOMES A PLURALIST DEMOCRACY WITH A COMPETITIVE ECONOMY, IT WILL HAVE ITS PLACE IN THE COMMUNITY, CONFIDENCE THAT A CONSENSUS WOULD BE REACHED ON EMU, WHICH WOULD TAKE 10 YEARS TO ACHIEVE.

DETAIL

2. TO COINCIDE WITH A TWO-DAY MEETING IN DUBLIN OF THE COMMISSION WITH THE IRISH GOVERNMENT, THE IRISH TIMES ON 6 JANUARY CARRIED AN EXTENSIVE INTERVIEW WITH M DELORS IN WHICH HE DEALT EXTENSIVELY WITH EASTERN EUROPE. THE RESPONSE TO THE PROBLEM PRESENTED AN IMMENSE POLITICAL CHALLENGE TO THE IRISH AND SUBSEQUENT PRESIDENCIES. AFTER EXPLAINING THE COMMUNITIES RESPONSE SO FAR AND THE PRINCIPLES GUIDING IT (SELF-DETERMINATION, POLITICAL REFORMS, ECONOMIC MODERNISATION) HE SAID THAT A NEW PACKAGE WOULD BE NEEDED TO COVER THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY AND OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, WHICH WOULD NOT FORGET THE COMMUNITIES OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES. BUT TIME WOULD BE NEEDED TO PROVE THE COMMUNITY'S CAPACITY TO HELP THEM, AND THEIR OWN CAPACITY TO EMBRACE DEMOCRACY AND A COMPETITIVE ECONOMY, AND TO PROPOSE FOR EACH EUROPEAN COUNTRY A TYPE OF ASSOCIATION UNDER ARTICLE 238. IF THESE STEPS WERE SUCCESSFUL, THE NEXT STEP WOULD BE A GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR ALL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. BUT THIS WAS NOT THE TIME TO CHOOSE BETWEEN THE MANY POSSIBLE SCENARIOS ON EASTERN EUROPE.

*Li.e. clear you proposed 2 months ago*

3. ON GERMAN UNIFICATION DELORS REFERRED TO THE STRASBOURG DECLARATION AND THE FRG DECLARATION ON RATIFYING THE TREATY OF ROME THAT IF UNIFICATION WAS POSSIBLE THE COMMUNITY'S FRAMEWORK WOULD BE

RECONSIDERED. IN HIS PERSONAL VIEW IF EAST GERMANY BECAME A PLURALIST DEMOCRACY WITH AN OPEN ECONOMY IT WOULD HAVE ITS PLACE IN THE COMMUNITY. IF THE OBSTACLES TO UNIFICATION- THE YALTA AGREEMENT, THE COLD WAR AND THE COMMUNIST REGIME -WERE ABOLISHED, THE PEOPLE OF EAST GERMANY WOULD BE POTENTIAL MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY. A POSSIBLE CHANGE IN THE MILITARY STATUS OF GERMANY WAS A SEPERATE QUESTION, THE ISSUE WAS THAT THE COMMUNITY IS OPEN TO EAST GERMANY UNDER THE PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION.

4. IN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS, DELORS SAID HE COULD NOT IMAGINE EUROPEAN UNITY WITHOUT THE CAPACITY TO TAKE CHARGE OF ITS INTERNAL SECURITY, IN IDEOLOGICAL, ECONOMIC OR MILITARY TERMS AND THAT THE QUESTION OF IRISH NEUTRALITY WAS ONE FOR EVERY IRISH CITIZEN TO REFLECT UPON.

5. ON EMU, THE IGC IN DECEMBER 1990 WOULD DISCUSS THE INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK TO ENSURE POLITICAL AND DEMOCRATIC ACCOUNTABILITY. HE AGREED WITH MR HAUGHEY'S VIEW THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAD NO PRINCIPLED OBJECTION TO EMU. THE PRIME MINISTER ALWAYS PARTICIPATED FULLY IN DISCUSSIONS OF EMU, AND A GROWING MAJORITY OF BRITISH PEOPLE WERE IN FAVOUR OF AN INTEGRATED EUROPE. IN TIME IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO REACH A CONSENSUS.

6. AT A JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE WITH MR HAUGHEY, DELORS REAFFIRMED THE NEED TO CONSOLIDATE THE COMMUNITY BEFORE ANY ENLARGEMENT. MR HAUGHEY ANNOUNCED THAT A GENERAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL SHOULD BE CONVENED LATER THIS MONTH, PROBABLY IN DUBLIN, TO DISCUSS THE COMMUNITY'S RESPONSE TO DEVELOPMENTS IN EASTERN EUROPE. THIS WOULD DISCUSS RECENT COMMENTS BY SECRETARY BAKER ON EASTERN EUROPE, THOSE OF PRESIDENT MITTERRAND ON A POSSIBLE EUROPEAN CONFEDERATION, AND CHANCELLOR KOHL'S 10-POINT PROGRAMME, BUT IT WAS UNLIKELY TO RESULT IN SUBSTANTIVE DECISION.

7. RESIDENT CLERK: PLEASE PASS TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S PARTY AT CHEVENING.

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