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TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 1812

OF 201515Z JULY 92

INFO ROUTINE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY POSTS, SOFIA, BUCHAREST

INFO ROUTINE EFTA POSTS, ANKARA, NICOSIA, VALLETTA, PRAGUE

INFO ROUTINE WARSAW, BUDAPEST

FRAME ENLARGEMENT

FOREIGN AFFAIRS COUNCIL, 20 JULY: FOLLOW UP TO EUROPEAN COUNCIL:  
ENLARGEMENT

SUMMARY

1. COMMISSION RELUCTANT TO PRODUCE FINNISH OPINION BY 5 OCTOBER BUT OTHERWISE GENERAL AGREEMENT TO PRESIDENCY'S APPROACH. SOME CALL FOR INCLUSION OF ROMANIA AND BULGARIA IN CONTACTS WITH VISEGRAD 3.

DETAIL

2. YOU SAID THAT ON ENLARGEMENT THE LISBON EUROPEAN COUNCIL HAD GIVEN CLEAR GUIDELINES. THE COMMUNITY WAS READY TO OPEN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE EFTA COUNTRIES ONCE THE NECESSARY CONDITIONS WERE FULFILLED. WE SHOULD NOW SET IN MOTION THE WORK NECESSARY TO HAVE THE GENERAL NEGOTIATION FRAMEWORK READY FOR EDINBURGH. THE AUSTRIAN OPINION WAS ON THE TABLE. WE UNDERSTOOD THE SWEDISH OPINION WAS ALMOST READY. WE HOPED THAT THE OPINION ON FINLAND MIGHT BE READY BY THE END OF SEPTEMBER SO THAT THE 5 OCTOBER FOREIGN AFFAIRS COUNCIL COULD EXAMINE ALL THREE ON THE BASIS OF PREPARATION BY COREPER. IT WOULD ALSO MAKE GOOD SENSE TO HAVE AN INFORMAL DISCUSSION AT BROCKET HALL ON NEUTRALITY AND CFSP. AS TO THE OTHER EXISTING OR POTENTIAL APPLICANTS, LISBON HAD DECIDED NOT TO INCLUDE THEM IN THE FIRST WAVE. WE DID NOT NEED TO REPEAT THAT DISCUSSION. TURKEY WOULD BE DISCUSSED AT LUNCH. WE HOPED TO COME BACK TO CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE, AND CYPRUS AND MALTA ON 5 OCTOBER ON THE BASIS OF ORIENTATIONS FROM THE COMMISSION. WE ALSO WISHED TO INTENSIFY THE DIALOGUE WITH THE VISEGRAD 3. WE INTENDED A MEETING WITH THEIR FOREIGN MINISTERS IN THE MARGINS OF THE 5 OCTOBER FAC, AND A MEETING AT HEADS OF GOVERNMENT LEVEL ON 28 OCTOBER.

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3. ANDRIESSEN (COMMISSION) SAID THAT THE COMMISSION WOULD LOOK AT THE SWEDISH OPINION NEXT WEEK. HE WOULD TRY TO HAVE THE FINNISH OPINION READY BEFORE 5 OCTOBER, BUT IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT. THE SWISS APPLICATION WAS ALSO BEING PROCESSED. IT WAS NOT CLEAR WHETHER IT WOULD ISSUE BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR. THE SWISS WERE WORRIED ABOUT THE TIMING BECAUSE OF THE EEA REFERENDUM IN DECEMBER. IF NORWAY APPLIED IN NOVEMBER, THE OPINION COULD PROBABLY BE READY IN THE SPRING. THE MALTESE OPINION WOULD BE READY IN THE NEAR FUTURE. THE OPINION ON CYPRUS WOULD TAKE LONGER. THE COMMISSION WOULD BE PRODUCING A REPORT ON CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE IN LINE WITH THE LISBON CONCLUSIONS.

4. ELLEMANN-JENSEN (DENMARK) CALLED FOR THE OPINION ON FINLAND TO BE READY BEFORE 5 OCTOBER. GUIGOU (FRANCE) STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF NOT FORGETTING SWITZERLAND, CALLED FOR PRUDENCE ON INFORMAL CONTACTS WITH THE EFTA COUNTRIES, SAID THAT THE COMMUNITY SHOULD TAKE ACCOUNT OF BULGARIA AND ROMANIA IN DEVELOPING CONTACTS WITH THE EAST EUROPEANS, AND CALLED FOR STRICT ADHERENCE TO THE LISBON CONCLUSIONS IN RESPECT OF THE OTHER COUNTRIES. SOLANA (SPAIN) AGREED WITH FRANCE ON THE NEED FOR PRUDENCE AND UNDERLINED THE VALIDITY OF THE LISBON CONDITIONS FOR OPENING NEGOTIATIONS. SCOTTI (ITALY) DREW ATTENTION TO MALTESE SENSITIVITIES, AND AGREED WITH FRANCE ON CONTACTS WITH BULGARIA AND ROMANIA. PAPASTAMKOS (GREECE) ALSO RECALLED THE LISBON CONDITIONS, WANTED THE COMMUNITY TO SEND A POSITIVE MESSAGE TO CYPRUS AND AGREED ON THE IMPORTANCE OF BULGARIA AND ROMANIA. SEILER-ALBRING (GERMANY) AGREED WITH FRANCE ABOUT SWITZERLAND, AND CALLED FOR EXPLORATORY CONTACTS, PARTICULARLY WITH AUSTRIA. POOS (LUXEMBOURG) THOUGHT THAT DISCUSSION SHOULD NOW FOCUS ON THE OPINIONS.

5. ON THE EFTA APPLICANTS, YOU NOTED THAT THE COMMISSION WOULD PRESENT ITS OPINION ON SWEDEN ON 31 JULY, APPEALED TO THE COMMISSION TO BRING FORWARD THE OPINION ON FINLAND BEFORE 5 OCTOBER IF POSSIBLE, AND CONCLUDED THAT THE 5 OCTOBER FAC WOULD EXAMINE THE OPINIONS AS PART OF THE PREPARATION, FOR THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL IN EDINBURGH, OF THE UNION'S GENERAL NEGOTIATING FRAMEWORK, TAKING ACCOUNT OF THE LISBON CONDITIONS. MINISTERS WOULD DISCUSS CFSP ON 12-13 SEPTEMBER.

6. THERE WOULD BE A SECOND DISCUSSION OF TURKEY AT THE SAME MEETING. YOU HOPED THE COMMISSION WOULD SUBMIT PROPOSALS FOR THE 5 OCTOBER FAC ON CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE, AND ON CYPRUS AND MALTA, WHOSE SENSITIVITIES WE SHOULD NOTE. YOU AGREED WE SHOULD NOT

FORGET ROMANIA AND BULGARIA. THE FIRST STEP WAS TO COMPLETE THE ASSOCIATION AGREEMENTS SO THAT THEIR RELATIONS WITH THE COMMUNITY HAD THE SAME STATUS AS THOSE OF THE VISEGRAD 3. THE PRESIDENCY HOPED TO INVITE THE VISEGRAD 3 FOREIGN MINISTERS TO A MEETING ON 5 OCTOBER. ON SWITZERLAND, WE NEEDED TO EXPLORE CAREFULLY THE SWISS POSITION, WHILE DOING NOTHING TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT WE HAD FORGOTTEN THEIR WISHES.

7. ANDRIESSEN SAID THAT THE COMMISSION MIGHT ONLY BE ABLE TO SUBMIT INITIAL ORIENTATIONS ON CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE, AND CYPRUS AND MALTA, TO THE 5 OCTOBER FAC. HE ASKED THAT THE PRESIDENCY SHOULD CONSIDER INCLUDING ROMANIA AND BULGARIA IN ITS POLITICAL CONTACTS WITH CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE.

8. YOU CONCLUDED THAT THE FAC SHOULD COME BACK TO THE LATTER POINT. WE SHOULD GO AHEAD WITH THE 5 OCTOBER MEETING WITH THE VISEGRAD 3, AND KEEP ROMANIA AND BULGARIA ON A SEPARATE TRACK FOR THE TIME BEING.

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ADDITIONAL 1

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