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FM BONN
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 36
OF 151425Z JANUARY 88
INFO IMMEDIATE UKREP BRUSSELS
INFO PRIORITY OTHER EUROPEAN COMMUNITY POSTS

MY TELNO 28: BRUSSELS EUROPEAN COUNCIL

1. THERE WAS NOTHING IN MY TALK WITH KOHL YESTERDAY TO LEAD ME TO REVISE THE ASSESSMENT IN MY TELNOS 10 AND 23. HIS MIND WAS MORE ON EAST/WEST AND DOMESTIC ISSUES THAN ON THE RUN-UP TO THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL.

2. MY ONLY RECOMMENDATION AT PRESENT IS THAT WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO AVOID - AS WE DID SO SUCCESSFULLY AT COPENHAGEN - GETTING MANOEUVRED INTO ISOLATION. THE GERMANS HAVE BEEN TAKEN ABACK BY THE STEADY DUTCH SUPPORT FOR OUR POSITION AND IT HAS SYMBOLIC AS WELL AS REAL IMPORTANCE. EVEN MORE SIGNIFICANT IS THAT WE CAN CLAIM TO BE AT ONE WITH THE COMMISSION. THIS IS NOT A POSITION WE SHOULD SURRENDER UNLESS WE MUST: SEEN FROM HERE, IT MAY BE WORTH MAKING AN EFFORT TO ACCEPT THE COMMISSION'S LATEST IDEAS ON SET-ASIDE IN ORDER TO GO ON WRONG-FOOTING THE GERMANS.

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