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SUMMARY

1. SIR L BRITTAN HAS WRITTEN TO FAUROUX SAYING THAT THE FRENCH ACTION OF DECEMBER DOES NOT COMPLY WITH THE COMMISSION'S DECISION.

DETAIL

2. LORD YOUNG RAISED THIS ISSUE WHEN HE CALLED ON SIR L BRITTAN ON 30 JANUARY. SIR L BRITTAN SAID THAT HE HAD THAT DAY SIGNED A LETTER TO FAUROUX SAYING THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT WHAT THE FRENCH HAD OFFERED AMOUNTED TO COMPLIANCE WITH THE COMMISSION'S DECISION OF 29 MARCH: THAT HE HOPED THEY WOULD COME UP WITH SOMETHING ELSE: AND THAT, IF THEY DID NOT DO SO, HE WOULD HAVE TO CONSIDER WHAT ADVICE TO GIVE TO THE COMMISSION. IF THE FRENCH DID COME UP WITH SOME CHANGES, HE WOULD HAVE TO CONSIDER THEM. IF THEY DID NOT, THE NEXT STEPS WOULD BE FOR THE FULL COMMISSION (RATHER THAN FOR HIM ALONE) TO DECIDE.

3. LORD YOUNG WELCOMED THIS ACTION. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN DOMESTICALLY ANY WEAKENING OF THE COMMISSION'S POSITION VIS-A-VIS RENAULT. A FIRM COMMISSION STANCE WAS ALSO IMPORTANT AS REGARDS FUTURE COMMISSION DECISIONS, EG FIAT.

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