

UNCLASSIFIED

FM PARIS

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 625

OF 121531Z MAY 89

INFO IMMEDIATE UKREP BRUSSELS

INFO ROUTINE OTHER EC POSTS

FRAME GENERAL

FRENCH PRESIDENCY PREPARATIONS

SUMMARY

1. MITTERRAND AND FRENCH MINISTER MOST CONCERNED WITH EC SUBJECTS MEET DELORS TO GO OVER FRENCH PRESIDENCY PRIORITIES. MONETARY, SOCIAL AND AUDIOVISUAL ISSUES DOMINATE. A FURTHER MEETING SCHEDULED FOR 20 JUNE, AND FRENCH MINISTERS WILL MEET THE FULL COMMISSION IN PARIS ON 1 JULY.

DETIAL

2. TO-DAY'S PRESS 'GIVES FAIRLY PROMINENT COVERAGE TO A MEETING CHAIRED BY PRESIDENT MITTERRAND YESTERDAY, ATTENDED BY DELORS AND THE FRENCH MINISTERS PRIMARILY CONCERNED WITH COMMUNITY ISSUES, IE ROCARD, DUMAS, BEREGOVY, CRESSON, SOISSON (EMPLOYMENT) AND EVIN (HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY) TO DISCUSS FRENCH PRESIDENCY PRIORITIES. OUR NORMAL CONTACTS HAVE BEEN UNAVAILABLE TODAY, AND WE HAVE NOT YET GOT A READ OUT ON THE MEETING. DISCUSSION IS HOWEVER, REPORTED TO HAVE RANGED WIDELY, COVERING MONETARY UNION, DIRECT AND INDIRECT TAXATION, SOCIAL ISSUES (SOCIAL CHARTER AND COMPANY STATUTE), FRONTIER CONTROLS, THE ENVIRONMENT, AUDIO VISUAL, SINGLE MARKET ISSUES INCULDING PUBLIC PURCHASING, AND EXTERNAL ISSUES, INCLUDING EC/EASTERN EUROPE AND EC/EFTA. IN TALKING TO THE PRESS AFTERWARDS, DELORS SINGLED OUT ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION, SOCIAL ISSUES ('ON WHICH SOME IMPORTANT DECISIONS ARE IN PREPARATION WHICH IT WILL BE UP TO THE FRENCH TO GET ADOPTED') AND AUDIO VISUAL (HDTV, FREE CIRCULATION OF PROGRAMMES ETC AND 'THE CONSTITUTION OF A EUROPEAN SYSTEM OF SUPPORT FOR PRODUCTION WHICH WILL RESPECT PLURALISM AND VARIETY') AS THE MAIN ISSUES DISCUSSED.

4. A SIMILAR MEETING IS APPARENTLY SCHEDULED FOR 20 JUNE, AND FRENCH MINISTERS ARE DUE TO MEET THE WHOLE COMMISSION IN PARIS ON 1 JULY, THE FIRST DAY OF THEIR PRESIDENCY.