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TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 614

OF 282112Z FEBRUARY 90

INFO IMMEDIATE BONN

INFO PRIORITY OTHER EUROPEAN COMMUNITY POSTS

FRAME ECONOMIC

COREPER (AMBASSADORS) LUNCH: 28 FEBRUARY

GERMAN UNIFICATION

SUMMARY

1. GERMANS AND COMMISSION EXPLAIN WORK IN PROGRESS. COMMISSION URGED TO ENTER INTO DIALOGUE WITH COREPER, WITH A VIEW TO A PREPARATORY DISCUSSION FOR DUBLIN AT THE APRIL FOREIGN AFFAIRS COUNCIL.

DETAIL

2. TRUMPF (GERMANY) SAID MUCH WORK WAS BEING DONE IN BONN ON THE COMMUNITY IMPLICATIONS OF GERMAN UNIFICATION. A COMMITTEE CHAIRED BY RAMBOW WAS LOOKING AT INTERNAL COMMUNITY MATTERS AND ONE CHAIRED BY VON KYAW AT EXTERNAL MATTERS. THEY WERE IN INFORMAL CONTACT WITH THE COMMISSION AND EACH WOULD PRODUCE A PAPER BY MID-MARCH. IT HAD ALREADY BEEN AGREED THAT THERE WAS NO NEED FOR TREATY CHANGE AND THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO INSTITUTIONAL CHANGES. THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT WAS AN INSTITUTIONAL PROBLEM WHICH MIGHT NEED AN AD HOC SOLUTION IF UNIFICATION HAPPENED VERY QUICKLY. OTHERWISE THE ONLY CHANGES REQUIRED WOULD BE SECONDARY LEGISLATION. THERE WAS A MAJOR PROBLEM RESULTING FROM LACK OF INFORMATION AND STATISTICS ABOUT EAST GERMANY.

3. WILLIAMSON (COMMISSION) SAID EACH DIRECTORATE GENERAL HAD BEEN ASKED WHETHER ALL THAT NEEDED TO BE DONE COULD BE DONE BY SECONDARY LEGISLATION. SO FAR NO REQUIREMENT FOR TREATY CHANGE HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED BUT THIS WAS NOT YET A DEFINITIVE ANSWER. THE COMMISSION'S PAPER HAD BEEN PROMISED FOR BEFORE 28 APRIL BUT IT WAS A BIG JOB AND THE LACK OF STATISTICS WAS A MAJOR PROBLEM. THE COMMISSION SHOULD HAVE AGREED ITS PRELIMINARY VIEWS IN THE NEXT TWO TO THREE WEEKS.

4. I SAID THAT INFORMATION AND PREPARATORY WORK WAS NEEDED BEFORE THAT. IF NECESSARY THIS WOULD HAVE TO BE DONE BEFORE THE

DOCUMENT WAS READY. THE LUNCH WITH DELORS ON 15 MARCH AND THE COREPER LUNCH BEFORE THE APRIL FOREIGN AFFAIRS COUNCIL WOULD PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES TO PREPARE FOR THE APRIL FOREIGN AFFAIRS COUNCIL WHICH WAS BOUND TO DISCUSS THE SUBJECT. THE COMMISSION SHOULD REFLECT ON THE BEST WAY OF GETTING A DIALOGUE GOING. CAMPBELL SUPPORTED THIS PLEA AND CONCLUDED THAT THE COMMISSION SHOULD NOTE THE LEGITIMATE REQUEST FOR AN INFORMAL DIALOGUE.

5. IN REPLY TO A QUESTION WHETHER ARTICLE 23 OF THE CONSTITUTION WAS THE ROUTE BY WHICH UNIFICATION WOULD BE BROUGHT ABOUT, TRUMPF SAID THIS WAS ONE POSSIBILITY. ANOTHER WAS ARTICLE 146 BUT HE THOUGHT ARTICLE 23 MORE LIKELY. ALL WOULD DEPEND ON THE OUTCOME OF THE EAST GERMAN ELECTIONS. WILLIAMSON SAID THE COMMISSION WERE WORKING ON BOTH HYPOTHESES BUT CONSIDERED THE ARTICLE 23 ROUTE TO BE THE MORE PROBABLE.

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