

Mr de Fonblanque

European Council, Dublin: 28 April: Lunchtime discussion
among Foreign Ministers

The Secretary of State gave the following account of the discussion among Foreign Ministers at lunch at the European Council today.

Drugs

The text on drugs which Foreign Ministers had been given to discuss asked the High Level Coordinators Group to report to it in June on measures to bring about more effective coordination and on priorities for action by the Community and the member states. Herr Genscher said that the High Level Group was useless and that the Commission should be asked to do the work. A compromise was reached by which the text asks the High Level Group to take action - in close consultation with the Commission.

CSCE

The Foreign Ministers discussed a text, which had earlier been discussed by Political Directors, suggesting that the work of the Preparatory Committee for the CSCE Summit should start in Vienna in July and that the Summit itself should take place in Paris. The Secretary of State and de Michelis (Italy) argued that it was not for the Twelve to decide on the venue of the CSCE meetings. Others, however, said that the Twelve were doing no more than stating their preference. The Secretary of State did not therefore pursue the argument any further.

Lithuania

Eyskens (Belgium) described the deteriorating situation in Lithuania - on the basis of reports from a Belgian team which had just been there. The Lithuanians wanted help with medical supplies. He had asked NGOs if they could help.

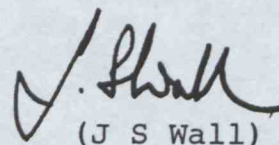
Ellemann-Jensen (Denmark) said that the Kohl/Mitterrand letter was surprising and unhelpful. It undermined the process of political cooperation. Denmark would be spending \$1 million to help Lithuania through their Red Cross.

Van den Broek (Netherlands) said that he too had been surprised by the Kohl/Mitterrand letter. He had no objections on substance but it came oddly after the Twelve's efforts at coordination on this issue and after all the recent talk of political union. Mr Van den Broek thought it would be appropriate to provide humanitarian, as opposed to other forms of aid.

/M. Dumas

M. Delors said that the Commission had received a letter from the Lithuanians seeking medical help. The Secretary of State suggested that the Commission should look at what should be done, and at the opportunities for humanitarian aid, and report to the next Foreign Affairs Council. This was agreed subject to subsequent approval by Heads of Government.

28 April 1990


(J S Wall)

cc: Sir D Hannay
Sir N Fenn
Mr Kerr
Mr Mower
Head, ECD(I)
PS
PS/No 10