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TELNO 1286
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INFO ROUTINE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY POSTS

FRAME INSTITUTIONAL

FOREIGN AFFAIRS COUNCIL 7 MAY
EUROPEAN COUNCIL FOLLOW-UP: POLITICAL UNION

SUMMARY

1. DESPITE CALLS FROM ITALY AND THE NETHERLANDS FOR A SPECIAL PREPARATORY COMMITTEE OF JUNIOR MINISTERS TO BE SET UP, THE PRESIDENCY SECURED AGREEMENT TO THEIR PROPOSAL FOR SPEICAIL MEETINGS OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES AND (IF NECESSARY) POLITICAL DIRECTORS. AGREEMENT THAT AN EXTRA MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS WOULD BE CALLED IF NECESSARY. THE PRESIDENCY STATED THAT DELEGATIONS WOULD NOT BE PREVENTED FROM DEVELOPING THEIR IDEAS BY STRICT INTERPRETATION OF TERMS OF THE DUBLIN SPECIAL EUROPEAN COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS.

DETAIL

2. COLLINS (PRESIDENCY) RECALLED THE REQUIREMENT IN THE DUBLIN I CONCLUSIONS TO ANALYSE THE NEED FOR POSSIBLE TREATY CHANGES WITH THE AIM OF STRENGTHENING DEMOCRATIC LEGITIMACY, INCREASING EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS AND ASSUMING COHERENCE IN INTERNATIONAL ACTION. WE NEEDED TO CLARIFY THE DIRECTION IN WHICH WE WERE GOING ON THESE ISSUES AND PERHAPS ALSO ON AREAS WHERE WE SHOULD NOT BE GOING. IDEAS SHOULD BE PUT FORWARD AT LATEST TO THE MEETING OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES, WHO WOULD BE ACTING IN A PERSONAL CAPACITY, ON FRIDAY 11 MAY. THE ISSUE OF UNITY IN INTERNATIONAL ACTION SHOULD ALSO GO TO THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS. IT WOULD BE FOR FOREIGN MINISTERS ON 19/20 MAY TO DECIDE HOW TO CARRY THE WORK FORWARD. HE CIRCULATED A TEXT OF DRAFT CONCLUSIONS ON THESE LINES.

3. VAN DEN BROEK (NETHERLANDS) THOUGHT A BETTER PROCEDURE WOULD BE TO SET UP A PREPARATORY COMMITTEE OF JUNIOR MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS. THIS WOULD SQUARE BETTER WITH THE INTER-GOVERNMENTAL CHARACTER OF THE REMIT, WHICH WAS TO FOREIGN MINISTERS, NOT THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COUNCIL. COLLINS DISAGREED - IT

WAS INDEED FOR FOREIGN MINISTERS TO DO THE ANALYSIS AND PREPARE PROPOSALS FOR DUBLIN II. THE TASK OF COREPER/ THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE WAS TO COLLECT IDEAS AND PRESENT THEM IN AN ORDERLY FASHION.

4. EYSKENS (BELGIUM) FAVOURED COREPER/POLITICAL DIRECTORS. HE REFERRED TO THE SEA PRECEDENT. THEY SHOULD DRAW UP A QUESTIONNAIRE, AS THE GUIGOU GROUP HAD. MR MAUDE SAID AN INTENSIVE PROGRAMME OF WORK WAS NEEDED AND PROPOSED A FURTHER MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS BETWEEN 19/20 MAY AND 18 JUNE. WORK SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON THE THREE AREAS IDENTIFIED PLUS SUBSIDIARITY AND THE PARAMETERS IE THOSE AREAS NOT TO BE INCLUDED, AS AGREED IN DUBLIN. COLLINS SAID THE PRESIDENCY WOULD MONITOR THE SITUATION AND WOULD CALL ONE OR MORE EXTRA MEETINGS IF NEEDED.

5. DE MICHELIS (ITALY) THOUGHT THE WORK SHOULD BE DONE BY A GROUP OF MINISTERS' PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR PERHAPS MINISTERS OF STATE WITH SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR EUROPE. HE AGREED THAT EXTRA MEETINGS OF FOREIGN MINISTERS WOULD BE NEEDED. COLLINS COMMENTED THAT THE REQUIREMENT WAS ONLY TO COLLECT IDEAS AND PRESENT THEM IN AN ORDERLY FASHION, NOT TO UNDERTAKE THE ANALYSIS.

6. ELLEMAN JENSEN (DENMARK), MRS ADAM-SCHWATZER (GERMANY) POOS (LUXEMBOURG) AND LYBEROPOULOS (GREECE) ALL SUPPORTED THE PRESIDENCY'S PROPOSALS. DUMAS (FRANCE) SAID THE MAIN WORK WOULD HAVE TO BE DONE BY FOREIGN MINISTERS ON 19/20 MAY. HE AGREED THAT THEY WOULD NEED ONE OR TWO EXTRA MEETINGS. WHAT WAS NEEDED TO ENABLE FOREIGN MINISTERS TO DO THIS WAS A LIST OF IDEAS. HE THOUGHT THE PRESIDENCY TEXT SHOULD BE AMENDED TO REMOVE THE REFERENCE TO PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES PREPARING DISCUSSION AND TO THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS.

7. SOLBES (SPAIN) WANTED COREPER, IF NECESSARY DESIGNATED AS MINISTERS REPRESENTATIVES, TO PREPARE THE PAPERS. HE WAS CONCERNED THAT THE PRESIDENCY TEXT 'MEMBER STATES WILL CONCENTRATE ON SPECIFIC SUBJECT AREAS TO BE COVERED UNDER THE THREE THEMES IDENTIFIED BY THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL' WAS TOO RESTRICTIVE SOME DELEGATIONS MIGHT WANT TO GO WIDER. MR MAUDE THOUGHT THAT MORE THAN ONE MEETING OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES MIGHT BE NEEDED AND PROPOSED THAT THE WORDS 'THE COVERAGE OF' SHOULD BE ADDED BEFORE 'POLITICAL UNION' IN THE INTRODUCTORY SENTENCE. COLLINS SAID THAT ADDITIONAL MEETINGS OF COREPER AND OF POLITICAL DIRECTORS WOULD BE HELD AS NECESSARY. MEMBER STATES WOULD BE ABLE TO AIR THEIR VIEWS AT THESE MEETINGS AND HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT ANY IDEAS THE SPANIARDS OR

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OTHERS WANTED TO PUT FORWARD WOULD NOT BE RULED OUT OF ORDER.

7. AFTER FURTHER ATTEMPTS BY DUMAS TO GET AGREEMENT ON A
RESTRICTIVE TEXT WHICH WOULD RULE OUT IDEAS GOING BEYOND THE
SUBJECTS IN THE DUBLIN CONCLUSIONS, AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON THE
CONCLUSIONS IN MIFT.

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ADDITIONAL 1

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