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TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1430 OF 2 DECEMBER.

INFO IMMEDIATE UKREP BRUSSELS WASHINGTON, PRIORITY UKMIS GENEVA
UKDEL OECD, PARIS (FOR EVANS).

MY TEL NO 1414: GLOBAL NEGOTIATIONS.

1. HAVING VISITED WASHINGTON OVERNIGHT AND DISCUSSED GLOBAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH SECRETARY HAIG, MRS KIRKPATRICK REPORTED TO THE KITTANI GROUP THIS AFTERNOON THAT THE US POSITION WAS ESSENTIALLY UNCHANGED. THE UNDERSTANDINGS SET OUT BY PRESIDENT REAGAN AT CANCUN REMAINED VALID. THE FIRST NON-PAPER, OF 16 NOVEMBER (MY TEL NO 1293) HAD BEEN ONE SHE WOULD HAVE FELT COMFORTABLE PRESENTING AND DEFENDING IN WASHINGTON. SHE WOULD HAVE GIVEN IT A 50 PERCENT CHANCE OF ACCEPTANCE. SHE HAD NEVER SO CHARACTERISED ANY SUBSEQUENT DOCUMENT (SUCH AS THE LATEST TEXT, IN MY TEL NO 1406). THE US REMAINED READY TO TAKE PART IN GLOBAL NEGOTIATIONS PROVIDED A SUITABLE BASIS COULD BE FOUND. BUT THE US FORMAL RESPONSE MUST DEPEND ON A MODIFIED MEETING OF THE NSC WHICH WOULD MEET PROBABLY BUT NOT AUTOMATICALLY ON MONDAY. MRS KIRKPATRICK EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT NO ORGANISED GROUPING EXISTED AMONG DEVELOPED COUNTRIES IN NEW YORK TO COUNTER-BALANCE THE G.77.

2. KITTANI RESPONDED THAT THERE WAS LITTLE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TEXTS OF 16 NOVEMBER (MY TEL NO 1293) AND OF 30 NOVEMBER (MY TEL NO 1406). WE WERE EXAMINING THE LATTER AND COULD NOT RETRACE OUR STEPS. BEDJAOUI PROPOSED THAT THE KITTANI GROUP ADJOURN UNTIL TUESDAY 8 DECEMBER. THE TEXT OF 16 NOVEMBER HAD NO STANDING. THE US HAD TAKEN PART IN DISCUSSION OF THE TEXT OF 30 NOVEMBER. HE HOPED FOR A POSITIVE AND FINAL REACTION. BEDJAOUI RESISTED PRESSURE TO REVEAL THE G.77 POSITION, SAYING THAT THERE WAS AS YET NO DECISION OF SUBSTANCE. MRS KIRKPATRICK SAID THAT IT WAS CURIOUS THAT NOBODY ELSE WAS PREPARED TO SPEAK.

3. KITTANI THEN PUT TO OTHER NON-G77 COUNTRIES, STARTING WITH THE COMMUNITY, THE QUESTION WHETHER WE COULD LIVE WITH THE TEXT IN MY TEL NO 1406. I SAID THAT IT WAS ON RECORD THAT THE SHORT TEXT APPROACH WAS NOT IDEAL. BUT WE WERE GENUINELY INTERESTED IN GETTING GLOBAL NEGOTIATIONS STARTED. COMMUNITY CAPITALS WERE LOOKING AT THE 30 NOVEMBER TEXT AS A WHOLE. THIS EXAMINATION WAS NOT FULLY COMPLETE. I HOPED IT WOULD BE SHORTLY.

4. JAPAN GAVE THE TEXT A FAIR WIND WITHOUT COMMITMENT. BUT THEY WANTED TO KNOW THE POSITIONS OF OTHERS. CANADA COULD LIVE WITH THE TEXT. AUSTRALIA SAW LITTLE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO TEXTS, PARTICULARLY WHEN THE IMPORTANCE OF GN'S AND SHORTAGE OF TIME WERE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO WORK TOWARDS A GENERALLY AGREEABLE TEXT. THE SWEDES COULD ACCEPT THE LATEST TEXT. THE AUSTRIANS WANTED TO BE SURE THAT THE G77 COULD. CHINA COULD ACCEPT A TEXT ACCEPTABLE TO ALL.

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5. IN FURTHER DISCUSSION BEDJAQUI SAID THAT IT WAS NOW UP TO THE U.S. MRS KIRKPATRICK REPLIED THAT THIS WAS NOT THE ONLY SUBJECT OF INTEREST TO HER AUTHORITIES. KITTANI SCHEDULED THE NEXT MEETING TENTATIVELY FOR 8 DECEMBER, THOUGH HE WOULD BE READY TO BRING THIS FORWARD. HE UNDERLINED THE SHORTAGE OF TIME AND APPEALED TO THE G77, US, COMMUNITY AND JAPAN TO RESPOND QUICKLY.

6. AT THE PRECEDING COMMUNITY COORDINATION, THE PRESIDENCY ASKED WHICH MEMBERS HAD INSTRUCTIONS TO ACCEPT THE TEXT IN MY TELNO 1406, AFTER THE US AND THE G77 COULD DO SO. GERMANY AND THE UK SAID THE MATTER WAS BEING CONSIDERED IN THEIR CAPITALS AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL BUT THEY DID NOT YET HAVE A RESPONSE. ITALY AND GREECE ALSO ASKED FOR MORE TIME. OTHER MEMBERS COULD ACCEPT THE TEXT. IT WAS THEREFORE AGREED THAT, IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES, THE MOST THE COMMUNITY COULD SAY WAS THAT IT HAD NEVER BEEN THE PURPOSE OF THE COMMUNITY TO BLOCK THE GN'S; THE COMMUNITY HAD PLAYED ITS PART IN THE WORK OF THE GROUP; A TEXT HAD EMERGED WHICH WAS IMPERFECT; BUT AGREEMENT ON IT MARKED AN IMPORTANT AND PERHAPS DECISIVE STEP.

7. IN THE EVENT THE COMMUNITY HAD TO RESPOND IN THE ABSENCE OF AMERICAN OR G77 ACCEPTANCE OF THE TEXT IN MY TELNO 1406. WE EXPECT CRITICISM FROM SOME COMMUNITY MEMBERS (WHOM WE MEET AT 1400Z TOMORROW) THAT OUR REACTION - SEE PARA 3 ABOVE - WAS NOT MORE FORTHCOMING. WE SHALL REBUT THIS.

8. OECD COUNTRIES WILL MEET AT 2000Z. WE HOPE THEN TO LEARN MORE OF MRS KIRKPATRICK'S INTENTIONS. ALTHOUGH SHE RESISTED THE TEXT IN MY TELNO 1406 TODAY, IT IS CLEAR THAT SHE STILL FAVOURS A SHORT, IMPRECISE RESOLUTION WHICH LEAVES MOST MATTERS OVER UNTIL AFTER THE GN'S BEGIN. THE TEXT IN MY TELNO 1293 IS FAR FROM PERFECT. WE STILL THINK IT IS LIKELY THAT AT SOME STAGE SHE MAY ANNOUNCE HER SUPPORT FOR A SHORT TEXT TO WHICH THE COMMUNITY WILL HAVE TO RESPOND ON THE SPOT, WITHOUT TIME TO SEEK INSTRUCTIONS.

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