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FM WASHINGTON 042140Z DEC 81

TO PRIORITY F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 3687 OF 4 DECEMBER

INFO PRIORITY UKMIS NEW YORK, UKREP BRUSSELS, UKMIS GENEVA, UKDEL  
OECD, PARIS, BONN.

MY TELNO 3644: GLOBAL NEGOTIATIONS.

1. THE CONFUSION IN WASHINGTON NOW SEEMS TO BE COMPLETE. STATE DEPARTMENT HAVE STILL NOT BEEN ABLE TO GET CLEARANCE FROM MRS KIRKPATRICK FOR THE APPROACH THEY WANT TO MAKE TO EUROPEAN AND OTHER INDUSTRIALISED CAPITALS (PARA 2 OF MYTEL UNDER REFERENCE). HORMATS HAS GONE TO NEW YORK TODAY, PRESUMABLY TO TRY TO SORT THIS OUT. SECRETARY REGAN'S APPROACH TO HIS FOREIGN COLLEAGUES IS NOT SUBJECT TO THE SAME CONSTRAINTS, BUT A LETTER FROM HIM HAS ONLY BEEN FINALISED TODAY AND IS EXPECTED TO ISSUE THIS AFTERNOON.

2. IN THE MEANTIME THE U.S. EMBASSY IN BONN HAS REPORTED THAT THE FRENCH ARE MAKING A MAJOR EFFORT TO BRING THE GERMANS ROUND TO ACCEPT THE KITTANI GROUP TEXT. LAMSDORFF IS REPORTED TO HAVE GIVEN UP THE FIGHT. MATTHOEFFER MAY STILL BE PREPARED TO HOLD OUT BUT THE FINANCE MINISTRY IN BONN HAS NOT SO FAR BEEN ABLE TO REACH HIM. ACCORDING TO THE U.S. EMBASSY IN BONN, THE FRENCH ARE THREATENING TO TAKE A NATIONAL POSITION. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER THEY WOULD DO THIS IF THEIR BLUFF WERE CALLED, BUT IT MAY BE A HELPFUL POINTER TO TACTICS THEY MAY SHORTLY DEPLOY IN NEW YORK.

3. STREEB (INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS BUREAU, STATE DEPARTMENT) TOLD MINISTER COMMERCIAL THIS AFTERNOON THEY UNDERSTOOD THAT APART FROM THE GERMANS, ALL MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY WERE READY TO ACCEPT THE KITTANI GROUP TEXT WITH THE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF THE U K. THOMAS MADE CLEAR THAT WE CONTINUED TO BELIEVE THAT THIS WAS AN UNSATISFACTORY TEXT. IN ORDER TO GUARD AGAINST POSSIBLE MISREPRESENTATIONS OF OUR POSITION, HE GAVE STREEB AN ACCOUNT OF THE INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED IN YOUR TELEGRAM TO NEW YORK NO 831, MAKING IT CLEAR THAT AT PRESENT THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF OUR MOVING TO ACCEPT THE TEXT UNLESS BOTH THE AMERICANS AND THE G.77 HAD ACCEPTED IT. STREEB WAS GRATEFUL TO KNOW THIS. SEEN FROM HERE IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION SHOULD NOT BE MISLED INTO THINKING THAT WE ARE MORE DISPOSED TO ACCEPT THE KITTANI GROUP TEXT THAN IS THE CASE.

4. INCIDENTALLY, THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAD ALREADY HEARD FROM ANOTHER SOURCE THAT MRS KIRKPATRICK WAS PLAYING WITH THE IDEA OF A U.S. ABSTENTION. THEY REGARD THIS AS QUITE UNACCEPTABLE.

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