

GRS 510

UNCLASSIFIED
FM BONN
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 1151
OF 051502Z DECEMBER 85
INFO PRIORITY EC POSTS, MADRID, LISBON

FRAME GENERAL

LUXEMBOURG EUROPEAN COUNCIL: GERMAN PRESS REACTION

SUMMARY

1. GERMAN PRESS SEES THE OUTCOME AS MODEST BUT SATISFACTORY AND IS RELIEVED THAT AGREEMENT WAS REACHED. LITTLE INCLINATION TO RECALL APPARENT GERMAN ASPIRATIONS AT MILAN, AND NOTABLE ABSENCE OF REFERENCES TO THE ORIGINAL SIX. GENERAL APPROVAL OF THE GERMAN FORM OF WORDS ON EMS/EMU. CONCERN ABOUT THE ITALIAN AND DANISH RESERVES.

DETAIL

2. EARLY GERMAN PRESS DEADLINES MEANT THAT FEW PAPERS YESTERDAY HAD CAUGHT UP WITH THE OUTCOME OF THE LUXEMBOURG EUROPEAN COUNCIL. THE COUNCIL HAS BEEN PUSHED INTO SECOND PLACE IN TODAY'S EDITIONS, AS IN LAST NIGHT'S TELEVISION CURRENT AFFAIRS PROGRAMMES, BY THE NEWS THAT FLICK IS TO SELL HIS COMPANY. TODAY'S PRESS COMMENT IS LEVEL-HEADED AND UNEMPHATIC: THE COUNCIL IS JUDGED TO HAVE BEEN A MODEST SUCCESS WHICH WILL ALLOW EUROPE TO MOVE FORWARD SLOWLY BUT STEADILY. AS THE SUEDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG PUTS IT, "THE SNAIL HAS TAKEN A SMALL LEAP". THERE ARE FREQUENT REFERENCES TO PRAGMATISM, DIVERGENT NATIONAL INTERESTS, AND THE NEED TO MAKE HASTE SLOWLY: THERE IS LITTLE EVIDENCE OF DISAPPOINTMENT THAT THE OUTCOME WAS NOT MORE AMBITIOUS. ON THE OTHER HAND THERE IS NO SUGGESTION THAT THE IGC HAD PROVED A WASTE OF TIME.

3. THE FEDERAL CHANCELLOR HAS COME OUT OF IT WELL: COMMENTATORS SHOW LITTLE INCLINATION TO POINT UP THE GAP BETWEEN HIS PRE-MILAN ASPIRATIONS AND THE PRESENT OUTCOME. HE IS HELD TO HAVE SHOWN A GREATER GRASP THAN USUAL OF THE DETAILS OF THE NEGOTIATION, AND TO HAVE PROTECTED GERMAN INTERESTS WHILE DEVISING A COMPROMISE WHICH PREVENTED DEADLOCK ON THE EMS. A FEW PAPERS, NOTABLY THE FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG, POINT OUT THAT WHILE ADVOCATES OF MONETARY UNION MAY COMFORT THEMSELVES WITH THE THOUGHT THAT THIS GOAL HAS

1BEEB

BEEN WRITTEN INTO THE TREATY, FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES THE INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE EMS HAS BEEN MADE MORE DIFFICULT BY THE NEED FOR FORMAL RAMIFICATION BY ALL MEMBER STATES. THEY CONCLUDE THAT THE BUNDESBANK HAS NOTHING TO FEAR. THE PRESS IS ALSO SATISFIED WITH THE OUTCOME ON THE INTERNAL MARKET, AND CONFIDENT THAT DESPITE CERTAIN SECTORAL INTERESTS (INSURANCE, TRANSPORT AND FOOD STANDARDS ARE FREQUENTLY MENTIONED) THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC HAS MORE TO GAIN THAN LOSE FROM A MORE OPEN MARKET.

4. MOST OF YESTERDAY'S PAPERS CLAIM THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAD BEEN IRRITATED BY KOHL'S 'DEFECTION' OVER THE EMS, WHICH RAN COUNTER TO HIS UNDERTAKINGS TO HER AT THE ANGLO-GERMAN SUMMIT. KOHL IS SAID TO HAVE TOLD THE PRESS THAT HE HAD A CLEAR CONSCIENCE: HE HAD AGREED TO OPPOSE DELORS' PROPOSAL, BUT THE CIRCULATION OF THE DUCH COMPROMISE TEXT HAD CREATED A NEW SITUATION.

5. THE PRESS NOTES OUR DIFFICULTIES OVER THE EMS/EMU AND OVER FRONTIER CONTROLS AND HEALTH STANDARDS, BUT THE UK IS NOT SINGLED OUT FOR COMMENT. THE OUTSIDERS ARE PLAINLY IDENTIFIED AS THE ITALIANS, BELGIANS AND DANES. THE PRESS IS WORRIED THAT THE ITALIANS AND DANES MAY REFUSE TO RATIFY THE TREATY AMENDMENTS. THERE IS NO SYMPATHY FOR THE ITALIAN LINE ON THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: A NUMBER OF PAPERS SAY THAT IT WOULD BE IRRESPONSIBLE AND UNREALISTIC OF THE PARLIAMENT TO REJECT THE PACKAGE, WHICH IS A USEFUL COMPROMISE AND THE MAXIMUM ATTAINABLE IN THE PRESENT STAGE OF EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT.

BULLARD

FRAME GENERAL
ECD (I)