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GRPS 228

CONFIDENTIAL

FM BRUSSELS 181838Z JUNE 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 232 OF 18 JUNE

INFO IMMEDIATE TO UKREP BRUSSELS AND OSLO

INFO SAVING OTHER ECPOSTS WASHINGTON TOKYO OTTAWA AND CANBERRA

MY TELNO 226: ARGENTINA : ECONOMIC SANCTIONS

1. IN THE COURSE OF TAKING ACTION WITH TINDEMANS' ACTING CHEF DE CABINET, ON YOUR TELNO 153 COUNSELLOR ASKED WHAT THE PRESIDENCY'S PLAN WAS FOR HANDLING THE DISCUSSION ON SACTIONS AT THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COUNCIL. VAN DER ESPT SAID THAT THE BELGIANS WERE IN A DILEMMA. THEY ACCEPTED THE LOGIC OF OUR CASE FOR A PROLONGATION OF SACTIONS UNTIL AN OVERALL CEASE FIRE HAD BEEN ACHIEVED. BUT, HE SAID, WHEN TWO OF THE LARGER MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY HAD ADOPTED SO STRONG A POSITION IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR THE PRESIDENCY TO STAND OUT AGAINST THEM. WE URGED THAT THE PRESIDENCY'S POTENTIAL INFLUENCE SHOULD NOT BE UNDERESTIMATED, REMINDING HIM OF MR TINDEMANS SUCCESS THE PREVIOUS TIME THE MATTER WAS DEBATED. VAN DER ESPT DID NOT APPEAR SANGUINE THAT THE TRICK COULD BE REPEATED.

2. WE ALSO ASKED IF VAN DER ESPT COULD CLEAR UP THE PROBLEM OF THEIR SPOKESMAN'S REPORTED STATEMENTS (MY TUR ). HE SAID THAT THIS HAD BEEN INVESTIGATED AS SOON AS WE HAD BROUGHT IT TO THEIR ATTENTION. THE BELGA REPORT WAS QUITE WRONG AND TO PROVE IT HE HANDED OVER A COPY OF THE SPEAKING NOTES WHICH THE SPOKESMAN HAD USED FOR HIS PRESS CONFERENCE. THESE WERE IN TERMS ALMOST IDENTICAL TO THOSE ATTRIBUTED TO TINDEMANS IN STRASBOURG (TEXT BY BAG).

FCO PLEASE PASS TO SAVING ADDRESSEES.

R  
JACKSON

RNNN

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