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DESKBY 180800Z

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FM UKREP BRUSSELS 161150Z JAN 82

TO IMMEDIATE BONN

TELEGRAM NUMBER 02 OF 16 JANUARY 1982

INFO PRIORITY FCO

INFO ROUTINE COPENHAGEN THE HAGUE ROME DUBLIN PARIS

LUXEMBOURG ATHENS WARSAW

INFO SAVING BRUSSELS WASHINGTON MOSCOW

FOOD FOR POLAND

1. DURING THE INFORMAL FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING IN BRUSSELS ON 14/15 JANUARY, THE SECRETARY OF STATE HAD A BRIEF DISCUSSION OF FOOD FOR POLAND WITH GENSCHER. HE SUBSEQUENTLY DECIDED THAT HE NEEDED TO SEND A MESSAGE TO GENSCHER, WHO HAD AMONGST OTHER THINGS ARGUED THAT TO CEASE THE COMMUNITY'S 15 PER CENT SUBSIDY ON THE SALE OF FOOD TO POLAND WOULD PUNISH THE POLISH PEOPLE RATHER THAN AFFECT THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES.

2. IT PROVED IMPOSSIBLE TO DELIVER THE MESSAGE TO GENSCHER BEFORE HE LEFT BRUSSELS LAST NIGHT. GRATEFUL IF YOU COULD THEREFORE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING TEXT ON MONDAY MORNING (SIGNED COPY FOLLOWS BY BAG).

BEGINS

DEAR HANS DIGTRICH

FOLLOWING OUR DISCUSSION LAST NIGHT ON COMMUNITY SUPPLIES OF FOOD TO POLAND, I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE HELPFUL IF I WERE TO SET OUT MY APPROACH TO THIS IN A LITTLE MORE DETAIL.

FIRST, I AM ENTIRELY AT ONE WITH YOU THAT WE MUST TRY TO ENSURE THAT SOME COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE WITH FOOD GETS THROUGH TO THOSE POLES WHO NEED IT MOST. THE QUESTION IS, WHAT MEANS OF ACHIEVING THIS END ARE THE BEST TO APPLY IN THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES? IT SEEMS TO ME THAT, IF WE CONTINUE SIMPLY TO SIGN CONTRACTS FOR SUCH SUPPLIES WITH THE POLISH STATE IMPORT AGENCIES, HOWEVER DETAILED THE ASSURANCES WE SEEK AND RECEIVE AT THE TIME, WE HAVE NO EFFECTIVE CONTROL OVER THEIR DESTINATION NOR ANY WAY OF ENSURING THAT THE POLISH PEOPLE KNOW THAT THIS MAJOR HUMANITARIAN EFFORT IS BEING MADE BY THE COMMUNITY. FOR ALL WE KNOW THE SUPPLIES WILL GO, IF NOT TO THE ARMY ITSELF, THEN TO THOSE WHOM THE REGIME WISH TO FAVOUR; AND THEY MAY BE REPRESENTED TO THE POLES WHO RECEIVE THEM AS COMING FROM OTHER COMMUNIST COUNTRIES OR FROM WITHIN POLAND.

THE ALTERNATIVE SEEMS TO ME TO TRY TO DEVELOP FURTHER THE OPERATION OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL CHARITABLE ORGANISATIONS SUCH AS THE RED CROSS, THROUGHWHICH SOME COMMUNITY HUMANITARIAN AID IN

FOOD PRODUCTS (EG MILK POWDER) IS ALREADY GOING. THE POLISH REGIME IS PERMITTING THE OPERATIONS OF THESE ORGANISATIONS: FOOD DISTRIBUTED IN THIS WAY IS GETTING TO POLES WHO REALLY NEED IT (FAMILIES OF DETAINEES AND SO ON): AND ITS ORIGIN IS CLEAR AND KNOWN. AN ADDITIONAL ADVANTAGE OF THIS SORT OF OPERATION IS THAT IT UNDERLINES TO POLES THEMSELVES THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE REGIME AND ITS FRIENDS ARE UNABLE TO SUPPLY THE BASIC NEEDS OF THEIR OWN PEOPLE.

I MYSELF STRONGLY FAVOUR THIS SECOND APPROACH WHICH HAS THE ADDITIONAL ATTRACTION OF BEING VERY SIMILAR TO THE WAY THE AMERICANS ARE NOW PROCEEDING. I THINK IT WOULD BE HARD TO JUSTIFY IN THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES THE SIMPLE CONTINUATION OF COMMUNITY SUPPLIES OF SPECIAL SUBSIDISED FOOD ON THE PATTERN USED LAST YEAR WHEN ONE OF OUR OBJECTIVES WAS TO ENCOURAGE AND UNDERPIN THE POLISH RENEWAL. IT IS NOT ONLY OUR OWN PEOPLE AND PARLIAMENTS WHO ARE LIKELY TO FIND THIS HARD TO UNDERSTAND. HOW ARE WE TO GO ON RESISTING THE PRESSURE OF OTHER THIRD COUNTRIES OR OUR ACP PARTNERS, WHO ARE ALREADY URGING US TO MAKE SIMILAR SALES TO THEM? SO, INSTEAD OF GOING AHEAD NOW WITH WHAT IS CALLED TRANCHE 3(B), I SUGGEST WE SHOULD EXPLORE URGENTLY MAKING MORE SUBSTANTIAL SUPPLIES OF FOOD AVAILABLE THROUGH VOLUNTARY AND CHURCH ORGANISATIONS.

NATURALLY THE FINANCING OF SUCH SUPPLIES WOULD NEED TO BE CONSIDERED. ONE POSSIBILITY WOULD BE TO USE THE 35M ECU IN THE 1982 FEOGA BUDGET INTENDED FOR FINANCING TRANCHE 3(B). I UNDERSTAND THAT AT FRIDAY'S INFORMAL COUNCIL WORKING GROUP MEETING THE COMMISSION SERVICES MADE A PROPOSAL ALONG THESE LINES WHICH THEY INTEND RECOMMENDING TO THE COMMISSION, AND THAT IT RECIEVED A FAVOURABLE RESPONSE FROM A NUMBER OF DELEGATIONS.

CARRINGTON

ENDS.

FCO ADVANCE TO:
FCO - LAMBERT ECD(E)

FCO PASS SAVING TO WASHINGTON MOSCOW

BUTLER [ADVANCED AND REPEATED AS REQUESTED]

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