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DESKBY (UKREP BRUSSELS) 250800Z

FROM UKDEL NATO 232000Z JAN 82

TO IMMEDIATE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

TELEGRAM NUMBER 039 OF 23 JANUARY 1982

IMMEDIATE INFO UKREP BRUSSELS (DESKBY 250800Z), WASHINGTON, BONN,
PARIS, MOSCOW, AND WARSAW

INFO ROUTINE ANKARA, ATHENS, BRUSSELS, COPENHAGEN, THE HAGUE,
LISBON, LUXEMBOURG, OSLO, OTTAWA, REYKJAVIK, ROME, DUBLIN, BUDAPEST,
BUCHAREST, BELGRADE, SOFIA, AND PRAGUE

SAVING INFO TOKYO, CANBERRA, WELLINGTON, MADRID, UKDEL OECD,
UKMIS NEW YORK, AND UKMIS GENEVA.

NATO COUNCIL

NAC MEETING ON POLAND: 23 JANUARY

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1. THE MEETING LASTED FROM 1030 TO 1500 HOURS WITHOUT A BREAK FOR LUNCH. IT WAS CHARACTERISED BY THE BUSINESS-LIKE APPROACH OF MOST DELEGATIONS, LARGELY THANKS TO THE SKILFUL CHAIRMANSHIP OF DA RIN WHO KEPT DISCUSSION FOCUSED ON THE ACTION PARAGRAPHS OF THE NATO DECLARATION OF 11 JANUARY. THE COMMON FEATURE OF THE OPENING PRESENTATION OF ALL DELEGATIONS WAS AGREEMENT ON THE NEED TO PRESERVE THE UNITY AND MOMENTUM ESTABLISHED BY THE MINISTERIAL MEETING BY TAKING SPECIFIC MEASURES TO FOLLOW UP THE GUIDELINES LAID DOWN ON 11 JANUARY.

2. BENNETT (US) IN HIS OPENING STATEMENT SAID THAT THE SITUATION IN POLAND HAD DETERIORATED AND A STRONG WESTERN MESSAGE WAS MORE NECESSARY THAN EVER. HE HOPED SOME MEASURES COULD BE AGREED TODAY WITH THE AIM NOT TO PUNISH BUT TO INFLUENCE THE POLISH AND SOVIET LEADERSHIPS. HE HOPED ALL DELEGATIONS WOULD CONTRIBUTE INFORMATION ON MEASURES ALREADY TAKEN AND UNDER CONSIDERATION. TO JUDGE BY HIS LATER INTERVENTIONS AND THOSE OF HORMATS THE AMERICANS WERE REASONABLY SATISFIED BY THE RESPONSE OF MOST DELEGATIONS, BUT THEY WILL PRESS FOR THE MOMENTUM TO BE KEPT UP AND FOR SPECIFIC ACTION BY AS MANY ALLIES AS POSSIBLE, NOT ONLY IN THE POLITICAL BUT ALSO THE ECONOMIC FIELD.

3. I SPOKE EARLY IN THE DEBATE AND SUPPORTED BENNETT'S PLEA TO KEEP UP MOMENTUM BY EARLY AGREEMENT ON COMMON ACTION (TEXT OF MY STATEMENT IN MIFT).

4. SOME GENERAL CONCLUSIONS CAN BE DRAWN FROM THE APPROACH ADOPTED BY MOST OTHER DELEGATIONS IN THEIR OPENING STATEMENTS. ALL, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE GREEKS (WHO REITERATED THEIR GENERAL OPPOSITION TO "SANCTIONS"), REFERRED TO THE SUSPENSION OF CREDIT AND POSTPONEMENT OF RESCHEDULING TALKS AS COMMON DECISIONS. SOME DELEGATIONS WERE PREPARED TO GO FURTHER IN TERMS OF ADDITIONAL POLITICAL ACTIVITIES SUCH AS RESTRICTIONS ON POLISH DIPLOMATS OR POSTPONEMENT OF BILATERAL EVENTS. AS FAR AS THE SOVIET UNION WAS CONCERNED, ALL DELEGATIONS SPOKE UNDER THE GENERAL RESERVE OF "MATTERS UNDER CONSIDERATION ON WHICH FINAL DECISIONS HAD YET TO BE TAKEN". /THERE

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THERE AFTER THERE WAS A DIVISION BETWEEN THOSE LIKE THE ITALIANS AND OURSELVES WHO WERE PREPARED TO CONTEMPLATE ECONOMIC AS WELL AS POLITICAL MEASURES AND THOSE LIKE THE DANES AND THE NORWEGIANS WHO CONFINED THEMSELVES TO POLITICAL MEASURES.

5. THE MEETING ENDED WITH A LENGTHY AND RATHER CONFUSED DISCUSSION ABOUT HOW THE PROCESS SHOULD BE CARRIED FORWARD IN THE COUNCIL. THE AMERICANS URGED THAT THE NEXT "FOLLOW UP MEETING" SHOULD TAKE PLACE ON 4 FEBRUARY WITH DELEGATIONS REINFORCED BY EXPERTS. MERILLON (FRANCE) ARGUED AGAINST THIS. THERE WAS NO REASON WHY THE COUNCIL SHOULD NOT CARRY FORWARD WORK ON POLAND AS PART OF ITS REGULAR AGENDA. HE WOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS ASPECTS OF POLAND OTHER THAN CSCE AT THE MEETING SCHEDULED FOR 27 JANUARY. THERE WAS NO REASON WHY NATIONAL DECISIONS NEEDED TO WAIT FOR MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL. THESE COULD BE TAKEN INDEPENDENTLY. BENNETT SAID THAT HE WAS NOT SO CONCERNED ABOUT THE DATE, BUT MORE THAT A PARTICULAR COUNCIL MEETING SHOULD BE EXCLUSIVELY DEVOTED TO FOLLOW UP WORK ON THE 11 JANUARY DECLARATION. AFTER FURTHER DISCUSSION IT WAS AGREED THAT POLAND WOULD BE DISCUSSED BY THE COUNCIL ON 27 JANUARY AND 3 FEBRUARY. ON 27 JANUARY THE COUNCIL WOULD DISCUSS CSCE AS ARRANGED AND ALSO HEAR A REPORT FROM THE BELGIANS ON PROGRESS AT THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COUNCIL ON 25/26 JANUARY. THE COUNCIL ON 3 FEBRUARY WOULD BE DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO POLAND. WE GAVE BENNETT SUPPORT AND SAID THAT WE HOPED IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR DECISIONS TO BE ANNOUNCED ON 3 FEBRUARY.

6. MY SECOND AND THIRD IFTS CONTAIN DETAILED REPORTS OF DISCUSSION ON MEASURES AGAINST POLAND AND THE SOVIET UNION.

FCO PLEASE PASS TO SAVING ADDRESSES

SCOTT

[REPEATED AS REQUESTED]

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