

CONFIDENTIAL
FM PARIS
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 252

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OUTWARD

OF 241919Z FEBRUARY 89

INFO IMMEDIATE THE HAGUE, OSLO

INFO PRIORITY ROME, STOCKHOLM, BONN, CANBERRA, TOKYO, OTTAWA

INFO PRIORITY UKREP BRUSSELS, WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK,

INFO PRIORITY WELLINGTON, MOSCOW

YOUR TEL 147 : FRENCH ENVIRONMENT INITIATIVE

SUMMARY

1. NO STRONG FRENCH REACTION TO THE STATEMENT OF THE UK POSITION ON THE FRENCH ENVIRONMENT INITIATIVE.

DETAIL

2. AS INSTRUCTED THE COMMENTARY ON THE DRAFT DECLARATION OF THE HAGUE WAS HANDED TO CARCASSONNE, COUNSELLOR FOR PARLIAMENTARY RELATIONS IN ROCARD'S CABINET, BY COUNSELLOR (TECHNOLOGY) TODAY. COPY ALSO HANDED TO CHABASON, DIRECTEUR DU CABINET OF THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT.

2. CARCASSONNE WELCOMED THE COMMENTARY ON THE UK VIEWS ON THE FRENCH INITIATIVE. HE MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS IN DISCUSSION:

(I) THE FRENCH SUPPORTED MRS THATCHER'S INITIATIVE WHICH COMPLEMENTED THEIR OWN AIM TO DRAW ATTENTION TO THE GLOBAL CLIMATE PROBLEM.

(II) THEY CONSIDERED THAT THIS PROBLEM MERITED VERY URGENT ACTION AND ON THE BASIS OF PAST EXPERIENCE THEY DID NOT CONSIDER THAT THE EXISTING INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS COULD RESPOND IN AN APPROPRIATE TIME-SCALE. IT WAS FOR THIS REASON THAT THEY WERE PROPOSING THE NEW INITIATIVE.

(III) THEY WERE AWARE OF THE NEED TO WIN THE SUPPORT OF THE AMERICANS AND TO ALSO INVOLVE THE RUSSIANS AND THE CHINESE BUT HAD FELT UNABLE TO WAIT FOR THE OUTCOME OF THE AMERICAN ELECTION BEFORE PROCEEDING. CARCASSONNE JUDGED THAT PRESIDENT BUSH WOULD BE MORE SUPPORTIVE THAN REAGAN OF SUCH ACTION ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND THEY STILL HOPE TO BRING THE AMERICANS ALONG WITH THEM.

(IV) HE SAID THAT HE REGRETTED THE USE OF THE WORD SANCTIONS WHICH HE THOUGHT DID NOT TRULY REFLECT THE SPIRIT OF THE FRENCH INITIATIVE.

3. CHABASON HAD NO PARTICULAR COMMENTS TO MAKE.

FERGUSON

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