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FM FCO

TO IMMEDIATE TOKYO

TELNO 213

OF 081510Z MARCH 88

INFO IMMEDIATE UKREP BRUSSELS, WASHINGTON, BONN

INFO PRIORITY PARIS, ROME, OTTAWA, UKDEL OECD, UKMIS GENEVA

YOUR TELNO 264: JAPANESE PROPOSALS FOR A MEETING OF TRADE  
MINISTERS

1. YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT THE PRIME MINISTER IS FIRMLY OPPOSED TO ANY EXTENSION OF THE ECONOMIC SUMMIT MACHINERY.
2. WE WOULD PREFER YOU NOT TO TAKE AN INITIATIVE WITH MITI IN ADVANCE OF LORD YOUNG'S VISIT, OR TO SEEK TO DISCOURAGE TAMURA FROM PURSUING HIS IDEAS WITH LORD YOUNG. IF HOWEVER MITI (OR ANY OTHER PART OF THE JAPANESE ADMINISTRATION) RAISE THE ISSUE WITH YOU BEFORE TAMURA'S MEETING WITH LORD YOUNG, YOU SHOULD DRAW ON THE LINE TO TAKE IN LORD YOUNG'S BRIEF, WHICH IS AS FOLLOWS:
  - (I) CONTENT FOR TRADE MINISTERS OF G7 COUNTRIES PLUS COMMISSION TO MEET INFORMALLY IN MARGINS OF THE GATHERING AT KONSTANZ (18-20 MARCH). MR ALAN CLARK WILL REPRESENT UK.
  - (II) SEE MAJOR DIFFICULTIES IN PROPOSED FURTHER MEETING IN CONTEXT OF OECD MINISTERIAL MEETING IN MAY. WOULD RISK BEING SEEN AS EXTENSION OF MACHINERY OF ECONOMIC SUMMIT. (PRIME MINISTER CLEAR THERE SHOULD BE NO SUCH EXTENSION.)
  - (III) ALSO SEE GREAT DIFFICULTIES IN ANY PRESUMPTION THAT KONSTANZ WOULD BE THE FIRST OF A CONTINUING SERIES OF SUCH MEETINGS. DOUBT CONSENSUS FOR THIS COULD BE ACHIEVED.
  - (IV) BEST SOLUTION NOW IS TO SETTLE FOR SINGLE MEETING AT KONSTANZ.
3. SEZAKI (POLITICAL MINISTER AT THE JAPANESE EMBASSY) CALLED AT HIS OWN REQUEST THIS MORNING ON ROBERTS (DTI) TO HEAR AT FIRST HAND OUR VIEWS ON THE PROPOSED MEETINGS OF TRADE MINISTERS. ROBERTS FOLLOWED CAREFULLY THE LINE HE HAD TAKEN ON 2 MARCH WITH KITAMURA (FIRST SECRETARY COMMERCIAL AT THE EMBASSY, AND A MITI MAN), AS SET OUT IN OUR TELNO 204. SEZAKI'S OBJECTIVE APPEARED TO BE NO MORE THAN TO HAVE A FIRST HAND ACCOUNT OF OUR POSITION. HE INDICATED THAT THE GAIMUSHO HAD NO ENTHUSIASM FOR THE MITI PROPOSALS, BUT ADDED THAT HIS PRIME MINISTER, AS QUOTE A MAN OF CONSENSUS UNQUOTE, WAS PREPARED TO GO ALONG WITH AN INFORMAL MEETING OF TRADE MINISTERS.



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