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FM BONN 221330Z JUL 82

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 663 OF 22 JULY

INFO PRIORITY UKREP BRUSSELS

MY TELNO 650, PARAGRAPH 7: EUROPEAN MONETARY SYSTEM

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH MINISTER (ECONOMIC) YESTERDAY FISCHER, FOREIGN MINISTRY, TOOK AN OPPURTUNITY TO MAKE A STRONG PITCH FOR BRITISH MEMBERSHIP OF THE EMS. HE SAID THAT IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH GERMAN OFFICIALS WITHIN THE LAST FORTNIGHT THE FEDERAL CHANCELLOR HAD REITERATED IN A VERY CONSIDERED WAY THAT THE BEST THING THE BRITISH COULD DO FOR THEMSELVES AND THE COMMUNITY WAS TO JOIN THE EMS. THE FEDERAL CHANCELLOR, SAID FISCHER, FELT VERY STRONGLY ABOUT THIS. HE IMPLIED THAT HERR SCHMIDT FELT THAT OUR REASONS FOR STAYING OUT WERE FLIMSY AND THAT, MORE POSITIVELY, THE BEST WAY WE COULD SCOTCH TALK ABOUT SECOND-CLASS MEMBERSHIP OF A TWO-SPEED COMMUNITY WAS TO JOIN.

2. UNWIN ASKED FISCHER IF HE COULD REPORT HIS REMARKS AS A FORMAL, IF PERSONAL, DEMARCHE. FISCHER SAID THAT HE COULD. THEY STRIKE ME AS INTERESTING IN PUTTING THE FOREIGN MINISTRY FIRMLY IN LINE WITH A CONCERN OF THE FEDERAL CHANCELLOR'S WHICH WE HAVE SOMETIMES FELT TO BE PERSONAL, IF PERSISTENT AND STRONGLY HELD.

TAYLOR

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