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DESKBY 280800Z F C O AND UKMIS GENEVA

FM PARIS 271030Z MAY 85

TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 439 OF 27 MAY

INFO IMMEDIATE UKMIS GENEVA, WASHINGTON, UKREP BRUSSELS

YOU TELNO 128 TO UKMIS GENEVA: GATT AND NICARAGUA

1. THE FRENCH LINE BEARS THE MARKS OF A POLITICAL DECISION, TAKEN IN THE LIGHT OF FRENCH CRITICISM OF, AND VOTE AGAINST, THE US EMBARGO IN THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL. DUMAS HAS HIMSELF SPOKEN OUT PUBLICLY AGAINST THE EMBARGO. THE CALL FOR A COMMISSION STATEMENT OF NATIONAL POSITIONS LOOKS LIKE A FURTHER ATTEMPT TO GAIN CREDIT FOR THIS FRENCH POSITION AMONG THE NON-ALIGNED. HOW FAR THE FRENCH HAVE REFLECTED ON THE WIDER IMPLICATIONS IN THE GATT, ESPECIALLY ON THE APPLICABILITY OF ARTICLE XXI, AND ON THE PROSPECT OF A FURTHER MAJOR ROW WITH THE US IN THIS AREA SO SOON AFTER THE BONN SUMMIT EVENTS, IS MUCH LESS CLEAR. SINCE WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO CHANGE THEIR POLITICAL STANCE ON NICARAGUA, THE ECONOMIC/GATT IMPLICATIONS SEEM LIKELY TO BE OUR MOST EFFECTIVE ARGUMENTS.

2. IF WE ARE TO GAUGE THE MARGIN OF FLEXIBILITY IN THE FRENCH POSITION AND ATTEMPT TO PERSUADE THEM TO TONE IT DOWN, IT MAKES SENSE TO TALK TO THEM IN PARIS AS WELL AS GENEVA. WE PROPOSE TO SPEAK TOMORROW MORNING TO THE ECONOMIC SIDE OF THE QUAI, AND AGREE THAT IT COULD BE HELPFUL FOR WILLIAMS TO TELEPHONE THE DREE.

PLEASE ADVANCE TO R WILLIAMS, DTI AND SHEPHERD, ECD(E)

FRETWELL

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