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Rome, 15 December 1990

Telex to Bureaux and Delegations

The European Council came to a ^{very} successful conclusion today. The role of President Delors and Vice-President Andriessen, representing the Commission, was again a major one. The principal subjects of the European Council's debate and conclusions were:

- agreement on guidelines on political union in preparation for the opening of the intergovernmental conference today. Mr Major, who represented the United Kingdom for the first time and made a statement on a positive contribution to the work and progress of the European Community, rallied to these conclusions;
- new measures to support Mr Gorbachev's reform in the Soviet Union and to further support the economies of the countries of central and eastern Europe. These follow closely the Commission's recommendations. You should note that despite the importance of the East the European Council continued to put emphasis on the Mediterranean policy, ACP relations, relations with Latin America, the importance of the EFTA negotiations and a successful GATT Uruguay Round;
- a balance sheet of the progress towards implementation of the Single Act. This is generally positive (two-thirds of the internal market measures have been adopted and the transposition into national law is much improved). Some problem areas, notably taxation, transport, the free movement of people and the social dimension were singled out and the European Council gave impetus to settle them;
- the Gulf crisis and the Middle East, on which new declarations were made (texts being sent to you);

- South Africa: a new declaration which goes further in encouraging the favourable developments there and includes the lifting of the sanctions on investments.

You should emphasise the close cohesion of the Twelve shown on this occasion both in relation to the continuing internal development of a strong Community and in relation to the outside world, with significant political and financial initiatives in relation to the problems of the Soviet Union and central and eastern Europe without prejudice to our relations with partners in third countries in other regions of the world.