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INFORMATIEKOPIE:

AFGESCHREVEN

ontvangen codebericht

DATUM VAN ONTVANGST:
4/3/77

BESTEMD VOOR:

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Dir./Afd.:
Visie: 7377
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Dossier: 913100 bus feed

DATUM VAN VERZENDING:

4/3/77

Rome 2/28
maart 77

AFKOMSTIG VAN:

min v b z

confidentieel.-

PARAAF/OPM.:

ter informatie aan: brussel pveg

onderwerp: antwoord m.p. aan president giscard d'estaing.

hierna volgt de engelse vertaling van het antwoord van de minister president op de brief van de franse president inzake de organisatie en de voorbereiding van de europese raad dd. 26 januari 1977. dit antwoord wordt heden in parijs aangeboden. ik moge u verzoeken deze tekst zo spoedig mogelijk bekend te stellen bij de autoriteiten te uwent.

quote

i would like to thank you for your letter on the functioning of the european council which i received on 26 januari through the french ambassador here in the hague.

i entirely concur with your view that the time has arrived to learn some lessons from our experience of this new form of cooperation. whilst the european council has taken a number of important decisions in the past two years, it is equally true that during the same period a number of shortcomings have come to light which should be carefully examined and where possible corrected. your letter is an important contribution towards this, for which i am very grateful.

you rightly stress the need for adequate preparation for the european council. your view on this matter is fully supported by the gouvernement of the netherlands, as is evident from the letter sent by mr van der stoel to his colleagues after the meeting of the european council in the hague on his experience of the council during the dutch presidency. the council of foreign ministers will therefore be able in future to give it the attention it deserves. my views on your individual proposals are as follows:

1. i agree that we in the european council must be in a position to exchange views on a number of problems freely and in confidence without it being necessary to reach decisions.

you also comment, quite rightly that the editing of

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ONTVANGEN CODEBERICHT

VERVOLG

Ref. No.:

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a public statement from the council on any current topic cannot be left to improvisation. such statements should be prepared carefully by the competent authorities.

the same applies to decisions that have to be taken on problems that have already been studied within the community. the decision taken at the summit conference in paris in december 1974, that the provisions and procedures of the treaties and of political cooperation must not in any way be affected, applies to these and to any decisions taken within political cooperation. here too the commission will have to play the role assigned to it in these texts and the council will act as the council of the communities when deliberating and taking decisions on the basis of the european treaties.

it follows from the above that i readily agree to your proposal that, except in cases of great urgency, no draft decision or statement should be submitted to the council unless such preparations have been made.

3. generally, we must ensure that the council of the communities ability to act is not relinquished at too early a stage. after all, the decision-making process is already in danger of being weakened and becoming paralysed through the lack of a common direction. we must therefore guard against the european council becoming an appeal body for the institutions of the community.

i am convinced that a clearer distinction between general discussions which do not yield decisions and those that are designed to lead to certain conclusions, together with thorough preparations for the second category, will make an important contribution towards a better functioning of the council.

the government of the netherlands will willingly participate in bringing about these improvements.

unquote

van der stoel circulaire 48

den haag, 4 maart 1977=pk=

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