

UNCLASSIFIED
FM VIENNA
TO ROUTINE FCO
TELNO 153
OF 241526Z MAY 93
INFO ROUTINE UKREP BRUSSELS, EC POSTS, EFTA POSTS

AUSTRIA AND SCHENGEN

SUMMARY

1. CHANGE IN AUSTRIA'S POSITION: WANTS TO JOIN SCHENGEN ONLY WHEN IT JOINS THE EC.

DETAIL

2. ON 22 MAY DIE PRESSE (NATIONAL DAILY, CONSERVATIVE) CARRIED A REPORT OF A CONVERSATION BETWEEN FOREIGN MINISTER MOCK AND ITS DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT, IN THE COURSE OF WHICH MOCK EXPLAINED AUSTRIA'S POLICY TOWARDS THE SCHENGEN AGREEMENT.

3. MOCK SAID THAT THE AUSTRIAN POSITION HAD CHANGED. IN THE LATE EIGHTIES AUSTRIA HAD SOUGHT EARLY MEMBERSHIP OF THE SCHENGEN GROUP AND REGULAR CONSULTATION WITH IT. BUT IN 1990 ITS MEMBERS HAD REPLIED THAT AUSTRIA COULD NOT JOIN SCHENGEN BEFORE IT JOINED EC. SINCE THEN, CONSULTATIONS HAD BECOME FEWER. IN THE PAST MONTHS, THE GROUP HAD CHANGED ITS POSITION, ENCOURAGING AUSTRIA TO JOIN SOON IN VIEW OF THE GERMAN DEBATE ON ASYLUM. BUT MOCK, IN AGREEMENT WITH INTERIOR MINISTER LOSCHNAK, NOW REJECTED THIS. THEY BELIEVED THAT AUSTRIA SHOULD JOIN ONLY WHEN IT JOINED THE EC. THE INTERIOR MINISTRY SAW DIFFICULTIES (UNSPECIFIED) AND IT WAS NOT CERTAIN WHETHER ALL EC COUNTRIES WOULD FAVOUR AN ACCELERATED AUSTRIAN MEMBERSHIP OF SCHENGEN.

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