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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO RUFHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 8276
INFO RUFHNA/USMISSION USNATO 2434
RUEHBS/AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS 9361
BT
UNCLAS STATE 081644

BRUSSELS FOR USEC

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: FR, ECON

SUBJECT: FRENCH VIDEO-TELEPHONE SCHEME

1. OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN FRANK WOLF HAS DRAWN ATTENTION TO REPORT BY DAVID MARSH FROM PARIS IN MARCH 7 ISSUE OF FINANCIAL TIMES, REGARDING FABIUS PROPOSAL, ALREADY APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE IN BRUSSELS, TO LINK GOVERNMENT OFFICES IN TEN EC CAPITALS AND STRASBOURG WITH A VIDEO-TELEPHONE NETWORK. TWENTY VIDEO-PHONES AND THREE VIDEO-CONFERENCE ROOMS WITH SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION FACILITIES ARE TO BE INSTALLED IN EACH CAPITAL AT A COST OF 1.5 MILLION DOLLARS OVER NEXT TWO YEARS. ARTICLE COMMENTS THAT THIS SCHEME SYMBOLIZES INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION MEASURES ADVANCED DURING FRENCH EC PRESIDENCY, AND WILL PROVIDE ORDERS FOR FIRMS IN FOUR COUNTRIES.

2. WOLF STAFF ASKS WHETHER ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE IN PARIS FROM EITHER MEDIA OR GOVERNMENT SOURCES REGARDING THIS SCHEME, AND WHETHER FRENCH HAVE CONSIDERED ITS ADAPTATION FOR USE NATO-WIDE. SHULTZ

END OF MESSAGE

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