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29 April 1975

Stuffman

10 May 1975

MEETING REPORT

Ninth Meeting, 29 April

Attendance: 20

Speaker: Klaus Stuffman

Subject: European Community and the Energy Crisis

Mr. Stuffman dealt with the energy crisis at one point in his talk but did not (as I had hoped he would) build his remarks around energy.

He began rather slow, with what must have been his standard speech; worked freely from, or, freed from, his lengthy notes. Gradually he increased the complexity in which he dealt with his subject. I could see some eyebrows go up at first as if to say, "oh, no, we're going to get the canned stuff." But with the possible exception of one of our members I think all members found that Mr. Stuffman held and heightened their interest as he spoke.

He touched on the Lome Agreement, the British Referendum, the Energy Crunch, and the need for increased Atlantic cooperation--on a basis of increased U.S. understanding of Europe's own objectives, cooperation even in leading Europe to achieving European objectives.

The question session was long and at a relatively sophisticated level: What were the relationships between dollar devaluation and growth of the European Community? What is happening to European feeling about the development of "one" Europe? How has Europe sought to secure and use the petrodollar? What will happen in the near future in the European oil price (given what's happening in the U.S. and in production centers)? Describe the nature of atomic power development and plans in Europe. How much of DeGaulle's "damage" to the European idea been overcome? What are the possibilities of a common monetary policy and common currency? What role has Europe, as Europe, played in the world food problem?

I had much fun being with the Stuffmanns much of the day, at the press conference and newspaper backgrounder in the a.m., lunch, and a tour of Omaha and the Joslyn Art Museum in the afternoon, then drinks after the meeting. Mr. Stuffman seemed concerned about my estimate of his impact: told him that normally when someone gives answers ~~as~~ as long as his much of the answer is repetition but that Stuffman answers, while long, never repeat, always keep providing, in logical progression, more and more useful information. I meant it. He has an unusual facility to marshal idea and fact without at the same time putting you off.;;;

Members, though smaller than previous meetings this year, seemed to appreciate his appearance.