SUBJECT: CIVAIR: ICAO NORTH ATLANTIC SYSTEMS PLANNING GROUP

AT FIRST DAY NAT/SPG LORAN A DISCUSSIONS DELEGATE OF FRANCE SEIZED OPENING OFFERED BY UK WORKING PAPER REVIEWING IATA TESTS OF DOUBLE PULSING EAST BLOCKHOUSE/EL FERROL LORAN A FACILITIES TO STATE FRENCH DESIRES TO TERMINATE PORSPODER AS NOT ESSENTIAL TO CIVIL AVIATION. DUE FRENCH BUDGET CYCLE, FRANCE PROPOSED SHUTDOWN AT END OF 1974. UK HAS INDICATED ITS WILLINGNESS AND ABILITY TO INSTALL NECESSARY SYNCHRONIZING AND COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT BY THAT DATE AND HAS ALSO INDICATED TO GROUP THAT UK DISCUSSIONS WITH US COAST GUARD LEADS THEM TO BELIEF EL FERROL COULD ALSO BE READY TO OPERATE SINGLE RATE WITH EAST BLOCKHOUSE BY THAT DATE. US DELEGATION HAS RESERVED POSITION DUE LACK OF KNOWLEDGE OF COAST GUARD CAPABILITY TO MAKE NECESSARY CHANGES, TIME REQUIRED BY NATIONAL OCEAN SURVEY TO PREPARE NEW CHARTS AND NEED TO OBTAIN CONCURRENCE SPAIN, WHICH IS NOT REPRESENTED NAT/SPG. WILL ATTEMPT TO ASSURE INCLUSION LANGUAGE NOT COMMITTING SHUTDOWN BY DECEMBER, 1974, BUT CONTINGENT UPON REVIEW BY FOUR STATES AS TO TIMING, ETC.
REQUIRED WITHIN TIME FRAME PROPOSED BY FRANCE.
IRWIN

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN