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FM PARIS 061515Z JAN 82

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 12 OF 6 JANUARY 1982

INFO PRIORITY MOSCOW WARSAW WASHINGTON BONN UKDEL NATO

INFO SAVING BRUSSELS COPENHAGEN DUBLIN THE HAGUE LUXEMBOURG ROME

UKREP BRUSSELS ATHENS

FRENCH POLICY TOWARDS POLAND

1. PARA 6 OF FCO TELNO 5 TO WASHINGTON RECORDED THAT IT WAS "WIDELY BELIEVED" AT THE INFORMAL MEETING OF COMMUNITY FOREIGN MINISTERS ON 4 JANUARY THAT M. CHEYSSON HAS BEEN INVITED TO VISIT POLAND.
2. WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE THAT A PERSONAL INVITATION HAS BEEN ADDRESSED TO M. CHEYSSON. IT HAS HOWEVER BEEN REPORTED IN THE FRENCH PRESS THAT THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT WAS INVITED TO SEND "A HIGH-LEVEL EMISSARY" TO WARSAW, BUT THAT THIS INVITATION HAD BEEN REJECTED BECAUSE THE POLISH AUTHORITIES COULD NOT GUARANTEE THAT A FRENCH VISITOR COULD PURSUE HIS ENQUIRIES FREELY.
3. THE QUAI D'ORSAY HAVE CONFIRMED THAT THESE REPORTS ARE ACCURATE. THEY TOLD US THAT FRANCE HAD ALREADY INFORMED ITS PARTNERS AT MEETINGS OF THE TEN THAT SUCH AN INVITATION HAD BEEN ISSUED MORE THAN ONCE DURING DECEMBER. THE FRENCH REPLY HAD BEEN THAT THE INVITATION COULD NOT BE ACCEPTED UNTIL IT COULD BE GUARANTEED THAT THE FRENCH EMISSARY WOULD MEET REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL SOCIAL FORCES IN POLAND INCLUDING WALESA. THIS REMAINED THE FRENCH POSITION.
4. BY MAKING IT KNOWN THAT HE HAD TAKEN THIS FIRM LINE WITH THE POLES, AND BY STATING (ACCORDING TO THE PRESS) THAT THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT HAVE ACCEPTED A VISIT BY VICE-PREMIER RAKOWSKI SIMILAR TO THE VISIT HE PAID TO BONN, M. CHEYSSON APPEARS TO HAVE LIMITED HIS FREEDOM OF MANOEUVRE IN THE NEAR FUTURE. HIS BEHAVIOUR AT THE MINISTERIAL MEETING ON 4 JANUARY WAS PROBABLY NO MORE THAN THE USUAL FRENCH EFFORT TO ENSURE THAT IF THERE ARE GOING TO BE COLOURFUL INITIATIVES THE OPTION IS LEFT OPEN FOR THEM TO BE FRENCH.

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5. IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED TO A MEMBER OF THE EMBASSY BY A WELL-PLACED SOURCE THAT MR FITERMAN, THE COMMUNIST MINISTER OF STATE AND MINISTER OF TRANSPORT, MAY HAVE BEEN TO POLAND OVER THE HOLIDAY PERIOD. MR FITERMAN IS OF POLISH STOCK AND IS SAID TO HAVE RELATIONS IN POLAND. IT IS SCARCELY POSSIBLE THAT HE COULD HAVE UNDERTAKEN ANY SUCH VISIT WITHOUT PRESIDENT MITTERRAND ACQUIESCING IN IT. IT SEEMS INHERENTLY UNLIKELY THAT PRESIDENT MITTERRAND, AFTER HAVING MASTER-MINDED A SUCCESSFUL OPERATION TO EMBARRASS THE FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY OVER POLAND, LET A COMMUNIST MINISTER HAVE A GO AT THE POLISH RUBIK-CUBE. ON THE OTHER HAND IT WOULD PROBABLY SUIT HIM IF IT COULD BE CONSTRUED THAT A TURN FOR THE BETTER IN POLAND COULD BE MADE TO LOOK LIKE A RESULT OF A FRENCH GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE. THERE ARE UNSUBSTANTIATED RUMOURS AMONG FRENCH JOURNALISTS THAT OFFICIALS OF THE COMMUNIST DOMINATED CGT HAVE BEEN TO POLAND. THE NAME OF M. KRASUCKI, THE HEIR APPARENT IN THE CGT AND LIKE FITERMAN OF POLISH ORIGINS, IS MENTIONED IN THIS CONNECTION. PERHAPS THE REAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THESE RUMOURS IS THAT THEY SHOW WHAT FRENCH MEN EXPECT THEIR RULERS TO BE UP TO, EVEN IF IN FACT THE LATTER ARE NOT YET UP TO IT.

FCO PLEASE PASS TO ALL SAVING ADDRESSEES.

HIBBERT

(REPEATED AS REQUESTED)

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