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MF

BUNDESTAG DEBATE ON SDI

SUMMARY

1. KOHL REAFFIRMED TO BUNDESTAG FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S POSITION ON SDI: SUPPORT FOR RESEARCH, WITH CONDITIONS: NO COMMITMENT ON PARTICIPATION, BUT EXPLORE POSSIBILITY OF JOINT EUROPEAN RESPONSE. OPPOSITION REJECT SDI AND OPPOSE PARTICIPATION IN RESEARCH.

DETAIL

2. IN GOVERNMENT STATEMENT TO BUNDESTAG ON SDI TODAY, KOHL WELCOMED US RESEARCH PROJECT: ANY POSSIBILITY OF REDUCING OR ELIMINATING NUCLEAR WEAPONS MUST BE EXPLORED. SOVIET UNION HAS BEEN RESEARCHING BMD FOR YEARS: WAS SOLE COUNTRY TO DEPLOY AN ABM SYSTEM: AND POSSESSED A DEPLOYED ASAT SYSTEM WHICH IN 1983 HAD BEEN TESTED IN SPACE OVER MUNICH. US PLANS WERE SOLELY FOR A LONG-TERM RESEARCH PROGRAMME. POSSIBLE DECISIONS ON DEVELOPMENT OR DEPLOYMENT WOULD NOT BE TAKEN BEFORE THE 21ST CENTURY. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORTED THE RESEARCH PROGRAMME 'IN PRINCIPLE'. IT WAS JUSTIFIED, POLITICALLY NECESSARY, AND IN THE WEST'S SECURITY INTEREST.

3. KEY STRATEGIC QUESTION WAS WHETHER SDI COULD BE USED TO ENHANCE SECURITY. STABILITY IN EAST/WEST RELATIONS REMAINED FRG GOAL. EUROPE MUST NOT BE DECOUPLED FROM AMERICA AND ZONES OF DIFFERENTIAL SECURITY AVOIDED. UNTIL A BETTER ALTERNATIVE WAS FOUND, FLEXIBLE RESPONSE MUST REMAIN NATO STRATEGY. INSTABILITY MUST BE AVOIDED IN ANY FUTURE TRANSITION TO A STRATEGY BASED ON DEFENSIVE WEAPONS. SDI MUST BE SEEN IN AN ARMS CONTROL CONTEXT. ABM TREATY PROVISIONS FOR A COOPERATIVE EXAMINATION OF ANY POST-RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT/DEPLOYMENT MUST BE ADHERED TO. SDI HAD HELPED RESTART THE GENEVA PROCESS, AND COULD CONTINUE TO HAVE HELPFUL INFLUENCE ON THE NEGOTIATIONS: IT WAS IN OUR INTEREST THAT THE SUPERPOWERS HANDLE SDI IN GENEVA IN A WAY WHICH DID NOT BLOCK PROGRESS.

4. THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC WOULD WORK CLOSELY WITH ITS EUROPEAN ALLIES ON A RESPONSE TO THE US INVITATION FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE RESEARCH PROGRAMME. KOHL WELCOMED DUMAS' PROPOSAL FOR TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION BETWEEN EUROPEANS. KOHL'S VIEWS ON SDI WERE VERY CLOSE TO THOSE OF MRS THATCHER AND CRAXI.

5. SDI OFFERED AN OPPORTUNITY FOR STRENGTHENING EUROPEAN INTEGRATION WITHIN THE ALLIANCE. GIVEN THE SIZE OF THE SDI BUDGET, OPPORTUNITIES IN THE TECHNOLOGICAL FIELD WOULD GO FAR BEYOND THE MILITARY RESULTS. ECONOMIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS ALONE WOULD NOT DETERMINE THE FRG RESPONSE, BUT FRG AND EUROPE COULD NOT AFFORD TO FALL BEHIND. ANY COOPERATION MUST BE BASED ON A FAIR PARTNERSHIP WITH A FULL TECHNOLOGICAL EXCHANGE, AND THE EUROPEANS ALLOWED INFLUENCE OVER THE WHOLE PROJECT.

6. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DID NOT FEEL UNDER TIME PRESSURE TO RESPOND. THEY WOULD CONSULT WITH INDUSTRY, AND WITH CLOSE EUROPEAN ALLIES AND WOULD SEND AN EXPERT GROUP TO US TO EXAMINE CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION.

7. GENSCHER (FDP) SAID THAT THE CLOSEST COOPERATION ON SDI WITH FRANCE AND OTHER EUROPEAN PARTNERS WAS A POLITICAL NECESSITY. HE POINTED TO THE DIFFICULTIES OF TRANSATLANTIC TECHNOLOGICAL EXCHANGE: THE EUROPEANS MUST BEWARE THAT THEIR TECHNOLOGICAL CONTRIBUTION IN ANY SDI PARTICIPATION SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN-UP WITHOUT FEED BACK FROM THE AMERICANS ON THE RESULTS OF THE PROGRAMME. MORE INFORMATION WAS NEEDED ABOUT PARTICIPATION.

8. EHMKE (SPD, WHO INITIATED THE DEBATE) OPPOSED SDI CONCEPT (DESTABILISING, LEAK-PROOF SYSTEM NOT FEASIBLE, WILL ENCOURAGE ARMS RACE IN SPACE, DIFFERENTIAL SECURITY IN ALLIANCE LEADING TO RISK OF LIMITED WAR IN EUROPE ETC). EUROPEANS SHOULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE RESEARCH PROGRAMME EITHER, NOT LEAST BECAUSE THIS WOULD ENTAIL JOINT POLITICAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE STRATEGIC CONCEPT, WHATEVER THE DISCLAIMERS. THIS WAS PRECISELY THE US TACTIC. PARTICIPATION WOULD, IN ANY CASE, NOT GIVE ACCESS TO HIGH TECHNOLOGY: THE US TRACK RECORD POOR IN THE CIVILIAN SECTOR, AND AMERICANS EVEN MORE SENSITIVE ON MILITARY TECHNOLOGY. EUROPE MUST HAVE A TECHNOLOGICAL RESPONSE, BUT NOT BASED ON MILITARY RESEARCH. WHERE HOWEVER, WAS THE MONEY FOR ANY FEDERAL PROJECT?

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