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FM BONN 031700Z OCT 80

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 726 OF 3 OCTOBER

INFO ROUTINE WASHINGTON, PARIS, UKMIS NEW YORK

WASHINGTON TELNO 4177: GLOEAL NEGOTIATIONS

1. TUR CORRECTLY DESCRIBES GENSCHER'S POSITION. VAN WELL TOLD ME ON 25 SEPTEMBER THAT THE AUSWAERTIGES AMT WERE VERY UNHAPPY WITH THE RESULT ON GLOBAL NEGOTIATIONS AT THE SPECIAL SESSION AND EXPRESSED THE OPOINION THAT THE FEDERAL FINANCE MINISTER HAD BECOME ALTOGETHER TOO POWERFUL. AS THE HEAD OF THE NORTH/SOUTH DEPARTMENT AT THE AUSWAERTIGES AMT CONFIRMED WHEN WE CALLED ON HIM YESTERDAY, GENSCHER RESENTED THE HARD-LINE ROLE WISHED ON HIM IN NEW YORK WHEN HE HAD HOPED TO CONVEY QUITE A DIFFERENT IMPRESSION.
2. IN DISCUSSION WITH US SULIMMA HIMSELF WAS UNREPENTANT. HE HAD FULLY CLEARED HIS LINES WITH LAUTENSCHLAGER. THE GERMANS STRONGLY RESENTED BEING LEFT IN THE LURCH BY THEIR 7 COMMUNITY COLLEAGUES WHEN THEY AND WE WERE DEFENDING A JOINT COMMUNITY INTEREST. THEIR DISPLEASURE HAD BEEN MADE CLEAR TO THE RELEVANT EMBASSIES IN BONN. COOPERATION WITH LONDON HAD BEEN EXEMPLARY.
3. SULIMMA INDICATED THAT THE GERMANS WERE NO MORE ANXIOUS THAN WE TO RUSH THE NEXT FENCE. HE DOUBTED WHETHER THINGS WOULD MOVE MUCH BEFORE NOVEMBER. ON SUBSTANCE THE GERMAN LINE WAS, HE CLAIMED, QUITE UNCHANGED, NOT LEAST BECAUSE OF THE STRONG PRIORITY GIVEN BY THE FEDERAL CHANCELLOR TO PRESERVING THE INTEGRITY OF THE IMF. (THE ECONOMICS MINISTRY HAVE TOLD US THAT LAMBSDORFF AND MATTHOEFER WILL NOT BE EASILY SHIFTED EITHER).
4. NEVERTHELESS, SULIMMA SAW FUTURE TACTICAL ADVANTAGE IN DISCUSSING THE AGENDA IN PARALLEL WITH PROCEDURES IF NOT BEFORE. HE ARGUED THAT OUR JOINT DESIDERATA MIGHT AS WELL BE ACHIEVED THIS WAY. WE REMINDED HIM THAT NOTHING WAS TO BE GAINED BY RETREATING OR APPEARING TO RETREAT FROM THE POSITION TAKEN UP WITH THE AMERICANS. SULIMMA SAID THAT NO RETREAT WAS INTENDED. THE GERMANS WOULD NOT GET INTO THE SUBSTANCE OF NEGOTIATIONS UNTIL THEIR POINTS WERE MET.
5. SULIMMA CONFIRMED OUR IMPRESSION THAT THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE GERMAN PUBLIC INTEREST IN THE GLOBAL NEGOTIATIONS. HOWEVER, AS VAN WELL TOLD ME, THE NORTH/SOUTH PROBLEM AS A WHOLE IS AMONG THE MATTERS CURENTLY IN INTERNAL DISPUTE HERE. THE AUSWAERTIGES AMT WILL NO DOUBT TRY TO REDRESS THE PRESENT UNSATISFACTORY BALANCE OF INTEREST WITH TECHNICAL MINISTRIES AFTER THE ELECTIONS BUT HOW THIS COMES OUT WILL DEPEND VERY MUCH ON THE PRECISE MAJORITIES.

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