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FM BONN

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELNO 860

OF 151400Z OCTOBER 86

INFO PRIORITY MODUK, UKDEL NATO, PARIS, WASHINGTON, MOSCOW

MY TELNO 858: REYKJAVIK SUMMIT: GERMAN VIEWS

1. TELTSCHIK'S COMMENT TO ME THIS MORNING WAS THAT PERHAPS IT WAS JUST AS WELL THAT THE MEETING IN REYJAVIK HAD BROKEN UP WHEN IT DID. THE TWO LEADERS HAD BEEN ON THE POINT OF SIGNING AGREEMENTS WHOSE CONSEQUENCES COULD NOT BE FORESEEN. AS IT WAS, THE EUROPEAN ALLIES AS WELL AS THE UNITED STATES SEEMED LIKELY TO BE STUCK WITH THE THEORETICAL OBJECTIVE OF A WORLD WITHOUT NUCLEAR WEAPONS, WITH A ZERO-ZERO SOLUTION ON INF (ADMITTEDLY WITH 100 MISSILES STATIONED OUTSIDE EUROPE ON EACH SIDE) AND WITH THE CONCEPT OF 50 PERCENT CUTS IN EACH DEPARTMENT OF STRATEGIC WEAPONS BELONGING TO THE SUPERPOWERS. POLITICALLY, OF COURSE, A FAR-REACHING AGREEMENT IN REYKJAVIK WOULD HAVE BEEN VERY WELCOME JUST NOW IN BONN, BUT FROM THE PROFESSIONAL POINT OF VIEW A PAUSE FOR REFLECTION WAS NO BAD THING, AND IT LOOKED AS IF THE RUSSIANS MIGHT BE HAVING SIMILAR THOUGHTS.

2. TELTSCHIK CRITICISED THE MEDIA AND PUBLIC IN THE FRG FOR OVER-REACTING AS USUAL. THIS APPLIED PARTICULARLY TO THE SPD: IT HAD BEEN LUDICROUS OF EHMKE TO DESCRIBE REYKJAVIK AS A BLACK DAY FOR HUMANITY, NOR WOULD THIS ATTITUDE HELP HIS PARTY. BUT THE MOOD SEEMED TO HAVE STEADIED DOWN NOW.

3. TELTSCHIK SAID THAT THE IMPLICATIONS OF REYKJAVIK WOULD BE THE MAIN POINT FOR KOHL'S TALKS WITH REAGAN IN WASHINGTON NEXT WEEK. THE GERMAN SIDE HAD RECEIVED THE USUAL REQUEST NOT TO OVERBURDEN THE PRESIDENT'S ATTENTION-SPAN: TELTSCHIK COMMENTED RUEFULLY THAT THIS WAS THE SAME PRESIDENT WHO HAD NEGOTIATED FOR ELEVEN HOURS WITH GORBACHEV, WHICH UNDERLINED HIS POINT IN PARA ABOVE.

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