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FM PARIS 030930Z JUL 82

TO ROUTINE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 695 OF 2 JULY 1982

INFO SAVING ATHENS BRUSSELS, UKREP BRUSSELS, COPENHAGEN, THE HAGUE,

LUXEMBOURG, ROME, DUBLIN, BONN, UKDEL STRASBOURG.

LYONS, LILLE, MARSEILLES, BORDEAUX (PASSED BY PARIS)

MY TEL NO 677: FRENCH GOVERNMENT RESHUFFLE

1. FOLLOWING BEREGOVY'S NOMINATION AS MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND NATIONAL SOLIDARITY.

JEAN-LOUIS BIANCO, PREVIOUSLY A CHARGE DE MISSION IN THE PRESIDENT'S CABINET WORKING TO ATTALI, HAS BEEN APPOINTED SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ELYSEE. ATTALI, WHO REMAINS SPECIAL COUNSELLOR TO THE PRESIDENT, WILL IN FUTURE ATTEND MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND REPORT ON THE PROCEEDINGS TO THE PRESS, A ROLE FORMERLY PLAYED BY BEREGOVY. SAUTTER, HITHERTO A CONSEILLER TECHNIQUE UNDER BEREGOVY, BECOMES ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL FOLLOWING THE COINCIDENTAL DEPARTURE OF FOURNIER TO SUCCEED LONG AS SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE GOVERNMENT (MATCHING SOME OF THE FUNCTIONS OF SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE CABINET).

2. BIANCO'S APPOINTMENT IS SOMETHING OF A SURPRISE. ALTHOUGH AT THE ELYSEE SINCE JUNE LAST YEAR, HE HAS NOT BEEN IN THE PUBLIC EYE. HE APPEARS TO HAVE OWED HIS ORIGINAL APPOINTMENT AS MUCH TO HIS FRIENDSHIP WITH ATTALI AS TO HIS CLOSENESS TO MITTERAND. AT 39 BIANCO IS THE YOUNGEST SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ELYSEE UNDER THE FIFTH REPUBLIC. BEFORE ENTERING THE ELYSEE HE HAD THE CLASSIC CAREER OF A HIGH-FLYING FRENCH CIVIL SERVANT: ENA, ECOLE DES MINES AND THE CONSEIL D'ETAT. HE WAS ALSO THE HEAD OF DIVISION DEALING WITH THE FAMILY AND CHILDREN AT THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH FROM 1977-1979. THE APPOINTMENT OF A CIVIL SERVANT TO THE POST OF SECRETARY GENERAL REPRESENTS A RETURN TO THE TRADITION OF THE FIFTH REPUBLIC BROKEN BY THE NOMINATION OF BEREGOVY. BEREGOVY, WHO UNLIKE HIS PREDECESSORS WAS NOT A PRODUCT OF ENA, REMAINED ESSENTIALLY A POLITICIAN. AS SECRETARY GENERAL HE WAS UNIQUE IN HOLDING PARTY OFFICE AS A MEMBER OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY.

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/ 3. BIANCO'S



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3. BIANCO'S APPOINTMENT, ACCOMPANIED BY THE ATTRIBUTION OF FURTHER RESPONSIBILITIES TO ATTALI, MAY HOWEVER REPRESENT A DOWN-GRADING OF THE ROLE OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL. HENCEFORTH POLICY ADVICE SEEMS LIKELY TO BE FILTERED EVEN MORE THAN IN THE PAST THROUGH ATTALI AND, IN THE DOMESTIC SPHERE THROUGH ROUSSELET, MITTERRAND'S DIRECTEUR DU CABINET, WHILE BIANCO TAKES RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE GENERAL COORDINATION OF THE ELYSEE. THE ABSENCE OF A CLEAR CHAIN OF COMMAND AT THE ELYSEE REFLECTS MITTERRAND'S PERSONAL ANTIPATHY TOWARDS FORMAL BUREAUCRATIC ORGANISATION. EVER SINCE HIS DAYS AS FIRST SECRETARY OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY HE HAS PREFERRED TO BE IN A POSITION TO SYNTHESISE ADVICE DRAWN FROM DIFFERENT SETS OF ADVISERS.

FCO PASS SAVING TO EC POSTS AND UKDEL STRASBOURG.

FRETWELL

[REPEATED AS REQUESTED]

FCO/WHITEHALL

WED

[NOT ADVANCED]

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