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TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 226 OF 8 MARCH

INFO PRIORITY UKDEL NATO UKREP BRUSSELS WASHINGTON PARIS MOSCOW

ROME MODUK CICC(G)

INFO SAVING CGS IN THE FRG

MY TELNO 222: AFTERMATH OF FEDERAL ELECTIONS

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SUMMARY

1. KOHL HOPES THAT HIS NEW CABINET WILL BE SWORN IN ON 30 MARCH ALTHOUGH FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS ON MINISTRIES AND COALITION POLICY WILL NOT BEGIN UNTIL NEXT WEEK. STRAUSS CLEARLY WANTS TO BE FOREIGN MINISTER BUT GENSCHER'S CHANCES LOOK STRONGER.

DETAIL

2. KOHL SAID YESTERDAY THAT HE HOPED THAT THE NEW BUNDESTAG WOULD MEET ON 28 MARCH, THAT IT WOULD CONFIRM HIM AS CHANCELLOR ON THE FOLLOWING DAY AND THAT HIS NEW CABINET WOULD BE SWORN IN ON 30 MARCH. THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY DECLARATION WOULD NOT BE MADE UNTIL AFTER EASTER.

3. STRAUSS HAS ANNOUNCED THAT HE WILL TAKE UP HIS BUNDESTAG SEAT AND SAID THAT THIS TIME ROUND HE INTENDED TO BE QUOTE PART OF THE TEAM UNQUOTE. HE WANTS TO BE VICE CHANCELLOR AND FOREIGN MINISTER. BUT SCHRECKENBERGER, THE STATE SECRETARY IN THE FEDERAL CHANCELLERY, TOLD ME YESTERDAY THAT HE EXPECTED GENSCHER TO STAY AS FOREIGN MINISTER. KIEP, THE CDU LEADER IN HAMBURG, TOLD ME YESTERDAY THAT KOHL, IMMENSELY STRENGTHENED BY THE ELECTION, WOULD BE ABLE TO INSIST ON KEEPING GENSCHER. HE WAS CERTAIN THAT TOERNER WOULD REMAIN DEFENCE MINISTER. THE RUMOUR MILL IN BONN IS WORKING HARD ON ALLEGEDLY POSSIBLE MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENTS. THERE IS PLAUSIBLE SPECULATION THAT THE FDP, BECAUSE OF THEIR REDUCED VOTE, MAY HAVE TO GIVE UP AT LEAST ONE OF THEIR FOUR PORTFOLIOS IN RETURN FOR GENSCHER STAYING. AGRICULTURE IS THE MOST LIKELY.

4. KOHL HAS SAID THAT HE DOES NOT WANT TO HAVE A DISCUSSION ABOUT MINISTERIAL POSTS UNTIL AFTER THE LAND ELECTIONS IN SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN ON SUNDAY. IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT THE CDU WILL INCREASE THEIR NARROW TWO-SEAT MAJORITY IN THE LANDTAG THERE. INTEREST CENTRES ON HOW THE FDP WILL PERFORM GIVEN THAT, DESPITE THEIR SWITCH IN BONN, THEY HAVE ALIGNED THEMSELVES THERE WITH THE SPD.

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5. AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE YESTERDAY, THE GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN DREW ATTENTION TO THE POSITIVE ECHO WHICH KOHL'S ELECTORIAL VICTORY HAD FOUND IN THE WEST. HE SAID THAT KOHL HAD ALREADY SPOKEN TO PRESIDENT REAGAN AND ANNOUNCED KOHL'S INTENTION OF SPEAKING TO THE PRIME MINISTER LATER IN THE AFTERNOON. THE PRESS TODAY HIGHLIGHTS SATISFACTION IN WESTERN COUNTRIES AT THE ELECTION RESULTS.

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