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TO PRIORITY FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 647 OF 27 JUNE

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MY TEL NO 634: VISIT OF US VICE-PRESIDENT TO FRG

1. VICE-PRESIDENT BUSH DELIVERED HIS TRICENTENARY SPEECH AT KREFELD AS PLANNED ON 25 JUNE, REFERRING IN GENERAL TERMS TO THE NEED FOR MILITARY STRENGTH AND THE DEFENCE OF FREEDOM BUT AVOIDING SPECIFIC CURRENT ISSUES. HIS VISIT WAS MARRED BY AN OUTBREAK OF STREET VIOLENCE DELIBERATELY PROVOKED BY A COUPLE OF HUNDRED EXTREMISTS ASSEMBLED FROM ALL PARTS OF GERMANY, MANY OF THEM MASKED AND CARRYING MOLOTOV COCKTAILS, WHO STONED AND DELAYED BUSH'S CONVOY AND CAME TO BLOWS WITH THE LOCAL POLICE. 32 POLICEMEN AND SEVERAL DEMONSTRATORS WERE INJURED AND 134 ARRESTS WERE MADE. THE 20,000-STRONG ANTI-NUCLEAR DEMONSTRATION ORGANISED BY THE MAIN QUOTE PEACE UNQUOTE MOVEMENT REMAINED SEPARATE AND PASSED OFF PEACEFULLY, WITH SOME PARTICIPATION BY ANTI-ESTABLISHMENT AMERICANS. IT WAS ADDRESSED, AMONG OTHERS, BY LEADERS OF THE GREEN AND GERMAN COMMUNIST PARTIES. ITS ORGANISERS PUBLICLY DISCLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ACTIONS OF THE VIOLENT QUOTE PROVOCATEURS UNQUOTE.

2. IN SUBSEQUENT PRESS STATEMENTS BUSH EXPRESSED HIMSELF UNWORRIED BY THE VIOLENCE, POINTING OUT THAT SUCH PROBLEMS WERE NOT UNKNOWN IN THE US EITHER. KOHL STRONGLY CONDEMNED THE ACTIONS OF A VIOLENT MINORITY, STRESSING THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT BE SWAYED BY QUOTE TERROR ON THE STREETS UNQUOTE. SPD CHAIRMAN BRANDT ALSO EXPRESSED HIS SHAME THAT SUCH A DISCREDITABLE DISPLAY SHOULD HAVE TAKEN PLACE. HOWEVER, PUBLIC COMMENT SINCE SATURDAY HAS FOCUSSED LESS ON THE CAUSES OF DISORDER THAN ON THE INADEQUACIES OF A POLICE OPERATION WHICH PROVED INCAPABLE OF NIPPING THE PLANNED VIOLENCE IN THE BUD OR ISOLATING IT FROM BUSH'S ENTOURAGE. THE KREFELD AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES HAVE DEFENDED THEIR APPROACH AS THE MOST THAT COULD HAVE BEEN DONE WITHOUT TURNING KREFELD INTO A GHOST TOWN: BUT THE DEBATE SEEMS LIKELY TO CONTINUE.

3. COMMENT. THE CLEAR SEPARATION ON THIS OCCASION BETWEEN THE MAIN QUOTE PEACE UNQUOTE MOVEMENT DEMONSTRATION AND THE SMALL EXTREMIST GROUP WHICH SOUGHT TO EXPLOIT IT HAS HELPED THE ORGANISERS OF THE FORMER TO PARADE THEIR NON-VIOLENT CONVICTIONS AND SO STRENGTHEN THEIR BID FOR RESPECTABILITY. AT THE SAME TIME GERMAN OFFICIALS HOPE THAT THE COINCIDENCE OF VIOLENCE WITH A

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QUOTE PEACE UNQUOTE DEMONSTRATION MAY DETER SOME MODERATE  
OPONENTS OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS FROM DEMONSTRATING IN FUTURE.  
MOREOVER THE KREFELD AFFAIR MAY NOT BE TYPICAL OF THE WAY  
DEMONSTRATIONS WILL DEVELOP THIS AUTUMN, PARTICULARLY IN THE  
MORE CONSTRICTED SURROUNDINGS OF MILITARY SITES WHERE PEACEFUL  
AND VIOLENT ACTIONS WILL BE HARD TO KEEP APART. THE DEBATE OVER THE  
POLICE'S PERFORMANCE HAS HIGHLIGHTED THE FACT THAT THE  
GOVERNMENT, ALTHOUGH POSSESSED OF A GOOD RANGE OF INSTRUMENTS  
AND (AT PRESENT) ENJOYING THE SYMPATHY OF MOST ORDINARY  
CITIZENS, HAS NOT YET REALLY GOT ITS ACT TOGETHER ON LAW-AND-  
ORDER POLICY FOR DEALING WITH THIS AUTUMN'S DEMONSTRATIONS. IF  
KREFELD PROMPTS SOME HARDER THINKING ON THIS PROBLEM IN BONN IT  
MAY PROVE A BLESSING IN DISGUISE.

FCO PLEASE PASS SAVING ADDRESSEES.

TAYLOR

(REPEATED AS REQUESTED)

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