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Prime Minister (2)

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TO PRIORITY FCO

TELNO 842

OF 271445Z AUGUST 85

INFO PRIORITY PARIS, WASHINGTON, MOSCOW, ROME, UKREP BRUSSELS, UKDEL  
NATO**KOHL/MITTERRAND MEETING ON 24 AUGUST: GERMAN IMPRESSIONS****SUMMARY**

1. THE KOHL/MITTERRAND MEETING SWAMPED BY THE CURRENT SPY SCANDAL. REPORTS INDICATE A CORDIAL ATMOSPHERE AND CONVERGENCE OF VIEWS ON LONG TERM OBJECTIVES, BUT AGREEMENT ON FEW IF ANY CONCRETE POINTS. NO SERIOUS FRENCH ATTEMPT TO GET BACK INTO EFA.

**DETAIL**

2. REPORTING IN THE GERMAN MEDIA OF THE KOHL/MITTERRAND MEETING AT FORT BREGANCON ON 24 AUGUST HAS BEEN LIMITED BY THE CONTINUING SPY STORIES AND LACK OF OFFICIAL BRIEFING. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, THE TALKS CONCENTRATED ON EAST/WEST RELATIONS, WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON GORBACHEV'S FORTHCOMING VISIT TO PARIS AND THE US/SOVIET SUMMIT: THE FUTURE OF EUROPE, AND EUREKA. IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY SPECIFIC AGREEMENT ON OTHER MATTERS, PROMINENCE IS GIVEN TO THE DECISION TO SET UP A 'HOT LINE' BETWEEN BONN AND PARIS.

3. STABREIT (FEDERAL CHANCELLERY) CONFIRMED TO THE HEAD OF CHANCERY THAT THE TALKS HAD TAKEN PLACE WITHOUT OFFICIALS (EXCEPT INTERPRETERS) AND HAD BEEN VERY GENERAL IN NATURE. ON EAST/WEST RELATIONS, THE TWO LEADERS HAD A LONG AND RATHER INCONCLUSIVE DEBATE ABOUT HOW TO HANDLE THE SOVIET UNION'S 'EUROPEAN APPROACH'. THEY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT DIALOGUE WITH THE SOVIET UNION SHOULD CONTINUE, BUT THAT THEY SHOULD NOT PAY WHATEVER PRICE THE RUSSIANS DEMANDED FOR GOOD RELATIONS. MITTERRAND HAD PROMISED TO KEEP CLOSELY IN TOUCH WITH KOHL BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER THE GORBACHEV VISIT. STABREIT CONFIRMED THAT KOHL WAS 90 PER CENT CERTAIN TO VISIT WASHINGTON BEFORE THE US/SOVIET SUMMIT (IT MERELY REMAINED TO FIX A CONVENIENT DATE), BUT THOUGHT THAT KOHL WAS WISE ENOUGH NOT TO MAKE THE ERROR OF TRYING TO TELL THE AMERICANS EXACTLY HOW TO PLAY THEIR HAND.

4. ON THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, STABREIT SAID THAT NEITHER THE FRENCH NOR THE GERMAN POSITIONS FOR 9 SEPTEMBER HAD YET BEEN FINALISED, AND THERE HAD CONSEQUENTLY BEEN NO AGREEMENT BETWEEN KOHL AND MITTERRAND ON WHICH TREATY ARTICLES NEEDED AMENDMENT OR ON TACTICS FOR THE MEETING. THEY HAD INSTRUCTED THEIR STAFFS TO CONTINUE CONSULTATIONS ON THESE POINTS. HASKELL ASKED WHETHER THE QUESTION OF MAJORITY VOTING HAD BEEN DISCUSSED, MENTIONING HINTS FROM ONE OR TWO SOURCES IN THE AUSWAERTIGES AMT THAT THE GERMAN POSITION MIGHT BE UNDER RECONSIDERATION. STABREIT WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY SPECIFIC

/Discussion

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DISCUSSION ON THIS POINT BETWEEN KOHL AND MITTERRAND, BUT THOUGHT IT POSSIBLE THAT IN THE END THE GERMANS MIGHT ACCEPT SOME USE OF THE LUXEMBOURG COMPROMISE, WITH CERTAIN LIMITATIONS AND SAFEGUARDS, ALTHOUGH THEY WOULD OPPOSE RESTRICTING IT TO MEETINGS OF HEADS OF GOVERNMENT, WHICH WOULD SIMPLY RESULT IN ALL PROBLEMS BEING KICKED UPSTAIRS.

5. ON EUREKA, STABREIT SAID THAT THE FRENCH AND GERMANS WERE AT ONE IN WANTING A SUCCESSFUL CONFERENCE AT HANOVER IN NOVEMBER, AND THAT THE GERMANS WOULD NO DOUBT SUPPORT THE FRENCH "EUREKA CHARTER", EVEN THOUGH THEY REALISED IT WOULD BE OF LITTLE PRACTICAL SIGNIFICANCE. THERE WAS, HOWEVER, NO QUESTION AT PRESENT OF THE GERMANS MATCHING THE FRENCH COMMITMENT OF PUBLIC MONEY TO THE CONCEPT: THEY WANTED TO SEE CONCRETE AND COMMERCIALY VIABLE PROJECTS, WITH THE COSTS CARRIED PRIMARILY BY INDUSTRY (THOUGH AT THE END OF THE DAY A LITTLE PUMP-PRIMING MIGHT NOT BE EXCLUDED).

6. STABREIT SAID THAT THERE HAD BEEN LITTLE DISCUSSION OF SDI, ON WHICH THE FRENCH POSITION WAS STILL VERY RESERVED: HE DETECTED NO SOFTENING OF THEIR ATTITUDE OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS. CONTRARY TO HINTS IN THE PRESS, HE WAS UNAWARE OF ANY DISCUSSION OF THE FRANCO-GERMAN SECURITY RELATIONSHIP, THOUGH HE COMMENTED THAT ON THIS SUBJECT KOHL PLAYED HIS CARDS VERY CLOSE TO HIS CHEST, AND DID NOT ALWAYS TELL EVEN HIS SENIOR ADVISERS WHAT WAS AFOOT. THE PRESS SPEAKS AS IF THERE HAD BEEN A GENERAL UNDERSTANDING THAT FRANCE AND THE FRG ARE EACH ESSENTIAL TO THE SECURITY OF THE OTHER, WHICH COULD MEAN MUCH OR LITTLE.

7. ON EFA, ALTHOUGH THE GERMAN PRESS REPORT THAT MITTERRAND MADE A PROPOSAL FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A "FAMILY" OF EUROPEAN FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, STABREIT SAID THAT DISCUSSION HAD BEEN VERY BRIEF, AND THE SUGGESTION WAS NOT A SERIOUS ONE. KOHL HAD MADE IT QUITE CLEAR THAT THERE WAS NO GOING BACK ON THE TURIN UNDERSTANDING AND MITTERRAND HAD ACCEPTED THIS. HE HAD, HOWEVER, PROPOSED A VAGUE GENTLEMAN'S AGREEMENT THAT ALL FUTURE EUROPEAN MILITARY AIRCRAFT PROJECTS SHOULD BE COOPERATIVE ONES, WHICH STABREIT SAW AS LARGELY A FACE-SAVING DEVICE.

BULLARD

**THIS TELEGRAM  
WAS NOT  
ADVANCED**

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