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INFO IMMEDIATE BONN

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BONN TELNO 165: FRANCO-GERMAN SUMMIT: 27/28 FEBRUARY

SUMMARY.

1. NOTHING VERY NEW: BUT RECENT AGREEMENTS ON MILITARY COOPERATION, DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGES AND A CULTURAL SUMMIT HAVE BEEN FORMALISED.

DETAIL.

2. AS EXPECTED, BILATERAL MILITARY COOPERATION WAS A MAJOR THEME OF THE SUMMIT. THE PRESIDENT AND CHANCELLOR PUBLISHED A JOINT DECLARATION, IN WHICH MITTERRAND FORMALLY EXPRESSED HIS WILLINGNESS "TO CONSULT THE CHANCELLOR OF THE FRG ON THE POSSIBLE USE OF FRENCH PRE-STRATEGIC WEAPONS ON GERMAN SOIL". THE TWO LEADES AGREED TO ACQUIRE THE TECHNICAL MEANS FOR AN "IMMEDIATE AND SURE CONSULTATION" IN TIME OF CRISIS. AT THE JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE, MITTERRAND EXPLAINED THAT CONSULTATION WAS NOT THE SAME AS DECISION. THE TECHNICAL MEANS WERE AVAILABLE TO CONSULT ALMOST INSTANTANEOUSLY AND THAT WAS WHAT HE WOULD DO BEFORE LAUNCHING FRENCH PRE-STRATEGIC FORCES, "WHETHER NUCLEAR OR NOT", ONTO GERMAN SOIL.

3. THE DECLARATION ALSO CONFIRMED RECENT AGREEMENTS ON CONVENTIONAL MILITARY COOPERATION - BOTH THROUGH JOINT EXERCISES AND OPERATIONAL COOPERATION INCLUDING THE FORCE D'ACTION RAPIDE, AND THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF TRAINING COURSES FOR YOUNG OFFICERS TO BE RUN ALTERNATELY IN FRANCE AND GERMANY FROM THIS YEAR.

4. THE TWO GOVERNMENTS HAVE ALSO CONFIRMED THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN DUMAS AND GENSCHER IN JANUARY TO IMPROVE CONCERTATION ON FOREIGN POLICY, INCLUDING EXCHANGES OF OFFICIALS BETWEEN THE TWO FOREIGN MINISTRIES. THESE EXCHANGES ARE TO START SHORTLY, WILL BE FOR 3 MONTHS TO A YEAR AND WILL INCLUDE SENIOR LEVELS OF THE TWO ADMINISTRATIONS.

5. CULTURAL COOPERATION IS ALSO TO BE GIVEN A HIGHER PROFILE, WITH A FRANCO-GERMAN FORUM OF INTELLECTUALS AND ARTISTS IN AVIGNON IN JULY AND A STRONG CULTURAL BIAS TO THE OCTOBER SUMMIT IN FRANKFURT.

6. ON INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION, THE POSITION ON HERMES WAS UNCHANGED. THE GERMANS SAID PUBLICLY THAT THEY AGREED "TO EXAMINE WITH THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT THE CONDITIONS AND SIZE OF THEIR PARTICIPATION". THEIR FINAL DECISION WOULD BE TAKEN IN AUTUMN 1986 SO THAT WORK ON THE PROJECT COULD START IN MID 1987 AS AGREED AT THE ESA CONFERENCE IN ROME IN JANUARY 1985. ON THE FRANCO-GERMAN HELICOPTER AND AIRBUS, SOME PROGRESS WAS CLAIMED - BUT IT IS NOT YET CLEAR WHAT SUBSTANCE THERE IS IN THIS.

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7. DURING THE SUMMIT, MITTERRAND AND KOHL MET VOLUNTEERS FOR THE JOINT PROGRAMME TO SEND YOUNG PEOPLE TO WORK ON THIRD WORLD AID PROJECTS.

COMMENT.

8. THE ABOVE IS BASED ON MEDIA REPORTS. WE HAVE NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO DEBRIEF OFFICIALS PROPERLY BUT SHALL DO SO EARLY NEXT WEEK. BEFOREHAND, THOSE INVOLVED HERE (AS IN BONN) SAW THIS AS A ROUTINE OCCASION AND EXPECTED LITTLE NEW TO EMERGE. THAT PREDICTION APPEARS LARGELY TO HAVE BEEN BORNE OUT. BUT THE PUBLIC CATALOGUING OF RECENT AGREEMENTS GIVES THE IMPRESSION OF A CERTAIN DEPTH TO THE RELATIONSHIP; AND INITIAL REACTIONS FROM THE FRG EMBASSY HERE AND THE QUAI ARE THAT IT WAS A USEFUL EVENT DESPITE THE TIMING. THIS WILL BE WELCOME TO MITTERRAND IN THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN, EVEN IF KOHL'S CLAIM TO HAVE AVOIDED ANY INTERFERENCE IN IT IS JUSTIFIED. THE EMPHASIS ON THE PRESIDENT'S PRIMACY IN LAUNCHING NUCLEAR WEAPONS WILL ALSO STAND MITTERRAND IN GOOD STEAD AFTER THE ELECTIONS, IN THE BATTLE OVER COHABITATION.

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