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TO PRIORITY FCO

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OF 181647Z JUN 86

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SIC FEA

MITTERRAND/KOHL MEETING : 17 JUNE

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SUMMARY

1. ANOTHER GENERAL DISCUSSION OF CURRENT INTERNATIONAL AND BILATERAL ISSUES.

DETAIL

2. MITTERRAND AND KOHL MET AT RAMBOUILLET YESTERDAY FOR LUNCH AND AN AFTERNOON OF TALKS IN TETE-A-TETE. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS THE MAIN SUBJECTS COVERED WERE:

- (A) NUCLEAR SAFETY. KOHL CALLED ON THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT TO TAKE FULL ACCOUNT OF THE ANXIETIES CREATED IN GERMANY THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE CATTENOM NUCLEAR POWER STATION IN FRANCE CLOSE TO THE BORDER. THIS WAS THE OBJECT OF A DEMONSTRATION DURING THE WEEKEND BY GERMANS CONCERNED ABOUT NUCLEAR SAFETY. KOHL ALSO URGED THE FRENCH TO SUPPORT HIS PROPOSAL FOR AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN VIENNA THIS AUTUMN ON THE SAFETY OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS. MITTERRAND SAID THAT IF EVERYONE TOOK AS MANY PRECAUTIONS AS THE FRENCH AT CATTENOM, ONE WOULD SPEAK MUCH LESS OF THIS AFFAIR.
- (B) THE FRANCO-GERMAN HELICOPTER PROJECT. MITTERRAND SPOKE OF HIS DETERMINATION TO FIND A WAY THROUGH THE TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES SURROUNDING THIS PROJECT. KOHL TOO EXPRESS POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR IT AND ACCEPTED THE OPTION OF DEVELOPING EUROPEAN TECHNOLOGY FOR THE VISIONICS. MEANWHILE NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUE BETWEEN THE TWO MINISTERS OF DEFENCE. SOURCES HERE INDICATE THAT A SOLUTION WILL BE FOUND BUT IT IS UNCLEAR WHETHER THERE WILL BE A LINKAGE TO A COMMON TANK PROGRAMME AS HAS BEEN OCCASIONALLY SUGGESTED.
- (C) THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL. MITTERRAND AND KOHL BRIEFLY COVERED THE PROBLEMS OF EC/US AGRICULTURAL TRADE AND SOUTH AFRICA.
- (D) MITTERRAND'S VISIT TO MOSCOW ON 7-10 JULY.

3. THESE INFORMAL FRANCO-GERMAN SUMMITS ARE THUS KEEPING UP ALMOST A MONTHLY RHYTHM. THE HABIT OF EXCHANGING VIEWS REGULARLY AT THIS LEVEL IS PROBABLY MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE PRECISE CONTENT OF THE DISCUSSION. IN FRENCH DOMESTIC TERMS, MITTERRAND HAS STRUCK A SMALL BLOW IN ADVANCE OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL IN HIS COMPETITION WITH CHIRAC TO REPRESENT FRANCE INTERNATIONALLY. THERE IS A HINT THAT CHIRAC MAY NOW BE THINKING OF A FURTHER MEETING WITH KOHL ALSO. WE SHALL REPORT FURTHER WHAT EMERGES FROM DEBRIEFING THE ELYSEE AND THE GERMAN EMBASSY, WHO HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO GIVE US AN ACCOUNT TODAY.

FRETWELL
EUROPEAN POLITICAL
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