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FM BONN

TO ROUTINE FCO

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OF 211704Z NOVEMBER 86

INFO ROUTINE MODUK, UKDEL NATO, WASHINGTON, PARIS, MOSCOW

NATO GENERALS ON LRINF

1. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, GENERAL ROGERS YESTERDAY IN MUNICH REJECTED A ZERO OPTION FOR INF FOR EUROPE SAYING THAT, EVEN IF IT MADE SENSE POLITICALLY, IT WAS SENSELESS MILITARILY, SENDING 'SHIVERS DOWN MY BACK'. ROGERS WAS SPEAKING TO A SEMINAR AT THE CSU-RELATED HANNS-SEIDEL INSTITUTE. VERBATIM TEXT NOT YET AVAILABLE HERE.

2. SPEAKING SEPARATELY IN MUNICH, D SACEUR GENERAL MACK ALSO SPOKE CRITICALLY OF THE ZERO OPTION, WARNING OF ZONES OF DIFFERENTIAL SECURITY WITHIN THE ALLIANCE. HE SAID THE ALLIANCE STRATEGY OF FLEXIBLE RESPONSE MUST NOT BE DIVIDED UP INTO COMPONENTS: ONLY THE CLOSE LINKAGE BETWEEN NUCLEAR AND CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS WAS CAPABLE OF EFFECTIVELY PREVENTING WAR IN EUROPE. NUCLEAR OPTIONS ON THE BASIS OF LRINF WERE OF OVERWHELMING IMPORTANCE FOR THE SECURITY OF NATO IN EUROPE, GIVEN THEIR CAPABILITY TO STRIKE SOVIET TERRITORY. ZERO OPTION FOR LRINF, IF NOT ACCOMPANIED BY 'SIMULTANEOUS MEASURES' ON SRINF AND CONVENTIONAL FORCES WOULD 'TEAR HOLES' IN NATO'S DEFENCES.

3. THE PRESS SAY THAT WOERNER URGED BUNDESWEHR GENERALS NOT REPEAT NOT TO MAKE CRITICAL STATEMENTS IN PUBLIC ABOUT ZERO LRINF. UNUSUALLY, MACK HAD CHOSEN TO EXERT HIS INDEPENDENCE AS A NATO OFFICER, HAVING CLEARED HIS LINE WITH GENERAL ROGERS FIRST.

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