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GORBACHEV'S VISIT TO FRANCE: DAY ONE

SUMMARY

1. TETE-A-TETE MEETINGS BETWEEN GORBACHEV AND MITTERRAND COVER MAINLY EUROPEAN THEMES AND ARMS CONTROL. SEVERAL AGREEMENTS SIGNED. ATMOSPHERE WARM, BUT THE FRENCH ARE NOT GOING OVERBOARD.

DETAIL

2. PREVISIT MEDIA COVERAGE HAS BEEN EXTENSIVE. COMMENTATORS HAVE CONCENTRATED ON THE SOVIET UNION'S ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES AND NATIONALITIES PROBLEMS, LIKELY TO DIVERT GORBACHEV'S ATTENTION FROM HIS PARIS VISIT, WHILE RECALLING HIS RECORD OF SUCCESSFUL OVERSEAS VISITS, INCLUDING FRANCE IN 1985, HIS FIRST TRIP TO THE WEST AS GENERAL SECRETARY. LE MONDE NOTES THAT, AGAINST HIS USUAL PRACTICE, GORBACHEV HAS NOT GIVEN ANY PRE-VISIT INTERVIEWS. THIS HAS BEEN AMPLY MADE UP FOR BY A BATTERY OF SOVIET PUBLICISTS FROM THE INSTITUTES ETC. WHO HAVE BEEN GIVING INTERVIEWS AROUND TOWN TO ALL WHO WANT THEM.

PROGRAMME

3. GORBACHEV'S FIRST ENGAGEMENT WAS LUNCH WITH MITTERRAND, WITH WIVES ONLY PRESENT, AT THE ELYSEE, FOLLOWED BY A TETE-A-TETE WITH THE PRESIDENT. HE WAS THEN GIVEN A DEMONSTRATION OF HIGH-DEFINITION TV AT THE ELYSEE (SUPPOSED TO BE A 'EUROPEAN' PRESENTATION, WITH THE DUTCH AND GERMANS PRESENT, BUT THEY WERE EXCLUDED - IN THE VIEW OF THE FRG EMBASSY, DISHONESTLY - AT THE LAST MINUTE). THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY A TRIP TO THE BASTILLE, WHERE THE UNRULY CROWD OF JOURNALISTS PREVENTED GORBACHEV FROM MAKING MORE THAN A TOKEN WALKABOUT. DAY ONE ENDED WITH STATE BANQUET AND SPEECHES.

4. THERE ARE TO BE SOME 15 HOURS OF DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE TWO PRESIDENTS DURING THE VISIT, INCLUDING DINNER ON 5 JULY, ALSO WITH ONLY WIVES AND INTERPRETERS PRESENT, AT MITTERRAND'S PRIVATE FLAT. THE MAIN THEMES CANVASSED APPEAR TO BE THE FUTURE OF EUROPE, ARMS CONTROL, AND THE MIDDLE EAST INCLUDING LEBANON.

## SPEECHES

5. MITTERRAND'S SPEECH AT THE STATE BANQUET AT THE ELYSEE EMPHASISED THE CENTRALITY OF THE EC TO ANY COMMON EUROPEAN HOME, NOTING THE OBSTACLES THAT REMAIN BEFORE THE DIVISION OF EUROPE CAN BE OVERCOME, AND STRESSING THE NEED FOR PRACTICAL STEPS FORWARD. DURING THE FRENCH PRESIDENCY OF THE EC HE INTENDED TO REINFORCE THE COMMUNITY'S RELATIONS WITH EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AND THE SOVIET UNION. MITTERRAND ENDED BY WISHING SUCCESS TO PERESTROIKA 'IF IT BRINGS GREATER LIBERTY AND WELL-BEING TO SOVIET CITIZENS, AND IF IT REINFORCES PEACEFUL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE USSR AND THE REST OF THE WORLD, AS HAS ALREADY BEGUN TO HAPPEN'.

6. IN REPLY GORBACHEV PAID COMPLIMENTS TO THE FRENCH REVOLUTION AND ITS HERITAGE. PERESTROIKA WAS ALSO A REVOLUTION, WHICH HE HOPED WOULD NOT BE CONFINED TO THE SOVEIT UNION. FURTHER COMPLIMENTS TO PARIS AS HOST TO CDH MEETING: AND TO FRANCO-GERMAN RECONCILIATION. 'THE POST-WAR PERIOD IS OVER... MAKING A EUROPE WORTHY OF THE PRESENT CHALLENGES DEPENDS ON US AND YOU, ON ALL THE EUROPEANS PLUS THE AMERICANS AND CANADIANS.'

7. GORBACHEV COMMENTED THAT THE CFE AND CSBM NEGOTIATIONS IN VIENNA HAD BEGUN WELL, ALTHOUGH QUOTE AT A CERTAIN STAGE THE PROBLEM OF TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS COULD PROVE A SERIOUS BRAKE UNQUOTE. SUCCESS IN THE TALKS DEPENDED ON ALL THE PARTICIPANTS INCLUDING, NOT LEAST, FRANCE.

## BILATERALS

8. OTHER BILATERALS INCLUDED DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN DUMAS AND SHEVARDNADZE, WHO AGAIN PROPOSED A CSCE SUMMIT, CHEVENEMENT AND MOISEEV, CHIEF OF THE SOVIET GENERAL STAFF, BEREGOVY, MINISTER OF FINANCE, AND VORONIN, FIRST DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER. WE HAVE HEARD THAT CHEVENEMENT WAS NOT HAPPY WITH HIS DISCUSSIONS REGARDING THE SOVIET SIDE AS LESS THAN POSITIVE IN THEIR APPROACH TO BILATERAL DEFENCE EXCHANGES.

## AGREEMENTS

9. A TOTAL OF TWENTY-ONE AGREEMENTS ARE TO BE SIGNED DURING THE VISIT. THOSE SIGNED SO FAR INCLUDE:

- (A) AN MOU ON BILATERAL COOPERATION
- (B) AN INVESTMENT PROTECTION AGREEMENT
- (C) A LONG TERM PROGRAMME OF EXCHANGES IN AGRO-INDUSTRY
- (D) A FORESTRY AGREEMENT
- (E) A JOINT DECLARATION ON TECHNICAL COOPERATION IN CIVIL

## AVIATION

- (F) AN AGREEMENT ON SPACE COOPERATION (INCLUDING PROVISION FOR A THIRD FRENCH COSMONAUT)
- (G) A TELECOMMUNICATIONS AGREEMENT
- (H) A JOINT DECLARATION ON SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION.

THERE ARE ALSO AGREEMENTS ON JOINT VENTURES IN A NUMBER OF FIELDS, AND THE CREATION OF A CONSORTIUM FOR TRADE WITH THE SOVIET UNION. THE CONSORTIUM, SAID TO BE THE FIRST OF ITS KIND IN EUROPE, IS BACKED BY CREDIT LYONNAIS, AND INCLUDES CLUB MEDITERRANEE, DARTY, ELECTRONIQUE SERGE DASSAULT AND PECHINEY. AGREEMENTS TO COME ARE EXPECT TO INCLUDE MANAGEMENT TRAINING, DRUGS COOPERATION, CULTURAL CENTRES, AND INCIDENTS AT SEA.

## PROTESTS

10. DEMONSTRATIONS OUTSIDE THE SOVIET EMBASSY BY ARMENIANS AND HOLDERS OF TZARIST BONDS HAVE RECEIVED SOME COVERAGE, AS HAVE COMPLAINTS THAT MITTERRAND'S GIFT TO GORBACHEV, THE PISTOLS USED IN PUSHKIN'S FATAL DUEL, WERE REMOVED FROM A PROVINCIAL MUSEUM WITHOUT WARNING OR CONSULTATION. (MICHEL DEBRE, WHO PRESENTED THE PISTOLS TO THE MUSEUM, HAS TOLD ME PRIVATELY OF HIS ANGER.)

## COMMENT

10. MEDIA COVERAGE HAS TENDED TO UNDERLINE, WITH A TOUCH OF COMPLACENCY, FRENCH SCEPTICISM ABOUT THE PROSPECTS FOR PERESTROIKA. THE FRENCH ARE THOUGHT TO BE QUOTE GORBIPHILE UNQUOTE BUT NOT QUOTE GORBIMANIAC UNQUOTE. THIS HAS BEEN BORNE OUT BY THE REACTION OF THE PARISIANS ON THE STREET TO GORBACHEV, WHICH HAS FALLEN SHORT OF THE EUPHORIC. (AS MITTERRAND SAID IN HIS SPEECH, IN THE CONTEXT OF THE COMMON EUROPEAN HOUSE, NO ONE IS GOING TO EXCHANGE THE SOLID ACQUIS OF THE COMMUNITY FOR CHIMERAS.) BUT MITTERRAND AIMS TO SHOW THAT, ALTHOUGH THE DAYS OF THE GAULLIST SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP ARE PAST, FRANCE STILL PLAYS A LEADING ROLE IN BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS AND DEVELOPING CONTACTS WITH THE SOVIET UNION.

11. PRESIDENT MITTERRAND'S SPOKESMAN HAS BEEN BRIEFING THE PRESS TO EXPECT A JOINT STATEMENT ON THE LEBANON, ONE OF THE SUBJECTS DISCUSSED BY MITTERRAND AND GORBACHEV.

FERGUSSON

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