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MY TELNO 880: GORBACHEV'S VISIT TO FRANCE: DAY TWO.

SUMMARY

1. GORBACHEV TACKLES THE FRENCH INTELLIGENTZIA AND DOES NOT WHOLLY CONVINCe. MORE AGREEMENTS SIGNED. JOINT STATEMENT ON LEBANON. ATMOSPHERE SUMMED UP BY PRESS HEAD-LINE: A SUMMIT WITHOUT GORBIMANIA. ACTION NOW MOVED TO STRASBOURG.

DETAIL

2. AFTER LAYING A WREATH AT THE ARC DE TRIOMPHE AND TALKS WITH CHIRAC, GORBACHEV ADDRESSED AN AUDIENCE OF PARISIAN INTELLECTUALS AND (A FEW) STUDENTS AT THE SORBONNE. A LARGE SELECTION OF THE FRENCH POLITICAL AND MEDIA ESTABLISHMENT MANAGED TO BE THERE. GORBACHEV'S PREPARED SPEECH, LARDED WITH REFERENCES TO THE FRENCH REVOLUTION, WAS AN ORTHODOX DEFENCE OF MARXISM-LENINISM AND PANEGYRIC ON THE OCTOBER REVOLUTION, AND AN EXPLANATION OF PERESTROIKA. GORBACHEV RIDICULED THE IDEA THAT SOCIALIST COUNTRIES MIGHT JOIN THE CAPITALIST SYSTEM. THE ANSWER WAS LIVE AND LET LIVE IN THE COMMON EUROPEAN HOUSE.

QUESTIONS

3. THERE WAS TIME FOR ONLY FOUR QUESTIONS (WITH LENGTHY ANSWERS) FROM THE FLOOR. ON CHINA GORBACHEV CALLED FOR DIALOGUE BETWEEN THOSE IN POWER, THE PEOPLE, YOUTH AND THE INTELLECTUALS, BUT ADDED THAT HE DID NOT WANT TO INTERFERE IN OTHERS' INTERNAL AFFAIRS. HE GAVE A BLAND ANSWER TO A QUESTION ABOUT THE SIMULTANEOUS HOLDING OF THE POSTS OF PRESIDENT AND GENERAL SECRETARY (IE WHICH OFFICE IS SUBORDINATE TO WHICH?), ADDING THAT HE DID NOT KNOW HOW THIS QUESTION WOULD BE RESOLVED AT THE REPUBLICAN AND LOCAL LEVELS.

PROGRAMME

4. AFTER HOSTING A LUNCH FOR THE ROCARDS, GORBACHEV HAD A FURTHER WORKING SESSION AT THE ELYSEE, FOLLOWED BY A SHORT MEETING WITH MARCHAIS, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE PCF. THERE WAS A JOINT PRESS

CONFERENCE WITH MITTERRAND BEFORE DINNER AT THE MITTERRANDS' FLAT (PARA 4 OF TUR).

MILITARY DOCTRINE

5. IN A FAIRLY BLATANT ATTEMPT AT WEDGE-DRIVING, MOISEEV, SPEAKING TO THE ECOLE MILITAIRE, PRAISED FRENCH STRATEGIC DOCTRINE, WHICH HE CLAIMED REGARDED NUCLEAR WEAPONS AS A QUOTE POLITICAL UNQUOTE INSTRUMENT, AND CONTRASTED IT WITH NATO DOCTRINE.

AGREEMENTS

6. AMONG THE AGREEMENTS SIGNED, NOW NUMBERING TWENTY-TWO RATHER THAN TWENTY-ONE, WERE:

(A) A FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT ON MANAGEMENT TRAINING:

(B) MILITARY EXCHANGES, BROKEN OFF AFTER THE INVASION OF AFGHANISTAN:

(C) CULTURAL COOPERATION, INCLUDING THE OPENING OF CULTURAL CENTRES

(D) PREVENTION OF INCIDENTS AT SEA

(E) TRANSPORT

(F) YOUTH EXCHANGES

(G) ACCESS TO PUBLIC ARCHIVES

(H) DRUG TRAFFICKING

LEBANON

7. AS FORECAST, THERE WAS A JOINT STATEMENT ON THE LEBANON, WHICH CALLED FOR AN IMMEDIATE CEASE-FIRE AND STATED THAT URGENT STEPS SHOULD BE TAKEN TO STOP THE SUPPLY OF ARMS TO ALL GROUPS IN THE LEBANON. FRANCE AND THE SOVIET UNION WERE READY TO HELP EFFORTS FOR PEACE IN ANY WAY, PARTICULARLY IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL. (WE ARE REPORTING SEPARATELY IN MORE DETAIL.)

PRESS CONFERENCE

8. DURING THE JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE, GORBACHEV SAID THAT THE BUILDING OF A COMMON HOME DID NOT MEAN ELIMINATION OF ANY PARTICULAR SYSTEM, BUT RESPECT FOR EACH OTHER'S VALUES. AS AT THE SORBONNE, HE DEFENDED MARXISM-LENINISM AGAINST THE CHARGE THAT COMMUNISM WAS IN CRISIS. IT WAS ALIVE AND VITAL. BUT THE WAY THE POLES AND HUNGARIANS SETTLED THEIR PROBLEMS WAS THEIR BUSINESS. HE SAW NO OBSTACLE TO A POSSIBLE MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF SOLIDARITY. ON SOLZHENITSYN'S REHABILITATION, HE COMMENTED WOODENLY THAT HE HAD CONFIDENCE IN THE WRITERS' UNION: THIS WAS A CONCRETE QUESTION AND QUOTE THE PROCESS WOULD TAKE PLACE IN A CONCRETE WAY UNQUOTE. HE CONFIRMED HE HIMSELF HAD BEEN BAPTISED: QUOTE NOTHING UNUSUAL IN

THAT UNQUOTE.

COMMENT

9. THE IMPRESSION GIVEN IS OF SATISFACTION ON BOTH SIDES WITH THE CONTENT OF MITTERRAND'S TALKS WITH GORBACHEV, COMBINED WITH A DEGREE OF SCEPTICISM ON THE PART OF THE MEDIA ABOUT THE PUBLIC ASPECTS OF THE VISIT. GORBACHEV'S PERFORMANCE AT THE SORBONNE DID NOT GREATLY IMPRESS SOME OF THOSE WHO WERE THERE. OFFICIALS HAVE EMPHASISED THE GOOD PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MITTERRAND AND GORBACHEV, AND HAVE CLAIMED THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES ARE IMPROVING

ACROSS THE BOARD. DUMAS, IN A RADIO INTERVIEW, CLAIMED THAT FRANCE WAS THE SOVIET UNION'S PRIVILEGED PARTNER IN WESTERN EUROPE, NOT ONLY FOR HISTORICAL REASONS, BUT ALSO BECAUSE FRANCE FACED A LONGER PERIOD OF POLITICAL STABILITY WITHOUT ELECTIONS THAN THE UK OR GERMANY. BUT FOR ALL THE ARITHMETIC OF BILATERAL AGREEMENTS, FEW HERE WOULD AGREE WITH THIS ANALYSIS.

10. THE ACTION IS NOW IN STRASBOURG. I SHALL SEND FURTHER COMMENT ON THE VISIT AS A WHOLE WHEN WE HAVE OBTAINED A READ-OUT FROM THE FRENCH AND OTHERS.

FERGUSSON

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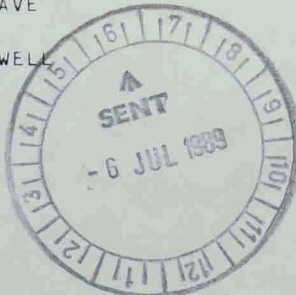
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