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TELNO 1320  
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MY TELNOS 1302, 1311 AND 1315 : GORBACHEV'S VISIT TO PARIS

SUMMARY

1. QUAI BRIEFING GIVE A LITTLE BACKGROUND ON THE FRANCO-SOVIET TREATY AND AGREEMENT SIGNED ON 28 OCTOBER.

DETAIL

2. JAQUES BLOT (QUAI DIRECTOR FOR EUROPE) GAVE A COMMUNITY BRIEFING ON 30 OCTOBER ON GORBACHEV'S VISIT, AT WHICH HE HANDED OUT A RESUME AND EXTRACTS OF THE FRANCO-SOVIET TREATY, A LIST WITH SUMMARIES OF THE AGREEMENTS SIGNED, A PRECIS OF LETTERS EXCHANGED BY DUMAS AND SHEVARDNADZE ON COOPERATION IN PRIORITY FIELDS (ENERGY AND CIVIL NUCLEAR POWER, TRANSPORT, HDTV, ADMINISTRATION AND LAW, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH, TRAINING AND THE ENVIRONMENTS), AND 'TERMS OF REFERENCE' FOR BILATERAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS (COPIES BY BAG TO FCO AND MOSCOW). BLOT HAS SUBSEQUENTLY GIVEN US, ON A CONFIDENTIAL BASIS (THERE IS A PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL SENSITIVITY) A COPY OF THE TREATY. THIS WAS FAXED TO WESTON THIS AFTERNOON. WE WILL TRY TO OBTAIN FULL TEXTS OF THE OTHER AGREEMENTS.

3. BLOT SAID THAT THE VISIT WAS PART OF THE REGULAR SERIES OF HIGH-LEVEL CONTACTS. MITTERRAND AND GORBACHEV HAD AN HOUR'S TALK BEFORE DINNER (WITH WIVES ONLY) ON 28 OCTOBER, WHILE THE SIGNATURE OF THE VARIOUS AGREEMENTS WAS FOLLOWED BY A DINNER FOR DELEGATIONS AT THE QUAI. ON 29 OCTOBER THERE WERE SIMULTANEOUS TETE-A-TETES BETWEEN HEADS OF STATE AND FOREIGN MINISTERS, FOLLOWED BY A JOINT SESSION AND A PRESS CONFERENCE. THESE HAD OVERRUN, AND THE SIGNING OF THE TREATY TOOK PLACE AT 2 PM, BEFORE LUNCH. GORBACHEV'S DEPARTURE WAS DELAYED BY SOME THREE HOURS.

4. DISCUSSIONS COVERED : THE MIDDLE EAST, INCLUDING THE GULF AND THE LEBANON, (BLOT REFUSED TO GO BEYOND THE TEXT OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE): EUROPE, INCLUDING THE CSCE SUMMIT, CFE AND EUROPEAN CONSTRUCTION : AND THE SOVIET INTERNAL SITUATION.

## BILATERAL TREATY

5. THE DEPARTMENT NOW HAS THIS TEXT. BLOT WENT LITTLE FURTHER WITH THE 12 THAN TO MENTION THE HEADINGS OF THE MAIN SECTIONS, AND THE TREATY'S DURATION. HE UNDERLINED THAT IT WOULD NOT BE PUBLISHED BEFORE ITS RATIFICATION BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. REFERRING TO THE SECTION ON EUROPE, BLOT EXPLAINED THAT IT COVERED THE TRANSITION FROM BILATERAL TO COLLECTIVE RELATIONS AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF EUROPE A 12. THE SOVIET SIDE HAD AGREED TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE EVOLUTION OF THE COMMUNITY TO POLITICAL UNION, WHILE THE FRENCH HAD AGREED TO WORK FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF DEEPER RELATIONS AND THE CONCLUSION OF AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION AND THE COMMUNITY. BLOT EMPHASISED HOWEVER THAT THE FRENCH HAD BEEN CAREFUL TO ENSURE THAT COMMUNITY COMPETENCE WOULD BE RESPECTED. BLOT CONFIRMED THAT THE REFERENCE TO THE SETTLEMENT OF OUTSTANDING FINANCIAL AND MATERIAL DIFFICULTIES COVERED THE TSARIST BONDS ISSUE, BUT SAID THAT NEGOTIATIONS HAD NOT YET BEGUN ON THIS, AND RATES OF REPAYMENT HAD NOT BEEN TOUCHED ON.)

## FRENCH CREDIT

6. BLOT SAID THAT SOME OF THE 5 BILLION FRANCS WOULD BE USED TO PAY ARREARS ON BILATERAL CONTRACTS AND LOANS (MY THIRD TEL UNDER REFERENCE), AND THAT FRANCE WOULD ALSO PLEASE THE SOVIET UNION'S CASE IN MULTILATERAL FORA, PRIMARILY, BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY THE COMMUNITY. HE ALSO ADMITTED THAT THE AGREEMENT ON CONTACTS BETWEEN PUBLIC SECTOR ENTERPRISES EFFECTIVELY ONLY COVERED THE ALREADY EXISTING LINKS BETWEEN ELECTRICITE DE FRANCE AND ITS SOVIET COUNTERPARTS.

## SOVIET INTERNAL

7. ON SOVIET INTERNAL AFFAIRS, BLOT SAID THAT GORBACHEV SEEMED MUCH MORE WORRIED BY EVENTS IN THE UKRAINE THAN IN THE BALTIC STATES. HE ADDED THAT THE PRESIDENT OF KAZAKHSTAN HAD BEEN IN THE PARTY (NOT AT FRENCH REQUEST, BUT HE HAD NOT HAD ANY MEETINGS.

## PRESS CONFERENCE

8. A VERBATIM TEXT OF THE PARTS OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE CONCERNING THE GULF HAS ALREADY BEEN FAXED TO THE FCO. OTHER AREAS TOUCHED ON WERE PERIPHERAL, INCLUDING THE NATURE OF SOCIALISM (MITTERRAND DISCUSSED ITS VARIOUS NATIONAL ASPECTS AND EXPRESSED SYMPATHY FOR THE CHANGES IN THE SOVIET UNION, WHILE GORBACHEV SAID LENINISM HAD BEEN DISTORTED) AND EUROPEAN CONFEDERATION WHICH MITTERRAND DEFINED AS ''COMMON POWERS SHARED A NUMBER OF PARTNERS LINKED BY A CENTRAL POINT''.

## COMMENT

9. THE BRIEFING CONFIRMED THE SURFACE IMPRESSIONS THAT THE VISIT, FOR ALL THE AGREEMENTS SIGNED, WAS LONGER ON FORM THAN SUBSTANCE. HOWEVER, THE FRENCH, WHOSE INSTINCT IS TO PREFER TO OPERATE IN A CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK, CLEARLY REGARD THE EXERCISE AS HAVING CLARIFIED THE RETURN OF THEIR RELATIONS FOR THE 90S. WE SHALL TRY TO GET A MORE INSIDER PICTURE OF THE BILATERAL FROM THE ELYSEE, WHICH MAY PRODUCE SOME MORE REVEALING INSIGHTS THAN THE ABOVE.

FERGUSSON

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