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TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 031 OF 30 SEPTEMBER

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INF: TIMING OF BUNDESTAG DEBATE AND DEPLOYMENT IN THE FRG

SUMMARY

1. THE BUNDESTAG DEBATE ON INF, WHICH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAVE PROMISED WILL TAKE PLACE BEFORE ANY DEPLOYMENT OF INF MISSILES OR PARTS THEREOF COMMENCES IN THE FRG, HAS NOW BEEN FIXED BY AGREEMENT BETWEEN ALL POLITICAL PARTIES FOR MONDAY 21 NOVEMBER. THE US ARE ANGRY ABOUT THIS POSTPONEMENT BUT WILL HAVE TO INVESTIGATE THE POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER COMPRESSING THE DEPLOYMENT SCHEDULE.

DETAIL AND BACKGROUND

2. IN JUNE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PROMISED THAT THE BUNDESTAG WOULD BE GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO DEBATE INF STATIONING AFTER 15 NOVEMBER AND THAT NO MISSILES OR PARTS OF MISSILES WOULD BE "DEPLOYED" IN THE FRG UNTIL AFTER THE DEBATE. KOHL PUBLICLY REPEATED THIS LATTER ASSURANCE ON 21 SEPTEMBER.

3. ONCE IT WAS REALISED THAT 15 NOVEMBER FELL IN A WEEK WHEN THE BUNDESTAG WAS NOT IN SESSION, THE GOVERNMENT DECIDED TO ANN AT A DEBATE IN THE PREVIOUS WEEK. AS MINISTER OF STATE MERTES CONFIRMED DURING HIS VISIT TO LONDON ON 12-13 SEPTEMBER (MY TELNO. 820), KOHL GAVE THE AMERICANS A SPECIFIC ASSURANCE THAT THE START OF DEPLOYMENT WOULD NOT BE DELAYED UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES BEYOND 15 NOVEMBER.

4. PARTY MANAGERS IN THE BUNDESTAG BEGAN, HOWEVER, SOME WEEKS AGO TO SEEK A LATER TIMING FOR THE DEBATE. THEY HAD IN MIND THAT THE FDP IS DUE TO HOLD A SPECIAL PARTY CONFERENCE TO DETERMINE ITS POSITION ON INF ON 18-20 NOVEMBER, AND GENSCHER WOULD FACE A SERIOUS ROW WITH HIS PARTY (WHICH HE CAN ILL AFFORD) IF HE LET A

ROW WITH HIS PARTY (WHICH HE CAN ILL AFFORD) IF HE LET A
BUNDESTAG DEBATE PRE-EMPT THE ISSUE BEFORE THEN. THE SPD HAS ALSO
POSTPONED ITS SPECIAL INF PARTY CONFERENCE UNTIL 19-20 NOVEMBER.

5. AFTER A PERIOD OF CONFUSION DURING WHICH THE OPTIONS OF BRINGING
FORWARD THE FDP CONFERENCE AND HOLDING AN EXTRAORDINARY BUNDESTAG
SESSION ON 15 NOVEMBER WERE MOOTED BUT REJECTED, AND THE GOVERNMENT
AND PARLIAMENTARY MANAGERS OFTEN SEEMED TO BE WORKING AT CROSS
PURPOSES, THE BUNDESTAG YESTERDAY SENT NOTICES TO ALL MPS ANNOUNCING
THAT THE DEBATE WOULD DEFINITELY BE ON 21 NOVEMBER. GENSCHER INFORMED
SHULTZ OF THIS IN NEW YORK YESTERDAY AND ADDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT
NOW EXPECTED INF DELIVERIES TO START FROM 22 NOVEMBER.

6. THE US EMBASSY HERE HAVE TOLD US, AND THE AUSWAERTIGES AMT HAVE
NOT CONCEALED, THAT THERE IS CONSIDERABLE ANGER IN WASHINGTON ABOUT
THE WAY THE GERMANS HAVE GONE BACK ON THEIR ASSURANCES. BUT THE
AMERICANS HAVE LITTLE ALTERNATIVE BUT TO REVIEW THE DEPLOYMENT SCHED-
ULES YET AGAIN AND SEEK WAYS OF MEETING THE MOC TARGET IN SIX WEEKS
INSTEAD OF SEVEN.

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