

GRS 570

UNCLASSIFIED [COLLAR]

FM PARIS

TO DESKBY 201500Z FCO

TELNO 774

OF 201350Z SEPTEMBER 85

INFO PRIORITY CANBERRA, WELLINGTON, WASHINGTON

INFO ROUTINE SUVA, UKMIS NEW YORK

MB

MY TELNO 766: GREENPEACE

SUMMARY

1. HERNU HAS RESIGNED. HE WILL BE REPLACED BY QUILES (MINISTER OF HOUSING AND TRANSPORT). LACOSTE, HEAD OF THE DGSE, HAS BEEN SACKED

DETAIL

2. PRESIDENT MITTERRAND LAST NIGHT FORMALLY ASKED FABIUS TO TAKE THE NECESSARY MEASURES TO DEAL WITH THE GROWING CRISIS OVER THE GREENPEACE AFFAIR. HE CALLED SPECIFICALLY FOR PERSONNEL, AND POSSIBLY STRUCTURAL, CHANGES.

3. THE FOLLOWING IS THE FULL TEXT OF FABIUS' REPLY, ISSUED AT LUNCH-TIME TODAY:-

BEGINS:

IN THE AFFAIR OF THE ATTACK ON THE RAINBOW WARRIOR I HAVE ALWAYS HAD IN MIND ONE REQUIRMENT WHICH SHOULD GUIDE THE BEHAVIOUR OF THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT:- THAT IS THE SEARCH FOR THE TRUTH. IT IS TO ESTABLISH THE TRUTH THAT WITH YOUR AGREEMENT ON 8 AUGUST I ASKED M. TRICOT TO MAKE AN ENQUIRY.

IT WAS FOR THE SAME REASON THAT ON 27 AUGUST, AFTER THE PUBLICATION OF M. TRICOT'S REPORT, I IMMEDIATELY ASKED THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE TO PURSUE, HIS INVESTIGATIONS WITHOUT DELAY, AT THE SAME TIME AS CAREFULLY EXAMINING AND REMEDYING THE DEFICIENCIES OF THE DGSE. IT WAS ALSO IN SEARCH OF THE TRUTH THAT ON 17 SEPTEMBER WHEN NEW INFORMATION ON THE INVOLVEMENT OF FRENCH SERVICES WAS PUBLISHED, I ASKED, AFTER INFORMING YOU, THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE TO INVITE THE OFFICERS NAMED IN THESE ARTICLES TO CONFIRM TO HIM IN WRITING WHETHER THEY HAD GIVEN AN ORDER OR BEEN INFORMED ABOUT THE PREPARATION OF THE ATTACK ON THE RAINBOW WARRIOR.

GENERALS LACAZE AND SAULNIER MADE IT CLEAR THAT THEY HAD NOT. ADMIRAL LACOSTE, DIRECTOR OF THE DGSE, SAID THAT HE HAD NOTHING TO ADD TO THE STATEMENTS WHICH HE HAD MADE TO M. TRICOT. THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE THEN ASKED THE DIRECTOR OF THE DGSE IF HE COULD REPLY CLEARLY AND IN WRITING TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:-

"WAS THERE ANOTHER TEAM OR OTHER MEMBERS OF THE DGSE IN NEW ZEALAND?"

"DO THE INITIALS APPEARING IN CERTAIN ARTICLES CORRESPOND WITH THOSE OF DGSE AGENTS?"

/ ADMIRAL LACOSTE

ADMIRAL LACOSTE REFUSED TO REPLY AND EVOKED HIS CONCEPTION OF HIS DUTIES. IT IS CLEARLY IMPOSSIBLE TO ACCEPT SUCH A SITUATION. THAT IS WHY, IN REPLY TO YOUR LETTER OF 19 SEPTEMBER, I PROPOSE THAT ADMIRAL LACOSTE BE IMMEDIATELY RELIEVED OF HIS FUNCTIONS.

MOREOVER, I MET THIS MORNING THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE. M. HERNU, WHO HAS ALWAYS SHOWN A PARTICULAR CONSCIOUSNESS OF HIS RESPONSIBILITIES, THOUGHT THAT IT WAS RIGHT FOR HIM TO RESIGN. I RECOMMEND THAT YOU ACCEPT HIS RESIGNATION. HIS SUCCESSOR SHOULD PURSUE THE INVESTIGATIONS AND COMPLETE THEM IN THE COMING DAYS.

MR PRESIDENT, IT IS CLEAR THAT THIS AFFAIR COULD NOT AFFECT THE CONFIDENCE WHICH THE NATION AND THE GOVERNMENT PLACES IN THE ARMY. ENDS.

4. COMMENT ON THE WIDER POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS FOLLOWS.

FRETWELL

EUROPEAN POLITICAL
WED