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MIPT (NOT TO ALL): MITTERRAND AND EUROPEAN UNION
SUMMARY

1. AT AN INFORMAL PRESS BRIEFING YESTERDAY MITTERRAND LET IT BE UNDERSTOOD THAT HE HAS NO GREAT HOPES OF PROGRESS AT THE MILAN EUROPEAN COUNCIL AND NO SURPRISE IN STORE. APPARENTLY HE DOES NOT INTEND TO PRESS FOR AN INTER-GOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE TO AMEND THE TREATY OF ROME BUT WOULD LIKE TO GIVE A NEW IMPETUS TO POLITICAL UNION, POSSIBLY THROUGH A CONFERENCE OF HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OF THOSE STATES WHICH WISH TO MOVE FASTER.

DETAIL

2. MITTERRAND GAVE AN INFORMAL BRIEFING TO SELECTED CORRESPONDENTS, INCLUDING HOUSEGO OF THE FINANCIAL TIMES, ON A VARIETY OF SUBJECTS AT THE ELYSEE YESTERDAY. APART FROM THE FINANCIAL TIMES, LE MONDE AND LES ECHOS PUBLISHED SHORT ARTICLES TODAY BASED ON HIS BRIEFING. ON EUROPEAN UNION, HE GAVE THEM TO UNDERSTAND THAT HE WOULD NOT MAKE A PROPOSAL AT THE NEXT EUROPEAN COUNCIL FOR AN INTER-GOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE OF THE TEN TO AMEND THE TREATY OF ROME ON THE BASIS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DOOGUE COMMITTEE. HE DID NOT THINK MRS THATCHER WOULD AGREE ON THE MAIN POINT - THE PRINCIPLE OF MAJORITY VOTING. HE DISCOUNTED THE IDEA THAT HE HAD A SURPRISE TO SPRING. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE INDICATED THAT A JOINT INITIATIVE BY A SMALLER NUMBER OF EC MEMBER STATES MIGHT BE POSSIBLE AND SAUTTER, DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE ELYSEE, TOLD HOUSEGO AFTERWARDS THAT HE BELIEVED THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD IT IN MIND TO GIVE A PUSH FORWARD TO POLITICAL UNION IN EUROPE THROUGH A CONFERENCE OF THOSE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT WHO WERE SIMILARLY DISPOSED. ACCORDING TO LE MONDE, HE SPECIFICALLY RULED OUT A REFERENDUM ON EUROPE.

3. LES ECHOS DEDUCES THAT MITTERRAND'S COOLING ON THE IDEA OF RELAUNCHING EUROPE AT MILAN DERIVES FROM THE CHILL IN HIS RELATIONS WITH KOHL. LE MONDE THINKS THE STAGE IS SET FOR A TWO SPEED OR VARIABLE GEOMETRY EUROPE, WITH EUREKA AS THE PROTOTYPE.

4. MME GUIGOU (MITTERRAND'S STAFF ADVISER FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS) IS OUT OF PARIS TODAY. I WILL REPORT WHEN WE OBTAIN COMMENT FROM HER OR OTHERS AT THE ELYSEE. THE QUAI SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN TAKEN BY SURPRISE (EG MY TELNO 378).

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