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TELEGRAM NUMBER 598 OF 11 JULY

INFO MODUK (FOR DUSP), BONN, UKDEL NATO

MY TELNO 578: EUROPEAN SECURITY AND ANGLO-FRENCH RELATIONS

SUMMARY

1. FRANCO-GERMAN DEFENCE CO-OPERATION MAY FEATURE AT THE INFORMAL MITTERRAND/KOHL MEETING IN AUGUST. NEED FOR CARE IN PRESENTING BRITISH POLICY TO EUROPEANS ON RELATED ALLIANCE ISSUE SUCH AS UK PARTICIPATION IN US SDI RESEARCH.

DETAIL

2. MOREL (POLITICAL DIRECTOR) HAS CONFIRMED THAT THERE WILL BE ANOTHER IN THE SERIES OF PERSONAL ENCOUNTERS BETWEEN KOHL AND MITTERRAND DURING AUGUST. WHILE THERE IS APPARENTLY NO EXPLICIT INTENTION ON THE FRENCH SIDE TO DISCUSS AT THIS MEETING THE IDEAS IN THE FRENCH SOCIALIST PARTY DOCUMENT ON EXTENDING THE FRENCH NUCLEAR GUARANTEE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE FRG (MY TUR), WE KNOW THAT THE GERMANS HAVE TRIED TO GET TO GRIPS WITH THIS WHOLE COMPLEX OF SECURITY ISSUES WITHIN THE EXISTING BILATERAL FRAMEWORK AND MORE PARTICULARLY AT THE MEETING BETWEEN GERMAN AND FRENCH FOREIGN AND DEFENCE MINISTERS IN BONN ON 26 JUNE. IT WOULD THEREFORE BE NATURAL FOR THEIR PROCCUPATIONS TO BE REFLECTED AT THE AUGUST MEETING IF KOHL'S PRESS CONFERENCE REPLY IS TO BE TAKEN AT FACE VALUE. AND WE GET THE IMPRESSION FROM CONTACTS THAT THE FRENCH DO EXPECT THE SUBJECT TO COME UP.

3. AS THE LATEST FRENCH SOCIALIST PARTY DOCUMENT SHOWS, THERE IS GRUDGING ACKNOWLEDGEMENT HERE THAT ONE CANNOT SENSIBLY TALK ABOUT THE EUROPEAN CONTRIBUTION TO WESTERN DEFENCE (INCLUDING NUCLEAR DETERRENCE) WITHOUT RECOGNISING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE BRITISH ROLE. BUT THERE IS A TENDENCY TO SUPPOSE THE THE BRITISH CONTRIBUTION TO EUROPEAN THINKING ON DEFENCE AND SECURITY POLICY MAY BE INHIBITED BY OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES.

4. IT WILL BE OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE IN THE AFTERMATH OF MILAN FOR THE NOTE THAT WE STRIKE ON EUROPEAN DEFENCE AND SECURITY QUESTIONS TO BE IN TUNE WITH OUR WIDER POLICY APPROACH IN THE RUN-UP TO THE LUXEMBOURG EUROPEAN COUNCIL. ONE ELEMENT OF THIS WLL BE TO PRESENT EFFECTIVELY TO THE FRENCH (AND PERHAPS OTHER CLOSE EUROPEAN COLLEAGUES ANY CONCLUSIONS WE MY REACH ON WIDER ALLIANCE QUESTIONS, SUCH AS WHERE WE GO NEXT IN THE QUESTION OF UK PARTICIPATION IN THE AMERICAN SDI RESEARCH PROGRAMME. IT WILL BE WELL WORTH TAKING A

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LITTLE

[This suggests we get the worst of both worlds. The Americans take us for granted: e the others assume we are America's Trojan horse] C.D.P.

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LITTLE EXTRA TROUBLE BILATERALLY WITH THE FRENCH BEFOREHAND, IF WE ARE CONTEMPLATING ANY NEW DECISIONS IN THE AUTUMN. IN SUBSTANCE OUR POSITION ON SDI RESEARCH IS APPARENTLY QUITE CLOSE TO THAT OF THE FRG, BUT THE SHADE OF DIFFERENCE COULD TRANSLATE INTO HEADLINES SUGGESTING THAT WE HAVE CHOSEN THE US WHILE THE GERMANS HAVE CHOSEN EUROPE. WITHOUT MODIFYING THE SUBSTANCE OF OUR POLICIES WE COULD AIM TO AVOID EXPOSING OURSELVES TO ANY SUCH MIS-REPRESENTATION WHILE WE ARE GETTING EUROPEAN DEBATE BACK ONTO SENSIBLE LINES IN THE NEXT SIX MONTHS.

FRETWELL

(PALACE)
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