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INFO SAVING CONSULATES-GENERAL IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC

FEDERAL GERMAN POLITICS.

SUMMARY

1. LAMBSDORFF'S ELECTION AS LEADER OF THE FDP, COINCIDEING WITH THE DEATH OF STRAUSS, MEANS THAT TWO OF THE THREE COALITION PARTIES WILL NOW HAVE NEW LEADERS. THERE WILL BE COMPLEX EFFECTS ON FEDERAL POLITICS. THE BIGGEST POINTS ARE THAT GENSCHER MAY HAVE A FREER HAND IN FOREIGN POLICY: AND THAT THE PRESENT COALITION IS EVEN MORE LIKELY TO CONTINUE AFTER THE GENERAL ELECTION IN 1990.

DETAIL.

2. LAMBSDORFF WAS ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF THE FDP BY A NARROW MAJORITY AT A PARTY CONGRESS ON 7 OCTOBER. HIS DEFEATED OPPONENT, FRAU ADAM-SCHWAETZER, MINISTER OF STATE AT THE AUSWAERTIGES AMT, WAS ELECTED ONE OF THE DEPUTY CHAIRMEN BY A BIG MAJORITY.

3. TWO OF THE THREE PARTY LEADERS WHO STEER THE COALITION, AND ARE TOGETHER MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE CABINET, WILL NOW BE NEW. MY LETTER OF 10 OCTOBER TO FRETWELL DISCUSSES THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THESE CHANGES. THE KEY POINTS ARE

(A) LAMBSDORFF HAS INTELLECT, NERVE, EXPERIENCE AND THE GIFT OF THE GAB. FUNDAMENTALLY A MAN OF THE RIGHT AND A STRONG PROPONENT OF FREE MARKET ECONOMICS.

(B) FDP INFLUENCE IN THE COALITION MAY INCREASE, WITH THE PARTY'S TWO MAJOR FIGURES - GENSCHER AND LAMBSDORFF - IN ITS TWO TOP JOBS OF FOREIGN MINISTER AND PARTY LEADER.

(C) BUT FDP SUPPORT WITH THE ELECTORATE COULD SLIP, WITH THE END OF STRAUSS' TAUNTING OF THE PARTY, WHICH HELPED ITS POPULARITY: AND LAMBSDORFF'S POPULAR APPEAL IS LIMITED, PARTLY BECAUSE OF HIS CONVICTION 18 MONTHS AGO FOR ILLEGALITIES CONCERNING DONATIONS TO PARTY FUNDS.

(D) CSU INFLUENCE IN THE COALITION IS LIKELY TO DIMINISH: WHOEVER BECOMES PARTY LEADER WILL NOT HAVE STRAUSS' SPECIAL FORCE.

(E) LAMBSDORFF WILL PROBABLY NOT SEEK TO PLAY A ROLE IN FOREIGN POLICY, RESPECTING THAT AS GENSCHER'S TURF. THE LOSS OF STRAUSS REMOVES A RIGHT WING INFLUENCE IN THIS AREA. GENSCHER IS LIKELY TO HAVE A FREER HAND.

(F) BANGEMANN'S SUCCESSOR AS ECONOMICS MINISTER IS LIKELY TO BE HAUSSMANN (FDP). HE IS YOUNG AND COMPETENT BUT LITTLE KNOWN. LAMBSDORFF'S AND HIS ADVANCEMENT MAY IMPROVE THE PROSPECTS FOR DEREGULATORY ECONOMIC POLICIES.

(G) STRAUSS' TAUNTING OF KOHL AS WELL AS THE FDP WAS A MAJOR CAUSE OF THE COALITION'S IMAGE OF DISUNITY. THAT FACTOR IS GONE AND THE IMAGE SHOULD IMPROVE. BUT LAMBSDORFF WILL NEED TO PROFILE THE FDP AGAINST THE CDU/CSU AND MAY DO SO IN AN ABRASIVE STYLE WHICH COULD CAUSE SOME OF THE IMAGE OF DISUNITY TO REMAIN.

(H) LAMBSDORF WAS THE ARCHITECT OF THE FDP'S SWITCH OF COALITION PARTNERS IN 1982 FROM SPD TO CDU/CSU. HE WOULD SWITCH BACK TO THE SPD IF HE THOUGHT THIS ESSENTIAL IN THE INTERESTS OF THE FDP. BUT HE WOULD MUCH PREFER TO MAINTAIN THE PRESENT COALITION AS LONG AS POSSIBLE. HIS ELECTION CONFIRMS THAT THIS IS THE PREFERENCE OF HIS PARTY. THE CHANCES OF THE COALITION CONTINUING AFTER THE GENERAL ELECTION IN 1990, WHICH WERE ALREADY GOOD, ARE NOW STRONGER.

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