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## FRANCO-ITALIAN SUMMIT: EAST/WEST RELATIONS

## SUMMARY

1. MITTERRAND AND DE MITA AIM TO HARMONIZE EUROPEAN APPROACHES TO THE SOVIET UNION. MITTERRAND CAUTIOUS ON IDEA OF MARSHALL PLAN FOR EASTERN EUROPE AND ARGUES OBSCURELY THAT IN BUILDING A COMMON EUROPEAN HOUSE WE SHOULD FIRST CONCENTRATE ON THE STOREY CONSISTING OF THE DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES.

## DETAIL

2. THE ANNUAL FRANCO-ITALIAN SUMMIT TOOK PLACE AT ARLES ON 27 OCTOBER. MITTERRAND USED THE CONCLUDING PRESS CONFERENCE TO STATE SOME OF HIS CURRENT THINKING ON EAST/WEST RELATIONS.

3. ON ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL RELATIONS HE REPORTEDLY DISMISSED THE IDEA OF A MARSHALL PLAN FOR THE EAST. HE SAID THAT HE DID NOT THINK GORBACHEV WAS TRYING TO SPLIT THE WEST, BUT THAT IN ANY CASE WESTERN COUNTRIES HAD MATURE EXPERIENCE. THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL AT RHODES WOULD TRY TO HARMONIZE APPROACHES: THE DEVELOPMENT OF ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL RELATIONS SHOULD BE OF MUTUAL BENEFIT. (DE MITA CALLED THIS A MITTERRAND PLAN.)

4. ON THE SOVIET IDEA OF A COMMON EUROPEAN HOME, MITTERRAND SAID, IN SUMMARY, THAT, ALTHOUGH EUROPE WAS DEFINED BY GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY, BUILDING UP THE EUROPEAN HOUSE SHOULD PROCEED STEP BY STEP. THE FOUNDATIONS, IE THE EC, WERE ALREADY LAID. THE NEXT STAGE WAS THE FIRST FLOOR, IE AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE EC AND OTHER DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES, EG THE SCANDINAVIANS. IT WOULD BE ILLOGICAL TO START ON THE SECOND FLOOR, INVOLVING EASTERN EUROPE AND THE SOVIET UNION, UNTIL THE FIRST FLOOR WAS COMPLETE. GREATER EC POLITICAL UNITY WAS ALSO NECESSARY.

5. BOTH MITTERRAND AND DE MITA STRESSED THAT EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS



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HAD THE WILL TO HARMONIZE THEIR ATTITUDES AND APPROACHES TO THE SOVIET UNION. (NO APPARENT REFERENCE TO THE MOSCOW HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE, ALTHOUGH BRITISH OPPOSITION TO THIS HAS BEEN RECEIVING PROMINENT AND SYMPATHETIC COVERAGE IN THE FRENCH PRESS.)

6. BILATERAL. THE TWO LEADERS AGREED THAT ITALY AND FRANCE WOULD IN FUTURE HOLD AN ANNUAL INTER-MINISTERIAL SEMINAR, BETWEEN SEMINARS. THEY ALSO DISCUSSED AUDIOVISUAL QUESTIONS, INCLUDING HIGH DEFINITION TELEVISION, HIGH-SPEED RAILWAYS, DEFENCE EQUIPMENT AND R AND D CO-OPERATION.

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