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TELNO 712

OF 191840Z JUNE 90

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BONN TELNO 739 : ECONOMIC HELP FOR THE SOVIET UNION *mf*

SUMMARY

1. MITTERRAND SIGNALS HIS INTENTION TO RAISE THE QUESTION OF ECONOMIC AID TO THE SOVIET UNION AT THE DUBLIN AND HOUSTON SUMMITS.

DETAIL

2. IN THE COURSE OF A WIDE RANGING INTERVIEW PUBLISHED IN LE MONDE ON 19 JUNE, PRESIDENT MITTERRAND SAID THAT HE INTENDED TO ASK THE DUBLIN AND HOUSTON SUMMITS TO CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF FINANCIAL, COMMERCIAL AND TECHNICAL AID TO THE SOVIET UNION.

3. THE MINISTER ASKED VEDRINE (MITTERRAND'S POL/MIL ADVISER), ABOUT THE BACKGROUND TO THIS REMARK, POINTING OUT THAT, IN THE ABSENCE OF A NEW ECONOMIC SYSTEM IN THE URSS, THERE WAS A RISK (WITH CERTAIN TYPES OF AID) THAT THE WEST WOULD BE WASTING ITS MONEY. VEDRINE SAID THAT SIMILAR ARGUMENTS HAD BEEN ADVANCED WHEN DISCUSSION OF THE BERD HAD BEGUN IN NOVEMBER. OBVIOUSLY WE SHOULD NEED TO CONSIDER CAREFULLY THE TCCEED IN HIS ECONOMIC REFORMS, AND SO LOGICAL THAT WE SHOULD OFFER HIS CONCRETE ASSISTANCE.

4. THE KOHL/MITTERRAND MEETING ON 22 JUNE MAY INDICATE WHETHER MITTERRAND'S LINE ON SOVIET AID HAD BEEN CO-ORDINATED IN ADVANCE WITH BONN.

FERGUSSON

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