

GRS 420

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FM EAST BERLIN 141655Z OCT 80

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 171 OF 14 OCTOBER

INFO IMMEDIATE BONN BMG BERLIN

INFO PRIORITY WARSAW MOSCOW

INFO ROUTINE WASHINGTON PARIS UKDEL NATO

INFO SAVING PRAGUE BUDAPEST BUCHAREST SOFIA

MIPT: HONECKER'S SPEECH AT GERA

1. HONECKER'S LATEST SPEECH RECAPITULATES WITH ADDED EMPHASIS AND A MORE THREATENING TONE THE MAIN THEMES OF THE NEUES DEUTSCHLAND EDITORIAL OF 4 SEPTEMBER (MYTELS NOS 139 AND 140) AND HIS SPEECH OF 6 OCTOBER (EAST BERLIN TEL NO 163).
2. WHILE THE ASSERTION OF THE GDR'S INTEREST IN A STABLE POLAND IS AN ALMOST WORD FOR WORD REPRODUCTION OF THE 6 OCTOBER SPEECH, THE SECTION ON THE UNCHANGABLE NATURE OF POLAND'S MEMBERSHIP OF THE SOCIALIST WORLD IS MORE TRENCANT. THE VERSION CARRIED ON GDR TELEVISION, CONTINUED WITH A PASSAGE DROPPED FROM THE NEWSPAPER TEXT TO THE EFFECT THAT QUOTE WE TOGETHER WITH OUR FRIENDS WILL ENSURE THAT THIS IS SO UNQUOTE. THUS THE THREAT HINTED AT IN THE 4 SEPTEMBER EDITORIAL AND 6 OCTOBER SPEECH IS NOW MORE EXPLICIT.
3. THE SECTION ON THE FRG IS ALSO TOUGHER THAN IN THE EARLIER SPEECH, WITH VIRULENT ALLEGATIONS ABOUT BONN'S AGGRESSIVE POLICIES AND WEST GERMAN INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS. THE ELABORATION OF DEMANDS (RECOGNITION OF GDR NATIONALITY, ETC) IS A NEW ELEMENT. THOUGH THESE ARE ALL LONG-STANDING EAST GERMAN GRIEVANCES, THEY MAY NOW BE INTENDED AS CONDITIONS FOR THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS.
4. THE FULL SPEECH HAS BEEN GIVEN MASSIVE COVERAGE IN THE GDR MEDIA, THOUGH THE SUMMARY WHICH APPEARS ON THE FRONT PAGE OF NEUES DEUTSCHLAND GIVES A SOMEWHAT TONED DOWN VERSION, WITH THE PASSAGE ON POLAND BEING ACCORDED GREATER PROMINENCE THAN THAT ON THE FRG.
5. AS WITH HONECKER'S 6 OCTOBER SPEECH, THE THRUST CAN BE VARIOUSLY INTERPRETED. ALTHOUGH THE NEW COMPULSORY EXCHANGE REGULATION IS NOT MENTIONED (THE OFFICIAL LINE BEING THAT IT REFLECTS PURELY ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS), YESTERDAY'S SPEECH IS PRESUMABLY INTENDED NEVERTHELESS TO CONVEY TO THE PARTY FAITHFUL AND THE POPULACE AT LARGE THE POLITICAL JUSTIFICATION FOR THIS WIDELY UPOPULAR STEP, AS WELL AS A WARNING AGAINST EXTERNAL INFECTIONS, WHETHER OF THE POLISH OR WEST GERMAN VARIETY. IT IS ALSO OF COURSE CLEAR EVIDENCE OF A FURTHER TWIST IN THE DOWNWARD SPIRAL OF INNER-GERMAN RELATIONS, EMPHASISED BY THE DEMAND FOR CONCESSIONS KNOWN TO BE UNACCEPTABLE TO BONN.

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6. BUT THE SPEECH MAY BE AS SIGNIFICANT IN THE POLISH AS IN THE INNER-GERMAN CONTEXT. AT THE VERY LEAST IT MUST PRESUMABLY BE SEEN AS PART OF MOSCOW'S WAR OF NERVES AGAINST THE POLISH REFORMERS: AND PERHAPS AS A REFLECTION OF REAL ANXIETY THAT RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN POLAND CONSTITUTE A SERIOUS THREAT TO THE SECURITY OF THE COMMUNIST GRIP ON EASTERN EUROPE WHICH UNTIL RECENTLY STILL SEEMED TO PROVIDE A FIRM BASE FOR THE PROSECUTION OF DETENTE AGAINST THE WEST.

7. FCO PLEASE PASS TO ALL SAVING ADDRESSEES.

FOSTER

[REPEATED AS
REQUESTED]

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