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MIPT: NEW FRENCH GOVERNMENT.

SUMMARY

1. ROCARD'S SECOND GOVERNMENT IS A RESHUFFLED AND EXPANDED VERSION OF HIS FIRST. MORE NON-SOCIALIST AND NON-POLITICAL FIGURES HAVE BEEN INCLUDED AS A FURTHER STEP IN THE PROCESS OF QUOTE OUVERTURE UNQUOTE (POLITICAL OPENING).

DETIAL

2. ROCARD'S SECOND GOVERNMENT IS A SLIGHTLY RESHUFFLED AND CONSIDERABLY EXPANDED VERSION OF THE GOVERNMENT HE FORMED IN THE WAKE OF MITTERRAND'S PRESIDENTIAL VICTORY. THERE ARE NO CHANGES AMONG THE SENIOR MINISTERS (MINISTRES D'ETAT) AND RELATIVELY FEW TO THE RANKS OF FULL MINISTERS. DELEBARRE GOES TO TRANSPORT AND THE SEA, TAKING OVER AN EXPANDED MINISTRY FROM MERMAZ, WHO HAS MOVED TO THE SENSITIVE JOB OF LEADER OF THE SOCIALIST GROUP IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. DELEBARRE'S PREVIOUS RESPONSIBILITIES FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT HAVE BEEN SPLIT, WITH SOCIAL AFFAIRS GOING TO THE ROCARD LOYALIST, EVIN, WHO IS PROMOTED TO HEAD THE NEW MINISTRY OF SOLIDARITY AND HEALTH. EMPLOYMENT HAS GONE TO SOISSON, WHO WAS A MINISTER UNDER GISCARD AND CAMPAIGNED ENERGETICALLY FOR BARRE IN THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION. HIS INCLUSION IN THE GOVERNMENT IS A FURTHER STEP IN THE PROCESS OF OUVERTURE.

3. SO IS THE APPOINTMENT OF RAUSCH AS MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE. (WHICH INCIDENTALLY BUT NOT UNEXPECTEDLY REDUCES FAUROUX'S TRADE AND INDUSTRY PORTFOLIO). MAYOR OF METZ AND A POWERFUL POLITICAL QUOTE BARON UNQUOTE IN LORRAINE, HE IS A MEMBER OF THE CENTRIST CDS (ALTHOUGH HIS DECISION TO JOIN THE GOVERNMENT WAS PERSONAL AND DOES NOT HAVE HIS PARTY'S BACKING). CURIEN'S PROMOTION TO FULL MINISTERIAL STATUS UNDERLINES THE IMPORTANCE MITTERRAND ATTACHES TO RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY, AS WELL AS GIVING RECOGNITION TO A NON POLITICAL EXPERT WHO COMMANDS WIDE RESPECT.

4. THE MAIN CHANGES ARE TO THE EXPANDED RANKS OF JUNIOR MINISTERS. CHARASSE, WHO IS PARTICULARLY CLOSE TO MITTERRAND AND HAS BEEN PART

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OF THE ELYSEE STAFF, GETS THE KEY JOB OF BUDGET. AMONG OTHER NEWCOMERS, DECAUX AT FRANCOPHONIE IS AN HISTORIAN, SCHWARTZENBERG IS A RENOWNED CANCER SPECIALIST, AND GILLIBERT HAS CAMPAIGNED ENERGETICALLY ON BEHALF OF THE DISABLED (HE IS HIMSELF PARTIALLY PARALYSED AS THE RESULT OF A HELICOPTER CRASH IN 1979). THEIR APPOINTMENTS SYMBOLISE ROCARD'S COMMITMENT TO WHAT HE DESCRIBES AS QUOTE CIVIL UNQUOTE RATHER THAN QUOTE POLITICAL UNQUOTE SOCIETY. OF THE 48 MINISTERS IN HIS NEW GOVERNMENT, ONLY HALF ARE CARD CARRYING MEMBERS OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY.

CONCLUSION

3. ROCARD MARK II CONTAINS NO SURPRISES. THE NEW GOVERNMENT IS ONLY A MODEST STEP IN THE PROCESS OF OUVERTURE, BUT THAT IS ALL THAT THE POLITICAL MUSIC CURRENTLY ALLOWS. ROCARD'S TASK NOW IS TO TRY TO PUT FORWARD POLICIES, AND MANAGE BUSINESS, IN A WAY DESIGNED TO ENSURE THAT THIS GOVERNMENT PAVES THE WAY FOR A MORE EXTENSIVE OPENING LATER, PERHAPS AFTER THE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS NEXT SPRING.

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