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FM PARIS
TO PRIORITY FCO
TELNO 1010
OF 181929Z OCTOBER 88
INFO PRIORITY BONN, MOSCOW
INFO ROUTINE WASHINGTON, OTHER EC POSTS, UKDEL NATO

*Relmar to you
Alphonse talk
with Kohl tomorrow
and.*

MITTERRAND-KOHL MEETING AT VEZELAY: 14 OCTOBER.

SUMMARY

1. MITTERRAND-KOHL'S WORKING LUNCH COVERED EAST-WEST AND EC SUBJECTS, AS WELL AS ONE OR TWO BILATERAL POINTS. MOST SIGNIFICANT OUTCOME IS AN AGREEMENT THAT FRANCE AND THE FRG WILL HENCEFORTH ALIGN DEMARCHES TO THE USSR. NO DISCUSSION OF SNF NEGOTIATIONS OR FORCE MODERNIZATION.

DETAIL

2. KOHL AND MITTERRAND MET FOR ONE OF THEIR ROUTINE LUNCHES AT VEZELAY (BURGUNDY) ON 14 OCTOBER, ACCOMPANIED ONLY BY THEIR CLOSE ADVISERS.

3. SOURCES ON THE THREE HOUR MEETING HAVE BEEN HARD TO FIND BECAUSE OF A SERIES OF OTHER VISITORS TO FRANCE. BUT, IN THE COURSE OF A GENERAL DISCUSSION DURING BOYD'S VISIT TO PARIS ON 18 OCTOBER, VEDRINE (ELYSEE SPOKESMAN AND STRATEGIC ADVISER) SAID THAT THE QUESTION OF MODERNIZATION OF NATO'S SHORT-RANGE NUCLEAR FORCES (OR, BY IMPLICATION, SNF NEGOTIATIONS) HAD NOT ARISEN. HE SAID THAT KOHL AND MITTERRAND HAD NOT DISCUSSED THIS ISSUE SINCE THE NATO SUMMIT IN MARCH, WHEN KOHL HAD ASKED FOR MITTERRAND'S HELP IN DEFLECTING PRESSURE FOR MODERNIZATION DECISIONS BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTIONS IN 1990. (RECORDS OF BOYD'S TALKS FOLLOW BY BAG.)

4. ACCORDING TO THE FRG EMBASSY HERE THE MAIN SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION WAS EAST-WEST. IN ADVANCE OF THEIR VISITS TO MOSCOW, THIS MONTH AND NEXT, KOHL AND MITTERRAND HAD WISHED TO ENSURE THAT THEIR ASSESSMENTS OF DEVELOPMENTS BOTH IN THE USSR AND IN EASTERN EUROPE WERE SIMILAR. THIS TURNED OUT TO BE THE CASE. (THE FRG EMBASSY COMMENTED TO US THAT THE FRENCH HAD BEEN MOVING INCREASINGLY CLOSER TO THE GERMAN ASSESSMENT SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THIS YEAR. THE NEW FRENCH POSITION ON A HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE IN MOSCOW SET THE SEAL ON THIS RECONCILIATION OF ANALYSES. BOTH GOVERNMENTS WERE CONVINCED THAT GORBACHEV'S REFORMS REPRESENTED A CHANCE NOT ONLY FOR THE

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SOVIET UNION BUT ALSO FOR THE WEST, SO LONG AS WE MAINTAINED OUR SECURITY IN GOOD ORDER. THE FRENCH NOW ACCEPTED THAT SOVIET ACTIONS ADDED SUBSTANCE TO THEIR WORDS, EG MOSCOW'S ACCEPTANCE OF STOCKHOLM, INF, VERIFICATION IN SITU, ASYMMETRIC DISARMAMENT, WITHDRAWAL FROM AFGHANISTAN, CO-OPERATION ON OTHER REGIONAL ISSUES, PROGRESS IN CSCE ETC.)

5. A MAJOR OUTCOME FROM THE MEETING HAD BEEN AN AGREEMENT THAT FRANCE AND THE FRG WOULD HENCEFORTH CONDUCT ONLY PARALLEL DEMARCHES TO MOSCOW ON EAST-WEST ISSUES. THEY THOUGHT THAT THE ITALIANS MIGHT COME ON BOARD WITH SUCH AN APPROACH AND THAT SMALLER EUROPEAN ALLIES WOULD NOT OBJECT. THE IMPLICATION WAS THAT THE UK WOULD BE THE ODD MAN OUT.

6. THE SECOND PRINCIPAL SUBJECT WAS EC AFFAIRS, ON WHICH THE TWO LEADERS DID NOT GET INTO DETAIL BUT ATTEMPTED TO LIST THE GENERAL PROBLEMS WHICH THE COMMUNITY AT PRESENT FACED. THEY SET THIS DISCUSSION AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF MITTERRAND'S RATHER SCEPTICAL SPEECH AT THE IHEDN ON 11 OCTOBER (OF WHICH THE ELYSEE HAVE STILL NOT ISSUED A TEXT) AND, AS IT APPEARS FROM PRESS ACCOUNTS, OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S BRUGES SPEECH. IT SEEMS THAT THE DISCUSSION DID NOT LEAD TO ANY PARTICULAR CONCLUSIONS. FRENCH PRESS ACCOUNTS MENTION THAT MITTERRAND LAID EMPHASIS ON THE DIFFICULTIES FOR FRANCE OF HARMONISATION OF TAXATION ON FINANCIAL ASSETS AND UNDERLINED HIS COMMITMENT TO PROGRESS ON EUROPEAN SOCIAL ISSUES AND TOWARDS AN AUDIOVISUAL EUREKA.

7. ON THE RATIFICATION OF THE ELYSEE TREATY PROTOCOL, THEY DISCUSSED WAYS TO SURMOUNT THE BUNDESBANK OBSTACLE. IT APPEARS THAT THE PLAN NOW IS THAT THE GERMAN CABINET SHOULD AGREE ON AN EXPLANATORY NOTE TO SET WITH THE RATIFICATION DOCUMENT, THE TEXT OF WHICH WILL BE GIVEN, ON A GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT BASIS, TO THE FRENCH AND TO WHICH NO REPLY WILL BE EXPECTED. THE TWO LEADERS ALSO TOUCHED ON THE PROBLEMS POSED BY THE GERMAN SPD. THE GERMAN EMBASSY HAVE TOLD US THAT EHMKE (SPD) WILL BE IN PARIS THIS WEEK TO SEEK FRENCH CONFIRMATION, OF A KIND HE CAN USE INTERNALLY WITH THE SPD, THAT THE PROTOCOL DOES NOT BIND THE FRG INTO A FORMAL LINK WITH FRENCH NUCLEAR PHILOSOPHY.

FERGUSSON

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