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FRANCO-GERMAN SUMMIT

SUMMARY

1. FRANCO-GERMAN SUMMIT COVERS MAINLY EC, DEFENCE AND BILATERRAL TOPICS. FRANCO-GERMAN DEFENCE COUNCIL MEETS FOR THE FIRST TIME. NEW FRANCO-GERMAN COLLABORATION ANNOUNCED IN THE CIVIL NUCLEAR FIELD. FOREIGN AFFAIRS TOPICS INCLUDE LEBANON AND EASTERN EUROPE. BOTH LEADERS COMMENT ON AUSTRIAN ACCESSION TO THE EC.

DETIAL

2. THE 53RD FRANCO-GERMAN SUMMIT TOOK PLACE IN PARIS ON 19/20 APRIL. THE TWO TEAMS COMPRISED A BROAD RANGE OF MINISTERS, INCLUDING FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE, EUROPEAN AFFAIRS, CULTURE, ENVIRONMENT, COMMUNICATIONS, TRANSPORT AND RESEARCH.

3. THE MAIN TOPICS COVERED WERE:

A) DEFENCE. THE FIRST MEETING OF THE FRANCO-GERMAN DEFENCE AND SECURITY COUNCIL WAS HELD ON 20 APRIL AND ISSUED A DECLARATION (FULL TEXT BY BAG TO FCO AND BONN) COVERING THE ORGANISATION OF THE SECRETARIAT, BILATERAL COOPERATION IN SECURITY POLICY, MILITARY COOPERATION AND A JOINT APPROACH TO EAST/WEST RELATIONS. THE TWO LEADERS (SEPARATELY FROM THE DEFENCE COUNCIL) ALSO DISCUSSED SNF AND THE FORTHCOMING NATO SUMMIT (SEE MY TELNO 514 - NOT TO ALL)

B) EAST/WEST RELATIONS. THE TWO SIDES WERE AGREED ON THE IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING UP CURRENT DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THE MOMENTUM OF EVOLUTION IN EASTERN EUROPE.

C) TRANSPORT. TWO COMMUNIQUE WERE ISSUED (TEXTS BY BAG) COVERING THE DEVELOPMENT OF RAIL LINKS, AND IN PARTICULAR THE TGV LINK TAKING IN STRASBOURG AND SARREBRUCK.

D) EC QUESTIONS, IN PARTICULAR THE DELORS REPORT, TAX QUESTIONS, ABOLITION OF FRONTIERS AND SOCIAL QUESTIONS. IN THE FINAL PRESS

CONFERENCE, MITTERRAND SAID THAT HE CONSIDERED THE LEGAL RIGHTS OF WORKERS IN A UNITED EUROPE TO BE PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT.

E) AUDIOVISUAL EUROPE, IN PARTICULAR THE TECHNOLOGICAL (IE HDTV) AND AUDIOVISUAL EUREKAS

F) FRANCO-GERMAN COLLABORATION IN THE FIELD OF CIVIL NUCLEAR ENERGY, ESPECIALLY OVER THE RE-TREATMENT OF NUCLEAR FUEL (TEXT OF DECLARATION BY BAG). A JOINT WORKING GROUP WAS ESTABLISHED, TO BE HEADED BY THE FRENCH MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND THE GERMAN MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, NATURE AND NUCLEAR SAFETY.

G) THE ENVIRONMENT.

4. IN THE FINAL PRESS CONFERENCE, KOHL LAID EMPHASIS ON THE AMOUNT OF WORK THAT STILL NEEDED TO BE DONE IF THE SINGLE MARKET WAS TO BE ACHIEVED BY 1993. HE DECLARED HIS AFFECTION FOR STRASBOURG AND HIS PERSONAL DETERMINATION THAT IT SHOULD RETAIN ITS ROLE AS A EUROPEAN CITY, AND ALSO SAID HOW IMPORTANT THE SARRE REGION WAS FOR THE FRG. ON NUCLEAR COLLABORATION, KOHL SAID THAT THE NEW AGREEMENT FORESAW THE ESTABLISHMENT OF TWO PILLARS, ONE GERMAN (IE WACKERSDORF PLANT) AND ONE FRENCH. HE UNDERLINED THAT THE FRG GOVERNMENT'S OVERRIDING CONSIDERATION IN DEVELOPING NUCLEAR POWER WAS AND ALWAYS WOULD BE THE SAFETY OF THE CITIZEN. MITTERRAND SPOKE OF SUCH COLLABORATION BEING OPEN TO TO OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES IF THEY CHOSE TO JOIN IT, THOUGH OF COURSE IN MILITARY NUCLEAR MATTERS THERE WERE LIMITS TO COOPERATION: THE FRENCH PRESIDENT'S FINGER HAD TO STAY ON THE TRIGGER.

5. THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS TOPICS COVERED AT THE SUMMIT, MAINLY BETWEEN DUMAS AND GENSCHER, INCLUDED LEBANON, POLAND AND THE SUDAN (WHERE THE FRENCH AND THE GERMANS ARE COLLABORATING IN THE PROVISION OF HUMANITARIAN AID). ON POLAND, MUSITELLI (ELYSEE) TOLD US THAT THE FRENCH AND THE GERMANS WOULD WORK OUT A JOINT APPROACH ON FINANCIAL AID AND DEBT RELIEF. THEY ALSO AGREED THAT PRESIDENT BUSH'S RECENT PROPOSALS ON POLAND SHOULD BE FOLLOWED UP IN A CONCERTED MANNER BY THE TWELVE. MUSITELLI ADDED THAT BONN AND PARIS HAD ALSO AGREED ON A COMMON DEMARCHE TO THE ROMANIAN GOVERNMENT ABOUT THE SIX, AND WOULD PROPOSE THAT THE TWELVE SHOULD FOLLOW UP THEREAFTER. MUSITELLI SAID THAT MITTERRAND WAS CONCERNED TO UNDERLINE THE MESSAGE IN PUBLIC THAT THE FRANCO-GERMAN DEFENCE COUNCIL WAS NOT INTENDED TO RUN AGAINST THE CURRENT OF ARMS CONTROL, NOR TO SET ITSELF UP AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO NATO. THE FRENCH AND GERMAN GOVERNMENTS WERE MERELY CONCERNED TO DEVELOP AS COMMON AN APPROACH AS POSSIBLE ON DEFENCE

ISSUES. IT WAS REDICULOUS FOR THE SOVIET UNION TO CLAIM THAT THE COUNCIL WAS AN INDICATION OF A NEW MILITARISM IN WESTERN EUROPE.

6. ON LEBANON, MITTERRAND SAID AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE THAT FRANCE HAD BEEN THE ONLY COUNTRY TO TAKE POSITIVE ACTION: SHE COULD NOT JUST STAND ASIDE AND FIDDLE WHILE BEIRUT BURNT. THE HUMANITARIAN ACTION HAD BEEN PARTLY INTENDED TO FOCUS INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION ON THE PROBLEM. FRANCE WAS NOW DIPLOMATICALLY ACTIVE ON THE POLITICAL PROBLEM AND HOPED THAT THE UN WOULD BECOME INVOLVED. THE TROUBLE WAS THAT NEITHER SYRIA NOR ISRAEL, THE TWO FOREIGN POWERS DIRECTLY INVOLVED, WANTED THE LEBANESE CRISIS INTERNATIONALISED.

7. QUESTIONED AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE ON AUSTRIAN ACCESSION TO THE EC, MITTERRAND SAID THAT THERE WERE A NUMBER OF ACTUAL OR LIKELY APPLICATIONS, ON WHICH AUSTRIA'S CAME FROM A COUNTRY CLEARLY DESTINED TO PLAY A FULL AND SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN EUROPE. BUT THE SINGLE MARKET AND THE SEA HAD TO BE IMPLEMENTED FIRST. AUSTRIA'S APPLICATION WAS WORTHY OF CONSIDERATION BUT NOT IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE (QUOTE RECEVABLE MAIS PAS D'ACTUALITE UNQUOTE). KOHL SAID MUCH THE SAME. THE FRG WAS PARTICULARLY ATTACHED TO AUSTRIA, BUT THERE WAS JUST TOO MUCH TO DO IN THE RUN-UP TO 1993. AUSTRIA'S APPLICATION WAS DESIRABLE IN ITSELF BUT COULD NOT YET BE ADDRESSED.

8. WE SHALL REPORT FURTHER AS DETAILS BECOME AVAILABLE, PARTICULARLY ON EC TOPICS.

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