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MITTERRAND'S VISIT TO POLAND, 14-16 JUNE

SUMMARY

1. VISIT OF MITTERRAND AND HIGH LEVEL DELEGATION WELL RECEIVED. NUMBER OF BILATERAL AGREEMENTS SIGNED. REITERATION OF FRENCH PROMISE TO ACT AS ADVOCATE FOR POLAND IN PARIS CLUB.

DETAIL

2. PRESIDENT MITTERRAND PAID A WELL PUBLICISED 3-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO POLAND FROM 14-16 JUNE. HE BROUGHT WITH HIM A LARGE AND IMPRESSIVE DELEGATION WHICH INCLUDED SIX MINISTERS: DUMAS (FOREIGN AFFAIRS), BEREGOVY (ECONOMY, FINANCE AND THE BUDGET), JOXE (INTERIOR), LANG (CULTURE AND COMMUNICATIONS), RAUSCH (OVERSEAS TRADE) AND CHEREQUE (INDUSTRY AND LAND USE). ALSO IN THE PARTY WERE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY'S FRENCH/POLISH GROUP, BUSINESSMEN AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ARTS AND SCIENCES.

3. MITTERRAND HELD TWO ROUNDS OF TALKS WITH JARUZELSKI. IN HIS SPEECH AT THE RECEPTION HELD IN WARSAW IN MITTERRAND'S HONOUR, JARUZELSKI SAID THAT POLAND WAS GOING THROUGH A PERIOD OF GREAT CHANGE AND WANTED FRANCE TO BE INVOLVED IN MODERNISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF POLAND'S ECONOMY AND IN THE AREAS OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND CULTURE. HE SAID HE WAS CONVICTED THAT MITTERRAND'S VISIT WOULD NOT ONLY RESTORE BILATERAL RELATIONS TO THEIR FORMER GLORY BUT WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO THEIR FURTHER EXPANSION. IN A MORE SUBSTANTIVE SPEECH WHICH FORESHADOWED MANY OF THE AGREEMENTS SIGNED DURING THE VISIT AND WHICH ALSO TOUCHED ON SUBJECTS SUCH AS THE COMMON EUROPEAN HOME, EC RELATIONS WITH EASTERN EUROPE AND HUMAN RIGHTS, MITTERRAND SAID THAT HE HAD COME TO RENEW TIES BETWEEN POLAND AND FRANCE WHICH HAD BEEN LOOSENED BUT NOT BROKEN AND TO PAY TRIBUTE TO THE POLISH NATION FOR ITS COURAGE, PERSISTENCE AND PATRIOTISM. POLAND'S DEBT DESERVED SPECIAL

TREATMENT AND HE HOPED THAT INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS WOULD SHOW ENOUGH IMAGINATION TO HELP POLAND THROUGH THE CURRENT DIFFICULT PERIOD. HE REPEATED HIS PLEDGE THAT FRANCE WOULD BE POLAND'S ADVOCATE IN THE PARIS CLUB.

4. IN WARSAW MITTERRAND ALSO MET PRIME MINISTER RAKOWSKI AND OTHER POLISH MINISTERS, AS WELL AS THE POLISH PRIMATE, CARDINAL GLEMP. HE VISITED GDANSK (WHERE HE MET WALESA AND SENIOR SOLIDARITY FIGURES: SEE MIFT FOR DETAILS OF SOLIDARITY ECONOMIC PROPOSALS) AND KRAKOW.

5. FRENCH MINISTERS IN THE PARTY ALSO HELD TALKS WITH THEIR POLISH OPPOSITE NUMBERS. AS FORESHADOWED IN MY TELNO 362, A NUMBER OF AGREEMENTS WERE SIGNED:

(A) FINANCE MINISTERS SIGNED AN AGREEMENT WHICH PROVIDES FOR CO-OPERATION AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON E.G. TAXATION SYSTEMS, FINANCIAL MARKETS, RELATIONS BETWEEN STATE AND PRIVATE ENTERPRISE. THE FRENCH OFFERED TECHNICAL HELP FOR THE CREATION OF ECONOMIC, FINANCIAL AND BANKING TRAINING CENTRES:

(B) MINISTERS OF CULTURE REACHED AGREEMENT ON BOOK PROMOTION: AFTER THE FIRST MITTERRAND/JARUZELSKI MEETING 4 BILATERAL AGREEMENTS WERE SIGNED ON:

(A) YOUTH EXCHANGES:

(B) ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (PROVIDING FOR CO-OPERATION IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, INFORMATION, MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING):

(C) MANAGEMENT TRAINING:

(D) RESCHEDULING OF BILATERAL DEBT CONSEQUENT ON THE DECEMBER 1987 PARIS CLUB AGREEMENT (THE RESCHEDULING PROVIDES FOR A 4 YEAR GRACE PERIOD).

6. PRESS REACTION TO THE VISIT HAS, ON THE WHOLE, BEEN FAVOURABLE. THE PARTY PAPER 'TRYBUNA LUDU' CALLED THE VISIT AN HISTORIC ONE, IN WHICH BOTH SIDES SHOWED A DESIRE TO END THE PERIOD OF DECLINE IN MUTUAL RELATIONS, AND NOT ONLY TO RETURN TO THE CO-OPERATION OF THE PAST, BUT ALSO TO SEEK A NEW DYNAMISM AND TO LIVE UP TO THE NEEDS AND CHALLENGES OF THE PRESENT DAY. HOWEVER, WHILST WELCOMING THE AGREEMENTS SIGNED ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE VISIT, THE PAPER EMPHASISED THAT THEY STILL FALL SHORT OF MITTERRAND'S PROMISE THAT FRANCE WOULD BE POLAND'S ADVOCATE IN INTERNATIONAL FORA. WALESA, COMMENTING ON

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HIS MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT, BELIEVED THAT HE AND HIS ADVISERS
HAD CONVINCED MITTERRAND THAT POLAND WAS WORTH HELPING AND
DESERVED HELP: THEY WERE NOW COUNTING ON THE PRESIDENT'S ECONOMIC
EFFECTIVENESS MATCHING HIS POLITICAL EFFECTIVENESS.

7. WE HAVE ASKED THE FRENCH EMBASSY FOR A FULLER BRIEFING AND
WILL TELEGRAPH FURTHER IN THE LIGHT OF THAT.

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