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CONFIDENTIAL
FFFF CAB OFFICE FOR PM'S PARTY AIRBORNE
DD 081930Z CAOFF
FM FCOLN TO NYMIS
081823Z NOV
GRS 507

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FM FCO
TO DESKBY 081900Z UKMIS NEW YORK
TELNO 793
OF 081823Z NOVEMBER 89

FOR PRIME MINISTER'S PARTY
FOLLOWING TELEGRAM NOW REPEATED TO YOU AT REQUEST OF DEPT
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MIPT: FRG REACTIONS TO DEVELOPMENTS IN THE GDR.

SUMMARY

1. KOHL'S SPEECH TODAY WAS DELIBERATELY SOBER. BUT EXCITEMENT ABOUT EVENTS IN THE GDR IS BUILDING UP IN THE FRG. ALTHOUGH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS RETICENT ABOUT IT, REUNIFICATION IS BEGINNING TO BE A THEME OF THE DEBATE ABOUT THE GERMAN QUESTION. KOHL DOES NOT SUPPORT CSU CALL FOR 4-POWER CONFERENCE ON GERMANY. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S ACUTE INTEREST IN STEMMING THE FLOOD OF REFUGEES.

DETAIL

2. THE RAPID EVENTS IN THE GDR NOW DOMINATE POLITICS AND THE MEDIA IN THE FRG. KOHL'S SPEECH TO THE BUNDESTAG TODAY (MY TELNO 1063) CONTINUES TO PUT ALL THE EMPHASIS ON THE NEED FOR REFORM IN THE GDR. MAJOR REFORM IS NOW SEEN HERE AS THE ONLY HOPE OF RESTORING STABILITY IN THE GDR. REAL REFORMS ARE CONSIDERED PROBABLE BUT, WITH THE EAST GERMAN REGIME'S CONTINUING STRESS ON THE LEADING ROLE OF THE PARTY, THERE IS NO CONFIDENCE THAT IT WILL BE ENOUGH TO SATISFY THE PEOPLE.

3. KOHL TODAY AGAIN PLAYED DOWN THE THEME OF REUNIFICATION, NOT EVEN MENTIONING THE WORD ITSELF. ONE REASON FOR HIS AND GENSCHER'S RETICENCE ON THIS IS THE WISH TO AVOID MAKING DIFFICULTIES FOR THE REFORMERS IN EAST GERMANY AND ALSO POLAND, HUNGARY AND THE SOVIET UNION. POLAND ESPECIALLY WAS ON KOHL'S MIND ON THE EVE OF HIS VISIT THERE. MOREOVER, REUNIFICATION HAS NOT HITHERTO BEEN BROUGHT MUCH BY OTHERS INTO THE POLITICAL DEBATE. BUT NOW IT IS BEGINNING TO BECOME AN ACTIVE THEME, ESPECIALLY AMONG BACKBENCHERS. THIS TREND WILL NO DOUBT GROW.

4. ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF THE INTENSIFIED DEBATE IS THE CALL BY A PROMINENT CSU BACKBENCHER (MIPT) FOR AN EARLY FOUR POWER CONFERENCE ON GERMANY. KOHL'S OFFICE TELL US THAT THE IDEA CAN BE DISREGARDED. KOHL HAS NO PLAN FOR ANY FOUR POWER INITIATIVE ON GERMANY. BUT THIS AGAIN IS AN ASPECT OF WHICH WE SHALL HEAR MORE IN THE FEDERAL GERMAN DEBATE.

5. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT NOW HAS A STRONG AND IMMEDIATE INTEREST OF ITS OWN IN REFORM IN THE GDR, AS A MEANS OF STEMMING THE FLOW OF REFUGEES. 45,000 HAVE COME SINCE 3 NOVEMBER, AND SOME 190,000 SO FAR THIS YEAR. THE RECEPTION ARRANGEMENTS ARE STRAINED TO THE ABSOLUTE LIMIT. IF THE FLOW GOES ON, IT WILL NOT ONLY CAUSE AN ECONOMIC BREAKDOWN IN THE GDR BUT WILL BRING MAJOR PRACTICAL PROBLEMS HERE. THE GOVERNMENT, WHICH SO FAR HAS BENEFITTED POLITICALLY FROM THE EXODUS AND THE EFFICIENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR RECEIVING REFUGEES, COULD FACE A NASTY BACKLASH, ESPECIALLY BECAUSE OF PRESSURE ON THE ALREADY TIGHT MARKET FOR LOW-COST HOUSING.

6. GIVEN THE INTENSITY OF THE PROBLEMS CAUSED BY THE INFLUX OF REFUGEES, I HOPE VERY MUCH THAT WE CAN RESPOND QUICKLY AND POSITIVELY TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S EXPLORATORY APPROACH YESTERDAY TO BAOR FOR TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION.

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