

UNCLASSIFIED

FM PARIS

TO PRIORITY FCO

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INFO PRIORITY BONN, WASHINGTON, MOSCOW, BMG BERLIN, EAST BERLIN

INFO PRIORITY UKDEL NATO

INFO ROUTINE UKREP BRUSSELS, OTHER CSCE POSTS

GDR CHANGES : FRENCH REACTIONS

SUMMARY

1. OFFICIAL COMMENT CONTINUES OPTIMISTIC BUT MEASURED. OPPOSITION CALLS FOR FRANCE TO CONVENE EUROPEAN COUNCIL. INITIAL MEDIA EUPHORIA SHADES INTO WORRIES ABOUT EUROPEAN INSTABILITY AND CONCERN THAT MALTA SUMMIT WILL BE A NEW YALTA.

DETAIL

2. MY TELNO 1492 REPORTED PRESIDENT MITTERRAND'S COMMENTS IN COPENHAGEN. THEY WERE ON THE LINES OF HIS PREVIOUS DECLARATIONS: WELCOMING THE PROGRESS OF REFORM AND SHOWING NO FEAR OF REUNIFICATION, BUT NOTING THE COMPLEXITIES: STRESSING THAT GERMAN SELF-DETERMINATION WAS THE KEY AND OBSERVING THAT IT MIGHT NOT LEAD TO A UNION OF STATES: PUTTING DOWN A MARKER ABOUT THE NEED FOR BALANCE AND URGING AN ACCELERATION OF EUROPEAN INTERGATION. HE WAS NOT ASKED ABOUT AND DID NOT VOLUNTEER, HIS VIEWS ON A POSSIBLE DISSOLUTION OF THE WARSAW PACT.

3. ROCARD SPOKE IN SIMILAR TERMS ON 10 NOVEMBER, SAYING THAT IT WAS FOR THE GERMAN PEOPLE TO DECIDE WHAT THEY WANTED. A CONVERGENCE OF WILLS BETWEEN EAST AND WEST WOULD TAKE TIME TO BE PUT INTO PRACTICE AND THE ROAD TO DEMOCRACY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE EAST WOULD BE DIFFICULT. BUT PEACE AND SECURITY IN EUROPE DEPENDED ON THE GERMAN PEOPLE RECOVERING THEIR HISTORY AND DESTINY IN FRIENDSHIP WITH AND WITH THE TRUST OF, ALL GERMANY'S NEIGHBOURS.

4. DELORS SAID ON 12 NOVEMBER THAT THERE WERE DANGERS AHEAD. GORBACHEV MIGHT FAIL AS A RESULT OF ECONOMIC AND NATIONALITY PROBLEMS IN THE SOVIET UNION AND THE DESTABILISING MOVEMENT IN THE GDR. THERE WERE ALSO DANGERS OF BALKANIZATION AND OF THE EC SLOWING DOWN AND BEING OVERTAKEN BY EVENTS. THE CONDITIONS FOR A POSITIVE EVOLUTION WERE RECOGNITION OF THE EAST GERMANS' RIGHT TO

SELF-DETERMINATION AND OF THE INTANGIBILITY OF FRONTIERS - THUS NO REUNIFICATION, CONTINUING ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION AND THE EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, AND HELP FROM THE WESTERN COUNTRIES, AS ALREADY (BUT INSUFFICIENTLY) FOR POLAND AND HUNGARY.

5. DUMAS SAID THAT EUROPE WAS CHANGING PROFOUNDLY BUT THAT THERE WERE MANY DIFFICULTIES AHEAD AND EACH SIDE SHOULD KEEP ITS SANG FROID. HE PAID TRIBUTE TO THE GERMAN PEOPLE'S PATRIOTISM AND WISDOM AND TO THE GDR AUTHORITIES 'WHO HAD UNDERSTOOD WHAT THEY MUST DO'.

6. GISCARD D'ESTAING (UDF) HOPED THAT DEMOCRATISATION WOULD CONTINUE WITHIN THE GDR AND THAT THE WEST EUROPEANS WOULD CONTINUE TO WORK FOR UNION. IT SHOULD BE TO A FEDERAL EUROPE RATHER THAN TO THE FRG THAT IN DUE COURSE THE EAST GERMANS ADHERED: OTHERWISE A UNIFIED GERMAN NATION WOULD HAVE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES FOR EUROPE. IF EUROPEAN UNION WERE ACHIEVED, THE ADMISSION OF THE GDR, PERHAPS BEFORE THE YEAR 2000, WOULD NOT HAVE DESTABILISING EFFECT. HE REGRETTED THAT MITTERRAND HAD NOT TAKEN A STRONG INITIATIVES AND URGED A MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL BEFORE STRASBOURG. CHIRAC (RPR) HAS ALSO ATTACKED THE RELATIVE SILENCE OF THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT AND URGED FRANCE TO TAKE INITIATIVES, BILATERALLY WITH THE GERMANS, WITH THE OTHER BERLIN POWERS AND WITHIN THE TWELVE, FOR EARLY DISCUSSION OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AND OF THE FUTURE OF EUROPE.

7. AN OPINION POLL CONDUCTED BY TELEPHONE ON 9/10 NOVEMBER SHOWED 60 PER CENT AGREEMENT THAT GERMAN REUNIFICATION WOULD BE A GOOD THING FOR FRANCE (19 PER CENT DISAGREED) AND 62 PER CENT EXPECTING THAT THE TWO GERMANIES WOULD SOON FORM A SINGLE GERMAN STATE.

8. PRESS COVERAGE AND COMMENT CONTINUE ABUNDANT. AFTER INITIAL EXPRESSIONS OF EUPHORIA ABOUT THE BREACH OF THE BERLIN WALL, MORE CONCERN IS NOW BEING EXPRESSED ABOUT THE UNCERTAINTIES AND LIKELY INSTABILITY AHEAD. A FREQUENT THEME IS THAT THE WEST EUROPEANS MUST MAKE THEIR VOICE HEARD SO THAT PRESIDENTS BUSH AND GORBACHEV DO NOT DO A DEAL OVER THEIR HEADS ('A NEW YALTA') WHEN THEY MEET IN VALETTA HARBOUR ON 2/3 DECEMBER. BUT DESPITE A WIDESPREAD FEELING THAT THE POST-WAR SETTLEMENT IS CHANGING RADICALLY, THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE SERIOUS DISCUSSION YET OF THE FUTURE OF THE WARSAW PACT AND NATO, OR EVEN OF THE ROLE OF THE PARIS/BONN RELATIONSHIP IN THESE CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES. BUT THE THEME THAT THE TWELVE/EUROPEAN COMMUNITY HAVE AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY COMES THROUGH STRONGLY.

FERGUSON