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TELNO 1513

OF 151807Z NOVEMBER 89

INFO PRIORITY BONN, EAST BERLIN, BMG BERLIN, MOSCOW

*1 suspect that
Mitterrand will be looking
for a mandate to
meet Gorbachev.*

18 NOVEMBER MEETING OF THE TWELVE HEADS OF STATES AND GOVERNMENT

SUMMARY

1. ELYSEE CONFIRM THAT STRASBOURG COUNCIL AS WELL AS 18 NOVEMBER MEETING WILL ADDRESS EASTERN EUROPE, THOUGH MAIN PRIORITIES FOR STRASBOURG REMAIN EMU AND SOCIAL CHARTER. ELYSEE SHARE PRIME MINISTER'S VIEW OF NEED FOR A CAUTIOUS APPROACH IN FACE OF UNCERTAINTIES GENERATED BY EVENTS IN EAST EUROPE.

DETAIL

2. MINISTER ASKED MME GUIGOU, PRESIDENT MITTERRAND'S ADVISER ON EC QUESTIONS, FOR HER VIEW ON THIS MEETING AND IT CONNECTION WITH THE STRASBOURG EUROPEAN COUNCIL. HE REFERRED TO PRESS SPECULATION THAT ONE OF THE REASONS FOR CALLING THE MEETING WAS TO AVOID THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL BEING TOO TAKEN UP WITH THE PROBLEMS RELATING TO EASTERN EUROPE.

3. MME GUIGOU SAID THAT THIS WAS AN INCORRECT INTERPRETATION. THE AGENDA FOR STRASBOURG WAS WELL KNOWN AND WOULD OF COURSE INCLUDE DISCUSSION OF EASTERN EUROPE ESPECIALLY EC AID TO POLAND AND HUNGARY. THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL REMAINED THE OCCASION ON WHICH THE DECISIONS COULD BE TAKEN ON THESE MATTERS. HOWEVER, IT WAS OF COURSE THE CASE THAT THE PRESIDENCY WAS DETERMINED TO HAVE A FULL DISCUSSION OF EMU AND THE SOCIAL CHARTER LEADING TO APPROPRIATE DECISIONS IF DISCUSSION OF EASTERN EUROPE ON 18 NOVEMBER COULD CLEAR THE GROUND FOR THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL, AND THUS SAVE TIME, SO MUCH THE BETTER.

4. AS TO THE 18 NOVEMBER MEETING, MITTERRAND SIMPLY FELT A REAL NEED FOR HEADS OF GOVERNMENT THEMSELVES TO TALK OVER EVENTS IN EASTERN EUROPE SOON ('CONFRONTER LEURS ANALYSES'). MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (AND FINANCE - SHE WAS PRESENT AT THE ECONFIN LUNCH OF 13 NOVEMBER) HAD ALREADY HAD A NUMBER OF OPPORTUNITIES. MITTERRAND WANTED POLITICAL REFLECTION ON WHAT WAS HAPPENING IN EASTERN EUROPE GENERALLY AND ALSO IN RELATION TO EACH PARTICULAR COUNTRY. THE TIMING WAS IDEAL IN THAT DUMAS WOULD BE BACK FROM MOSCOW, WHERE HE

MET GORBACHEV (TODAY'S FRENCH PRESS SPECULATES FOLLOWING THIS MEETING THAT A GORBACHEV/MITTERRAND MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE BEFORE TOO LONG). AND DUMAS PLUS DELORS WIL JUST HAVE RETURNED FROM POLAND AND HUNGARY.

5. BOTH GUIGOU AND VEDRINE, MITTERRAND'S ADVISER ON EAST/WEST QUESTIONS, WHOM THE MINISTER SAW ALSO, SAID THAT THE VIEWS OF LONDON AND PARIS WERE CLOSE ON THE SUBSTANCE OF DEVELOPMENTS IN GERMANY AND EASTERN EUROPE. VEDRINE SAID THAT WHAT THE PRIME MINISTER SAID IN HER GUILDHALL SPEECH ABOUT A PRUDENT APPROACH IN THE FACE OF UNCERTAINTIES HAD BEEN NOTED FAVOURABLY. IT WAS NOT THE TIME TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE WARSAW PACT WAS IN QUESTION. MME GUIGOU SAID THAT THERE WAS NO DIFFERENCE OF SUBSTANCE IN OUR APPROACH TO THE QUESTION OF RE-UNIFICATION. IT HAD BEEN NECESSARY FOR MITTERRAND, IN RESPONSE TO THE QUESTION PUT HIM IN BONN LAST WEEK, TO SAY THAT THE PROSPECT OF RE-UNIFICATION DID NOT FRIGHTEN HIM. HE HAD TO SAY THIS IN ORDER TO DISSIPATE ANY POSSIBLE MISUNDERSTANDING ON THE PART OF THE GERMANS, AND TO SHOW THAT THERE WAS NO SPECIFICALLY FRENCH OBSTACLE TO THE PROCESS UNDER WAY IN GERMANY. BUT WE SHOULD LOOK VERY CLOSELY AT THE QUALIFICATIONS WITH WHICH HE CONTINUED, CONCERNING THE WAY IN WHICH THIS PROCESS SHOULD BE CARRIED FORWARD (DEMOCRATICALLY, PEACEFULLY), AND THE FACT THAT OTHER STATES BESIDE THE TWO GERMANIES WERE INVOLVED (NOT LEAST THE SOVIET UNION). THE PRESIDENT'S UNDERLYING CAUTION WILL COLOUR HIS APPROACH TO THE 18 NOVEMBER MEETING.

6. MINISTER WILL SEE HENNEKINNE, MITTERRAND'S DIPLOMATIC ADVISER, ON 16 NOVEMBER AFTER WHICH I WILL TELEGRAPH VIEWS ON HOW THE FRENCH ARE LIKELY TO HANDLE SATURDAY'S MEETING.

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