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FM PARIS

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 1522

OF 161612Z NOVEMBER 89

INFO IMMEDIATE BONN, EAST BERLIN, BMG BERLIN

INFO PRIORITY MOSCOW, WASHINGTON, UKDEL NATO, UKREP BRUSSELS,

INFO ROUTINE DUBLIN, NATO POSTS, EAST EUROPEAN POSTS

SUMMARY

1. MITTERRAND'S 18 NOVEMBER WORKING DINNER TO BE INFORMAL, WITH NO AGENDA AND NO FORMAL DECISIONS OR COMMUNIQUE. ELYSEE SAY MITTERRAND WANTS FULL DISCUSSION OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN EAST EUROPE AND GDR AND THEIR EFFECTS ON THE POLITICAL AND STRATEGIC BALANCE IN EUROPE. HE WILL OUTLINE IDEAS FOR A BANK FOR EASTERN EUROPE. BUT DECISIONS ON THIS, AND GENERALLY ON AID TO POLAND AND HUNGARY, ARE FOR THE STRASBOURG EUROPEAN COUNCIL.

DETAIL

2. MINISTER ASKED HENNEKINNE, MITTERRAND'S DIPLOMATIC ADVISER, HOW THE PRESIDENT WOULD MANAGE THE 18 NOVEMBER DISCUSSION AND WHAT HE HOPED TO GET OUT OF IT.

3. HENNEKINNE SAID THIS WOULD BE AN INFORMAL MEETING. 26 WAS TOO MANY FOR THE SORT OF DISCUSSION MITTERRAND WANTED. THAT WAS WHY FOREIGN MINISTERS WOULD EAT SEPARATELY. THERE WOULD BE 14 ROUND THE TABLE (THE TWELVE HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT PLUS DELORS AND ROCARD). THERE WOULD BE NO AGENDA AND NO FORMAL WRITTEN DECISIONS OR COMMUNIQUE, ALTHOUGH THE PRESS AND THE PUBLIC WANTED 'RESULTS'. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN DIFFICULT TO DRAFT A COMMUNIQUE WHICH STEERED BETWEEN PLATITUDES AND THE DANGERS OF BEING TOO SPECIFIC (EG ON THE GERMAN QUESTION). HENNEKINNE SAID SOME PARTNERS HAD WANTED A COMMUNIQUE, OTHERS NOT.

4. MITTERRAND HAD NOT REVEALED HIS HAND ON HOW HE WOULD PLAY THE DISCUSSION. HENNEKINNE EXPECTED HIM TO HOLD A GENERAL TOUR DE TABLE ON DEVELOPMENTS IN EASTERN EUROPE AND THE GDR. SINCE THE DIVISION OF GERMANY WAS A PRODUCT ALSO OF THE DIVISION OF EUROPE, AND SINCE REINFORCING EUROPEAN CONSTRUCTION WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO ENDING THESE DIVISIONS, MITTERRAND WOULD WANT TO EXPLORE WHAT THE EC COULD CONTRIBUTE TO A SOLUTION OF THE WIDER EUROPEAN DIMENSION.

5. HE WOULD WANT TO LOOK ALSO AT THE QUESTION OF AID TO POLAND AND HUNGARY, THOUGH DECISIONS HERE WERE FOR THE STRASBOURG EUROPEAN

as predicted
of the
war which
Germany
started

COUNCIL, AND AT THE WIDER QUESTION OF THE RELATIONSHIP WHICH SHOULD BE DEVELOPED BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY AND THE GDR. HENNEKINNE CONFIRMED THAT MITTERRAND WOULD WANT TO OUTLINE HIS IDEAS FOR A BANK FOR EASTERN EUROPE (MY TELNO 1516). BUT HE WOULD BE LOOKING ONLY FOR PRELIMINARY REACTIONS : THERE SHOULD BE FURTHER CONSIDERATION IN BRUSSELS WITH A VIEW TO DISCUSSION/DECISION AT THE STRASBOURG EUROPEAN COUNCIL.

6. HENNEKINNE SAID THAT IT MIGHT BE HARD TO KEEP THE DISCUSSION AWAY FROM ENLARGEMENT (EG AUSTRIA): THERE WOULD BE DISCUSSION NO DOUBT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE EC AND EFTA ON THE ONE HAND AND THE EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES ON THE OTHER.

7. MITTERRAND WOULD PROBABLY WANT TO STEER DISCUSSION TOWARDS THE EFFECTS OF CURENT DEVELOPMENTS ON THE POLITICAL AND STRATEGIC EQUILIBRIUM OF EUROPE. THE GERMAN QUESTION, REUNIFICATION AND THE CFE NEGOTIATIONS WERE ALL RELEVANT FACTORS HERE, AS WAS (HENNEKINNE SAID WITH SOME PROMPTING) THE QUESTION OF THE MAINTENANCE OF THE CURRENT SYSTEM OF ALLIANCES. ALL THIS COULD BE DISCUSSED, BEARING IN MIND THAT MUCH OF IT WAS OF DIRECT CONCERN TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS INCLUDING NATO. THERE WOULD BE NO QUESTION OF DRAWING CONCLUSIONS. LLEWELLYN SMITH ASKED WHETHER AND HOW THE FRENCH WOULD BE BRIEFING THE NATO COUNCIL ON THE 18 NOVEMBER MEETING. (UKDEL NATO TELNO 338). HENNEKINNE SAID THAT THEY HAD AN OPEN MIND ABOUT THIS: THE DECISION COULD ONLY BE MADE IN THE LIGHT OF THE 18 NOVEMBER DISCUSSION.

8. LLEWELLYN SMITH ASKED WHETHER THERE WOULD BE ANY STRUCTURED DIVISION OF SUBJECT MATTER BETWEEN HEADS OF GOVERNMENT AND FOREIGN MINISTERS. HENNEKINNE SAID THAT THERE WOULD NOT, THOUGH OBVIOUSLY DUMAS WOULD BE IN A GOOD POSITION TO BRIEF FOREIGN MINISTERS FULLY ON HIS TALKS IN MOSCOW. HIS PRESENCE WITH FOREIGN MINISTERS AND DELORS'S WITH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT WOULD ENSURE THAT BOTH GROUPS GOT AN AUTHORITATIVE ACCOUNT OF THEIR VISIT TO POLAND AND HUNGARY. HE ADDED THAT RUMOURS CIRCULATING THAT FOREIGN MINISTERS WOULD HAVE AN ADDITIONAL MEETING BEFORE DINNER WERE WRONG. DUMAS WOULD ONLY BE GETTING BACK TO PARIS JUST BEFORE DINNER. (WE HAVE HEARD SEPARATELY FROM THE QUAI THAT NEITHER WILL THE FOREIGN MINISTERS HAVE ANY SET AGENDA: THE INTENTION IS TO DISCUSS EASTERN EUROPE, IN PARTICULAR POLAND, HUNGARY, EAST GERMANY AND THE USSR.)

9. HENNEKINNE SAID THERE WAS NO DATE FIXED YET FOR THE MEETING WHICH HAD BEEN AGREED BETWEEN MITTERRAND AND GORBACHEV, NOR WAS IT KNOWN WHETHER THIS WOULD BE IN MOSCOW OR PARIS (NEWSPAPER SPECULATION IS NO MORE PRECISE THAN DECEMBER OR JANUARY) WE

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UNDERSTAND FROM A QUA I CONTACT THAT THE FRENCH HAVE INVITED
PRESIDENT BUSH TO STOP OFF IN PARIS ON HIS WAY TO THE MALTA SUMMIT
BUT THAT IT SEEMS UNLIKELY AT PRESENT THAT BUSH WILL ACCEPT,
DESPITE THE FRENCH PRESIDENCY.

10. FOR COMMENTS SEE MY TWO IFT (THE SECOND NOT TO ALL)

FERGUSSON

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ADDITIONAL

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