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PARIS SUMMIT ON EASTERN EUROPE: FERNANDEZ ORDONEZ VIEWS

SUMMARY

1. FERNANDEZ ORDONEZ CLAIMS PARIS SUMMIT WAS GONZALEZ IDEA. CALLED NOW TO AVOID SIDETRACKING STRASBOURG SUMMIT. GERMAN REUNIFICATION NOT ON THE CARDS YET BUT SPAIN NOT OPPOSED TO IT IN PRINCIPLE. MRS THATCHER ASKED TO TAKE MORE POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARDS EC INTEGRATION.

DETAIL

2. IN AN INTERVIEW CARRIED IN TODAY'S EL PAIS FERNANDEZ ORDONEZ CLAIMED THAT THE IDEA FOR THIS WEEKEND'S SUMMIT IN PARIS TO DISCUSS DEVELOPMENTS IN EASTERN EUROPE CAME INITIALLY FROM FELIPE GONZALEZ. FERNANDEZ ORDONEZ, ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM GONZALEZ, PUT THE SUGGESTION TO A RECEPTIVE DUMAS ON 11 NOVEMBER IN TUNIS AND BY MONDAY MITTERRAND HAD TAKEN STEPS TO SET THE SUMMIT IN TRAIN.

3. FERNANDEZ ORDONEZ SAID THAT THE REASONS FOR CALLING THE SUMMIT NOW WERE:

(A) TO STIMULATE IDEAS ABOUT THE TYPE OF SUPPORT THE EC MIGHT GIVE TO THE RPAID PROCESS ON DEMCORATISATION IN EASTERN EUROPE.

(B) THE AVOID THE STRASBOURG SUMMIT BEING DOMINATED BY THE ISSUE OF EASTERN EUROPE AND, AS A RESULT, PUSHING THE ISSUE OF MONETARY UNION INTO SECOND PLACE.

(C) TO SHOW, ON THE EVE OF THE BUSH/GORBACHEV MEETING, THAT THE EC HAD MUCH TO SAY ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS IN EASTERN EUROPE.

4. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT CLOSER RELATIONS BETWEEN THE FRG AND THE GDR WOULD NOT HARM SPAIN, WHICH WAS TRADITIONALLY A FRIEND OF

a Friendship - part 7

GERMANY. THE ISSUE OF REUNIFICATION WAS NOT ON THE CARDS AT THE MOMENT, AS GENSCHER HAD ALREADY INDICATED, BUT IF, IN THE LONGER TERM, THE PEOPLE OF BOTH STATES SHOWED A DESIRE TO REUNITE THEN IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO PREVENT THEM DOING SO. THE MATTER WOULD NEED TO BE DEALT WITH SENSIBLY WITH GUARANTEES FOR BOTH EUROPE AND THE SOVIET UNION. MEANWHILE THE TWO ALLIANCES, NATO AND THE WARSAW PACT, WERE STABILISING FACTORS. BONN REALISED THIS.

5. ASKED IF HE THOUGHT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT SHARED HIS VIEW THAT DEVELOPMENTS IN EASTERN EUROPE MERITED AN ACCELERATION IN THE PACE OF EC INTEGRATION FERNANDEZ ORDONEZ SAID HE HOPED MRS THATCHER WOULD THINK ABOUT HER POSITION AND ADOPT A MORE POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE CONSTRUCTION OF EUROPE AT THE STRASBOURG SUMMIT. THE ALTERNATIVE TO A STRENGTHENING OF THE COMMUNITY WAS THE RESURGENCE OF A 19TH CENTURY EUROPE WHICH HAD BEEN BOTH UNSTABLE AND A SOURCE OF CONFLICT.

6. FERNANDEZ ORDONEZ BELIEVED THAT THE DEMOCRATISATION PROCESS WOULD SPREAD TO CZECHOSLAVAKIA AND RUMANIA BUT HE DECLINED TO SAY WHETHER THE SAME WOULD HAPPEN IN MARXIST COUNTRIES OUTSIDE EUROPE, SUCH AS CUBA. EVENTS WERE TAKING PLACE WITH SUCH RAPIDITY THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO SAY WHAT WOULD HAPPEN NEXT. LIKE ALL PERIODS OF MAJOR POLITICAL CHANGE THERE WERE OBVIOUS EXPECTATIONS AND RISKS. THE BIGGEST RISK IN THIS CASE WAS POSED BY THE SOVIET UNION'S ECONOMIC CRISIS AND THE IMPATIENCE OF ITS MINORITIES.

ROBERTS

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