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INFO PRIORITY VIENNA, UKREP BRUSSELS, BONN, PARIS, LUXEMBOURG,
INFO PRIORITY EAST BERLIN

PARIS SUMMIT: BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S VIEWS ON EUROPE

SUMMARY

1. BELGIANS SEE PARIS SUMMIT DINNER AS OCCASION FOR WARM WORDS ON DEVELOPMENTS IN EASTERN EUROPE WITHOUT SACRIFICING NEED TO MAINTAIN PACE OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION. FOREIGN MINISTER SPECULATES ABOUT FUTURE EUROPEAN STRUCTURE.

DETAIL

2. EYSKENS HAS FOLLOWED UP HIS INTERVIEW WITH THE AUSTRIAN DER STANDARD (VIENNA TELEGRAM NO 308) WITH AN INTERVIEW IN THE BELGIAN DE STANDAARD ON 17 NOVEMBER. THE MAIN POINTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

I) EYSKENS FAVOURS CREATING A QUOTE CONFEDERATION UNQUOTE OF EUROPE, WITH A CORE OF PRESENT EC AND LOOSER TIES WITH THE OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES INCLUDING THE DEVELOPING DEMOCRACIES IN THE EAST AND EFTA. THE CONFEDERATION WOULD BE BASED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF DEMOCRACY, SOCIAL JUSTICE, FREEDOM AND HUMAN RIGHTS.

II) THE CONFEDERATION WOULD SOLVE THE PROBLEMS OF LINKS BETWEEN THE TWO GERMANY'S: THE FRG WOULD BE WITHIN THE FEDERAL STRUCTURE AND THE GDR WITHIN THE CONFEDERATION. THERE WOULD BE SPECIAL LINKS BETWEEN THE TWO. HE REJECTS THE IDEA OF POSSIBLE GERMAN NEUTRALITY.

III) THE EC TWELVE FORM A POLE OF ATTRACTION FOR THE EAST: INTEGRATION SHOULD THEREFORE CONTINUE AND NOT SLOW DOWN.

IV) BILATERAL ASSISTANCE TO POLAND, HUNGARY ETC WOULD BE BEST COORDINATED IN THE EC FRAMEWORK.

EYSKENS CONCLUDED THAT HE WOULD BE PUTTING FORWARD THESE IDEAS TO THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ON 17 NOVEMBER. HE MENTIONED ALSO HIS FORTHCOMING VISITS TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA NEXT WEEK AND

POSSIBLY TO THE GDR A WEEK LATER.

3. WE HAVE SOUGHT A READ OUT ON EYSKENS' TWO INTERVIEWS FROM HIS CHEF DE CABINET, AND ALSO DISCUSSED THE BELGIAN APPROACH TO THE 18 NOVEMBER SUMMIT IN PARIS WITH THE PRIME MINISTER'S DIPLOMATIC ADVISER. TWO PAPERS ON EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENTS HAVE BEEN PREPARED FOR THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING TOMORROW (17 NOVEMBER). THE FIRST, ON POLAND AND HUNGARY CONCLUDES THAT WHAT POLAND AND HUNGARY NEED MOST FROM THE EC IS AID. BELGIANS PREFER THIS TO BE COORDINATED WITHIN THE G24 RATHER THAN THROUGH UNSYSTEMATISED BILATERAL APPROACHES, REALISTICALLY RECOGNISING THAT ANY BELGIAN CONTRIBUTION ON ITS OWN WOULD BE INSIGNIFICANT.

4. AS REGARDS THE SECOND PAPER, ON A WIDER EUROPE, THE BELGIANS REGARD THE FIRST PRIORITY AS BEING CLOSER LINKS WITH THE EFTANS. THAT SAID, THEY HOPE THE SUMMIT WILL GIVE A CLEAR WELCOME TO THE DEVELOPMENTS IN EASTERN EUROPE PARTICULARLY AS REGARDS A MOVE TO DEMOCRACY. BUT THE DEVELOPMENTS IN EASTERN EUROPE SHOULD NOT BE A BARRIER TO A FASTER PACE OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION. THE SECOND PAPER APPARENTLY HAS ONLY A PASSING REFERENCE TO THE MORE DISTANT FUTURE WHEN QUOTE CONCENTRIC CIRCLES UNQUOTE (AS IN THE EYSKENS AUSTRIAN INTERVIEW) MIGHT BE A POSSIBILITY.

5. REYN (EYSKENS' CHEF DE CABINET) COMMENTED CANDIDLY THAT EYSKENS STILL FAILS TO REMEMBER THAT HE IS FOREIGN MINISTER AND TENDS TO AIR PUBLICLY HIS RATHER ACADEMIC PERSONAL MUSINGS. THUS THE QUOTE CONFEDERAL APPROACH UNQUOTE SET OUT IN TODAY'S INTERVIEW (WHICH HAS ALREADY DISTURBED SOME OF MY COLLEAGUES) REPRESENTS VERY MUCH HIS PERSONAL VIEWS RATHER THAN THOSE OF THE GOVERNMENT. THAT SAID IT IS MOST LIKELY THAT EYSKENS WILL EXPRESS THE SAME VIEWS AT THE FOREIGN MINISTERS' DINNER ON SATURDAY. MARTENS IS LIKELY TO TAKE AN ALTOGETHER MORE PRUDENT LINE WHICH WILL CERTAINLY CALL FOR A STRONG WELCOME TO DEVELOPMENTS IN THE EAST (RECALLING THE HARMEL DOCTRINE) AND EMPHASISE THE NEED FOR FASTER EUROPEAN INTEGRATION AS THE GREAT POLE OF ATTRACTION WITHOUT SPECULATING FURTHER.

O'NEILL