

CONFIDENTIAL

FM EAST BERLIN

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 417

OF 280850Z NOVEMBER 89

INFO IMMEDIATE BONN, BMG BERLIN

INFO PRIORITY MOSCOW, UKDEL NATO, PARIS, WASHINGTON

INFO ROUTINE PRAGUE, WARSAW, BUDAPEST, SOFIA, CICC(G), UKREP BRUSSELS

INFO SAVING BELGRADE, PEKING

MY TELNO 413 : GDR INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS

SUMMARY

1. RENEWED CALLS AT LEIPZIG DEMONSTRATIONS FOR UNITY/ REUNIFICATION. NO PARTY NOW RULES THIS OUT ENTIRELY BUT TIME SCALES VARY GREATLY.

DETAIL

2. OVER 200,000 PEOPLE TURNED OUT ON 27 NOVEMBER TO PRESS DEMANDS FOR REFORM. SIMILAR DEMONSTRATIONS TOOK PLACE IN DRESEDEN, HALLE, COTTBUS, NEU-BRANDENBURG AND SCHWERIN.

3. AS AT LAST WEEK'S DEMONSTRATION (PARA 2 OF MY TELNO 405) THERE WERE AGAIN CALLS FOR REUNIFICATION. ACCORDING TO NEUES DEUTSCHLAND (ND) SUCH CALLS WERE REJECTED BY THE MAJORITY - "ONE PEOPLE - TWO STATES, THAT IS THE REALITY" WAS THE SED'S REPLY. TWO MEMBERS OF CHANCERY WERE IN LEIPZIG LAST NIGHT AND HAVE, HOWEVER, REPORTED THAT IN ADDITION TO ATTACKS ON THE OLD REGIME THE THEME OF UNITY/REUNIFICATION WAS PRESSED STRONGLY. A SIZEABLE PROPORTION OF THE CROWD APPEARED TO BE IN FAVOUR AND A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF THE BANNERS CARRIED MESSAGES SUCH AS -DONT BE AFRAID, REUNIFICATION NOW.

4. THERE HAVE BEEN A SERIES OF STATEMENTS ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF UNITY/REUNIFICATION IN THE LAST FEW DAYS. ON 25 NOVEMBER KRENZ, IN AN INTERVIEW WITH THE FINANCIAL TIMES SAID THAT GERMAN UNITY WAS NOT ON THE AGENDA. IN THE LONGER TERM, HOWEVER, HE THOUGHT THAT THE QUESTION COULD NOT BE RULED OUT DEPENDING ON THE "FRAMEWORK" OF THE COMMON EUROPEAN HOME. ACCORDING TO NEUES DEUTSCHLAND'S ACCOUNT OF THAT INTERVIEW KRENZ DID NOT EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY THAT "THE GDR AND THE FRG COULD MOVE IN THE DIRECTION OF A CONFEDERATION IF, IN THE COMING YEARS, NATO AND THE WARSAW PACT WERE DISBANDED."

5. I ASKED GERLACH YESTERDAY, IN HIS CAPACITY AS DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE, WHAT INTERPRETATION TO PUT ON KRENZ'S WORD. GERLACH SAID THAT FOR THE PRESENT TWO REALITIES EXISTED IN THE GDR. IT WAS A SOCIALIST STATE AND A SOVEREIGN STATE. WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN IN THE FUTURE WOULD DEPEND ON DEVELOPMENTS IN EUROPE. HE DID NOT PERSONNALLY RULE OUT A MORE CLOSELY STRUCTURED RELATIONSHIP SUCH AS CONFEDERATION OR FEDERATION.

COMMENT

6. THE QUESTION OF UNITY/REUNIFICATION HAS IN THE LAST WEEK OR SO BECOME MUCH MORE PROMINENT IN THE GDR. OFFICIAL ATTITUDES TOWARDS IT HAVE MOVED CONSIDERABLY IN A FAIRLY SHORT TIME. FROM HONECKER'S POSITION OF THE INSEPARABILITY OF SOCIALISM AND CAPITALISM (FIRE AND WATER), NONE OF THE OFFICIAL PARTIES NOW RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A MUCH CLOSER RELATIONSHIP WITH THE FRG INVOLVING STRUCTURAL CHANGE ALTHOUGH THIS IS REFERRED TO AS A POSSIBILITY FOR THE DISTANT FUTURE.

7. I JUDGE THIS TO BE AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF PRESSURE FROM THE STREETS. WHILE THE INTELLECTUAL AND CULTURAL LEADERS OF THE REFORM GROUPS IN BERLIN REMAIN CAUTIOUS, IF NOT HOSTILE TO THE IDEA OF UNITY/REUNIFICATION, THE PERCEPTIONS OF THE PEOPLE, PARTICULARLY IN THE INDUSTRIAL TOWNS OF THE SOUTH, HAS DEFINITELY BEEN AFFECTED BY WHAT THEY HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SEE OF THE FRG AND WEST BERLIN SINCE 9 NOVEMBER. THEY ARE BECOMING CONSCIOUS OF THE DECEPTION PRACTISED UPON THEM BY THE PREVIOUS LEADERSHIP ABOUT LIFE IN THE WEST, AND ARE INCREASINGLY AWARE OF THE ENORMOUS GAP IN THE LIVING STANDARDS AS WELL AS POLITICAL FREEDOMS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. THE EDITOR OF ND, TO WHOM I PUT THIS QUESTION YESTERDAY, ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE WAS THE BEGINNINGS OF A NEW MOOD ON THE STREETS. THE SED WOULD HAVE TO FACE THIS AND WIN THE PEOPLE BACK TO THEIR VERSION OF SOCIALISM BY BECOMING A THOROUGHLY REFORMED PARTY, ADOPTING COHERENT REFORMING POLICIES.

8. I WILL SEND A FURTHER ROUND UP ON POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS HERE BEFORE THE NATO MINISTERIAL MEETING ON 4 DECEMBER.

BROOMFIELD

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