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TELNO 1581

OF 291744Z NOVEMBER 89

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BONN TELNO 1154 : THE GERMAN QUESTION: KOHL PROPOSALS : FRENCH VIEWS

SUMMARY

1. CAUTION : DUMAS REMINDS OF INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION : EC THE KEY.

DETAIL

2. IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ON 29 NOVEMBER DUMAS SAID THAT KOHL'S DECLARATION HAD BEEN MADE UNILATERALLY: IT WAS NOT A PLAN BUT A PROPOSAL, WHICH DESERVED CLOSE ATTENTION, QUOTE MATTER FOR REFLECTION RATHER THAN FOR PRECIPITATION UNQUOTE. DUMAS REPEATED THE FRENCH VIEW THAT THE GERMAN DESIRE FOR UNITY WAS FUNDAMENTALLY LEGITIMATE BUT UNDERLINED THAT THE GERMAN PROBLEM HAD AN INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION AND THAT ONE COULD NOT DISPENSE WITH THE AGREEMENT OF THE STATES CONCERNED, THE FRG AND GDR AND THE FOUR POWERS.

3. DUMAS EMPHASISED THE EC ROLE: QUOTE THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT ATTACH FUNDAMENTAL IMPORTANCE TO THE CHANCELLOR'S DECLARATION WHEREBY THE RECOVERY OF GERMAN UNITY SHOULD BE CONSIDERED IN THE CONTEXT OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION. I HOPE THAT THE FRG, CONFOUNDING THE SCEPTICS, WILL SHOW THAT THERE IS NO CHOICE TO BE MADE BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY AND THE GDR UNQUOTE. DUMAS SAID THAT HE WAS CONVINCED THAT AT THE STRASBOURG EUROPEAN COUNCIL THE FRG WOULD PROVIDE STRIKING PROOF OF ITS UNDOUBTED AND MUCH AFFIRMED WILLINGNESS TO ADVANCE TOWARDS EUROPEAN UNITY.

COMMENT

4. DUMAS'S COMMENT ON THE CHOICE BETWEEN COMMUNITY AND GDR REFLECTS CONCERNS EXPRESSED BY OTHERS IN THE POLITICAL WORLD HERE, INCLUDING FABIUS, FOLLOWING KOHL'S STATEMENT IN THE BUNDESTAG.

FERGUSSON

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