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TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 2004

OF 300957Z NOVEMBER 89

INFO IMMEDIATE BONN, BMG BERLIN, EAST BERLIN, WASHINGTON, PARIS
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OUR TELNO 1996: THE GERMAN QUESTION - SOVIET COMMENT
SUMMARY

1. KOHL'S SPEECH NOW REPORTED CURSORILY BY IZVESTIA. MFA SPOKESMAN
REACTS ADVERSELY. HOSTILE TASS COMMENTARY

DETAIL

2. IZVESTIYA OF 29 NOVEMBER REPORTED CHANCELLOR KOHL'S SPEECH IN THE
BUNDESTAG IN THREE PARAGRAPHS. THE REPORT BEGAN BY SAYING HE
SUPPORTED THE IDEA OF A 'TREATY-BASED COMMUNITY' PUT FORWARD BY
MODROW, ENVISAGING A RAFT OF BILATERAL AGREEMENTS ON CONCRETE
COOPERATION. THEN THE PAPER REPORTED THE CHANCELLOR'S OPINION THAT
THIS COULD LEAD TO A CONFEDERATIVE STRUCTURE WITH THE ULTIMATE AIM OF
A SINGLE FEDERATION ON THE MODEL OF THE FRG. KOHL IS REPORTED AS
SAYING THAT THE 'ARCHITECTURE OF GERMANY' IS A KEY PART OF THE
ARCHITECTURE OF EUROPE. 'THE FINAL GOAL WHICH KOHL PUT BEFORE THE
INHABITANTS OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC WAS TO CREATE A STATE OF PEACE IN
WHICH THE GERMAN PEOPLE IN BOTH STATES CAN IN CONDITIONS OF FREEDOM
AND SELF-DETERMINATION, REALISE ITS RIGHT TO UNITY.'

3. IZVESTIYA GIVES EQUAL PROMINENCE TO MORE CAUTIOUS REACITONS TO
THE SPEECH, INCLUDING THE SPD'S WARNING ABOUT 'PATRONISING' THE
GDR. IT SAYS THAT KOHL'S SPEECH HAS INSPIRED SOME OF THE CDU/CSU TO
SHORT-SIGHTED PROPOSALS SUCH AS MOVING THE BUNDESTAG TO BERLIN. THE
CORRESPONDENT ALSO POINTS OUT THAT KOHL'S PROPOSALS WERE HIS OWN AND
SPECULATES THAT THE REACTION OF HIS ALLIES IS LIKELY TO BE
RESTRAINED.

MFA SPOKESMAN

4. AT THE MFA BRIEFING ON 29 NOVEMBER THE SPOKESMAN, GREMITSKIKH,
SAID 'THE SO-CALLED PHASED PLAN OFFERED BY WEST GERMAN CHANCELLOR
KOHL YESTERDAY, WAS AN ATTEMPT TO MAKE THE ACHIEVEMENT OF
'REUNIFICATION' A SUBJECT OF PRACTICAL POLITICS (SIC) AND EVEN TO
MAKE IT A MAJOR ITEM ON THE ALL-EUROPEAN AGENDA.' HE ADDED THAT
'THE PLAN DOES NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE INTERESTS AND OPINIONS OF
OTHER EUROPEAN STATES, ABOVE ALL THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC. ONE
CAN OBSERVE ATTEMPTS TO CHANNEL THE RENEWAL PROCESSES IN THE GDR IN A

NATIONALISTIC DIRECTION.'" GREMITSKIKH SAID THAT '"THESE ACTIONS ARE AT VARIANCE WITH THE HELSINKI PRINCIPLES.'" HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT '"THE SENSE OF REALISM WILL NOT BE LOST COMPLETELY IN BONN.'" "

5. TASS IN ENGLISH FOR ABROAD PUBLISHED A HOSTILE COMMENTARY BY YURI KORNILOV, ONE OF THEIR WRITERS ON EAST-WEST ISSUES. HE CONTRASTED THE INTERNAL INITIATIVES OF THE GDR WHICH '"MEET THE INTEREST OF EUROPE'" AND '"ARE IN KEEPING WITH THE HELSINKI PROCESS AND THE SITUATION WHEN A PLAN IS DEvised IN A WESTERN EUROPEAN CAPITAL TO MODIFY THE EXISTING REALITIES WITHOUT THE CONSENT AND PARTICIPATION OF NEIGHBOURS AND PARTNERS, IE ALL PARTIES TO THE HELSINKI PROCESS.'" "

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