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STRASSBOURG FOR SECRETARY OF STATES PARTY

THE SOVIET UNION AND THE GERMAN QUESTION

SUMMARY

1. INDICATIONS OF SOVIET ATTITUDES FROM THE WEST GERMANS AND THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR IN EAST BERLIN.

DETAIL

2. SUDHOFF (PUS EQUIVALENT AT THE AUSWAERTIGES AMT) TELLS ME THAT THE RUSSIANS WERE VERY FIRM AGAINST REUNIFICATION THROUGHOUT GENSCHER'S VISIT TO MOSCOW. THE GERMANS SAW THE TASS PIECE WHICH WAS LESS NEGATIVE ABOUT REUNIFICATION AS THE EXCEPTION: SHEVARDNADZE'S FIRMNESS AGAINST REUNIFICATION WAS THE RULE.

3. MY FRENCH COLLEAGUE SAW THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR IN EAST BERLIN ON 5 DECEMBER. BOIDEVAIX DESCRIBED KOCHEMASOV TO ME AS VERY CONCERNED AND DEPRESSED ABOUT EVENTS IN THE GDR BUT NOT REALLY EXCITED. KOCHEMASOV HAD SAID THAT EVENTS IN THE GDR COULD CREATE A DANGEROUS SITUATION AND HAD HARPED ON THE NEED FOR STABILITY. KOCHEMASOV HAD INSISTED THAT THE STATUS OF BERLIN MUST NOT BE CHANGED. BOIDEVAIX PROMISED US A FULL READ-OUT IN BERLIN. I AM LIKELY TO SEE KOCHEMASOV ON 19 DECEMBER, IN LINE WITH THE PRIME MINISTER'S RECENT MESSAGE TO GORBACHEV.

4. SUDHOFF CONFIRMED TO ME THAT THE FEDERAL AUTHORITIES STILL KNEW OF NO SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS INVOLVING SOVIET FORCES IN THE GDR. SOVIET MILITARY PERSONNEL WERE STILL STAYING LARGELY IN BARRACKS. SUDHOFF COMMENTED THAT INCIDENTS INVOLVING SOVIET FORCES WOULD BE A DISASTER FOR EVERYONE.

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