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TELNO 2048
OF 071345Z DECEMBER 89
AND TO IMMEDIATE UKDEL STRASBOURG
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STRASBOURG FOR SECRETARY OF STATE'S PARTY
SOVIET UNION/France = PRESIDENT MITTERRAND'S VISIT TO KIEV
SUMMARY

1. SOVIET PRESS ACCOUNTS OF DISCUSSION BETWEEN PRESIDENTS GORBACHEV AND MITTERRAND. SUBJECTS COVERED INCLUDED EC/EAST EUROPE, GERMANY AND LEBANON

DETAIL

2. PRESIDENTS GORBACHEV AND MITTERRAND FLEW TO KIEV FOR A BRIEF WORKING MEETING ON 6 DECEMBER. MITTERRAND WILL NO DOUBT BRIEF HIS PARTNERS AT STRASBOURG. THE FOLLOWING COVERS THE MAIN POINTS, AS REPORTED BY THE SOVIET MEDIA.

3. THE REPORTS DESCRIBE THE CONVERSATION AS TOUCHING ON THE CONCEPTUAL PROBLEMS ARISING FROM THE RAPIDLY CHANGING SITUATION IN THE WORLD.

EC/EAST EUROPE

4. ACCORDING TO TASS, MITTERRAND INFORMED GORBACHEV OF THE EC MEMBER STATES INTENTIONS TO DEEPEN CONTACTS AND TIES BETWEEN THE COUNTRIES OF THE TWO HALVES OF EUROPE, AND OF THEIR "PLANS TO SET UP NEW INSTITUTIONS, IN PARTICULAR A BANK, WHICH WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO THIS PROCESS." GORBACHEV "SHOWED GREAT INTEREST IN THESE IDEAS."

5. BOTH SIDES WERE CONVINCED OF THE NEED TO GIVE PRIORITY TO PAN-EUROPEAN COOPERATION ON THE BASIS OF THE PRINCIPLES SET OUT IN THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT. AT THEIR JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE, BOTH BACKED THE IDEA OF HELSINKI II, BUT GORBACHEV ADDRESSED THIS MORE SPECIFICALLY AS BEING A POSSIBLE CONTRIBUTION TO THE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF THE CFE.

GERMANY

6. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, GORBACHEV SAID THAT THE ANSWERS TO RESOLVING THE PROBLEMS OF THE TWO GERMAN STATES WOULD HAVE TO EMERGE FROM THE PAN-EUROPEAN PROCESS. HE BELIEVED THAT "REUNIFICATION IS

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NOT A QUESTION FOR NOW. IT MIGHT CREATE A SITUATION WHICH COULD ADVERSELY AFFECT THE PAN-EUROPEAN PROCESS AND RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO GERMAN STATES."

7. MITTERRAND SAID THAT THE QUESTION COULD ONLY BE DECIDED IN A DEMOCRATIC AND PEACEFUL WAY. "NOT ONE STATE IN EUROPE CAN AFFORD TO TAKE ANY ACTIONS WITHOUT CONSIDERING THE BALANCE IN EUROPE AND PRESENT-DAY REALITIES." HE ALSO THOUGHT, SAID TASS, THAT THE QUESTION OF FRONTIERS SHOULD NOT BE RAISED AGAIN.

LEBANON

8. THE TWO LEADERS ALSO EXPRESSED THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE DRAFT CHARTER ON NATIONAL UNITY FOR THE LEBANON. GORBACHEV SAID THAT HRAWI HAD SENT HIM A MESSAGE ASKING HIM TO RAISE THE SITUATION IN LEBANON WITH MITTERRAND. GORBAHCEV STRESSED SOVIET SUPPORT FOR THE PRESERVATION OF LEBANESE UNITY AND SYMPATHY FOR THE LEBANESE PEOPLE. HE SAID THERE WAS A REGULAR FRANCO-SOVIET DIALOGUE ON WAYS TO RESOLVE THE CONFLICT AND MUCH IDENTITY OF VIEW.

9. MITTERRAND SAID IT WAS NECESSARY TO RECOGNISE THE AUTHORITY AND COMPETENCE OF PRESIDENT HRAWI

BRAITHWAITE

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