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THE GERMAN QUESTION : DUMAS STATEMENT

SUMMARY

1. CAREFUL STATEMENT ON NEED FOR MEASURED APPROACH TO GERMAN SELF-DETERMINATION. THE DEFINITIVE CHARACTER OF THE ODER-NEISSE LINE SHOULD BE AFFIRMED WITHOUT RESERVATIONS.

DETAIL

2. DUMAS MADE A CAREFUL STATEMENT ON THE GERMAN QUESTION IN A NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEBATE ON 12 DECEMBER. (TEXT FAXED TO WED.) HE AVOIDED THE WORD REUNIFICATION. HE SAID THAT A DURABLE SOLUTION TO THE QUESTION REQUIRED RESPECT FOR TWO INDISSOCIABLE PRINCIPLES:

(A) SELF-DETERMINATION: QUOTE THE RIGHT OF THE GERMANS, THOSE OF THE GDR AND THOSE OF THE FRG, TO CHOOSE THEIR FUTURE IN ALL FREEDOM UNQUOTE

(B) PEACEFUL MEANS: QUOTE THIS CHOICE MUST BE ACCEPTED BY THE OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY THE NEAREST. LIBERTY OF CHOICE, IMPRESCRIPTIBLE THOUGH IT BE, CANNOT IN ITS EXERCISE BE CONSIDERED AS AN ABSOLUTE PRINCIPLE WHICH WOULD IMPOSE ITSELF ON THE OTHERS IN THE NAME OF A RECOVERED POWER, AT THE RISK OF BEING PERCEIVED BY SOME AS THE RETURN OF PAST DANGERS UNQUOTE

THE STRASBOURG COUNCIL HAD UNDERLINED THE TWELVE'S WISH TO STRENGTHEN THE STATE OF PEACE IN EUROPE AND TO PLACE THE EVOLUTION OF THE GERMAN QUESTION WITHIN THE PROCESS OF EUROPEAN RAPPROCHEMENT.

3. DUMAS SAID THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE WAR THE GERMAN RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION MIGHT CEASE TO BE THEORETICAL AND BECOME REAL, SO LONG AS IT DID NOT IMPEDE THE MOVEMENT TOWARDS LIBERTY, PEACE AND SOLIDARITY. ONE COULD UNDERSTAND THE IMPATIENCE AND ARDOUR OF THOSE WHO HAD LIVED FOR NEARLY 50 YEARS IN THE HOPE OF COMING TOGETHER AGAIN. BUT TAKING SHORT CUTS (BRULER LES ETAPES) WOULD INVOLVE ILL-CONSIDERED RISKS FOR EUROPE. ALL SHOULD RECOGNIZE THE FORMAL ACT OF SELF-DETERMINATION AS A STEP MADE POSSIBLE AT A GIVEN MOMENT BY

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THE PROGRESS REALIZED IN EUROPE AND CAPABLE OF INCLUDING EVOLVING SOLUTIONS IN HARMONY WITH THE FUTURE OF THE CO-OPERATION AMONG ALL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.

4. DUMAS WARNED AGAINST OBSCURING CERTAIN REALITIES: THE EXISTENCE OF TWO GERMAN STATES, IN DIFFERENT ALLIANCES, OF INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS, OF THE PRINCIPLES FREELY AGREED BY ALL AT HELSINKI (INCLUDING RESPECT FOR TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND EXISTING FRONTIERS). QUOTE FOR FRANCE THERE IS MORE: THE DEFINITIVE I.E. INTANGIBLE CHARACTER OF POLAND'S WESTERN FRONTIER MUST BE AFFIRMED WITHOUT RESERVATION UNQUOTE.

5. DUMAS HOPED THAT THE SPECIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO GERMAN STATES WOULD DEVELOP IN THE NAME OF A SOLIDARITY TO WHICH THE WHOLE EC WOULD CONTRIBUTE.

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