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FM EAST BERLIN
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 468

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OF 150855Z DECEMBER 89
INFO IMMEDIATE UKDEL NATO, BONN, BMG BERLIN
INFO PRIORITY WASHINGTON, MOSCOW
INFO ROUTINE PARIS, UKREP BRUSSELS, PRAGUE, BUDAPEST, CICC(G)
INFO SAVING SOFIA, BELGRADE, BUCHAREST, PEKING

MY TELNO 462 : FRG/GDR RELATIONS

SUMMARY

1. BRIEFING ON BACKGROUD TO KOHL'S VISIT. FRG RECOGNITION OF THE VOLATILITY OF THE SITUATION DURING THE VISIT IN DRESDEN, AND THEREAFTER WHEN WEST-EAST TRAVEL STARTS ON 1 JANUARY (OR BEFORE). INDICATIONS OF WILLINGNESS TO GIVE MORE ECONOMIC HELP TO PREVENT A COLLAPSE ENDANGERING POLITICAL REFORM.

DETAIL

2. ON 14 DECEMBER BERTELE (FRG PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE) GAVE AN EC MEETING A PREVIEW OF KOHL'S VISIT TO DRESDEN ON 19/20 DECEMBER.

3. BERTELE REFERRED FIRST TO A SHARP INCREASE IN REGIONAL COOPERATION. INTER ALIA PRESIDENTS ENGHOLM (SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN) AND SPAETH KBADEN-WURTEMBERG) HAD TALKED RECENTLY TO THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN ROSTOCK AND DRESDEN ABOUT COOPERATION IN A NUMBER OF AREAS. BOTH SPAETH AND ENGHOLM ENVISAGED OPENING "LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE" OFFICES IN DRESDEN/ROSTOCK. ROSTOCK WAS CONSIDERING RECIPROCATING IN KEIL. THE BADEN-WURTEMBERG OFFICE MIGHT OPEN IN DRESDEN IN JANUARY.

4. BERTELE HAD BEEN WITH SPAETH IN DRESDEN ON 10 DECEMBER FOR A MEETING WITH MODROW. SPAETH HAD SUBSEQUENTLY GONE ON A PRIVATE WALKABOUT AND VISITED THE NIKOLAI CHURCH. WHEN HE CAME OUT A CROWD OF ABOUT 6000 HAD GATHERED AND CHANTED "DEUTSCHLAND, EINIG VATERLAND" (GERMANY, UNITED FATHERLAND), WHEN THEY SAW SPAETH.

5. ABOUT 1000 JOURNALISTS WOULD ACCOMPANY KOHL TO DRESDEN ON 19/20 DECEMBER. BERTELE WAS OBVIOUSLY WORRIED ABOUT THE EFFECT OF KOHL PLUS THE JOURNALISTS ON THE LOCAL POPULATION. IT WOULD BE A DELICATE PERIOD. BUT FEDERAL POLITICIANS WERE RESPONDING DIRECTLY TO MODROW'S APPEALS FOR CALM AND PATIENCE SHOULD BE SEEN IN THAT

LIGHT.

6. BERTELE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT ANOTHER "'DELICATE MOMENT'" WOULD COME WHEN WEST-EAST TRAVEL BECAME FREE OF VISAS AND MINIMUM EXCHANGE. THE TIMING WAS A MATTER FOR THE GDR. ON A PERSONAL BASIS HE HAD TOLD MODROW THAT 1 JANUARY MIGHT NOT BE THE BEST DATE. AT MIDNIGHT ON 31 DECEMBER HORDES OF WEST GERMANS/WEST BERLINERS WOULD CROSS INTO THE GDR IN FULL FLOW OF THEIR NEW YEAR PARTIES. IT WOULD BE 9 NOVEMBER IN REVERSE. A WEEKDAY BEFORE CHRISTMASS MIGHT BE BETTER.

7. MODROW HAD WARNED ALL HIS FRG INTERLOCUTORS ABOUT THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE SITUATION IN THE GDR. HE HAD ON ONE OCCASION REFERRED TO CIVIL WAR AND TO THE PERSECUTION OF STATE SECURITY OFFICIALS AND THEIR FAMILIES. HE HAD ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE INFLUX OF FRG SHOPPERS AFTER 1 JANUARY BUYING UP SUBSIDISED FOOD GOODS. THE INDUSTRIAL SITUATION WAS ALSO DIFFICULT. MODROW HOPED FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FROM KOHL. CREDITS WOULD DO NO GOOD.

8. MODROW APPEARED TO WANT COMPENSATION FOR THE 300,000 WELL TRAINED WORKERS WHO HAD LEFT THIS YEAR FOR THE FRG. BERTELE COMMENTED THAT FRG INDUSTRY MINISTER HAUSSMANN, WHO HAD MET DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER LUFT ON 13 DECEMBER, HAD HINTED TO HIM (BERTELE) THAT THE FRG GOVERNMENT MIGHT DECIDE TO GUARANTEE CAPITAL INVESTMENT BEFORE GDR LEGISLATION WAS READY, IN ORDER TO GET THE MAJOR INVESTMENT MONEY FLOWING EARLIER.

COMMENT

9. REALISATION QUITE HOW PRECARIOUS MODROW'S POSITION IS HAS ABVIOUSLY SUNK IN ON THE FRG SIDE. (MODROW IS IN FACT USING THE ROUND TABLE FORUM TO TAKE OR ENDORSE IMPORTANT DECISIONS LIKE SETTING THE DATE OF THE ELECTIONS. IT IS MORE A "'LEGITIMATE'" BODY THAN THE VOLKSKAMMER OR THE GOVERNMENT). WHETHER WEST GERMAN APPEALS FOR CALM WILL BE HEEDDED BY THE DRESDEN POPULATION REMAINS TO BE SEEN. THERE MAY BE SOME INDICATION AT THE LEIPZIG DEMONSTRATION ON 18 DECEMBER WHERE THE CHURCH ORGANISERS HAVE CALLED FOR A FINAL SILENT CANDLELIT PROCESSION IN MEMORY OF THE VICTIMS OF STALINISM IN THE GDR, WHETHER THE DEMONSTRATION SHOULD CONTINUE WOULD BE DECIDED BY THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE POLITICAL SITUATION.

BROOMFIELD

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