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MIPT : GDR INTERNAL SITUATION

## SUMMARY

1. ROUND TABLE/GOVERNMENT TENSION WAS INEVITABLE AFTER PRE-CHRISTMAS EUPHORIA AND AS ELECTION CAMPAIGN STARTS. BUT BENEATH THE POLITICAL DRAMA OF WALK-OUTS, ETC, LIES MORE WORRYING REALITY THAT NEITHER GOVERNMENT NOR OPPOSITION HAVE PEOPLE OR POLICIES WHICH OFFER POPULATION HOPEFUL PERSPECTIVE. RESULT : PROBABLE INCREASED EMIGRATION AND INCREASED SUPPORT FOR UNIFICATION.

## DETAIL

2. MIPT DESCRIBES EVENTS AT THE ROUND TABLE AND LEIPZIG ON 8 JANUARY. NEITHER WAS UNEXPECTED. THE SED-PDS DOMINATED GOVERNMENT HAVE FUELLED SUSPICION AND DISTRUST BY THEIR COMMITMENT TO BRIDGING PAYMENTS TO FORMER OFFICIALS, THEIR INSISTENCE ON LAYING PLANS TO RECREATE AN INTERNAL SECURITY SERVICE, BY OVERPLAYING NEO-FASCISM BY FAILING TO IMPLEMENT PROMISES OF PRACTICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE NEW PARTIES AND BY TALKING ABOUT MARKET BASED ECONOMIC REFORMS, BUT NOT ACTING ON THEM ETC. THE OPPOSITION, AND THE SED-PDS' OSTENSIBLE AND TEMPORARY COALITION PARTIES SUCH AS THE CDU HAVE REACTED STRONGLY.

3. THE OPPOSITION'S MAIN AIMS ARE TO PREVENT PREEMPTIVE DECISIONS BEING TAKEN BY THE SED BEFORE THE ELECTIONS WITHOUT THEIR AGREEMENT AND IN PARTICULAR TO PREVENT A SECURITY SERVICE, INCLUDING OLD STASI MEMBERS BEING SET UP. THEY ALSO WANT EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY IN THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN, IE., OFFICES, THEIR OWN NEWSPAPERS, ACCESS TO THE MEDIA, ETC. THEY HAVE TURNED TO THE WEST GERMANS FOR HELP AND ARE ANGRY THAT THE NEW DRAFT ELECTORAL LAW AIMS TO FORBID THIS. POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE FRG ARE ALSO COMPLICATING THE ISSUE HERE BY USING THESE ISSUES FOR THEIR OWN DOMESTIC PURPOSES.

4. WE DISCUSSED THE SITUATION WITH BOHLEY (NEW FORUM) AND STOLPE (SENIOR LAY EVANGELICAL CHURCH REPRESENTATIVE) ON 9 JANUARY. BOTH WERE GLOOMY.

5. BOHLEY SAID THAT DISTRUST OF THE SED-PDS WAS DEEP AND WIDESPREAD. IF THE OPPOSITION GROUPS DEMANDS WERE NOT MET, THEN NEW FORUM WOULD HAVE TO CONSIDER CALLING FOR STRIKES. SHE WAS CONFIDENT THAT SUCH CALLS WOULD BE FOLLOWED. BOHLEY ALSO SAID THAT EMIGRATION COULD INCREASE AGAIN SOON.

6. STOLPE TOLD ME HE WAS MORE CONCERNED ABOUT THE DETERIORATING ECONOMIC SITUATION. THE GOVERNMENT (MODROW AND LUFT) STILL WANTED TO DIRECT THE ECONOMY. THE RESULT OF THIS AND THEIR POLITICAL BLUNDERS HAD BEEN TO INCREASE THE PRESSURES FOR EMIGRATION. HE THOUGHT A NEW EMIGRATION WAVE WAS BUILDING UP. (FRG MISSION SAY FIGURE IS 1800 OR SO A DAY AT PRESENT). THIS AND THE PARTY POLITICAL INTERESTS OF THE MAIN PROTAGENISTS IN THE FRG AS WELL AS THE FLEDGLING GROUPS HERE, POSED A REAL THREAT TO STABILITY IN THE GDR. THE EFFECTS WERE ALREADY VISIBLE IN LEIPZIG AND OTHER CITIES WHERE THE CALLS FOR UNITY WERE LOUD AND CLEAR.

7. STOLPE THOUGHT THE ROUND TABLE COULD BE SAVED. BUT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE TO MAKE FURTHER CONCESSIONS TO THE GROUPS AND INVOLVE THEM ON A BASIS OF GREATER EQUALITY IN DECISION MAKING. THE PROBLEM WAS THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES OFFERED NO REAL PERSPECTIVES TO THE PEOPLE. NEITHER DID THE OPPOSITION GROUPS.

8. THE BASIC FRAGILITY OF THE GDR IN THE TRANSITIONAL PHASE TO THE MAY ELECTIONS HAS BEEN HIGHLIGHTED BY RECENT EVENTS. THE GOVERNMENT LACKS LEGITIMACY AND ITS RECENT POLICIES SEEM INSPIRED BY ITS SED PAST RATHER THAN ITS DEMOCRATIC (PDS) HEAD (MODROW, BERGHOFER, ETC) MODROW WILL HAVE TO MAKE AN IMPORTANT INTERVENTION AT THE VOLKSKAMMER MEETING IN 11/12 JANUARY IF HE AND HIS PARTY ARE NOT TO BE IDENTIFIED AS 'STASI SUPPORTERS' WANTING TO RETURN TO THE OLD WAYS. AND HE WILL HAVE TO TRY AND SAVE THE ROUND TABLE PROCESS ON 15 JANUARY.

9. ON THE OPPOSITION SIDE THERE IS NO COMMANDING FIGURE LIKE HAVEL OR WALES AROUND WHICH THEY CAN RALLY. THEIR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC INEXPERIENCE IS CLEAR. THE PEOPLE'S HOPES ARE THEREFORE CONCENTRATING ON THE FRG. IN STOLPE'S PHRASE THEY ARE EITHER SOLVING THEIR DILEMMA INDIVIDUALLY BY EMIGRATING, OR COLLECTIVELY BY CALLING FOR UNIFICATION. THE DAMAGE TO THE ECONOMY IS

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INCREASING.

10. THE POSITION IS MADE MORE COMPLEX BY THE CLOSE INTER-REACTION BETWEEN THE POLITICAL PARTIES IN WEST GERMANY AND THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN THE GDR WITH THE WEST GERMAN MEDIA AND NEWSPAPERS ACTING AS ELECTION PLATFORMS FOR THE OPPOSITION, AND THE PARTY POLITICAL LEADERS RAISING THE GDR ISSUE TO A HIGH LEVEL.

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PAGE 3  
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