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FM BONN

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 020

OF 091824Z JANUARY 90

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MT

MY TELNO 018 : TALK WITH TELTSCHIK ABOUT THE GERMAN QUESTION

SUMMARY

1. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WORRIED ABOUT A RISE IN EMIGRATION FROM GDR AND ABOUT DETERMINATION OF SED TO EXPLOIT ITS ADVANTAGES UNFAIRLY IN GDR ELECTIONS.

DETAIL

2. I CALLED ON TELTSCHIK, THE FEDERAL CHANCELLOR'S DIPLOMATIC ADVISER, ON 9 JANUARY AND ASKED WHETHER KOHL AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE ABOUT THE GERMAN QUESTION ON 10 JANUARY WOULD ANNOUNCE ANY NEW POLICY. TELTSCHIK SAID THAT KOHL WOULD STICK TO HIS TEN POINT DESIGN AND WOULD NOT ANNOUNCE NEW POLICY. KOHL WOULD EXPRESS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S GREAT CONCERN ABOUT THE CURRENT BEHAVIOUR OF THE GOVERNMENT AND SED IN THE GDR. THEY WERE OBVIOUSLY INTENDING TO EXPLOIT TO THE FULL THEIR ADVANTAGES, SUCH AS UNLIMITED FUNDS AND A MONOPOLY OF THE MEDIA, IN THE RUN UP TO THE GDR ELECTIONS ON 6 MAY. THE GDR GOVERNMENT WAS ALSO SHOWING NO SIGN OF REALISING THAT IT MUST CONVINCE THE PEOPLE THAT PROSPECTS IN THE GDR WOULD IMPROVE, SO THAT EMIGRATION WOULD DIE DOWN. THE GDR GOVERNMENT SEEMED TO BE MORE INTERESTED IN RE-ESTABLISHING A SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE SERVICE THAN IN ECONOMIC REFORM. IN THE LATTER CONNECTION, THE GDR'S POSITION THAT FOREIGN COMPANIES SHOULD NOT HAVE MORE THAN 49 PER CENT SHARES IN JOINT VENTURE COMPANIES WAS UNACCEPTABLE TO THE WEST GERMAN INDUSTRY WHICH THEREFORE WAS DELAYING DECISIONS ON POSSIBLE INVESTMENT IN THE GDR. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND, EMIGRATION FROM THE GDR TO THE FRG HAD RISEN THIS MONTH TO 2,000 PER DAY, COMPARED WITH 1,600 PER DAY IN DECEMBER. IF THINGS WENT ON LIKE THIS, THE SITUATION IN THE GDR COULD BECOME MUCH MORE UNSTABLE.

3. LIKE GENSCHER (MY TUR), TELTSCHIK SAID THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WOULD NEGOTIATE WITH THE GDR GOVERNMENT ABOUT PRACTICAL MATTERS. SEITERS WOULD VISIT THE GDR FOR THAT PURPOSE THIS MONTH AND MODROW WAS EXPECTED IN BONN IN EARLY FEBRUARY. BUT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND PARTIES WOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO AVOID

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LEGITIMISING THE GDR GOVERNMENT AND WOULD SEEK TO INCREASE THE
STANDING OF OPPOSITION GROUPS BY TALKS WITH THEM.

COMMENT

4. TELTSCHIK'S REMARKS ABOUT THE CURRENT BEHAVIOUR OF THE GDR
GOVERNMENT AND ITS UNFAIR ADVANTAGES IN THE COMING ELECTIONS ECHO
THOSE BY GENSCHER REPORTED IN TUR AND REFLECT A MAJOR PREOCCUPATION
IN POLITICS AND THE MEDIA HERE AT PRESENT. LAMBSDORFF HAS GONE SO
FAR AS TO CALL FOR CANCELLATION OF MODROW'S VISIT NEXT MONTH.

MALLABY

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