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FOREIGN AFFAIRS COUNCIL: 5 FEBRUARY: LUNCH: GERMANY

SUMMARY

1. OVER LUNCH GENSCHER GAVE A LENGTHY ACCOUNT OF THE SITUATION IN EAST GERMANY, EMPHASISING THE COLLAPSE OF EXISTING INSTITUTIONS AND THE STRENGTH OF THE CALL FOR 'UNIFICATION' (NOT 'REUNIFICATION'). HE SAID HE WOULD STARTING A CLOSE AND CONFIDENTIAL DIALOGUE WITH MEMBER STATES, ESPECIALLY FRANCE AND THE UK. DELORS AND A NUMBER OF OTHERS CALLED FOR FASTER PROGRESS IN BUILDING THE COMMUNITY.

DETAIL

2. GENSCHER (FRG) SAID 60,000 PEOPLE HAD LEFT EAST GERMANY IN JANUARY AND EMIGRATION WAS BUILDING UP. THE GOVERNMENT WERE FOCUSING ON THE NEW ELECTION DATE BUT NO LONGER HAD ANY AUTHORITY. THE SED WAS COLLAPSING AND HAD NO HOPE OF GETTING 20 PER CENT OF THE VOTE. THE SPD WOULD BE THE STRONGEST PARTY BUT WOULD NOT GET 50 PER CENT. KOHL WAS TRYING TO PUT TOGETHER A CENTRE UNION. GERLACH AND THE OLD LEADERSHIP OF THE LIBERALS WOULD HAVE TO GO. THERE WERE A HUGE NUMBER OF PARTIES WHICH WOULD NOT REACH THE 5 PER CENT THRESHOLD. MOST PEOPLE NOW EXPECTED UNIFICATION AND THIS WAS WHY MODROW HAD CHANGED HIS POSITION. MANY EAST GERMAN ARMY OFFICES WERE APPLYING TO JOIN THE WEST GERMAN ARMED FORCES. ECONOMIC UNION POSED ENORMOUS PROBLEMS, WITH HUGE DISPARITIES IN SALARIES. MODROW HAD NOW BACK-TRACKED ON HIS PROPOSAL FOR NEUTRALITY AND HAD EXPRESSED INTEREST IN GENSCHER'S IDEAS.

3. GENSCHER RECALLED THE THREE CONDITIONS LAID DOWN BY BAKER FOR THE CALLING OF A CSCE SUMMIT. THE BASIS FOR A JOINT GERMAN APPROACH ON CFE WOULD BE DISCUSSED WITH THE NEW EAST GERMAN GOVERNMENT AFTER THE ELECTIONS. GENSCHER CONCLUDED BY URGING COMMUNITY COLLEAGUES NOT TO DISPLAY MORE ANXIETY ABOUT THE SITUATION THAN THE RUSSIANS. HE ADDED THAT THE FRG WOULD HAVE TO SPEND A GREAT DEAL OF MONEY ON BAILING OUT THE EAST.

4. IN RESPONDING TO GENSCHER YOU REPORTED ON YOUR MEETING WITH BAKER. THERE WAS A LESSON FOR THE FUTURE IN THE HANDLING OF THE DECISIONS TAKEN AT DUBLIN. THE US HAD FELT THAT THEY HAD NOT BEEN PROPERLY CONSULTED. THE GERMAN PROBLEM CALLED FOR A STABLE PROCESS LEADING TO SOLUTION.

5. DUMAS (FRANCE) SAID THREE DYNAMIC PROCESSES WERE INVOLVED: THE MOVE TOWARDS UNIFICATION IN THE GDR, PREPARATION OF THE CSCE SUMMIT AND THE RUN-UP TO THE IGC. THE LATTER WAS ON THE SLOWEST TRACK AND NEEDED TO BE ACCELERATED. FERNANDEZ ORDONEZ (SPAIN), DE MICHELIS (ITALY) AND VAN DEN BROEK (NETHERLANDS) ALL EMPHASISED THE NEED TO STRENGTHEN THE COMMUNITY.

6. DELORS (COMMISSION) SAID HIS AIM IN PROPOSING SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR EAST GERMANY HAD BEEN TO BUILD CONFIDENCE. IT WAS NOW CLEAR THAT THE ENTRY OF EAST GERMANY TO THE COMMUNITY WOULD TAKE PLACE VIA UNIFICATION, NOT SEPARATE MEMBERSHIP. THE STRENGTHENING OF THE COMMUNITY SHOULD INVOLVE: DEFINING THE AIMS OF EPC TO MAKE IT MORE POSITIVE AND LESS REACTIVE, DEFINING SUBSIDIARITY, PREPARING FOR THE CSCE, AND STRENGTHENING THE INSTITUTIONS SO THAT BETTER DECISIONS WOULD BE TAKEN UNDER BETTER DEMOCRATIC CONTROL. HE WAS SETTING UP A GROUP TO STUDY ALL ASPECTS OF THE GERMAN PROBLEM. THE COMMUNITY'S ARCHITECTURE WAS NOT SOLID ENOUGH AND THE PACE OF BUILDING NOT FAST ENOUGH.

7. GENSCHER SAID WE SHOULD TALK ABOUT 'UNIFICATION' NOT 'REUNIFICATION'. BOTH PARLIAMENTS SHOULD STATE THAT THEY HAD NO TERRITORIAL CLAIMS. HE EMPHASISED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT ON FRONTIERS IN THIS CONTEXT. HE WOULD BE STARTING A CLOSE AND CONFIDENTIAL DIALOGUE WITH ALL MEMBER STATES, ESPECIALLY THE UK AND FRANCE. WE SHOULD FORGET ABOUT MODROW'S IDEA OF A CONTRACTUAL TREATY. HE CONCLUDED BY UNDERLINING THAT THE FRG WANTED TO BE TIED INTO EUROPEAN INTEGRATION.

8. COLLINS (PRESIDENCY) SAID DISCUSSION ON THE FRAMEWORK OF EC/US RELATIONS SHOULD BE RESUMED AT THE EPC MINISTERIAL IN DUBLIN.

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