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Roma Review

Ligachev's view

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OUR TELNO 194: CPSU PLENUM = GERMANY AND EUROPE
SUMMARY

1. LIGACHEV RAISES BOGEY OF UNITED GERMANY. SHEVARDNADZE REPORTEDLY
TAKES A MORE BALANCED VIEW.

DETAIL

2. AT THE END OF HIS SPEECH AT THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM, LIGACHEV RAISED THE QUESTION OF DEVELOPMENTS IN EUROPE. HE SAID "IN THE KALEIDOSCOPE OF WHAT IS GOING ON THERE, IT SEEMS TO ME THAT WE SHOULD NOT IGNORE AN APPROACHING DANGER. I MEAN THE ARTIFICIAL ACCELERATION (FORSIROVANIE) OF THE REUNIFICATION OF GERMANY, WHICH IS TANTAMOUNT TO THE ABSORPTION OF THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC. AND IT WOULD BE UNFORGIVABLE SHORTSIGHTEDNESS, AND AN ERROR, NOT TO SEE THAT A GERMANY WITH HUGE ECONOMIC AND MILITARY POTENTIAL HAS LOOMED UP ON THE WORLD'S HORIZON. THERE MUST BE REAL EFFORTS BY THE WORLD COMMUNITY, BY ALL THE WORLD'S DEMOCRATIC FORCES TO PREVENT IN GOOD TIME THE QUESTION OF BEING PUT ABOUT THE REVISION OF POST-WAR FRONTIERS, AND LET US BE BLUNT, NOT TO ALLOW A (NEW) PRE-WAR MUNICH. I THINK THAT THE TIME HAS COME TO RECOGNISE THIS NEW DANGER OF OUR TIMES AND TO PROCLAIM IT TO THE PARTY AND PEOPLE, BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE. I THINK THAT THIS PROBLEM DERSEVES TO BE DEBATED IN PARLIAMENT."

3. THE TEXT OF SHEVARDNADZE'S SPEECH HAS YET TO BE PUBLISHED. ACCORDING TO A TASS SUMMARY HE REJECTED ASSERTIONS THAT PERESTROIKA WAS TO BLAME FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF THE POLITICAL STRUCTURE OF EUROPE. HE SAID "IT HAS BEEN DESTROYED BY THE WILL OF THE PEOPLES WHO WISHED NO LONGER TO TOLERATE COERCION." IN THE NEW CONDITIONS, EASTERN EUROPEAN STATES CONTINUED TO DEVELOP GOOD-NEIGHBOURLY RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION, REMAINED IN THE WARSAW PACT AND WERE ECONOMIC PARTNERS. HOWEVER, SHEVARDNADZE WARNED THAT THE SPECTRE OF (GERMAN) REVANCHISM WAS HAUNTING EUROPE, ALONGSIDE IDEAS OF UNITY AND UNIFICATION. THE QUEST FOR JUSTICE WAS MIXED WITH AND TAINTED BY THE QUEST FOR REVENGE. THE NEW STATUS OF THE GERMAN QUESTION HAD ENCOURAGED DANGEROUS HOPES THAT FRONTIERS COULD BE REVISED.

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