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FM BONNTO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 756

OF 201826Z JUNE 90

INFO ROUTINE EAST BERLIN, MOSCOW, PARIS, WASHINGTON, BM BERLIN
INFO ROUTINE MODUK, UKREP BRUSSELS, UKDEL OECD, UKDEL NATO
INFO ROUTINE THE HAGUE, DUBLIN, CICC GERMANY

SIC

MODSH PASS TO MODUK AND CICC GERMANY

MY TELNO 728: GERMAN UNIFICATION

SUMMARY

1. GROWING EXPECTATION THAT ALL-GERMAN ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD ON EITHER 2 OR 9 DECEMBER. ALL MAJOR PARTIES NOW HAVE THEIR OWN PLANS FOR PARTY UNIFICATION IN PLACE.

DETAIL

2. THE CDU/CSU AND THE FDP AGREED AT A MEETING CHAIRED BY KOHL ON 19 JUNE THAT ALL-GERMAN ELECTIONS SHOULD BE HELD ON EITHER 2 OR 9 DECEMBER. THE SPD STILL FAVOUR ALL-GERMAN ELECTIONS NEXT YEAR, BUT THEIR PARTY CHAIRMAN, VOGEL, HAS COMMENTED THAT THEY ARE READY FOR ALL-GERMAN ELECTIONS AT ANY TIME ONCE THE TWO PLUS FOUR NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED.

3. ALL THE MAJOR PARTIES HERE ARE PRESSING AHEAD ACCORDINGLY WITH MOVES TO UNITE WITH THEIR GDR EQUIVALENTS. WE HAVE ALREADY REPORTED BY LETTER THE CDU'S PLANS TO UNITE WITH THE GDR CDU AT THEIR CONFERENCE IN HAMBURG ON 1 OCTOBER. THE SPD HAVE NOW ANNOUNCED THAT THEY WILL HOLD THEIR 'UNITY CONFERENCE' IN BERLIN IN LATE SEPTEMBER, AND THE FDP ARE PLANNING TO HAVE THEIRS, ALSO IN BERLIN, ON 25 AND 26 AUGUST. THE MAIN PARTIES SHOULD THEREFORE ALL BE IN A POSITION TO FIGHT A DECEMBER ALL-GERMAN ELECTION. THE GREENS, HOWEVER, ARE STILL CONSIDERING THEIR POSITION.

4. IT IS NOT YET CLEAR HOW THE ELECTIONS WILL BE ORGANISED. EAST AND WEST GERMAN CDU SPOKESMEN ARE SUGGESTING THAT THERE MIGHT BE SEPARATE ELECTIONS, WITH FULL UNITY BETWEEN THE TWO GERMAN STATES BEING ANNOUNCED AS SOON AS THE ELECTION IS OVER. THIS WOULD, AS THEY POINT OUT, ALLOW FOR SEPARATE ELECTORAL LAWS IN THE TWO GERMAN

STATES, WHICH WOULD MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO HAVE ONLY A 3 PER CENT HURDLE IN THE GDR (AS AGAINST 5 PER CENT IN THE FRG). THIS WOULD GIVE THE EAST GERMAN DSU, AND THE CITIZENS GROUPS, A CHANCE FOR REPRESENTATION. BUT SENIOR WEST GERMAN SPD FIGURES HAVE MADE CLEAR THAT THEY FAVOUR A JOINT ELECTION UNDER A SINGLE ELECTORAL LAW, AS DO THE FDP. ONE FDP GOVERNMENT MINISTER HAS ALREADY DENOUNCED THE IDEA OF A SEPARATE ELECTORAL LAW FOR THE GDR AS A 'RESCUE PLAN FOR THE DSU'.

5. THE SPD MEANWHILE REMAIN AT ODDS WITH THEMSELVES. LAFONTAINE HAS GONE ON HOLIDAY, BUT IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT HE HOPES IN ADDITION TO BEING CHANCELLOR CANDIDATE TO TAKE OVER VOGEL'S JOB AS PARTY CHAIRMAN IN THE AUTUMN. WHILE HE HAS SOME SUPPORT FROM THE RADICAL WING OF THE SPD, MANY OTHERS IN THE PARTY SEE VOGEL AS AN IMPORTANT FACTOR FOR STABILITY, WHO DESERVES A REWARD FOR HIS ROLE IN HOLDING THE PARTY TOGETHER IN RECENT MONTHS. THE MOST RECENT OPINION POLLS SHOW A SHARP FALL IN LAFONTAINE'S POPULARITY, PRESUMABLY AS A RESULT OF HIS VERY CONFRONTATIONAL APPROACH TO THE STATE TREATY AND THE DIVISIONS WHICH THIS EXPOSED WITHIN HIS OWN PARTY. HIS STOCK COULD HOWEVER RISE LATER WHEN THE ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES LIKELY TO FOLLOW GEMU START TO BECOME OBVIOUS.

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