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TELNO 847

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INFO IMMEDIATE MOSCOW

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MY TELNO 837 : KOHL'S VISIT TO MOSCOW

SUMMARY

1. TELTSCHIK EXPANDS ON DESCRIPTION OF KOHL'S INTENTIONS IN TUR. FORESEES NO NEW MOVE BY KOHL ON ECONOMIC HELP FOR USSR. DISCLOSES KOHL'S VIEW ON FUTURE MANPOWER LIMIT ON BUNDESWEHR BUT DOES NOT EXPECT KOHL TO REVEAL THIS TO GORBACHEV.

DETAIL

2. TELTSCHIK BRIEFED THE US AND FRENCH AMBASSADORS AND ME ON 12 JULY ABOUT KOHL'S INTENTIONS IN HIS IMMINENT VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION. TELTSCHIK SAID THAT KOHL FELT HIMSELF TO BE IN AN EXCELLENT POSITION FOR TALKING TO GORBACHEV, AFTER THE DEMONSTRATION OF GERMANY'S COMMITMENT TO THE WEST AT THE SUMMITS OF THE EC, NATO AND G7. KOHL HAD THREE PURPOSES IN TALKS WITH GORBACHEV.

3. THE FIRST WAS TO CONDUCT 'A MID-TERM REVIEW' OF THE SITUATION REGARDING THE EXTERNAL ASPECTS OF UNIFICATION. KOHL DID NOT EXPECT A BREAKTHROUGH IN SOVIET POLICY ON GERMAN MEMBERSHIP OF NATO OR THE LIFTING OF QRR. KOHL WOULD SET OUT IN DETAIL THE POINTS WHICH SHOULD INTEREST GORBACHEV IN NATO'S LONDON DECLARATION. WOERNER (WHO HAD VISITED KOHL EARLIER ON 12 JULY) WOULD HAVE GONE THROUGH THE DECLARATION WITH THE RUSSIANS BEFOREHAND. KOHL WOULD ALSO EXPLAIN TO GORBACHEV THE RESULTS OF THE EC AND G7 SUMMITS ON THE QUESTION OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH THE USSR. HE WOULD POINT TO VARIOUS RECENT ACTIONS BY THE FRG WHICH WERE HELPFUL TO THE USSR, NOTABLY THE RECENT GUARANTEED CREDIT, THE PROVISION THROUGH THE GDR GOVERNMENT OF DM 1.25 BILLION TO HELP PAY FOR SOVIET FORCES IN EAST GERMANY AND THE FRG'S TOLERANCE OF THE EXCHANGE OF 180 MILLION EASTMARKS BY THE SOVIET FORCES IN EAST GERMANY ILLEGALLY AT THE RATE OF 2 TO 1. KOHL WOULD REITERATE TO GORBACHEV GERMANY'S WILLINGNESS TO SET A MANPOWER LIMIT ON THE BUNDESWEHR.

4. TELTSCHIK SAID THAT KOHL WOULD NOT REVEAL TO GORBACHEV WHAT LIMIT HE FORESAW FOR THE BUNDESWEHR, UNLESS, UNEXPECTEDLY, THIS WAS THE ONE STEP NEEDED TO GET GORBACHEV TO DECLARE ACCEPTANCE OF GERMAN MEMBERSHIP OF NATO. TELTSCHIK SAID IN CONFIDENCE THAT KOHL'S INTENTION WAS THAT THE UPPER LIMIT ON THE BUNDESWEHR SHOULD BE 395,000 INCLUDING 25,000 NAVY. THE NVA, WHICH HAD DIMINISHED TO 93,000, SHOULD BE DISBANDED AS COMPLETELY AS POSSIBLE.

So much for political co-operation
5. TELTSCHIK SAID THAT KOHL'S SECOND PURPOSE IN MOSCOW WOULD BE TO DISCUSS IN SPECIFIC TERMS WITH GORBACHEV THE IDEA OF A FUTURE TREATY ON GERMAN-SOVIET RELATIONS. THE RUSSIANS HAD MADE CLEAR THAT THIS WAS IMPORTANT TO THEM, NOT LEAST IN THE CONTEXT OF 2 PLUS 4. THE GERMAN IDEA WAS A COMPREHENSIVE TREATY BASED ON THE FRG-SOVIET MOSCOW TREATY AND THE JOINT DECLARATION ISSUED WHEN GORBACHEV VISITED THE FRG IN 1989, AND BRINGING IN OTHER BILATERAL AGREEMENTS. THERE WOULD BE NO NEGOTIATION AT THIS STAGE BUT KOHL HOPED TO ESTABLISH THE ELEMENTS FOR A FUTURE TREATY.

6. KOHL'S THIRD PURPOSE WOULD BE TO DISCUSS ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH THE SOVIET UNION. HE WOULD DESCRIBE WHAT MOVES BY THE SOVIET UNION WOULD OPEN THE WAY FOR NEW COOPERATION, IN LINE WITH THE OUTCOME OF THE EC AND G7 SUMMITS. THERE WOULD BE NO NEW OFFERS OF CREDIT ON THIS OCCASION. THERE MIGHT BE DISCUSSION OF INCREASED SOVIET OIL AND GAS SUPPLIES TO EAST GERMANY, BUT ONLY IN A PRELIMINARY WAY.

COMMENT

7. TELTSCHIK'S EXPECTATION EVIDENTLY IS THAT THE VISIT WILL BE A REASONABLE SUCCESS, WITHOUT A BREAKTHROUGH. HE INTERPRETS GORBACHEV'S INVITATION TO KOHL TO VISIT STAVROPOL, HIS HOME TOWN, AS A SIGN THAT THE RUSSIANS WILL ADOPT A FRIENDLY STYLE AND WILL NOT DECLARE VERY NEGATIVE POSITIONS ON ASPECTS OF 2 PLUS 4.

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