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FM BONN

TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 951

OF 071803Z AUGUST 90

INFO IMMEDIATE BM BERLIN, EAST BERLIN, MOSCOW, UKDEL VIENNA, PARIS
INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON, UKDEL NATO, UKREP BRUSSELS, CICC(G)
INFO IMMEDIATE MODUK, ACTOR
INFO ROUTINE CSCE POSTS
INFO SAVING JSLO BONN, HMC GS IN THE FRG

MODSH PASS CICC(G), MODUK

MY TELNO 943: GERMAN UNIFICATION

SUMMARY

1. THE TWO SPDS ARE NOW PRESSING FOR EVEN EARLIER UNIFICATION. TIMETABLES SHORTENING DAILY. BONN SEES POSSIBILITY OF DECISION ON UNIFICATION TOMORROW CONTAINING A LATER DATE FOR IMPLEMENTATION. DOMESTIC CONSIDERATIONS ON TIMING UPPERMOST.

DETAIL

2. AT A JOINT MEETING LAST NIGHT (6 AUGUST) THE WEST AND EAST GERMAN SPDS CALLED FOR UNIFICATION ON 15 SEPTEMBER, NOTING THAT BY THEN THE 2 PLUS 4 PROCESS SHOULD HAVE BEEN COMPLETED. THEY FIRMLY REJECTED THE IDEA OF 14 OCTOBER ELECTIONS AS PROPOSED BY DE MAIZIERE, ALTHOUGH SOME SPD REPRESENTATIVES HAVE SINCE SUGGESTED THAT ELECTIONS COULD BE BROUGHT FORWARD TO THE LIMIT ALLOWED WITHOUT CHANGING THE BASIC LAW, IE 18 NOVEMBER.

3. LAFONTAINE AND VOGEL REAFFIRMED THEIR OBJECTIONS TO CHANGING THE BASIC LAW TO ALLOW 14 OCTOBER ELECTIONS WHEN THEY SAW KOHL AND OTHER GOVERNMENT COALITION LEADERS TODAY (7 AUGUST). KOHL NOTED AFTERWARDS THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO AGREEMENT, EXCEPT ON THE NEED FOR THE GDR TO ACCEDE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. LAFONTAINE ACCUSED THE GOVERNMENT OF BEING EVASIVE. THE SPD COULD NOT ACCEPT THE ARGUMENTS FOR EARLY ELECTIONS.

4. DESPITE THIS FAILURE TO AGREE KOHL ANNOUNCED THIS AFTERNOON THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NEVERTHELESS TABLE A BUNDESTAG MOTION ON 9 AUGUST, CALLING FOR 14 OCTOBER ELECTIONS. BUT THIS HAS NO CHANCE NOW OF SUCCESS. LAMBSDORFF, FDP CHAIRMAN, HAS ALREADY SAID THAT ACCESSION SHOULD GO AHEAD QUICKLY, WHATEVER HAPPENS ABOUT THE

ELECTION DATE, AND AN FDP SPOKESMAN HAS TOLD US PRIVATELY THAT THE FDP NOW SEE THE 14 OCTOBER ELECTION IDEA AS DEAD.

5. ALL ATTENTION HERE IS NOW FOCUSSED ON THE VOLKSKAMMER DEBATE IN EAST BERLIN TOMORROW (8 AUGUST), WHERE, TO JUDGE BY WEST GERMAN PRESS REPORTS, THE SPD, DSU AND OTHERS ARE ALL LIKELY TO BE CALLING FOR AN IMMEDIATE DECISION IN FAVOUR OF ACCESSION, TO COME INTO EFFECT AS SOON AS THE UNIFICATION TREATY HAS BEEN RATIFIED, PROBABLY IN MID-SEPTEMBER.

6. WE CANNOT SAY FROM HERE WHAT ARE THE CHANCES OF THIS PARTICULAR PROPOSAL BEING PASSED. A LOT OF CDU VOTES WOULD BE NEEDED, AND THESE MAY NOT BE FORTHCOMING. BUT WHATEVER HAPPENS TOMORROW THE GENERAL EXPECTATION IN BONN IS THAT UNIFICATION IS COMING SOON, AND CERTAINLY BEFORE DECEMBER.

COMMENT

7. THE SCENARIO IN PARA 5: AN EARLY DECISION ON THE PRINCIPLE OF UNIFICATION IMPLEMENTED SOMEWHAT LATER (AFTER PASSAGE OF THE UNIFICATION TREATY AND THE MOSCOW MINISTERIAL TWO PLUS FOUR) LOOKS QUITE PROBABLE. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE EFFECT OF THIS LATEST ACCELERATION IN OPINION ABROAD: GENSCHER IS REPORTED AS CONSIDERING WHETHER IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO PRESENT THE RESULTS OF THE TWO PLUS FOUR TO CSCE FOREIGN MINISTERS IN NEW YORK ON 1-2 OCTOBER, RATHER THAN TO THE CSCE SUMMIT IN NOVEMBER, AS A WAY OF REDUCING THE EXTENT TO WHICH CSCE STATES SEEMED TO BE IGNORED. BUT THIS IDEA WAS BASED ON THE 14 OCTOBER TIMETABLE WHICH NOW LOOKS DEAD. GENSCHER'S BILATERAL WITH SHEVARDNADZE LATER THIS MONTH WILL PRESUMABLY BE THE MOMENT WHEN IT BECOMES CLEAR WHETHER THE RUSSIANS ARE WILLING TO BRING FORWARD FROM DECEMBER THE TERMINATION/SUSPENSION OF FOUR POWER RIGHTS.

8. WITH THE US AND FRENCH AMBASSADORS I AM CALLING ON SEITERS (FEDERAL CHANCELLERY MINISTER) ON 9 AUGUST TO GET HIS VIEWS ON THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS, EXPECIALLY EXTERNAL ASPECTS.

NEVILLE-JONES

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