

RESTRICTED
FM EAST BERLIN
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 496
OF 200950Z AUGUST 90
INFO IMMEDIATE BONN, BM BERLIN
INFO PRIORITY WASHINGTON, PARIS, MOSCOW, UKDEL NATO
INFO PRIORITY UKREP BRUSSELS, DTI

MY TELNO 491 : GDR GOVERNMENT CRISIS

SUMMARY

1. SPD LEAVE GDR COALITION. DE MAIZIERE SAYS HE WILL CARRY ON REGARDLESS WITH THE UNITY TREATY. SPD SAY THEY STILL WANT A UNITY TREATY BUT THE CURRENT DRAFT IS UNACCEPTABLE.

DETAIL

2. THE SPD PARLIAMENTARY FRACTION DECIDED ON 19 AUGUST TO LEAVE THE GDR COALITION. THERE WAS A BIG MAJORITY FOR LEAVING BUT THE LEADER OF THE PARLIAMENTARY PARTY SCHROEDER AND SEVERAL OTHER SPD ELDER STATESMEN VOTED AGAINST OR ABSTAINED. ALL SPD MINISTERS AND PARLIAMENTARY STATE SECRETARIES ARE TO RESIGN TODAY. (THIS WOULD INCLUDE BOTH MECKEL AND MISSELWITZ FROM THE MFA - IT IS NOT YET CLEAR WHO WILL REPRESENT THE GDR IN THE 2+4 ON 12 SEPTEMBER. MECKEL HAS LEFT STATE SECRETARY DOMKE (CDU) TEMPORARILY IN CHARGE OF THE MFA, PENDING DECISIONS FROM DE MAIZIERE).

3. SPD CHAIRMAN THIERSE TOLD THE PRESS HIS PARLIAMENTARY PARTY WAS UNITED ON THE NEED FOR A UNITY TREATY WITH THE FRG BUT THE PRESENT DRAFT WAS NOT ACCEPTABLE AND THE SPD DID NOT WANT A UNITY TREATY 'AT ANY PRICE'.

4. DE MAIZIERE IN A TV INTERVIEW AFTER THE SPD DECISION SAID HE WOULD PRESS ON WITH NEGOTIATIONS OVER THE UNITY TREATY (HE IS HIMSELF ON RECORD AS SAYING THAT CONSIDERABLE IMPROVEMENTS NEED TO BE NEGOTIATED). THE SPD WOULD THEN HAVE TO DECIDE WHETHER IT WAS PREPARED TO VOTE AGAINST THIS AND OTHER MEASURES NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE GERMAN UNITY ON SATISFACTORY TERMS.

5. THE VOLKSKAMMER MEETS ON 21 AUGUST FOR A SECOND ATTEMPT AT PASSING THE ELECTORAL LAW. IT FAILED TO SECURE THE NECESSARY TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY ON 8 AUGUST DUE TO THE ABSENCE OF MP'S ON HOLIDAY. THE SPD WILL PRESUMABLY VOTE IN FAVOUR, AS THEY DID EARLIER IN THE MONTH.

COMMENT

6. TROUBLE OVER THE UNITY TREATY WAS ALWAYS LIKELY. BUT FOR THE GDR COALITION TO FALL APART ON THE EVE OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH BONN CAN HARDLY HELP THE GDR'S INTERESTS. A GOOD HARD ROUND WITH BONN MIGHT HAVE BEEN EXPECTED FIRST. A FEW SENIOR FIGURES IN THE SPD WERE ALL FOR CARRYING ON AND MIGHT HAVE SAVED THE COALITION. THE JOKER IN THE PACK, IT NOW APPEARS, WAS THE FINANCE MINISTER ROMBERG FELT UNABLE AS A MATTER OF CONSCIENCE TO MODIFY HIS OUTSPOKEN VIEWS ON THE FUTURE FINANCING OF THE GDR. HIS DEPARTURE WAS THE FINAL STRAW FOR THE SPD RANK AND FILE WHO HAVE BEEN UNEASY FROM THE START ABOUT THEIR PARTY'S ROLE IN THE COALITION.

7. WHAT HAPPENS ABOUT THE UNITY TREATY AND ACCESSION TO THE FRG WILL PRESUMABLY DEPEND ON THE NEGOTIATIONS THIS WEEK IN BONN. THE CHANCES OF ACCESSION BEFORE 14 OCTOBER HAVE OBVIOUSLY INCREASED, BUT EARLIER ACCESSION IS STILL NOT A FOREGONE CONCLUSION.

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