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FM WASHINGTON 190025Z NOV 82

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 3754 OF 18 NOVEMBER

INFO PRIORITY OTTAWA, PARIS, BONN, ROME, TOKYO AND UKREP BRUSSELS

PARIS TELEGRAM NO 1021 : 1983 ECONOMIC SUMMIT

1. IT LOOKS AS THOUGH THERE MAY BE STILL CHOPPIER WATERS AHEAD ON THE DATES FOR THE 1983 ECONOMIC SUMMIT. THE CANADIAN EMBASSY HERE HAVE TOLD US IN CONFIDENCE THAT TRUDEAU DISCUSSED THE QUESTION WITH MITTERRAND AND KOHL DURING HIS VISITS TO PARIS AND BONN LAST WEEK. MITTERRAND HAD TOLD HIM THAT HE HAD NOT DECIDED YET WHETHER TO ATTEND THE WILLIAMSBURG SUMMIT OR NOT. HE WAS ANGRY BECAUSE HE FELT THAT THE AMERICANS HAD TREATED HIM CAVALIERLY BY ANNOUNCING THAT THE SUMMIT HAD BEEN SCHEDULED FOR 28-30 MAY, WHEN HE HAD MADE IT CLEAR THAT ANYTHING BEFORE 1 JULY WOULD GIVE HIM DIFFICULTIES. CHEYSSON HAD TOLD TRUDEAU THAT HE WAS WORRIED THAT MITTERRAND MIGHT BE WORKING HIMSELF INTO A POSITION FROM WHICH IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO ATTEND. HE HAD SUGGESTED TO TRUDEAU THAT ONE WAY OUT MIGHT BE TO REVERT TO THE BRITISH IDEA OF AN EARLIER SUMMIT MEETING ON THE GROUNDS THAT ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES AND THE CHANGE IN SOVIET LEADERSHIP NOW JUSTIFIED ADVANCING THE DATE.
2. IN BONN, TRUDEAU LEARNED THAT MITTERRAND HAD TOLD BOTH KOHL AND SCHMIDT THAT HE HAD DECIDED DEFINITELY NOT TO ATTEND THE WILLIAMSBURG SUMMIT ON THE DATES PROPOSED. THE GERMANS WERE IN A TIZZY ABOUT THIS, AS THEY DID NOT WANT TO HAVE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN SUPPORTING THE FRENCH AND ATTENDING THE SUMMIT. KOHL HAD THEREFORE THOUGHT CHEYSSON'S IDEA MIGHT BE WORTH STUDYING.
3. ON TRUDEAU'S RETURN TO OTTAWA, THE CANADIAN AMBASSADOR HERE WAS INSTRUCTED TO GO IN AND EXPLORE WITH SHULTZ THE IDEA OF A SUMMIT MEETING EARLY IN THE NEW YEAR. HE WAS NOT ABLE TO SEE SHULTZ BUT DISCUSSED THE POINT WITH ALLEN WALLIS, UNDER SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT, WHO HAS BEEN APPOINTED PRESIDENT REAGAN'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR ECONOMIC SUMMITS. WALLIS HAD CONFINED HIMSELF TO SAYING THAT IT WAS AN INTERESTING IDEA. HE DID NOT GIVE GOTLIEB ANY ENCOURAGEMENT TO THINK THAT THE AMERICANS WOULD WANT TO PURSUE IT. IT WAS LEFT THAT THE QUESTION MIGHT COME UP IN DISCUSSION BETWEEN CHEYSSON AND SHULTZ WHEN THEY NEXT MET (PRESUMABLY IN PARIS).
4. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAVE GIVEN THE IDEA A LITTLE FURTHER THOUGHT SINCE THEN AND ARE DISINCLINED TO PURSUE IT, NOT LEAST BECAUSE IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES THE WHITE HOUSE WILL NOT BE IN A MOOD TO MAKE THE SLIGHTEST MOVEMENT TO ACCOMMODATE MITTERRAND. BUT QUITE APART FROM THAT, THEY WOULD BE

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AFRAID THAT THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF A SNAP SUMMIT WOULD GIVE RISE TO EXAGGERATED EXPECTATIONS ABOUT WHAT IT WOULD ACHIEVE. MOREOVER, IF IT WAS TO AVOID GETTING TANGLED UP WITH THE GERMAN ELECTIONS, IT WOULD HAVE TO BE IN FEBRUARY AT THE LATEST. THIS WOULD GIVE ALMOST NO TIME FOR PREPARATION. WITH ALL THESE FACTORS IN MIND, THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAD NOT PUT THE IDEA TO THE WHITE HOUSE.

5. THE CANADIAN EMBASSY HERE HAD NO AUTHORITY FROM OTTAWA TO DISCUSS THIS WITH US. NOR HAD THE STATE DEPARTMENT MENTIONED IT TO US UNTIL WE HAD CHECKED OUT AMERICAN REACTIONS WITH WALLIS'S OFFICE. IT SEEMS UNLIKELY AT PRESENT THAT THE IDEA OF ADVANCING THE DATES IS GOING TO MAKE MUCH PROGRESS. BUT NOR DO THE AMERICANS HAVE ANY OTHER IDEAS FOR HOW TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM WHICH THEIR ANNOUNCEMENT OF 23 OCTOBER HAS CREATED. IT THEREFORE SEEMS THAT THE STORM SIGNAL HOISTED IN PARIS TELEGRAM NO 937 IS NOW AMPLY CONFIRMED.

ADVANCE TO SIR R. ARMSTRONG.

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