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FM PARIS 071700Z MAY 85

TO PRIORITY F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 385 OF 7 MAY

INFO WASHINGTON, BONN, ROME, UKREP BRUSSELS

INFO SAVING TOKYO, OTTAWA, UKDEL NATO, MOSCOW, ATHENS, BRUSSELS,
COPENHAGEN, DUBLIN, THE HAGUE, LUXEMBURG.

MY TELNO 376 AND 377 TO ALL: BONN SUMMIT: FURTHER FRENCH REACTIONS
SUMMARY

1. THERE IS STILL NO SINGLE DOMINANT THEME IN FRENCH REACTIONS. BUT
THE IMPLICATIONS OF WHAT HAPPENED IN BONN FOR EUROPE AND FOR
FRANCO-GERMAN RELATIONS ARE ATTRACTING INCREASING ATTENTION. KOHL
AND MITTERRAND ARE TO MEET ON 28 MAY.

DETAIL

2. MME CRESSON, TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTRY, IS QUOTED IN TODAY'S
PRESS AS CRITICISING THE ABANDONMENT OF FRANCE BY EUROPEAN PARTNERS,
WHO HAD FORGOTTEN THE AGREED COMMUNITY TEXT ON A NEW GATT ROUND EVEN
BEFORE TALKS HAD STARTED IN BONN. THIS WAS BAD FOR EUROPE. THE MAIN
DOSSIERS FOR THE NEW ROUND, AGRICULTURE, SERVICES AND HIGH
TECHNOLOGY, HAD TO BE NEGOTIATED SIMULTANEOUSLY RATHER THAN STARTING
WITH AGRICULTURE, WHICH COULD LEAD TO THE DISMANTLING OF THE CAP. IN
CONTRAST, ATTALI, THE PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL ASSISTANT AND SUMMIT
SHERPA, PLAYED DOWN IN RADIO COMMENTS THE DIVISIONS BETWEEN EUROPEAN
PARTNERS. THE COMMUNITY'S ABILITY TO REDISCOVER ITS UNITY COULD BE
DEMONSTRATED ON ISSUES VITAL FOR ITS FUTURE, SUCH AS FRANCE'S EUREKA
PROPOSAL. ATTALI STRESSED THE THREAT TO THE CAP FROM A NEW GATT
ROUND, BUT NOTED THAT FRANCE WOULD ALSO HAVE MUCH TO GAIN AS A MAJOR
TRADING POWER, NOTABLY IN SERVICES. HE ASSERTED THAT FRANCE WAS NOT
A PROTECTIONIST COUNTRY.

3. IN AN EDITORIAL COMMENTARY ON 7 MAY, LA TRIBUNE DE L'ECONOMIE SAW
IT AS VALUABLE THAT THE DEEP DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE EUROPEANS ON
SUCH DECISIVE ISSUES FOR THE FUTURE AS AGRICULTURE, SERVICES AND
HIGH TECHNOLOGY HAD COME OUT INTO THE OPEN. A CHOICE NOW HAD TO BE
MADE BETWEEN GENUINE EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT AND A FREE-TRADE ZONE
DOOMED TO BREAK UP SOONER OR LATER.

4. TODAY'S LE MONDE CARRIES A LONG PIECE FROM BONN ON REACTIONS
THERE. THE TONE VARIES FROM HARSH TO PLAINTIVE. THE INTRODUCTORY
PASSAGE REFERS TO THE ATMOSPHERE OF CRISIS OVERHANGING FRANCO-GERMAN
RELATIONS. NOTING THAT KOHL AND MITTERRAND ARE TO MEET ON 28 MAY IN
THE FRG TO TRY TO MEND THEIR FENCES, THE AUTHOR COMMENTS THAT THE
DEEP ANNOYANCE WITH MITTERRAND IN THE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE HAS SO FAR
BEEN KEPT OUT OF PUBLIC COMMENT. THERE ARE SAID TO BE MANY WHO
ATTRIBUTE THE CHANCELLOR'S ATTITUDE TO GROSS POLITICAL NAIVETY. HE
WAS PROFOUNDLY TOUCHED BY BITBURG, BUT HE ALSO HAS A DEBT TO
MITTERRAND FOR THE VERDUN HANDSHAKE. HOWEVER IF MITTERRAND'S VIEWS
ON SDI ARE UNDERSTOOD IN BONN, DESPITE MUCH SCEPTICISM OVER EUREKA
AND ITS LIKELY COST, HIS ATTITUDE OVER GATT IS MUCH LESS SO. THE
ARTICLE CONCLUDES THAT DESPITE ALL THE LYRICISM OVER FRANCO-GERMAN
RELATIONS IN RECENT YEARS, NOTHING HAS FUNDAMENTALLY CHANGED.
COOPERATION CONSTANTLY RUNS INTO THE SAME OLD PREJUDICES AND
DIFFICULTIES ON BOTH SIDES, EG THE LACK OF CREDIBILITY IN FRANCE OF

*Li-e. They
will play
on
German
Conscience
to get
support
for Eureka*

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THE PROBLEM OF GERMAN REUNIFICATION OR OF FRENCH COMMITMENT TO THE DEFENCE OF GERMANY. THE SEMI-FAILURE OF THE BONN SUMMIT MAY NEVERTHELESS SERVE AS A WARNING TO MITTERRAND AND KOHL OF THE DANGERS. IN PARTICULAR THE SDI DEBATE IN THE FRG COULD AT ANY MOMENT BECOME A MAJOR POLITICAL BATTLE WHICH WOULD PUSH THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT FURTHER INTO WASHINGTON'S ARMS.

5. MME SECRET (DUMAS CABINET) EMPHASISED TO US TODAY THE PROCEDURAL AS WELL AS THE SUBSTANTIVE CONSIDERATIONS BEHIND MITTERRAND'S APPROACH. HE ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE TO PREVENTING THE ECONOMIC SUMMIT FROM BECOMING, UNDER AMERICAN PRESSURE, A DECISION MAKING BODY, ESPECIALLY ON MATTERS TOUCHING THE COMMUNITY AS CLOSELY AS A NEW GATT ROUND. THE FRENCH DID NOT RULE OUT A POSSIBLE START IN GATT DURING 1986. BUT BONN WAS NOT THE PLACE TO DECIDE THIS, AND PREPARATION FOR THE NEW ROUND HAD TO BE FURTHER ADVANCED THAN AT PRESENT BEFORE A DEFINITE DATE COULD BE SET. THE FRENCH HAD DONE NO MORE THAN MAINTAIN A POSITION AT BONN WHICH WAS CONSISTENT WITH THAT TAKEN IN THE COMMUNITY AND AT OECD. BLANCHEMAISON (SGCI) SAID THAT MITTERRAND'S OPPOSITION TO A FIRM 1986 STARTING DATE WAS ONLY PARTLY ELECTORALLY MOTIVATED (THOUGH HIS STANCE WOULD PROVE POPULAR WITH FRENCH PUBLIC OPINION). IT WAS ALSO INTENDED AS A CLEAR SIGNAL TO OTHERS, INCLUDING EUROPEAN PARTNERS, THAT FRANCE, BEING EUROPE'S MAJOR AGRICULTURAL EXPORTER, WAS ABLIGED TO DEFEND THE CAP RIGOROUSLY IN ORDER TO PROTECT ITS OWN LONG-TERM ECONOMIC INTERESTS.

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