

GRS 330

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FM PARIS
TO ROUTINE FCO
TELNO 981
OF 031541Z OCTOBER 86
INFO SAVING WASHINGTON, MOSCOW, BONN

REYKJAVIK SUMMIT: FRENCH REACTIONS

SUMMARY

1. GUARDED REACTION TO ANNOUNCEMENT OF REAGAN/GORBACHEV MEETING IN ICELAND. THE GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO BE NERVOUS OF US CONCESSIONS ON INF.

DETAIL

2. THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE REYKJAVIK MEETING WAS ADEQUATELY ANALYSED AND COMMENTED ON IN THE FRENCH PRESS, BUT WITH LITTLE ORIGINALITY. EDITORIALS EXPRESS SOME SURPRISE AT THIS OUTCOME OF THE DANILOFF AFFAIR, BUT ARGUE THAT IT SUITS BOTH REAGAN AND GORBACHEV TO BE SEEN TO BE TALKING FOR DOMESTIC REASONS - IN REAGAN'S CASE, THE MID-TERM ELECTIONS, IN GORBACHEV'S, THE NEED TO REINFORCE HIS PERSONAL STANDING AND ANSWER HIS INTERNAL CRITICS. THE RESOLUTION OF THE DANILOFF AFFAIR COMES IN FOR SOME CRITICISM, BOTH FROM THOSE WHO BELIEVE THAT REAGAN WAS OUT-MANOEUVRED AND FROM THOSE WHO QUESTION THE MORALITY OF BARGAINING OVER THE EXCHANGE OF A SPY FOR A HOSTAGE. NONE OF THE COMMENTATORS EXPECTS ANY SPECIFIC RESULT TO EMERGE FROM REYKJAVIK: IT IS SEEN AS ATTRACTIVE TO BOTH SIDES TO MEET WITH LOW EXPECTATIONS AND THIS LOW RISKS. BUT THE PRESS IS IN NO DOUBT OF REAGAN'S ENTHUSIASM FOR HOSTING A FULLY-FLEDGED SUMMIT IN DECEMBER/JANUARY AND OF GORBACHEV'S NEED TO BRING HOME SOME CONCRETE RESULT IF ONE IS HELD.

3. REACTIONS FROM QUAI OFFICIALS ARE ON THE WHOLE SIMILAR TO THE ABOVE. THE FRENCH HAVE RECEIVED A SIMILAR SOVIET MESSAGE TO THAT IN YOUR TELNO 781 TO MOSCOW, ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO COMPARE TEXTS.

4. A NOTEWORTHY OMISSION FROM COMMENT SO FAR HAS BEEN THE PERENNIAL FRENCH FEAR OF THE SUPERPOWERS DOING DEALS OVER THE HEADS OF THE

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EUROPEANS. NEVERTHELESS, AS THE PUS WAS ABLE TO GAUGE AT HIS TALKS
HERE YESTERDAY, WITHIN THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT THERE IS CONTINUING
CONCERN THAT AN INF AGREEMENT COULD GIVE RISE TO DIFFICULTIES IF
SEPARATED FROM THE WIDER PICTURE AND THAT VIGILANCE OVER FRENCH AND
BRITISH NUCLEAR FORCES WILL BE MORE THAN EVER NECESSARY. THEY ARE
KEEN TO REMAIN IN VERY CLOSE CONTACT WITH US OVER LOBBYING THE
AMERICANS ON THIS SUBJECT.

FRETWELL

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