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TELEGRAM NUMBER 1160 OF 22 DECEMBER

INFO PRIORITY BUDAPEST, MOSCOW, ROME, UKDEL NATO, WASHINGTON
 INFO SAVING ANKARA, ATHENS, COPENHAGEN, BRUSSELS, LISBON, LUXEMBOURG
 MADRID, OSLO, OTTAWA, PARIS, REYKJAVIK, THE HAGUE, UKDEL VIENNA,
 EAST BERLIN, PRAGUE, WARSAW, BUCHAREST, BELGRADE, SOFIA
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pa
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22/12

HUNGARIAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT TO BONN: 20-21 DECEMBER

SUMMARY

1. THE SIGNIFICANT POINTS FROM VARKONYI'S MEETINGS WITH KOHL AND GENSCHER WERE THAT:

(A) HE ASKED THAT KOHL'S VISIT TO BUDAPEST, FORESEEN FOR MARCH 1984, BE POSTPONED BECAUSE OF THE BRITISH AND ITALIAN PRIME MINISTERS' VISITS. KOHL AGREED AND SUGGESTED JUNE. WHILE VARKONYI DID NOT SAY THAT THIS CHANGE WOULD HAVE POLITICAL AS WELL AS TIMETABLE ADVANTAGES, THE GERMANS ASSUME THIS TO BE THE CASE.

(B) VARKONYI'S REMARKS ABOUT INF STATIONING WERE PREEMPTORY AND APPARENTLY FOR THE RECORD.

(C) HE TOLD GENSCHER THAT THE HUNGARIANS DID NOT LIKE IT WHEN POLITICIANS AND THE MEDIA IN THE WEST DESCRIBED THEM AS MORE FLEXIBLE THAN OTHERS IN THE WARSAW PACT.

(D) VARKONYI MADE PRETTY CLEAR THAT HE WOULD ATTEND THE OPENING OF CDE, AND THE GERMANS DEDUCE FROM THIS THAT GROMYKO IS VERY LIKELY TO DO THE SAME.

(E) VARKONYI INDICATED THAT THE PROPOSALS IN THE PRAGUE DECLARATION WOULD BE PUT FORWARD BY THE WARSAW PACT AT CDE.

DETAIL

2. PFEFFER, POLITICAL DIRECTOR IN THE AUSWAERTIGES AMT, BRIEFED EMBASSIES OF THE TEN TODAY.

3. THE GERMANS ARE PLEASED THAT THIS ONE-DAY VISIT, WHICH PASSED IN A WARM ATMOSPHERE, SEEMED TO DEMONSTRATE THAT FRUITFUL CONTACT CAN IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES BE PURSUED WITH AT LEAST SOME WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES.

4. THE MEETING WITH GENSCHER LASTED 1 3/4 HOURS. GENSCHER BEGAN BY SAYING THAT THE VISIT WAS PART OF A CONTINUING PATTERN OF EAST/WEST CONTACTS AND A DEMONSTRATION THAT EAST/WEST RELATIONS WERE NOT CONCERNED ONLY WITH NUCLEAR WEAPONS. HE NOTED THAT THE SCOPE FOR TRADE, THE ABSENCE OF BILATERAL PROBLEMS AND THE INTEREST WITH WHICH HUNGARIAN ECONOMIC POLICY WAS FOLLOWED IN THE FRG. VARKONYI REPLIED THAT THE GERMAN AND HUNGARIAN FOREIGN MINISTERS SHOULD MEET EACH YEAR AND INVITED GENSCHER TO VISIT BUDAPEST (THE GERMANS INTERPRET THIS REMARK AS INDICATING THAT IN HUNGARIAN EYES THE

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PRESENT VISIT WAS ONE OF A REGULAR SERIES, RATHER THAN A SPECIAL OCCASION). VARKONYI CONTINUED THAT BILATERAL RELATIONS HAD NOT DETERIORATED IN THE PAST TWO YEARS AND THAT THIS WAS A POSITIVE FACTOR. ADOPTING A SERIOUS LOOK, HE SAID THAT HUNGARY DISAPPROVED OF INF STATIONING, WHICH HAD MADE THE EUROPEAN AND WORLD SITUATION WORSE. EVERYONE SHOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO GET BACK TO DETENTE. BILATERAL RELATIONS AND ALSO CERTAIN SPECIFIC EUROPEAN INTERESTS MUST BE MAINTAINED DESPITE THE COOLNESS OF EAST/WEST RELATIONS. THIS COULD BE DONE WITHOUT PARTICULAR PUBLICITY OR FANFARE.

5. GENSCHER REPLIED THAT HE EXPECTED THE SOVIET UNION IN DUE COURSE TO RETURN TO ARMS CONTROL NEGOTIATIONS, AND TO DISCUSS INF IN THE EXISTING FORUM OR ANOTHER. THE CONTINUING PROCESS OF CSCE SHOULD BE DEVELOPED IN ALL ITS ASPECTS. THE RECENT NATO DECLARATION HAD STRESSED READINESS FOR ALL TYPES OF EAST/WEST COOPERATION. GENSCHER SAID THAT HE REALISED THAT THE SOVIET UNION MUST HAVE MANY THINGS TO CONSIDER IN THE EAST/WEST FIELD AT PRESENT: SHE SHOULD NOT UNDERESTIMATE THE KEENNESS OF THE WEST TO NEGOTIATE. HE DESCRIBED THE FRG'S EFFORTS TO IMPROVE GERMANY-GERMAN RELATIONS AS BEING IN THE INTEREST OF EVERYONE WHO WANTED TO OVERCOME THE DIVISION OF EUROPE.

6. PRESSED TO SAY WHETHER WARSAW PACT FOREIGN MINISTERS WOULD ATTEND THE OPENING OF CDE, VARKONYI REPLIED THAT HIS PERSONAL VIEW WAS THAT THEY SHOULD, AND THAT HE HAD ALREADY TOLD HIS WIFE TO DO THE PACKING. HE RECALLED THE PRAGUE DECLARATION AND REHEARSED THE PROPOSALS IN IT, STRESSING RENUNCIATION OF THE USE OF FORCE.

7. VARKONYI ENGAGED IN LENGTHY CRITICISM OF ALLEGED AMERICAN UNRELIABILITY. HE SAID THAT WHEN SHULTZ HAD TOLD HIM THAT THE AMERICANS WERE FRUSTRATED BY THE LACK OF SOVIET RESPONSE TO US PROPOSALS IN ARMS CONTROL, HE HAD REPLIED THAT THE RUSSIANS WERE FRUSTRATED BY THE LACK OF US RESPONSE TO THEIR PROPOSALS.

8. VARKONYI DID NOT RAISE HUNGARY/EC. THIS SURPRISED THE GERMANS. BUT THEY THINK THAT THE HUNGARIANS MAY HAVE WANTED TO REST ON WHAT DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER MARJAH SAID WHEN HE VISITED THE FRG IN OCTOBER (MRS LESLIE'S LETTER OF 28 OCTOBER).

FCO PLEASE PASS TO ALL SAVING ADDRESSEES

(REPEATED AS REQUESTED)

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