

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BRUSSE 05317 182050Z

66

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 TRSE-00 MBFR-04 SAJ-01

DRC-01 /145 W

----- 127060

R 181703Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8695

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 5317

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO XT, BE

SUBJ: DISQUIETING TRENDS ON INTERNATIONAL POLICIES IN CVP

REF: BRUSSELS 5172 AND 5214

1. SUMMARY: IN FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSIONS WITH CVP ELDER STATESMEN REPOSSIBLE REORIENTATION OF THEIR PARTY ON INTERNATINAL POLICIES, I HAVE RECEIVED ASSURANCES THAT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BRUSSE 05317 182050Z

FORTHCOMING CVP CONGRESS IS VERY UNLIKELY TO MAKE ANY

FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES BUT FOUND DEEP CONCERN ABOUT LONGER-TERM TRENDS IN PARTY, BELGIUM AND EUROPE AS A WHOLE. END SUMMARY.

2. ASSURANCES OF FOREIGN MINISTER VAN ELSANDE HIMSELF A CVP MEMBER, AND THE FLEMISH SOCIAL CHRISTIAN PARTY (CVP) PRESIDENT MARTENS (SEE REFTELS) HAVING NOT ALLAYED MY CONCERNS ABOUT POSSIBLE DELETERIOUS TRENDS ON INTERNATIONAL POLITICS WITHIN THE CVP, AND URGED BY FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER HARMEL WHO EXPRESSED TO ME HIS UNEASINESS ABOUT SHIFTING ATTITUDES AMONG SOCIAL CHRISTIANS, I MET SEPARATELY WITH EX-DEFENSE MINISTER AND CVP FOUNDER SEGERS AND WITH LONG-TIME MINISTER AND CVP SPOKESMAN ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS MINISTER OF STATE DE SCHRIJVER TO OBTAIN THEIR VIEWS.

3. BOTH SEGERS AND DE SCHRIJVER SAID VAN ELSANDE AND HIS CVP COLLEAGUES IN THE CABINET WERE UNDER HEAVY PRESSURE FROM A GROWING FACTION IN CVP COMPRISED OF YOUNGER PARTY WORKERS, INTELLECTUALS AND CATHOLIC TRADE UNION FUNCTIONARIES WHOSE INTEREST IN RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE HAS BEEN DEFLECTED BY SECULARIZATION TO POLITICAL CAUSES. DRAFT PAPERS CIRCULATED IN CVP PRIOR TO ITS OCTOBER 27-28 CONGRESS WHICH PREPOSE DEMILITARIZATION OF BELGIUM, NEUTRALISM. AND THUS, EFFECTIVE WITHDRAWAL OF BELGIUM FROM NATO WERE SUBMITTED BY THEM. NEITHER SEGERS NOR DE SCHRIJVER BELIEVED, HOWEVER, THAT THE PACIFIST, NEUTRALIST FACTION WOULD PREVAIL; RATHER, THE CONGRESS WOULD REAFFIRM ESTABLISHED FOREIGN POLICIES AND REJECT ANY RESOLUTION ENVISAGING SEVERANCE OF TIES WITH THE U.S. AND NATO.

4. NEVERTHELESS, BOTH MEN WERE WORRIED ABOUT POPULAR TRENDS SURFACING IN PROGRAMATIC STATEMENTS OF CVP LEFT AND OF THE INFLUENCE THE LEFT IS ASSURED IN PARTY COUNCILS BY THE REQUIREMENT THAT ONE-THIRD OF THE MEMBERS OF ALL PARTY BODIES BE UNDER 35 YEARS OLD. THIS PROVISION WAS INTENDED TO REJUVENATE PARTY BY INFUSING SOME YOUTHFUL IDEALISM; HOWEVER, LACK OF REALISM DISPLAYED

BY NEWCOMERS, WHO LACK EXPERIENCE IN PRACTICAL POLITICS OR GOVERNMENT, BODES ILL FOR POLITICAL STABILITY.

5. SEGERS AND DE SCHRIJVER DEEMED THE SITUATION IN BELGIUM
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BRUSSE 05317 182050Z

SYMPTOMATIC NOT ONLY OF PROFOUND CHANGES IN BELGIUM BUT IN EUROPEAN SOCIETY AS A WHOLE. YOUTH ARE ALIENATED FROM TRADITIONAL VALUES AND ALL INSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY HAS SLACKENED. SEGERS VIEWED RECENTLY ANNOUNCED DEFENSE REFORMS (BRUSSELS 5168) AS A SURRENDER TO YOUNG PEOPLE'S REJECTION OF, AND CONTEMPT FOR, DISCIPLINE. BELGIAN SOCIETY, TOO, THESE GENTLEMEN FELT, IS YIELDING TO THE APPEALS OF HEDONISM, WITH THE PACIFIST FACTION IN THE CVP SIMPLY ARTICULATING THE

ASPIRATIONS OF A NEW GENERATION THAT HAS FORGOTTEN THE LESSONS OF HISTORY AND ACCLAIMS DETENTE AS THE COMFORTABLE ALTERNATIVE TO FULFILLMENT OF CIVIC DUTY.

6. COMMENT: THESE TALKS AS WELL AS EVENTS WHICH LEAD TO THEM, TEND TO CONFIRM THE FEARS EXPRESSED IN EMBASSY A-102 OF APRIL 25 (NOTAL) THAT TRENDS AMONG CHRISTIAN YOUTH AND WORKERS MAY BE EVEN MORE DISQUIETING THAN THOSE PERCEIVED ON SOCIALIST LEFT. AT BEST, THEY INDICATE PROBLEMS WE AND OUR BELGIAN FRIENDS FACE IN MAINTAINING DESIRED ORIENTATION IN BELGIUM'S EXTERNAL POLICIES AND ITS DEFENSE POSTURE. STRAUZ-HUPE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BRUSSE05317
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS HUP
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730928/aaaaaunb.tel
Line Count: 126
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: BRUSSELS 5172 AND 5214
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06-Sep-2001 by elyme>; APPROVED <05-Nov-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DISQUIETING TRENDS ON INTERNATIONAL POLICIES IN CVP
TAGS: PFOR, XT, BE, NATO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005