

CN 54

X/13 CS - 2ND ADD - FRENCH TELL MOSCOW (CN - 53) X X X PARIS

DEBRE SAID : "THE SOVIET LEADERS WILL HAVE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN TWO ORIENTATIONS. ON THE ONE HAND, WHAT IS CALLED COMMUNIST ORTHODOXY, WHICH REQUIRES THE HEGEMONY OF THE SOVIET UNION AND, FROM ONE DAY TO THE NEXT, THE RESORT TO FORCE TO MAKE IT RESPECTED. ON THE OTHER HAND, PRIORITY FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT WHICH LEADS TO INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND THEREFORE REQUIRES DETENTE...

"THE CRISIS EUROPE IS UNDERGOING IS NOT OVER. THE SOVIET LEADERS HAVE NUMEROUS DIFFICULTIES BEFORE THEM AND OVER THE COMING MONTHS IT IS THE CHOICE THEY WILL HAVE TO MAKE THAT WILL DOMINATE THE INTERNAL PROBLEMS OF THE SOVIET UNION...

"AS FAR AS WE ARE CONCERNED, WE CONSIDER THAT IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO RESPOND TO THESE EVENTS BY A RETIGHTENING OF THE OPPOSITE BLOC. THE SEARCH FOR AN EQUILIBRIUM IN EUROPE AND FOR PEACE IN EUROPE HAS BEEN SHAKEN. IT IS NECESSARY TO UNDERLINE THE CONDITIONS WHICH WILL MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO RESUME THE WORK THAT HAS BEEN STARTED WHILE REMAINING VERY FIRM ON PRINCIPLES.

"THE RESPECT OF THE RIGHT OF PEOPLES FREELY TO DECIDE THEIR OWN DESTINY IS THE ONLY SOLID FOUNDATION FOR A POLICY OF THE FUTURE FOR OUR CONTINENT."

BG/HE 1205

SEPT 10

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