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Berne, le 25 novembre 1970

Notice pour le Chef du Département

- copie - Monsieur l'Ambassadeur Bindschedler
 - Service Est
 - Ambassade de Suisse à Helsinki
 - Monsieur le Ministre Natural

Conférence de la sécurité européenne

L'Ambassadeur de Finlande me remet l'aide-mémoire ci-joint proposant d'ouvrir une nouvelle phase de la préparation de la Conférence de la sécurité européenne. Celle-ci consisterait en des échanges de vues entre le Ministère des affaires étrangères finlandais et les ambassadeurs accrédités à Helsinki, ou des envoyés spéciaux, afin de déterminer si les conditions actuelles permettent de passer à une préparation multilatérale de la conférence. Une même démarche a été faite auprès de tous les pays auxquels le gouvernement finlandais s'était adressé lors de sa première initiative (pays européens plus USA et Canada).

Je remercie l'Ambassadeur de Finlande et lui dit que la visite à Berne de M. Enckell nous éclairera sur un certain nombre de points qui nous paraissent encore obscurs. Nous ne serons donc pas à même de répondre immédiatement à l'aide-mémoire du 24 novembre.

annexe:

l aide-mémoire

Micheli -



Aide-Memoire

In the Finnish memorandum of May 5, 1969 relating to a Conference on European Security, it was considered essential that all Governments concerned would participate in such a Conference and that the success of the Conference should be guaranteed in advance to the greatest degree possible through careful preparations.

At the same time, the Finnish Government declared its readiness to act as host for such a Conference.

Subsequently the Finnish Government has emphasized that the participation of Governments in various stages of the present process of consultation and negotiation does not imply recognition, under international law, of existing political circumstances in Europe.

It is to be noted with satisfaction that in their reactions to the Finnish initiative the Governments responsible for security in Europe have in principle taken a positive attitude to these views of the Finnish Government. During the present process of negotiations the Finnish Government, pursuing its policy of neutrality, has explored the possibilities for common understanding, essential in questions pertaining to security in Europe.

This necessity of common understanding has been underlined in our bilateral contacts as well as in Nordic meetings. The reception of the Finnish memorandum, the talks conducted so far by ambassador Enckell as well as other information available on the present status of the process of negotiations and consultations between the Governments concerned, indicate that, while there exists a basic political will to advance the cause of European Security, further efforts are still needed in order to find such a consensus of substance as would enable the Governments responsible for the security of Europe eventually to carry out a common action designed to strengthen security in Europe.

During the current year the Finnish Government has been exploring ways and means to make use of multilateral contacts in addition to bilateral ones in order to proceed towards a common understanding. In our view the discussions relating to a Conference on European Security have reached a phase where it might be appropriate that the Governments concerned, as part of their endeavours to promote European security, would instruct the Heads of their Missions in Helsinki or other representatives to have consultations on the arrangement of the Security Conference with the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, and if agreed, to do so in multilateral gatherings in Helsinki.

The purpose of these consultations would be to intensify without commitment the exchange of relevant information. The participation in these consultations would not as such constitute a stand on the issue of holding a Conference on European Security. These consultations might enable the Governments concerned to obtain necessary information permitting them eventually to define their position on the possibilities of convening such a Conference.

November 24, 1970.