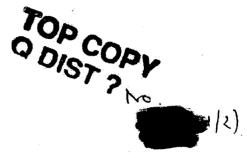
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FM TALLINN
TO PRIORITY FCO
TELNO 166
OF 020740Z SEPTEMBER 92
AND TO PRIORITY CABINET OFFICE
INFO PRIORITY MOSCOW, RIGA, VILNIUS



34

MY TELNO 163: ESTONIAN ELECTIONS

- 1. A FURTHER POLL HAS SHOWN RUUTEL EDGING MERI BY 30 PER CENT TO 29 PER CENT. TAAGEPERA HAD 10 PER CENT AND MS PAREK 7 PER CENT. THERE WERE 23 PER CENT QUOTE DON'T KNOWS UNQUOTE.
- 2. MERI'S FATHERLAND FRONT STILL LEADS WITH 18 PER CENT SUPPORT FOLLOWED BY THE POPULAR FRONT OR PEOPLE'S CENTRE PARTY (TAAGEPERA) WITH 14 PER CENT, SAFE MOME (RUUTEL) AND THE NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE PARTY (PAREK) WITH 9 PER CENT EACH AND THE MODERATES (MAINLY SOCIAL DEMOCRATS) WITH 7 PER CENT.
- 3. AS FORESHADOWED IN MY TUR RUUTEL IS NOW CAMPAIGNING IN EARNEST AND ENJOYING SUBSTANTIAL MEDIA COVERAGE. BUT HIS LEVEL OF SUPPORT STILL FALLS FAR SHORT OF AN OVERALL MAJORITY.

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PAGE 1 UNCLASSIFIED Digest of 2 September 1992 report from Tallinn to FCO London titled "ESTONIA: LATEST DEVELOPMENTS"

ELECTIONS

2. CAMPAIGNING FOR THE 2D SEPTEMBER PARLIAMENTARY AND PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS IS IN FULL SWING. EARLY POLLS PUT THE RIGHTWING NATIONALIST FATHERLAND COALITION IN THE LEAD FOLLOWED
BY SAVISAAR'S POPULAR FRONT WITH RUUTEL'S SAFE HOME COALITION
IN THIRD PLACE. BUT RUUTEL LEADS MERI, THE FATHERLAND CANDIDATE,
BY A WHISKER IN THE PRESIDENTIAL RACE. HOWEVER HE NEEDS AN
ABSOLUTE MAJORITY ON 2D SEPTEMBER LACKING WHICH THE MEMBERS OF
PARLIAMENT WILL CHOOSE THE PRESIDENT BY BALLOT. THEY ARE MORE
LIKELY TO PICK MERI THAN RUUTEL.

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FM TALLINN
TO PRIORITY FCO
TELNO 174
OF 090640Z SEPTEMBER 92
INFO PRIORITY RIGA, VILNIUS, MOSCOW, CABINET OFFICE

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MY TELNO 166: ESTONIAN ELECTIONS

1. ANOTHER POLL OF 2260 VOTERS COUNTRYWIDE TAKEN BETWEEN 25 AUGUST AND 1 SEPTEMBER GIVES RUUTEL 46 PER CENT OF THE VOTE IN THE PRESIDENTIAL RACE AGAINST 29 PER CENT FOR MERI AND 18 PER CENT FOR TAAGEPERA. MS PAREK LANGUISHES ON 5 PER CENT.

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2. IT APPEARS THAT MOST OF THE QUOTE DON'T KNOWS UNQUOTE HAVE
PLUMPED FOR RUUTEL AND, TO A LESSER EXTENT, TAAGEPERA, LEAVING
MERI WHERE HE WAS AT THE TIME OF MY TUR. WHILE IT IS EARLY DAYS,
THIS POLL, IF REFLECTING ACCURATELY WHAT HAPPENS ON 20 SEPTEMBER,
WOULD LEAVE RUUTEL SHORT OF AN OVERALL MAJORITY ON THE DAY.
GIVEN THAT MERI'S AND TAAGEPERA'S PARTIES ARE WELL AHEAD OF
RUUTEL'S IN THE POLLS, AND THAT THE MODERATES HAVE JUST
DECLARED FOR MERI, THIS WOULD INDICATE A WIN BY PARLIAMENTARY
BALLOT FOR THE LATTER WITH A RESULTANT CENTRE-RIGHT
GOVERNMENT. BUT IT COULD YET BE A VERY CLOSE CALL.

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PAGE 1 UNCLASSIFIED Digest of 16 September 1992 report from Tallinn to FCO London titled "ESTONIA: LATEST DEVELOPMENTS"

UNDOUBTED FACT OF RUUTEL'S COMMUNIST PAST.

ELECTIONS

- 4. THE FIRST OF THREE TELEVISED DEBATES BETWEEN THE FOUR PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES TOOK PLACE ON 15 SEPTEMBER. IT WAS A LACK LUSTRE AFFAIR WITH TAAGEPERA (POPULAR FRONT) MAKING THE BEST IMPRESSION. RUUTEL (SAFE HOME)) ALLOWED HIMSELF TO BE FLUSTERED BY QUESTIONS ABOUT HIS COMMUNIST PAST, MS PAREK (NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE PARTY) WAS OUT OF HER DEPTH AND MERI (FATHERLAND) CLOWNED. ACCORDING TO A FATHERLAND POLL, MERI NOW LEADS RUUTEL BY 35 PER CENT. TO 33 PER CENT. THOSE FIGURES MUST BE SUSPECT BUT RUUTEL HAS LOST SUPPORT FOLLOWING AN ATTEMPT PROBABLY INSTIGATED BY HIS PARTY, TO SMEAR MERI BY ALLEGING HIS FATHER WAS A KGB AGENT. THIS HAS BACKFIRED RESULTING IN A SURGE OF SYMPATHY FOR MERI WHILE DRAWING OUT EVEN MORE THE
- 5. FATHERLAND STILL LEAD THE POLLS AND HOPE FOR 30-35 SEATS IN 101 SEAT PARLIAMENT. IF THEIR ALLIES, THE MODERATES, DO AS EXPECTED AND OBTAIN 10 OR SO SEATS, THIS ALLIANCE WILL BE STRONG ENOUGH TO FORM A GOVERNMENT. ASSUMING MERI WINS THE PRESIDENCY (IT STILL SEEMS VERY CLOSE BETWEEN HIM AND RUUTEL), THE FRONT RUNNER FOR PRIME MINISTER IS NOW NOT /(NOT) SAVISAAR (POPULAR FRONT) BUT MART LAAR, A CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT MEMBER OF FATHERLAND IN HIS EARLY THIRTIES. THE RECEIVED WISDOM IS THAT THE AUTHORITARIAN SAVISAAR, THE FORMER PRIME MINISTER, WOULD HAVE DIFFICULTY IN GETTING PEOPLE TO SERVE IN HIS CABINET AND, IF THE FATHERLAND MODERATE ALLIANCE DO WELL IN THE ELECTIONS, THEY CAN GO IT ALONE WITHOUT THE POPULAR FRONT.
- 6. A RECENT POLL SHOWED 85 PER CENT OF THOSE POLLED INTENDED TO VOTE. THIS SEEMS ON THE HIGH SIDE: THERE IS NOTHING REMOTELY LIKE ELECTION FEVER IN THE AIR. ONE POSSIBILITY, FEARED BY FATHERLAND, IS THAT VOTERS WILL CONCENTRATE ON THE PRESIDENTIAL CONTEST AND CAST THEIR PARLIAMENTARY VOTES WILLY-NILLY WITHOUT WEIGHING THE ISSUES.

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MYTEL 174: ESTONIAN ELECTIONS: RESULTS

SUMMARY

1. NO PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE HAS THE NECESSARY MAJORITY SO THE NEW PARLIAMENT WILL ELECT THE PRESIDENT AT THE BEGINNING OF OCTOBER. THE PRELIMINARY RESULTS FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS WOULD SEEM TO INDICATE THAT FATHERLAND, NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE PARTY AND THE MODERATES WILL FORM THE NEW GOVERNMENT.

DETAIL

2. THE RESULTS OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

ARNOLD RUUTEL (SAFE HOME)

LENNART MERI (FATHERLAND AND MODERATES)

LAGLE PAREK (NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE PARTY)

REIN TAAGEPERA (POPULAR FRONT)

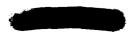
23.83 PER CENT

SPOILT BALLOTS MAKE UP THE REMAINDER. THIS MEANS THAT THE NEW PARLIAMENT WILL HAVE TO ELECT THE PRESIDENT SINCE NONE OF THE CANDIDATES ACHIEVED THE NECESSARY MAJORITY OF 50 PER CENT PLUS ONE. THE NEW PARLIAMENT WILL ELECT THE PRESIDENT AT THE BEGINNING OF OCTOBER.

- 3. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ESTONIAN CONSTITUTION, THE NEW PARLIAMENT WILL HAVE TO NAME THE NEW GOVERNMENT WITHIN THE NEXT MONTH AND A HALF. IF NOT THE PRESIDENT WILL CALL NEW PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS.
- 4. THE SECOND PRELIMINARY RESULTS FOR THE ELECTION OF THE 101 SEAT PARLIAMENT ARE AS FOLLOWS:

FATHERLAND SAFE HOME 28 SEATS 18 SEATS

PAGE 1



POPULAR FRONT 15 SEATS
MODERATES 13 SEATS
ESTONIAN NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE PARTY 10 SEATS
INDEPENDENT ROYALISTS 8 SEATS
ESTONIAN CITIZEN 8 SEATS
ESTONIAN ENTREPRENEURS' UNION 1 SEAT

THE FINAL RESULTS WILL BE AVAILABLE EITHER ON THE EVENING OF 21 OR MORNING OF 22 SEPTEMBER. THERE WERE 628 CANDIDATES FOR THE 101 SEATS.

5. APPROXIMATELY 67.5 PER CENT OF THOSE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE (677,930) DID (SOME 457,319).

COMMENT

6. THE ESTONIAN PEOPLE WOULD APPEAR TO HAVE MISSED OUT ON THEIR ONE AND ONLY OPPORTUNITY TO ELECT THEIR PRESIDENT DIRECTLY. MERI APPEARS TO BE FAVOURITE IN THE PARLIAMENTARY BALLOT, WHILE THE FATHERLAND, MODERATES AND NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE PARTY WILL ALLY TO FORM A GOVERNMENT.

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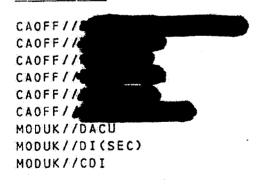
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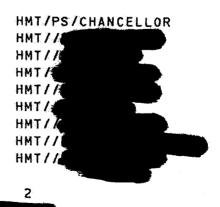
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OF 240815Z SEPTEMBER 92

AND TO PRIORITY RIGA VILNIUS MOSCOW HELS EV STOCKHOLM

AND TO PRIORITY OSLO COPENHAGEN WASHINGTON BONN PARIS

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MY TELNO 179: ESTONIAN ELECTIONS

SUMMARY

1. PROBABLE FINAL RESULTS NOW TO HAND, PROSPECT OF PARLIAMENTARY COALITION LEADING TO A RIGHT OF CENTRE GOVERNMENT WITH MERI AS PRESIDENT. FIRST PARLIAMENTARY SESSION LIKELY ON 5 OCTOBER TO FLECT SPEAKER, TWO DEPUTY SPEAKERS AND PRESIDENT. POSSIBILITY OF SOFIER STANCE ON CITIZENSHIP NOW THAT ELECTIONS OVER.

DETAIL

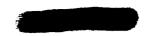
2. ALTHOUGH NOT FINALLY DECLARED THE PROBABLE RESULTS LOOK AS FOLLOWS:

FATHERLAND FRONT 29	SEATS
SAFE HOME 17	SEATS
POPULAR FRONT	SEATS
MODERATES 12	SEATS
NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE PARTY 10	SEATS
ROYALISTS	SEATS
ESTONIAN CITIZEN 8	SEATS
GREENS	SEAT
ENTREPRENEURS' UNION 1	SEAT

3. DESPITE RUUTEL'S 41.8 PER CENT AGAINST MERI'S 29.5 IN THE PRESIDENTIAL PLECTIONS, THE LATTER IS LIKELY TO PREVAIL WHEN PARLIAMENT ELECTS A PRESIDENT , PROBABLY ON 5 OCTOBER, TOGETHER WITH A SPEAKER AND TWO DEPUTY SPEAKERS. SO FAR CAPART FROM THE FATHERLAND FRONT) THE POPULAR FRONT, MODERATES AND ROYALISTS MAVE DECLARED THEIR SUPPORT FOR MERI WHICH WOULD GIVE THE LATTER A COMFORTABLE 64 VOTES. THESE , TOGETHER WITH THE LIKELY SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE PARTY, SHOULD MEAN A GRUSHING VICTORY FOR MERI.

4. WHATEVER UNEASY ALLIANCES ARE FORMED TO ENSURE RUUTEL'S

PAGE



DOWNFALL, THERE WILL BE A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT BALANCE OF FORCES IN PARLIAMENT. DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER, VELLISTE, A LEADING LIGHT IN FATHERLAND FRONT, TOLD ME ON 23 SEPTEMBER THAT HIS PARTY COULD COUNT ON THE SUPPORT OF THE MODERATES AND THE NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE PARTY IN FORMING A GOVERNMENT AND PROMOTING ITS POLICIES IN PARLIAMENT. THIS IS A BARE MAJORITY, 51 OUT OF 101, ALTHOUGH THEY COULD PICK UP SOME SUPPORT FROM THE ROYALISTS AND EVEN THE POPULAR FRONT. MART LAAR, THE YOUNG CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT, IS STILL THE LIKELY PRIME MINISTER.

COMMENT

- 5. IN MY VIEW, THE NEW GOVERNMENT IS LIKELY TO FOLLOW THE SAME STERN BUT NECESSARY ECONOMIC POLICIES OF ITS PREDECESSOR: NO (NO) ESTONIAN GOVERNMENT WILL ATTEMPT TO CHANGE COURSE AND ERODE IMP AND IBRD SUPPORT. THERE ARE ALSO WELCOME THOUGH MUTED INDICATIONS THAT THE NATIONALISTS WILL CLIMB OFF THEIR ELECTORAL BANDWAGON AND SEEK GENUINELY TO COME TO TERMS WITH THE RUSSIAN COMMUNITY AND RELAX CITIZENSHIP REQUIREMENTS.
- 6. THE ELECTION HAS BEEN HAILED BY SUCH AS THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ELECTORAL REFORM SOCIETY AS FREE AND HAIR. IT TOOK PLACE IN A CALM AND PEACEFUL ATMOSPHERE. THERE WERE NO MINORITY DEMONSTRATIONS: INDEED A RUSSIAN CHEERFULLY DIFFICTED ME TO A POLLING STATION IN A VILLAGE OUTSIDE TALLINN. ESIGNIAN DEMOCRACY MAY NOT HAVE COME OF AGE, BUT IT HAS SUCCESSFULLY TAKEN ITE FIRST TENTATIVE STEPS. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER IT WILL PROVE SUFFICIENTLY MATURE AND FEEL SECURE ENOUGH TO DEAL FAIRLY WITH ITS NON-ESTONIAN COMMUNITY.

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