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UNCLASSIFIED  
FM TALLINN  
TO DESKBY 100900Z FCO  
TELNO 227  
OF 091100Z DECEMBER 92  
INFO PRIORITY VILNIUS, RIGA, MOSCOW  
INFO ROUTINE HELSINKI, KIEV, STOCKHOLM, OSLO, COPENHAGEN  
INFO ROUTINE WASHINGTON, BONN, PARIS, UKDEL NATO, UKREP BRUSSELS  
[REDACTED]

## ESTONIA: LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

## SUMMARY

1. RELATIONS WITH RUSSIA ENTER A POSITIVE PHASE WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF A PRESIDENTIAL SUMMIT IN MID-JANUARY AFTER FOREIGN MINISTER VELLISTE'S VISIT TO MOSCOW. A CSCE HUMAN RIGHTS DIMENSION EXPERTS MISSION VISITS ESTONIA. THE HEAD OF THE STATE PRIVATIZATION BOARD IS SACKED IN AN ACRIMONIOUS DISPUTE. THE POPE MAY VISIT ESTONIA NEXT YEAR. A NEW AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON HAS BEEN NOMINATED. THE ECONOMY HAS HAD NO DRAMATIC DEVELOPMENT DESPITE INFLATION BEING HIGHER THAN THE GOVERNMENT 5 PER CENT TARGET.

## DETAIL

## RELATIONS WITH RUSSIA

2. FOREIGN MINISTER VELLISTE MET WITH KOZYREV, GAIDAR AND SHUMEIKO IN MOSCOW ON 2-3 DECEMBER AND PROVISIONALLY AGREED A TIMETABLE FOR NEGOTIATIONS TO CULMINATE IN A PRESIDENTIAL SUMMIT IN MID-JANUARY. THE MOOD OF THE MEETINGS WAS POSITIVE, BUT TROOP WITHDRAWALS AND CITIZENSHIP ISSUES WILL STILL PROVE TO BE MAJOR HURDLES. THE 26 YEAR OLD MP JURI LUIK HAS BEEN APPOINTED MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO AND WILL LEAD THE ESTONIAN NEGOTIATIONG TEAM. FULL REPORTS IN MOSCOW TELNO 2632 AND MY TELNO 225.
3. A CSCE HUMAN RIGHTS DIMENSION EXPERTS MISSION WAS IN ESTONIA ON 2-5 DECEMBER TO EXAMINE THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION. THEY WILL PRESENT THEIR FINDINGS IN A REPORT TO THE CSCE FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING IN STOCKHOLM ON 14-15 DECEMBER.

INTERNAL

ESD 01/2

4. ON 28 NOVEMBER THE STATE ASSEMBLY HELD A CEREMONY TO CELEBRATE THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PROCLAMATION OF THE PARLIAMENT AND REPUBLIC.

5. THE HEAD OF THE ESTONIAN PRIVATIZATION BOARD, MR ANDRES BERGMANN, WAS SACKED ON 28 NOVEMBER FOR ALLEGEDLY MISHANDLING THE RECENT TENDER TO PRIVATIZE 38 COMPANIES. THE DISPUTE BETWEEN BERGMANN AND THE PRIME MINISTER, MART LAAR, WAS CONDUCTED IN THE PRESS AND HAS CREATED CONFUSION AS TO THE DIRECTION OF THE GOVERNMENT'S PRIVATIZATION POLICY.

#### INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

6. THE POPE JOHN PAUL II HAS BEEN INVITED TO VISIT ESTONIA BY PRESIDENT MERI. THE POPE'S CHANCELLERY HAS REPLIED BY SAYING THAT THE POPE MIGHT BE ABLE TO VISIT ESTONIA EARLY IN THE AUTUMN OF 1993.

7. MR TOOMAS HENDRIK ILVES WILL BECOME THE NEW ESTONIAN AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON ONCE HE HAS ADOPTED ESTONIAN CITIZENSHIP. HIS PREDECESSOR, MR ERNST JAAKSON, WILL BECOME THE ESTONIAN PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UN.

#### THE ECONOMY

8. THE STATISTICS BOARD HAS ANNOUNCED THAT INFLATION FOR NOVEMBER WAS 9.8 PER CENT. DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF DECEMBER THE WORKERS OF THE SILMET MUNITIONS FACTORY IN NARVA WENT ON STRIKE, SOME EVEN ON HUNGER STRIKE, TO OBTAIN THEIR BACK PAY FROM AUGUST. THE STRIKE WAS SUCCESSFUL AND THE WORKERS WILL RECEIVE THEIR PAY DESPITE THE FACT THAT THEY ARE NOT MANUFACTURING ANYTHING. THE BANK MORATORIUM CONTINUES, BUT THE BANKS CONCERNED ARE GRADUALLY RECOMMENCING THEIR ACTIVITIES.

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