

GRS 450

UNCLASSIFIED

FM PARIS

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 323

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INFO PRIORITY ATHENS (FOR SECRETARY OF STATES PARTY), OTHER EC POSTS

INFO PRIORITY WASHINGTON, UKDEL NATO, CONSULS GENERAL IN FRANCE

[COLLAR]

MY TELNO 319: STATEMENT BY CHIRAC

SUMMARY

1. CHIRAC HAS INDICATED THE BASIS ON WHICH HE AND MITTERRAND WILL COHABIT RESPECT FOR THE CONSTITUTION AND THE PRESIDENT'S PREROGATIVES TO BE BALANCED BY ACCEPTANCE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S RIGHT UNDER THE CONSTITUTION TO DETERMINE NATIONAL POLICY. ECONOMIC ISSUES AND ELECTORAL REFORM WILL BE PUSHED THROUGH BY ORDINANCE.

DETAIL

2. FOLLOWING HIS APPOINTMENT AS PRIME MINISTER, CHIRAC MADE A BRIEF ANNOUNCEMENT OUTLINING THE BASIS ON WHICH HIS GOVERNMENT WILL COHABIT WITH THE PRESIDENT, AND THE POLICIES TO WHICH IT WILL GIVE PRIORITY.

3. HE SAID HE HAD DISCUSSED THE MODALITIES OF GOVERNMENT WITH MITTERRAND: BOTH THE RULES LAID DOWN BY THE CONSTITUTION AND THE ELECTORAL VERDICT WOULD BE RESPECTED. THIS MEANT THE PREROGATIVES AND COMPETENCES BESTOWED ON THE PRESIDENT WOULD BE UNTOUCHED. AT THE SAME TIME, ACCORDING TO ARTICLE 20 OF THE CONSTITUTION, IT WAS THE GOVERNMENT THAT DETERMINED AND CONDUCTED NATIONAL POLICY. THE GOVERNMENT WOULD THEREFORE USE ALL THE MEANS PUT AT ITS DISPOSAL BY THE CONSTITUTION TO IMPLEMENT ITS POLICIES.

4. TWO AREAS IN PARTICULAR WERE PRIORITIES AND WOULD BE PUT INTO EFFECT BY ORDINANCE. THE FIRST WAS THE WHOLE NEXUS OF ISSUES IN THE ECONOMIC SOCIAL AND PRIVATISATION FIELDS. PUTTING THE NEW GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES INTO EFFECT QUICKLY IN THESE AREAS SHOULD PROVIDE A BOOST TO THE ECONOMY AND IMPROVE EMPLOYMENT PROSPECTS. THE SECOND PRIORITY WAS TO RETURN TO THE FORMER ELECTORAL SYSTEM (MAJORITY VOTING OVER TWO ROUNDS BY CONSTITUENCY). THE NEW GOVERNMENT'S OTHER REFORMS WOULD BE INTRODUCED THROUGH PARLIAMENTARY LEGISLATION.

5. FOR THE COMPOSITION OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT SEE MIFT.

FRETWELL

EUROPEAN POLITICAL
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