

GRS 545

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FM BONN 190844Z SEP 84

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 872 OF 19 SEPTEMBER

INFO ROUTINE BMG BERLIN EAST BERLIN MOSCOW ROME WASHINGTON

UKDEL NATO PARIS UKREP BRUSSELS

INFO SAVING CICC(G) OTHER NATO POSTS OTHER EC POSTS

CALL ON CHANCELLOR KOHL, 18 SEPTEMBER.

1. I PAID MY FIRST CALL ON CHANCELLOR KOHL YESTERDAY. HE LOOKED HEALTHY, VIGOROUS AND PLEASED TO SEE ME.

2. I SAID THAT I HAD A MESSAGE FOR HIM FROM THE PRIME MINISTER, BUT THAT BEFORE TRANSMITTING IT I WANTED TO GIVE HIM MY FIRST IMPRESSIONS. THESE WERE THAT THE ANGLO-GERMAN RELATIONSHIP WAS EVEN WIDER AND DEEPER THAN I HAD REALISED, BUT UNDERAPPRECIATED AND TOO LITTLE KNOWN. I GAVE EXAMPLES: THE BRITISH MILITARY PRESENCE IN THE FRG, CURRENTLY DOUBLE ITS USUAL STRENGTH OF 66,000 MEN ON ACCOUNT OF EXERCISE LIONHEART, WHICH YOU WOULD BE VISITING TODAY AND MR HESELTINE SHORTLY, EACH WITH YOUR GERMAN COUNTERPART: BERLIN, WHERE I HAD JUST BEEN FOR 3 DAYS, AND WHERE THE BRITISH GARRISON WAS THE STRONGEST AFTER THE AMERICAN, COMPOSED ENTIRELY OF REGULAR TROOPS AND HAVING THE BEST POSSIBLE RELATIONS WITH THE SENAT AND THE POPULATION: THE BRITISH COUNCIL'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY PROGRAMME OF LECTURES, EXHIBITIONS ETC ETC. I WOULD DO MY BEST TO MAKE ALL THIS ACTIVITY MORE WIDELY KNOWN AND VALUED AT ITS TRUE WORTH.

3. KOHL BRIEFLY ECHOED THESE THOUGHTS AND THEN LAUNCHED INTO A LONG EXCURSUS ON THE ANDREOTTI AFFAIR AND ITS IMPLICATIONS. HIS THEME WAS THAT AFTER ALL THAT THE FRG HAD LOST, REBUILT, ABSORBED, RENOUNCED AND CONTRIBUTED, IT WAS PAINFUL TO BE ACCUSED OF PAN-GERMANISM, ESPECIALLY BY A FELLOW CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT AND AT A TIME WHEN BONN WAS UNDER HEAVY FIRE FROM THE EAST. KOHL WAS GRATEFUL FOR WHAT YOU HAD SAID IN BRUSSELS AND DOUBTED WHETHER THE SPD WOULD GAIN ELECTORALLY FROM DISTANCING THEMSELVES FROM THE GOVERNMENT ON THIS. THE FRG NEEDED FRIENDS MORE THAN ANY OTHER STATE, AND HE WAS GLAD THAT SHE HAD SUCH A GOOD ONE IN BRITAIN.

4. ALL THIS WAS ENVELOPED IN A BROAD BUT TO ME OBSCURE HISTORICAL FRAMEWORK, WITH ALLUSIONS TO AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, THE TREATY OF ST GERMAIN ETC.

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5. WHEN KOHL FINALLY FELL SILENT I SPOKE AS INSTRUCTED IN YOUR TELNO 495, ADDING YOUR OWN THOUGHTS FROM UKREP BRUSSELS TELNO 1 TO BONN, EMPHASISING THAT THE BRITISH COMPROMISE WOULD NEITHER PRESCRIBE NOR EXCLUDE THE BRINGING FORWARD OF NEW OWN RESOURCES AND ENDING ON THE NOTE THAT ONLY A FEW OUTSTANDING POINTS, WHICH WITH AN ANGLO-GERMAN JOINT EFFORT COULD BE RESOLVED IN THE NEXT FORTNIGHT, STOOD BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY AND THE KIND OF FUTURE DESCRIBED IN PRESIDENT MITTERRAND'S SPEECH AT STRASBOURG AND IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S PAPER GIVEN TO KOHL IN JUNE.

6. KOHL DID NOT REACT ONE WAY OR ANOTHER: HE HAD EVIDENTLY NOT YET RECEIVED RUHFUS' REPORT ON THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COUNCIL.

7. KOHL ABRUPTLY CHANGED THE SUBJECT TO RUDOLF HESS: SEE SEPARATE TELEGRAM.

8. BY THIS TIME WE HAD OVERRUN THE HALF HOUR AND HE HAD TO LEAVE TO MEET YOU AT THE AIRPORT. THE MEETING ENDED WITH KOHL SAYING THAT HE SAW FEW AMBASSADORS BUT THAT HE WOULD ALWAYS BE ONE OF THEM. HE SENT HIS GREETINGS TO THE PRIME MINISTER.

9. COMMENT. AS OFTEN WITH KOHL, THIS WAS A ONE-SIDED CONVERSATION WITH NOT MUCH OPERATIONAL CONTENT. THERE WERE SOME NON-BARKING DOGS, EG THE SPAAK COMMITTEE. TELTSCHIK, WHO WAS PRESENT, CLOSED HIS NOTEBOOK EARLY ON IN THE CHANCELLOR'S MONOLOGUE AND DID NOT REOPEN IT UNTIL HE STARTED TO CONVEY THE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE. AS DREGGER SAID TO ME LATER, KOHL HAS A STYLE OF HIS OWN AND IS EASILY UNDERRATED.

BONN WILL PASS TO BMG BERLIN AND CHCC(G)  
FCO PLEASE PASS OTHER SAVING ADDRESSEES.

(REPEATED AS REQUESTED)

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