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PREM 19/3356





Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

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SECRET

London SW1A 2AH

11 June 1991

*Dear Stephen,*

*file*

*Prime Minister*

*ed/s*

Hess and the KGB

You asked for further background on the claims by Mr Tsarev reported in "The Times" on 10 June and on the "Today" programme on 11 June that the KGB have papers which show that Hess was lured to Britain by British Intelligence, and that he provided information on the planned German invasion of Russia in 1942 (Operation Barbarossa) which we failed to pass on to the Russians.

Hess's flight to Scotland in 1941 and his subsequent incarceration in Spandau prison in Berlin until his death in 1987 have for years been the stuff of conspiracy theories. There are two clusters. The first concentrates on the circumstances of Hess's flight, alleging that there was a group of Nazi sympathisers in the British establishment who would have been prepared to do business with him. Tsarev's allegation is a variant upon this.

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OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT

We have not seen the papers the KGB claim to have but cannot believe that they provide genuine evidence in support of Tsarev's claims. Hess told us nothing about Barbarossa - though we warned the Russians about it on the basis of other information.

The second cluster of conspiracy theories has concentrated on Hess's time in prison. There have been claims that the man in Spandau prison was not Hess (principally maintained by a Dr Hugh Thomas, who has conducted an extensive correspondence with us over the years). We are confident that this theory is without foundation. Hess's family and lawyer have never accepted it and it is difficult to imagine why an impostor would maintain his silence for 40 years of

/imprisonment

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imprisonment. There have also been allegations that Hess did not commit suicide but was murdered by us to prevent him from telling what he knew. The 4 Powers (UK, US, France and the Soviet Union) responsible for Spandau prison carried out a thorough investigation into the circumstances of Hess's death, including a full autopsy and enquiries by the Special Investigation Branch of the Royal Military Police. The Allied authorities in Berlin issued statements on 24 August and 17 September 1987 making clear that these investigations established beyond doubt that Rudolf Hess committed suicide by hanging himself with an electrical extension cord, and that the cause of death was asphyxiation. No convincing evidence has ever been put forward to contradict this view.

There remains the question of why the KGB is stirring things up. There have been one or two examples in the past of Soviet representatives making remarks designed to stir up controversy about Hess. This occasion however is the most blatant. We assume that the KGB has raised the issue as a high-profile way of demonstrating that it is now an open and acknowledged organisation with, by implication, fewer secrets than Western governments have. There may also be an element of simple mischief-making - in particular in the wake of our decision in May to refuse Tsarev (an identified Intelligence Officer) a visa when he wanted to come here to help launch a book by John Costello, "10 days that saved the West". We consider that the best response to make is to issue straightforward denials of false allegations, and to avoid being drawn into arguments about the details of the various Hess theories.

(S L Gass)  
Private Secretary

Stephen Wall Esq CMG LVO  
10 Downing Street

SECRET





MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
 MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1  
 Telephone 01-930 7022  
 XXXXXX 01-218 2111/3

MO 3/14L

24<sup>th</sup> February 1988

John Charles,

Prime Minister  
 CAP 25/2.  
 ml

REDEVELOPMENT OF THE SITE OF THE SPANDAU PRISON

The Prime Minister may wish to be aware of the plan for the redevelopment of the site of the Spandau Prison in Berlin, which the Secretary of State for Defence and the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary have approved.

Following the death of Rudolf Hess last August, Spandau Prison was demolished under the terms of the protocol signed by the Four Powers in 1982. To avoid the site becoming a place of pilgrimage for Nazi sympathisers it is to be retained in British hands for use in direct connection with the British military presence in Berlin. Since there is a parallel, identified need to replace existing British Forces facilities in Berlin, it is proposed that the Spandau site should be developed as a Berlin Forces Families Centre, centred around a new NAAFI complex. British Forces Germany have identified no suitable alternative use for the Spandau site.

There has been continuing German press interest in Spandau. But the German authorities in Berlin have been briefed and the Governing Mayor has publicly supported the project in the Berlin House of Representatives. The US and France are understood to approve the broad principles of the project, and the Soviet Union is unlikely to raise any objection. There thus seems to be little likelihood of a serious negative reaction to the proposed redevelopment.

The entire cost of the project, which is estimated to be DM 56.2M, is to be met from the British Occupation Costs Budget which is funded by the Federal Ministry of Finance (FMOF) in Bonn. The FMOF has been briefed on the outline of the project on several occasions and is generally sympathetic. American and French forces in Berlin already have shopping and other facilities comparable

Charles Powell Esq  
 10 Downing Street



with those planned for Spandau and paid for out of the Occupation Costs Budget.

On present plans the Property Services Agency proposes to arrange for the award of a contract for the first phase of the redevelopment by the end of this month.

I am sending copies of this letter to Lyn Parker (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) and to Trevor Woolley (Cabinet Office).

*Yours sincerely*  
*John Ball*

(D C J BALL)  
Private Secretary



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Miss Morris  
Confidential Filing

Sue

According to our records there are seven  
"Rudolph Hess" files:

1941 - June	Effect in USA
1941 - August	Medical report
1941 - Jun - Jul	Duke of Hamilton's likely action
1941 - May	Public statements
1941 - June	Interview with Dr. Guthrie
1942 - Oct - Nov.	Soviet attitude and report by Lord Louis Mountbatten
1941 - May	} "Various"
1943 - Sept	
1945 - April - May	

All seven files are at the PRO and were  
opened to the public in 1972.

2. We are not holding any withheld  
papers from these files in this office. I  
have asked the PRO to check the files for  
"dummies" and they confirm there are none.  
Also, we are not withholding any complete  
files on this subject. The binders of  
clippings for the period do not suggest there  
were other files.

3. Has Mr Campbell-Savours read the No. 10  
files at the PRO to see whether they  
provide answers to his questions? If not,  
perhaps that should be his first recourse.  
However, having said that, so much of what  
he describes in his questions is of an  
"intelligence" nature and, if relevant papers exist, they would  
likely have been withheld under Section 3(4).  
But there is no evidence that any papers, other  
than those in the seven files, do exist.

John Green, Public Records, 1 February 1988



June 1988

Can you help with this very old file?

See:

Confidential Filing  
NO10

SNOW  
CF

Rudolph Hess

Our officials here can answer questions 1-4 of the attached letter, but I understand that the archives on Hess' flight to Britain, are kept at NO10.

I am not sure what the rules are regarding replies to such letters and I should be grateful for guidance.

Russell

28.1.88

ATS/Foreign Secretary



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

~~DAEK~~  
② WED  
for a drafts reply  
from Mrs Chalker  
by 4 1/2 ~~etc~~  
PS/mrs Chalker

26 January 1988

Mr Rattford  
L & RD  
Mr Hanta  
PRU.

DCS/JG/F.1

The Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Howe QC MP  
Secretary of State for  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
Downing Street  
LONDON  
SW1A 2AH

Russell Dixon  
APS 27/1

Dear Sir Geoffrey,

A colleague of mine has corresponded with me on the question of the death of Rudolph Hess, and he has raised with me a number of issues concerning the circumstances of his alleged arrival in the United Kingdom during the course of the Second World War.

It is his case that the Pilot who parachuted out of an aircraft above Floors Farm was not Rudolph Hess, and I have been asked to establish to what extent the Government have considered evidence which suggests an alternative explanation. In that light I would be grateful if you would answer for me the following question which I have set out as clearly and precisely as possible :

1. Would you make available the Medical Report on the torso of the former prisoner in Spandau which HMG have received from a HMG appointed Pathologist.
2. Could you let me know why HMG ordered two separate reports on the post mortem into the death of the former prisoner at Spandau.
3. Why has HMG failed to circulate both reports on the post mortem ?

continued/



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

-2-

4. Could you confirm that one of the post mortem reports into the death of the former prisoner at Spandau indicates no bullet scars on the left part of the torso of the prisoner.
5. Could you now release the details and results of the interrogation of the prisoner which was carried out in 1941 by Major Frank Foley of MI6.
6. Could I also be told why the reports by Major Foley and Sir Ivore Kirkpatrick were rejected by the Churchill Government.
7. Could you confirm from the records that Sir Ivore Kirkpatrick's first report revealed that when he met the prisoner, the prisoner did not recognise him.
8. Could you confirm that the British Authorities expected Hess to arrive on the night of 10 May 1941 and that this information derived from Intelligence Reports.
9. Could you confirm that when the person concerned did arrive there were doubts about the identity from the start.
10. Is it true that the Messerschmitt 110 which crashed at Eaglesham on 10 May 1941 had flown from Northern Denmark and that it was a different aircraft from the one alleged to have been flown by Rudolph Hess, from Augsburg, in Germany over Five hours earlier ?
11. Could you confirm pilots who landed in Scotland gave his name as Alfred Horn.

continued/



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LONDON SW1A 0AA

-3-

I do not know what the attitude of the Government has been to this whole affair over the years, apart from to say as little as possible, nevertheless, I do ask you to consider irrespective of constraints placed upon HMG to maintain confidentiality, that you will now make available answers to these questions in so far that they would help clear up a lot of the suspicion that surrounds this whole matter.

Yours sincerely,

  
MP DALE CAMPBELL-SAVOURS MP

(Dictated by the Writer  
& signed during his  
absence).



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# Confidential

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FM BMG BERLIN

TO DESKBY 210800Z BONNN

TELNO 172

OF 201700Z AUGUST 87

AND TO DESKBY 210800Z FCOLN

OINFO IMMEDIATE CICC GERMANY, MODUK, PARIS, MOSCOW, WASHINGTON

SIC MODUK FOR DEFENCE COMMITMENTS

FCO PLEASE ADVANCE TO NO 10 DOWNING STREET

MY TELNO 165 : HESS : THE NOTE

1. THE AMERICANS HAVE EXPRESSED TO US A STRONGLY HELD VIEW THAT A PROPER HAND WRITING ANALYSIS OF HESS'S LAST NOTE SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT. NEITHER THEY NOR WE HAVE ANY REASON TO SUSPECT THAT THE NOTE IS NOT THE WORK OF HESS HIMSELF. THE WRITING BEARS A VERY STRONG RESEMBLANCE TO LETTERS OF HIS WHICH WE HAVE SEEN IN THE PAST. NEVERTHELESS WE AGREE WITH THE AMERICANS THAT A PROFESSIONAL ANALYSIS WOULD ENABLE US IF NECESSARY TO CONFRONT ANY PUBLIC SUSPICION OF FORGERY WITH FIRM EVIDENCE. THE FRENCH CONCUR.
2. THE AMERICANS HAVE FURTHER TOLD US THAT THEY BELIEVE IT WOULD BE BEST IF SUCH AN ANALYSIS COULD BE CARRIED OUT BY BRITISH AUTHORITIES. THIS WOULD NOT ONLY BE CONSISTENT WITH BRITISH CONTROL OF THE INVESTIGATION SO FAR, BUT WOULD AVOID ANY POSSIBLE ACCUSATIONS OF THE US COVERING THEIR OWN TRACKS. IT WAS OF COURSE A US WARDER UNDER WHOSE SUPERVISION HESS DIED.
3. WE HAVE CONSULTED THE SIB WHO HAVE ADVISED US THAT THE BEST PERSON IN THE UK TO CARRY OUT SUCH AN ANALYSIS WOULD BE MR PAUL BEARD, OIC QUESTION DOCUMENTS, LABORATORY OF THE GOVERNMENT CHEMIST. (TEL 01 211 6707). WE UNDERSTAND THAT HE HAS BEEN CONSULTED PROVISIONALLY BY THE SIB AND WOULD BE PREPARED TO TAKE ON THIS JOB.
4. WE BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN OSVIET CONCURRENCE. THE NOTE IS AT PRESENT HELD IN A VAULT AT THE PRISON, AND TO PROCEED WITHOUT SOVIET AGREEMENT WOULD BE VERY CONTROVERSIAL, AND A NEW STAGE IN ACTING INDEPENDENTLY OF THE RUSSIANS. THIS VIEW IS SHARED BY OUR FRENCH AND US COLLEAGUES. ACCORDINGLY, THE PROPOSAL WAS PUT TO THE RUSSIANS AT A GOVERNORS' MEETING THIS AFTERNOON, AND THEY AGREED TO CONSIDER IT.

# Confidential

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# Confidential

5. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THERE IS ANY CHANCE THAT THE RUSSIANS WILL AGREE TO SENDING THE NOTE TO LONDON. IT WOULD THEREFORE BE NECESSARY FOR MR BEARD TO COME TO BERLIN. WE SHOULD BE GRATEFUL IF AUTHORITY IN PRINCIPLE WOULD BE GIVEN FOR THIS, COSTS WOULD OF COURSE BE BORNE ON THE OCB. THE AMERICANS ARE EAGER FOR AN ANALYSIS TO TAKE PLACE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND HOPE THAT IF SOVIET AGREEMENT CAN BE OBTAINED IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE FOR MR BEARD TO COME TO BERLIN AT THE WEEKEND.

BROOKING

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PS/MR MELLOR  
MR FBETWELL  
MR RATFORD  
MR FALL  
MR GILLMORE  
MR FEARN  
MR BOYD  
MISS PESTELL

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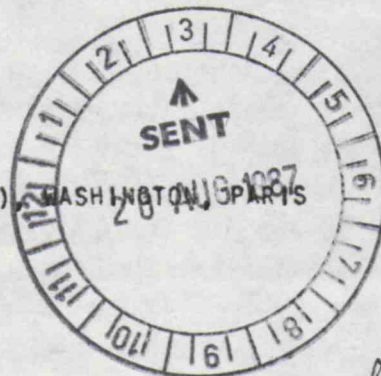


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INFO IMMEDIATE MOSCOW



SIC MODUK FOR DEFENCE COMMITMENTS  
BMG TELNO 167: HESS

SUMMARY

1. DOUBTS OF WOLF-RUEDIGER HESS AND HIS LAWYER ABOUT THE SUICIDE WIDELY REPORTED. A MINORITY WILL INSIST ON BELIEVING THERE WAS SOMETHING IRREGULAR WHATEVER WE SAY. BUT ADVANTAGE IN EARLY STATEMENT ABOUT THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE SIB INVESTIGATION. SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR UNATTRIBUTABLE BRIEFING.

DETAIL

2. ON TELEVISION LAST NIGHT WOLF-RUEDIGER SAID THAT THE SUICIDE NOTE FOUND IN HIS FATHER'S POCKET WAS NOT ENOUGH TO DISPEL HIS DOUBTS ABOUT THE SUICIDE. HE ALSO SAID THAT ONE MUST ASSUME THAT MEDICATION HAD PUT HIS FATHER INTO A CONDITION IN WHICH HE NO LONGER KNEW WHAT HE WAS DOING (WHICH, ON THE FACE OF IT, IMPLIES THAT IT WAS SUICIDE, ALBEIT WHILE THE BALANCE OF THE PRISONER'S MIND WAS DISTURBED). HIS REMARKS ARE WIDELY REPRODUCED IN THE FRG PRESS TODAY. THE LAWYER, SEIDL, HAS BEEN GOING MUCH FURTHER. AMONGST OTHER CLAIMS, HE HAS SUGGESTED THAT THE SUICIDE THEORY WAS DEVELOPED IN DISCUSSION AMONG THE ALLIES, THAT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR AN ELDERLY INVALID TO COMMIT SUICIDE WITH AN ELECTRIC CABLE "WITH TWO FREE ENDS", AND THAT SOMEONE MUST (IN BILD'S WORDS) HAVE HELPED HIM TO DIE. ONE PAPER SAYS THAT THE ALLIES HAVE REFUSED TO COMMENT ON SEIDL'S ALLEGATIONS. MOST PAPERS CARRY SEIDL'S CLAIMS AT SOME LENGTH AND INDULGE IN SOME SNIPIING AT BRITISH/ALLIED INFORMATION POLICY.

3. I BELIEVE THAT MOST GERMANS WILL DISMISS SEIDL'S CLAIMS AS ABSURD. WHAT COULD THE ALLIES POSSIBLY HAVE FOR MURDERING HESS AFTER GOING TO SUCH LENGTHS TO KEEP HIM ALIVE FOR MORE THAN 40 YEARS? A MINORITY WILL NEVERTHELESS INSIST THAT THE ALLIES ARE AT FAULT WHATEVER WE SAY.

4. AS THE SIB INVESTIGATION HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED THE ALLIES ARE IN ANY CASE LIKELY TO BE PRESSED TO SAY SOMETHING ABOUT ITS CONCLUSIONS. BUT PUBLIC ATTENTION IS LIKELY TO MOVE ON TO OTHER SUBJECTS QUITE QUICKLY AFTER THE FUNERAL HAS BEEN COVERED AND I WOULD BE DOUBTFUL ABOUT ANY PROCEDURE WHICH WOULD ENTAIL REVIVING THE SUBJECT AT A LATER DATE. FOR THIS REASON, AMONGST OTHERS, I

4. AS THE SIB INVESTIGATION HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED THE ALLIES ARE IN ANY CASE LIKELY TO BE PRESSED TO SAY SOMETHING ABOUT ITS CONCLUSIONS. BUT PUBLIC ATTENTION IS LIKELY TO MOVE ON TO OTHER SUBJECTS QUITE QUICKLY AFTER THE FUNERAL HAS BEEN COVERED AND I WOULD BE DOUBTFUL ABOUT ANY PROCEDURE WHICH WOULD ENTAIL REVIVING THE SUBJECT AT A LATER DATE. FOR THIS REASON, AMONGST OTHERS, I SHARE GENERAL BROOKING'S DOUBTS ABOUT INSTIGATING AT THIS STAGE PARALLEL REPORTS BY THE AMERICANS AND FRENCH.

5. THE CHOICE SEEMS TO BE BETWEEN ISSUING THE SIB REPORT IN FULL, IF IT PROVES SUITABLE (THOUGH THE INCLUSION OF THE AUTOPSY REPORT (BMG TELNO 168) ALREADY MAKES THIS DOUBTFUL) OR PUTTING OUT THE CONCLUSIONS ON THEIR OWN. EITHER WAY I HOPE WE COULD ACT TOMORROW, 21 AUGUST, AND THAT A WAY COULD BE FOUND TO ASSOCIATE AT LEAST THE AMERICANS AND THE FRENCH WITH THE ANNOUNCEMENT.

7. MEANWHILE, I WOULD SEE ADVANTAGE IN SOME UNATTRIBUTABLE BRIEFING BY THE ALLIES. THIS MIGHT MAKE THE POINTS IN PARA 4 ABOVE. IT COULD ALSO POINT OUT THAT THE ALLIES' REACTIONS TO AN UNEXPECTED SITUATION COULD HARDLY BE INSTANTANEOUS WHEN THE GOVERNMENTS OF ALL FOUR POWERS HAD TO BE CONSULTED AT EACH STEP, THAT DECENCY REQUIRED THAT CERTAIN COMMUNICATIONS MUST BE MADE TO THE FAMILY BEFORE THEY COULD BE MADE TO THE PRESS AND THAT IT IS NOT FOR THE ALLIES TO PUBLISH THE TEXT OF THE SUICIDE NOTE ADDRESSED BY HESS TO HIS FAMILY.

7. HAVING NOW READ THE AUTOPSY REPORT, I AGREE WITH GENERAL BROOKING'S VIEW THAT WE SHOULD AVOID GIVING IT TO WOLF-RUEDIGER HESS OR PUBLISHING IT. TO A SCEPTICAL LAYMAN IT COULD EVEN APPEAR TO GIVE CREDENCE TO THE LAST OF SEIDL'S CLAIMS IN PARA 2 ABOVE.

WILLIAMS

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TO IMMEDIATE BONN

TELNO 165  
OF 191940Z AUGUST 87  
INFO IMMEDIATE FCO, CICC GERMANY, MODUK, WASHINGTON, PARIS, MOSCOW

SIC MODUK FOR DEFENCE COMMITMENTS

FCO PLEASE ADVANCE TO NO. 10 DOWNING STREET

MY TELNO 163: HESS: THE NOTE

1. THE NOTE WHICH WAS FOUND IN HESS'S POCKET IS DIFFICULT TO DECIPHER. THE FOLLOWING IS A TRANSCRIPTION MADE BY THE AMERICANS, FOLLOWED BY OUR TRANSLATION.
2. THE TRANSCRIPTION OF THE GERMAN TEXT READS:

BEGINS

BITTE AN DIE DIREKTOREN DIES HEIMZUSCHICKEN.  
GESCHRIEBEN EIN PAAR MINUTEN VOR MEINEM TODE.  
ICH DANKE EUCH ALLEN, MEINE LIEBEN, FUER ALLES, WAS IHR MIR LIEBES ANGETAN. FREIBURG SAGT, ES HAT MIR MASSLOS LEID GETAN, DASS ICH SO TUN MUSSTE SEIT DEM NEURNBERGER PROZESS, ALS KENNE ICH SIE NICHT. ES BLEIB MIR NICHTS ANDERES UEBRIG, SONST WAEREN VERSUCHE UNMOEGLICH GEWESEN, IN DIE FREIHEIT ZU KOMMEN. ICH HATTE MICH SO DARAUF GEFREUT, SIE WEIDERZUSEHEN, ICH BEKAM JA BILDE VON IHR WIE VON EUCH ALLEN.

EUER GROSSER

ENDS

3. THIS IS OUR ENGLISH TRANSLATION.

BEGINS

PLEASE WOULD THE GOVERNORS SEND THIS HOME.  
WRITTEN A FEW MINUTES BEFORE MY DEATH.  
I THANK YOU ALL, MY DEAR ONES, FOR ALL THE DEAR THINGS YOU HAVE

IMMEDIATE

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PS/MUSCHALLER  
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ASSESSMENT STAFF,  
CASING OFFICE

PLEASE WOULD THE GOVERNORS SEND THIS HOME.  
WRITTEN A FEW MINUTES BEFORE MY DEATH.

I THANK YOU ALL, MY DEAR ONES, FOR ALL THE DEAR THINGS YOU HAVE  
DONE FOR ME. FREIBURG SAYS THAT I HAVE BEEN DREADFULLY HURT BY  
HAVING TO ACT SINCE THE NUREMBURG TRIAL AS THOUGH I DID NOT KNOW  
HER. I HAD NO OTHER ALTERNATIVE, OTHERWISE ALL THE ATTEMPTS TO  
ACHEIVE FREEDOM WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE.

I HAD LOOKED FORWARD TO SEEING HER AGAIN. I RECEIVED PICTURES OF  
HER AS OF ALL OF YOU.

YOUR BIG ONE.

ENDS

4. THE TEXT IS NOT FULLY INTELLIGIBLE TO US, BUT WE BELIEVE  
THAT AT NUREMBURG HESS FEIGNED AMNESIA AND PRETENDED NOT TO  
RECOGNISE PEOPLE WHO SHOULD HAVE BEEN WELL KNOWN TO HIM.

BROOKING

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UNCLASSIFIED  
FM BMG BERLIN  
TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELNO RETRACT 12  
OF 191800Z AUG 87

BERLIN NO: 0430 200 19/08/87 THI: 1800

FROM: INFORMATION DEPARTMENT, PURDON  
BRITISH MILITARY GOVERNMENT, BERLIN

BERMILGOV/30 PRESS RELEASE 19 AUGUST 1987

H E S S  
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ON AUGUST 19, AN AUTOPSY WAS PERFORMED ON THE BODY OF RUDOLF HESS IN THE BRITISH MILITARY HOSPITAL BY DR. J. MALCOLM CAMERON, M.D., PH.D., FRCS, FRC, PATH., PROFESSOR OF FORENSIC MEDICINE, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON. THE AUTOPSY WAS CONDUCTED IN THE PRESENCE OF MEDICAL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FOUR POWERS. WHILE SOME LABORATORY TESTS ARE STILL TO BE COMPLETED, THE PRIMARY CAUSE OF DEATH HAS BEEN DETERMINED TO BE ASPHYXIATION. THE NOTE WHICH WAS FOUND ON THE BODY — THE CONTENTS OF WHICH HAVE BEEN RELEASED TO THE HESS FAMILY — CLEARLY IMPLIES THAT HESS PLANNED TO TAKE HIS OWN LIFE. INVESTIGATIONS ARE CONTINUING INTO THE PRECISE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE DEATH.

TRANSLATION/UEBERSETZUNG

HESS

AM 19. AUGUST WURDE EINE AUTOPSIE DER LEICHE VON RUDOLF HESS IM BRITISCHEN MILITAERKRANKENHAUS VON DR. J. MALCOLM CAMERON, M.D., PHD., FRCS, FRC, PATH. PROFESSOR DER GERICHTSMEDIZIN AN DER LONDONER UNIVERSITAET, VORGENOMMEN. DIE AUTOPSIE WURDE IN ANWESENHEIT VON MEDIZINISCHEN VERTRETERN DER VIER MAECHTE DURCHGEFUEHRT. WAEHREND NOCH EINIGE LABORTESTS ANGESTELLT WERDEN, IST ALS HAUPTTODESURSACHE ERSTICKUNG ERMITTELT WORDEN. DER BRIEF, DEN MAN BEI HESS FAND UND DESSEN INHALT SEINER FAMILIE UEBERLASSEN WURDE, ZEIGT DEUTLICH, DASS HESS PLANTE, SICH DAS LEBEN ZU NEHMEN. DIE ERMITTLUNGEN BEZUEGLICH DER GENAUEN UMSTAENDE, DIE ZUM TODE FUEHRTEN, DAUERN AN.

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ENDS

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PS/MRS CHALKER  
PS/LORD GLENARTHUR  
PS/MR MELLOR  
MR FBETWELL  
MR RATFORD  
MR FALL  
MR GILLMORE  
MR FEARN  
MR BOYD  
MISS PESTELL

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INFO IMMEDIATE CICC GERMANY, MODUK, WASHINGTON, PARIS, MOSCOW



SIC

MODUK FOR DEFENCE COMMITMENTS

FCO PLEASE ADVANCE TO NO 10 DOWNING STREET

MY TELNO 160 : DEATH OF HESS : SITREP AT 191200Z

1. THE AUTOPSY WAS CONDUCTED AT THE BRITISH MILITARY HOSPITAL (BMH) BY PROFESSOR CAMERON THIS MORNING, AND IN THE PRESENCE OF DOCTORS FROM ALL FOUR POWERS AND WITH THE FOUR GOVERNORS WATCHING ON CLOSE CIRCUIT TELEVISION. THE ESSENTIAL CONCLUSION WAS THAT DEATH RESULTED FROM ASPHYXIA CAUSED BY THE PRESSURE OF LIGATURES ON THE NECK.

2. WITH QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT AND IN THE PRESENCE OF ALL FOUR GOVERNORS THE BODY HAS BEEN SEALED IN THE COFFIN.

3. THE US WERE UNABLE TO CONTACT WOLF-RUDIGER HESS LAST NIGHT TO HAND OVER THE NOTE (MY TUR REFERS) BECUASE HE HAD RETURNED TO MUNICH. THEY SPOKE TO HIM ON THE TELEPHONE AT ABOUT 1300 LOCAL TIME AND GAVE HIM THE TEXT OF THE NOTE AT DICTATION SPEED. WE ARE NOW STATING TO THE PRESS THAT A NOTE WAS FOUND, AND ADDING THAT THE CONTENTS HAVE BEEN PASSED TO THE FAMILY. THE ACTUAL NOTE WILL NOW PROBABLY HAVE TO BE GIVEN TO THE FAMILY WHEN THE BODY IS HANDED OVER.

4. AS YOU KNOW, THE BAVARIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE RAISED DOUBTS ABOUT THE ADEQUACY OF THE DOCUMENTATION IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THIS DEATH AND HAVE SUGGESTED THAT THEY MIGHT BE FORCED TO CONDUCT A SECOND AUTOPSY WHEN THE BODY ARRIVES IN THE FRG. THEY HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE BERLIN SENAT TO ENQUIRE WHETHER A GERMAN DOCTOR WAS INVOLVED IN THE AUTOPSY IN BERLIN, BUT HAVE OF COURSE BEEN TOLD THAT NONE WAS. THE SENAT HAVE TOLD US THAT THEY WISH TO BE LEFT COMPLETELY OUT OF THIS ISSUE. DISCUSSION OF THE PROBLEM IS CONTINUING.

5. SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY RESOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM OF DOCUMENTATION, WE ARE AT PRESENT STILL PLANNING THAT THE BODY SHOULD BE FLOWN TO BAVARIA TOMORROW MORNING ACCOMPANIED BY THE FOUR GOVERNORS.

BROOKING

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SECRET

Teletyped to  
Cornwall

PRIME MINISTER from Mark Addison

MT

**HESS**

When the announcement of Hess's death was made it was decided not to mention that he had been found hanging in the prison grounds by an American warder, before being rushed to hospital. Earlier this afternoon the following statement was released. This was without Russian consent, because they did not agree to a statement on the suicide.

BEGINS

X

ENDS

The Home Office pathologist has arrived in Berlin, and is studying Hess's records. The autopsy is expected to begin at 8 a.m. local time tomorrow. A further press statement on the autopsy is expected tomorrow.

The Russians <sup>did</sup> ~~have~~ not agreed that Hess's suicide note should be passed to the family, taking the view that it should be destroyed. ~~The future of the note is as yet unresolved, but the press statement omits reference to it.~~ The <sup>other</sup> Allies have now agreed - ~~into the US and UK press~~ that the note should be handed to the family without Russian agreement. When this has been done, a statement will be issued that a note was found in Hess's pocket.

18 August, 1987.

JD62



SECRET

PRIME MINISTER FROM MARK ADDISON

HESS

WHEN THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF HESS'S DEATH WAS MADE IT WAS DECIDED NOT TO MENTION THAT HE HAD BEEN FOUND HANGING IN THE PRISON GROUNDS BY AN AMERICAN WARDER, BEFORE BEING RUSHED TO HOSPITAL. EARLIER THIS AFTERNOON THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT WAS RELEASED. THIS WAS WITHOUT RUSSIAN CONSENT, BECAUSE THEY DID NOT AGREE TO A STATEMENT ON THE SUICIDE.

BEGINS

A PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION I

A PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION INDICATES THAT RUDOLF HESS ATTEMPTED TO TAKE HIS OWN LIFE. ON THE AFTERNOON OF AUGUST 17 HESS, AS HE WAS ACCUSTOMED TO DO, WENT, ESCORTED BY A PRISON WARDER, TO SIT IN A SMALL COTTAGE IN THE GARDEN OF THE PRISON. ON LOOKING INTO THE COTTAGE A FEW MINUTES LATER, THE WARDER FOUND HESS WITH AN ELECTRICAL CORD AROUND HIS NECK. RESUSCITATION MEASURES WERE TAKEN, AND HESS WAS TRANSPORTED TO THE BRITISH MILITARY HOSPITAL. AFTER FURTHER ATTEMPTS TO REVIVE HESS, HE WAS PRONOUNCED DEAD AT 1610. WHETHER THIS SUICIDE ATTEMPT WAS THE ACTUAL CAUSE OF DEATH IS THE SUBJECT OF A CONTINUING INVESTIGATION, INCLUDING A THOROUGH AUTOPSY.

ENDS

THE HOME OFFICE PATHOLOGIST HAS ARRIVED IN BERLIN, AND IS STUDYING HESS'S RECORDS. THE AUTOPSY IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN AT 8 A.M. LOCAL TIME TOMORROW. A FURTHER PRESS STATEMENT ON THE AUTOPSY IS EXPECTED TOMORROW.

THE RUSSIANS DID NOT AGREE THAT HESS'S SUICIDE NOTE SHOULD BE PASSED TO THE FAMILY, TAKING THE VIEW THAT IT SHOULD BE DESTROYED. THE OTHER ALIES HVE NOW AGREED THAT THE NOTE SHOULD BE HANDED TO THE FAMILY WITHOUT RUSSIAN AGREEMENT. WHEN THIS HAS BEEN DONE, A STATEMENT WILL BE ISSUED THAT A NOTE WAS FOUND IN

HESS'S POCKET.

18.7.87  
ENDS  
EDGZ

IS THERE MORE KKK

CONFIDENTIAL  
 FM BMG BERLIN  
 TO FLASH BONN  
 TELNO 155  
 OF 181120Z AUGUST 87  
 INFO FLASH FCO, CICC(G)  
 INFO IMMEDIATE MODUK  
 INFO PRIORITY WASHINGTON, PARIS, MOSCOW

SIC MODUK FOR DEFENCE COMMITMENTS

MIPT : DEATH OF HESS

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF DRAFT PRESS STATEMENT

BEGINS

A PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION ~~BY AUTHORITIES OF THE FOUR POWERS~~ INDICATES THAT RUDOLF HESS ATTEMPTED TO TAKE HIS OWN LIFE. ON THE AFTERNOON OF AUGUST 17 HESS, AS HE WAS ACCUSTOMED TO DO, WENT, ESCORTED BY A PRISON WARDER, TO SIT IN A SMALL COTTAGE IN THE GARDEN OF THE PRISON. ON LOOKING INTO THE COTTAGE A FEW MINUTES LATER, THE WARDER FOUND HESS WITH AN ELECTRICAL CORD AROUND HIS NECK. RESUSCITATION MEASURES WERE TAKEN, AND HESS WAS TRANSPORTED TO THE BRITISH MILITARY HOSPITAL. AFTER FURTHER ATTEMPTS TO REVIVE HESS, HE WAS PRONOUNCED DEAD AT 1610 HOURS. A NOTE WAS FOUND IN HIS POCKET. WHETHER THIS SUICIDE ATTEMPT WAS THE ACTUAL CAUSE OF DEATH IS THE SUBJECT OF A CONTINUING INVESTIGATION, INCLUDING A THOROUGH AUTOPSY.

ENDS

BROOKING

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 PS/CHALKER  
 PS/LD GLENARTHUR  
 PS/MR/MELLOR

SIR J FRETWELL  
 MR FEARN  
 MR BOYD  
 MISS PESTALL  
 MR FALL  
 MR GILLMORE

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No 10 Downing St

CONFIDENTIAL  
FM BMG BERLIN  
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TELNO 159  
OF 181530Z AUGUST 87  
INFO FLASH FCO  
INFO IMMEDIATE CICC GERMANY, WASHINGTON, MOSCOW, PARIS, MODUK

SIC MODUK FOR DEFENCE COMMITMENTS

ALSO IMMEDIATE NO 10 DOWNING STREET

DEATH OF HESS : SITREP



SUMMARY

1. PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE AUTOPSY, AND TRANSFER OF HESS'S BODY TO THE FRG WORKING SMOOTHLY. RUSSIANS DID NOT AGREE TO STATEMENT ON SUICIDE, WHICH WAS THEREFORE RELEASED WITHOUT THEIR CONSENT.

DETAIL

2. PROFESSOR CAMERON, THE HOME OFFICE PATHOLOGIST ARRIVED IN BERLIN THIS AFTERNOON AND HAS BEEN STUDYING HESS'S RECORDS. THE AUTOPSY IS EXPECTED TO COMMENCE AT 0800 LOCAL TIME ON 19 AUGUST. WE EXPECT TO BE IN A POSITION TO MAKE A FURTHER PRESS STATEMENT ON THE AUTOPSY IN THE COURSE OF 19 AUGUST.

3. PROVISIONALLY WE ARE PLANNING FOR THE BODY TO BE FLOWN FROM RAF GATOW DEPARTING AT 0900 ON 20 AUGUST, AND ARRIVING AT GRAFENWOEHR AT 1100. THE BODY WILL BE HANDED OVER TO HESS'S FAMILY BY THE FOUR PRISON GOVERNORS AT GRATENWOEHR.

4. THE RUSSIANS WERE UNABLE TO AGREE TO THE PROPOSAL THAT HESS'S SUICIDE NOTE SHOULD BE PASSED TO THE FAMILY (MY TELNO 154), TAKING THE VIEW THAT IT SHOULD BE DESTROYED. THE AMERICANS AND FRENCH HAVE NOT SO FAR BEEN WILLING TO AGREE TO THE WESTERN ALLIES ACTING ON THIS WITHOUT SOVIET CONCURRENCE, AND THE PRESS STATEMENT ANNOUNCING HESS'S SUICIDE (MY TELNO 158) THEREFORE OMITTS ALL REFERENCE TO THE NOTE.

5. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT FAILURE TO HAND OVER THE NOTE TO THE FAMILY WILL BE INTERPRETED BY THE PUBLIC IN AN UNFAVOURABLE MANNER. IT SEEMS TO US EXTREMELY UNLIKELY THAT THE PUBLIC WILL NOT (NOT) LEARN OF THE EXISTENCE OF THE NOTE. WE ARE CONTINUING TO PRESS THE US AND FRENCH TO TAKE THE NECESSARY ACTION IN TIME FOR US TO MAKE THE MATTER PUBLIC SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH OUR STATEMENT ON THE AUTOPSY.

6. PLEASE ADVANCE TO NO 10 DOWNING STREET

BROOKING

YYYY

# Confidential

GRS 309

CONFIDENTIAL  
FM BMG BERLIN  
TO FLASH BONN  
TELMO 154  
OF 181100Z AUGUST 87  
AND TO FLASH FCO, CICC(G)  
INFO IMMEDIATE MODUK  
PRIORITY WASHINGTON, MOSCOW, PARIS

SIC MODUK FOR DEFENCE COMMITMENTS

FCO TELNO 394 TO YOU : DEATH OF HESS

1. AT A MEETING OF ALLIED POLITICAL ADVISERS THIS MORNING, IT WAS AGREED THAT NEWS OF HESS'S SUICIDE WAS LIKELY TO LEAK SOON, AND THAT PREEMPTIVE ACTION WOULD BE THE BEST OPTION.
2. ACCORDINGLY, IT WAS DECIDED TO TAKE THE FOLLOWING STEPS:
  - A) THE AMERICANS, AS THIS MONTH CHAIRMAN AT SPANDAU, WOULD TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO BRIEF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN CONFIDENCE:
  - B) A DRAFT PRESS STATEMENT WAS PREPARED (TEXT IN MIFT) TO BE PUT TO THE RUSSIANS BY THE ALLIED GOVERNORS. IT WAS AGREED THAT IF THE RUSSIANS WERE UNWILLING TO GO ALONG WITH THE STATEMENT, THE ALLIES WOULD INDICATE THAT IN THAT CASE, BECAUSE OF THE RISK OF A LEAK, THEY WOULD FEEL OBLIGED TO RELEASE IT ON THEIR OWN RESPONSIBILITY AT 16.00 BERLIN TIME, BUT OMITTING THE WORDS 'BY AUTHORITIES OF THE FOUR POWERS'.
  - C) SHORTLY BEFORE 16.00, THE AMERICAN GOVERNOR WOULD INFORM THE FAMILY OF THE STATEMENT:
  - D) THE ALLIES SHOULD SEEK TO PERSUADE THE RUSSIANS THAT AT THE SAME TIME THE NOTE SHOULD ALSO BE HANDED TO THE FAMILY. HOWEVER, THE AMERICAN AND FRENCH VIEW WAS THAT IF THE RUSSIANS DID NOT AGREE, THE NOTE SHOULD NOT (NOT) BE HANDED OVER YET AND IN THAT CASE REFERENCE TO IT SHOULD BE OMITTED FROM THE STATEMENT. SMITH

# Confidential

MADE

# CONFIDENTIAL

MADE CLEAR THAT IN THE BRITISH VIEW, WE SHOULD BE PREPARED TO OVERRIDE THE RUSSIANS IF NECESSARY ON THE NOTE AS WELL AS ON THE STATEMENT:

E) THE AMERICANS SHOULD INFORM THE SENAT AT THE SAME TIME AS THE FAMILY.

3. AS ALREADY REPORTED IN TELECON SMITH/SIDDLE IT WAS ALSO AGREED THAT THE UK SHOULD DISCUSS WITH THE FRG WHETHER THE DOCUMENTATION ENVISAGED IN ANNEX D OF OPERATION ROYSTON WOULD BE ADEQUATE IN THE PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES OF HESS'S DEATH.

BROOKING

YYYY

BJBPAN 0900

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PS/MR EGGAR  
PS/CHALKER  
PS/LD GLENARTHUR  
PS/MR/MELLOR

SIR J FRETWELL  
MR FEARN  
MR BOYD  
MISS PESTALL  
MR FALL  
MR GILLMORE

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-2-  
CONFIDENTIAL

cc FCO  
File  
BM 81



10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

17 March, 1987.

Dear Cyril

Thank you for your letter of 20 February which was also signed by Mr. Ken Weetch, M.P. about Rudolf Hess.

As you will know, we and our French and American allies have made repeated appeals to the Soviet Union, both before and since the change of leadership in Moscow, that Rudolf Hess be released on humanitarian grounds. All have sadly met with a consistently flat refusal. We, nonetheless, continue to consult with the French and Americans about when and how we might again encourage the Russians to change their short-sighted and inhumane attitude. We are at present considering the possibility of a further approach, in view of Hess's current illness.

In the circumstances and given the many other issues that I must take up during my visit to Moscow, I do not think it would be right for me to promise to raise Hess's case. But we have certainly not dropped the matter and will continue to look for good opportunities to persuade the Russians to change their minds.

I am writing similarly to Mr. Weetch.

Yours ever  
Margaret

Cyril Townsend, Esq., M.P.

Lo

cc (CO)

file  
BM 81



10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

17 March, 1987.

*Dear Mr. Weetch,*

Thank you for your letter of 20 February which was also signed by Mr. Cyril Townsend, M.P. about Rudolf Hess.

As you will know, we and our French and American allies have made repeated appeals to the Soviet Union, both before and since the change of leadership in Moscow, that Rudolf Hess be released on humanitarian grounds. All have sadly met with a consistently flat refusal. We, nonetheless, continue to consult with the French and Americans about when and how we might again encourage the Russians to change their short-sighted and inhumane attitude. We are at present considering the possibility of a further approach, in view of Hess's current illness.

In the circumstances and given the many other issues that I must take up during my visit to Moscow, I do not think it would be right for me to promise to raise Hess's case. But we have certainly not dropped the matter and will continue to look for good opportunities to persuade the Russians to change their minds.

I am writing similarly to Mr. Townsend.

*Yours sincerely*

*Roger Thatcher*

Ken Weetch, Esq., M.P.

*ls*

CONFIDENTIAL



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

16 March 1987

*Dear Charles,*

Rudolf Hess

*at 1100*

Thank you for your letter of 26 February to Lyn Parker enclosing one of 20 February from Cyril Townsend MP and Ken Weetch MP (Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively of the All Party Freedom for Rudolf Hess Campaign) suggesting that the Prime Minister consider raising Hess's case during her visit to Moscow.

We have delayed replying while considering a recommendation, just received from the three Allied Missions in Berlin, that a further tripartite demarche be made to the Russians in view of Hess's deteriorating health. Now ninety two, he is in hospital with mild pneumonia and, though apparently not in immediate danger, is showing increasing signs of senility. The Secretary of State has agreed to a demarche, which, if Paris and Washington also agree (as is likely), would be made shortly, probably in the three Allied capitals.

While there might be some presentational advantage in the Prime Minister's raising Hess's case with the Russians, there is no reason to believe that the Russians would change their so far unqualified refusal to agree to his release. In view of the planned further demarche, which would take place this week, and the number of other sensitive issues for discussion in Moscow of greater importance to British interests, the Secretary of State recommends against the Prime Minister giving any undertaking to raise Hess's case, and that she reply discouragingly to Mr Townsend on the lines of the enclosed draft. In the unlikely event that in response to the Allied demarche there were indications of a change in the Soviet position, we could consider the question further.

We shall provide a short contingency brief on Hess for the Prime Minister's meeting on 23 March with Chancellor Kohl, who has recently shown renewed interest in Hess's case.

*Muss eyes,  
Tony Galsworthy*

(A C Galsworthy)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
10 Downing Street

CONFIDENTIAL



DSR (Revised Sept 85)

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1 +

FROM:

Reference

PRIME MINISTER  
DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

Your Reference

BUILDING:

ROOM NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

TO:

Copies to:

Cyril Townsend Esq MP and  
Ken Weetch Esq MP  
House of Commons  
London SW1

SUBJECT:

PRIVACY MARKING

..... In Confidence

Thank you for your letter of 20 February about  
Rudolf Hess.

CAVEAT .....

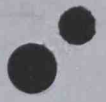
As you will know, we and our French and American allies have made repeated appeals to the Soviet Union, both before and since the change of leadership in Moscow, that Rudolf Hess be released on humanitarian grounds. All have sadly met with a consistently flat refusal. We nonetheless keep <sup>continuing to consult with the</sup> under continual review, <sup>about</sup> with the French and Americans when and how we might again encourage the Russians to change their shortsighted and inhumane attitude. ~~and~~ <sup>we</sup> are at present considering the possibility of a further approach, in view of Hess's current illness.

In the circumstances and given the many other issues that I must take up during my visit to Moscow, I do not think it would be right for me to <sup>propose</sup> undertake to raise Hess's case. But we have certainly not forgotten the matter and will continue to look for <sup>good</sup> appropriate opportunities to persuade the Russians to change their minds.

Enclosures flag(s) .....

*CP*

GORMANT : Hes July 80.





file DTB  
CMA

10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

*From the Private Secretary*

Acc/ 26 February 1987

I attach a copy of a letter the Prime Minister has received from Cyril Townsend, MP and Ken Weetch, MP.

R / I should be grateful if you could provide a draft reply for Prime Minister signature. It would be helpful if this could reach me by Thursday 12 March.

C D POWELL

Lyn Parker, Esq.  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

LB

From: CYRIL D. TOWNSEND, M.P.  
KEN WEETCH, M.P.



R2442

HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

25/2

20th February 1987

Dear Margaret,

We write as Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the All Party Freedom Rudolf Hess Campaign. (You will remember that Airey Neave used to chair this group.)

We have kept closely in touch with the Foreign Office over the years and knowing of your hundred and one other commitments, we have not corresponded with you about the plight of Rudolf Hess since March 1983.

In a reply which you sent me on 23rd March 1983 you mentioned that you shared our concern that Hess should still be in prison, and said,

' I agree that we should not leave any avenue unexplored.'

In view of these comments we write to ask if thought can be given to raising the Hess case with the Soviet authorities during your forthcoming important visit to the Soviet Union.

We appreciate it is very late in the day, but our committee members, and undoubtedly many people in this country believe that it is fundamentally wrong that Rudolf Hess aged 93, should be in solitary confinement so long after the War.

Yours ever  
Cyril

The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,  
10 Downing Street,  
London, S.W. 1

GERMANY

HESS

HOUSE OF COMMONS  
7/50

CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT  
cc Master  
OPS.

file

JD



cc: Pro

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

20 August 1986

**PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE**  
SERIAL No. T.153/86

My dear Helmut

Thank you for your letter of 21 July about Rudolf Hess.

As you know from our correspondence in 1984, I share your concern about Hess' continued imprisonment. Successive British (and indeed French and American) Governments have pressed the Soviet Union to agree to release him on humanitarian grounds. After you wrote in 1984, the three Allies made parallel demarches to the Russians in London, Paris, Washington and Moscow. As on all previous occasions, the Russians refused to contemplate releasing Hess. The most they have been willing to do is to agree to some modest improvements in the conditions of his imprisonment.

Particularly in view of Hess' recent illness, however, we did discuss with the French and Americans whether it would be worth making a further approach to the Russians. Our conclusion was that a further approach at this stage was bound to be rejected. But we shall, as ever, be keeping the issue under constant review with the aim of seizing the earliest suitable opportunity to approach the Russians again.

I imagine you would agree that it would be a mistake for the United Kingdom to put at risk the Four Power Agreements on Berlin, which have preserved the security and freedom of

DSS

some two million Germans in the Western sectors of the city,  
by unilaterally releasing Rudolf Hess.

Yours ever

Adenauer

---

His Excellency Dr. Helmut Kohl

CONFIDENTIAL

CCPC



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

8 August 1986

*Dear Tim,*

RUDOLF HESS

Thank you for your letter of 7 August enclosing a translation of Chancellor Kohl's letter of 21 July. Kohl asks the Prime Minister to pardon Hess and release him to his family. Kohl has also written to Presidents Reagan and Mitterrand.

Decisions about Hess have to be taken by the Four Powers (UK, US, France, Soviet Union) which originally imprisoned him. If Britain unilaterally released Hess we would put at risk the agreements by the Four Powers on Berlin which have preserved the freedom and security of two million Germans in the Western sectors of the city for over 40 years. It is not in the wider British or indeed German interest for us to do this. There can therefore be no question of complying with Kohl's request for unilateral action.

/ The enclosed draft reply nonetheless expresses sympathy for the reasons behind Kohl's approach, restating the view of successive British governments and referring to our repeated approaches to the Russians on Hess' behalf. Of the three Western Powers Britain has, in fact, been by far the most active over Hess. After Kohl had written to the Prime Minister on 14 March 1984, for example (I enclose a copy of his letter and the Prime Minister's reply for ease of reference), Lady Young called in the Soviet Charge and handed

/over

Tim Flesher Esq  
No 10 Downing Street

CONFIDENTIAL



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over a statement pressing for Hess' release. Largely at British initiative, parallel action was taken with the Russians in Paris, Washington and Moscow. As on all previous occasions, the Russians refused to contemplate releasing Hess. We would be very surprised if they were to change their minds now.

Kohl's present letter refers to the illness which required Hess' transfer to the British Military Hospital. Hess is now in fact back in Spandau Prison. In view of his illness and Kohl's approaches we considered with the French and the Americans whether it would be worth making yet another approach to the Russians. But we jointly concluded that the Russians would be bound to refuse to agree to release Hess, and would merely say (correctly) that they had recently allowed some improvements to be made in the conditions of Hess' imprisonment. We therefore decided that the timing was not right for a further demarche to the Russians.

I am copying this letter to John Howe at the Ministry of Defence.

*Yours sincerely*

*David Reddaway*

David Reddaway  
Private Secretary to  
Baroness Young

CONFIDENTIAL

DRAFT: ~~minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note~~  
~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:

Reference

Prime Minister

*CF*  
*[Signature]*

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

Your Reference

~~Top Secret~~  
~~XXXXXX~~  
~~SECRET~~  
Confidential  
~~XXXXXX~~  
~~Restricted~~  
Unclassified  
~~XXXXXX~~

His Excellency  
Dr Helmut Kohl  
Chancellor of the Federal Republic  
of Germany

Copies to:

*RPT*

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

Thank you for your letter of 1 August about  
Rudolf Hess.

CAVEAT.....

As you know from our correspondence in 1984  
I share your concern about Hess' continued imprisonment.  
Successive British (and indeed French and American)  
governments have pressed the Soviet Union to agree  
to release him on humanitarian grounds. After you  
wrote in 1984, the three Allies made parallel demarches  
to the Russians in London, Paris, Washington and Moscow.  
As on all previous occasions, the Russians refused  
to contemplate releasing Hess. The most they have  
been willing to do is to agree to some modest  
improvements in the conditions of his imprisonment.

Particularly in view of Hess' recent illness,  
however, we did discuss with the French and  
Americans whether it would be worth making a further  
approach to the Russians. Our conclusion was that  
a further approach at this stage was bound to be rejected.

Enclosures—flag(s).....

/But

But we shall, as ever, be keeping the issue under constant review with the aim of seizing the earliest suitable opportunity to approach the Russians again.

I imagine you would agree that it would be a mistake for the UK to put at risk the Four Power agreements on Berlin, which have preserved the security and freedom of some two million Germans in the Western sectors of the city, by unilaterally releasing Rudolf Hess.

I do hope you are enjoying your holiday and look forward greatly to our meeting in Bonn and with the Forces in September.



Jie b

10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

*From the Private Secretary*

1 August, 1986.

hb

I enclose a copy of a message to the Prime Minister from Chancellor Kohl about Rudolf Hess. I should be grateful for a draft reply.

I am copying this letter and enclosure to John Howe (Ministry of Defence).

(C.D. Powell)

MS

C.R. Budd, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

010  
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.  
~~DER BOTSCHAFTER~~  
DER BUNDESREPUBLIK DEUTSCHLAND

Baron Hans von Stein

1 August 1986

Dear Prime Minister,

I have the honour to transmit to you the enclosed letter from  
Herr Helmut Kohl, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany.

A courtesy translation is attached.

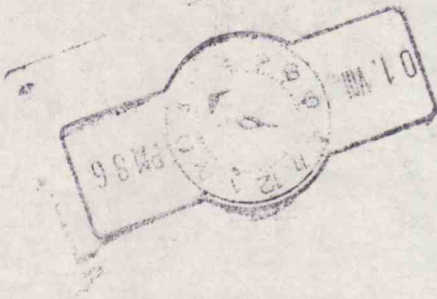
I am, dear Prime Minister,  
Yours sincerely  
Hans v. Stein

Her Excellency  
The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP  
Her Majesty's Prime Minister and  
First Lord of the Treasury  
L o n d o n

Charge d'Affaires r.f.

Baron Hans von Stein

1 August 1986



I have the honor to transmit to you the enclosed letter from  
Herr Helmut Kohl, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany.

A courtesy translation is attached.

Her Excellency  
The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP  
Her Majesty's Prime Minister and  
First Lord of the Treasury  
London

SUBJECT

PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T138A/86

Translation

Federal Republic of Germany  
The Federal Chancellor

Bonn, 21 July 1986

ccops  
master

The Right Honourable  
Margaret Thatcher, MP  
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain  
and Northern Ireland  
London

Dear Prime Minister, dear Margaret,

A few days ago, 92-year-old Rudolf Hess was transferred to the British military hospital in Berlin-Spandau. This is an occasion for me to make an urgent appeal to you to grant him a pardon so that he may be allowed to join his family.

Rudolf Hess is an old and sick man and as far as one can judge does not have much longer to live. For this reason, and in consideration of the time he has spent in prison, which now can serve no meaningful punitive purpose, he should, on humanitarian grounds, no longer be denied clemency.

Clemency for a very old man after four and a half decades in prison would not imply that the atrocities of National Socialism, part of the political responsibility for which is borne by Rudolf Hess, will be forgotten. Nor would a pardon on humanitarian grounds be synonymous with forgiving.

In 1946, as you know, the International Military Tribunal acquitted Rudolf Hess of the charge of war crimes and crimes against humanity. Germany bears historic responsibility for the crimes of Nazi tyranny. The release of Rudolf Hess would not alter this fact.

In my view clemency for Rudolf Hess is a dictate of humanity. To continue the now over 40-year imprisonment of a 92-year-old sick man would be utterly inhumane.

I therefore most sincerely appeal to you, Prime Minister, to support my request and secure the early release of Rudolf Hess.

Yours sincerely,

(sgd.) Helmut Kohl





BUNDESREPUBLIK DEUTSCHLAND  
DER BUNDESKANZLER

Bonn, den 21. Juli 1986

Ihrer Exzellenz  
Frau Margaret Thatcher, MP  
Premierminister des  
Vereinigten Königreichs  
Großbritannien und Nordirland

L o n d o n

Sehr geehrte Frau Premierminister, liebe Margaret,

der über 92-jährige Rudolf Hess wurde vor wenigen Tagen aus Gesundheitsgründen in das britische Militärkrankenhaus Berlin-Spandau verlegt. Aus diesem Grunde wende ich mich mit der dringenden Bitte an Sie, den Gefangenen gnadenweise in den Kreis seiner Familie zu entlassen.

Rudolf Hess ist heute ein alter und kranker Mann. Nach menschlichem Ermessen wird sein Leben nicht mehr lange währen. Deshalb, und angesichts der keinem sinnvollen Strafzweck mehr entsprechenden Haftdauer, sollte ihm aus humanitären Gründen eine Begnadigung nicht länger verweigert werden.

Die Begnadigung eines Greises nach viereinhalb Jahrzehnten Haft bedeutet nicht, daß die Untaten des Nationalsozialismus, für die Rudolf Hess politische Mitverantwortung trägt, in Vergessenheit geraten. Eine Begnadigung aus Gründen der Menschlichkeit ist auch nicht gleichbedeutend mit Vergebung.

Wie Sie wissen, hat das internationale Militärtribunal Rudolf Hess im Jahre 1946 von der Anklage, Verbrechen gegen die Menschlichkeit und Kriegsverbrechen begangen zu haben, freigesprochen. Für die Verbrechen der NS-Gewaltherrschaft trägt Deutschland die Verantwortung vor der Geschichte. Daran vermag auch die Freilassung von Rudolf Hess nichts zu ändern.

Ich bin der Auffassung, daß die Begnadigung von Rudolf Hess ein Gebot der Menschlichkeit ist. Eine Fortdauer der über vierzig Jahre währenden Haft eines 92-jährigen kranken Mannes ist zutiefst inhuman.

Ich darf Sie, sehr geehrte Frau Premierminister, sehr herzlich ersuchen, meine Bitte zu unterstützen und eine baldige Freilassung von Rudolf Hess zu ermöglichen.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen

JK  
L. J. J.

610



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

30 January 1986

*CDP 31/1*  
*Mr Powell*  
*I have spoken to the Archb's*  
*office accordingly*  
*(omitting last*  
*sentence!).*

*Dear Charles,*

Hess

*OK*  
*31/1*

*Mr. Catford*

*I agree with*  
*this advice*  
*CDP 37/1*

I have a word with David Dain. His clear view is that a letter from the Archbishop of Canterbury at this juncture would serve no purpose whatsoever. As you no doubt remember, numerous attempts have been made over the years to get the Russians to move, and they have never shown the slightest willingness to budge. Their response in this case would probably be to ask how many battalions are at Cantuar's disposal...

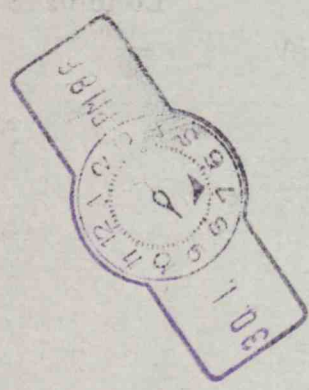
*Yours ever,*

*Colin Budd*

(C R Budd)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
PS/10 Downing Street

Postage and Revenue Dept.  
London E.C. 1, U.K.





Help

cfco

ce MASTER  
OK

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

PRIME MINISTER'S

9 April 1984

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No: T55/84

Dear Chancellor,

Thank you for your letter of 14 March about Rudolf Hess.

I do indeed share your concern about Herr Hess's continued imprisonment. Unfortunately, as you know, this is not a matter which the three Western allies can decide without the agreement of the Soviet Union. Successive British Governments have tried on very many occasions over the last 20 years to persuade the Soviet Union to agree to his release; but they have so far remained obdurate.

I have however not given up hope of securing agreement to Hess's release. With his 90th birthday in mind we have initiated discussions with our French and American allies and are at present considering making further representations to the Russians.

Yours sincerely  
Margaret Thatcher

His Excellency Herr Dr. Helmut Kohl

✓

CONFIDENTIAL

ck



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

5 April, 1984

*See [unclear]*

*The letter re.  
[unclear]  
/4.*

Rudolf Hess

Thank you for your letter of 30 March enclosing a copy of a letter dated 14 March from Chancellor Kohl about Rudolf Hess.

I enclose a draft reply. It refers to the numerous occasions on which British Governments have attempted to secure Soviet agreement to Hess's release; our record here compares favourably with that of the French and Americans. At our initiative the Allies are in fact once again considering a possible tripartite demarche to the Russians in favour of Hess's release. The first indications from our allies are that we shall be able to agree to make a demarche before Hess's 90th birthday on 26 April.

Chancellor Kohl's letter includes a reference to the fact that Hess has not been allowed a private meeting with his family. Such a meeting would be against the prison regulations. At one stage we thought it might be possible to persuade the Russians to agree, exceptionally, to a meeting between Hess and his son, at which it was hoped the son would be able to persuade his father to sign a statement of repentance. However, Hess himself destroyed this possibility by writing a letter on 12 September 1979, in which he argued that he had been unjustly imprisoned and should be released immediately. This is not a matter that should be disclosed in the Prime Minister's reply to Chancellor Kohl.



*[Handwritten signature]*

(R B Bone)

Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq  
10 Downing Street

CONFIDENTIAL

DRAFT: ~~XXXXX~~ minute/letter/~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ teletype/letter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:

Reference

Prime Minister

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

Your Reference

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

Chancellor Kohl

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

CAVEAT.....

Thank you for your letter of 14 March about Rudolf Hess.

I do indeed share your concern about Herr Hess's continued imprisonment. Unfortunately, as you know, this is not a matter which the three Western allies can decide without the agreement of the Soviet Union. Successive British Governments have tried on very many occasions over the last 20 years to persuade the Soviet Union to agree to his release; but they have so far remained obdurate.

I have however not given up hope of securing agreement to Hess's release. With his 90th birthday in mind we have initiated discussions with our French and American allies and are at present considering making further representations to the Russians.

*Handwritten signature*

Enclosures—flag(s).....

Germany - Rudolf Hess July '80

APR 11 1984



100-00



CONFIDENTIAL

file ECL



cc Sir P Craddock

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

30 March 1984

Rudolf Hess

I enclose a copy of a letter, together with a translation, that the Prime Minister has received from the Federal German Chancellor requesting that we should agree to the return of Rudolf Hess to his family.

I shall be grateful of an early draft reply from the Prime Minister to Chancellor Kohl.

BA J

A. J. COLLS

R B Bone Esq  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

CONFIDENTIAL

MC



File ECC

cc Sir P  
Cradock

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

30 March 1984

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter of 28 March enclosing a message from the Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany.

A. J. COLES

Herr Jurgen von Alten

Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

London, 28th March 1984

DER BOTSCHAFTER  
DER BUNDESREPUBLIK DEUTSCHLAND

*Dear Prime Minister,*

I have been instructed to transmit to you the enclosed message from Herr Helmut Kohl, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany.

A courtesy translation is attached.

*I have the honour to be, dear Prime Minister,*

*Yours sincerely*

*Jürgen von Alten*

Jürgen von Alten

Her Excellency

The Rt.Hon. Margaret Thatcher  
Her Majesty's Prime Minister and  
First Lord of the Treasury  
L o n d o n

cc Ops  
Master

SUBJECT

Courtesy Translation

PRIME MINISTER'S

L e t t e r

PERSONAL MESSAGE

from

SERIAL No. T 39C/84

Herr Helmut Kohl

Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany

to

Her Excellency

The Rt.Hon. Margaret Thatcher

Her Majesty's Prime Minister and First Lord  
of the Treasury

14-3-84

Dear Prime Minister,

Rudolf Heß will become 90 years old on 26 April 1984. For this reason I am turning to you with the urgent request to allow him to return to his sorely afflicted family now after 43 years of imprisonment, of which he has spent the period since 1966 in solitary confinement. In view of his age, his poor state of health and the duration of imprisonment which does not truly meet the purpose of punishment any more, Rudolf Heß, who - as far as it is humanly possible to judge - has not much longer to live, should for reasons of humanity no longer be denied a pardon. This would not diminish the memory of the untold harm which national socialism inflicted on Europe and the world and for which Rudolf Heß shares political responsibility. In 1946 the International Military Tribunal acquitted him of the charge of crimes against humanity and war crimes.

On 15 December 1982 the Bundestag unanimously called upon the Federal Government to seek once again the release of Rudolf Heß.

Despite various requests by his family, Rudolf Heß has until now unfortunately not been given any opportunity for an unmonitored meeting in private with his next of kin.

It is my view that the continued imprisonment of  
Rudolf Heß cannot be reconciled with the dictates  
of humanity.

I would be grateful if you could support my request.

Yours sincerely,

sgd. Helmut Kohl

50  
BUNDESREPUBLIK DEUTSCHLAND  
DER BUNDESKANZLER



Bonn, den 14. März 1984

Ihrer Exzellenz  
Frau Margaret Thatcher, MP  
Premierminister des Vereinigten  
Königreichs Großbritannien und  
Nordirland  
L o n d o n

Sehr geehrte Frau Premierminister,

Rudolf Heß wird am 26. April 1984 90 Jahre alt. Aus diesem Anlaß wende ich mich an Sie mit der dringlichen Bitte, den Gefangenen - nach nunmehr 43-jähriger Haftzeit, seit 1966 in Einzelhaft - zu seiner schwergeprüften Familie zurückkehren zu lassen. Angesichts des Alters, des angegriffenen Gesundheitszustandes und der keinem sinnvollen Strafzweck mehr entsprechenden Haftdauer, sollte ihm, der nach menschlichem Ermessen nicht mehr lange leben wird, aus Gründen der Menschlichkeit eine Begnadigung nicht länger verweigert werden. Das unermeßliche Unheil, das der Nationalsozialismus über Europa und die Welt gebracht und das Rudolf Heß politisch mitverantworten hat, wird deshalb nicht in Vergessenheit geraten. Das Internationale Militärtribunal hat ihn 1946 von der Anklage, Verbrechen gegen die Menschlichkeit und Kriegsverbrechen begangen zu haben, freigesprochen.

Der Deutsche Bundestag hat am 15. Dezember 1982 die Bundesregierung einstimmig aufgefordert, erneut für die Freilassung von Rudolf Heß tätig zu werden.

Leider erhielt Rudolf Heß - trotz verschiedener Anträge seiner Familie - bisher keine Gelegenheit, ein persönliches und nicht überwachtes Gespräch mit seinen nächsten Angehörigen führen zu können.

Ich bin der Auffassung, daß die weitere Inhaftierung von Rudolf Heß mit den Maßstäben der Menschlichkeit nicht zu vereinbaren ist.

Sehr geehrte Frau Premierminister, bitte unterstützen Sie meinen Wunsch.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen

Heß  
L. J. J.



29 MAR 1984

*Handwritten signature or initials*

ANALYSIS  
FOOTPRINT





10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

24 March 1983

HESS

I told you this afternoon that Mr. Cyril Townsend MP wished to publish the letter the Prime Minister sent to him on 23 March. After consulting you and the Prime Minister, I told Mr. Townsend's Office that the Prime Minister would prefer him not to publish her letter at this stage since it would warn the Russians that we were considering making a new approach about Hess.

Mr. Townsend's secretary asked when he could make his correspondence public. I told her that the Prime Minister had promised in her letter that the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary would inform Mr. Townsend of any action the Government decided to take. In doing so, I was sure Mr. Pym would let him know what he could make public.

I should be grateful if you could take this into account when the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary writes to Mr. Townsend. It might be best if his letter were to be couched in terms that could be made public.

WR

R. B. Bone, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.



FIVE JR  
cc: I Gove. 2/13  
FCO

10 DOWNING STREET

23 March, 1983

THE PRIME MINISTER

Dear Cyril.

Many thanks for your letter of 10 March about Rudolf Hess. I do, of course, share your concern that he should still be in prison.

You suggest that the arrival of Andropov in Moscow might open the way for a new initiative by HMG. I agree that we should not leave any avenue unexplored. I know Francis Pym is already considering how we might best proceed and have asked him to keep you informed of any action we decide to take.

Yours  
Raymond

Cyril Townsend, Esq., MP.

Handwritten initials

CONFIDENTIAL

*Germany*



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

21 March, 1983

*Dear Willie,* *prime* *21/3*  
Hess

Thank you for your letter of 11 March with which you enclosed Mr Townsend's letter of 10 March about Rudolf Hess.

As Chairman of the All-Party Freedom for Rudolf Hess Campaign, Mr Townsend has for some years taken the lead in supporting Hess' cause in the House of Commons. When he called on Lord Belstead in September 1982, Lord Belstead undertook that we would consider with our allies a further tripartite approach to the Russians aimed at securing Hess' release. At that time, however, after careful consideration, Ministers doubted the value of another approach. The British record on appeals is good; indeed it is vastly better than the French or American. Mr Hurd raised the matter with the Soviet Ambassador in London as recently as 23 June 1982.

Since then, Andropov has taken over in Moscow and there have been suggestions in Parliament that HMG should make representations to the new Soviet leadership. FCO Ministers have decided that we should first sound out our US and French Allies on the possibility of their joining us in a tripartite approach. We have asked our Allies for a response before Easter. If they do not wish to join us, we could make a further unilateral appeal. The level of either a tripartite or a national British demarche is still for consideration.

We would rather not reveal all this detail to Mr Townsend. I enclose a draft reply from the Prime Minister which promises that the FCO will keep him informed of any action we decide to take.

*Yours ever*  
*for* *John Hides*  
(R B Bone)  
Private Secretary

W Rickett Esq  
Private Secretary  
10 Downing Street

CONFIDENTIAL

DRAFT: ~~minute~~/letter/~~teletype~~/~~despatch~~/~~note~~X

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:  
PRIME MINISTER

Reference

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

Your Reference

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

Cyril Townsend Esq MP  
House of Commons

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT: HESS

.....In Confidence

CAVEAT.....

Many thanks for your letter of 11 March about Rudolf Hess. I do of course share your concern that he should still be in prison.

You suggest that the arrival of Andropov in Moscow might open the way for a new initiative by HMG. I agree that we should not leave any avenue unexplored. I know Francis Pym is already considering how we might best proceed and have asked him to keep you informed of any action we decide to take.

Enclosures—flag(s).....

Germany,  
July '80,  
Rudolf Hess

27

da

*Germany*

11 March 1983

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister to thank you for your letter of 10 March. I will place this before her and you will be sent a reply as soon as possible.

W F S RICKETT

Cyril D. Townsend, Esq., M.P.

CYRIL TOWNSEND, MP.

da  
25/3

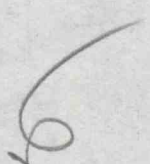
11 March 1983

I enclose a copy of a letter to the Prime Minister from Mr. Cyril Townsend M.P.

I should be grateful if you could provide a draft reply for the Prime Minister to send to Mr. Townsend, to reach us by 25 March.

W F S RICKETT

Roger Bone, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.



From: CYRIL D. TOWNSEND, M.P.

*Prime minister cc 19  
we will let you have  
a swift reply. WM  
11/3*



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

10th March 1983

*E* *mt*

*Dear Margaret,*

Currently I am chairman of the All Party Free Rudolf Hess Campaign. (You will remember that Airey Neave was my predecessor in this regard.)

We have kept closely in touch with the Foreign Office over the years and I went to see John Belstead a few months ago.

For sometime now our committee has suggested I got in touch with you direct to see if you would feel able to take a personal interest in the case of Rudolf Hess who has his 89th birthday on 26th April.

Knowing of your hundred and one commitments, I have held back, but all too obviously time is not on our side and the arrival on the scene of Mr. Andropov might just give you the opportunity for some initiative?

*Yours ever*

*Cyril*

The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,  
10 Downing Street,  
London, S.W. 1



Ref  
Germany

30 September 1982

Thank you for your letter of 29 September enclosing a draft reply from the Prime Minister to Chancellor Schmidt's message about Rudolph Hess. As you know, the Prime Minister has approved the draft and I assume that arrangements have now been made for its transmission.

TIM FLESHER

J.E. Holmes, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

CONFIDENTIAL



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Prime Minister:

You will already  
have received Chancellor  
Schmidt's message. Agree  
draft response?

29 September 1982

Dear John,

JH

Yes not

29/9

Thank you for your letter of 24 September about Chancellor Schmidt's message to the Prime Minister concerning Rudolf Hess.

I enclose a draft reply from the Prime Minister, which could be delivered to the Chancellor's Office before his possible departure on 1 October. It is in general terms. The Western Allies are currently negotiating with the Russians in Berlin a Protocol which will provide for the wishes of Hess's family to be met in the event of his death in prison. We are close to signature. In order to avoid complications or delay, we advise that the Prime Minister's reply should omit specific references both to these negotiations and to our most recent appeal for Hess's release. Omission should not strike the Germans as odd since they are thought to be unaware of these developments.

When the Protocol has been signed we shall consider a further tripartite approach to the Russians on release.

Yours ever

(J E Holmes)  
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq  
10 Downing Street

CONFIDENTIAL

OUT TELEGRAM

Classification and Caveats

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Precedence/Deskby

**IMMEDIATE**

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CAVEATS  
DESKBY  
FM FCO  
PRE/ADD  
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ZCZC  
GRS  
CONFIDENTIAL  
FM FCO 291300Z SEPTEMBER 82  
TO IMMEDIATE BONN  
TELEGRAM NUMBER  
AND REPEATED FOR INFORMATION TO PRIORITY BONN; ROUTINE PARIS,  
WASHINGTON, MOSCOW  
HESS: APPEAL FOR RELEASE  
1. Chancellor Schmidt has recently written to the Prime Minister  
about Hess (text sent to Fowler by bag). Please pass following  
reply from the Prime Minister to the Chancellor.  
2. BEGINS: Dear Helmut,  
Thank you for your recent letter about Rudolf Hess. I share your  
concern that he should still be in prison at a time when his  
health is failing. As you know, successive British Governments  
have appealed to the Russians to agree to his release. I can  
assure you that we shall continue our efforts to this end. We  
shall also do all we can to ensure that, in the event of Rudolf  
Hess's death in prison, he is accorded a proper funeral.  
With best wishes, Margaret Thatcher. ENDS  
PYM NNNN

///  
//  
/

NNNN ends telegram	BLANK	Catchword
File number	Dept	Distribution
Drafted by (Block capitals)		
Telephone number		
Authorised for despatch		
Comccn reference	Time of despatch	

SUBJECT

cc memo  
ops

PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. 185AA/82

P.O. KH (73)

TOP COPY 4.10

CONFIDENTIAL

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OO BONN (DESKBY 301800Z)  
PP BMG BERLIN  
GRS 143  
CONFIDENTIAL  
DESKBY BONN 301800Z  
FM FCO 291300Z SEPTEMBER 82  
TO IMMEDIATE BONN TELEGRAM NUMBER 422 OF 30 SEPTEMBER  
INFO PRIORITY BMG BERLIN  
ROUTINE PARIS, WASHINGTON, MOSCOW.  
HESS: APPEAL FOR RELEASE

1. CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT HAS RECENTLY WRITTEN TO THE PRIME MINISTER ABOUT HESS (TEXT SENT TO FOWLER BY BAG). PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING REPLY FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO THE CHANCELLOR.  
2. BEGINS: DEAR HELMUT,  
THANK YOU FOR YOUR RECENT LETTER ABOUT RUDOLF HESS. I SHARE YOUR CONCERN THAT HE SHOULD STILL BE IN PRISON AT A TIME WHEN HIS HEALTH IS FAILING. AS YOU KNOW, SUCCESSIVE BRITISH GOVERNMENTS HAVE APPEALED TO THE RUSSIANS TO AGREE TO HIS RELEASE. I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT WE SHALL CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS TO THIS END. WE SHALL ALSO DO ALL WE CAN TO ENSURE THAT, IN THE EVENT OF RUDOLF HESS'S DEATH IN PRISON, HE IS ACCORDED A PROPER FUNERAL.  
WITH BEST WISHES, MARGARET THATCHER. ENDS

PYM

NNNN

DISTRIBUTION  
LIMITED  
WED  
EESD  
PS  
PS/LORD BELSTEAD  
PS/MR RIFKIND  
PS/PUS  
SIR J BULLARD.

WRL 054/3		
RECEIVED		
- 4 OCT 1982		
DESK OFFICER		
	PA	Action Tak.

R 25/1820

CONFIDENTIAL

FO HO 028/25 SEP

OO HONG KONG

GRS 202

CONFIDENTIAL

FM F C O 241802Z SEP 82

TO IMMEDIATE PEKING

TELEGRAM NUMBER 457 OF 24 SEPTEMBER.

*I wish to share  
Admiral - Schmidt's visit.  
M*

FOLLOWING FOR COLES, PRIME MINISTER'S PARTY, FROM FLESHER,  
10 DOWNING STREET.

THE PRIME MINISTER MAY WISH TO KNOW THAT HERR SCHMIDT HAS SENT THE  
FOLLOWING MESSAGE ABOUT RUDOLPH HESS:

QUOTE THE STATE OF HEALTH OF RUDOLPH HESS, WHO IS NOW 88 YEARS  
OLD AND IS - AS THE ONLY INMATE OF THE ALLIED MILITARY PRISON  
AT BERLIN-SPANDAU - SERVING A LIFE SENTENCE, CLEARLY GIVES GROUNDS  
FOR CONCERN. I SHOULD THEREFORE LIKE TO DRAW YOUR ATTENTION ONCE  
MORE TO THE FATE OF THIS MAN WHO HAS BEEN IMPRISONED FOR OVER  
41 YEARS NOW AND APPEAL TO YOU, IRRESPECTIVE OF THE QUESTION OF  
LEGAL AND MORAL GUILT, TO ENABLE HIM FOR HUMANITARIAN REASONS  
THROUGH AN ACT OF CLEMENCY TO SPEND THE LAST DAYS OF HIS LIFE  
WITH HIS FAMILY.

RUDOLPH HESS HAS GIVEN HIS WORD OF HONOUR TO HIS SON THAT, ON  
BEING RELEASED, HE WILL NOT COMMENT IN ANY WAY ON HISTORICAL,  
CONTEMPORARY OR POLITICAL QUESTIONS.

I SHOULD ALSO BE GRATEFUL IF YOU COULD GRANT THE RELATIVES OF  
RUDOLPH,

HESS THEIR WISH THAT, IN THE EVENT OF HIS DEATH IN  
PRISON, HIS BODY BE HANDED OVER TO THEM FOR BURIAL. UNQUOTE

WE HAVE ASKED THE FOREIGN OFFICE TO PROVIDE A DRAFT REPLY FOR  
THE PRIME MINISTER'S RETURN.



Copied to: PRESS OFFICE

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

24 September, 1982

As I mentioned on the telephone, the Prime Minister has received the attached message from the Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany seeking the release of Herr Rudolph Hess or, alternatively, in the event of his death in prison, that his body be handed to his relatives for burial.

*BF*  
I should be grateful for your advice on how the Prime Minister should respond to Herr Schmidt's message as soon as possible, bearing in mind Herr Schmidt's likely departure from office next week.

I also enclose a telegram for the Prime Minister's party in Peking and I should be grateful if you could arrange for its despatch.

TIMOTHY FLESHER

John Holmes, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

CONFIDENTIAL

*JF*

File No. ....  
Department .....  
Drafted by .....  
(Block Capitals) .....  
Tel. Extn. ....

OUTWARD  
TELEGRAM

Security Classification
CONFIDENTIAL
Precedence
IMMEDIATE
DESKBY .....Z

FOR  
COMMS. DEPT.  
USE

Despatched (Date) .....  
(Time) .....Z

POSTBY .....Z

PREAMBLE

(Time of Origin) .....Z(G.M.T.) (Restrictive Prefix).....  
(Security Class.) CONFIDENTIAL (Caveat/  
Privacy Marking) .....  
(Codeword) ..... (Deskby) .....Z

TO IMMEDIATE PEKING Tel. No. 444 of 24/9  
(precedence) (post)

AND TO (precedence/post) .....

AND SAVING TO .....

REPEATED TO (for info) .....

SAVING TO (for info) .....

Distribution:-

[TEXT]

Following for Coles, Prime Minister's Party, from  
Flesher, 10 Downing Street

The Prime Minister may wish to know that Herr Schmidt has sent the following message about Rudolph Hess:  
"The state of health of Rudolph Hess, who is now 88 years old and is - as the only inmate of the allied military prison at Berlin-Spandau - serving a life sentence, clearly gives grounds for concern. I should therefore like to draw your attention once more to the fate of this man who has been imprisoned for over 41 years now and appeal to you, irrespective of the question of legal and moral guilt, to enable him for humanitarian reasons through an act of clemency to spend the last days of his life with his family.

/Rudolph Hess

Copies to:-

Rudolph Hess has given his word of honour to his son that, on being released, he will not comment in any way on historical, contemporary or political questions.

I should also be grateful if you could grant the relatives of Rudolph Hess their wish that, in the event of his death in prison, his body be handed over to them for burial."

We have asked the Foreign Office to provide a draft reply for the Prime Minister's return.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN



T 184/82



DER BOTSCHAFTER  
DER BUNDESREPUBLIK DEUTSCHLAND

London, 24 September 1982

Her Prime Minister

I have been instructed to transmit to you the enclosed message from Herr Helmut Schmidt, Federal Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany. Identical messages have been addressed to the Heads of State or Government of the other three detaining Powers.

I am, Her Prime Minister,  
yours sincerely  
Jürgen Ruhfus

Jürgen Ruhfus

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.  
Her Majesty's Prime Minister  
and  
First Lord of the Treasury  
L o n d o n

RTBRM-KLANGHART DER ROMERTUR

SUBJECT

Translation

cc Master  
Ops

From: Helmut Schmidt, Federal Chancellor of the  
Federal Republic of Germany

To: The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.  
Her Majesty's Prime Minister and First Lord of  
the Treasury

**PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T 184/82**

Dear Margaret,

The state of health of Rudolf Hess, who is now 88 years old and is - as the only inmate of the allied military prison at Berlin-Spandau - serving a life sentence, clearly gives grounds for concern. I should therefore like to draw your attention once more to the fate of this man who has been imprisoned for over 41 years now and appeal to you, irrespective of the question of legal and moral guilt, to enable him for humanitarian reasons through an act of clemency to spend the last days of his life with his family.

Rudolf Hess has given his word of honour to his son that, on being released, he will not comment in any way on historical, contemporary or political questions.

I should also be grateful if you could grant the relatives of Rudolf Hess their wish that, in the event of his death in prison, his body be handed over to them for burial.

Yours sincerely,

(sgd.) Helmut Schmidt

MATTPOST

Von: Helmut Schmidt, Bundeskanzler der Bundesrepublik  
Deutschland

An: The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.  
Premierminister des Vereinigten Königreichs von  
Großbritannien und Nordirland

Liebe Margaret,

der Gesundheitszustand des 88 Jahre alten Rudolf Hess, der noch als einziger Häftling im alliierten Militärgefängnis Berlin-Spandau eine lebenslange Freiheitsstrafe verbüßt, ist offensichtlich besorgniserregend. Ich möchte daher Ihre Aufmerksamkeit erneut auf das Schicksal dieses Mannes lenken, der seit über 41 Jahren inhaftiert ist, und an Sie appellieren, ihm unabhängig von rechtlicher und moralischer Schuld aus Gründen der Menschlichkeit durch einen Akt der Gnade zu ermöglichen, seine letzten Tage im Kreise seiner Familie zu verbringen.

Rudolf Hess hat seinem Sohn gegenüber ehrenwörtlich erklärt, daß er sich nach seiner Freilassung nicht zu irgendwelchen historischen, zeitgeschichtlichen oder politischen Fragen äußern werde.

Ich wäre ferner dankbar, wenn Sie sich der Bitte der Familie von Rudolf Hess nicht verschließen würden, im Falle seines Ablebens in der Haft den Leichnam seinen Angehörigen zur Bestattung zu übergeben.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen

gez. Helmut Schmidt

ZETA  
MATTPOST

F-10

Germann

289

14 October 1980

HESS

The Prime Minister has seen your letter to me of 13 October and has agreed that we should proceed as you propose. I should be grateful if you would instruct Sir Oliver Wright accordingly.

M. G. B. ALEXANDER

Paul Lever, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

TOR



Prime Minister

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Hope that Sir O. Wright  
Should reply to Herr Strauss on  
your behalf + in the terms agreed tripartitely  
in Bonn? The ~~attached~~ point is a

13 October 1980

Dear MIKE, Walter detailed me + is certainly a tripartite one  
so that this seems appropriate.

Hess

Paul 13/x

Yes m

Please refer to my letter of 1 October about the letter  
from Herr Franz Josef Strauss to the Prime Minister about  
Rudolf Hess.

This letter has now been considered tripartitely in Bonn.  
Neither the French nor the US representative yet knows  
whether his Head of Government has received a similar letter,  
but in the interests of speed the three representatives  
agreed to recommend that the attached draft should serve as the  
basis for similarly-worded replies to all three letters if  
necessary.

The French and US representatives both doubt whether their  
Presidents - assuming that they received letters - would wish  
to reply themselves. Taking account of the desirability of  
maintaining allied unity in such matters, the three representatives  
have accordingly recommended that the replies should issue from the  
Ambassadors in Bonn.

Lord Carrington agrees with this proposed procedure. I  
would be grateful to learn whether the Prime Minister is also  
content.

Yours etc

Paul

(P Lever)  
Private Secretary

Mike Pattison Esq  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON

British draft - 2 October 1980

S: REPLY TO FRANZ JOSEF STRAUSS

1. I have been asked to reply to your letter to the Prime Minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, about the case of Rudolf Hess.
2. As you say, Her Majesty's Government, like the governments of France and the United States, have for many years been of the opinion that Rudolf Hess should be released on humanitarian grounds, and have repeatedly tried to obtain the agreement of the Soviet Union to this.
3. You suggest that the three western allies should release Hess during those months when they are "powers of custody" so that he would only have to be in prison when the Soviet Union was power of custody! This is unfortunately not possible. Although the ceremonial guarding of the prison rotates between the four powers, under the quadripartitely agreed regulations of the prison, custody of Hess both <sup>in</sup> law and in practice rests at all times with all four powers. Temporary release of the prisoner without the agreement of the Soviet authorities would in these circumstances be a breach of the prison regulations and thus a breach of a binding international agreement relating to the conduct of the Nürnberg tribunal and the implementation of its sentence.
4. This is not to say that Her Majesty's Government are resigned to the continuing imprisonment of Hess. They do not accept that the present negative Soviet attitude can be the last word of the Soviet authorities and intend to continue to seek Hess' release by the patient and persevering application of diplomatic pressure.

13 OCT 1980

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5  
~~DF 10/10/80~~  
2 October 1980

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter to her of 12 September about Rudolf Hess. Your letter is receiving urgent attention and a reply will be sent as soon as possible.

M. D'D. B. ALEXANDER

Ministerpraesident Franz Josef Strauss

Sp.





Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

RF 10.10.80

1 October 1980

Dear Mike,

Thank you for your letter of 22 September with which you enclosed a letter from Herr Franz Josef Strauss to the Prime Minister about Rudolf Hess.

The UK shares responsibility for matters relating to Hess with the French and Americans, as well as the Russians. On the basis of experience, it is likely that Herr Strauss has written also to Presidents Carter and Giscard. It is normal practice for the three Western Allies to reply to important approaches on Hess in roughly identical terms and, if possible, at the same level. The case of Hess is a matter of great interest in the Federal Republic, as well as in this country, and it is desirable for the Allies to maintain solidarity in public.

We have therefore sent the text of Herr Strauss's letter to our Embassy in Bonn, instructing the British representative in the Bonn Group to consult his US and French colleagues, and asking for urgent advice about the terms and level of a reply. In the meantime you may wish to send a Private Secretary acknowledgement to Herr Strauss.

Yours etc

(P Lever)  
Private Secretary

M Pattison Esq  
10 Downing Street

1910

1910



11 OCT 1980

BIF 30/9/80 Carl  
Germany

22 September 1980

I enclose a letter from Herr Franz Joseph Strauss about Rudolf Hess.

I have sent no acknowledgement at this stage, in view of past complications over correspondence with Herr Strauss. I should be grateful for advice both on the substance of Herr Strauss' request and on the handling of the correspondence.

M. A. PATTISON

Paul Lever, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

HEO

Der Bayerische Ministerpräsident

München,  
Durchwahl-Nr. 379  
(0 89) 21 65 -

Nr. A III 4 - 370000-1-26  
(Im Antwortschreiben bitte angeben)

Dear Mrs. Prime Minister,

allow me, please, to speak to you on an urgent humanitarian problem.

On October 1st, 1946, Rudolf Hess was sentenced to lifelong imprisonment by the International Military Tribunal at Nuremburg on the evidence of having taken part in the planning and preparation of an aggressive war. At the same time he was acquitted of the charge of having committed war crimes and crimes against humanity. Since his conviction he has been imprisoned at Spandau Prison.

On April 26th of this year Rudolf Hess has reached the age of 86 years; 33 years have passed since his conviction. It is very unlikely that in the civilized world there should be any convict being forced to complete his punishment in full. Rudolf Hess's life is in danger unless he is not operated soon. It would be a special act in our time so poor in visible signs of humanity, if the three Western Allies made urgent and sincere efforts to obtain pardon for Rudolf Hess.

Her Excellency  
The Prime Minister of  
the United Kingdom of  
Great Britain and Northern Ireland  
Mrs. Margaret Thatcher  
10 Downing Street  
London

Together with the Governments of France and the United States, the successive British Governments have, for 14 years, been of the opinion that Mr. Hess should at once be released on humanitarian grounds. As you probably know, the Three Powers repeatedly tried to achieve this release, most recently at the beginning of this year when this demand was made to the Soviet Government on a high level. It is to be regretted that the Soviet Union has constantly opposed the release of Mr. Hess.

However, much the previous attempts of the Western Allies are to be appreciated, there is the regrettable fact that Rudolf Hess is still imprisoned at Spandau Prison. The only solution of this humanitarian problem I see is that the three Western Allies release Rudolf Hess for the time when they are Powers of Custody. Then he would only have to be in prison when the Soviet Union is Power of Custody.

I would be very grateful to you, dear Mrs. Thatcher, if your Government with the Governments of France and the United States took steps in this direction toward such a partial solution of this urgent humanitarian problem.

Sincerely yours

GOHRSMÜHLE

Der Bayerische Ministerpräsident

München, 12. 9. 80  
Durchwahl-Nr. 365  
(0 89) 21 65 -

BI4 - 370000-1-26  
Nr.

(Im Antwortschreiben bitte angeben)

Sehr verehrte Frau Premierminister!

Erlauben Sie, daß ich Sie auf ein dringendes humanitäres Problem anspreche.

Rudolf Hess wurde am 1. Oktober 1946 vom internationalen Militärtribunal in Nürnberg zu einer lebenslangen Freiheitsstrafe mit der Begründung verurteilt, an der Planung und Vorbereitung eines Angriffskrieges teilgenommen zu haben. Gleichzeitig wurde er von der Anklage freigesprochen, Kriegsverbrechen und Verbrechen gegen die Menschlichkeit begangen zu haben. Er ist seit seiner Verurteilung im Spandauer Gefängnis inhaftiert.

Rudolf Hess wurde am 26. April dieses Jahres 86 Jahre alt, seit seiner Aburteilung sind über 33 Jahre vergangen. Es dürfte in der zivilisierten Welt keinen Gefangenen geben, der eine lebenslange Freiheitsstrafe voll verbüßen muß. Rudolf Hess schwebt in Lebensgefahr, wenn er nicht bald operiert wird. Es wäre ein besonderer Akt in unserer an sichtbaren Zeichen der Menschlichkeit armen Zeit, wenn sich die drei westlichen Alliierten nachdrücklich und aufrichtig um die Begnadigung von Rudolf Hess bemühen würden.

Ihrer Exzellenz  
dem Premierminister des Ver-  
einigten Königreiches von  
Großbritannien und Nordirland

Frau Margaret Thatcher  
10 Downing Street  
London

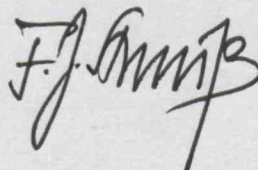
Seit 14 Jahren haben die aufeinanderfolgenden britischen Regierungen zusammen mit den Regierungen Frankreichs und der Vereinigten Staaten den Standpunkt vertreten, daß Herr Hess unverzüglich aus humanitären Gründen freigelassen werden soll. Wie Sie vielleicht wissen, haben die drei Mächte wiederholt versucht, diese Freilassung zustande zu bringen, jüngst Anfang dieses Jahres, als dieses Anliegen auf hoher Ebene an die sowjetische Regierung herangetragen wurde.

Bedauerlicherweise hat sich die Sowjetunion beharrlich der Freilassung von Herrn Hess widersetzt.

So sehr auch die bisherigen Bemühungen der westlichen Alliierten anzuerkennen sind, so bleibt doch das bedauerliche Ergebnis, daß Rudolf Hess nach wie vor im Spandauer Gefängnis inhaftiert ist. Eine Lösung dieses humanitären Problems sehe ich nur darin, daß die drei West-Alliierten in der Zeit, in der sie Gewahrsamsmacht sind, Rudolf Hess freilassen. Er bräuchte dann nur in Haft zu sein, wenn die Sowjetunion Gewahrsamsmacht ist.

Ich wäre Ihnen, sehr verehrte Frau Thatcher, sehr dankbar, wenn Ihre Regierung in dieser Richtung mit den Regierungen Frankreichs und der Vereinigten Staaten auf eine solche Teillösung dieses dringenden humanitären Problems hinwirken würde.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen



CONFIDENTIAL

*Germany*  
*FA*  
*Paul*



*Ronnie Minister*

(2)

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

*You will wish to be aware of  
Mr Kindersley's letter, which I  
have acknowledged, of the  
attached notes on Hess' health*

11 July 1980

*Dear Michael,*

Rudolf Hess

*Paul 11/7*

*[Handwritten scribble]*

*see file*

In your letter of 27 June enclosing a copy of a letter from the Hon Philip Kindersley about Rudolf Hess you asked for a background note on Hess' present state of health.

I attach a copy of the latest available medical report dated 21 May, and a copy of an assessment of Hess' mental state dated 28 February. These are both signed by the Officer Commanding the British Military Hospital in Berlin.

The press reports to which you refer may have included a reference to the need for Hess to undergo a prostate operation. This is not a new development. He has had a prostate condition for some years. A specialist who examined him in September 1979 as part of a routine check-up recommended an operation to relieve this condition which was not immediately serious but which could become so. When offered the operation Hess wrote a letter to the Prison Governors saying he would not undergo it until he was released. He claimed in his letter that he had been unjustly imprisoned. Because of this, the Russians refused to permit the text of the letter to be released, and Hess' family were told only that he had refused the operation. The family subsequently complained about the fact that Hess had not been allowed to explain the reasons for his decision; but, in view of the need for consensus between the Four Powers on all matters relating to Hess, the Western Powers have been unable to tell the family of the background to Hess' refusal.

*Yours etc*

*Paul*

(P Lever)  
Private Secretary

M O'D B Alexander Esq  
Private Secretary  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON SW1

CONFIDENTIAL

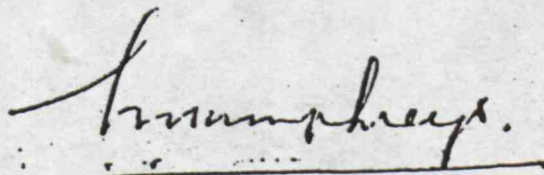


21 May 1980

REPORT

on the state of health of Prisoner No 7 (HESS)  
during the month of May 1980

1. Prisoner No 7 (HESS) has remained generally well during the month of May. His long standing complaints about his heart, and variable abdominal pains have not altered, and he has had no further urinary symptoms. He became mildly constipated and was relieved by Senokot tablets together with a small increase in Isogel and fluid intake.
2. Clinical examination shows no significant changes; his weight fluctuates around 71 kg, and blood pressure has not altered. Two mid stream specimens of urine showed no abnormality.
3. He continues to take Lanoxin, Persantin, Multivitamins and Isogel as before and in addition applies Undecensate Cream (Mycota) to his feet, and 1% Hydrocortisone Cream in 10% Urea (Alphaderm) to the patch of dermatitis on his left forearm, as necessary.



T V HUMPHREYS OBE, MB, B Ch, BAO.  
Colonel L/RAMC  
British Physician  
Chairman.

u  
J.J.43

ASSESSMENT ON PRISONER No 7 (HESS)  
(ON REQUEST OF UK GOVERNOR, SPANDAU ALLIED PRISON)

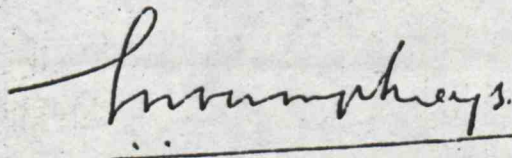
In assessing the present mental state of HESS it must be borne in mind that my contact with him is necessarily limited to the requirements of medical supervision during the months of UK responsibility for this, (January, May & September) and that I have been in post here only since Mid September 1979. He has not been an inpatient in BMH Berlin in my time here. Contact is devoid of any social element, other than the normal amount of very general conversation - state of the weather etc, that can be introduced legitimately in the context of general medical supervision. This paucity of conversation is of course necessary to protect the Prisoner from any loss of privileges that can be, and would be, enforced against him by the Soviet Governorate should these officials hear of any undue signs of friendliness being shown to him. His fear of such loss of privileges places a constraint on him. Any conversation of an historical nature for example, is thus ruled out, even if it concerned the pre 1933 period of the Prisoner's long life, such as his service in World War I.

It is therefore difficult to say more than that HESS is remarkably alert for his age. He shows no signs of a deterioration in mentality other than the occasional forgetfulness of recent trivial events normal in his age group. He is invariably most courteous and has the good manners one would expect in a German of his known pre 1933 social background - that is to say in keeping with the social standing of someone who is recorded, in the meagre published details of his life, as having been a World War I Officer in a Royal Bavarian Regiment of Infantry and in the Imperial German Fliegerkorps.

It is interesting that the Prisoner's command of both English and French remains considerable, and he is able to reply to questions in his own and these languages with ease.

One has the impression that the Prisoner has, by a sustained effort of his still formidable will, 'compartmentalised' his life for so long that he now genuinely lives from day to day, probably recollecting the past in a general way only.

The routine he has devised for every activity he is allowed, to which he generally adheres rigidly, has no doubt contributed largely towards maintaining his mentality in its present state of remarkable equilibrium.



† V HUMPHREYS OBE MB  
ADMS Berlin Field Force  
and Commanding Officer  
British Military Hospital.

28 February 1980

**MEDICAL IN CONFIDENCE**

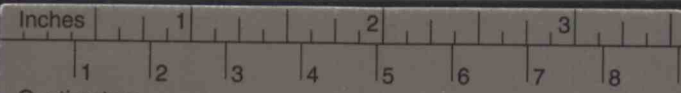
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171 JUL 1980

# Grey Scale #13



**A** 1 2 3 4 5 6 **M** 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 **B** 17 18 19



## Colour Chart #13

Blue      Cyan      Green      Yellow

