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PRIME MINISTER

Talks with the Germans on Energy

When Mr. Stowe and I were in Bonn yesterday to meet one or two key officials in Chancellor Schmidt's office, the discussion turned to energy matters and we told them that, as a result of your talks with President Giscard, Sir Jack Rampton was now in touch with his French opposite number on energy problems. We asked the Germans whether they would welcome similar bilateral consultations, and they said that they would.

If you agree, I will ask the Secretary of State for Energy's office to arrange for Sir Jack Rampton to get in touch with his German opposite number as soon as possible.

Agreed 25/6

AW

12 June '1979



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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

15 June 1979

Talks with the Germans on Energy

Ken Stowe and I went to Bonn earlier this week so that I, as Ken's successor, could meet Jürgen Ruhfus and one or two other officials in Chancellor Schmidt's office. During our meeting we gave them an account of the Prime Minister's talks with President Giscard and we mentioned that, as part of the follow-up to the Prime Minister's visit, Sir Jack Rampton was getting in touch with his French opposite number to discuss energy matters as a prelude to the meeting of the European Council in Strasbourg on 21/22 June. We asked Ruhfus whether he would welcome similar contacts with Federal German officials, and he said that he thought that this was a good idea.

We have since consulted the Prime Minister, and she believes that there would be advantage if Sir Jack Rampton could have bilateral talks with the Germans on the lines of those he has already had with the French, even though there may not now be time for this to be done before the European Council. Unless your Secretary of State or the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary sees any difficulty about this, I should be grateful if Sir Jack Rampton could now go ahead and approach the Germans.

I am sending a copy of this letter to George Walden (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) and Martin Vile (Cabinet Office).

CAW

W.J. Burroughs, Esq.,
Department of Energy.