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*Prime Minister*

*6/18/79*

*PM*

ANGLO-GERMAN SUMMIT MEETING: OFFICIAL GERMAN REACTIONS

1. QUOTE THE PROSPECTS LOOK GOOD FOR EUROPE AND GOOD FOR THE ALLIANCE UNQUOTE. THIS WAS THE SUMMING UP OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S VIEW AFTER LAST WEEK'S MEETINGS IN LONDON BY A SENIOR OFFICIAL WHO WAS PRESENT. CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT IS REPORTED TO HAVE TOLD HIS CABINET THAT QUOTE THIS IS A GOVERNMENT WITH WHICH WE CAN DO BUSINESS UNQUOTE. LAMBSDORFF TOLD ME LAST NIGHT THAT BOTH THE CHANCELLOR AND GENSCHER WERE DELIGHTED WITH THEIR VISIT TO LONDON.

2. GERMAN MINISTERS WERE PLEASANTLY SURPRISED THAT THE PRIME MINISTER SHOULD IN FACT HAVE GONE THROUGH WITH THE SUMMIT MEETING WITHIN HER FIRST WEEK IN OFFICE, IMPRESSED BY THE MASTERY BY BRITISH MINISTERS OF THEIR BRIEFS WITHIN SUCH A SHORT SPACE OF TIME, AND DELIGHTED BY MANY OF THE INDICATIONS WHICH THEY OBTAINED OF NEW ACCENTS IN A NUMBER OF POLICY FIELDS. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE CHANCELLOR WAS IMPRESSED AND FLATTERED BY THE PRIME MINISTER. THE ATMOSPHERICS OF THE VISIT WERE CLEARLY AS GOOD OR BETTER THAN COULD HAVE BEEN EXPECTED. THE FEDERAL AMBASSADOR IN LONDON, RUETE, TOLD ME IN BONN THIS WEEK THAT THE CHANCELLOR'S BACKGROUND BRIEFING TO GERMAN CORRESPONDENTS IN LONDON HAD BEEN UNUSUALLY BRIEF SINCE THE CHANCELLOR HAD NOT FOUND IT NECESSARY TO SAY OFF THE RECORD ANYTHING DIFFERENT OR ADDITIONAL TO WHAT HE HAD SAID ON THE RECORD AT THE JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE WITH YOURSELF AND THE PRIME MINISTER. THIS HAS NOT ALWAYS BEEN THE CASE IN THE PAST. IT IS OBVIOUS TO ME THAT THE PRIVATE VIDEOS ARE AS GOOD AS THE PUBLIC ONES.

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3. ON POLICY QUESTIONS THE GERMANS RECOGNIZED THAT EXCHANGES WOULD BE FAIRLY GENERAL. BUT THE TACTIC OF GIVING THEM CLEAR SIGNALS ON A SELECTED NUMBER OF IMPORTANT SUBJECTS HAS PAID OFF. THE MESSAGE THAT HMG WERE DETERMINED TO ADOPT A MORE CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH TO THE COMMUNITY WHILE FIGHTING HARD FOR BRITISH INTERESTS, WAS THE SALIENT POINT WHICH THE GERMANS BROUGHT BACK WITH THEM.

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THE CHANCELLOR HAS SAID THAT THE FRG IS LOOKING FORWARD TO MORE DIRECT COOPERATION WITH BRITAIN AS A FULLY COMMITTED MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITY. HE SHARES A GREAT DEAL OF THE CONCERNS AND WORRIES OF HMG ABOUT SOME OF THE WORKINGS OF THE COMMUNITY AND SPECIFICALLY HAS ASKED FOR A STUDY TO BE DONE ON THE BUDGET FIGURES ABOUT WHICH THERE SEEMS TO BE FAIR CONFUSION WITHIN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. THE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE RECOGNIZE THAT PARADOXICALLY IN A NUMBER OF FIELDS THE RENEWED BRITISH COMMITMENT TO PROGRESS IN THE COMMUNITY WILL MAKE LIFE MORE DIFFICULT FOR THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC; OBJECTIONS BY HMG IN THE PAST COULD IN PART AT LEAST HAVE BEEN BRUSHED ASIDE ON THE GROUNDS THAT THESE WERE SPOILING TACTICS. THEY WOULD HAVE TO BE TAKEN MORE SERIOUSLY IN THE FUTURE AND THIS COULD BE PARTICULARLY PAINFUL FOR THE FRG.

4. THE GERMANS WERE ALSO PLEASED BY THE EMPHASIS PLACED ON THE UK'S COMMITMENT TO THE ALLIANCE, AS WELL AS BY THE PRIME MINISTER'S ENDORSEMENT OF THE CHANCELLOR'S SUPPORT FOR SALT II. THEY RECOGNIZED THAT THERE WERE DIFFERENCES OF EMPHASIS BETWEEN THE TWO HEADS OF GOVERNMENT ON DETENTE BUT THE CHANCELLOR DID NOT FIND MRS THATCHER'S SOMEWHAT HARDER POSITION ON EAST/WEST RELATIONS IN ANY WAY DISTURBING.

5. THE ONLY AREA OF POLICY WHERE THE GERMAN SIDE FORESAW PROBLEMS WAS SOUTHERN AFRICA, AND IN PARTICULAR RHODESIA. THE CHANCELLOR IS REPORTED TO BE EAGER TO LEARN THE OUTCOME OF THE GOVERNMENT'S REVIEW OF AFRICAN PROBLEMS. BUT THE GERMANS, WHILE SOMEWHAT APPREHENSIVE, ARE IN NO WAY SEEKING TO RUSH BRITISH MINISTERS ON A MATTER WHICH THEY REALIZE IS COMPLEX AND HIGHLY SENSITIVE POLITICALLY AND ON WHICH THEY ACKNOWLEDGE THAT IT IS FOR THE UK IN THE FIRST PLACE TO MAKE UP ITS MIND.

6. ALL IN ALL, THE SECOND THOUGHTS IN BONN ARE AS FAVOURABLE AS THE FIRST IMPRESSIONS IN LONDON.

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