

(Royle)
International
Dept.

6th May, 1982

Visit to Bonn

Thank you very much for your letter of 4th May, together with its enclosure, which I have read with the keenest interest.

I was very encouraged to hear of the overwhelming support which you found for the Government's policy in the South Atlantic.

I am grateful for the message which you brought from Helmut Kohl.

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THE PRIME MINISTER

4th May 1982

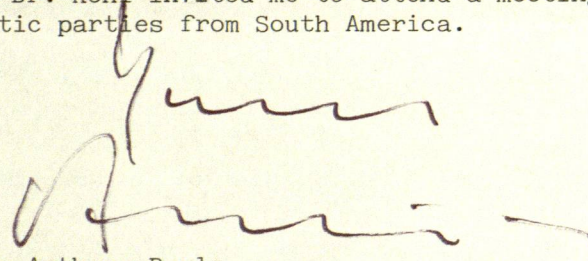
My dear Prime Minister,

VISIT TO BONN

At the invitation of Dr. Helmut Kohl, I paid a 24 hour visit to Bonn as the guest of the German CDU Party. The timing was appropriate because I was able to explain the background to our policy in the South Atlantic. I thought you might be interested to know that I found overwhelming support for our policy and the Government's actions. During talks with both Dr. Kohl and many CDU Members of Parliament and officials in the West German Foreign Office, I found a wide understanding of our position and a deep concern that we should succeed in maintaining the rule of law and ensure that Argentine forces were removed from the Falklands. Whilst obviously there was a wide desire for a peaceful solution, I found a firm determination to continue to support us, even if it entailed fighting and the use of the British fleet. Underlying the expressions of opinion was a constant theme of the dangers to Berlin if we fail, and concern that whilst the downfall of the present regime in Buenos Aires might result in a left-wing successor government, this must be accepted in order to maintain a credible Western posture. Several people observed to me that it was clear to the German people that a major miscalculation had taken place in Buenos Aires. The Argentine Junta Generals appeared to have succeeded in an extraordinary feat. They have achieved the opposition of the 6 most important Western institutions all at the same time; NATO, the European Community, the United Nations, the United States of America, Great Britain, and even the Pope over the dispute with Chile.

Dr. Helmut Kohl sent his best wishes to you and assures you of the strong and continuing support of both himself and his Party.

I attach a note of other matters which were discussed in Bonn. It was particularly interesting that Dr. Kohl invited me to attend a meeting in the autumn with Christian Democratic parties from South America.


Sir Anthony Royle

Copies

The Chairman

The Hon. R. Alistair McAlpine

Scott Hamilton, Esq.

AR/CJM

*P.S. The visit was last week.
Heard some of the comments
have been over taken by events.
A.R.*

POINTS DISCUSSED WITH THE CDU IN BONN

Peter Hartmann, the Head of the CDU International Office, who spent three years in the Argentine, has clearly had some influence advising the CDU on their attitude to events in the South Atlantic. The Party, at the moment, has high morale due to favourable opinion polls which show the Party with 53% support at the present time, the highest figure they have achieved for over 20 years.

1. South American Christian Democratic Parties

Dr. Kohl invited the Conservative Party to play a part in confidential discussions which he is instituting in the autumn between certain European parties and Christian Democratic parties from Central and South America. The meeting will be informal and may consist of the following South American Christian Democratic representatives: Chile, The Argentine, Brazil, Venezuela, Panama, possibly Colombia and possibly Peru. The Italians, the Dutch, the Portuguese, the Austrians, and of course the CDU/CSU and ourselves will be the European team. I welcomed this proposal and accepted Dr. Kohl's invitation to attend. I believe that this first move could, in due course, provide a strengthening of the centre-right organisation world-wide and have considerable influence in undermining the operations of the Socialist International in the Western hemisphere. The German initiative has wholehearted support from both United States parties and the Administration in Washington.

2. Peace Campaign

The opposition parties are deeply concerned about the growing so-called 'Peace Campaign' in the Federal Republic. I explained to them the operation that we are conducting in the United Kingdom and they expressed great interest. I assured them that we would be glad to give them advice and information about our campaign if they felt that would be helpful to them.

3. The British Economy

Great interest was expressed about the signs of recovery in the British economy. I explained to Dr. Kohl and the Konrad Adenauer Institute Director, Dr. Bruno Heck, the position and detailed some of the encouraging British indicators that have been appearing during the past few months. Our German friends told me that there was very bad publicity about the UK economic position in the German media and there did not appear to be an understanding of the changing scene. Good economic news from Britain helped the CDU Party in Germany and I was asked if we will be prepared to assist in arranging interviews and briefing for a selected band of four or five journalists during a visit to London in the near future. The visit will be paid for by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation and I gave an assurance that we would do all we could to make arrangements for the journalists to see appropriate Ministers or other figures in the financial/economic world. On their return to Germany, it is hoped that this would have a two-fold impact. Firstly, their articles would be helpful to the CDU Party in Germany, and secondly we would be able to quote back their articles to help our publicity in the United Kingdom.

4. Parliamentary Visit to Bonn

Helmut Kohl clearly attaches the greatest importance to the visit arranged for the end of September. It is planned to send up to 30 Conservative Members of Parliament and I believe it is important that we send colleagues of high calibre and representative of all generations in the Party. He particularly wishes to see some of our younger Members of Parliament.

5. Expansion of EDU /

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Helmut Kohl confirmed his wholehearted support for the expansion of the EDU, both with the Pacific Democrat Union which has its inaugural meeting in Tokyo in June, and also by the extension into North America with the possible affiliation of the Democratic and Republican Parties in the United States. I believe there is some anxiety that we should not go too fast, but there is clearly solid support for the aim. I take the view that Party relationships between the CDU/CSU and our own Party have never been stronger. Clearly no damage has been caused by the dispute over the Presidency of the European Parliament which is now forgotten, and I see no reason why the present friendly relations should not grow from strength to strength with this important and largest centre-right Party in Western Europe.

A. R. 4/5/82