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FM BONN 241621Z APR 81

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 298 OF 24 APRIL

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON PRIORITY PARIS OTTAWA UKMIS NEW YORK  
PRETORIA AND ROME

*4 ltr on table  
with Gemans*

FOLLOWING FROM PRIVATE SECRETARY  
SECRETARY OF STATE'S VISIT TO FRG  
NAMIBIA

1. REPORTING THE OUTCOME OF THE CONTACT GROUP MEETING YESTERDAY IN LONDON, THE SECRETARY OF STATE IN HIS SECOND MEETING WITH GENSCHER SAID THAT THE NEXT STAGE WOULD BE FOR OFFICIALS TO WORK OUT CONSTITUTIONAL PROPOSALS AND SAFEGUARDS. NEXT MONTH FOREIGN MINISTERS COULD TAKE STOCK IN ROME. ON 15 MAY PIK BOTHA WAS TO GO TO WASHINGTON. WHILE THIS SCENARIO MIGHT SATISFY SOME MODERATE AFRICAN OPINION, LORD CARRINGTON WAS DOUBTFUL THAT IT WOULD SOLVE THE PROBLEMS IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL. THE US, FRANCE AND THE UK MIGHT HAVE TO USE THE VETO. GENSCHER AGREED THAT VEToes MIGHT BE UNAVOIDABLE AND WENT ON TO ARGUE THAT WE SHOULD AVOID CREATING THE IMPRESSION OF CHANGING RESOLUTION 435 THOUGH THE GERMANS IN THE PAST HAD CONSIDERED THE POSSIBILITY OF INTRODUCING SOME CONSTITUTIONAL PROPOSALS. LORD CARRINGTON REPLIED THAT CONSTITUTIONAL PROPOSALS SHOULD BE SEEN AS SUPPLEMENTARY. THE SOUTH AFRICANS WERE INVOLVED. THE UN'S REFUSAL TO HEAR THE DTA UNDERMINED ITS CLAIM TO IMPARTIALITY AND THAT WAS SOMETHING THE SOUTH AFRICANS COULD AND WOULD EXPLOIT. HAD THE SOUTH AFRICANS AGREED TO GO FORWARD EARLIER TURNHALLE WOULD VERY LIKELY HAVE WON BUT NOW THEY HAD NO CHANCE AND THE SOUTH AFRICANS SAW THAT EVERYTHING WAS IN SWAPO'S FAVOUR. THAT ACCOUNTED FOR THEIR UNWILLINGNESS TO SEE PROGRESS. GENSCHER AGREED THAT THE LONG DELAY HAD EFFECTIVELY RUINED TURNHALLE'S CHANCES. THE DELAYS HAD ALSO HARDENED POSITIONS AT THE EXTREMES OF RIGHT AND LEFT AND LEFT THE CENTRE PROPORTIONATELY MUCH WEAKER. TURNHALLE'S TIME WAS OVER. COMMENTING, LORD CARRINGTON SAID THAT THE SOUTH AFRICANS WOULD POINT TO THE WAY THE SITUATION HAD POLARIZED TO EXPLAIN WHY THE UN PLAN WAS UNSATISFACTORY. THE ONLY HOPE LAY WITH THE US. THEY WERE THE ONLY ONES WHO COULD INFLUENCE THE SOUTH AFRICANS. WE HAD USED UP ALL OUR CREDIT OVER ZIMBABWE. THEY HAD NOT LIKED THE RESULT. IT WAS NOW UP TO THE US TO COME UP WITH A PLAN. IF IT LOOKED LIKE A STARTER WE SHOULD OF COURSE SUPPORT IT.

2. GENSCHER REPORTED THAT THE PRIME MINISTER OF ZAIRE HAVING FAILED TO RETURN FROM THE VISIT TO BELGIUM HAD IN FACT RESIGNED. THE PMS VIEW WAS THAT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO HOPE TO ACHIEVE ANY SOUND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN ZAIRE. THIS SUGGESTED, SAID GENSCHER, THAT ZAIRE MUST REMAIN A CENTRE OF WEAKNESS AND INSTABILITY ON THE AFRICAN SCENE FOR SOME TIME TO COME. ANGOLA MIGHT WELL BE LOOKING FOR ADVENTURES AND NOTWITHSTANDING THE ENCUMBRANCE OF UNITA WAS, HE THOUGHT, IN A POSITION TO EXERT PRESSURE ON ZAIRE. ANSWERING A QUESTION FROM

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/ LORD CARRINGTON,

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LORD CARRINGTON, HE SAID HE THOUGHT SAVIMBI'S INFLUENCE WAS NOT INCONSIDERABLE. THOUGH HE DID NOT SEEM TO BE ABLE TO EXPAND HIS SPHERE OF INFLUENCE WHAT HE HAD UNDER HIS CONTROL HE HELD PRETTY FIRMLY.

3. LORD CARRINGTON SAID THAT SAVIMBI HAD MADE A CONSIDERABLE IMPACT IN LONDON AND IN THE US. HE HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT SAVIMBI HAD A POWERFUL AND CHARISMATIC PERSONALITY. GENSCHER COMMENTED THAT DURING HIS VISIT TO GERMANY SAVIMBI HAD IMPRESSED STRAUSS AND A GOOD MANY IN THE CDU BUT THOUGHT THAT HIS TIME HAD PASSED. TROUBLE THERE WOULD BE BOUND TO COMPLICATE THE SITUATION IN NAMIBIA. LORD CARRINGTON AGREED AND SAID THAT HE WOULD BE VERY RELUCTANT TO GET INVOLVED IN SUPPORTING UNITA.

4. LORD CARRINGTON SAID THAT WHILE CONTACTS BETWEEN MOBUTU AND SAVIMBI WERE UNDERSTANDABLE IT SEEMED PARADOXICAL THAT THERE SHOULD HAVE BEEN UNDER THE COUNTER CONTACTS BETWEEN THE LATTER AND KAUNDA. GENSCHER HAD NOT HEARD OF ANY CONTACTS WITH KAUNDA BUT AGREED THAT CONTACTS WITH MOBUTU WERE OF LONG STANDING.

5. THERE WAS A SHORT EXCHANGE ABOUT ARRANGING FURTHER CONSULTATIONS ON NAMIBIA IN ROME. SEE MIPT.

TAYLOR

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