

SECRET

FILE 24

37



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

27 June, 1983

German Position on INF

The Prime Minister saw your letter of 24 June shortly before the IDU dinner on Friday night which she and Chancellor Kohl were to attend.

On arrival at the dinner the Prime Minister described the contents of your letter to Vice-President Bush. They then both had a word with Chancellor Kohl to express their concern at the various indications that the Federal Government might be wavering over INF deployment.

Chancellor Kohl said with some emphasis that there was no question of wavering. Deployment would go ahead. But he had found on his files a commitment made by the former Chancellor, the precise nature of which is not altogether clear to me, but which seemed to involve an undertaking that there would be no stationing of missiles or parts of missiles before 15 November. Chancellor Kohl made it clear that it would nevertheless be possible to bring in a large quantity of equipment before that date, provided that this could not be construed as "stationing of missiles or parts of missiles".

Chancellor Kohl gave the impression that the significance of the date of 15 November is that it is the concluding date for the INF talks in Geneva. I should be grateful to know whether a firm date for conclusion has indeed been set and whether this is unalterable.

A. J. COLES

B. Fall, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

SECRET

Handwritten initials or signature.