

GRS 330
UNCLASSIFIED
FM BONN 301125Z OCT 82
TO PRIORITY FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 931 OF 30 OCTOBER
INFO ROUTINE BMG BERLIN
INFO SAVING EAST BERLIN MOSCOW WASHINGTON PARIS CGS IN THE FRG

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO BONN AND BERLIN 28/29 OCTOBER: GERMAN MEDIA COVERAGE.

1. DESPITE TWO STRONG RIVAL STORIES (VOGEL'S NOMINATION AS SPD CHANCELLOR-CANDIDATE AND THE SPANISH ELECTION RESULT) THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO BERLIN AND THE BONN CONSULTATIONS EARLIER IN THE DAY DOMINATED THE EARLY EVENING TV NEWS PROGRAMMES OF 29 OCTOBER AND GOT GOOD COVERAGE LATER IN THE EVENING.
2. TODAY'S PAPERS GIVE SIMILARLY WIDE COVERAGE, ALMOST ALL WITH FRONT PAGE ITEMS, MANY WITH PHOTOGRAPHS. HEADLINES INCLUDE QUOTE MRS THATCHER IN BERLIN: ONLY STRENGTH LEADS TO NEGOTIATIONS UNQUOTE (DIE WELT), QUOTE EVERY STONE OF THE WALL DEMONSTRATES BANKRUPTCY UNQUOTE (KOELNISCHE RUNDSCHAU), AND QUOTE NO VISIT TO HONECKER AS LONG AS THE WALL STANDS UNQUOTE (NRZ).
3. THE TWO MAJOR CONSERVATIVE DAILIES (FAZ AND DIE WELT) AND ZDF (SECOND GERMAN TELEVISION) COMMENTED FAVOURABLY ON THE BERLIN VISIT. ZDF SAID THAT IT WAS BOTH RIGHT THAT THE PRIME MINISTER CAME TO BERLIN, AND THAT SHE SAID WHAT SHE DID. WELT'S FRONT PAGE LEADER, HEADED QUOTE ENCOURAGEMENT UNQUOTE, SAYS THAT THE PRIME MINISTER IDENTIFIED BERLIN'S MESSAGE CORRECTLY AS ONE OF WARNING AND HOPE. FAZ SAYS THAT HER PRESENCE DEMONSTRATES YET AGAIN THE FAILURE OF THE SOVIETS TO CHANGE THE STATUS OF THE CITY. LIKE SOME OTHER PAPERS, IT DESCRIBES THE BOUQUET SHE LAID AS A GESTURE FOR WHICH THE WHOLE COUNTRY SHOULD BE GRATEFUL.
4. THE CENTRE-RIGHT SUEDEDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG (SZ) AND THE PRO-SPD FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU (FR) CONCENTRATE ON THE BONN CONSULTATIONS IN RESERVED (AND RATHER ILL-INFORMED) EDITORIALS. BOTH PICK UP THE PRIME MINISTER'S PHRASE ABOUT QUOTE BEING ON THE SAME WAVELENGTH UNQUOTE (AS DO REPORTS IN SEVERAL OTHER PAPERS): BUT FR COMMENTS THAT THOUGH IT IS TRUE OF EUROPEAN AND FOREIGN POLICY, HERR KOHL AND HIS TEAM HAVE NOT, AT LEAST UP TO NOW, ADOPTED MRS THATCHER'S ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RECIPES. THE SZ SEES THIS VISIT AS PROVIDING AN OPENING FOR CLOSER ANGLO-GERMAN COOPERATION (WHICH MUST NOT HOWEVER BE AT THE EXPENSE OF FRANCO-GERMAN RELATIONS). FOR THE FIRST TIME IN SOME YEARS, IT SAYS, A BRITISH PRIME MINISTER HAS COME WITHOUT QUOTE ASKING FOR BENEFITS FOR THE BRITISH TAXPAYER UNQUOTE.

FCO PLEASE PASS SAVING TO ALL EXCEPT CGS IN THE FRG

TAYLOR

FCO WHITEHALL
WE D

REPEATED AS REQUESTED

THIS TELEGRAM
WAS NOT
ADVANCED