

GRS 620

UNCLASSIFIED

FM BMG BERLIN 011220Z NOV 82

TO PRIORITY BONN

TELEGRAM NUMBER 125 OF 1 NOVEMBER 1982

AND TO PRIORITY F C O

INFO PRIORITY EAST BERLIN, MOSCOW, WASHINGTON, ALL CONSULATES
GENERAL IN FRG

MS

BONN TEL NO 931: PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT: BERLIN PRESS REACTIONS

1. THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT WAS THE LEAD STORY IN EVERY LOCAL PAPER AND THE COMPLETE TEXT OF HER SPEECH AT THE GOLDEN BOOK CEREMONY WAS CARRIED IN THE MAIN PAPERS, TAGESSPIEGEL, BERLINER MORGENPOST AND BZ. PRESS COMMENT WAS ENTHUSIASTIC AND THERE WAS EXTENSIVE PICTORIAL COVERAGE.

2. DER TAGESSPIEGEL (INDEPENDENT) HEADLINED ITS REPORT QUOTE MRS THATCHER CALLS FOR STRENGTH AND DETERMINATION UNQUOTE. THE BERLINER MORGENPOST (SPRINGER PRESS), UNDER THE HEADLINE QUOTE MRS THATCHER AT THE WALL: FREEDOM WILL CARRY THE DAY, EVEN OVER THERE

UNQUOTE COMMENTED QUOTE SHE DOES NOT LOOK ONE BIT LIKE AN QUOTE IRON LADY UNQUOTE. SHE IS NOT ENDOWED WITH ORDINARY, RUN-OF-THE-MILL CHARM, BUT RADIATES SOMETHING MORE. SHE IS BRIGHT AND COOL, JUST LIKE THE TOTALLY UN-BRITISH WEATHER WHICH GREETED HER WITH BLUE SKIES.....UNQUOTE. VOLKSBLATT BERLIN (SOCIALIST) HEADED ITS REPORT QUOTE SHARP ATTACK ON POLICIES OF COMMUNIST STATES. MRS THATCHER: THE WALL IS A DISMAL MONUMENT TO AN IDEOLOGY OF VIOLENCE UNQUOTE. BZ (CONSERVATIVE TABLOID) DEVOTED ITS ENTIRE FRONT PAGE TO THE VISIT WITH HUGE HEADLINES QUOTE MAGGIE: MY THREE GREATEST BERLIN EPISODES UNQUOTE. WHICH ACCORDING TO THE NEWSPAPER, WERE THE WALL, THE HEART-FELT WELCOME BY THE BERLINERS AND A LOCAL MAN WHO PRESENTED THE PRIME MINISTER WITH A BERLIN TEDDY BEAR. THREE MORE PAGES CARRIED AN IMPRESSIVE ARRAY OF PHOTOGRAPHS. BILD ZEITUNG (SPRINGER TABLOID) HAD AS ITS BANNER HEADLINE QUOTE AT THE WALL: MAGGIE BOWS TO THE DEAD UNQUOTE PLUS ONE AND A HALF PAGES OF REPORTS AND PICTURES. MORGENPOST, BZ AND BILD ALL EMPHASISED HOW MUCH THE PRIME MINISTER APPEARED TO HAVE ENJOYED HER VISIT.

3. EDITORIAL COMMENT IN BERLINER MORGENPOST UNDERLINED THAT ALL THOSE WHO WERE WILLING TO LIVE WITH THE WALL HAD BEEN SHAMED BY MRS THATCHER AND HER EXPRESSION OF THE DEEPEST SHOCK: QUOTE IT SAYS MUCH ABOUT THE QUALITY OF MRS THATCHER THAT, RIGHT AWAY, SHE TURNED HER SHOCK AT THE QUOTE MONSTER UNQUOTE INTO POLITICAL TERMS. SHE NOT ONLY RE-AFFIRMED BRITAIN'S UNSHAKABLE COMMITMENT TO BERLIN: SHE DREW THE

/CONCLUSION

CONCLUSION, HERE AND NOW, FROM THE REALITIES OF THE WORLD AS REFLECTED IN BERLIN: SHE CALLED ON THE WEST TO SHOW DETERMINATION AND STRENGTH.... RICHARD VON WEIZSAECKER SAID YESTERDAY THAT BERLIN WAS THE PLACE WHERE THE AIMS OF BRITONS AND GERMANS, I.E. PEACE AND FREEDOM, CONCENTRATED TO FORM ONE UNION. MRS THATCHER'S VISIT HAS UNDERLINED THIS UNION IMPRESSIVELY AND SINCERELY UNQUOTE.

4. TAGESSPIEGEL AND MORGENPOST ALSO REPORTED STRONG SOVIET REACTIONS IN THE FORM OF A TASS NEWS AGENCY REPORT PLUS AN EQUALLY SHARP ATTACK BY THE EAST GERMAN AGENCY, ADN, WHICH BOTH APPEARED ON THE FRONT PAGES OF THE GDR PRESS. COMMENTATOR FRIEDHELM KEMNA OF DIE WELT SAID THAT RARELY HAD BERLIN'S MESSAGE TO THE FREE WORLD BEEN EXPRESSED SO CLEARLY AND SO EMPHATICALLY: AND HE WENT ON QUOTE MARGARET THATCHER'S VISIT TO BERLIN WAS REASSURING AND ENCOURAGING FOR ALL GERMANS BUT ESPECIALLY FOR THE NEW GOVERNMENT UNQUOTE.

5. THE LOCAL BROADCASTING ORGANISATION, SENDER FREIES BERLIN (SFB), TRANSMITTED THE GOLDEN BOOK CEREMONY LIVE, INTRODUCING THE PROGRAMME WITH A TEN-MINUTE NEWS FILM BIOGRAPHY OF THE PRIME MINISTER PREPARED BY THE CENTRAL OFFICE OF INFORMATION. A FULL REPORT OF THE VISIT WAS THE MAJOR PART OF SFB'S EVENING NEWS MAGAZINE. ZDF (2ND GERMAN TV) REPORTED HIGHLIGHTS OF THE VISIT IN HEUTE JOURNAL LATER IN THE EVENING. THE CITY'S TWO RADIO STATIONS BROADCAST LIVE MRS THATCHER'S SPEECH AND GAVE LIVE COMMENTARIES ON ARRIVAL, AT THE WALL, AND AT THE RECEPTION FOR MEMBERS OF THE BRITISH MILITARY COMMUNITY.

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**THIS TELEGRAM
WAS NOT
ADVANCED**