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FM WASHINGTON 200020Z APR 83

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1046 OF 19 APRIL

INFO IMMEDIATE BONN, PRIORITY PARIS, UKDEL NATO, MOSCOW, UKREP

BRUSSELS, TOKYO, ROME, OTTAWA, UKDEL MADRID.

INFO SAVING OTHER NATO POSTS

MY TELNO 1020: CHANCELLOR KOHL'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON

THE N.S.C. STAFF HAVE GIVEN US A PARALLEL ACCOUNT OF KOHL'S MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT. KOHL LAID PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON HIS CONCERN THAT EAST/WEST ECONOMIC RELATIONS SHOULD NOT BECOME A DIVISIVE ISSUE AT THE WILLIAMSBURG SUMMIT. THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT THE US WAS NOT LOOKING FOR THIS SUBJECT TO BE GIVEN A HIGH PROFILE AT WILLIAMSBURG, PROVIDED THERE WERE SOLID ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE VARIOUS BODIES IN WHICH THE RELEVANT STUDIES WERE BEING CONDUCTED MEANWHILE (IN PARTICULAR THE COCOM HIGH LEVEL MEETING, THE OECD MINISTERIALS AND THE NATO STUDY). IF THESE SHOWED A GOOD PROGRESS OVER THE NEXT FEW WEEKS, THERE WOULD BE NO NEED FOR THIS TO BE MAJOR ISSUE AT WILLIAMSBURG. IF THEY SEEMED TO BE DRIFTING INTO NOTHING MORE THAN A BUREAUCRATIC EXERCISE, THERE WOULD BE CONCERN ON THE AMERICAN SIDE. THE NSC STAFF COMMENTED THAT THE GERMANS SUBSEQUENTLY, IN TALKING TO THE PRESS, LAID MOST OF THE EMPHASIS ON THE FIRST PART OF THIS MESSAGE. KOHL ASSURED THE PRESIDENT, HOWEVER, THAT HE WANTED TO SEE SERIOUS PROGRESS IN THE STUDIES.

2. KOHL EXPLAINED HIS INTENTIONS ABOUT A MEETING WITH ANDROPOV BEFORE THE SUMMER BREAK AND MADE CLEAR THAT HE WOULD BE TAKING A FIRM MESSAGE TO MOSCOW. HE WOULD NOT BE ACTING AS AN "INTERPRETER", OR PREPARING FOR A REAGAN/ANDROPOV MEETING BUT HE WONDERED WHETHER A WELL-PREPARED MEETING MIGHT NOT BE HELPFUL LATER IN THE YEAR. THE PRESIDENT GAVE THE STANDARD REPLY THAT A US/SOVIET SUMMIT COULD BE USEFUL IF AND ONLY IF, IT WAS WELL PREPARED AND CAPABLE OF PRODUCING TANGIBLE RESULTS.

3. ON INF, KOHL EMPHASISED HIS COMMITMENT TO THE DEPLOYMENT BUT ALSO THE NEED FOR MAXIMUM EFFORTS TO BE MADE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. HE WAS FIRM ON THE NEED TO RETAIN PERSHING IIS IN THE DEPLOYMENT MIX (NOT LEAST TO ENSURE THAT DEPLOYMENT IN THE FRG TOOK PLACE ON SCHEDULE AT THE END OF THE YEAR).

4. THE PRESIDENT AND THE CHANCELLOR EXPRESSED SOME OPTIMISM ABOUT THE U.S. ECONOMY AND THE PROSPECTS FOR NON-INFLATIONARY GROWTH. ON US/EC ECONOMIC ISSUES, KOHL AND THE PRESIDENT AGREED THAT THERE WAS A NEED TO TRY TO SORT OUT AGRICULTURE "AS WE HAVE DONE STEEL". THERE WAS SOME REFERENCE TO THE DISPOSITION OF AGRICULTURE MINISTERS TO SHARPEN RATHER THAN RESOLVE DIFFERENCES. THE DISCUSSION, OFFICIALS COMMENTED, WAS AT A HIGH LEVEL OF GENERALITY. THE EXPORT ADMINISTRATION ACT AND EXTRA-TERRITORIALITY WERE NOT RAISED.

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5. ON THE C.S.C.E., PLEASE SEE M.I.F.T.

6. WHITE HOUSE STAFF COMMENTED THAT THIS WAS A GOOD MEETING. THE PRESIDENT AND KOHL GET ON WELL TOGETHER. THERE IS, HOWEVER, SOME MUTUAL DISPOSITION NOT TO RAISE CONTENTIOUS ISSUES. THERE IS A RECOGNITION IN THE WHITE HOUSE, THAT WE ARE "GETTING THROUGH THE HONEYMOON PERIOD" AND THAT THERE ARE MAJOR AREAS WHERE US AND GERMAN INTERESTS DIVERGE: BUT A CONTINUING SENSE OF RELIEF THAT IT IS A GREAT DEAL EASIER TO SEEK PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS AND AVOID ENVENOMING THOSE DIFFERENCES WITH KOHL THAN IT WAS WITH SCHMIDT.

FCO PASS SAVING: ANKARA, ATHENS, BRUSSELS, COPENHAGEN, LISBON, LUXEMBOURG, OSLO, REYKJAVIK, THE HAGUE, UKDEL VIENNA.

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