

# RESTRICTED

GRS 44C

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TO PRIORITY FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 116 OF 12 FEBRUARY

INFC PRIORITY MODUK, WASHINGTON, PARIS, UKDEL NATO (FOR WESTON)

GERMAN VIEWS ON SDI

## SUMMARY

1. GERMAN LINE ON SDI BECOMING MORE FAVOURABLE. KOHL AND WOERNER SPEAKING PUBLICLY OF EUROPEAN PARTICIPATION IN SDI RESEARCH PROGRAMME, ON CERTAIN CONDITIONS.

## DETAIL

2. SPEAKING AT THE WEHRKUNDE CONFERENCE IN MUNICH AT THE WEEKEND, KOHL SAID THE 'MORAL/PHILOSOPHIC' ORIGINS OF SDI MUST BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY. HE CHALLENGED THE UNITED STATES TO ISSUE FORMAL INVITATIONS FOR EUROPEAN PARTICIPATION IN THE RESEARCH PROGRAMME. HE SUPPORTED GERMAN PARTICIPATION ON CERTAIN CONDITIONS:

- A) THE FRG WOULD WATCH THE ARMS CONTROL AND STRATEGIC ASPECTS CAREFULLY: STRATEGIC INSTABILITY, PARTICULARLY DURING THE TRANSITIONAL PHASE, MUST BE AVOIDED:
- B) ALLIANCE UNITY MUST BE MAINTAINED, AND ZONES OF DIFFERENTIAL SECURITY AVOIDED:
- C) THE PROGRAMME WOULD GIVE THE US A SIGNIFICANT TECHNOLOGICAL LEAP FORWARD AND THE EUROPEAN ALLIES SHOULD NOT BECOME TECHNOLOGICALLY DEPENDENT. THE TECHNICAL/SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION SHOULD NOT BE A ONE-WAY STREET.

3. WEINBERGER AND WOERNER MET IN THE FRG YESTERDAY. THE FORMER TOLD THE PRESS AFTERWARDS THAT THE AMERICANS WOULD NOW SEND A FORMAL INTER-GOVERNMENTAL NOTE INVITING ALLIES TO PARTICIPATE IN SDI RESEARCH. WEINBERGER REPORTEDLY DISTINGUISHED IN THIS CONNEXION BETWEEN RESEARCH INTO THE QUESTION WHETHER STRATEGIC DEFENCE WAS POSSIBLE AND ACTUAL DEVELOPMENT OF SDI SYSTEMS.

4. WOERNER SAID THAT GERMAN AND EUROPEAN COOPERATION IN THE PROGRAMME WOULD ONLY ARISE IF THE US LIFTED ALL TECHNOLOGICAL RESTRICTIONS, AND IF THEREFORE THERE WERE 'NO SECRETS'. THE FRG WOULD ONLY TAKE PART IF PARTICIPATION WERE GENUINE. THE GERMAN DECISION WOULD BE TAKEN AFTER FURTHER DETAILED US BRIEFINGS (A TOP LEVEL TEAM IS TO VISIT THE FRG SOON). WOERNER STRESSED THAT THE RESULTS OF THE RESEARCH SHOULD BE AVAILABLE TO ALL PARTICIPANTS. THIS WAS NOT THE SAME AS TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY, IE THE SUPPLY OF TECHNOLOGICAL CAPABILITY FROM ONE PARTNER TO ANOTHER.

5. PRESS COMMENT TODAY AND YESTERDAY IS WIDESPREAD. THEMES INCLUDE:

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- A) DIFFERING ALLIED VIEWS: FRG READY FOR COOPERATION, FRANCE AND  
BRITAIN AT WEHRKUNDE CRITICAL OR SCEPTICAL. POSSIBLE ALLIANCE  
FRICTION AHEAD.
- B) RISK OF EUROPE MISSING OUT ON TECHNOLOGICAL LEAP FORWARD:  
POTENTIAL EUROPEAN INDUSTRIAL INTEREST.

6. RUEHE, THE TOP FOREIGN AFFAIRS DEFENCE SPOKESMAN OF THE CDU  
PARLIAMENTARY PARTY, TELLS ME THAT NITZE REASSURED HIM YESTERDAY  
THAT THE AMERICANS WOULD GIVE PRIORITY TO INF IN THE GENEVA  
NEGOTIATIONS. RUEHE SEEMED CONVINCED. ON SDI HE RECOGNISED THAT US  
OFFERS OF RESEARCH COLLABORATION WERE DESIGNED IN PART TO CREATE  
PRO-SDI LOBBIES IN EUROPE. BUT HE ARGUED THAT THE EUROPEANS SHOULD  
BE ABLE TO CONTINUE TO ADVOCATE THEIR VIEWS ON NON-INDUSTRIAL, EG  
STRATEGIC AND ARMS CONTROL, ASPECTS OF SDI TO THE AMERICANS WHILE  
PARTICIPATING IN RESEARCH.

MALLABY

(REPEATED AS REQUESTED)

US/SOVIET ARMS CONTROL TALKS

LIMITED

DEFENCE D  
ACDD  
SOVIET D  
NEWS D  
NAD  
EED  
WED  
PLANNING STAFF  
RESEARCH D  
INFO D  
PUSD

PS  
PS/LADY YOUNG  
PS/MR RIFKIND  
PS/MR LUCE  
PS/PUS  
MR DEREK THOMAS  
MR GOODALL  
MR JENKINS  
MR WESTON  
MR DAVID THOMAS

ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION  
ARMS CONTROL TALKS

- 2 -  
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