

Germany
B1 & c/c
cc/98th G/S/9
5/9
AK 5/9

REPORT

FROM THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

August 30, 1983.

CHANCELLOR WELCOMES BRITISH POLL RESULT

The Federal Republic of Germany "holds an overwhelming lead in British public opinion as Britain's best friend in Europe," the Sunday Telegraph said in its issue of August 28.

It published the findings of a nationwide Gallup poll that 27 per cent of those asked the question "Which country is Britain's best friend on the Continent of Europe?" named the Federal Republic of Germany.

No other country reached double figures. When second choices were added to the replies, the Federal Republic of Germany was still clearly in the lead with 40 per cent. The poll was commissioned by the Sunday Telegraph.

In Bonn, Government spokesman Peter Boenisch issued the following statement on August 29:

"The Federal Chancellor has noted with happiness and satisfaction the findings of two opinion polls published in Great Britain and France." (In France, the Federal Republic of Germany is regarded as the best friend by 48 per cent of people polled).

"Since 1945 a consistent European policy of creating understanding and peace has contributed to this gratifying outcome. It is not just a matter of close political relations between governments; of particular importance are the relations between nations, the citizens of the various countries. They are proof of the successful reconciliation between former enemies in Europe.

"We have to agree with the British newspaper which published the findings on Sunday when it commented:

"'No international development since the war creates greater grounds for comfort and inspiration than these European reconciliations which go much deeper than mere alliances based on ephemeral diplomatic convenience. The peoples of Western Europe have grown together and this process, which would have been regarded as miraculous a generation ago, may yet spread to Eastern Europe in God's good time, in spite of such a development seeming at present wholly beyond the bounds of practical politics.'"

Copies of the Gallup poll report may be obtained free of charge from the Press Department, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, 23 Belgrave Square, London SW1 (Tel: 01-235 5033).
