

CONFIDENTIAL



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

7 June 1984

John Taylor

Prime Minister's Meeting with Chancellor Kohl

The Foreign Secretary has asked me to draw to your attention the enclosed personal telegram from Sir J Taylor. You might find it helpful to include it in the briefing material for the Prime Minister's bilateral with Chancellor Kohl.

Yours faithfully
R B Bone

(R B Bone)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

CONFIDENTIAL

DD FCO 071600Z

GRS 500

CONFIDENTIAL

DESKBY 071600Z

FM BONN 071410Z JUN 84

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 566 OF 07 JUNE

PERSONAL FOR SECRETARY OF STATE
CHANCELLOR KOHL AND EUROPEAN QUESTIONS

SUMMARY

1. THE PRIME MINISTER'S BILATERAL MEETING WITH KOHL ON 9 JUNE MAY BE IMPORTANT FOR HIS FUTURE ATTITUDE TO BRITAIN AND THE COMMUNITY. IF HE COMES AWAY WITH HOPE THAT WE WILL JOIN IN NEW STEPS IN EUROPE, HIS WILLINGNESS TO HELP PROMOTE A BUDGET SETTLEMENT AT FONTAINEBLEAU MAY BE INCREASED AND HIS TENDENCY TO COLLUDE WITH FRANCE WITHOUT CONSULTING US ON NEW IMPULSES FOR EUROPE MAY BE LESSENERD.

ARGUMENT

2. CHANCELLOR KOHL'S VIEW OF BRITAIN'S ROLE IN THE COMMUNITY HAS GROWN INCREASINGLY SCEPTICAL. HE WAS BADLY PUT OUT BY THE CRITICISM IN THE BRITISH PRESS OF HIS PERFORMANCE AT THE BRUSSELS SUMMIT. HIS IMMEDIATE ADVISERS HAVE TOLD US OF HIS REGRET AT THE PRIME MINISTER'S REMARKS ABOUT EUROPEAN UNION EARLIER THIS WEEK. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE BILATERAL SUMMIT AT CHEQUERS A MONTH AGO WENT WELL. AFTER MEETING MITTERRAND ON 20 MAY, KOHL SAID THAT PROGRESS COULD ONLY BE ACHIEVED ON THE BUDGET IF ALL SIDES MOVED TOWARDS EACH OTHER (BONN TEL NO 512). AND IN THE BUNDESTAG YESTERDAY (BONN TEL NO 562) HE WAS POSITIVE ABOUT THE CHANCES OF SUCCESS ON THE BUDGET AT FONTAINEBLEAU. I JUDGE THAT HE STILL WOULD DEFINITELY PREFER TO GET THE BUDGET PROBLEM OUT OF THE WAY NOW AND TO HAVE BRITAIN INVOLVED IN THE NEW MOVES FORWARD IN EUROPE WHICH HE IS DETERMINED TO LAUNCH, PROBABLY IRRESPECTIVE OF THE OUTCOME ON THE BUDGET AT FONTAINEBLEAU.

3. I AM THEREFORE VERY GLAD THAT THE PRIME MINISTER WILL BE HANDING KOHL THIS WEEK A PAPER ON BRITISH VIEWS ON THE FUTURE OF EUROPE. I RECOMMEND THAT MRS THATCHER SHOULD PRESENT THIS IN POSITIVE TERMS, DECLARING BRITAIN'S INTEREST AND DETERMINATION TO MAKE CONCRETE PROGRESS WHICH REALLY WILL BENEFIT EUROPE AND EMPHASISING THE POLITICAL AND ALSO THE SECURITY ASPECTS OF WHAT CAN BE ACHIEVED. YOU WILL RECALL THAT KOHL IN HIS SPEECH AT OXFORD AFTER THE RECENT ANGLO-GERMAN SUMMIT APPEALED DIRECTLY TO COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO DECLARE THE IRREVERSIBILITY OF THE PROCESS OF BUILDING EUROPE. HE HAS RETURNED MANY TIMES TO THIS THEME, AND OBVIOUSLY CARES VERY MUCH ABOUT IT. DESPITE THE VAGUENESS OF THE IDEA OF "IRREVERSIBILITY", I BELIEVE THAT IF THE PRIME MINISTER WERE TO USE THIS WORD TO KOHL, THE POSITIVE EFFECT COULD BE CONSIDERABLE. KOHL IS WONT TO TALK EQUALLY UNSPECIFICALLY ABOUT WHAT HE CALLS EUROPEAN UNION. I SEE NO NEED FOR THE PRIME MINISTER TO USE THIS TERM, BUT SUGGEST THAT, SIMPLY TO SHOW UNDERSTANDING OF THE IMPORTANCE KOHL ATTACHES TO HIS IDEAS, MRS THATCHER SHOULD TELL HIM THAT THE UK IS WILLING TO LOOK CAREFULLY, NOT ONLY AT THE CONCRETE IDEAS IN THE BRITISH PAPER BUT ALSO AT ALL THOSE ADVANCED BY GERMANY AND OTHER PARTNERS: AND THAT LIKE HIM SHE BELIEVES THAT THE COMMUNITY NEEDS A POLITICAL PERSPECTIVE.

4. I BELIEVE THAT SUCH A LINE WITH KOHL, COUPLED WITH REPETITION OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S WILLINGNESS TO MOVE SOMEWHAT ON THE BUDGET PROVIDED THIS WILL PRODUCE A SETTLEMENT, MIGHT WELL INFLUENCE POSITIVELY THE MOOD IN WHICH KOHL APPROACHES THE BUDGET DISCUSSION AT FONTAINEBLEAU AND STRENGTHEN HIS WISH FOR BRITISH INVOLVEMENT IN THE DISCUSSION OF FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE EC.

TAYLOR

NNNN

07. JUN 1984



1