

GRS 370

UNCLASSIFIED

FM BONN 131215Z JUN 84

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 577 OF 13 JUNE

INFO ROUTINE PARIS, OTTAWA, ROME, TOKYO, WASHINGTON, UKREP BRUSSELS
INFO SAVING UKDEL OECD, C-GS IN THE FRG

LONDON ECONOMIC SUMMIT: GERMAN MEDIA REACTIONS

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SUMMARY

1. GENERAL REACTION THAT THE OVERALL RESULT WAS DISAPPOINTINGLY MEAGRE. SOME PAPERS ALLOW MODEST SUCCESS FOR STATEMENT ON THIRD WORLD DEBT.

DETAIL

2. THE SUMMIT ACHIEVED EXTENSIVE COVERAGE AND COMMENT (MUCH OF IT FRONT PAGE) AND WAS THE LEAD ITEM IN TV NEWS BROADCASTS THROUGHOUT ITS DURATION. ALTHOUGH KOHL IS REPORTED AS SAYING THAT HE WAS CONTENT WITH THE MEETING, AND THAT THE GERMAN POSITION WAS WIDELY REFLECTED IN ITS RESULTS, THE PRESS IS GENERALLY MORE SCEPTICAL. THE PRO-GOVERNMENT FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG (FAZ) IS REPRESENTATIVE WHEN IT SPEAKS OF 'NO WORTHWHILE SUBSTANCE' AND DEPLORES THE EXTENT TO WHICH 'ELECTORAL STRATEGISTS' TOOK CHARGE. ALTHOUGH SEVERAL PAPERS ALLOW THE USEFULNESS OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXCHANGE PERSONAL VIEWS, ONLY THE CONSERVATIVE DIE WELT, UNDER THE HEADLINE OF 'A USEFUL MEETING' THINKS THE TIME SPENT THEREIN WELL JUSTIFIED.

3. PRIOR TO THE SUMMIT THE MEDIA WERE CLEARLY EXPECTING A HARD GERMAN LINE ON US INTEREST RATES. POST-SUMMIT REPORTING SUGGESTS THAT THE GERMAN LINE WAS LESS CONFRONTATIONAL. CHANCELLOR KOHL IS REPORTED AS SAYING THAT WHILE HE HAD NOT SOUGHT TO PUT THE US IN THE DOCK, HE HAD NONETHELESS SPOKEN FIRMLY TO PRESIDENT REAGAN. THIS LINE IS GENERALLY ENDORSED ALTHOUGH THE LEFT WING FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU IS VERY CRITICAL OF THE SUMMIT'S CONCLUSIONS ON THIS SCORE.

4. ON THIRD WORLD DEBT A FEW PAPERS THINK THE RESULT 'BETTER THAN EXPECTED' (HANDELSBLATT) BUT SUCH APPROVAL AS THERE IS TENDS AT BEST TO BE GRUDGING. THE CENTRE AND LEFT WING PAPERS SPEAK OF A MISSED OPPORTUNITY.

5. SEVERAL PAPERS GO INTO CONSIDERABLE DETAIL ON THE VARIOUS DOCUMENTS PRODUCED BY THE SUMMIT. SOME LINK IT TO KOHL'S PRESS CONFERENCE OBSERVATION 'WE HAVE DISCUSSED THINGS: TEXTS ARE NOT SO IMPORTANT', WHICH IS WIDELY SEEN AS BEGGING THE QUESTION OF WHY THEY WERE PRODUCED AT ALL. KOHL'S SATISFACTION AT ACHIEVING A MENTION ON THE ENVIRONMENT IS ALSO GENERALLY NOTED.

6. MOST PAPERS NOTE CHANCELLOR KOHL'S ANNOUNCEMENT AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE THAT NEXT YEAR'S ECONOMIC SUMMIT WOULD BE IN BONN. SEVERAL PAPERS SUGGEST THAT THE BONN SUMMIT SHOULD BE LESS MEDIA-ORIENTED, SHOULD BE ON A MORE MODEST SCALE, AND SHOULD DEVOTE ITS EFFORTS TO FEWER BUT BETTER DOCUMENTS.

7. COMMENT FOLLOWS.

FCO PLEASE PASS SAVING TO UKDEL OECD.
BONN WILL PASS TO C-GS IN THE FRG.

TAYLOR

(REPEATED AS REQUESTED)

ECONOMIC SUMMIT

LIMITED

ERD

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WED

FED

NAD

ECD's

PLANNING STAFF

TRED

ES&SD

SOV D

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SEC D

MAED

PUSD

DEF D

ACDD

PS

PS/LADY YOUNG

PS/MR RIFKIND

PS/MR WHITNEY

PS/MR RAISON

PS/PUS

SIR C TICKELL

SIR J BULLARD

MR RENWICK

MR J THOMAS

MR WILSON

MR WRIGHT

MR WESTON

MR ADAMS

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ECONOMIC SUMMIT

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COPIES TO:

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NO 10 DOWNING STREET