



Anglo
German
relations.

file 2 POABQ
asir P Casonh

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

26 September 1984

If the PUS has time to read the enclosed letter, I would like to have a word about it on Friday.

John Gummer is definitely not the right person. I think any way that all we can do for his visit is to get him to convey warm personal greetings from the Prime Minister.

As regards telling Kohl's immediate circle how the Prime Minister and No. 10 work, one runs up against the immediate problem that Kohl's staff are political appointees but fill official functions whereas here we are divided between officials in the Private Office and political appointees in the Policy Unit.

But, if it was thought useful, we might, as a first step, organise some contact between the No. 10 Private Office and Kohl's immediate staff. I happen to know both Bergsdorff and Teltschik very well from my time in Bonn and will be very happy to spend half a day telling them about how we operate (I might even manage it in German!) But this would be only the beginners course and Julian Bullard clearly wants it to lead on to something more substantial. But perhaps we would at least get a clearer picture of what they want if we were to set up the sort of meeting I have described.

You should know that John Huston is engaged with the Konrad-Adenauer Stiftung in trying to restore an Anglo-German Special Advisers/Private Secretary meeting to follow up that which took place in December last year. But from the No. 10 point of view that turned out to be a bit of a dead duck.

CHARLES POWELL

M. H. Jay, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Sir Julian Bullard KCMG



BRITISH EMBASSY,
BONN.

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

25 September 1984

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street
LONDON
SW1

My dear Charles,

CHANCELLOR KOHL

1. Since arriving here three weeks ago, I have received two or three indications that, as you certainly knew already, the Anglo-German relationship at the highest level is not all that it should be. It is not just that, as I said in a telegram, the missing voice in the chorus of welcome given to me here has been that of the Chancellor's office, though the tone was noticeably cooler there than anywhere else. It is more a matter of positive indications. At my first call on Kohl, I made a lot of the "personal message" from the Prime Minister, unfolding the telegram and making a parade of translating it, and I also took the liberty of adding the Prime Minister's good wishes, how much she was looking forward to her next meeting with Kohl on 2 November etc. Kohl's response was perfunctory and indeed came only as he was showing me out of the room. Again, when your old friend Bergsdorff

/ came to

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL



PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

- 2 -

came to lunch yesterday, he pressed me on who were the Prime Minister's closest advisers, how she organised her day etc - all this in a way which suggested that the Prime Minister was still largely an unknown quantity to the Chancellor's office, in spite of ^{all} the meetings there had been.

2. I shall be giving some thought to this problem and perhaps you would like to do the same. Obviously there can be no substitute for personal relations between the two heads of Government, and the Foreign Secretary may have been right when he remarked to me the other day that Mrs Thatcher and Herr Kohl might not be particularly close friends even if Kohl spoke English. But there is also the Kitchen Cabinet here, which meets with Kohl for an hour every morning, and of which Bergsdorff is of course a member. In reply to his question about the Prime Minister's advisers, I mentioned the name of John Gummer, pointing out that he would be here with a group of Conservative MPs from 30 September to 2 October for talks with the CDU/CSU under the auspices of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung. Bergsdorff said that the group were in any case going to be received by Kohl, but he took particular note of Mr Gummer's name.

3. From my point of view it would be an excellent thing if John Gummer could be given something warm and special to say to Kohl on the Prime Minister's behalf. If he

/ could go

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL



PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

- 3 -

/ this could go further and express interest in the idea of intensifying contact between the Prime Minister's closest advisers and those of Herr Kohl, this would be better still. I have an idea that/might lead to something which could be rather useful and could also be not quite within my own reach as Ambassador, though I hope to make my contribution in one way or another.

4. I say all this without knowing how close Mr Gummer really is to the Prime Minister, or whether he would be a suitable emissary for the sort of role I have in mind. But after my remarks to Bergsdorff I think it possible that Mr Gummer may find himself sought out by Kohl during his visit next week, and perhaps made the recipient of some message or other. If you see no objection, perhaps you could be kind enough to have a word with him before he sets off for Bonn, so that he knows as much of the background as you think it right to pass on to him.

Yours ever

Julian

J L Bullard

cc: L V Appleyard Esq
Private Secretary to Sir G Howe

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL