



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

28 September 1984

*Dear Julian,*

CHANCELLOR KOHL

Thank you for your letter of 25 September about some of the problems you perceive with the Anglo/German relationship at the highest level. I hope that we can find time before long to have a word about it.

We have taken up your suggestion that John Gummer should bear a message from the Prime Minister when he visits Bonn next week. The Prime Minister has written to Chancellor Kohl in what I hope you will find are reasonably warm and friendly terms. John Gummer will have the letter with him. I enclose a copy for your personal information.

One of the problems you identify is a lack of basic knowledge in Chancellor Kohl's immediate circle of how No. 10 works, the channels through which the Prime Minister receives advice and so on. If it would help, Robin Butler and I would be ready to explain this to two or three members of the Chancellor's entourage, in particular Bergsdorff and Teltschik. Part of the problem lies of course in the difference between British and German systems, in particular the distinction we make between Private Secretaries and special advisers, a distinction which does not exist as far as the Germans are concerned. But if we can at least explain the system to them perhaps it will ease some of the confusion. If you agree that this would be useful, you might suggest it to Bergsdorff and Teltschik, saying that we would be ready to welcome them for a brief visit over here. Alternatively we could try to find time in the margins of the Anglo/German Summit.

I should warn you of a complication. There have been past attempts to arrange visits by Private Secretaries which have all foundered because other business intervened at the German end or ours. A visit to London by some of the Chancellor's staff to meet special advisers took place in December 1983. An effort is being made to set up another,

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

*Jo vsc.*

*cpc.*

*Jo*

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

-2-

with the involvement of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung. Teltschik and Neuer participated in the last one. But such meetings are unlikely to achieve the objectives you have in mind and there is some danger in them precisely because the German participants do not understand that there is a distinction between the Private Secretary and special adviser functions.

Your letter suggests that we should aim at intensified contact between the Prime Minister's closest advisers and those of Herr Kohl. This requires careful thought. Quite a close working relationship already exists between Robin Butler and me at our end and Teltschik, Stabreit and Neuer because we have to make arrangements with each other from time to time and see each other quite frequently at bilaterals, European Councils, economic summits, etc. Also I know Bergsdorff and Teltschik well. But at a more senior level the Prime Minister's closest advisers are her Ministers and the various senior officials who have regular contact with their German opposite numbers. Attempts to develop special links between private offices and other individuals which bypass these channels tend to lead to confusion. One only has to look at what happened during Kissinger's days as National Security Adviser. I doubt whether there will be any enthusiasm for such a system here. It would be best to lead the Germans to reach that conclusion themselves. The explanatory exercise which I have suggested ought to help with that.

I am sending personal copies of this letter to Len Appleyard and Michael Jay at the FCO.

*Yours sincerely,*  
*Charles Powell*

C.D. POWELL

His Excellency Sir Julian Bullard, KCMG

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL