



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

1 October 1982

Herr Schmidt

After speaking to Dr. Kohl on the telephone this evening (see my separate letter), the Prime Minister spoke to Helmut Schmidt. She said that she wished to record her great admiration for his achievements. It had been a great privilege to work with him. Herr Schmidt, who said that he was in good health, replied to the effect that in his eight years as Chancellor it was his encounters and personal co-operation with international personalities which had brought him the greatest satisfaction. He hoped that when he was in London in future it would be possible for him to call privately on the Prime Minister. Mrs. Thatcher said that she would always make time for this - the West would continue to need Herr Schmidt's advice. He had done much to keep Europe and the Western Alliance together. She wondered what Herr Schmidt's thoughts were about his political future. Herr Schmidt replied to the effect that he intended to remain a member of the Bundestag and would be a candidate for re-election in 1984. So he would keep one foot in politics. He had not yet decided what sort of role to play - it might be a "retracted" role like that of Mr. Callaghan. The Prime Minister said that she hoped it would not be too retracted. He was too important a figure on the international scene.

In conclusion Herr Schmidt expressed his admiration for "your great country".

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