

DSG

File



Germany

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

1 October 1982

CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT IN BONN

Thank you for your letter of 30 September.

On the assumption that Dr. Kohl wins the vote in the Bundestag today, the Prime Minister agrees that we should take an early opportunity to say to him that we hope the Summit will take place on the dates proposed. Mrs. Thatcher further agrees that, subject to his views, the Summit might be extended to include lunch in Bonn on 29 October, i.e. we should go for option II in Annex B to your letter. For the time being, the Prime Minister would not wish to make any change in the accompanying team (Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, Defence Secretary and Chancellor).

The Prime Minister has approved the messages to Herr Schmidt and Dr. Kohl which are contained in the enclosures to this letter. I should be grateful if you could arrange to transmit these as soon as the handover has taken place.

I am sending copies of this letter to John Kerr (HM Treasury), Richard Mottram (MOD), John Rhodes (Department of Trade), Jonathan Spencer (Department of Industry), Robert Lawson (MAFF) and Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

A. J. COLES

SM

Roger Bone, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

MESSAGE TO HERR SCHMIDT

"Dear Helmut.

I would not wish your départure from the Chancellorship after so many years of unstinting service to your country and to the Western Alliance to pass without saying how much I valued and shall always value our firm friendship and cooperation. Everywhere your leadership has been outstanding. Warm good wishes to you and your wife.

Margaret Thatcher."

MESSAGE TO DR. KOHL

"Dear Chancellor.

Congratulations on assuming the Chancellorship of your great country. I remember well our last meeting in January during your very successful visit to London and I hope that we shall have an early opportunity to meet for an exchange of views. I very much look forward to working with you. Warm regards,

Margaret Thatcher."

PRIME MINISTERChange of Government in Bonn

Please see the attached letter from the FCO.

On the assumption that Herr Schmidt is replaced by Dr. Kohl this afternoon, do you agree that:

- (a) we should take an early opportunity to say to Dr. Kohl that we hope the Summit (28/29 October) will take place on the dates proposed?
- (b) We should try to extend the Summit to include lunch in Bonn on 29 October before your visit to Berlin (you will still get back to London that evening - but as you will now not be going to Hamburg there might be advantage in having a little more time with the new German team in Bonn)?
- (c) No change should be made in our accompanying team (Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, Defence Secretary and Chancellor) for the time being? *Agreed mt*
- (d) The messages at Flag A to Herr Schmidt and Dr. Kohl may be sent as soon as the hand-over is confirmed?

A.J.C.

1 October 1982