



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

10 October, 1984

Dear Charles,

Possible Call on the Prime Minister by the FRG Minister of
the Interior: Dr Friedrich Zimmermann

I enclose a copy of Sir Julian Bullard's telegram number 920 about Dr Zimmermann's visit to London on 23 October. We have now heard from the German Embassy that, in addition to talks with Mr Jenkin and others concerned with environmental questions, Dr Zimmermann would like to call on the Prime Minister.

The Foreign Secretary believes that it would be in our interest for the Prime Minister to meet this request. As you will see from the enclosed personality note Zimmermann has had a controversial career. But he has been one of the successes of Kohl's Cabinet and he is in charge of the subject that most preoccupies West Germans at present. The Germans are becoming ever more worried about their dying forests. (In German culture, forests play a profoundly important role, somewhat like the sea for us). The Germans suspect that we are reluctant to get to grips with this problem. Dr Zimmermann's visit will be an opportunity to emphasise our commitment to genuinely cost effective measures to reduce environmental pollution.

I am writing separately about Ministerial participation in the Anglo-German Summit on 2 November, which Dr Zimmermann wishes to attend. Zimmermann may report on his visit to London and other capitals to the Federal Cabinet on 24 October, a week before the Summit. His account of our position would carry particular conviction if he had met the Prime Minister.

Dr Zimmermann intends to bring with him Herr Spranger, Parliamentary State Secretary in the Ministry of the Interior, three officials and an interpreter (we would suggest that he be accompanied by one official and his interpreter only for a call on the Prime Minister). Mr Jenkin envisages talks at the DOE on the afternoon of 23 October including, on our side, Ministerial colleagues and officials from the Departments of Transport and Trade and Industry. In addition to hearing what Dr Zimmermann has to say, Mr Jenkin intends to ask him if he will attend the conference in London on 17 December, which will consider how to respond to the remit from the London Economic Summit to identify areas for continued cooperation in the environmental field. It would be helpful

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if the Prime Minister could stress to Dr Zimmermann the importance we attach to this conference.

Sir Julian Bullard mentions the possibility of Zimmermann meeting the Home Secretary. The German Embassy however have assured us that this is not essential. If Zimmermann (who will have a Luftwaffe jet) arrives in time the German Ambassador plans to invite Mr Brittan to meet him over lunch.

If the Prime Minister can fit Dr Zimmermann in we shall provide a more detailed brief nearer the time.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to the Secretaries of State for the Environment, Trade and Industry, Transport, Energy and to the Home Secretary.

Yours ever,

Colin Budd

(C R Budd)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

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GRS 250
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FM BONN 021645Z OCT 84
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 920 OF 2 OCTOBER

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AMENDED DISTRIBUTION 3.10.84.

MIPT: POSSIBLE VISIT TO UK BY INTERIOR MINISTER ZIMMERMANN

1. ZIMMERMANN CONFIRMED TO ME THIS MORNING WHAT WE HAD ALREADY HEARD AT AN OFFICIAL LEVEL, THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO VISIT LONDON ON 23 OCTOBER TO EXPLAIN THE FEDERAL CABINET'S DECISION ON VEHICLE EXHAUST EMISSIONS TO THE ENVIRONMENT SECRETARY. HE HAS ARRANGED TO VISIT PARIS ON 22 OCTOBER FOR THE SAME PURPOSE, AND HOPES TO GO TO ROME ON 24 OCTOBER. HE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO DISCUSS WASTE DISPOSAL, CONTAMINATION OF THE SOIL AND POLLUTION OF THE NORTH SEA.
2. ALTHOUGH ZIMMERMANN WAS RATHER INCONSIDERATE IN TWICE PREVIOUSLY THIS YEAR CANCELLING PLANNED VISITS TO LONDON AT THE LAST MOMENT, I HOPE VERY MUCH THAT MR JENKIN WILL BE ABLE TO SEE HIM ON THIS DATE. ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONS HAVE ACQUIRED GREAT DOMESTIC POLITICAL IMPORTANCE IN THE FRG, AND WE SHOULD NOT RISK GIVING THE APPEARANCE OF BEING RELUCTANT TO DISCUSS THESE ISSUES. YOU MAY WISH TO CONSIDER WHETHER ZIMMERMANN SHOULD, WHILE HE IS IN LONDON, SEE OTHER MINISTERS WITH AN INTEREST IN THESE PROBLEMS.
3. IF MR JENKIN SHOULD NOT BE AVAILABLE ON 23 OCTOBER, AND IF IT SHOULD PROVE IMPOSSIBLE TO FIND ANOTHER MUTUALLY CONVENIENT DATE IN OCTOBER, THIS WILL INCREASE THE DESIRABILITY OF MR JENKIN COMING TO BONN TO DISCUSS ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONS WITH ZIMMERMANN AT THE ANGLO-GERMAN CONSULTATIONS ON 2 NOVEMBER (SEE MIPT). IF, ON THE OTHER HAND, ZIMMERMANN DOES COME TO LONDON ON 23 OCTOBER, HE MIGHT BE ABLE THEN TO DISCUSS WITH THE HOME SECRETARY THE OTHER SUBJECTS HE HAS SUGGESTED FOR THE 2 NOVEMBER CONSULTATIONS.

BULLARD

LIMITED
WED
ECD (E)
MAED
ESSD
SCU
MVD
RES D
INF D
NEW S D
PLANNING STAFF

PS
PS/LADY YOUNG
PS/MR RIFKIND
PS/MR REXTON
PS/PUS
MR O'NEILL
MR RENWICK

COPIES TO:
PS/MR JENKIN D/ENVIRONMENT
PS/MR BRITTAN HOME OFFICE
PS/MR TEBBITT D/EM.
PS/MR WALKER N.I.
NO 10 DOWNING ST.
MS LAMBERT CABINET OFFICE

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ZIMMERMANN, DR FRIEDRICH

Federal Minister of the Interior (CSU) since October 1982.

Born 1925 in Munich. War service 1943-45. Joined CSU 1948. Studied law and public administration at Munich; doctorate in 1950. Bavarian civil servant 1952-55, thereafter Secretary-General and Business Manager of the CSU until 1963. Treasurer of the CSU, 1963-67. Member of the Bundestag since 1957; Chairman of the Bundestag Defence Committee 1965-72. Elected Vice-Chairman of the CSU in 1979. Vice-Chairman of the CDU/CSU Parliamentary Party and Chairman of the CSU Land group 1976-82. Appointed to his present post when the CDU/CSU took office in October 1982.

Zimmermann's skill as a politician has been overshadowed by his involvement in a number of well-publicised scandals. The most noteworthy concerned the granting of licences to casinos in Bavaria in 1960, and resulted in Zimmermann being sentenced to four months imprisonment on two charges of perjury. This judgement was later overturned on appeal by the Federal High Court on the grounds that Zimmermann had not been in full possession of his faculties when taking the oaths in question, but the explanation stated that "... there could be no question of the innocence of the defendant having been proven", and ascribed his action to a desire to protect the interests of his party. A later connection with a building firm involved in some dubious practice cost him the post of CSU party treasurer.

That he could recover from such apparently terminal set-backs lies in his closeness to Strauss who has always found him useful. He joined in with a will to help Strauss make life as difficult as possible for Kohl when the latter took over the Chairmanship of the CDU/CSU Parliamentary Party in 1978. He seems to have been the manager of events that year which threatened to divide the CSU from their joint Parliamentary Party with the CDU. He and Stoiber were mainly responsible for leading Strauss into his abortive Chancellor candidacy in 1980. After Strauss's defeat, however, Zimmermann moved to rebuild his bridges with the CDU. His relations with Strauss suffered as a result. The CSU leadership in Munich were deeply suspicious of Zimmermann's role in the negotiations with the CDU and FDP in September 1982 on the formation of the new Coalition and he was thought to be trying to keep Strauss out in the cold. After the Federal election in March 1983 Strauss made no secret of his readiness to sacrifice Zimmermann as Interior Minister to provide a slot for Genscher to move into and himself become Foreign Minister. In the event, Genscher was not to be shifted from the Foreign Ministry.

His appointment as Interior Minister provoked a storm of protest, given his chequered past. But he quickly came to grips with his new job and has shown himself less right wing than the left feared. He clearly enjoys decision-making and has so far been one of the successes of the new government.

Zimmermann is married and has two daughters from an earlier dissolved marriage. He speaks competent English.



Regret
~

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Prime Minister

I don't think there
is any real case
for you to see
Zimmermann, at what will
be a very busy time (23
October is the first day of
PM's Questions).

You may feel that a
political talk would be of
interest, since he is a
leading member of the CSU.
But he stands badly with
Strauss.

Agree not to see him? CDP 10%



AGS SA
cc: JPC

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

15 October, 1984

Possible Call on the Prime Minister by the
FRG Minister of the Interior

Thank you for your letter of 10 October conveying the Foreign Secretary's recommendation that the Prime Minister should see Dr. Zimmermann when he visits London.

The Prime Minister is already very heavily engaged at that time and much regrets that she will not on this occasion be able to see Dr. Zimmermann.

I am copying this letter to John Ballard (Department of the Environment), Callum McCarthy (Department of Trade and Industry), Michael Reidy (Department of Energy) and Hugh Taylor (Home Office).

Colin Budd, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth
Office

C. D. POWELL

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