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PRESS

DER BOTSCHAFTER
DER BUNDESREPUBLIK DEUTSCHLAND
Baron Rüdiger von Wechmar

London, 7 November 1984

Prime Minister

CDP
8/xi

CDP.

Dear Prime Minister,

The interview you gave to "Die Welt" on November 2 was, I gather, very well received in my country. I have pleasure in enclosing a translation of a statement made in Bonn by our Government spokesman, State Secretary Peter Boenisch, on this interview, which I hope you will find of interest.

Respectfully yours

Her Excellency
The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP
Herr Majesty's Prime Minister and
First Lord of the Treasury

L o n d o n

Statement by Government spokesman Peter Boenisch
at a press conference in Bonn on Nov. 2, 1984:

The Federal Chancellor read with particular interest today an interview which the British Prime Minister gave a German daily newspaper to draw attention to the German-British talks originally due to have begun today.

The Federal Government welcomes with gratitude that the British Prime Minister has reaffirmed the guarantees on Berlin clearly and without any possibility of misunderstanding. We are also grateful for her clear statement regarding our striving towards self-determination, freedom and unity. In this we know we have to depend on the support of our friends and allies. Therefore we value the British Government's clear and unequivocal stand all the more.

We also welcome Mrs. Thatcher's emphatic statement that she is prepared to co-operate with the European partners more and more and to get still more closely together. We are united in this goal. It is possible, however, that there are differing views regarding the form and basis of such co-operation.

Mrs. Thatcher urges that we should first define political union before she can weigh the arguments for and against. That is a legitimate viewpoint. She is of course quite right when she points out that the European states must maintain their identity. We do not believe either that the nation-states will simply disappear. Really, that is not under discussion.

We are convinced that it is now necessary to take a substantial step beyond informal co-operation quite soon, particularly in the field of foreign policy by putting it on a contractual basis. In so doing we would confirm a European stance towards the outside world and give Europe a foreign policy profile.

For that we do not need an abstract definition of the concept of political union but a number of tactical steps and measures. The substance, not the concept, is what counts. As this also broadly reflects the pragmatic way of British thinking, we see in Mrs. Thatcher's statements a constructive contribution to improved and closer European co-operation.

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

8 November 1984

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for sending her the text of the statement made by the Federal Government spokesman on her interview in Die Welt. She was most gratified by this.

(C.D. Powell)

His Excellency Baron Rüdiger Von Wechmar

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FM BONN 021715Z NOV 84

TO ROUTINE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1033 OF 02 NOVEMBER

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EUROPEAN UNION: THE PRIME MINISTER'S INTERVIEW IN DIE WELT

SUMMARY

1. DIE WELT CARRIES THE PRIME MINISTER'S INTERVIEW TODAY. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN WELCOMES HER REMARKS ON EUROPEAN UNION, BERLIN AND THE GERMAN QUESTION.

DETAIL

2. THE PRIME MINISTER'S INTERVIEW WAS CARRIED BY DIE WELT TODAY, DESPITE THE CANCELLATION OF THE ANGLO-GERMAN CONSULTATIONS. IT WAS FLAGGED ON THE FRONT PAGE, AND COVERED A FULL INSIDE PAGE. TEXT FOLLOWS BY BAG.

3. THE INTERVIEW HAS RECEIVED POSITIVE COMMENT FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. THE GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN, BOENISCH, TOLD THE PRESS TODAY THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WELCOMED THE PRIME MINISTER'S DECLARED READINESS TO COOPERATE MORE CLOSELY WITH HER EUROPEAN PARTNERS: LONDON AND BONN WERE AT ONE ON THIS AIM. THE PRIME MINISTER'S REQUIREMENT THAT THE POLITICAL UNION OF EUROPE MUST BE DEFINED BEFORE WEIGHING THE ARGUMENTS FOR AND AGAINST WAS A LEGITIMATE REQUEST. MRS THATCHER WAS RIGHT WHEN SHE SAID THAT THE IDENTITY OF THE EUROPEAN STATES MUST BE PRESERVED. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WAS HOWEVER CONVINCED THAT IT WAS NOW NECESSARY TO TAKE A QUALITATIVE STEP FORWARD BEYOND THE INFORMAL COOPERATION BETWEEN EC STATES. THIS WAS PARTICULARLY TRUE IN FOREIGN POLICY, WHERE EUROPEAN COOPERATION SHOULD BE SET ON A TREATY-BASIS, TO SECURE THE STANDING OF EUROPE IN THE OUTSIDE WORLD.

4. BOENISCH ALSO EXPRESSED THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S GRATITUDE FOR THE PRIME MINISTER'S REAFFIRMATION OF BRITAIN'S GUARANTEE FOR BERLIN, AND HER CLEAR WORDS ON GERMAN ASPIRATIONS FOR SELF-DETERMINATION, FREEDOM AND UNITY. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, HE SAID, KNEW THAT IN THESE QUESTIONS IT COULD COUNT ON THE SUPPORT OF ITS FRIENDS AND ALLIES.

BONN WILL PASS TO BMG BERLIN

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