

GRS 340

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

FM BONN

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 939

MF 021657Z OCTOBER.

INFO IMMEDIATE MODUK

INFO PRIORITY WASHINGTON, UKDEL NATO, UKDEL VIENNA

MBFR

SUMMARY

1. TWO GERMAN REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON CONFIRMING UNORTHODOX HANDLING THERE OF PRESIDENT REAGAN'S LETTERS TO THE PRIME MINISTER AND KOHL.

DETAIL

2. A STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL AT EUR (NAME UNSPECIFIED) SUMMONED THE GERMAN EMBASSY YESTERDAY TO HAND OVER COPY OF THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER. HE SAID THE WAY THIS HAD ORIGINALLY BEEN DELIVERED, BY-PASSING STATE, HAD BEEN 'EXTRAORDINARY' AND NOT JUSTIFIED BY THE CIRCUMSTANCES. THE LETTER HAD NOT BEEN AGREED WITH STATE, WHO HAD SIMPLY HAD KNOWLEDGE OF AN EARLIER DRAFT. STATE COULD NOT THEREFORE ASSOCIATE THEMSELVES WITH THE FORM OF THE LETTER. ON THE SUBSTANCE, THE ARGUMENTS WERE WELL KNOWN TO THOSE IN THE TRILATERAL PROCESS. IT WOULD BE REGRETTABLE IF JOINT DISCUSSION OF THESE WERE TO BE HARMED BY THE TONE IN WHICH THEY HAD BEEN RAISED WITH KOHL AND THE PRIME MINISTER. THE STATE OFFICIAL SAID THE LETTER HAD BEEN DRAFTED ESSENTIALLY BY DOUG FEITH WITH SOMEONE AT NSC. STATE WOULD UNDERSTAND IF THE TONE OF THE EUROPEAN REPLIES WERE SIMILAR TO PRESIDENT REAGAN'S LETTER.

3. MEYER-LANDRUT (AUSWAERTIGES AMT, PUS) IN WASHINGTON YESTERDAY RAISED MBFR WITH ADMIRAL POINDEXTER AND MATLOCK AT NSC. POINDEXTER SAID THAT MCFARLANE HIMSELF HAD NOT BEEN PRESENT WHEN REAGAN HAD SIGNED THE LETTER (AND IMPLICITY WAS NOT ASSOCIATED WITH IT). REAGAN WAS PERSONALLY CONCERNED AT THE ABSENCE OF PRIOR DATA IN OUR PROPOSAL. MEYER-LANDRUT TOOK THE AMERICANS THROUGH THE SUBSTANTIVE AND POLITICAL ARGUMENTS IN FAVOUR OF OUR PROPOSAL. MATLOCK HAD SAID THE PRESIDENT WISHED TO KNOW WHETHER OUR PROPOSAL WAS SIMPLY AIMED TO GIVE POLITICAL IMPULSE TO MBFR: OR WHETHER WE THOUGHT THE PROPOSAL ITSELF WAS 'RIGHT'.

4. AUSWAERTIGES AMT VIEW IS THAT THIS DISARRAY IN WASHINGTON, PARTICULARLY THE BY-PASSING OF SHULTZ AND CONCEIVABLY MCFARLANE, MAY

CONFIDENTIAL /WORK.

CONFIDENTIAL

WORK TO OUR ADVANTAGE. IF PENTAGON REALLY HAVE OVERPLAYED THEIR HAND IN ACHIEVING REAGAN'S SIGNATURE ON THE LETTER, OTHERS IN THE ADMINISTRATION MIGHT BE EXPECTED TO PONCE BACK ONCE OUR REPLIES ARE RECEIVED.

5. GENSCHER IS EXPECTED TO SUBMIT DRAFT REPLY TO KOHL TONIGHT. ITS ESSENCE REMAINS AS IN OUR TELNO 932.

BULLARD

MBFR

LIMITED
DEFENCE DEPT.
SOVIET DEPT.
ACDD
PLANNING STAFF
PS
PS/MR RENTON
PS/PUS
MR DEREK THOMAS
MR GOODALL
MR DAUNT

COPIES TO:

MOD (DACU)
MOD (DI(RG))

2.
CONFIDENTIAL