

OPS
cc master

Subject: GERMANY:
Rudolf Hess.



JD
cc: feo

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

20 August 1986

**PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T.153/86...**

My dear Helmut

Thank you for your letter of 21 July about Rudolf Hess.

As you know from our correspondence in 1984, I share your concern about Hess' continued imprisonment. Successive British (and indeed French and American) Governments have pressed the Soviet Union to agree to release him on humanitarian grounds. After you wrote in 1984, the three Allies made parallel demarches to the Russians in London, Paris, Washington and Moscow. As on all previous occasions, the Russians refused to contemplate releasing Hess. The most they have been willing to do is to agree to some modest improvements in the conditions of his imprisonment.

Particularly in view of Hess' recent illness, however, we did discuss with the French and Americans whether it would be worth making a further approach to the Russians. Our conclusion was that a further approach at this stage was bound to be rejected. But we shall, as ever, be keeping the issue under constant review with the aim of seizing the earliest suitable opportunity to approach the Russians again.

I imagine you would agree that it would be a mistake for the United Kingdom to put at risk the Four Power Agreements on Berlin, which have preserved the security and freedom of

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some two million Germans in the Western sectors of the city,
by unilaterally releasing Rudolf Hess.

Yours ever

Adenauer

His Excellency Dr. Helmut Kohl