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FM BONN

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 1043

OF 211706Z AUGUST 90

INFO IMMEDIATE PARIS, MODUK, MADRID, LISBON, UKDEL NATO, THE HAGUE

INFO IMMEDIATE BRUSSELS, LUXEMBOURG, MOSCOW, WASHINGTON, ROME

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SIC

MY TELNO 1015 : FRG MILITARY REACTION TO GULF CRISIS

SUMMARY

1. KOHL FALLS IN WITH GENSCHER'S POSITION THAT FRG FORCES SHOULD NOT NOW BE SENT TO THE GULF. BUT COALITION PARTIES AND SPD AGREE ON PRINCIPLE OF AMENDING THE FEDERAL CONSTITUTION TO ALLOW BUNDESWEHR PARTICIPATION IN OPERATIONS AUTHORISED BY THE UN IN FUTURE. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT MAY WELL NOT TAKE EFFECT UNTIL NEXT YEAR, AND GERMAN MILITARY PARTICIPATION IN THE PRESENT GULF CRISIS SEEMS MOST UNLIKELY.

2. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO SEND A DESTROYER TO EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN.

DETAIL

3. IN MEETINGS OF MINISTERS AND OF BUNDESTAG COMMITTEES ON 20 AUGUST IT WAS AGREED THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO IMMEDIATE CHANGE IN THE POLICY OF RESTRICTING BUNDESWEHR DEPLOYMENT TO THE NATO AREA. IT WAS ALSO AGREED IN PRINCIPLE THAT THERE COULD BE A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO PERMIT OUT OF AREA DEPLOYMENTS IN LINE WITH UN DECISIONS.

4. STOLTENBURG ANNOUNCED ON 20 AUGUST THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WERE SENDING A DESTROYER - LUETJENS - TO THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN TO JOIN THE FRG MINESWEEPING CONTINGENT AND AS A DEMONSTRATION OF SOLIDARITY.

COMMENT

5. FEDERAL PUBLIC OPINION HAS NOT SO FAR SHOWN GREAT INTEREST IN THE QUESTION OF GERMAN MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN THE GULF CRISIS. PUBLIC OPINION WOULD CHARACTERISTICALLY TEND TOWARDS RESTRAINT AND HESITATION IN SUCH A MATTER. EDITORIAL OPINION HAS BEEN SPLIT, WITH SUPPORT FOR GENSCHER'S VIEW THAT THE CONSTITUTION DOES NOT ALLOW DEPLOYMENT TO THE GULF AND FOR KOHL'S THAT IT DOES. ONE FREQUENT THEME IS THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD DO SOMETHING MORE TO

DEMONSTRATE SOLIDARITY WITH ITS WESTERN ALLIES, PERHAPS BY PROVIDING GREATER MATERIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE US.

6. VOLKER RUEHE, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE CDU, WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE GOVERNMENT DISCUSSIONS ON 20 AUGUST, TELLS ME THAT KOHL ARGUED FOR AN EARLY DEPLOYMENT TO THE GULF, ESPECIALLY ON THE GROUNDS THAT AMERICAN SUPPORT FOR UNIFICATION MADE GERMAN SUPPORT FOR US POLICY IN THE GULF BOTH EXPEDIENT AND RIGHT. GENSCHER IS LIKELY TO HAVE ARGUED THAT IT WOULD BE IMPOLITIC FOR GERMANY TO RISK ACCUSATIONS OF THROWING ITS MILITARY WEIGHT AROUND AT A TIME WHEN IT SHOULD BE TRYING TO CONVINCING THE WORLD THAT UNITED GERMANY WOULD POSE NO THREAT. KOHL EVIDENTLY DECIDED THAT HE COULD NOT RISK A CONFRONTATION WITH THE FDP, WHOSE POSITION IS SHARED BY THE SPD OPPOSITION.

7. RUEHE TOLD ME THAT IT WAS COMMON GROUND THAT THE AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION WOULD BE RESTRICTED TO ALLOWING DEPLOYMENT OUT OF AREA ONLY FOR OPERATIONS THAT WERE AUTHORISED, THOUGH NOT NECESSARILY LED, BY THE UN. THE FMOD IN THE PAST HAS WANTED AN AMENDMENT GIVING GREATER LATITUDE. THE EFFECT OF RESTRICTING THE AMENDMENT TO UN-AUTHORISED OPERATIONS WILL MEAN THAT GERMANY, PERHAPS FOR MANY YEARS, WILL BE UNABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY OUT OF AREA OPERATIONS DECIDED ON IN OTHER FORA, FOR INSTANCE WEU.

8. RUEHE TOLD ME THAT THE CDU WOULD TRY TO GET AGREEMENT ON THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT IN THE SAME PACKAGE AS THE AMENDMENTS REQUIRED BY GERMAN UNIFICATION, I.E. IN THE NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS. BUT HE THOUGHT THAT THE SPD AND FDP WOULD INSIST THAT THE AMENDMENT CONCERNING OUR OF AREA DEPLOYMENT BE AUTHORISED BY THE ALL GERMAN PARLIAMENT, I.E. NOT BEFORE EARLY 1991. RUEHE'S FEELING, WHICH I SHARE, IS THAT THE CHANCE OF A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT IN TIME TO ALLOW GERMAN MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN THE PRESENT GULF CRISIS MUST BE EXTREMELY SLIGHT.

MALLABY

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3/31

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PS
PS/MR WALDEGRAVE
PS/PUS
MR TOMKYS
~~MR GORE-BOOTH~~
MR FAIRWEATHER
MR GOULDEN
MR BERMAN (LEGAL ADVISERS)
HD/MED
HD/NENAD
HD/NAD
HD/SED
HD/UND
HD/CONSULAR D
HD/NEWS D
HD/NPDD
HD/SECPOL D

HD/AMD
HD/ECD(E)
MR PRIDDLE, DEPT OF ENERGY
MR W D REEVES CABINET OFFICE
MR D J GOWAN CABINET OFFICE
MR BARRASS, CABINET OFFICE
(BY TUBE H29)
PS/NUMBER 10 DOWNING ST
SIR P CRADOCK,
(NO 10 DOWNING ST)
CABINET OFFICE DIO
(BY TUBE H29)
SIR ROBIN BUTLER, CAB OFFICE
AUS (C) MODUK
HD/SEC (O) (C) MODUK
MR LS SMITH BANK ENGLAND(2)
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