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BONN

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELNO 1056

OF 230915Z AUGUST 90

INFO PRIORITY UKMIS NEW YORK, ANKARA, UKDEL NATO

(PERSONAL FOR AMBASSADORS)

FOR TOMKYS

MY TELNO 1046: GERMAN REACTION TO GULF CRISIS

1. WHEN I TALKED TO THE POLITICAL DIRECTOR IN THE AUSWAERTIGES AMT ON 22 AUGUST ABOUT THE TIMING OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE GERMAN CONSTITUTION, KASTRUP WAS AT PAINS TO ARGUE THAT THE FRG'S OVERALL CONTRIBUTION TO WESTERN EFFORTS IN THE CRISIS WAS ALREADY SUBSTANTIAL. IN THAT CONTEXT HE SAID QUOTE WHEN IT COMES TO DISCUSSING ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES SUFFERING ECONOMICALLY FROM THE CRISIS, WHERE DO YOU THINK THEY WILL LOOK FOR THE MONEY? UNQUOTE. IF YOU WANT ME TO FOLLOW THIS UP IN THE CONTEXT OF THE NEW YORK DISCUSSIONS ABOUT ARTICLE 50 OF THE UN CHARTER (PARA 3 OF FCO TELNO 471 TO UKMIS) PLEASE LET ME KNOW.

2. DURING A SIMILAR DISCUSSION WITH HARTMANN (ACTING DIPLOMATIC ADVISOR TO KOHL) ON 22 AUGUST, HE TOLD ME IN STRICT CONFIDENCE THAT A NEW IDEA ABOUT GERMAN MILITARY INVOLVEMENT HAD BEEN SUGGESTED BY SOME OFFICIALS BUT SHELVED. THIS WAS THAT MILITARY DEPLOYMENTS TO TURKEY, AS A NATO MEMBER, WOULD NOT CONFLICT WITH THE FEDERAL CONSTITUTION, AND MIGHT BE CONSIDERED IF THAT COUNTRY WAS CLEARLY THREATENED IN DUE COURSE BY IRAQ. HARTMANN SAID IT WOULD BE WRONG TO HINT PUBLICLY AT THIS POSSIBILITY, BECAUSE THAT WOULD INDICATE THAT THE NATO TREATY COULD BE TRIGGERED BY THE PRESENT CRISIS AND WOULD GREATLY HEIGHTEN PUBLIC CONCERN IN THE WEST. IF A CLEAR THREAT TO TURKEY EMERGED LATER, THE IDEA MIGHT BE RECONSIDERED IN BONN.

3. EVEN IF KOHL AND THE DEFENCE MINISTER LATER ESPOUSED THIS IDEA, I THINK GENSCHER WOULD BE RELUCTANT. DECISIONS WOULD BE COMPLICATED BY THE APPROACH OF ALL-GERMAN ELECTIONS ON 2 DECEMBER AND PERHAPS BY THE INTENSE PREOCCUPATION WITH UNIFICATION AND THE ECONOMIC PLIGHT OF THE GDR.

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We considered it - the first day - it is so obvious.

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4. HARTMANN BESOUGHT ME NOT TO REPORT HIS REMARKS. PLEASE COULD PARA 2 BE TREATED WITH EXTREME DISCRETION AND NOT QUOTED BACK TO ANY GERMANS.

5. WE HAVE A SEPARATE INDICATION THAT THE FEDERAL MOD ARE CONSIDERING THE EVACUATION FROM TURKEY OF 600 CIVILIANS (NOT ALL GERMAN) WHO HAVE GONE THERE FROM IRAQ.

MALLABY

IRAQ/KUWAIT SECRET
NO DISTRIBUTION
MR YOUNG (EMERGENCY UNIT)
HD/NENAD
HD/UND
HD/NPDD
HD/SECPOL D
HD/AMD
HD/PUSD
DEPUTY HD/PUSD
HD/ISD(O)
PS
PS/PUS
PS/MR WALDEGRAVE
MR TOMKYS
MR FAIRWEATHER
MR GOULDEN
MR BERMAN
PS/NO 10 DOWNING ST
SIR P CRADDOCK 10 DOWNING ST
CHIEF OF ASSESSMENTS STAFF
(CABINET OFFICE)
MR REEVES CAB OFFICE
MR APPLEYARD CAB OFFICE

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