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FM BONN

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TELNO 1360

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SUMMARY

1. TELTSCHIK EXPLAINS KOHL'S THINKING ON HOSTAGES AND WHY KOHL OPPOSED A MISSION BY BRANDT TO IRAQ. KOHL TO PROPOSE DISCUSSION AT INFORMAL EUROPEAN COUNCIL. HE HAS STILL TO CONSIDER OUR REQUESTS FOR SUPPORT TO OUR GULF DEPLOYMENT. COST MAY BE A KEY FACTOR. RECOMMENDATION THAT THE PRIME MINISTER PURSUE WITH KOHL THIS WEEKEND.

DETAIL

2. TELTSCHIK TOLD ME TODAY THAT KOHL WAS MOST CONCERNED THAT SADDAM HUSSEIN COULD SUCCEED IN HIS OBVIOUS TACTIC OF TRYING TO DIVIDE THE WEST BY SELECTIVE RELEASE OF HOSTAGES. THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT CLAIMED THAT THE RELEASE OF ALL THEIR HOSTAGES HAD BEEN AGREED WITHOUT CONCESSION. BUT COULD THIS BE TRUE? TELTSCHIK SAID THAT GENSCHER HAD CLAIMED, IN MINISTERIAL MEETINGS IN BONN, THAT MR HEATH'S TRIP TO IRAQ HAD BEEN UNDERTAKEN IN AGREEMENT WITH HMG. TELTSCHIK HAD THEREFORE BEEN GRATEFUL FOR POWELL'S ASSURANCE BY TELEPHONE THAT MR HEATH HAD ACTED ON HIS OWN RESPONSIBILITY. TELTSCHIK TOLD ME IN STRICT CONFIDENCE THAT KOHL WAS DEAD AGAINST BRANDT UNDERTAKING A MISSION TO IRAQ FOR ANOTHER REASON AS WELL - NAMELY THAT THE SPD WOULD TRY TO MAKE USE IN THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN OF ANY SUCCESS ACHIEVED BY BRANDT.

3. TELTSCHIK SAID THAT KOHL WOULD TODAY PROPOSE TO THE ITALIAN PRESIDENCY THAT THE SUBJECT OF HOSTAGES AND THE GULF BE DISCUSSED AT THE INFORMAL EUROPEAN COUNCIL THIS WEEKEND. KOHL WAS WONDERING WHETHER THE TWELVE COULD UNDERTAKE A JOINT INITIATIVE CALLING FOR ALL HOSTAGES, NOT ONLY THOSE FROM COMMUNITY COUNTRIES, TO BE RELEASED IN LINE WITH SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS. THE PRESIDENCY MIGHT CONCEIVABLY SEND AN ENVOY TO IRAQ TO CALL FOR THE RELEASE OF ALL HOSTAGES.

4. I ASKED TELTSCHIK ABOUT THE POSITION ON OUR REQUESTS FOR SUPPORT

IN RELATION TO OUR DEPLOYMENT IN THE GULF. HE SAID THAT OUR REQUESTS HAD BEEN PROCESSED BY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS IN BONN, WHOSE PROPOSALS WOULD NOW BE SUBMITTED TO KOHL. A MINISTERIAL MEETING WOULD PROBABLY BE NEEDED BUT DECISION SHOULD BE POSSIBLE WITHIN A MATTER OF DAYS. TELTSCHIK SAID THAT THE BASIC APPROACH IN THE SUBMISSION WAS POSITIVE BUT THAT HE WAS UNABLE TO ANTICIPATE KOHL'S DECISIONS ON INDIVIDUAL POINTS. HE INDICATED THAT THE KEY QUESTION, WITH GERMANY FACING NEW EXPENDITURE ON MANY FRONTS, WOULD BE THE COST OF THE VARIOUS TYPES OF HELP FOR US.

5. I RECOMMEND THAT THE PRIME MINISTER SHOULD MENTION THIS TO KOHL IN THE MARGINS OF THE INFORMAL EUROPEAN COUNCIL.

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