

Ps / No 10 Downing St
8A

GRS 250

SECRET

SECRET

DESKBY BONN 060830Z

FM WASHINGTON 052007Z OCTOBER 83

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 2878 OF 5 OCT

INFO IMMEDIATE TO BONN (FOR CARTLEDGE) UKDEL NATO AND ROME

A. J. C. 6/10.
h.c.

YOUR TELNO 219 TO UKDEL NATO: INF

1. BURT HAS JUST TELEPHONED MINISTER TO SAY THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT HMG WAS LOOKING URGENTLY AT THE PROBLEM WHICH THE GERMANS RAISED OVER THE DATE OF DELIVERY OF MISSILES IN WESTERN EUROPE. BURT SAID THAT HE EXPECTED TO BE DISCUSSING THIS WITH CARTLEDGE IN BONN TOMORROW BUT WANTED, AS A MATTER OF URGENCY, TO LET US HAVE US VIEWS.

2. HE SAID THAT THE FEELING HERE WAS THAT THE GERMANS AT THE POLITICAL LEVEL WERE CONFUSED ABOUT DELIVERY AND DEPLOYMENT. IT MIGHT BE THAT FROM THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS STANDPOINT THEY WERE RIGHT TO MIX THE TWO UP. BUT THE US FELT STRONGLY THAT THE CREDIBILITY OF THE ALLIANCE DEPENDED ON DEPLOYMENT ON SCHEDULE AND THERE COULD BE NO DOUBT THAT A SIGNIFICANT DELAY IN THE DATE OF DELIVERY WOULD MAKE DEPLOYMENT ON SCHEDULE IMPOSSIBLE. THIS WOULD CERTAINLY APPLY TO DELAY IN DELIVERY BEYOND 21 NOVEMBER WHICH WAS WHAT THE GERMANS SEEMED TO HAVE IN MIND. THE BUNDESTAG DEBATE WOULD THEN RISK BECOMING A FULCRUM ON WHICH THE WHOLE QUESTION OF DEPLOYMENT IN ALL THREE BASING COUNTRIES WOULD DEPEND. THE AMERICANS THOUGHT IT WOULD BE QUITE WRONG TO BRING DEPLOYMENT IN OTHER COUNTRIES INTO THE GERMAN PROBLEM IN THIS WAY.

3. BURT WILL BE SPEAKING ON THESE LINES TO RUTH TOMORROW AND HOPES, LATER IN THE DAY TO SEE BOTH WOERNER AND GENSCHER.

WRIGHT

(REPEATED AND REQUESTED)

LIMITED

DEF D

Ps

Ps/Pus

MR WRIGHT

MR CARTLEDGE

SECRET