

GRS 400

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FM BONN 271800Z OCT 83

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 955 OF 27 OCTOBER

AND TO DESKBY 280800Z OTTAWA (FOR DELEGATION TO NPG)

AND TO IMMEDIATE UKDEL NATO WASHINGTON MOSCOW MODUK (DS 17)

INFO SAVING CHCC(G)

Mr. Heselbine will have seen this.

A.S.C. 45/2

MT

INFO: FORTHCOMING BUNDESTAG DEBATE

1. THE TIMING OF THIS DEBATE WHICH COULD AFFECT THE FRG DEPLOYMENT SCHEDULE, HAS NOT YET BEEN FINALLY SETTLED. IT HAD BEEN FIXED FOR 21 NOVEMBER, AND PLANNED AS A ONE-DAY AFFAIR: BUT SPD LEADER VOGEL ASKED THE CHANCELLOR LAST WEEK TO EXTEND IT TO TWO FULL DAYS (TORRY'S TELELETTER OF 19 OCTOBER TO MUNRO).
2. THE CDU PRAESIDIUM DISCUSSED VOGEL'S REQUEST LAST WEEK. THEY WERE OPPOSED TO LETTING THE DEBATE RUN BEYOND THE DEADLINE OF 2400 HOURS ON 21 NOVEMBER, AFTER WHICH IT HAD BEEN AGREED WITH THE AMERICANS THAT DEPLOYMENT SHOULD IMMEDIATELY BEGIN. BUT THEY ALSO FELT THAT TO REJECT THE SPD REQUEST OUTRIGHT MIGHT GIVE THE IMPRESSION OF BEING AFRAID OF FULLER DEBATE, AND THUS CAUSE POLITICAL DAMAGE. THEY THEREFORE INSTRUCTED THE CDU WHIPS TO EXPLORE WITH THE OPPOSITION THE POSSIBILITY OF STARTING THE DEBATE ON 17 NOVEMBER, BREAKING OFF FOR THE SPD, FDP AND GREEN PARTY CONFERENCES ON 18-20 NOVEMBER, AND RESUMING AND CONCLUDING THE DEBATE ON 21 NOVEMBER.
3. THE SPD HAVE NOW REJECTED THIS PROPOSAL, ARGUING THAT THEY MUST HOLD THEIR PARTY CONFERENCE BEFORE THE START OF THE BUNDESTAG DEBATE. THEY ARE THREATENING THAT, UNLESS THE GOVERNMENT AGREE TO A 2/3 DAY DEBATE STARTING ON 21 NOVEMBER, THEY WILL FILIBUSTER TO PREVENT A BUNDESTAG VOTE BEFORE THE 21 NOVEMBER DEADLINE. THIS IS AN EMPTY THREAT AS THE GOVERNMENT HAVE THE POWER TO TERMINATE A BUNDESTAG DEBATE WHEN THEY WISH. BUT THE CDU STILL THINK IT IMPORTANT TO BE SEEN TO ALLOW FULL PARLIAMENTARY DISCUSSION, AND WOULD PREFER TO HANDLE THE DEBATE ON AGREED CROSS-PARTY LINES IF AT ALL POSSIBLE.
4. THE CDU/CSU HAVE THEREFORE NOW PROPOSED A 'FINAL' COMPROMISE, UNDER WHICH THE DEBATE WOULD BEGIN ON 21 NOVEMBER AND CONTINUE UNTIL 2100 ON 22 NOVEMBER. THE OPPOSITION ARE STILL CONSIDERING THIS. THE GREENS ARE BOUND TO REJECT IT: THE CDU/CSU HOPE THAT THE SPD WILL ACCEPT.

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5. WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO ESTABLISH WITH CERTAINTY WHETHER POSTPONING THE END OF THE DEBATE TO THE TIME NOW PROPOSED WILL AFFECT THE US DEPLOYMENT SCHEDULE. BUT JENNINGER (MINISTER OF STATE AT THE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE), WHO HINTED AT THIS DEVELOPMENT TO US EARLIER IN THE WEEK, CLAIMED THAT AS THE MISSILES WOULD NOT BE LEAVING THE US UNTIL THE MORNING OF 22 NOVEMBER THEY WOULD ONLY REACH THE FRG THAT EVENING IN ANY CASE. HE THEREFORE FELT THE GOVERNMENT HAD SOME EXTRA TIME TO PLAY WITH FOR THE DEBATE, THOUGH THE AMERICANS SEEMED BOUND TO GRUMBLE.

BONN WILL PASS SAVING TO CHCC(G).

TAYLOR

LIMITED
DEFENCE DEPT
ACDD
EED
SOV DEPT
NAD
WED
NEWS D

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PS/MR LUCE
PS/PUS
SIR J BULLARD
MR WRIGHT
MR JAMES
MR CARTLEDGE

ADDITIONAL DISTN.
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- 2 -
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