

USA

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TO PRIORITY FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 370 OF 30 APRIL
INFO WASHINGTON, PARIS, UKDEL NATO

MUSKIE

1. VAN WELL TOLD ME THIS MORNING THAT GENSCHER THOUGHT THE APPOINTMENT OF MUSKIE AS SECRETARY OF STATE IN SUCCESSION TO VANCE A GOOD ONE. GENSCHER HIMSELF HAD DEALINGS WITH MUSKIE WHEN HE WAS MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR AND RESPONSIBLE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS. MUSKIE VISITED BONN ON A EUROPEAN TOUR IN 1979.
2. VAN WELL WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE ONLY THING THAT MUSKIE HAD IN COMMON WITH BRZEZINSKI WAS THAT THEY WERE BOTH OF POLISH ORIGIN. IT WOULD BE GOOD FOR THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND GOOD FOR AMERICA'S ALLIES THAT CARTER HAD CHOSEN A MAN OF POLITICAL STATURE AS SECRETARY OF STATE. MOREOVER MUSKIE WAS KNOWN FOR HIS LIBERAL VIEWS AND WOULD THEREFORE PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE COUNTER-BALANCE TO BRZEZINSKI, WHO IS PROFOUNDLY MISTRUSTED HERE. FINALLY THE GERMANS THOUGHT THAT HIS INFLUENCE WITH CONGRESS WOULD GREATLY HELP THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION.
3. ALTOGETHER THE APPOINTMENT IS SEEN IN BONN AS A PLUS FACTOR.

WRIGHT

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