

USA

GPS 320 CONFIDENTIAL  
CONFIDENTIAL

FM BONN 121615Z JAN 81  
TO ROUTINE FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 31 OF 12 JANUARY  
INFO ROUTINE WASHINGTON PARIS MOSCOW

*Stoessel, who will be No 3  
in the State Dept, is at present  
US Ambassador in Bonn.  
A good appointment*

WASHINGTON TELNO 5: APPOINTMENTS AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT:  
WALTER STOESEL

*Thus*

1. THE GERMANS ARE PLEASED BY THE APPOINTMENT. GENSCHER TOLD ME SO HIMSELF AND SO DID A REPRESENTATIVE SELECTION OF WEST GERMANS WHOM I SAW IN BERLIN AT THE WEEKEND AND WHO WERE OBSERVED OFFERING WHAT SEEMED TO BE GENUINE CONGRATULATIONS TO STOESEL HIMSELF. THIS IS NOT SURPRISING. ONE OF THE GERMAN COMPLAINTS OVER THE FOUR YEARS OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN THAT, WITH THE DECLINE OF THE EAST COAST ESTABLISHMENT AND THE RISE OF THE GEORGIA MAFIA, THERE WAS NO-ONE IN WASHINGTON WHO UNDERSTOOD THEIR PROBLEMS. WITH HAIG AS SECRETARY OF STATE AND STOESEL AND EAGLEBERGER IN KEY POSITIONS, THEY WILL NO LONGER HAVE THESE GROUNDS FOR COMPLAINT.

2. STOESEL'S TIME IN BONN HAS BEEN A DIFFICULT ONE. THE CONTROVERSY SURROUNDING GERMAN/AMERICAN RELATIONS OVER THE WHOLE PERIOD OF HIS MISSION HAS MEANT THAT HE HAS HAD A UNENVIABLE JOB NOT ONLY INTERPRETING THE WAYS OF WASHINGTON TO BONN AND VICE VERSA, BUT ALSO IN RECONCILING THE SOMETIMES VIOLENT DIFFERENCES OF OPINION BOTH WITHIN HIS OWN EMBASSY. THE FACT THAT HE HAS RETAINED THROUGHOUT THE CONFIDENCE OF THE BONN GOVERNMENT AND THE RESPECT OF WEST GERMAN PUBLIC OPINION GENERALLY SPEAKS VOLUMES FOR HIS PROFESSIONAL ABILITIES AND PERSONAL QUALITIES. HE HAS BEEN A SENSIBLE AND COOPERATIVE COLLEAGUE IN OUR QUADRIPARTITE DEALINGS WITH THE WEST GERMANS IN BONN AND WITH ABRASIMOV IN EAST BERLIN.

3. I WOULD ONLY ADD TO SIR N HENDERSON'S PERCEPTIVE CHARACTER SKETCH, WITH WHICH I AGREE, THAT STOESEL WAS ALSO US REPRESENTATIVE DURING NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS OF THE NINE, WHEN I REPRESENTED THE UK DURING THE ABORTIVE QUOTE YEAR OF EUROPE UNQUOTE IN 1973, WHEN HE WAS ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS. HE RAN IN DOUBLE HARNESS WITH HAL SONNENFELT FROM THE WHITE HOUSE AND WAS CAST IN THE ROLE OF STATE DEPARTMENT NICE GUY, WHICH HE STILL IS TO SONNENFELT'S WHITE HOUSE BAD GUY. SO WITH HIM AS UNDER SECRETARY, UNITED STATES POLICY SHOULD NOT ACT IN IGNORANCE OF THE SOVIET UNION, POLAND, THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY AND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY GENERALLY, WHICH SHOULD BE A BONUS.

WRIGHT

[COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING ST]

STANDARD

NAD

WED

PUSD

EGD

NEWS D

INFORMATION D

CABINET OFFICE

CONFIDENTIAL