

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

FM BONN

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELNO 027

OF 161700Z JANUARY 87

INFO ROUTINE BMG BERLIN, EAST BERLIN, WASHINGTON, MOSCOW

INFO ROUTINE OTHER EUROPEAN COMMUNITY POSTS, UKDEL NATO

INFO ROUTINE UKREP BRUSSELS, CHCC(G)

INFO SAVING CONSULATE-GENERALS IN THE FRG

(COLLAR)

MY TELNO 10: FRG ELECTION CAMPAIGN

SUMMARY

1. ALL SIGNS STILL POINT TO COALITION BEING RETURNED TO POWER ON 25 JANUARY.

DETAIL

2. THE CAMPAIGN HAS PLODDED ON THIS WEEK. WITH LITTLE MORE THAN A WEEK TILL POLLING DAY, THERE HAVE BEEN NO SURPRISES, AND NO MORE GAFFES BY THE CHANCELLOR. SOME OPINION POLLS SUGGEST THAT RAU'S "GAME UNDERDOG" STYLE AND VALIANT EFFORTS (80 ELECTION RALLIES IN THREE WEEKS) MAY HAVE CLOSED THE GAP SLIGHTLY, BUT THERE IS NEXT TO NO DOUBT ABOUT THE OUTCOME ON 25 JANUARY. MOST PEOPLE NOW JUST WANT TO GET IT OVER. IN GOVERNMENT CIRCLES THE PROBLEMS OF THE EMS HAVE ALMOST ECLIPSED INTEREST IN THE CAMPAIGN. AN INTERVIEW WITH KOHL IN TODAY'S MASS-CIRCULATION BILD HIGHLIGHTS HIS CONCERN ABOUT THE SINKING DOLLAR RATHER THAN HIS ELECTION PROSPECTS.

3. FOR THE CDU/CSU THE MAIN ENEMY IS THE BITTER WEATHER, AND THE POSSIBILITY THAT SOME OF THEIR SUPPORTERS MAY NOT BOTHER TO TURN OUT. A LOW TURN-OUT ON 25 JANUARY WOULD BE LIKELY TO HELP THE SMALLER PARTIES. THE FDP IS HAVING A GOOD CAMPAIGN IN ANY CASE, PLAYING THE GENSCHER VERSUS STRAUSS CARD FOR ALL IT IS WORTH. THE CSU HAVE VIRTUALLY GIVEN UP HOPE OF OUSTING GENSCHER FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, AND STRAUSS HINTS IN AN INTERVIEW TODAY THAT HE IS VERY HAPPY IN MUNICH. THE GREENS TOO CONTINUE TO LOOK CONFIDENT, AND ARE CLEARLY HOPING FOR MANY VOTES FROM SPD SYMPATHISERS WHO KNOW THE SPD HAS NO CHANCE THIS TIME. THE DIFFERENT WINGS OF THE GREENS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO BURY THE HATCHET FOR THE SAKE OF THE CAMPAIGN, IN THE COMFORTABLE KNOWLEDGE THAT THEY ARE NOT GOING TO BE FACED WITH AWKWARD DECISIONS ABOUT THE MORALITY AND MODALITIES OF POWER-SHARING WITH THE SPD. IN ONE SENSE, THEN, THE GREENS LOOK LIKE GAINING AS MUCH FROM THIS ELECTION AS ANYONE.

BULLARD

YYYY

BPLNAN 3305

EUROPEAN POLITICAL

WED

CONFIDENTIAL