

RESTRICTED
COLLAR
FM MOSCOW
TO DESKBY 251000Z FCO
TELNO 1733
OF 250949Z OCTOBER 88
INFO IMMEDIATE BONN, EAST BERLIN, BMG BERLIN
INFO PRIORITY WASHINGTON, OTHER CSCE POSTS

SOVIET UNION/WEST GERMANY: VISIT OF KOHL: FIRST DAY

SUMMARY

1. KOHL AND GORBACHEV GOT DOWN TO BUSINESS STRAIGHT AWAY ON 24 OCTOBER. KOHL IMMEDIATELY RAISED KEY QUESTIONS ON GERMAN UNITY AND THE SITUATION OF ETHNIC GERMANS IN THE SOVIET UNION. GORBACHEV CONCENTRATED ON PROSPECTS FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DISARMAMENT. DETAIL
2. CHANCELLOR KOHL ARRIVED IN MOSCOW ON THE AFTERNOON OF 24 OCTOBER. HE WENT STRAIGHT INTO A TETE-A-TETE SESSION WITH GORBACHEV. ACCORDING TO THE ACCOUNT IN PRAVDA THE RUSSIANS SPOKE MOSTLY ABOUT THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR COOPERATION. GORBACHEV STRESSED THAT THE EARLY PREPARATION FOR THIS VISIT HAD BEEN WORTH WHILE AND SPECIFIC PROPOSALS WOULD BE READY BY THE TIME HE RETURNED TO BONN. BOTH SIDES AGREED ON THE NEED FOR AN EARLY BEGINNING TO THE CST, BUT GORBACHEV ADDED A JIBE ABOUT NATO PLANS FOR MODERNISATION WHICH 'CUT ACROSS THE OPPORTUNITIES OPENED UP BY THE INF TREATY.' KOHL RAISED THE ISSUE OF ETHNIC GERMANS AND WAS TOLD THAT THE PROBLEMS 'ARE BEING SOLVED AND WILL BE SOLVED, BUT IT IS IMPORTANT NOT TO PERMIT INTERFERENCE IN OUR INTERNAL AFFAIRS.'
3. THE TWO LEADERS SUBSEQUENTLY ADDRESSED SOME OF THE 70 PLUS BUSINESSMEN WHO HAD ACCOMPANIED KOHL TO MOSCOW. THEY EXCHANGED WARM SENTIMENTS ABOUT THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXPANDING RUSSIAN/GERMAN BUSINESS.
4. THE SPEECHES AT THE KREMLIN DINNER YESTERDAY EVENING CONTAINED A DEAL OF BLUNT TALKING, MOSTLY FROM KOHL BUT ALSO, PRE-EMPTIVELY FROM GORBACHEV. GORBAHCEV SPOKE FIRST AND STRESSED THE LONG HISTORIC LINKS BETWEEN THE RUSSIANS AND THE GERMANS. HE SAID THERE WERE CLOSE TIES WITH WEST GERMANY BUT ADDED THAT THE LINKS WITH EAST GERMANY WERE MORE SOLID, BASED ON A COMMON SOCIAL SYSTEM AND MEMBERSHIP OF AN ALLIANCE. HE REMINDED KOHL THAT WEST GERMANY WAS THE ONLY MEMBER OF NATO WITH WHOM THE SOVIET UNION HAD A TREATY ON THE RENUNCIATION OF THE USE OF FORCE.
5. GORBACHEV SAID HE HAD TO ADDRESS THE QUESTION OF WEST BERLIN

BECAUSE CERTAIN VOICES IN WEST GERMANY WERE SUGGESTING THAT THIS WAS THE FLY IN THE OINTMENT 'THEY SEEM TO SAY THAT IF THE SOVIET UNION 'DOES NOT YEILD' ON THIS THEN THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOVIET/GERMAN RELATIONS WILL HAVE TO, AT THE VERY LEAST, SLOW DOWN. SUCH A PHRASING OF THE QUESTION NOT ONLY CONTRADICTS THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT OF 1971 BUT IT IS ALSO INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE ESSENTIAL NATURE OF THE HELSINKI PROCESS. WE ARE NOT AGAINST THE PARTICIPATION OF WEST BERLIN IN THE EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND WE ARE READY TO CONSIDER ITS SPECIFIC INTERESTS IN ECONOMY AND CULTURAL LIFE. BUT ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE SPECIAL STATUS OF THE CITY REMAINS UNIMPAIRED.'

6. GORBACHEV SAID HE HAD ALREADY SPOKEN SEVERAL TIMES ON THE 'GERMAN QUESTION' RECENTLY, HE PREFERRED TO SEE IT SOLVED IN THE CONTEXT OF DEVELOPING RELATIONS BETWEEN ALL PARTS OF WEST GERMANY AND THE SOVIET UNION AND BETWEEN EAST AND WEST AS A WHOLE. THE REMAINDER OF HIS SPEECH THEN DEVELOPED THE THEMES OF EAST/WEST COOPERATION AND ALSO RELATIONS BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH.

7. HE SAID THAT HE HAD REFINED THE IDEA OF 'A EUROPEAN REYKJAVIK' TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF MITTERRAND'S IDEA THAT SUCH A MEETING SHOULD BE HELD WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF CST. HE MADE REFERENCE TO THE MOSCOW CONFERENCE IN A LOW-KEY, SAYING THAT THIS HAD BEEN PUT FORWARD IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN THE HELSINKI PROCESS WHICH UNITES US ALL.

8. KOHL BEGAN HIS SPEECH BY REFERRING TO LETTERS HE HAD RECEIVED FORM THE PUBLIC WISHING GORBACHEV WELL BUT ALSO RAISING OTHER ISSUES. HE RECALLED THE GRIEF DONE TO THE SOVIET UNION BY TROOPS DURING THE WAR, THEN WENT ON TO SAY THAT 'DEATH, SUFFERING AND DISPERSAL FROM THEIR HOMELANDS WAS THE FATE OF MILLIONS OF MY COMPATRIATES. OUR FATHERLAND AND OUR OLD CAPITAL OF BERLIN WERE DIVIDED.' HE WELCOME THE INCREASE IN MIGRATION AND TRAVEL PERMITS GIVEN TO ETHNIC GERMANS AND SAID THAT AN EVEN GREATER NUMBER WOULD HELP DEVELOP AND STRENGTHEN TIES AND CONTACTS BETWEEN THESE PEOPLE AND THEIR RELATIVES IN THE WEST.

9. KOHL ALSO ADDRESSED THE DIVISION OF GERMANY. HE SAID THAT THE HELSINKI PROCESS WAS CALLED INTO BEING TO HEAL THE OLD WOUND OF EUROPE AND TO BRING PEOPLE CLOSER TOGETHER AND IT SHOLD THEREFORE BE POSSIBLE FOR THE GERMANS TO OVERCOME THE DIVISION OF THEIR FATHERLAND BY PEACEFUL MEANS. THIS ASPIRATION HAD BEEN STATED WHEN THE MOSCOW TREATY WAS SIGNED. HE CONTINUED 'WE KNOW THAT THE GOALS OF UNITY CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED WITH THE AGREEMENT OF THE POWERS WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR GERMANY AS A WHOLE... NONE THE LESS IT REMAINS TRUE THAT THIS DIVISION IS CONTRARY TO NATURE... WE RESPECT EXISTING BORDERS BUT AT THE SAME TIME WE WANT ALL GERMANS, JUST LIKE OTHER EUROPEANS, TO BBE ABLE TO CHOOSE FREELY THEIR FATE AND TO COME TOGETHER IN CONDITIONS OF A COMMON FREEDOM.'

10. ON DISARMAMENT KOHL SAID THAT THE INF TREATY HAD ESTABLISHED TWO IMPORTANT PROPOSALS THAT WHOEVER HAD MOST ARMS SHOULD REMOVE THEM AND THAT ONLY RELIABLE VERIFICATION CREATED TRUST. ON THE CURRENT AGENDA HE REMINDED HIS HOSTS THAT NATO WAS VERY CONCERNED ABOUT WARSAW PACT SUPERIORITY IN SHORT RANGE NUCLEAR MISSILES. HE REPEATED HIS APPEAL TO THE SOVIET UNION TO GIVE UP ITS PART OF THE ARSENAL. HE RECALLED THAT NATO HAD REDUCED THE NUMBER OF WARHEADS IN EUROPE BY 2,4000.

11. AFTER SAYING THAT THE WEST HOPED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE POSSIBILITIES CREATED BY THE PROCESS OF PERESTROIKA IN THE SOVIET UNION, KOHL DEALT ATLENGTH ABOUT THE IMPORTAQNCE OF RESPECTING HUMAN RIGHTS IN DEVELOPING EAST/WEST RELATIONS.

12. AT THE END OF THE SPEECH KOHL PUT FORWARD HIS OWN PLAN TO IMPROVE COOPERATION BY INVITING 1,000 YOUNG SOVIET CITIZENS TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC, OVER THREE YEARS, IN ORDER TO STUDY AND GAIN PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICAITONS.

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