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FM BONN

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELNO 399

OF 141510Z APRIL 89

INFO PRIORITY PARIS, WASHINGTON, UKDEL NATO, UKREP BRUSSELS  
INFO PRIORITY EC POSTS, CICC(G), EAST BERLIN, BMG BERLIN  
INFO SAVING HMCBS IN THE FRG

MY TELNO 390: FRG CABINET RESHUFFLE: INITIAL LOCAL REACTIONS.

## SUMMARY.

1. SO FAR NO FLAGS, BUT NO ~~KNIVES~~ OUT OVER CABINET RESHUFFLE. GOVERNMENT SUPPORTERS ARE GIVING LOYAL WELCOME, BUT NO-ONE YET WILLING TO SAY THAT KOHL HAS FOUND THE ANSWER. EDITORIAL COMMENT ADOPTS SIMILAR TONE.

## DETAIL

2. THE REACTION TO THE GOVERNMENT RESHUFFLE HAS SO FAR BEEN MUTED. MARSH, IN TODAY'S FINANCIAL TIMES, GETS IT ABOUT RIGHT. THE APPOINTMENTS OF WAIGEL TO FINANCE AND SCHAEUBLE TO INTERIOR HAVE BEEN WIDELY WELCOMED. REACTIONS TO STOLTENBERG'S APPOINTMENT HAVE BEEN MIXED. ON THE ONE HAND THERE IS DOUBT ABOUT HIS ABILITY TO GET A GRIP OF THE DIFFICULT DEFENCE PORTFOLIO, ON THE OTHER HAND THERE IS RECOGNITION OF HIS GOOD REPUTATION ABROAD. SOME SURPRISE THAT KOHL SHOULD HAVE APPOINTED A POLITICALLY UNKNOWN CSU WOMAN (HASSELFELDT) IN HER FIRST TERM IN THE BUNDESTAG TO THE BUILDING AND PUBLIC WORKS PORTFOLIO WHERE MASTERMINDING A CRASH PROGRAMME TO HOUSE GERMAN IMMIGRANTS FROM EASTERN EUROPE IS BOTH URGENT AND ELECTORALLY SENSITIVE. THE REPLACEMENT OF OST AS GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN BY KLEIN HAS BEEN WELCOMED BY THE PRESS WHO EXPECT A LESS ABRASIVE RELATIONSHIP AND BY GOVERNMENT SUPPORTERS IN THE HOPE THAT THE COALITION'S POLICIES WILL NOW BE PUT ACROSS MORE EFFECTIVELY.

3. THE PREDOMINANT REACTION IS HOWEVER ONE OF WAIT AND SEE. KOHL HAS YET TO SAY ANYTHING ABOUT POLICY (HE HAS PROMISED A STATEMENT ON 27 APRIL). CONFLICT INSIDE THE CDU CONTINUES WITH ATTENTION INCREASINGLY FOCUSSED ON KOHL'S POWER STRUGGLE WITH THE SECRETARY GENERAL GEISSLER, WHO IS PLAYING HIS OWN GAME AND IS SUSPECTED OF HAVING KING MAKING AMBITIONS, POSSIBLY OF SPAETH (MINISTER-PRESIDENT OF BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG) WHO IS EMERGING AS KOHL'S MOST DANGEROUS RIVAL FOR THE OFFICE OF CHANCELLOR. THE TASK IN FRONT OF KOHL IS HOW TO STOP THE IMPRESSION OF DRIFT AND TO ENDOW HIS GOVERNMENT WITH AN AIR OF AUTHORITY. BUT HE HAS ONLY NINE WEEKS TO GO BEFORE THE

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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ELECTIONS WHICH ARE SEEN AS A TEST OF THE  
GOVERNMENTS' DOMESTIC POPULARITY.

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OF 131242Z APRIL 89

INFO SAVING BMG BERLIN, HMCBS IN THE FRG

MIPT: CABINET RESHUFFLE.

## 1. NEW APPOINTMENTS ARE AS FOLLOWS (PREDECESSORS IN BRACKETS):

FINANCE MINISTER: DR THEO WAIGEL, CSU (STOLTENBERG)  
DEFENCE MINISTER: DR GERHARD STOLTENBERG, CDU (SCHOLZ)  
INTERIOR MINISTER: DR WOLFGANG SCHAEUBLE, CDU (ZIMMERMANN)  
TRANSPORT MINISTER: DR FRIEDRICH ZIMMERMANN, CSU (WARNKE)  
AID MINISTER: DR JUERGEN WARNKE, CSU (KLEIN)  
HEAD OF CHANCELLERY: RUDOLF SEITERS, CDU (SCHAEUBLE)  
BUILDING MINISTER: FRAU GERDA HASSELFELDT, CSU (SCHNEIDER)  
GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN (WITH CABINET RANK): HANS KLEIN, CSU (OST)

## PARLIAMENTARY STATE SECRETARIES IN:

FINANCE MINISTRY: MANFRED CARSTENS, CDU (HAEFELE)  
LABOUR MINISTRY: HORST SEEHOFFER, CSU (HOEPFINGER)  
EDUCATION MINISTRY: DR NORBERT LAMMERT, CDU (KARWATZKI)  
AID MINISTRY: HANS-PETER REPNIK, CDU (KOEHLER)

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