

SECRET / DEDIP

15

GRS 400

SECRET

DEDIP BURNING BUSH

FM WASHINGTON

TO DESKBY 300900Z FCO

TELNO 3107

OF 300420Z NOVEMBER 89

INFO IMMEDIATE PARIS, BONN, UKDEL NATO, MOSCOW

ms

YOUR TELNO 2192 AND TELECON OAKDEN/POWELL (PLANNERS)  
POSSIBLE QUADRIPARTITE MEETING OF HEADS OF GOVERNMENT

1. SCOWCROFT HAS BEEN ALMOST CONTINUOUSLY INVOLVED IN PRE-SUMMIT MEETINGS WITH THE PRESIDENT, BUT I WAS ABLE TO SPEAK TO HIM EARLY ON 29 NOVEMBER, AS IN TUR. AS REPORTED IN TELECON, SCOWCROFT'S INITIAL REACTION WAS PRETTY HESITANT. HE AGREED THAT ANY SUCH MEETING WOULD HAVE TO BE PUBLICLY ACKNOWLEDGED. IT COULD WELL GIVE THE APPEARANCE OF AN INNER GROUP TRYING TO MANAGE THE GERMAN QUESTION AND EVENTS IN EASTERN EUROPE GENERALLY. THIS WOULD NOT BE WELL TAKEN EITHER BY THOSE EXCLUDED FROM THE GROUP OR BY OTHER MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE GENERALLY. HE WOULD HOWEVER THINK VERY CAREFULLY ABOUT IT AND WOULD, OF COURSE, PUT THE PROPOSAL TO THE PRESIDENT. BUT HE SAW REAL DIFFICULTIES. SCOWCROFT SUBSEQUENTLY TELEPHONED BACK TO SAY THAT HE HAD HAD A LONG AND SERIOUS TALK WITH THE PRESIDENT ON THE SUBJECT. IN THE PRESIDENT'S JUDGEMENT, IT WAS BETTER NOT TO PROCEED WITH IT. THE SUBSTANCE OF THE MEETING HAD GREAT APPEAL. BUT THE DOWNSIDE IN RESPECT OF THE ILL WILL THAT WOULD BE GENERATED AMONGST THE OTHER ALLIES WAS TOO STRONG. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE FOUR WERE USING THE SUBTERFUGE OF BERLIN TO TALK ABOUT WIDER MATTERS. I UNDERTOOK TO LET SCOWCROFT KNOW IF WE HAD ANY FURTHER THOUGHTS.
2. I ADDED, INCIDENTALLY, THAT WE HAD BEEN GLAD TO SEE THE PRESIDENT'S REASSURANCES ABOUT THE MALTA SUMMIT IN HIS PRESS

CONFERENCE —

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CONFERENCE ON 28 NOVEMBER (MY TELNO 3088), FOLLOWING FITZWATER'S...  
REMARKS THE DAY BEFORE. SCOWCROFT SAID THAT THE POSITION  
REMAINED AS THE PRESIDENT HAD SET IT OUT TO THE PRIME MINISTER AT  
CAMP DAVID. (COMMENT: BUT SEE ALSO OUR TEL REPORTING BAKER'S PRESS  
CONFERENCE THIS AFTERNOON).

ACLAND

LIMITED

HD/PLANNERS

HD/WED

HD/NAD

HD/SEC POL DEPT

HD/SOVIET DEPT

HD/EED

PS

PS/NO 10

PS/MR WALDEGRAVE

PS/PUS

PS/SIR J FRETWELL

MR GILLMORE

MR PJ WESTON

MR GOULDEN

MR RATFORD

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(2)