

RESTRICTED
FM BONN
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 095
OF 261133Z JANUARY 90

(COLLAR)

VISIT TO THE UK BY LAMBSDORFF, FDP CHAIRMAN : 30 JANUARY TO 2
FEBRUARY

SUMMARY

1. LAMBSDORFF A STRONG BELIEVER IN CONSULTATION WITH ALLIES ON
GERMAN QUESTION. HE WILL EXPECT TO HEAR BRITISH VIEWS. OPPORTUNITY
TO QUIZ HIM ON FRG POLICY AND ON PROSPECTS. ALSO TO EXPLAIN OUR
THINKING ON EMU AND CHIDE ABOUT NEW FDP OPPOSITION TO EFA.

DETAIL

2. GRAF LAMBSDORFF WILL SEE THE PRIME MINISTER ON 30 JANUARY AND
YOU WILL GIVE HIM DINNER ON 1 FEBRUARY.

3. HIS PERIOD AS PARTY CHAIRMAN (SINCE OCTOBER 1988) HAS IN GENERAL
BEEN MARKED BY A LESSENING OF FRICTION BETWEEN THE FDP AND THE
CDU/CSU IN THE COALITION. IN AN INTERVIEW ON 25 JANUARY HE
REITERATED THAT THE FDP UNDER HIS LEADERSHIP WOULD NOT ENTER A
COALITION WITH THE SPD AT FEDERAL LEVEL. NEVERTHELESS, WITH THE
APPROACH OF THE FEDERAL ELECTION IN DECEMBER THE FDP IS INCREASINGLY
SEEKING TO ATTRACT ATTENTION WITH POSITIONS DIFFERENT FROM THOSE OF
THE CDU/CSU. OVER THE GERMAN QUESTION, LAMBSDORFF HAS AT TIMES
DISTANCED HIMSELF FROM KOHL AND IN FORMULATING ITS MANIFESTO FOR THE
DECEMBER ELECTION THE FDP'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HAS ADOPTED
POSITIONS ON DEFENCE (PARTICULARLY OPPOSITION TO EFA) AT VARIANCE
WITH COALITION POLICY.

4. LAMBSDORFF'S LINE ON THE GERMAN QUESTION HAS BEEN CHARACTERISED
BY:

- (A) SHARP CRITICISM OF KOHL'S FAILURE TO CONSULT THE FDP AND WESTERN
ALLIES BEFORE ANNOUNCING HIS TEN POINT PLAN.
- (B) OPPOSITION TO KOHL'S PLAN TO RECEIVE MODROW IN BONN ON 13-14
FEBRUARY, ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT WOULD GIVE THE SED AN UNFAIR
ADVANTAGE IN THE GDR ELECTIONS ON 6 MAY. (KOHL HAS STUCK TO HIS
GUNS.)
- (C) STRESS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT EXPLAINING TO

THE OUTSIDE WORLD THE NATURE AND IMPORTANCE OF WHAT IS NOW GOING ON IN GERMANY.

5. THE NEW FDP POSITION ON EFA AND OTHER DEFENCE MATTERS WAS REPORTED IN MY TELNOS 57 AND 58. LAMBSDORFF HAS BEEN CAREFUL IN PUBLIC TO PLAY DOWN SPECULATION ABOUT A COALITION CRISIS OVER EFA. WHILE EXPRESSING SEVERE DOUBTS ABOUT EFA'S LONG TERM FUTURE, HE HAS RULED OUT A DECISION BY THE FDP TO SUPPORT WITHDRAWAL FROM THE DEVELOPMENT PHASE OF THE PROJECT WHICH LASTS UNTIL LATE 1991. (THERE IS NO FINANCIAL ADVANTAGE IN DOING SO.)

6. ON ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION, LAMBSDORFF HAS CALLED FOR A MEASURED APPROACH, THUS PUBLICLY DISAGREEING WITH GENSCHER. HE HAS CRITICISED THE FRENCH FOR FORCING THE PACE, SAYING THAT HE WOULD PREFER TO SEE AN ASSESSMENT OF THE FULL EFFECTS OF DELORS STAGE I, PARTICULARLY LIBERALISATION OF CAPITAL MOVEMENTS, BEFORE FURTHER MOVEMENT TOWARDS EMU. IN TAKING THIS LINE, LAMBSDORFF HAS ALIGNED HIMSELF CLOSELY WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE BUNDESBANK, POEHL, WHOSE CALLS FOR A REVALUATION OF THE DEUTSCHMARK WITHIN THE ERM HE HAS ALSO SUPPORTED.

MALLABY

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

12 December 1989

Dear Amanda,

*Noted
PI file*

Visit to London of Herr Lambsdorff of the FRG

I write to confirm what we agreed this morning,
that the call on the Prime Minister by Herr Lambsdorff
// will be postponed from 29 January to Tuesday, 30 January,
at 10.15 am.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Gozney

(R H T Gozney)
Private Secretary

Mrs Amanda Ponsonby
10 Downing Street

12.12.89
10 11 12
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
PM 89



PRIME MINISTER

COUNT LAMBSDORFF

Count Lambsdorff, the FRG Minister for Economic Affairs, is visiting London on Thursday, 24 May, for talks with the Chancellor of the Exchequer and others. He has asked whether he might pay a courtesy call on you.

I do not think that it is at all necessary for you to receive Count Lambsdorff, and I would not expect the Germans to be surprised if you do not do so - I think the offer is being made out of politeness. Thursdays are, in any case, heavy days for you.

Shall I express your regrets to the FRG Embassy, saying that you hope that Count Lambsdorff's talks go well?

17 May 1979

Germany 1

FRG Embassy informed.

Jan 18/5

P.A.

Done
OK

Jan.