

GRS 230

CONFIDENTIAL

*amended distribution
31.7*

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FM BONN
TO PRIORITY FCO
TELNO 657
OF 301445Z JULY 86

FOR PROTOCOL DEPARTMENT AND WED TELECON ENIFFER/GIBSON: PRIME
MINISTER AND CHANCELLOR'S VISIT TO BFG, 17 SEPTEMBER

TRAVEL

1. PROPOSED THAT PRIME MINISTER SHOULD TRAVEL BONN - FALLINGBOSTEL
AS FOLLOWS:

0850 COLOGNE/BONN AIRPORT - FASSBERG
(GERMAN MILITARY AIRFIELD) BY RAF VC10.

0945 FASSBERG - FALLINGBOSTEL BY RAF HELICOPTOR.

KOHL MAY OF COURSE HAVE HIS OWN VIEWS ON WHETHER HE WOULD PREFER TO
TRAVEL SEPARATELY TO FASSBERG, BUT GRATEFUL FOR GUIDANCE FROM NO. 10
ON WHETHER PRIME MINISTER WOULD WISH TO INVITE HIM TO JOIN HER ON
THE VC10. WE ASSUME THAT IN ANY CASE THE TWO WILL TRAVEL TOGETHER BY
HELICOPTER TO FALLINGBOSTEL.

LANGUAGE OF BRIEFING

2. HAVING CONSULTED FEDERAL CHANCELLERY, WE SUPPORT BFG'S PROPOSAL
THAT BRIEFING SHOULD BE IN ENGLISH WITH KOHL'S PERSONAL INTERPRETER
PROVIDING SIMULTANEOUS ORAL TRANSLATION FOR HIM ONLY. GERMAN WRITTEN
TEXT WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO TAKE AWAY. TRUST NO 10 CONCUR.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR LUNCH

3. WHEN KOHL VISITED FRENCH FORCES IN SOUTHERN GERMANY, HE WAS
REPORTEDLY DISAPPOINTED BY EXCESSIVE PROTOCOL AND FORMALITY AND
COMPLAINED OF BEING UNABLE TO MEET ORDINARY TROOPS. IN VIEW OF HIS
EVIDENT PERSONAL PREFERENCES, WE ARE A LITTLE UNEASY ABOUT BFG'S
PLAN FOR A FORMAL, 3-COURSE LUNCH WITH WAITER SERVICE IN A SPECIALLY
ERECTED MARQUEE, WITH ONLY A TOKEN PRESENCE BY OTHER RANKS. GRATEFUL
IF YOU COULD DISCREETLY ASCERTAIN WHETHER NO 10 SHARE OUR VIEWS THAT
SOMETHING MUCH MORE INFORMAL WOULD BE PREFERABLE (AND PROVIDE BETTER
PRESS COPY).

WILLIAMS

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BPLNAN 1730

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

31 July 1986

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO BRITISH FORCES, GERMANY

I have seen a copy of Bonn telno 657 which raises a number of points about the Prime Minister's visit to Germany.

I am sure that the Prime Minister would be happy to invite Chancellor Kohl to join her on the VC10 from Cologne/Bonn to Fassberg.

I agree that the briefing should be in English.

I share the Embassy in Bonn's misgivings about the proposed lunch. I am sure that the Prime Minister would prefer a much more informal 'lunch in the field' with plenty of other ranks.

CHARLES POWELL

A.C. Galsworthy, Esq., CMG,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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~~AMANDA~~

CDF

June

March
31/7

30/7

Jeremy Wright (MOD) telephoned with some queries on the programme for the PM's visit to BF9 in September. These have been raised by Chancellor Kohn's Office.

1/ Would the Prime Minister be prepared to allow the Chancellor to travel with her on the VC 10 flight from Bonn to Fassberg? (MOD don't know how many people will be in the Chancellor's party)

I am sure she would agree.

2/ The programme includes some travel by helicopter. There will be two helicopters. Should DT be placed in the first helicopter with the PM or should he travel in the second helicopter - which would still be a VIP helicopter?

I am trying to establish whether Mr. Rother is coming or not. Will answer later today.

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3/ The programme for the visit to BFG on 17/9/86 shows a 1015 arrival at Fellingbostel. Would the PM be content for this to be put back to 1000 to allow more time for 'chatting' with those she will meet?

YES.

Jeremy Wright would be most grateful for answers this evening or early tomorrow morning.

Amanda