

00 ATHENS

00 BRUSSELS

00 COPENHAGEN

00 THE HAGUE

00 LISBON

00 LUXEMBOURG

00 OSLO

00 OTTAWA

00 REYKJAVIK

00 ROME

00 UKDEL VIENNA

GRS 285

CONFIDENTIAL

FM BONN 041350Z JUL 80

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 538 OF 04 JULY

AND TO IMMEDIATE UKDEL NATO WASHINGTON PARIS AND MOSCOW

INFO IMMEDIATE TO OTHER NATO POSTS UKDEL VIENNA AND BMG BERLIN

MY TELNO 533: SCHMIDT'S VISIT TO MOSCOW

1. IT IS NOT FOR ME TO ATTEMPT A GENERAL ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPACT ON THE WESTERN INTEREST OF SCHMIDT'S VISIT TO MOSCOW. THAT MUST DEPEND IN PART ON THE TRUE VALUE OF THE TNF OFFER, WHICH HAS YET TO BE ASCERTAINED, AND ON THE CONSIDERED IMPACT OF THE VISIT ON RELATIONS BETWEEN BONN AND WASHINGTON.
2. BUT THIS AT LEAST CAN BE SAID. THE CHANCELLOR SEEMS TO HAVE WALKED THE TIGHTROPE HE ERECTED FOR HIMSELF WITH CONSUMMATE SKILL AND PRODUCED SOMETHING TO PLEASE AND DISPLEASE THE SUPERPOWERS IN EQUAL MEASURE. HE WILL HAVE OFFENDED THE RUSSIANS AND PLEASED THE AMERICANS WITH HIS ROBUST TALK. HE WILL HAVE OFFENDED THE AMERICANS AND PLEASED THE RUSSIANS BY MAKING THE VISIT AT ALL, THUS SIGNIFYING BUSINESS AS USUAL. AND HE HAS DONE BOTH HIMSELF AND THE RUSSIANS A GOOD TURN WITH THE NATURAL GAS DEAL. THIS DEAL PUTS PAID TO ANY IDEA OF DETERRENT ACTION AGAINST (SEE MY IFT) THE RUSSIANS AFTER WHAT THEY

Germany
ADVANCE COPY

Debt Dist.

IMMEDIATE

PS
PS / LPS
PS / Mr Blakes
PS / PUS
Sir E Gonde
Mr Bullard
Mr Leguison
Hd of ECD (I)
Hd of EESD
Hd of WED
News D

PS 10 D. St.

RC

X 13
2 tels.

RELATIONS BETWEEN BONN AND WASHINGTON.

2. BUT THIS AT LEAST CAN BE SAID. THE CHANCELLOR SEEMS TO HAVE WALKED THE TIGHTROPE HE ERECTED FOR HIMSELF WITH CONSUMMATE SKILL AND PRODUCED SOMETHING TO PLEASE AND DISPLEASE THE SUPERPOWERS IN EQUAL MEASURE. HE WILL HAVE OFFENDED THE RUSSIANS AND PLEASED THE AMERICANS WITH HIS ROBUST TALK. HE WILL HAVE OFFENDED THE AMERICANS AND PLEASED THE RUSSIANS BY MAKING THE VISIT AT ALL, THUS SIGNIFYING BUSINESS AS USUAL. AND HE HAS DONE BOTH HIMSELF AND THE RUSSIANS A GOOD TURN WITH THE NATURAL GAS DEAL. THIS DEAL PUTS PAID TO ANY IDEA OF DETERRENT ACTION AGAINST (SEE MY IFT) THE RUSSIANS AFTER WHAT THEY HAVE DONE IN AFGHANISTAN AND MAKES THE GERMAN ADHERENCE TO THE OLYMPIC BOYCOTT LOOK INCREASINGLY ILLOGICAL AND OUT OF HARMONY WITH THEIR OWN GESAMTKONZEPT.

3. THERE CAN MOREOVER BE NO DOUBT AT ALL ABOUT THE BENEFIT OF THE VISIT IN DOMESTIC ELECTORAL TERMS. THE CHANCELLOR HAS BEEN SEEN ON GERMAN TELEVISION RECEIVING RED CARPET TREATMENT IN MOSCOW, WITH HONOUR GUARDS AND PRACTICALLY THE WHOLE OF THE SOVIET HIERARCHY PARADED TO MEET HIM. HIS ACTUAL PERFORMANCE AMID THE CEREMONY WILL HAVE ADDED TO GERMAN PRIDE AT THE ROLE THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC AND ITS CHANCELLOR ARE NOW PLAYING IN WORLD AFFAIRS AND ALLAYED GERMAN FEARS THAT DETENTE MIGHT BE AT RISK. STRAUSS'S PERFORMANCE IN THE BUNDESTAG, CONFUSED, RAMBLING, UNTARGETED AND INEFFECTIVE, PRESUMABLY REFLECTS HIS FEELING THAT THE CHANCELLOR IN THE RUN UP TO THE ELECTION HAS CAPTURED BOTH THE WORLD STAGE AND THE GERMAN PUBLIC MOOD.

WRIGHT

IMMEDIATE

NNNN

SENT AT 041657Z BSA K