

PRIME MINISTER

MEETING WITH MINISTER-PRESIDENT OF BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG

You have agreed to see Herr Spath briefly on Tuesday. He will be accompanied by the German Ambassador.

Spath is widely seen in Germany as one of three possible successors to Kohl (the others being Stoltenberg and Wallmann). He is relatively young. He is small, bouncing, indeed bumptious and affects a bit of country-boy pose with a broad Swabian accent. But there is a lot of substance to him. He knows a good deal about things like how to make labour more mobile, and how to manage the transition from manufacturing to service industries. His Land of Baden-Wuerttemberg is very successful in economic terms and includes the most prosperous region in the whole of Europe.

He harbours big ambitions, travels a lot, and will want to talk to you about Reykjavik and the like. I should make him talk, if you can, about domestic issues, on which he knows much more.

C.D.P.

Charles Powell

24 October 1986

CONFIDENTIAL



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

24 October 1986

Dear Charles,

Call by the Minister President of Baden Wurttemberg
at 1000 on 28 October

The Foreign Secretary is grateful to the Prime Minister for agreeing to see Lothar Spath on Tuesday. I enclose a personality note, a note on Baden Wurttemberg and a summary of his programme (he will also be seeing Mr Tebbit and Mr Channon and having lunch with the Foreign Secretary). He would like to be accompanied by Baron von Wechmar and an interpreter.

Spath is powerful, ambitious and may eventually succeed Kohl. Meanwhile he runs Germany's Musterlände (model province) against weak SPD opposition. He has stolen the Liberals' clothes and has been particularly successful in establishing effective cooperation in high technology between government, industry and the universities.

One area where he could trip up is the environment. Forest death is a major preoccupation in his area, and nuclear power (there are several reactors in Baden Wurttemberg) is also controversial. The local Greens pose a real challenge.

Among Land leaders Spath is second only to Strauss in international activity. His prime objective for this visit will be to enhance his reputation before the elections on 25 January 1987. Spath will be giving a press conference immediately after his call on the Prime Minister. He will wish to report that they discussed major international issues, particularly East/West relations after Reykjavik - and Chernobyl. He may raise South Africa (there is not much enthusiasm for sanctions in Baden Wurttemberg), and would be interested in discussing the fight against terrorism (Land authorities have a major role: members of the Bader Meinhof gang were imprisoned at Stammheim, near Stuttgart).

/Spath

CONFIDENTIAL



CONFIDENTIAL

Spath has expressed specific interest in increased involvement of British high technology companies in Baden Wurttemberg (his programme includes a visit to the Cambridge Science Park and a round table discussion at the Anglo-German Foundation for the Study of Industrial Society). In this context he may repeat his regret that the career Consulate General in Stuttgart was closed in 1984. The Prime Minister could say that we have established a marketing office in Stuttgart, specifically to promote cooperation between Britain and Baden Wurttemberg in high technology. The Prime Minister could add that 1987 will be export to Germany priority year and ask Spath for his ideas on how Britain could improve its share of the Baden Wurttemberg market.

I am copying this letter to Timothy Walker (DTI), Andrew Lansley (Chancellor of the Duchy Lancaster) and Tim Abraham (Mr Pattie's office, DTI).

Yours Sincerely,

Colin Budd

(C R Budd)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
PS/10 Downing Street

CONFIDENTIAL

LAND BADEN WÜRTTEMBERG (BW)

1. BW in South West Germany is the FRG's third largest Land. Its 9.3 million people include many former refugees from the East and the highest proportion of Gastarbeiter (mainly from Turkey and Yugoslavia) in Germany. The CDU has an absolute majority in the Landtag and has been the predominant political force for over 30 years. Roman Catholics are in a majority but many influential Protestants (eg von Weizsäcker) come from BW.
2. Apart from a few industrial centres such as Mannheim and Stuttgart this was a poor area before the war: but not now. As well as the famous names (eg Daimler Benz, Robert Bosch) BW has numerous small and medium sized firms specialising in high quality, high technology and highly priced products. The Land Government has had particular success in forging links between the universities and industry especially in high technology. The Swabians indeed are notorious in the rest of Germany for their hard work and acquisitive instincts. The (capital) Stuttgart region is the most prosperous in the EC and unemployment overall is only 6%. Some 4% are engaged full time in agriculture but there are many more part time farmers.
3. The combination of tourist assets such as the Black Forest, and a prosperous well educated population leads to great concern about the environment. Indeed at the 1984 Land elections the Greens did better than the once strong Liberals.
4. British business finds the market difficult. The FRG gets progressively richer from north to south but the British share of the German market declines from north to south. This market requires more knowledge (including of German) and persistent effort than most British firms have shown since the war.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

24 October 1986

SPAETH, LOTHAR

Minister-President of Baden-Wuerttemberg (CDU) since August 1978.
A Deputy Chairman of the CDU.

Born 1937 in Sigmaringen. Studied administration at the State School of Administration, Stuttgart. Began his career in local government finance, then became manager in several firms of building contractors. 1967 joined CDU. 1968 elected to Landtag in a constituency previously held by the SPD. 1970 became Mayor of Bietigheim. In 1972 he was elected chairman (Chief Whip) of the CDU in the Landtag, and as such made a name for himself as a first class political manager. February 1978 appointed Minister for the Interior in succession to Karl Schiess who resigned over trouble with terrorists in Stammheim prison.

August 1978 elected Minister-President, succeeding Hans Filbinger (who had resigned in the face of public criticism of his war-time activities). Led the CDU to convincing Land election victories in 1980 and 1984. Elected a Deputy Chairman of the Federal CDU in 1981. As Minister-President he has made a major mark, especially by nurturing Baden-Wuerttemberg's economic development, encouraging small firms and investment in high technology.

Small, energetic and highly articulate. He has made his dissatisfaction with Kohl's leadership of the CDU increasingly clear. As Minister-President he has become more statesmanlike, and is widely regarded as having strong ambitions on the Federal Chancellery himself.

Interested in modern paintings and drawings. Married with one daughter and an adopted son. Spaeth visited the UK as a guest of HMG in 1980. He speaks a little English.

PROGRAMME FOR VISIT BY HERR LOTHAR SPÄTH, 28-30 OCTOBER

Tuesday 28 October

0720	Depart Stuttgart, LH 062
0755	Arrive London Heathrow
1000-1030	Call on the Prime Minister
1030	Press Conference
1100	Call on Mr Tebbit
1145	Call on Sir J Harvey-Jones, ICI
1215	Call on Mr Tebbit
1230	Lunch with MPs hosted by Sir Bernard Braine
1500	Royal Academy
1630	Tate Gallery
2000	Dinner hosted by the Ambassador

Wednesday 29 October

1000-1030	Call on Mr Channon, DTI
1230	Lunch with German Chamber of Commerce
1430	Depart for Cambridge
1530	Cambridge Science Park
1800	Dinner at Jesus College, Cambridge
2200	Return to London

Thursday 30 October

0900-0930	Call on Mr Pattie, DTI
1000-1030	Call on Lady Young, FCO
1100-1230	Round Table Discussion hosted by Anglo-German Foundation
1300	Lunch hosted by Sir Geoffrey Howe
1430 (approx)	Press Conference for German correspondents
1500	Depart for London Heathrow
1635	Depart BA 762 to Stuttgart

