

SECRET

Teleprinted to
Cornwall

PRIME MINISTER from Mark Addison

MT

HESS

When the announcement of Hess's death was made it was decided not to mention that he had been found hanging in the prison grounds by an American warder, before being rushed to hospital. Earlier this afternoon the following statement was released. This was without Russian consent, because they did not agree to a statement on the suicide.

BEGINS

X

ENDS

The Home Office pathologist has arrived in Berlin, and is studying Hess's records. The autopsy is expected to begin at 8 a.m. local time tomorrow. A further press statement on the autopsy is expected tomorrow.

The Russians ^{did} ~~have~~ not agreed that Hess's suicide note should be passed to the family, taking the view that it should be destroyed. ~~The future of the note is as yet unresolved, but the press statement omits reference to it.~~ The ^{new} Allies have now agreed - ~~into the US who we promise~~ that the note should be handed to the family without Russian agreement. When this has been done, a statement will be issued that a note was found in Hess's pocket.

18 August, 1987.

SECRET

PRIME MINISTER FROM MARK ADDISON

HESS

WHEN THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF HESS'S DEATH WAS MADE IT WAS DECIDED NOT TO MENTION THAT HE HAD BEEN FOUND HANGING IN THE PRISON GROUNDS BY AN AMERICAN WARDER, BEFORE BEING RUSHED TO HOSPITAL. EARLIER THIS AFTERNOON THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT WAS RELEASED. THIS WAS WITHOUT RUSSIAN CONSENT, BECAUSE THEY DID NOT AGREE TO A STATEMENT ON THE SUICIDE.

BEGINS

A PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION I

A PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION INDICATES THAT RUDOLF HESS ATTEMPTED TO TAKE HIS OWN LIFE. ON THE AFTERNOON OF AUGUST 17 HESS, AS HE WAS ACCUSTOMED TO DO, WENT, ESCORTED BY A PRISON WARDER, TO SIT IN A SMALL COTTAGE IN THE GARDEN OF THE PRISON. ON LOOKING INTO THE COTTAGE A FEW MINUTES LATER, THE WARDER FOUND HESS WITH AN ELECTRICAL CORD AROUND HIS NECK. RESUSCITATION MEASURES WERE TAKEN, AND HESS WAS TRANSPORTED TO THE BRITISH MILITARY HOSPITAL. AFTER FURTHER ATTEMPTS TO REVIVE HESS, HE WAS PRONOUNCED DEAD AT 1610. WHETHER THIS SUICIDE ATTEMPT WAS THE ACTUAL CAUSE OF DEATH IS THE SUBJECT OF A CONTINUING INVESTIGATION, INCLUDING A THOROUGH AUTOPSY.

ENDS

THE HOME OFFICE PATHOLOGIST HAS ARRIVED IN BERLIN, AND IS STUDYING HESS'S RECORDS. THE AUTOPSY IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN AT 8 A.M. LOCAL TIME TOMORROW. A FURTHER PRESS STATEMENT ON THE AUTOPSY IS EXPECTED TOMORROW.

THE RUSSIANS DID NOT AGREE THAT HESS'S SUICIDE NOTE SHOULD BE PASSED TO THE FAMILY, TAKING THE VIEW THAT IT SHOULD BE DESTROYED. THE OTHER ALIES HAVE NOW AGREED THAT THE NOTE SHOULD BE HANDED TO THE FAMILY WITHOUT RUSSIAN AGREEMENT. WHEN THIS HAS BEEN DONE, A STATEMENT WILL BE ISSUED THAT A NOTE WAS FOUND IN

HESS'S POCKET.

18.7.87

ENDS

EDGZ

IS THERE MORE KKK

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

FM BMG BERLIN

TO FLASH BONN

TELNO 155

OF 181120Z AUGUST 87

INFO FLASH FCO, CICC(G)

INFO IMMEDIATE MODUK

INFO PRIORITY WASHINGTON, PARIS, MOSCOW

SIC MODUK FOR DEFENCE COMMITMENTS

MIPT : DEATH OF HESS

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF DRAFT PRESS STATEMENT

BEGINS

A PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION ~~BY AUTHORITIES OF THE FOUR POWERS~~ INDICATES THAT RUDOLF HESS ATTEMPTED TO TAKE HIS OWN LIFE. ON THE AFTERNOON OF AUGUST 17 HESS, AS HE WAS ACCUSTOMED TO DO, WENT, ESCORTED BY A PRISON WARDER, TO SIT IN A SMALL COTTAGE IN THE GARDEN OF THE PRISON. ON LOOKING INTO THE COTTAGE A FEW MINUTES LATER, THE WARDER FOUND HESS WITH AN ELECTRICAL CORD AROUND HIS NECK. RESUSCITATION MEASURES WERE TAKEN, AND HESS WAS TRANSPORTED TO THE BRITISH MILITARY HOSPITAL. AFTER FURTHER ATTEMPTS TO REVIVE HESS, HE WAS PRONOUNCED DEAD AT 1610 HOURS. A NOTE WAS FOUND IN HIS POCKET. WHETHER THIS SUICIDE ATTEMPT WAS THE ACTUAL CAUSE OF DEATH IS THE SUBJECT OF A CONTINUING INVESTIGATION, INCLUDING A THOROUGH AUTOPSY.

ENDS

BROOKING

YYYY

BJBPAN 0901

LIMITED
WED
EED
NAD
SOVIET D
DEFENCE D
SEC POL D
NEWS D
INFO D
RES D
PUSD
PS
PS/PUS
PS/MR EGGAR
PS/CHALKER
PS/LD GLENARTHUR
PS/MR/MELLOR

SIR J FRETWELL
MR FEARN
MR BOYD
MISS PESTALL
MR FALL
MR GILLMORE

COPIES TO:
SEC (O) C MOD
ASS STAFF CABINET OFFICE
NO 10 DOWNING ST

CONFIDENTIAL

162111
ZCZC
LNMDAN 2142 BJBPAN 0909
CONFIDENTIAL
ZZ FCOLN
FM BMGBE TO BONNN
181530Z AUG
GRS 304

ADVANCE COPY

No 10 Downing St

CONFIDENTIAL
FM BMG BERLIN
TO FLASH BONN
TELNO 159
OF 181530Z AUGUST 87
INFO FLASH FCO
INFO IMMEDIATE CICC GERMANY, WASHINGTON, MOSCOW, PARIS, MODUK

SIC MODUK FOR DEFENCE COMMITMENTS

ALSO IMMEDIATE NO 10 DOWNING STREET

DEATH OF HESS : SITREP



SUMMARY

1. PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE AUTOPSY, AND TRANSFER OF HESS'S BODY TO THE FRG WORKING SMOOTHLY. RUSSIANS DID NOT AGREE TO STATEMENT ON SUICIDE, WHICH WAS THEREFORE RELEASED WITHOUT THEIR CONSENT.

DETAIL

2. PROFESSOR CAMERON, THE HOME OFFICE PATHOLOGIST ARRIVED IN BERLIN THIS AFTERNOON AND HAS BEEN STUDYING HESS'S RECORDS. THE AUTOPSY IS EXPECTED TO COMMENCE AT 0800 LOCAL TIME ON 19 AUGUST. WE EXPECT TO BE IN A POSITION TO MAKE A FURTHER PRESS STATEMENT ON THE AUTOPSY IN THE COURSE OF 19 AUGUST.

3. PROVISIONALLY WE ARE PLANNING FOR THE BODY TO BE FLOWN FROM RAF GATOW DEPARTING AT 0900 ON 20 AUGUST, AND ARRIVING AT GRAFENWOEHR AT 1100. THE BODY WILL BE HANDED OVER TO HESS'S FAMILY BY THE FOUR PRISON GOVERNORS AT GRATENWOEHR.

4. THE RUSSIANS WERE UNABLE TO AGREE TO THE PROPOSAL THAT HESS'S SUICIDE NOTE SHOULD BE PASSED TO THE FAMILY (MY TELNO 154), TAKING THE VIEW THAT IT SHOULD BE DESTROYED. THE AMERICANS AND FRENCH HAVE NOT SO FAR BEEN WILLING TO AGREE TO THE WESTERN ALLIES ACTING ON THIS WITHOUT SOVIET CONCURRENCE, AND THE PRESS STATEMENT ANNOUNCING HESS'S SUICIDE (MY TELNO 158) THEREFORE OMITS ALL REFERENCE TO THE NOTE.

5. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT FAILURE TO HAND OVER THE NOTE TO THE FAMILY WILL BE INTERPRETED BY THE PUBLIC IN AN UNFAVOURABLE MANNER. IT SEEMS TO US EXTREMELY UNLIKELY THAT THE PUBLIC WILL NOT (NOT) LEARN OF THE EXISTENCE OF THE NOTE. WE ARE CONTINUING TO PRESS THE US AND FRENCH TO TAKE THE NECESSARY ACTION IN TIME FOR US TO MAKE THE MATTER PUBLIC SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH OUR STATEMENT ON THE AUTOPSY.

6. PLEASE ADVANCE TO NO 10 DOWNING STREET

BROOKING

YYYY

Confidential

GRS 309

CONFIDENTIAL
FM BMG BERLIN
TO FLASH BONN
TELMO 154
OF 181100Z AUGUST 87
AND TO FLASH FCO, CICC(G)
INFO IMMEDIATE MODUK
PRIORITY WASHINGTON, MOSCOW, PARIS

SIC MODUK FOR DEFENCE COMMITMENTS

FCO TELNO 394 TO YOU : DEATH OF HESS

1. AT A MEETING OF ALLIED POLITICAL ADVISERS THIS MORNING, IT WAS AGREED THAT NEWS OF HESS'S SUICIDE WAS LIKELY TO LEAK SOON, AND THAT PREEMPTIVE ACTION WOULD BE THE BEST OPTION.

2. ACCORDINGLY, IT WAS DECIDED TO TAKE THE FOLLOWING STEPS:

A) THE AMERICANS, AS THIS MONTH CHAIRMAN AT SPANDAU, WOULD TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO BRIEF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN CONFIDENCE:

B) A DRAFT PRESS STATEMENT WAS PREPARED (TEXT IN MIFT) TO BE PUT TO THE RUSSIANS BY THE ALLIED GOVERNORS. IT WAS AGREED THAT IF THE RUSSIANS WERE UNWILLING TO GO ALONG WITH THE STATEMENT, THE ALLIES WOULD INDICATE THAT IN THAT CASE, BECAUSE OF THE RISK OF A LEAK, THEY WOULD FEEL OBLIGED TO RELEASE IT ON THEIR OWN RESPONSIBILITY AT 16.00 BERLIN TIME, BUT OMITTING THE WORDS 'BY AUTHORITIES OF THE FOUR POWERS'.

C) SHORTLY BEFORE 16.00, THE AMERICAN GOVERNOR WOULD INFORM THE FAMILY OF THE STATEMENT:

D) THE ALLIES SHOULD SEEK TO PERSUADE THE RUSSIANS THAT AT THE SAME TIME THE NOTE SHOULD ALSO BE HANDED TO THE FAMILY. HOWEVER, THE AMERICAN AND FRENCH VIEW WAS THAT IF THE RUSSIANS DID NOT AGREE, THE NOTE SHOULD NOT (NOT) BE HANDED OVER YET AND IN THAT CASE REFERENCE TO IT SHOULD BE OMITTED FROM THE STATEMENT. SMITH

Confidential

MADE

CONFIDENTIAL

MADE CLEAR THAT IN THE BRITISH VIEW, WE SHOULD BE PREPARED TO OVERRIDE THE RUSSIANS IF NECESSARY ON THE NOTE AS WELL AS ON THE STATEMENT:

E) THE AMERICANS SHOULD INFORM THE SENAT AT THE SAME TIME AS THE FAMILY.

3. AS ALREADY REPORTED IN TELECON SMITH/SIDDLE IT WAS ALSO AGREED THAT THE UK SHOULD DISCUSS WITH THE FRG WHETHER THE DOCUMENTATION ENVISAGED IN ANNEX D OF OPERATION ROYSTON WOULD BE ADEQUATE IN THE PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES OF HESS'S DEATH.

BROOKING

YYYY

BJBPAN 0900

LIMITED
WED
EED
NAD
SOVIET D
DEFENCE D
SEC POL D
NEWS D
INFO D
RES D
PUSD
PS
PS/PUS
PS/MR EGGAR
PS/CHALKER
PS/LD GLENARTHUR
PS/MR/MELLOR

SIR J FRETWELL
MR FEARN
MR BOYD
MISS PESTALL
MR FALL
MR GILLMORE

COPIES TO:
SEC (O) C MOD
ASS STAFF CABINET OFFICE
NO 10 DOWNING ST

-2-
CONFIDENTIAL