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RELATIONS WITH THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

SUMMARY

1. CHANCELLOR'S DIPLOMATIC ADVISER SEEKING IDEAS FOR JOINT ANGLO-GERMAN INITIATIVES AND KEEN TO GIVE HIGHER PUBLIC PROFILE TO BRITISH-GERMAN RELATIONS. KOHL WISHES TO HAVE BRAIN STORMING DISCUSSION OF THESE MATTERS WHEN I CALL ON HIM ON 28 APRIL AT 1400Z.

DETAIL

2. TELTSCHIK TOLD ME TODAY THAT OFFICIALS IN THE FEDERAL CHANCELLERY HAD DONE A STUDY OF THE BRITISH GERMAN RELATIONSHIP. THEIR CONCLUSIONS WERE: - THE RELATIONSHIP WAS GOOD - BUT IT WAS UNDERVALUED BY PUBLIC OPINION IN BOTH COUNTRIES - WHEN DIFFERENCES AROSE BETWEEN US, THEY TENDED TO BE MAGNIFIED BY THE MEDIA - THE CONTRAST WITH MEDIA ATTENTION HERE TO FRANCO-GERMAN RELATIONS, AND THE REPEATED SUCCESSES OF FRANCE AND GERMANY FINDING NEW STEPS IN COOPERATION, WAS GROWING AND WAS UNWELCOME.

3. TELTSCHIK SAID THAT THE CHANCELLOR AGREED WITH THESE CONCLUSIONS. KOHL WANTED TO FIND NEW STEPS FOR BRITAIN AND GERMANY TO UNDERTAKE TOGETHER OR NEW DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES FOR THEM TO LAUNCH JOINTLY. EFFORTS SHOULD ALSO BE MADE TO GIVE THE RELATIONSHIP MORE PROFILE IN THE BRITISH AND GERMAN MEDIA. THE CHANCELLOR WOULD WISH TO HAVE AN UNSTRUCTURED BRAIN-STORMING SESSION ON THESE SUBJECTS WHEN I MAKE MY FIRST CALL ON HIM ON 28 APRIL.

4. I SAID THAT WE HAD PROPOSED TO THE AUSWAERTIGES AMT (ON 13 APRIL) THAT THE NEXT BRITISH-GERMAN SUMMIT SHOULD TAKE PLACE ON 21 OCTOBER. TWO YEARS WOULD BY THEN HAVE PASSED SINCE THE LAST SUCH SUMMIT, AND WE WERE THINKING ABOUT WAYS OF GIVING THIS ONE GREATER PUBLIC IMPACT. TELTSCHIK SAID THAT HE HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY BEEN INFORMED OF THE PROPOSED DATE. BUT, SUBJECT TO DIARY CONSIDERATIONS, IT LOOKED VERY SUITABLE. CONTRARY TO SOME REPORTS, THE CHANCELLOR'S VISIT TO MOSCOW WOULD NOT TAKE PLACE BEFORE THE END OF OCTOBER. SO THE ANGLO-GERMAN SUMMIT IN THE SECOND HALF OF OCTOBER WOULD PROVIDE AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY FOR DISCUSSION PREPARATORY TO THE MOSCOW VISIT. THAT IN ITSELF WOULD ADD TO THE MEDIA INTEREST. TELTSCHIK

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VOLUNTEERED THAT A SUMMIT AWAY FROM THE HOST COUNTRY'S CAPITAL, EG AT CHEQUERS, OFTEN ACHIEVED AN ESPECIALLY RELAXED ATMOSPHERE.

5. TELTSCHIK HAD NO SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS FOR A NEW STEP IN BRITISH-GERMAN RELATIONS OR A JOINT ANGLO-GERMAN DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVE. HE SAID THAT A JOINT DECLARATION ON SOME CURRENT SUBJECT COULD FIT THE BILL. NOR SHOULD WE EXCLUDE A TRILATERAL INITIATIVE WITH FRANCE OR AN ANGLO-GERMAN ONE DESIGNED FOR ADOPTION BY THE REST OF WEU.

COMMENT

6. WE NOW HAVE THE FEDERAL CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE, AND EVIDENTLY THE CHANCELLOR HIMSELF, EXPRESSING THE VIEW THAT EFFORTS TO THICKEN AND PUBLICISE BRITISH-GERMAN RELATIONS ARE NEEDED, ON TOP OF SIMILAR REMARKS FROM GENSCHER (MY TELNO 304). THEIR THINKING IS UNFORMED BUT GOES IN THE SAME GENERAL DIRECTION AS THAT IN TRAIN IN LONDON. I RECOMMEND THAT I BE GIVEN SOME IDEAS FOR KICKING AROUND WITH KOHL ON 28 APRIL, BOTH ON THE FORM AND CONTENT OF A BILATERAL SUMMIT IN OCTOBER AND ON THE BRITISH-GERMAN RELATIONSHIP MORE WIDELY. MY OWN THOUGHTS FOLLOW BY SEPARATE TELEGRAM.

MALLABY

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ADDITIONAL

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