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FM BONN

TO DESKBY 200800Z FCO

TELNO 347

OF 191800Z APRIL 88

*ms*

MY TELNO 343: RELATIONS WITH THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

SUMMARY

1. WITH THE GERMANS AND OURSELVES BOTH WANTING TO GIVE OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP A HIGHER PROFILE, THIS IS THE MOMENT TO MAKE AN EFFORT TO ACHIEVE THIS. SUGGESTIONS ON: FORM OF BILATERAL SUMMITS, INFORMAL MEETINGS BETWEEN HEADS OF GOVERNMENT ETC. I HOPE I MAY BE AUTHORISED TO HAVE A GENERAL DISCUSSION OF SUCH IDEAS WHEN I CALL ON KOHL ON 28 APRIL.

DETAIL

2. IT IS CLEAR THAT KOHL AND GENSCHER HAVE GOT OUR MESSAGE THAT THE IMPORTANCE TO THE GERMANS OF THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM IS NOT RECOGNISED BY THE MEDIA AND PUBLIC IN THIS COUNTRY. THEY WANT TO RAISE THE PROFILE. YOUR DEPARTMENT AND THIS EMBASSY WERE ALREADY THINKING ON THESE LINES. KOHL'S WISH FOR A BRAIN-STORMING SESSION ON THE SUBJECT WHEN I SEE HIM ON 28 APRIL IS AN OPPORTUNITY NOT TO BE MISSED. AFTER THAT WE SHOULD FIRM UP PROPOSALS TO PUT TO THE GERMANS BEFORE OR AT THE NEXT BILATERAL SUMMIT. I SUGGEST THAT THE FOLLOWING IDEAS, MANY OF THEM ALREADY UNDER CONSIDERATION, ARE WORTH PURSUING.

FORM OF NEXT SUMMIT

3. ANNUAL FORMAL SUMMITS, WITH SEVERAL MINISTERS PARTICIPATING ON EACH SIDE, ARE IMPORTANT TO THE GERMANS AS A SYMBOL OF CLOSE RELATIONS. WE SHOULD NOT SUGGEST THEIR CESSATION. BUT WE COULD SIMPLIFY THE FORMAT BY INCLUDING BESIDE THE PRIME MINISTER AND YOURSELF ONLY THOSE MINISTERS WHO HAVE A DIRECT INTEREST IN THE THEMES FOR DISCUSSION OR ACTUAL BUSINESS TO DO WITH THEIR OPPOSITE NUMBERS. THERE WILL SOMETIMES BE A THEME WHICH SUGGESTS ITSELF AS A FOCUS FOR A SUMMIT: FOR THE NEXT ONE, THE MAIN - BUT NOT THE ONLY - THEME MIGHT BE EAST-WEST RELATIONS, IF AS I HOPE THE SUMMIT CAN BE FITTED IN BEFORE KOHL GOES TO MOSCOW.
4. THE PUBLIC ATTENTION ATTRACTED BY THESE SUMMITS AND PERHAPS THE INTEREST TO THE PARTICIPANTS COULD BE ENHANCED IF THEY TOOK PLACE OUTSIDE THE CAPITAL. IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, THAT COULD MEAN CHEQUERS

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*No - press release*  
*& press notes*

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OR A PROVINCIAL CENTRE. IN THE LATTER CASE, IT MIGHT SOMETIMES BE POSSIBLE FOR THE FEDERAL CHANCELLOR TO MAKE A SPEECH AND/OR RECEIVE AN HONORARY DEGREE.

INFORMAL MEETINGS BETWEEN HEADS OF GOVERNMENT

5. IN ADDITION TO THE FORMAL SUMMITS, I RECOMMEND THAT WE SHOULD CONSIDER WITH THE GERMANS THE POSSIBILITY OF A SEPARATE INFORMAL MEETING ONCE A YEAR BETWEEN HEADS OF GOVERNMENT. THE PURPOSES WOULD BE TO DO IMPORTANT CURRENT BUSINESS AND TO DRAW ATTENTION TO ANGLO-GERMAN RELATIONS. SUCH MEETINGS, PERHAPS EVEN MORE APPROPRIATELY THAN FORMAL SUMMITS, COULD BE HELD OUTSIDE CAPITALS. THE VISITING HEAD OF GOVERNMENT COULD MAKE A SPEECH AND UNDERTAKE A COUPLE OF OTHER ENGAGEMENTS SUCH AS A VISIT TO A FIRM OR OTHER ORGANISATION HAVING CONNECTIONS WITH HIS/HER COUNTRY.

MEETINGS BETWEEN FOREIGN MINISTERS

6. WE OWE GENSCHER SUGGESTIONS ABOUT YOUR INVITATION TO VISIT THE UNITED KINGDOM BEFORE THE SUMMER BREAK (MY TELNO 304). AS YOU KNOW, I FAVOUR INFORMAL BUT PUBLICISED VISITS BY FOREIGN MINISTERS IN BOTH DIRECTIONS. I HOPE THAT YOU MAY SEE ATTRACTION IN THE SUGGESTION OF A VISIT TO STUTTGART (MY TELNO 304).

RESULTS FROM TOP LEVEL MEETINGS

7. WE SHOULD WATCH CAREFULLY FOR STEPS FORWARD IN OUR RELATIONS WITH GERMANY THAT CAN BE GIVEN PUBLICITY AT SUMMITS OR OTHER TOP LEVEL MEETINGS. EVEN QUITE A SMALL STEP IN A MATTER WHERE KOHL IS PERSONALLY INTERESTED, SUCH AS YOUTH EXCHANGES, WOULD BE SUITABLE AND SHOULD ATTRACT ATTENTION.

8. AS TO TELTSCHIK'S IDEA OF ANGLO-GERMAN DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES, WE SHOULD LOOK FOR POSSIBILITIES NEARER THE DATE OF THE NEXT SUMMIT. SOME ASPECT OF THE SINGLE MARKET MIGHT BE FOR CONSIDERATION. SO MIGHT SOME ASPECT OF EAST-WEST RELATIONS (THOUGH KOHL WILL NOT WISH TO BE SEEN TO BE TYING HIS HANDS ON ANY BROAD ISSUE BEFORE HIS VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION). THE COMMISSIONING, EG FROM THE ANGLO-GERMAN FOUNDATION, OF A BROAD LONG-TERM STUDY WOULD BE WORTH CONSIDERATION: FOR INSTANCE THE RELATIONS IN THE WORLD ECONOMY BETWEEN THE EC AFTER 1992 AND THE UNITED STATES AND JAPAN, OR THE FUTURE OF THE COUNTRYSIDE IN WAYS ALTERNATIVE TO OVER-PRODUCTIVE AGRICULTURE, OR THE PROBLEMS CAUSED BY AGEING AND DIMINISHING POPULATIONS.

9. PLEASE ADVANCE TO PRIVATE SECRETARY, PS/MRS CHALKER, SIR J FRETWELL AND WED.