



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

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MO 14/3L

5th May 1988

Rine Nivote

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Dear Charles,

VISIT BY DR WOERNER TO BRITISH FORCES GERMANY

You will wish to be aware that, at his own request, Dr Woerner paid a farewell call to HQ British Forces Germany on 20 April. The visit was very successful and was followed by a press conference at which Dr Woerner made a number of gratifying remarks about the valuable contribution made by British Forces to the forward defence of Germany and about the close cooperation that exists between ourselves and the Germans at both military and political levels. He emphasised that his selection of the British Forces for his final visit to the Alliance armed forces was intended deliberately to underline the key importance the FRG places on BFG's contribution which, despite the recent publicity given to Franco-German military cooperation, was undiminished. He also said that his visit to BFG had been supported by Dr Kohl, who had specifically asked to be associated with it.

Dr Woerner was fulsome in his praise of BAOR and RAF Germany and their activities in every sphere, from the very high professional standards they set to the good relations they have with the local community. He was also very robust and supportive on the need for low flying training - a difficult area politically, at present, in view of a number of recent accidents.

The Defence Secretary has written to Dr Woerner to express appreciation for his supportive remarks which, despite our efforts, did not attract much media attention. He has also written to Dr Scholz offering congratulations on his appointment and inviting him to visit London for an early meeting. Dr Woerner's comments may come in useful in the forthcoming Defence Debate and in evidence to the HCDC in underlining the value of our contribution in the FRG and the closeness of our relations.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Tony Galsworthy (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) and to Trevor Woolley (Cabinet Office)

Yours sincerely
Brian Hawtin

(B R HAWTIN)

Private Secretary

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