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FM BONN
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 028
OF 141530Z JANUARY 88
INFO PRIORITY EUROPEAN COMMUNITY POSTS

YOUR TELNO 6: MEETING WITH CHANCELLOR KOHL: EC ISSUES

1. WHEN I SAW KOHL TODAY I REMINDED HIM OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE OF A MONTH AGO AND ASKED FOR REACTIONS.

2. ON THE PRIME MINISTER'S PROPOSAL FOR A BILATERAL MEETING IN LATE JANUARY/EARLY FEBRUARY, KOHL SAID THAT HE WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO FLY OVER FOR 3 OR 4 HOURS TO TALK TO HER WITHOUT CEREMONY IN SOME CONVENIENT PLACE. BONN WAS SUCH A MADHOUSE AT THE MOMENT THAT HE COULD NOT PROPOSE A DATE, BUT HE WOULD TELEPHONE THE PRIME MINISTER PERSONALLY. I SAID I FELT SURE SHE WOULD APPRECIATE THIS.

3. ON THE PROSPECTS FOR THE BRUSSELS MEETING, I MADE THE POINTS IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE AND IN TUR. KOHL'S REPLY CONTAINED NOTHING TO SUGGEST THAT HE HAD REALLY GRIPPED THE SUBJECT. HE USED THE WORD "COMPROMISE" TWICE, AND REFERRED TO KIECHLE'S ROUND OF VISITS IN A WAY WHICH SUGGESTED THAT KIECHLE'S REPORT ON IT HAD BEEN POSITIVE. HE SAID IT WAS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY THAT THERE SHOULD BE A SOLUTION AT BRUSSELS, AND HE PUT THE CHANCES OF ACHIEVING THIS AT 70 PERCENT. THERE WAS PLENTY OF GOODWILL ABOUT AND A GENERAL DESIRE TO PUT THE FINANCIAL PROBLEM BEHIND US AND GET ON WITH THE INTERNAL MARKET. BUT HE HIMSELF WAS AT PRESENT IN THE POSITION OF A SHIP AT SEA WHICH HAD NOT YET CHARTED HER COURSE.

4. I BROUGHT THE CONVERSATION BACK TO DETAILS. SAYING THAT WE HAD GIVEN KOHL'S OFFICE A FULL ACCOUNT OF KIECHLE'S TALKS IN LONDON. KOHL WOULD SEE HOW WIDE WAS THE GAP. KIECHLE WOULD NEED TO DISTINGUISH VERY STRICTLY BETWEEN HIS NATIONAL AND HIS PRESIDENCY FUNCTIONS. KOHL DID NOT RISE TO THIS, ADDING ONLY THE COMMENT THAT FRAU ADAM-SCHWAETZER WAS IN ROME TODAY TALKING TO THE ITALIANS, MAINLY ABOUT STRUCTURAL FUNDS I MADE OUR POINTS ABOUT A 40-50 PERCENT RISE BEING SUFFICIENT FOR ALL DESERVING MEMBER STATES INCLUDING ITALY, BUT AGAIN KOHL DID NOT COMMENT.

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