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FEDERAL GERMAN/SOVIET RELATIONS.

SUMMARY.

1. GENSCHER HOPES TO VISIT MOSCOW IN AUGUST. CONVENTIONAL ARMS CONTROL LIKELY MAJOR THEME. GERMANS AT PAINS TO STRESS THAT THEIR PURPOSE IN THE FORTHCOMING ACTIVE PERIOD IN GERMAN/SOVIET RELATIONS WILL BE TO CONTRIBUTE, ON THE BASIS OF AGREED WESTERN POSITIONS, TO THE GENERAL IMPROVEMENT OF EAST/WEST RELATIONS.

DETAIL.

2. SUDHOFF, JOINT PUS AT THE AUSWAERTIGES AMT, TOLD ME AND THE UNITED STATES AND FRENCH AMBASSADORS ON 5 JULY THAT GENSCHER WAS LIKELY TO VISIT MOSCOW IN AUGUST, PERHAPS EARLY IN THE MONTH. IT WOULD BE WRONG TO SEE THIS VISIT MERELY AS PREPARATION FOR KOHL'S IN OCTOBER. GENSCHER HOPED THAT THE VIENNA CSCE MEETING WOULD HAVE CONCLUDED SUCCESSFULLY BEFORE HIS VISIT AND THAT THE WAY WOULD BE OPEN FOR HIM TO EXPLORE IN MOSCOW THE GOALS THAT MIGHT BE PURSUED IN CONVENTIONAL ARMS CONTROL AND THE MAJOR ELEMENTS THAT WOULD ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS ON THAT SUBJECT. GENSCHER WOULD ALSO WANT TO DISCUSS PROBLEMS IN THE THIRD WORLD AND HUMAN RIGHTS. BUT ON ARMS CONTROL MATTERS OTHER THAN CONVENTIONAL, HE PLANNED MERELY TO REITERATE GERMAN AND WESTERN HOPES OF SUCCESS IN START AND IN NEGOTIATIONS ON A CHEMICAL WEAPONS BAN. HE WOULD NOT RAISE SNF, WHICH WAS NOT A BILATERAL MATTER. I ASKED WHAT GENSCHER WOULD DO IF THE SOVIET SIDE MADE SOME SUGGESTION ABOUT SNF, AND SUDHOFF REPLIED THAT GENSCHER WOULD MERELY TAKE NOTE.

3. LOOKING AHEAD TO KOHL'S VISIT TO MOSCOW IN LATE OCTOBER, SUDHOFF SAID THAT ITS PURPOSE WOULD BE TO IMPROVE THE CLIMATE BETWEEN MOSCOW AND BONN, WHICH RECENTLY HAD GONE THROUGH DIFFICULTIES. KOHL WOULD CARRY WEIGHT WITH THE RUSSIANS ONLY IF HE SPOKE ON THE BASIS OF AGREED WESTERN POSITIONS. KOHL'S VISIT SHOULD BE SEEN AS QUOTE ONE OF THE ACCOMPANIMENTS UNQUOTE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND MOSCOW AND AS PART OF THE ROLE WHICH THE EUROPEANS MUST NECESSARILY PLAY IN THE NEW PERIOD OF ACTIVITY IN EAST-WEST

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RELATIONS. SUDHOFF IMPLIED THAT BILATERAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS WOULD PLAY A MAJOR PART IN KOHL'S VISIT BUT SAID THAT SCOPE FOR EARLY PROGRESS WAS LIMITED BY THE BACKWARDNESS AND DISORGANISATION OF THE SOVIET APPROACH TO TRADE. SUGGESTIONS IN THE PRESS THAT THE GERMANS MIGHT HELP THE RUSSIANS TO ESTABLISH SOME KIND OF MANAGEMENT TRAINING ACADEMY FOR INDUSTRY WERE WAY AHEAD OF REALITY.

COMMENT.

4. THE PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH KOHL ON 9 JULY, AS WELL AS YOUR FORTHCOMING BILATERAL WITH GENSCHER, WILL PROVIDE FURTHER OPPORTUNITIES TO PROBE GERMAN INTENTIONS IN RELATIONS WITH THE USSR. I JUDGE THAT THE PLANS FOR KOHL'S VISIT TO MOSCOW IN OCTOBER ARE STILL UNFORMED. THE GERMANS CLEARLY WANT TO REASSURE US THAT GENSCHER AND KOHL WILL SPEAK IN TUNE WITH OTHER ALLIES. NEVERTHELESS GENSCHER AT LEAST WILL BE TEMPTED TO FIND SOMETHING ORIGINAL TO DO IN MOSCOW, NOT LEAST IN ORDER TO CHALK UP A PERSONAL SUCCESS BEFORE KOHL'S VISIT TO MOSCOW GIVES HIM THE EAST-WEST LIMELIGHT HERE.

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