

UNCLASSIFIED

120644
MDADAN 8636

ADVANCE COPY

UNCLASSIFIED

FM BONN

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 1240

OF 141429Z DECEMBER 89

INFO PRIORITY WASHINGTON, BMG BERLIN, EAST BERLIN, MOSCOW, PARIS
INFO PRIORITY UKRE BRUSSELS, ROME, ACTOR, CICC(G), UKDEL NATO

DCCUK PASS CICC(G)

THE GERMAN QUESTION

SUMMARY

1. MORE CRITICISM OF KOHL'S MISHANDLING OF THE PRESENTATION OF HIS TEN POINT PLAN, AND ABOUT THE ABSENCE ANY REFERENCE TO HE GERMAN/POLISH BORDER. FURTHER COMMENTS ON FOREIGN ATTITUDES.

DETAIL

2. DEBATE CONTINUES ABOUT THE MERITS OF THE TEN POINT PLAN. KREMP IN 'DIE WELT' (CONSERVATIVE) STRESSES THAT KOHL'S INTENTION WAS TO PROVIDE NOT A TIMETABLE BUT A COMPASS, SHOWING THE DIRECTION NOT THE PRECISE ROAD. THE WHOLE DESIGN IS CAUTIOUS AND FLEXIBLE IN NATURE,

3. A MORE COMMON VIEW HOWEVER IS THAT EXPRESSED BY THE KOLNER STADT ANZEIGER (LIBERAL), WHICH ARGUES THAT WHILE THE TEN POINTS IN THEMSELVES ARE NOT OVER-AMBITIOUS THE PLAN AS A WHOLE HAS BEEN DEVALUED BY INEPT STAGING, ESPECIALLY KOHL'S FAILURE TO CONSULT THE ALLIES. THIS WAS AN AFFRONT TO THE FOUR POWERS, WHO WANT THEIR RESPONSIBILITY FOR GERMANY PRESERVED AND HAVE NOW CONSPICUOUSLY SHOWED IT. KOHL HAS THUS FOSTERED DOUBTS ABOUT BONN'S RELIABILITY.

4. THERE IS ALSO WIDESPREAD AND GROWING SUPPORT FOR THE VIEW, HELD BY THE FDP, SPD AND GREENS, THAT KOHL ERRED BY NOT COVERING IN HIS PLAN THE QUESTION OF POLAND'S WESTERN BORDER. KOZAKIEWICZ, MARSHAL OF THE POLISH SEJM, SAID IN BONN ON 13 DECEMBER THAT KOHL'S STATEMENTS ON THIS SUBJECT WERE 'AMBIGUOUS' AND THAT THIS REMAINED A 'KEY PROBLEM' FOR POLAND. LAFONTAINE, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE SPD, IN RESPONSE TO THE RECENT STATEMENT BY DUMAS ON THE POLISH WESTERN BORDER (PARIS TELNO 1656), SAID ON 13 DECEMBER THAT THE MISTRUST CURRENTLY BEING SHOWN BY GERMANY'S NEIGHBOURS OF DEVELOPMENTS IN GERMANY WAS ALL KOHL'S FAULT: HIS 'SOLO VENTURES' HAD CONVERTED PARTNERS BACK INTO VICTORIOUS POWERS. TWO FORMER CHANCELLORS - SCHMIDT AND BRANDT - HAVE COMMENTED IN SIMILAR VEIN.

CONRAD IN ''DIE WELT'', ECHOED BY ''STERN'' (LEFT OF CENTRE), CALLS ON KOHL TO SPEAK UP FOR THE LINE AGREED BY THE BUNDESTAG ON 8 NOVEMBER (MY TELNO 1069). BERGDOLL IN THE ''SUEDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG'' SAYS THAT WITHOUT A GERMAN GUARANTEE OF THE ODER/NEISSE BORDER AND WITHOUT RENUNCIATION OF GERMANY'S 1937 BORDERS HELSINKI MARK II COULD BECOME A FIASCO FOR GERMAN FOREIGN POLICY, WHICH IS NOW BURDENED BY THE FACT THAT THE SEPARATE ISSUES OF POLAND'S WESTERN BORDER AND THE INNER-GERMAN BORDER HAVE BECOME CONFUSED.

5. THE LATEST COMMENTS ON FOREIGN ATTITUDES ARE A MIXED BAG:

(A) SCHMIDT IN ''DIE ZEIT'' (AN OTHERWISE WELL ARGUED THESIS TELELETTER FOLLOWS) PLEADS WITH HIS FELLOW COUNTRYMEN TO STAY CLOSE TO THE FRENCH: ''NO BRITON CAN BIND 77 MILLION GERMANS TO THE WEST. NOR CAN ANY US PRESIDENT FROM GEORGIA OR CALIFORNIA''.

(B) BRANDT IN THE ''SUEDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG'' (INDEPENDENT) ADDRESSING THE PRIME MINISTER BY NAME, SAYS THAT THOSE WHO FEAR THE DEUTSCHMARK SHOULD STRENGTHEN THE ECU. USING EVENTS IN EASTERN EUROPE AS AN EXCUSE TO GO SLOW ON EMU IS ''WITH ALL RESPECT'' SIMPLY A DEVICE TO CAMOUFLAGE THE REAL UK ATTITUDE.

(C) HUBER, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE CSU, NOTES IN ''BILD'' (TABLOID) THAT SOME PEOPLE THINK THAT THERE CAN BE NO QUESTION OF UNIFICATION WITHIN THE NEXT DECADE. HE COMMENTS THAT IN HIS VIEW NEITHER FRANCE NOR THE UK WILL IN THE END OPPOSE SUCH A PROCESS.

(D) KREMP IN ''WELT'' SAYS THAT IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER THE PRIME MINISTER CAN OR WILL UNDERSTAND WHAT KOHL IS TRYING TO DO. MITTERRAND UNDERSTANDS IT VERY WELL: HE SIMPLY WISHES TO SEE KOHL'S PLAN BROUGHT INTO HARMONY WITH THE INTERESTS OF THE FOUR POWERS. ANDREOTTI'S OPPOSITION IS RATHER SHARPER. IT IS THE AMERICANS WHO HAVE REACTED MOST CALMLY.

(E) ''STERN'' SAYS THAT WHILE GORBACHEV'S REACTION IS UNDERSTANDABLE, THE COMMENTS MADE BY THATCHER AND MITTERRAND ARE ARROGANT AND INSOLENT.

MALLABY

YYYY

UNCLASSIFIED

120644
MDAD 3636

DISTRIBUTION

13

ADVANCE 13

.BERLIN/INNER-GERMAN RELATIONS
. (WIDE)
PS
PS/PUS
~~PS/SIR J FRETWELL~~
MR RATFORD
HD/WED

HD/SOVIET
HD/NEWS
MR S MCCARTHY SEC(NATO/UKP)MOD
WG CDR ANDREWS DCTS NATO MOD
PRESS SECRETARY NO 10
MRS GLOVER LEGAL ADV

NNNN

