

CONFIDENTIAL
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FM BONN

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 485

OF 121124Z APRIL 90

INFO PRIORITY EAST BERLIN, BM BERLIN, MOSCOW, WASHINGTON, PARIS
INFO ROUTINE UKDEL NATO, UKREP BRUSSELS, ACTOR, MODUK, CICC(G)
INFO ROUTINE UKDEL VIENNA

MODSH PASS TO CICC(G)

SIC ECA

GERMAN UNIFICATION: THE STATE OF PLAY IN BONN

SUMMARY

1. BONN ON HOLIDAY. UNIFICATION ISSUES LARGELY MARKING TIME WHILE THE GDR PUTS ITS GOVERNMENT TOGETHER. INCREASING IMPRESSION IN BONN THAT SECURITY ASPECTS WILL BE MORE DIFFICULT THAN EXPECTED TO RESOLVE.

DETAIL

2. THE SCENE IN BONN IS QUIET. KOHL HAS GONE ON A TWO WEEK CURE RETURNING ON 23 APRIL. THE BUNDESTAG IS IN RECESS. A LOT IS GOING ON IN THE ECONOMIC MINISTRIES TO PREPARE THE STATE TREATY LEADING TO ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION (SEE SEPARATE TELEGRAM). BUT HERE THERE IS A LULL IN POLITICAL ACTIVITY WHILE THE GDR GETS ITS ACT TOGETHER.

3. THE CHANCELLERY PROFESS TO BE UNCONCERNED ABOUT THE COMPOSITION OF DE MAIZIERE'S GOVERNMENT, BUT IT MUST BE A SURPRISE IF NOT A DISAPPOINTMENT, THAT THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO HAS GONE TO THE SPD AND DEFENCE TO A KNOWN PACIFIST. THERE WILL BE RELIEF, ON THE OTHER HAND, THAT NEGOTIATIONS TO FORM THE GDR GOVERNMENT HAVE BEEN COMPLETED BY THE EASTER DEADLINE SO THAT NEGOTIATIONS ON THE STATE TREATY CAN BEGIN. KOHL'S INTENTION IS TO MEET SPD LEADER VOGEL AND DE MAIZIERE IMMEDIATELY ON RETURN TO WORK.

4. THERE ARE SIGNS OF FRICTION BETWEEN SOME OF THE CENTRAL FIGURES. DE MAIZIERE HAS BEEN REPORTED AS IRRITATED BY KOHL AND THE CHANCELLERY HAVE ADMITTED TO US THAT VOLKER RUEHE'S BOSSINESS HAS CAUSED OFFENCE IN EAST BERLIN. PRESIDENT VON WEIZSAECKER IS REGARDED IN THE CHANCELLERY AS HAVING INTERFERED WELL BEYOND THE PROPER ROLE OF HIS OFFICE. (STERN REPORTS THAT WEIZSAECKER TOLD FORCK, BISHOP OF

EAST BERLIN, THAT HE HOPED THAT THE GDR GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT ALLOW ITSELF TO BE STEAM-ROLLED BY BONN.) WEIZSAECKER WAS NOTABLY MISSING FROM KOHL'S VERY LARGE 60TH BIRTHDAY PARTY.

SECURITY ASPECTS.

5. THE PUBLIC EVOLUTION OF THE SOVIET POSITION ON SECURITY ASPECTS OF UNIFICATION HAS BEEN REPORTED WITHOUT COMMENT. THE IMPRESSION WILL HOWEVER HAVE BEEN CREATED WITH READERS THAT MOSCOW IS NOT GOING TO BE AS COOPERATIVE AS HAD EARLIER BEEN WIDELY THOUGHT AND THAT THE ISSUES WILL TAKE TIME TO RESOLVE. THE FEELING THAT THINGS ARE GETTING MORE DIFFICULT MAY HAVE BEEN REINFORCED BY THE INDICATIONS COMING OUT OF EAST BERLIN. A REUTERS REPORT OF AN EXPERT'S PAPER PREPARED FOR THE GDR COALITION SUGGESTS A

- UNITED GERMANY IN NATO PENDING CREATION OF ALL-EUROPEAN SECURITY SYSTEM, PROVIDED THAT NATO GIVES UP FORWARD DEFENCE AND FLEXIBLE RESPONSE:

- FOR A TRANSITION PERIOD, GERMAN ARMED FORCES TO BE DEPLOYED IN THE GDR, NEITHER SUBORDINATED TO NATO NOR PART OF THE BUNDESWEHR: AND

- THE GERMAN ARMED FORCES AS A WHOLE TO BE NO LARGER THAN US OR SOVIET FORCES STATIONED IN CENTRAL EUROPE.

6. ON THE MORE POSITIVE SIDE, ACCORDING TO THE FMOD, GENSCHER NOW SEEMS TO ACCEPT THAT THERE WILL NEED TO BE GERMAN ARMED FORCES IN THE FORMER GDR AFTER UNIFICATION (BONN TELNO 460). ON NATO ARTICLES 5 AND 6, GENSCHER NOW HAS TO RECKON WITH KOHL'S PUBLIC AFFIRMATION IN LONDON THAT THEY SHOULD APPLY TO THE WHOLE OF A UNITED GERMANY (THOUGH THERE IS STILL SCOPE FOR ARGUMENT ABOUT WHEN).

7. OVERALL, GENSCHER'S GRIP OF EXTERNAL ASPECTS OF UNIFICATION IS VERY STRONG. THE FEDERAL CHANCELLERY HAVE TOLD US THAT KOHL IS STANDING ASIDE FROM DECISION-MAKING ON SECURITY POLICY (MY OWN CONTACTS TEND TO CONFIRM THIS) AND FMOD OFFICIALS ADMIT THAT GENSCHER IS DOMINATING FRG POLICY-MAKING. GENSCHER'S SHIFT ON GERMAN ARMED FORCES IN THE GDR NOTWITHSTANDING, STOLTENBERG IS NOT EXERCISING MUCH INFLUENCE AT PRESENT.

8. SEE MY SEPARATE TELEGRAM ON SNF RELATED ISSUES.

NEVILLE-JONES