

CONFIDENTIAL
FM BM BERLIN
TO ROUTINE FCO
TELNO 49
OF 021500Z JULY 1990
AND TO ROUTINE BONN
INFO ROUTINE PARIS, WASHINGTON, EAST BERLIN, MOSCOW

FUTURE CAPITAL OF THE UNITED GERMANY

SUMMARY

1. AT A CEREMONY TO CONFER ON HIM HONORARY CITIZENSHIP OF BERLIN THE FEDERAL PRESIDENT CALLED FOR BERLIN TO BE THE FUTURE CAPITAL OF THE UNITED GERMANY. BRANDT FOLLOWED WITH HIS SUPPORT IN A SPEECH IN BERLIN ON 30 JUNE.

DETAIL

2. AT A CEREMONY IN THE NIKOLAIKIRCHE IN EAST BERLIN ON 29 JUNE, VON WEIZSAECKER, IN A CAREFULLY CONSTRUCTED SPEECH, FIRST RAISED AND THEN DISMISSED ARGUMENTS IN FAVOUR OF MAINTAINING BONN AS CAPITAL BEFORE SPEAKING FIRMLY IN FAVOUR OF BERLIN. MOST NOTABLY, HE SAID THAT ASSERTIONS THAT ONLY BONN COULD PROVIDE A GUARANTEE OF GERMANY'S FEDERAL CHARACTER AND WESTERN LINKS WERE GROUNDLESS. GERMANS HAD BECOME MORE FEDERALLY-INCLINED OVER THE CENTURIES. THAT PROCESS WAS WHAT GAVE THE NATIONAL CONSCIOUSNESS ITS PARTICULAR QUALITY. GERMANY'S LINKS WITH THE WEST WOULD REMAIN A FOCAL POINT OF REFERENCE, AND THE WEST'S STRENGTH MEANT IT COULD APPROACH THE EAST WITH COMPLETE OPENNESS.

3. WEST BERLINERS HAD PLAYED A SPECIAL ROLE AFTER THE WAR IN BUILDING LINKS WITH THE WEST. IN A WAY WHICH WAS UNLIKE ANYWHERE ELSE, BERLIN HAD EXPERIENCED THE DIVISION OF GERMANY AND REALISED WHAT UNITY REQUIRED OF IT. BERLIN, VON WEIZSAECKER CONCLUDED, WAS THE VENUE FOR A POLITICALLY RESPONSIBLE LEADERSHIP OF GERMANY. THE DECISION, WHICH WAS ONE FOR PARLIAMENT, SHOULD BE MADE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

4. THE LOCAL PRESS GAVE EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO THE FEDERAL PRESIDENT'S SPEECH, HEADLINING THEIR COLUMNS WITH REFERENCES TO VON WEIZSAECKER FAVOURING BERLIN AS THE FUTURE CAPITAL. ONLY THE LEFT-WING TAGESZEITUNG SUGGESTED THAT HE HAD SAID ANYTHING

CONFIDENTIAL

112352
MDLIAN

CONTROVERSIAL WHEN IT REFERRED TO THE PRESIDENT PLACING HIMSELF AMONG NETTLES. THE WEEKEND MEDIA ALSO NOTED PROMINENTLY BRANDT'S SUPPORT FOR BERLIN AS CAPITAL IN THE COURSE OF HIS ADDRESS TO THE WEST BERLIN SPD PARTY CONGRESS ON 30 JUNE.

5. THE CEREMONY IN THE NIKOLAIKIRCHE WAS A WARM, CELEBRATORY AFFAIR, ATTENDED NOT ONLY BY LEADING CIVIC FIGURES BUT ALSO BY THE THREE ALLIED AMBASSADORS IN BONN, THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR IN EAST BERLIN AND THE THREE ALLIED COMMANDANTS AND MINISTERS. THUS, OUR VIEW OF THE STATUS OF THE CITY WAS ACKNOWLEDGED. SPEECHES OF WELCOME WERE HEARD FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BERLIN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE EAST BERLIN CITY ASSEMBLY, THE GOVERNING MAYOR AND THE MAYOR OF EAST BERLIN. SUBSEQUENTLY ALL PROCEEDED TO A RECEPTION AT THE RED RATHAUS.

COMMENT

6. VON WEIZSAECKER'S SPEECH WAS YET ANOTHER OF HIS POWERFUL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE DEBATE ABOUT THE UNITED GERMANY. HIS INTERVENTION MAKES IT LIKELY THAT A VOTE ON THE FUTURE CAPITAL OF GERMANY WILL BE TAKEN BY THE NEW PARLIAMENT SOON AFTER ITS CREATION.

BURTON
YYYY

DISTRIBUTION

178

MAIN

151

.BERLIN/INNER-GERMAN RELATIONS
.(WIDE)
LIMITED
WED
SOVIET D
KIEV UNIT
HD/EED
ACDD
ECD(E)
AMD
ECD (I)
SECPOL D
PUSD
CSCE UNIT
NEWS D

ECONOMIC ADVISERS
LEGAL ADVISERS
CLAIMS D
PS
PS/MR MAUDE
PS/MR WALDEGRAVE
PS/PUS
MR P J WESTON
MR MCLAREN
MR TOMKYS
MR BAYNE
MR BROOMFIELD
MR GREENSTOCK
MR GOULDEN
MISS SPENCER