

GRS 400
UNCLASSIFIED
FM BONN 191400Z MAY 83
TO PRIORITY FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 516 OF 19 MAY
INFO PRIORITY PARIS
INFO ROUTINE UKREP BRUSSELS UKDEL NATO WASHINGTON MODUK (DS 12,1P2)
INFO SAVING ATHENS EMBASSY BRUSSELS COPENHAGEN DUBLIN ROME
THE HAGUE LUXEMBOURG

PARIS TELNO 408: FRANCO/GERMAN SUMMIT:

FRG MEDIA TREATMENT

1. GERMAN PRESS COVERAGE OF THE SUMMIT HAS BEEN RELATIVELY LOW-KEY. IT HIGHLIGHTS THE FRG'S WILLINGNESS TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF FRENCH INTERESTS IN THE COMMUNITY BUDGET QUESTION: KOHL'S READINESS TO TAKE QUOTE NECESSARY STEPS UNQUOTE ON GERMAN TECHNICAL NORMS (ALBEIT WITHOUT ANY CONCRETE PLEDGES): THE ABSENCE OF AGREEMENT ON A NEW MONETARY CONFERENCE OR A JOINT APPROACH TO WILLIAMSBURG: THE DIVERSITY OF VIEWS ON THE DOUBLE DECISION: AND THE PROGRESS MADE TOWARDS AGREEMENT ON A JOINT HELICOPTER PROJECT, SUBJECT TO SUCCESSFUL PREPARATION IN THE BUNDESTAG DEFENCE COMMITTEE.

2. COMMENT DWELLS ON THE NUMBER OF FRENCH ECONOMIC DEMANDS WHICH THE GERMANS CANNOT OR SHOULD NOT MEET AND SOME RESENTMENT IS EXPRESSED (E G IN WELT, GENERAL ANZEIGER, FAZ) AT THE TONE IN WHICH THEY HAVE BEEN PUT AND AT THE WAY IN WHICH THE FRENCH BLAME OTHERS FOR THEIR OWN ECONOMIC MISTAKES. THE FEELING IS GENERAL THAT THE FRG SHOULD NOT STIMULATE ITS ECONOMY JUST FOR FRANCE'S SAKE, AND GERMAN NORMS ARE SEEN AS A SIDE ISSUE AT BEST. FAZ OPPOSES ANY GERMAN SUPPORT FOR FRENCH IDEAS ON INTERNATIONAL CURRENCY STABILISATION.

3. NEVERTHELESS THERE IS NO CRITICISM, AND INDEED SOME COMMENDATION OF KOHL FOR DOING WHAT HE CAN TO HELP THE FRENCH (GERMAN REVALUATION, GREEN CURRENCY ARRANGEMENT, AGREEMENT TO THE EC QUOTE OIL FACILITY UNQUOTE LOAN ARE ALL CITED IN THIS CONTEXT), SINCE THE FRG MUST BE CONCERNED TO ENSURE THAT FRANCE KEEPS TO A EUROPEAN COURSE AND THE SPECIAL FRANCO/GERMAN RELATIONSHIP HAS A VALUE WORTH PRESERVING IN ITSELF. THE IMPORTANCE OF MITTERRAND'S BACKING FOR KOHL ON INF, AT A TIME WHEN THE GERMAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATS ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY HETERODOX ON THE ISSUE, IS ALSO STRESSED AND FAZ SUGGESTS THIS COULD BE ONE FACTOR INFLUENCING KOHL'S ATTEMPTS AT REASONABLENESS ON ECONOMIC MATTERS.

FCO PLEASE PASS TO ALL SAVING ADDRESSEES

TAYLOR

(REPEATED AS REQUESTED)

STANDARD
WED
ECDs
MR THOMAS
CABINET OFFICE

THIS TELEGRAM
WAS NOT
ADVANCED

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