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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

29 October 1984

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I should even have made.  
I do not think it is  
a suitable task for an  
M.P. who is not  
used to more responsibility  
in spite of the Prime Minister's  
agreement.*

*Prime Minister  
Agree to Mr.  
Forman's appointment?  
C.D.P. 29/x.*

Review of Anglo/German Relations: Appointment of  
Mr Nigel Forman MP

I enclose a copy of the joint statement issued by the Prime Minister and Chancellor Kohl after their Summit at Chequers on 2 May. At the time the Germans told us that they were thinking of appointing a special representative for a limited period to look at areas for developing Anglo/German cooperation suggested by the review. The Germans subsequently told us that they intend to appoint Dr Walter Gehlhoff (curriculum vitae enclosed) for this task.

The Foreign Secretary takes the view that this is a sensible way of building on the reports on Anglo/German relations completed by officials just before the May Summit. But we think it would be better on the British side to appoint a younger person with a lively, well-informed interest in Germany (and a politician rather than an official). Nigel Forman MP, who is Joint Secretary of the Anglo/German Parliamentary Group, has agreed to take on this task. We would envisage his looking at selected areas of cooperation (eg academic and youth exchanges) for a limited period, and then reporting. It has been made clear that we are looking for new ideas on how to use present resources, not for proposals for new spending.

The Foreign Secretary thinks that it would be helpful to Mr Forman and Dr Gehlhoff if their appointments could be mentioned by the Prime Minister and Kohl at the Summit on 2 November. We understand that Kohl is keen to do this, and has invited Gehlhoff to his lunch for the Prime Minister. If the Prime Minister agrees, we shall take account of the proposal in the bilateral relations brief for the Summit, and include appropriate wording in notes for her press conference. We could also ask Mr Forman if he could accept Kohl's invitation to lunch.

*Yours ever,  
Colin Budd*

(C R Budd)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
10 Downing Street

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## STATEMENT ON ANGLO-GERMAN BILATERAL RELATIONS

1. At this, the 15th in the series of consultations between the Heads of Government, the Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland reviewed the state of relations between their two countries. They took into account reports on the progress of the relationship prepared by officials, which the Prime Minister and Chancellor Schmidt had called for at the conclusion of the 10th bilateral summit in Bonn on 18 November 1981.

2. The Heads of Government expressed great satisfaction that links between their governments and the citizens of their countries had continued to develop very successfully. They agreed that these links were a testimony to the common values; their shared belief in democracy, freedom, human rights and the dignity of the individual; and their determination to defend these values together with their other partners and allies. The close collaboration between Britain and the Federal Republic in the Western Alliance, the European Community and in European Political Cooperation bears eloquent witness to the many shared interests of the two



countries. The Heads of Government affirmed their profound belief in the idea of a Europe able increasingly to play a role in the world commensurate with the combined economic weight and political experience of its member states. They reaffirmed the objectives in the Solemn Declaration on European Union.

3. The Heads of Government noted the vital contribution made by their two countries to the common defence of western freedoms within the North Atlantic Alliance. The contribution of British forces in Germany in this context is greatly valued by the Federal Government. It will be maintained. The Heads of Government reaffirmed the importance of the United Kingdom's rights and responsibilities relating to Berlin and to Germany as a whole. The Prime Minister reaffirmed the conviction of successive British governments that real and permanent stability in Europe will be difficult to achieve so long as the German nation is divided against its will.

4. The Heads of Government noted with particular satisfaction the very close consultation and alignment of policies which takes place between the two countries in bilateral and multilateral settings, particularly within the framework of the European political cooperation.



This has been sustained by largely converging interests and by a common fundamental outlook on foreign and security affairs, East-West relations, disarmament and arms control as well as economic and social policy.

5. The Heads of Government found that relations between the two Administrations were highly satisfactory, forming an active and varied partnership, marked by openness and mutual trust. There are close relations, too, between the two parliaments, and between political parties of similar persuasions.

6. The Heads of Government agreed that commercial ties formed an integral element of the relationship. They noted with satisfaction the expansion of bilateral trade, a process that had accelerated dramatically since Britain's entry into the Community, and in the wake of which has come a similar increase in reciprocal investment with beneficial consequences for employment in both countries. These developments have been greatly promoted by the contribution of the Chambers of Commerce, and have without doubt been assisted by the close harmony in the economic and financial policies pursued by both governments.



7. The Heads of Government confirmed that they attach particular importance to the work of unofficial and semi-official institutions which supplement the work of Governments in encouraging contact and increasing mutual understanding. They noted the particularly valuable work of the Anglo-German Society which organises the Koenigswinter Conferences, the Anglo-German Foundation for the Study of Industrial Society, the cultural organisations of the two countries and the various organisations in the two countries concerned with town twinning and youth exchanges. They saw a continuing and important role for these and other organisations especially in bringing together the younger generation in the two countries. They agreed also that continued mutual understanding would be assisted by imaginative efforts to maintain and develop the teaching of each other's language, especially the study of German in British schools and other places of learning; and by continued efforts to exploit the potential for developing contacts through the presence of British servicemen and their families in Germany.



8. The Heads of Government noted that the increasing mutual involvement of their two countries makes it desirable to increase correspondingly the British and German peoples' knowledge of, and involvement in, each other's culture and activities. In particular, it is vitally important that the younger generation should be equipped for the Europe of tomorrow. The Heads of Government agreed that future efforts should focus on this requirement. There should be regular meetings of senior officials in the Foreign Offices responsible for cultural affairs to review progress and stimulate activity where it is needed. Attention should also be focused on the better and wider diffusion of news and information.

9. The Prime Minister and the Federal Chancellor are convinced that the furthering and strengthening of Anglo-German relations in line with the reports' suggestions and proposals can be best attained within the existing framework. They expressed confidence that the effective partnership between the two countries and peoples would be developed further both in the promotion of common interests and to shape Europe to meet the



challenge of the last quarter of the 20th century. They instructed their officials to be guided by these objectives.

3 May 1984

GEHLHOFF, Dr Walter

Special Representative (Designate) on Anglo-German relations.

Born 1922 in Berlin. Studied medicine from 1940-42 and again after war service from 1946-48. After qualifying as a doctor Gehlhoff turned his attention to philosophy sociology and economics (1949-50). Entered the German Foreign Service in 1951. Served in Cairo and Beirut (1953-58) and after eight years at the Auswaertiges Amt at Tehran (1966-69). He then returned to the Auswaertiges Amt to take charge of the Division dealing with Near East and North Africa, and UN affairs. From 1971-74 he was at the UN in New York, first as leader of the German Observer Mission and then as Ambassador after the Federal Republic joined the UN in 1972. From 1974-77 he was State Secretary (that is the most senior permanent official) at the German Foreign Office. His final post was as Ambassador to the Holy See. Married with three children. Proposed for appointment to his present position in 1984.

Gehlhoff is unusual among German diplomats of his generation in not having studied law. He is a thoughtful man with exceptionally wide interests and an easy manner. He was a successful Head of the German Foreign Service distinguishing himself by his keen appreciation of the art of the possible. The fact that he has not served in Britain may be an advantage in his new post. With his wide experience and Catholic taste he should be able to take a fresh original look at Anglo-German relations.

Gehlhoff speaks very good English.



289



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

31 October 1984

REVIEW OF ANGLO-GERMAN RELATIONS: APPOINTMENT OF MR. NIGEL FORMAN, MP

I wrote to you about this on 30 October. The Prime Minister had a brief word with the Foreign Secretary this morning. They agreed not to proceed with the appointment of Mr. Forman given the German decision to appoint an ex-official, but to approach instead Sir Norman Statham, formerly Minister in the Embassy in Bonn. They recognise that it might not be possible to complete the arrangements in time for the nomination to be announced at the Anglo-German Summit if it goes ahead. In that event an announcement could be made later.

Charles Powell

Colin Budd, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.



16  
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10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

30 October 1984

Review of Anglo/German Relations: Appointment  
of Mr. Nigel Forman, MP

Thank you for your letter of 29 October conveying the Foreign Secretary's decision to appoint Nigel Forman, MP, as a special representative to look at areas for developing Anglo/German co-operation.

The Prime Minister commented that it is not an appointment which she would ever have made. She does not think it is a suitable task for a Member of Parliament who is not a member of the Government. She also thinks that it will inevitably lead to more expenditure despite the provisos.

I suggest that you show this letter only to Sir Geoffrey Howe who may wish to raise the matter at his next bilateral with the Prime Minister.

Charles Powell

Colin Budd Esq  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

6