



OTB  
CCP  
A  
EOP 7/ki

PM/84/168

PRIME MINISTER

Anglo-German Relations

1. I have been thinking over the weekend about how best to proceed with the Germans, given the cancellation of your meeting with Chancellor Kohl last Friday. I suspect that neither of us felt a great sense of disappointment that the meeting had to be cancelled. Our meetings at this level with the Germans in the past have often borne less fruit than we might have hoped.
2. But I think we both feel that a strong Anglo-German relationship is crucial if we are to maintain and strengthen the British position in Europe. And I am sure that has to include the best sense of understanding and common purpose that can be engendered at the top. We must ensure that Franco-German influence does not dominate the way Europe develops. We have recently been working rather effectively with the French on some Community issues. It is with the Germans, curiously, that we face almost more difficulty in establishing an effective working relationship.
3. We are both familiar with the line of argument we have developed for use with them over all this, and disappointed by

/our failure

CONFIDENTIAL



our failure to make more progress in convincing them with it. We need to think further about how we can best handle this difficulty, since the problem seems to extend beyond the question of what to say to whom and how. I am therefore commissioning work on all this and would like to discuss the subject with you at one of our regular meetings.

4. Meanwhile Julian Bullard has told me that he thinks it would be politic to send a message to Chancellor Kohl now that you are back from Delhi, expressing regret that your meeting with him had to be cancelled and keeping the door open for a discussion with him about Europe later on. I think this sensible advice and attach a draft message.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'G. Howe', written in a cursive style.

(GEOFFREY HOWE)

Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
5 November 1984

CONFIDENTIAL