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FM BONN  
TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELNO 962  
OF 131405Z NOVEMBER

PERSONAL FOR FERGUSSON: SOUTH AFRICA

SUMMARY

1. FRG STILL PURSUING IDEA OF A JOINT POLITICAL INITIATIVE SPONSORED BY HEADS OF STATE/GOVERNMENT OF US, UK AND FRG.

DETAIL

2. TELTSCHIK TOLD ME TODAY THAT WHILE IN WASHINGTON KOHL HAD SPOKEN TO REAGAN AND SCHULTZ ABOUT THIS IDEA (MY TELNO 861) OF US-UK-FRG CONSULTATIONS AIMED AT A POSSIBLE JOINT POLITICAL INITIATIVE ON SOUTH AFRICA. PRECONDITIONS WERE THAT ANY WORK ON THIS MUST BE KEPT TOTALLY SECRET, THAT THE SMALLEST POSSIBLE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WOULD KNOW OF IT AND THAT AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE WOULD BE COMMITTED TO PAPER.

3. AS TO THE SUBSTANCE OF SUCH AN INITIATIVE, THE CATALOGUE OF PRINCIPLES PROPOSED BY THE AUSWAERTHIGES AMT WAS OF COURSE QUITE USELESS. THE LAST THING WE NEEDED WAS ANY MORE PRINCIPLES. WE MUST DECIDE FIRST WHAT WE WANTED TO GET PRESIDENT BOTHA TO AGREE TO, EG A CONFERENCE BETWEEN THE THREE AND HIM ONLY, OR A LARGE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE INCLUDING SOUTH AFRICA, OR WHAT; AND SECONDLY, HOW WE COULD BEST PUT ANY PROPOSAL TO PRESIDENT BOTHA, EG THE THREE OF US JOINTLY, IN PARALLEL, OR WHAT.

4. TELTSCHIK THOUGHT THAT THE THREE FOREIGN MINISTERS DID NOT HAVE THE WEIGHT TO LAUNCH THE INITIATIVE WITH ANY CHANCE OF SUCCESS. (HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT IT WAS REALLY GENSCHER HE WAS THINKING OF.) IT MUST BE AN INITIATIVE BY THE THREE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT, AND ANY SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVES MUST SPEAK IN THEIR NAME.



5. TELTSCHIK SAID THAT IN WASHINGTON SCHULTZ IN PARTICULAR HAD APPEARED TO WELCOME THESE IDEAS. TELTSCHIK WOULD BE DISCUSSING THEM TODAY WITH SUDHOFF TO CONSIDER HOW BEST TO CARRY THEM FORWARD. THE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE WERE STILL UNDECIDED ABOUT THE MODALITIES, INCLUDING THE ROLES (IF ANY) OF GENSCHER AND OF SUDHOFF.

COMMENT

6. THIS AMPLIFIES BUT DOES NOT CONTRADICT WHAT HASKELL WAS TOLD BY STABREIT (SEE HASKELL'S SECRET AND PERSONAL MINUTE OF 30 OCTOBER COPIED TO PRENDERGAST, SAFD). YOU MAY WISH TO ALERT NUMBER 10. WHETHER OR NOT THE QUESTION IS ON THE PRIME MINISTER'S AGENDA FOR WASHINGTON, AND IN ASSUME IT IS, KOHL MAY MENTION IT IN THE TELEPHONE CALL WHICH HE PLANS TO MAKE TO THE PRIME MINISTER BEFORE SHE SETS OFF.

BULLARD

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OKK WITH BOTH OF THOSE PAL KK

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