

CONFIDENTIAL
FM THE HAGUE
TO DESKBY 120830Z FCO
TELNO 217
OF 111740Z MAY 89
INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON, BONN, UKDEL NATO

SNF : LUBBERS AND VAN DEN BROEK'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON : 9 MAY

SUMMARY

1. THE AMERICANS HAVE TOLD THE DUTCH THAT THEY COULD NOT ACCEPT THE INCLUSION OF THE WORD 'NEGOTIATIONS' IN THE COMPROMISE FORMULA WHICH THE DUTCH HAVE TABLED IN BRUSSELS. THE DUTCH ARE CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY OF PRODUCING ALTERNATIVE WORDING.

DETAIL

2. DUTCH OFFICIALS WHO WERE WITH THE PRIME MINISTER IN WASHINGTON HAVE TOLD US THAT BUSH SAW LUBBERS AND VAN DEN BROEK FOR 2 SEPARATE SESSIONS IN WASHINGTON ON 9 MAY. SNF WAS DISCUSSED FOR ABOUT AN HOUR. VAN DEN BROEK HAD HOPED TO BRIEF YOU PERSONALLY BUT AS THIS HAS NOT PROVED POSSIBLE FOR HIM, HIS OFFICIALS HAVE GIVEN US A SHORT ACCOUNT OF THE DISCUSSION ON SNF. BUSH HAD SHOWN GREAT INTEREST IN THE DUTCH WORDING AND HAD TALKED IN SOME DETAIL ABOUT THE IDEAS WHICH THE DUTCH HAVE ALSO SHARED WITH US. HOWEVER WHEN IT CAME TO THE DUTCH SUGGESTION THAT THERE MIGHT BE A CAREFULLY QUALIFIED REFERENCE TO NEGOTIATIONS THE AMERICANS HAD DRAWN A LINE AT THIS.

3. THE DUTCH ARE RELUCTANT TO ABANDON THEIR EFFORTS TO HELP TO REACH AGREEMENT BEFORE THE SUMMIT. LUBBERS HAS TOLD KOHL OF THE AMERICAN REACTION. VAN DEN BROEK HAS SUBSEQUENTLY ASKED HIS OFFICIALS TO CONSIDER POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE WORDING NOT (REPEAT NOT) INCLUDING A DIRECT REFERENCE TO NEGOTIATIONS. WORK ON THIS IS BEING PUT IN HAND IMMEDIATELY BUT AS YET NO TEXT HAS BEEN FINALISED. THE DUTCH POLITICAL DIRECTOR, WIJNAENDTS, WHO WAS HIMSELF PRESENT AT THE DISCUSSIONS WITH BUSH, HOPES TO GIVE US A BRIEFING NEXT WEEK ON HOW DUTCH THINKING ON A FURTHER STEP IS SHAPING UP. IF YOU HAVE ANY FURTHER THOUGHTS YOU WOULD LIKE US TO PUT TO HIM, I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR INSTRUCTIONS.

JENKINS

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CONFIDENTIAL
FM WASHINGTON
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 1319
OF 112348Z MAY 89
INFO IMMEDIATE BONN, UKDEL NATO, PARIS, THE HAGUE

HAGUE TELNO 217: SNF: DUTCH VISIT TO WASHINGTON

SUMMARY

1. DUTCH GIVE BLAND DEBRIEF IN WASHINGTON BUT SEEM ENCOURAGED PARTICULARLY BY SCOWCROFT TO PERSIST WITH EFFORTS FOR COMPROMISE. GERMAN EMBASSY CONCERNED ABOUT IMPACT OF SNF ISSUE ON THE COALITION. DETAIL

2. THE DUTCH EMBASSY GAVE A COMMUNITY BRIEFING ON 11 MAY WHICH WAS UNSURPRISINGLY MORE BLAND THAN IN TUR. EMBASSY OFFICIALS SAID THAT MOST OF THE HOUR WITH THE PRESIDENT HAD BEEN TAKEN UP BY A DETAILED EXPOSITION BY THE DUTCH OF THEIR COMPROMISE FORMULA. HOFSTEE (DCM) CONFINED HIMSELF TO SAYING THAT BUSH HAD SHOWN INTEREST BUT HAD REFRAINED FROM SUBSTANTIVE COMMENT. THE AMERICAN SIDE HAD HOWEVER MADE IT CLEAR THAT THEY WERE STILL VERY MUCH INTERESTED IN WORKING TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE PREFERABLY BEFORE THE SUMMIT, BUT IF NECESSARY AT THE MEETING ITSELF.

3. AFTER THE BRIEFING, HOFSTEE COMMENTED TO US PRIVATELY THAT THEIR GREATEST ENCOURAGEMENT HAD COME FROM SCOWCROFT WHO SAID THAT HE PERSONALLY WOULD HAVE NO PROBLEMS WITH A FORMULA ALONG THE LINES WHICH THEY WERE PROPOSING, PROVIDED NOTHING WAS SAID IN IT TO IMPLY ANY COMMITMENT TO AN SNF NEGOTIATION. THIS HAD GIVEN LIMITED COMFORT, SINCE SUCH A CONCESSION FROM THE AMERICANS WOULD STILL LEAVE AN ENORMOUS GAP BETWEEN THEM AND THE GERMANS. NEVERTHELESS IT HAD ENCOURAGED THEM TO PERSIST IN THEIR EFFORTS TO FIND A SOLUTION. WE EMPHASISED THAT OUR OWN POSITION TOO WOULD NEED TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT AND REITERATED THE REASONS WHY WE WERE DOUBTFUL OF THE WISDOM OF SEEKING COMPROMISES WHEN THE GERMAN POSITION REMAINED SO UNSATISFACTORY.

4. FOR WHAT IT IS WORTH, THE GERMAN EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVE REMAINED UNCOMFORTABLE THROUGHOUT THE DUTCH BRIEFING. THE COUNSELLOR (MUELLENSTAEDT) CONFIDED TO US SUBSEQUENTLY (PLEASE PROTECT) THAT THE ISSUE WAS PLACING REAL STRAIN ON THE COALITION AND THAT NO ONE WAS PROPERLY IN CONTROL IN BONN (ECHOING WOERNER'S COMMENT IN UKDEL NATO TELNO 151, PARA 7). THE CSU'S OPEN CRITICISM OF GENSCHER'S POSITION WAS ONE ASPECT. GENSCHER'S INSISTENCE THAT NO ONE BUT HIMSELF COULD HANDLE SNF POLICY WAS

ANOTHER. MATTERS HAD COME TO A HEAD DURING FMOD STATE SECRETARY PFAHLS'S VISIT HERE AND HIS CALL ON KIMMITT EARLIER THIS WEEK. PFAHLS HAD SEEN FIT TO DEPLOY AN IDEA, WORKED OUT BY HOLIK AND NAUMANN, WHICH SOFTENED THE WORD QUOTE EARLY UNQUOTE IN THE CALL FOR AN SNF NEGOTIATION BY ARGUING THAT THIS DID NOT MEAN QUOTE IMMEDIATELY UNQUOTE AND LINKING IT MORE CLEARLY TO PRIOR PROGRESS IN CFE. KIMMITT HAD BEEN UNIMPRESSED BUT GENSCHER HAD BEEN FURIOUS AT THIS UNAUTHORISED CONCESSION. THE GERMAN AMBASSADOR HAD BEEN HAULED OVER THE COALS. MUELSTAEDET ADDED THAT THE BAD BLOOD WHICH EXISTED BETWEEN GENSCHER AND BOTH BAKER AND CHENEY WAS A FURTHER WORRY.

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PRIME MINISTER

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CD 15/8

MR. LUBBERS

Mr Lubbers tried to telephone you this morning to tell you about his visit to Washington. I explained that you were entirely tied up with the speech and would then be leaving for Scotland. He is determined to have a word at some point over the weekend, and has agreed to do so at 7.15 pm on Sunday. I will listen in to take a note.

I attach two telegrams which summarise the state of our knowledge.

C.D.P.

CHARLES POWELL

12 May 1989