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Prime Minister

Since you said earlier that you would meet Herr Kohl's wishes on press arrangements I have said that we will be glad to arrange the usual joint press conference.

A.S.C. 27/1

GRS 425  
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FM BONN 261707Z JAN 83  
TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 082 OF 26 JANUARY

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YOUR TELEGRAM NO 32: CHANCELLOR KOHL'S VISIT ON 4 FEBRUARY

1. MALLABY DISCUSSED THE AGENDA WITH TELTSCHIK IN THE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE TODAY. TELTSCHIK SAID THAT THE CHANCELLOR WOULD PARTICULARLY WISH TO DISCUSS SECURITY SUBJECTS ESPECIALLY INF. THAT WOULD ALSO EMBRACE VICE-PRESIDENT BUSH'S VISIT. IN ADDITION HE WOULD WISH TO DISCUSS OTHER EAST/WEST SUBJECTS, PROTECTIONISM, TRANSATLANTIC RELATIONS AND OTHER EC QUESTIONS INCLUDING THE BUDGET.

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2. TELTSCHIK SAID THAT THE CHANCELLOR ATTACHED IMPORTANCE TO HAVING A JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE WITH THE PRIME MINISTER. TELTSCHIK SUGGESTED THAT A JOINT APPEARANCE BY THE FEDERAL CHANCELLOR AND THE BRITISH PRIME MINISTER WOULD PROVIDE A HELPFUL ELEMENT OF BALANCE FOLLOWING THE JOINT APPEARANCES OF KOHL AND MITTERRAND DURING THE CELEBRATIONS LAST WEEK OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ELYSEE TREATY. CONVERSELY, THE ABSENCE OF A JOINT APPEARANCE DURING KOHL'S LONDON VISIT WOULD MAKE AN UNFORTUNATE CONTRAST. TELTSCHIK ALSO ARGUED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR WESTERN LEADERS TO TAKE EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR SOLIDARITY ON SECURITY MATTERS IN THE RUN-UP TO THE KEY DECISIONS ON INF STATIONING. IT WOULD BE GOOD IF KOHL AND MRS THATCHER WERE BOTH TO SAY IN THE SAME PRESS CONFERENCE THAT A ZERO SOLUTION WAS THE RIGHT AIM BUT THAT ALL SERIOUS SOVIET PROPOSALS WOULD BE EXAMINED. THE PRIME MINISTER MIGHT ALSO WISH TO MAKE A CLEAR DECLARATION ABOUT WHY BRITISH NUCLEAR WEAPONS COULD NOT BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN THE INF TALKS. FOLLOWING MITTERRAND'S STATEMENT ON FRENCH SYSTEMS IN THE BUNDESTAG LAST WEEK, A STATEMENT BY MRS THATCHER, WHICH KOHL WOULD ENDORSE, COULD HAVE A VERY HELPFUL EFFECT ON GERMAN OPINION.

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3. KOHL'S MOTIVES IN WANTING A PRESS CONFERENCE NO DOUBT INCLUDE ELECTORAL ONES. BUT I AM CONVINCED THAT INF IS ALSO A MAJOR FACTOR. I SHARE IN PARTICULAR THE VIEW THAT A HIGH LEVEL STATEMENT ABOUT BRITISH NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND THE INF TALKS WOULD HELP TO COUNTER THE RECENT TENDENCY IN VARIOUS CIRCLES IN THE FRG TO THINK THAT OUR SYSTEMS SHOULD BE COUNTED IN GENEVA. THE POTENTIAL DANGER IN THIS CONNECTION IS THAT OF BEING ACCUSED OF INTERFERENCE IN THE GERMAN ELECTION CAMPAIGN ON THE SIDE OF KOHL AGAINST THE SPD WHO TEND TO FAVOUR THE COUNTING OF BRITISH SYSTEMS. BUT A STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER IN A PRESS CONFERENCE IN LONDON WOULD BE VERY DIFFERENT IN THIS RESPECT FROM MITTERRAND'S IN THE BUNDESTAG. IT COULD NO DOUBT BE MADE IN REPLY TO A QUESTION. KOHL'S ENDORSEMENT OF IT WOULD ONLY CONFIRM HIS KNOWN POSITION. I THEREFORE SUGGEST THAT THE RISK OF ACCUSATIONS OF INTERFERENCE IN THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN IS NOT GREAT AND SHOULD NOT DETER US FROM TAKING THIS OPPORTUNITY.

4. FCO PLEASE ADVANCE TO HEADS OF WED AND DEFENCE DEPARTMENTS.

TAYLOR

LIMITED

WED

PCD

DEF D

PS

PS/HR HURD

PS/LORD BELSTEAD

PS/PUS

SIR J BULLARD

HR WRIGHT

MR GOODISON

MR GILLMORE

(ADVANCED AS REQUESTED)

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-2-

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