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FM BONN  
TO PRIORITY FCO  
TELNO 887  
OF 091348Z SEPTEMBER 88  
INFO PRIORITY PRETORIA

no 10

J

YOUR TELNO 503. SOUTH AFRICA: ANGLO-GERMAN EMISSARY TO PRESIDENT BOTHA

1. I RAISED THIS WITH TELTSCHIK TODAY, SPEAKING IN LINE WITH PARA 6 OF TUR.

2. TELTSCHIK SAID THAT, SINCE HIS CONVERSATION WITH NO. 10 ON 7 SEPTEMBER, HE HAD NOT HAD TIME TO TALK TO THE CHANCELLOR. HE EXPECTED THE CHANCELLOR TO AGREE TO APPROACH LEUTWILLER. TWO OTHER NAMES HAD OCCURRED TO OFFICIALS IN THE FEDERAL CHANCELLERY AS ALTERNATIVES, IN CASE KOHL SHOULD HAVE DOUBTS ABOUT LEUTWILLER. ONE WAS LORD CARRINGTON, WHOSE SUCCESS OVER ZIMBABWE WOULD REPRESENT EXCELLENT CREDENTIALS. THE OTHER WAS DR. EBERHARD VON KOERBER, A GERMAN BUSINESSMAN AND FRIEND OF KOHL WHOM LEUTWILLER HAS APPOINTED CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF BROWN BOVERI'S OPERATIONS IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC. HE IS ALSO A FRIEND OF PRESIDENT BOTHA AND HAS TWICE BEEN USED WITH SATISFACTORY RESULTS AS A PERSONAL EMISSARY OF KOHL TO BOTHA. I POINTED OUT THAT LEUTWILLER, HAVING ALREADY BEEN DISCUSSED BETWEEN THE FEDERAL CHANCELLERY AND NO. 10, SHOULD BE VIEWED AS THE FIRST CANDIDATE, THOUGH I WOULD REPORT THE OTHER NAMES.

3. TELTSCHIK STRONGLY AGREED THAT THIS EXERCISE MUST BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL. HE WAS GLAD THAT WE WOULD BE DRAFTING A SPEAKING NOTE FOR LEUTWILLER AND A JOINT MESSAGE TO P W BOTHA. THE TIMING, HE THOUGHT, WOULD BE INFLUENCED MOST BY LEUTWILLER'S AVAILABILITY; AND PERHAPS ALSO BY P W BOTHA'S HEALTH. AS REGARDS INFORMING THE AUSWAERTIGES AMT, TELTSCHIK WAS UNENTHUSIASTIC. HE SAID THAT THE CHANCELLOR HAD SENT PEROSNAL EMISSARIES TO P W BOTHA IN THE PAST AND HAD INFORMED GENSCHER OF THE FACT BUT NOT OF THE CONTENT. TELTSCHIK SAID THAT HE WOULD, HOWEVER, CONSIDER WHETHER TO SUGGEST TO THE CHANCELLOR THAT GENSCHER BE INFORMED OF THE NEW EXERCISE ONCE HE HAD SEEN THE CONTENTS OF THE SPEAKING NOTE BEING DRAFTED IN LONDON.

COMMENT

4. AN EXERCISE INVOLVING KOHL WILL HELP TO KEEP THE GERMANS ON THE RAILS ON SOUTH AFRICA POLICY. BUT IT IS DESIRABLE TO BIND GENSCHER IN TOO. WE SHOULD LOOK AGAIN AT THIS ASPECT AFTER WE HAVE GIVEN TELTSCHIK THE DRAFT SPEAKING NOTE AND HE HAS HAD TIME TO CONSIDER IT.

MALLABY

LIMITED.

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