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PREM 19/767

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Confidential

Visit of Dr Albrecht, Minister - President  
of Lower Saxony.

GERMANY

MAY 1980

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date
<del>16.5.80</del>							
7.7.80.							
<del>8.7.80</del>							
11.7.80							
PREM 19/767							

**CLOSED**



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

11 July 1980

Dear Dr. Albrecht:

I am writing to thank you for the delightful porcelain candle sticks which you were kind enough to leave for me after your visit here on Tuesday. They are most attractive and will look well in my flat here. *I am thrilled with them.*

I greatly enjoyed our discussion. I hope an opportunity presents itself for a further talk before too long.

*Yours sincerely*  
*Royal Holloway*

Dr. Ernst Albrecht.

JS

SUBJECT



FILE  
cc Master  
Germany, Jan 80,  
Internal Sit - FRG

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

8 July 1980

Dear Gunge,

Call by Dr. Albrecht

The Minister President of Lower Saxony, Dr. Ernst Albrecht, called on the Prime Minister as planned this morning. On the Prime Minister's instructions, I took no note of the meeting. However, a number of interesting points came up of which the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary may like to be aware.

Dr. Albrecht said, without equivocation, that the CDU were going to lose the Election this Autumn. He thought they would get about 45 per cent of the vote. The main uncertainty was whether or not the FDP would achieve the 5 per cent vote necessary for representation in the Bundestag.

Dr. Albrecht said he was confident that the CDU would win the next national election in 1984 (he also made it rather clear that he expected to be leading the CDU then). He thought that three major factors were working in the CDU's favour:-

a) The SDP was moving leftward and tending to revert to neutralist policies of the kind advocated by Schumacher when the SDP was founded. This was at present not apparent to the German electorate but would become so. When it did, the natural CDU majority in the country would assert itself. In response to a question from the Prime Minister, Dr. Albrecht said that the leftward move was partly stimulated by Herr Brandt and the "illusionists" who believed that the Russians would behave well if spoken to nicely; and partly by those like Herr Wehner who had lost confidence in the Americans and wished to make a deal with the Russians while they still had some bargaining power. Dr. Albrecht asserted that Chancellor Schmidt had stimulated the discussion of a three year moratorium on the deployment of TNF weapons because of the difficulties he was having inside his own party;

b) As a result of the leftward move of the SDP, tension between the SDP and the Liberals would grow. At some point it would become impossible for Herr Genscher to go along with the policies of Herr Schmidt's associates. Dr. Albrecht

/ said that Herr Genscher

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said that Herr Genscher had asked him to tell the Prime Minister that it was essential that the Alliance should not weaken in its determination to deploy TNF in accordance with the December agreement. (Dr. Albrecht did not say so but the implication of this message seemed to be that Herr Genscher anticipated some weakening in the determination of the German Government on this score);

c) Chancellor Schmidt would become a 'lame duck' Chancellor. The Chancellor was making it increasingly clear that he would not wish to run again for the Chancellorship. Although it was true that he might be persuaded to change his mind, the signs at present were that he would not do so. This would mean that his authority both inside and outside his party would begin to weaken.

Dr. Albrecht said that he thought Chancellor Schmidt had handled the visit to Moscow "reasonably well". In response to a question from the Prime Minister, he said that in general the German electorate considered that the Chancellor was right to go to Moscow but were sceptical about the outcome. The gas deal, however, was obviously of considerable importance.

Referring to the relationship between Chancellor Schmidt and President Giscard, Dr. Albrecht said that it was politically important for both men. However, it was essentially a personal relationship. The Franco/German partnership was of great significance but it did not constitute "Europe". A CDU Government would not be so exclusive with its favours and would avoid the risk that Britain might seem to be left out in the cold.

Dr. Albrecht said that he hoped the Prime Minister would succeed in convincing the British electorate of the vital nature both of the Community and of Britain's membership of it. The Prime Minister agreed that the Community was vital. She mentioned, however, that it was not always apparent that the other members of the Community considered Britain's membership to be so vital. She sometimes had the impression that Britain's reliability and the contribution she made eg in keeping a large number of troops in Germany, was taken for granted. Dr. Albrecht indicated that he had taken the point.

At the end of the conversation, the Prime Minister said that she looked forward to seeing Dr. Albrecht again soon.

*Yours ever*

*Nicholas Alexander*

George Walden, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

7 July 1980

Dear Michael,

Visit of Dr Albrecht: 8 July

The Prime Minister is to receive Dr Albrecht, Minister-President of Lower Saxony, for a short call at 09.15 on Tuesday 8 July. I enclose a brief, together with a personality note on Dr Albrecht and a copy of his programme.

Since the call is a short one, we are not recommending a long list of points for the Prime Minister to make. In case she wishes to recall her meeting with Herr Strauss in April, I also enclose a copy of the record prepared by Clive Whitmore on 25 April. The present occasion is slightly different, in that Dr Albrecht visits the UK as an official guest of HMG, whereas Herr Strauss came in response to an invitation issued on the Party net. In talking to Dr Albrecht the Prime Minister will wish to bear in mind the personal rivalry between him and Herr Strauss, and the continued friction between their two parties in spite of the agreement to run a joint candidate in the October elections.

Yours etc

(P Lever)  
Private Secretary

M O'D B Alexander Esq  
10 Downing Street

VISIT OF DR ALBRECHT: 8 JULY

POINTS TO MAKE

Visit of Herr Strauss

1. Much enjoyed seeing Herr Strauss in London in April. Held useful discussion on world affairs.

East-West

2. Schmidt spoke forcefully in Moscow on need for Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, though no sign of Soviet flexibility. Must show Russians that there can be no 'business as usual' while they remain in occupation. Note FRG Government assurances that long-term economic cooperation programme will not offend COCOM agreement. Hint of interesting development on TNF.

3. Interested to hear your views particularly on how to counter Soviet expansionism in Third World.

European Community

4. HMG's firm commitment to Community.

5. Believe Community's cohesion strengthened by budget agreement. Recognise cost to FRG.

6. Important now to resolve problem in longer term by means of structural changes. Great opportunity to get things right.

7. Community now in better shape to face up to major world political and economic problems. Venice European Council and Summit both successful.



VISIT OF DR ALBRECHT: 8 JULY

ESSENTIAL FACTS

1. No serious competitor to Dr Albrecht for succession to Herr Strauss as leader of CDU/CSU. Likely to succeed him fairly soon if Strauss fails in Federal elections in October.
2. SPD/FDP currently favoured to win October elections. In recent Land elections in North Rhine-Westfalia SPD made significant gains; both the FDP and the CDU lost votes to the Green (Ecology and Environment) Party. But latter a doubtful force at national level and FDP expected to do better. Strauss's difficulty in winning support in Northern Germany his great weakness (Albrecht's strength).
3. Foreign policy issues likely to loom large in election campaign. Schmidt's standing currently very high. His visit to Moscow showed just enough results (long-term economic agreement, TNF) without betraying weakness to USSR. His general line vis-à-vis the East - maintenance of a dialogue on the basis of firm Alliance support - is generally popular. The opposition have found little to attack.



**ALBRECHT, DR ERNST**

CDU Minister President of Lower Saxony.

Born 1930 in Heidelberg. Studied philosophy, theology and law in Tübingen, Cornell, Basle and Bonn. From 1954-70 held various posts with the European Communities (1961-63 Deputy Leader of the Delegation handling negotiations for British entry. 1967-70 Director General for Competition in the Commission). In 1971 he quit the Commission to go into Land politics in the CDU interest. Unexpectedly nominated as CDU candidate for Minister President in 1975. Elected Minister President in a major upset in February 1976, with the support of two (anonymous) members of the SPD/FDP, who were not, however, prepared to support CDU policies openly.

Throughout 1976 he showed considerable skill in handling the difficult situation faced by a minority Government, which was, however, resolved by the formation of a CDU/FDP Land Coalition at the end of the year. Not only did this ease his task of governing Lower Saxony, but was also an important advance in the CDU's strategy of trying to loosen the ties between the FDP and SPD at the federal level.

His party's victory in the Land election in 1978 gave it, for the first time in Lower Saxony, an absolute majority in the Landtag, the FDP representation disappeared with the collapse of their electoral support. The CDU's success was in no small measure due to Albrecht's personal popularity with the electorate, but at the same time it put paid to the strategy of winning the support of the FDP at federal level.

In 1979 he was initially persuaded by the federal party, rather against his own inclinations, to stand as CDU Chancellor candidate for the 1980 elections, but stood down when the CDU decided to put its weight behind Franz Josef Strauss. Albrecht makes no secret of his wish eventually to hold high office in Bonn, but seems to consider that his chances will be better in 1984 when he will have eight years' experience of governing Lower Saxony behind him.

A great family man, with a wife who was a University lecturer, and six children. Excellent English.



TR1/996

Programme of arrangements made by the  
Central Office of Information for the  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Dr Ernst ALBRECHT  
Minister-President of Land Lower Saxony

Hanover

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

5 - 10 July 1980

Accompanied by Mr Kenneth Thom, British Consul-General, Hamburg

Saturday 5 July

ARRIVAL

13.20

Arrive London, Heathrow Airport, Brabazon Suite, by Lufthansa flight LH 048 from Hanover.

Welcomed by Dr Hermann Hillger, Minister-Counsellor, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany and Miss Marianne Borman, Central Office of Information, and continue in car to the Hyde Park Hotel, Knightsbridge, London SW1 (Tel: 235 2000), where accommodation has been reserved for 3 nights.

The weekend is free.

Monday 7 July

PROGRAMME DISCUSSION  
CONSERVATIVE AND UNIONIST CENTRAL OFFICE  
MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES  
PALACE OF WESTMINSTER  
LUNCH WITH MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT  
HOUSE OF COMMONS  
DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY  
EMBASSY DINNER

09.15

Leave hotel in car.

09.30

Arrive at the Central Office of Information, Hercules Road, London SE1.

Received by Miss Glenys Hembry, Director, Overseas Visitors and Information Studies Division.

Mr Peter Scanlon, Head, Visits Section, Information Policy Department, will represent the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Miss Borman will discuss the programme.

09.50

Leave Hercules Road in car.

10.00

Arrive at the Conservative and Unionist Central Office, 32 Smith Square, SW1.

Received by The Rt Hon The Lord Thorneycroft CH, Chairman of the Party.

10.15

Joined by Mr Alan Howarth, Director, Research Department, and Mr Scott Hamilton, Head, International Office.

10.45

Leave Smith Square in car.

10.55

Arrive at the Department of the Environment, 2 Marsham Street, SW1. (North Tower Entrance).

Met by Miss Elizabeth Haines, Overseas Visitors Unit.

11.00

Received by The Rt Hon Tom King MP, Minister for Local Government and Environmental Services.

Monday 7 July cont'd

- Discussions with Mr King and Sir Wilfred Burns CB CBE, Deputy Secretary and Chief Planner, on development strategy related to regional development areas and allied subjects.
- 11.30 Leave Marsham Street.
- 12.00 Arrive at the Conservative and Unionist Central Office, 32 Smith Square, SW1.
- Received by Sir Anthony Royle KCMG MP, Chairman of the International Office.
- Later Leave Smith Square in car with Sir Anthony Royle for the Palace of Westminster.
- Accompanied on a tour of the Houses of Parliament.
- 13.00 Lunch in the Harcourt Room with:  
for  
13.15
- Host: Mr Anthony Kershaw, MC MP  
Chairman, Foreign Affairs Select Committee,  
Conservative Member for Stroud;
- Mr Eric Deakings MP  
Labour Member for Waltham Forest,  
Waltham and Member of the Foreign Affairs  
Select Committee; and
- Mr Stuart Laing, representing the Foreign  
and Commonwealth Office
- 14.25 Witness the Speaker's Procession.
- 14.35 Attend Question Time in the House of Commons from seats in the Distinguished Strangers' Gallery.
- 16.00 Leave the Palace of Westminster in car.
- 16.10 Arrive at the Department of the Environment, Marsham Street, SW1 (North Tower Entrance), and continue to Room N12/18.
- 16.15 Received by Mr W I McIndoe, Deputy Secretary, Environmental Protection, and Mr G M Wedd, Under-Secretary, Air, Noise and Wastes Directorate, for discussions on policy aspects of nuclear waste disposal.
- 17.15 Leave Marsham Street in car.
- 17.30 Arrive at the Department of Industry, Abell House, John Islip Street, SW7 (Room 440).
- Received by Mr E W Pearcy, Assistant Secretary, Regional Policy and Development Grant Division.
- 18.30 Return to hotel in car.

Monday 7 July contd

19.45 Leave hotel in car.

20.00 Arrive at the Embassy of the Federal German Republic,  
23 Belgrave Square/Chesham Place, SW1.

Dinner as the guest of His Excellency Dr Jürgen  
Ruhfus KBE, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary.

Later Return to hotel in car.

Tuesday 8 July

PRIME MINISTER  
INDEPENDENT BROADCASTING AUTHORITY  
FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS  
LUNCHEON  
LONDON - CARDIFF  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WALES DINNER

08.50 Leave hotel in car.

09.10 Arrive at 10 Downing Street, SW1.

09.15 Received by The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP, Prime Minister.

09.30 Leave Downing Street in car.

10.00 Arrive at the Independent Broadcasting Authority, 70 Brompton  
Road, SW3.

Met by Miss Jenny Crick, Information Officer.

Discussions with Mr Colin Shaw, Director of Television,  
on aspects of independent broadcasting.

10.30 Received by The Lady Plowden DBE, Chairman.

11.00 Continue discussions with Mr Ken Blyth, Chief Assistant  
to the Director General.

11.30 Leave Brompton Road in car.

12.00 Arrive at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Downing  
Street, SW1 (Ambassadors' Entrance).

Received by Mr J L Bullard, CMG, Deputy Under-Secretary  
of State.

12.30 Received by The Lord Carrington PC, KCMG, MC, Secretary  
of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs.

Later Leave Downing Street in car.

13.00 Luncheon as guest of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
for at 1 Carlton Gardens, SW1.  
13.15

Host: The Lord Carrington.

Tuesday 8 July contd

later Return to hotel in car.

15.45 Leave hotel in car (with luggage).

16.10 Arrive Paddington Station.

16.15 Leave London by rail.

Reserved seats.

18.00 Arrive Cardiff (Central) Station.

Met by Mr Alan Greedy, Welsh Office Information Division, and continue in car to the Angel Hotel, Castle Street, Cardiff, South Glamorgan (Tel: Cardiff (0222) 32633), where accommodation has been reserved for 1 night.

19.00 Dinner as guest of the Secretary of State for Wales,  
for The Rt Hon Nicholas Edwards MP.

19.30 Sir Alun Talfan Davies QC, Vice-Chairman and Chairman of HTV Wales, Mr Stephen Gray, Chairman, Welsh Development Agency, will also be present.

Wednesday 9 July

DEVELOPMENT AREAS  
HILL FARM  
ATOMIC ENERGY RESEARCH ESTABLISHMENT  
RETURN TO LONDON

09.00 Leave the hotel (with luggage) for a drive north across the South Wales industrial coalfield, to see old and new industrial development and several examples of the reclamation of derelict industrial land.

10.30 Meet a hill farmer in the Brecon Beacons.

11.00 Leave Brecon.

Lunch en route.

14.00 Arrive at the Atomic Energy Research Establishment, Harwell, Oxfordshire.

Received by Dr Lewis Roberts, CBE, Director.

Discussions on the Authority's strategy for radio-active waste management, including their programme of

- i. high-level disposal;
- ii. liaison with European Community and other countries in the programme;
- iii. disposal of waste at sea; and
- iv. environmental monitoring, with

Dr R H Flowers, Project Manager, and members of the Radio Active Waste Project Management team including:

Wednesday 9 July contd

Dr J B Lewis  
Dr J R Grover  
Mr J A C Marples  
Dr R S Nelson  
Mr R M Taylor and  
Dr J D Mather, Institute of Geological Sciences.

16.45 Leave Harwell in car.  
17.00 Arrive Didcot Station.  
17.09 Leave Didcot by rail.  
17.58 Arrive London (Paddington) Station, and continue in car to the Hyde Park Hotel.  
Evening Arrangements can be made to visit a theatre or concert.

Thursday 10 July

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ENERGY  
DEPARTURE

08.45 Leave hotel in car.  
09.10 Arrive at the Department of Energy, Thames House South, Millbank, SW1 (Entrance No. 4).  
09.15 Received by The Rt Hon David Howell MP, Secretary of State for Energy.  
09.45 Leave Millbank in car for return to hotel.  
11.30 Leave hotel in car (with luggage).  
12.30 Arrive London, Heathrow Airport, (De Havilland Suite).  
His Excellency the German Ambassador will be present.  
13.30 Leave London by British Airways flight BA 756 for Munich.

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Programme Organiser: Marianne Borman  
Overseas Visitors and Information Studies Division  
Central Office of Information  
Hercules Road, London SE1

Telephone: 01-928 2345, Ext 276

2 July 1980



10, DOWNING STREET

*From the Principal Private Secretary.*

24 April 1980

*Dear George,*

VISIT OF HERR FRANZ JOSEPH STRAUSS

Herr Franz Joseph Strauss called upon the Prime Minister for 45 minutes this morning before she entertained him to lunch. By far the greater part of the discussion was devoted to Iran, and at the end of their talk the Prime Minister and Herr Strauss watched President Carter's television broadcast on the abortive American attempt to rescue the hostages.

IRAN

The Prime Minister said that all the British Government's efforts over recent weeks had been devoted to the twin objectives of showing solidarity with the United States, who were the ultimate guarantors of European security, and of securing the release of the hostages unharmed. Throughout this period we had been urging the United States Government to continue to show patience and restraint, but they had repeatedly pointed out that this approach was not bringing about the release of the hostages. When they had asked us what we would do to get the hostages out, we really had no answer to give them other than to continue to suggest that the best course was to sit tight. We had thought that we still had some time available for concerted diplomatic activity aimed at securing the release of the hostages, and the Ambassadors of the Nine, who had been recalled for consultation, had been going to see President Bani-Sadr next week. But everything was now in the melting pot following the unsuccessful American attempt to get the hostages out. The failure of the American action had now put the United States in an exceptionally difficult position both internationally and domestically. There was very little which the British Government was able to say publicly at present, but there would be an opportunity to discuss Iran at the meeting of the European Council on Sunday and Monday.

Herr Strauss said that during his recent visit to Washington Mr. Brzezinski had told him that the Americans envisaged three consecutive steps against Iran - first, economic sanctions, then a blockade and finally military action. In his view President Carter should now give a solemn warning to Iran that if any of the hostages were injured or killed, a part of Iran would be smashed to pieces.

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/But there was
RECEIVED
- 2 MAY 1980



But there was no denying the immense risks involved. Any action against, for example, South Iran, would be a signal to the Soviet Union and to Iraq to move into Iran themselves. There was, however, no point, following the rescue attempt, in thinking any more about economic sanctions. Khomeini's position would now be strengthened immensely inside Iran. He would say that he had appealed to Allah and Allah had defeated President Carter. Khomeini's magical reputation with his primitive people would be enhanced still further. As for the position of the European allies, it would be suicidal if we allowed ourselves to be separated from the United States. He was absolutely against President Giscard's anti-American policies.

The Prime Minister said that she agreed that it was unlikely that economic sanctions would work in the aftermath of the American rescue attempt. The British Government were very worried about the possibility of the Americans taking military action, which in her view included a blockade. Even limited action was fraught with danger. For example, what would the United States do if Iranian ships tried to run a blockade? She was also very worried about the possible use of mines. There were the obvious immediate risks to shipping, but even when the crisis was over, not all of the mines that had been laid might be swept and there might well be a catastrophe involving an oil tanker. She was also concerned that if American aircraft were used to attack Iran, the Iranians might ask the Russians to send fighters to defend them.

Herr Strauss said that he believed the Soviet Union would keep out of any fighting in Iran. They did not want to be directly involved in any conflict with the United States. Rather, their objective was to seize part of Iran. The events of the previous night had humiliated the United States to a point where that country was a ridiculous cartoon figure. If this development was not stopped and reversed, the world would be a permanently different place. There would be only one super power - the Soviet Union -, and the repercussions for European security would be vast.

#### AFGHANISTAN

Herr Strauss said that when he had visited President Carter he had told him that he thought that existing treaties, trade agreements and contracts with the Soviet Union should be observed. Measures against the Soviet Union should not automatically be extended to the Soviet Union's satellites unless those countries were helping the Russians to circumvent the steps taken against them. He believed, however, that the COCOM list should be extended and that the West should reduce and eventually eliminate barter deals with the Soviet Union, since these normally gave the Russians high technology in exchange for basic commodities and allowed them to build up their strategic strength. He had also told President Carter that he thought that NATO, and especially the Federal Republic, must improve its military capability. He thought that Germany should replace its Leopard I tanks with the Leopard II in 1983 rather than 1985 and that they should pass on their Leopard I tanks to Turkey. Germany should also deploy six more anti-

/submarine frigates

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- 3 -

submarine frigates in the Atlantic and improve the arrangements in Germany for receiving US reinforcements. The European allies should also build up a long-range air transport capability which could be used for operations like that in the Congo in 1978. Herr Strauss added that the Federal Government had decided, with total support from the CDU/CSU, that there should be no Government financial support for German athletes who went to the Moscow Olympic Games. In his view there should be no participation whatsoever in the Olympic Games: there should be no ifs and buts about it.

The Prime Minister said that her views on the Olympic Games were well known. There never had been any question of the British Government making money directly available for sportsmen to take part in the Games. Money to support the British participants was being raised privately, but she had now ended her association with the appeal for funds.

I am sending a copy of this letter to David Wright (Cabinet Office).

Yours now,

Sheila Whittam.

G.G.H. Walden, Esq.,  
Foreign & Commonwealth Office.

CONFIDENTIAL

file

DSG

Germany

BF 7-7-80

16 May 1980

VISIT OF DR. ALBRECHT

The Prime Minister has seen your letter to me of 14 May about the visit of Dr. Albrecht to this country. She would be prepared to see Dr. Albrecht for a courtesy call from 0915 to 0930 on Tuesday 8 July here at No. 10.

I should be grateful if you could let me have a brief by close of play on Monday 7 July.

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

Paul Lever, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

G.



(1)

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Prime Minister

Agree to a short call?

Yes out

Paul  
- 13/5

14 May 1980

Dear Michael,

Visit of Dr Albrecht, Minister-President of Lower Saxony

Dr Albrecht, Minister-President of Lower Saxony, is visiting the UK as an official guest of HMG from 7 to 10 July. The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary will be giving a lunch in his honour, preceded by a short call. Lord Carrington thinks it would be appropriate for Dr Albrecht to be briefly received by the Prime Minister.

// I attach copies of Dr Albrecht's draft programme and a personality note. He is already an important politician in his own right as Minister-President of Lower Saxony, a job which equates to Cabinet rank in the FRG. In addition, the Embassy in Bonn believe that Dr Albrecht is the most likely candidate to lead the CDU/SCU union in the 1984 Federal elections if Herr Strauss should fail this year. Dr Albrecht has met the Prime Minister once already at a Conservative Party function last summer, and might reasonably expect to see her again during his official visit. The Embassy is Bonn support the recommendation.

Yours etc

(P Lever)  
Private Secretary

M O'D B Alexander Esq  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON

ALBRECHT, DR ERNST

CDU Minister President of Lower Saxony.

Born 1930. Studied in Tübingen, Cornell and Basle. From 1954-70 held various posts with the European Communities (1961-63 Deputy Leader of the Delegation handling negotiations for British entry, 1967-70 Director General for Competition in the Commission). In 1971 he quit the Commission to go into Land politics in the CDU interest. Unexpectedly nominated as CDU candidate for Minister President in 1975. Elected Minister President in a major upset in February 1976, with the support of two (anonymous) members of the SPD/FDP, who were not, however, prepared to support CDU policies openly.

Throughout 1976 he showed considerable political acumen and tactical skill in handling the difficult situation faced by a minority Government, which was, however, resolved after some shrewd negotiation, by the formation of a CDU/FDP Land coalition at the end of the year. Not only did this ease his task of governing Lower Saxony, but was also an important advance in the CDU's strategy of trying to loosen the ties between the FDP and SPD at the Federal level.

In the Land election in 1978, he led his Party to a victory which gave it, for the first time in Lower Saxony, an absolute majority in the Landtag; the FDP representation disappeared with the collapse of their electoral support. The CDU's success was in no small measure due to Albrecht's personal popularity with the electorate, but at the same time it put paid to the strategy of winning the support of the FDP at federal level.

As Minister President his policies have, on the whole, been moderate, though in some fields (eg law and order, the role of the family) he takes a very conservative line. He enjoys the valuable political asset of a refreshing youthful appearance, with an engaging smile. A possible candidate for the CDU leadership in the long term, but a certain inflexibility and narrowness of outlook are inhibiting factors.

A great family man, with a wife who was a University lecturer, and six children. Excellent English.

9.15 - 9.30  
Tuesday 8 July Mob.

PRELIMINARY DRAFT PROGRAMME: VISIT BY DR ALBRECHT,  
7 - 10 JULY

MONDAY 7 JULY

09.30 Programme Discussion  
12.00 Visit the Houses of Parliament  
13.00 Lunch with MPs from Government, Labour and Liberal Parties  
14.30 Question Time, House of Commons  
15.30 Department of Environment. Discussions on (a) Policy Aspects (if that is what Dr Albrecht wants) of nuclear waste disposal. (b) Development Areas, the strategy governing their designation.  
Evening Free

TUESDAY 8 JULY

10.00 IBA: Its function and powers  
12.30 Call on Secretary of State  
13.15 Lunch given by Secretary of State  
16.30 Discussions at Labour Party Headquarters  
Evening Available for theatre visit

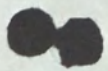
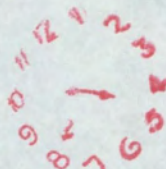
WEDNESDAY 9 JULY

Morning Travel to Harwell, if technical aspects of nuclear waste disposal of interest; continue journey west to Wales.  
Afternoon Visit and discuss aspects of regional development (special, intermediate development areas)  
Evening Concert; or visit local Independent TV Company; or dine with local politicians

THURSDAY 10 JULY

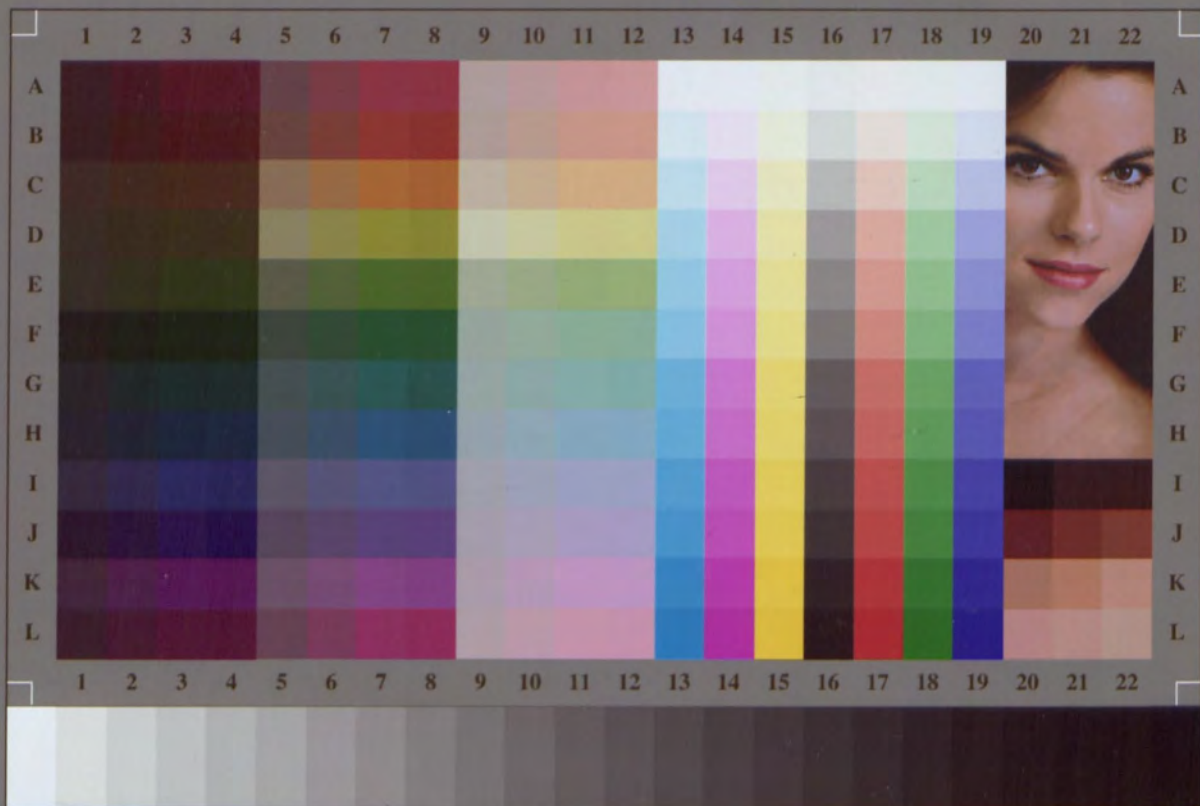
Morning Visit Hill Farming: sheep  
Afternoon Travel to London  
19.50 Leave by flight LH 071 (ETA Munich 22.30)

1980



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