

Mr. Powell, No 10



With the compliments of

THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

This is the English translation
of the German press release on the
Brandt crisis.

[Handwritten signature]

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE
SW1A 2AH

Bonn, 1 November 1990

Press release

At its extraordinary meeting in Rome on 27/28 October the European Council issued a declaration requesting the United Nations Security Council to continue its efforts to obtain the immediate exit of all hostages in Iraq and suggesting to the UN Secretary-General that he send a special representative to Iraq for this purpose.

In a conversation on 31 October with Mr Giulio Andreotti, President of the European Council, Chancellor Helmut Kohl requested that he propose the following three European figures to the UN Secretary-General for such a humanitarian mission for the sake of all foreign citizens detained and abducted in Iraq and Kuwait:

- Mr Willy Brandt, formerly Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany and now Chairman of the Socialist International,
- Mr Emilio Colombo, formerly Italian Prime Minister and now Chairman of the European Union of Christian Democrats,
- Mr Willy de Clercq, formerly Belgian Finance Minister and EC Commissioner and now Chairman of the European Liberal Democrats.

In a telephone conversation with UN Secretary-General Perez de Cuellar, Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher supported this proposal by Prime Minister Andreotti on behalf of Chancellor Kohl.

Contrary to reports circulated, a trip by Mr Willy Brandt without a mandate from the United Nations was not discussed in the telephone conversation between the UN Secretary-General and Foreign Minister Genscher, nor could it have been in view of the subject-matter.

On 31 October Chancellor Kohl phoned Mr Brandt, who is currently in the United States, to inform him of this initiative and asked him to make himself available for such a humanitarian mission as special representative of the UN Secretary-General. Foreign Minister Genscher informed Mr Brandt of his conversation with the UN Secretary-General. Mr Brandt told Chancellor Kohl that he was willing to take part in such a mission and also let the UN Secretary-General know this.

However, Mr Perez de Cuellar did not take up this proposal, stating that he had already named a personal representative in the past.

The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany was informed early today by its Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Mr Hans Otto Brautigam, of the decision by Mr Willy Brandt, Chairman of the Socialist International, to travel to Baghdad even without a mandate from the UN Secretary-General or from the Federal Government, either on his own or together with the two other European figures.

The further line of action will be discussed in the next few days by the relevant persons in the European party organizations.

The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany abides by the European Council's resolution that isolated actions should be avoided. It considers a mission by leading European figures on their own responsibility to be the most suitable means in the current situation of bringing home to the Iraqi leadership the international community's demand for the immediate release of the hostages of all nationalities.