



OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

April 9, 1974

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PLACE: Capitol Office
TIME: 2:00 p.m.
DATE: April 8, 1974

SUBJECT: Meeting with Eight Members of German Bundestag
Headed by the President, Mrs. Annemarie Renger

PARTICIPANTS: The Vice President
Congressman Wayne Hays of Ohio
Mr. Marsh
Mr. Mote

Mrs. Annemarie Renger
Members of German Bundestag



Mrs. Renger made a greeting and introduced members of the delegation who were accompanied by Congressman Hays of Ohio.

The Vice President pointed out he was elected to Congress with Wayne Hays and was the first "instant" Vice President. Hays pointed out he was the first Vice President under the 25th Amendment.

The Vice President stressed the need for US/German/Western European unity to withstand pressures--both external and internal.

It was pointed out that this unity and common interest must be both economic and military.

The Vice President cited experiences on the Appropriations Committee in the field of defense and foreign aid. He mentioned the current visit of the President as well as Senator Kennedy to Europe.

The Vice President called for questions.

Mrs. Renger cited a general question and view about achieving the most for our dollars and the need for an attitude of trust and friendship. She pointed out the first round of discussions on US/European problems would be held today which was mentioned by the President in Paris. This is a good first step.

The visitor seated in the Vice President's chair said he had pointed out to Senator Stennis the high cost of new weapons systems and can't we bilaterally work out some means to improve and cooperate on R&D to hold down rising costs.

The Vice President responded that he agreed, but those in R&D, such as scientists, are reluctant to share their effort. He also pointed out that the USSR has a monopoly in R&D insofar as the bloc countries are concerned.

The gentleman on Mrs. Renger's left said it is difficult to regulate relations between democracies. He expressed the hope that offset agreement would be well received.

The Vice President pointed out there was a tough problem coming up in the U.S. in reference to unilateral withdrawal which he opposes, but there are Democrats and Republicans who advocate this.

The same gentleman pointed out there are two elements that should be recognized in this situation:

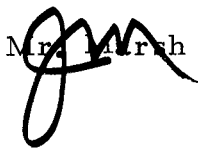
1. The BOP is now better for the U.S.
2. U.S. exports to Europe are up.

The Vice President agreed and said that unfortunately some MC's don't tie this type of development to our having troops in Europe.

Hays also mentioned that this was an election year, and there followed a dialogue between Hays and the Vice President on the House vote last year on troop withdrawal.

A member of the visiting delegation cited the need for institutionalizing a dialogue between the US and Europe--a comment which the Vice President appeared to endorse.

It should be noted that at the beginning of the meeting a large German press delegation was permitted into the office for the purpose of taking photographs, but after five minutes all members of the press were asked to leave the room. The Vice President expressly inquired whether the meeting was limited to the official party, and he was assured by members of the visiting delegation that this was the case.

Prepared by:  Mr. Murth



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

April 8, 1974

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~MEMORANDUM FOR MR. JOHN O. MARSH
OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENTSUBJECT: German Bundestag President's Appointment
with the Vice President

The Vice President has agreed to receive the President of the German Bundestag (Parliament), Mrs. Annemarie Renger, at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, April 8, in his Ceremonial Office at the Senate. Mrs. Renger is in the United States in the period April 4-12 at the invitation of House Speaker Carl Albert, accompanied by a seven-member Parliamentary delegation. Biographic information on Mrs. Renger and the delegation is attached.

Accompanying Mrs. Renger and the delegation to the meeting with the Vice President will be the German Ambassador to the United States, Berndt von Staden; Charles A. Kiselyak from the American Embassy Bonn and William L. Swing of the Department's Office of Central European Affairs. As Mrs. Renger has limited English, a Department staff interpreter, Mrs. Gisela Marcuse and the German Foreign Office chief interpreter, Heinz Weber, will also be present. In addition to her meetings with you and round-table sessions with interested Congressmen, Mrs. Renger will see Secretaries Kissinger and Schlesinger, UN Secretary General Waldheim and IBRD President Robert McNamara. A schedule of her appointments is attached.

Background

Mrs. Renger's presence in Washington has developed largely as a result of a visit in Germany last year by Congressman Wayne Hays and a Congressional delegation. She is the first woman Bundestag President, and this is the first visit to the United States by an incumbent Bundestag President. Mrs. Renger views the visit as a unique opportunity to further

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relations between her country and the United States as well as between our respective Legislatures.

As President of the 496-member German Bundestag, Mrs. Renger is the third ranking official of the Federal Republic of Germany. A member of Chancellor Brandt's ruling Social Democratic Party since her youth, Mrs. Renger represents the views of the more conservative wing of that party. The Social Democratic Party has been in power since October 1969, and Mrs. Renger was elected to her present position in December 1972.

Mrs. Renger has been an active international traveler since becoming Bundestag President. She has headed a small delegation this past winter to Moscow and Romania and plans to visit Warsaw this June.

Mrs. Renger has a special interest in Berlin where she grew up and whose future concerns her closely. She wants to insure that the city can develop its ties with the FRG.

Although Mrs. Renger sees her appointment with you essentially as one of courtesy, and is therefore not likely to go into detail on any particular issue, she may ask for your assessment of recent Soviet threats to Berlin's access routes. She may also note that Chancellor Brandt recently asked her not to schedule a Bundestag Presidium meeting in Berlin and may ask how the United States views such meetings. Talking points on these matters are attached.

Courtesy Points with Mrs. Renger

--Mrs. Renger's call will afford the Vice President an opportunity to stress the continuing importance of close American/German relations and of the Atlantic Alliance.

--It will also be useful for the Vice President to express appreciation to Mrs. Renger for her strong public support of current United States force levels in the Federal Republic. In doing so, the Vice President will wish to reassure Mrs. Renger that this Administration remains committed to the maintenance and improvement of United States forces in Europe, but wishes our Allies to make similar efforts with respect to burdensharing and force improvements.


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--The Vice President may wish to indicate to Mrs. Renger any plans he might have for a future trip to Europe.


for George S. Springsteen
Executive Secretary

Attachments:

1. Biographics: Renger, Ehrenberg, Hoecherl, Katzer, Ronneburger, Schmidt, von Weizsaecker, Wischnewski
2. Schedule of Appointments
3. Talking Points

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BOX NUMBER 65

FOLDER TITLE April 8, 1974 - Eight Members of the
West German Bundestag

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SCHEDULE OF APPOINTMENTS FOR MRS. ANNEMARIE RENGER
GERMAN BUNDESTAG PRESIDENT
APRIL 4-12, 1974

Thursday, April 4

1:30 p.m. Arrival Page Terminal, Dulles International Airport--Accommodation: Watergate Hotel

Friday, April 5

6:00 p.m. Reception for resident German community by German Ambassador Berndt von Staden

Saturday, April 6

Excursion to Monticello and Charlottesville

Sunday, April 7

Sightseeing at Mount Vernon and in Washington and visit museums and art galleries

Monday, April 8

9:30 a.m. Welcome by the Chairman of the House Administration Committee, Congressman Wayne Hays, in the Committee Office, Room H-326, The Capitol

10:00 a.m. Welcome by House Speaker Carl Albert in the Speaker's Chambers, Room H-209

10:30 a.m. First substantive meeting with Congressmen in Room H-326

12:30 p.m. Speaker's luncheon for Mrs. Renger and her delegation in the Speaker's Dining Room

2:00 p.m. Call on Vice President Gerald Ford at his Ceremonial Office in the Senate, Room S-212

3:00 - 4:00 p.m. Briefing on the organization and responsibilities of the Office of Technology Assessment by its Director, Emilio Q. Daddario, in Committee Room H-328

6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Reception given by German Ambassador Berndt von Staden at his residence, 1900 Foxhall Road, Northwest



Tuesday, April 9

- 9:15 - 10:30 a.m. Demonstration on the computer and information system of the House of Representatives by Director Frank Ryan, Room 2401, Rayburn House Office Building
- 11:00 a.m. Second substantive meeting with Congressmen in Room H-326
- 12:30 p.m. Luncheon by Senate Foreign Relations Committee in honor of Mrs. Renger and delegation (Host: Senator John Sparkman, Acting Chairman)
- 2:15 - 2:45 p.m. Visit floor of Senate; Visit Diplomatic Gallery of the House of Representatives
- 6:30 p.m. Buffet reception for Mrs. Renger by Congressman Hays as Chairman of the House of Representatives delegation to the NATO Assembly in the Office of the House Administration Committee (Room H-328)

Wednesday, April 10

- 10:00 a.m. Call on Secretary of the Army, Howard H. Callaway
- 10:30 a.m. Call on Secretary of Defense, James R. Schlesinger
- 12:30 p.m. Call on the Deputy Secretary of State, Kenneth Rush
- 1:00 p.m. Luncheon by the Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, Department of State
- 3:30 p.m. Call on Robert McNamara, President of International Bank for Reconstruction and Development

Thursday, April 11

- 12:30 p.m. Luncheon with German and American journalists in the Terrace Room, Watergate Hotel
- 3:00 p.m. Departure for New York

Friday, April 12

Appointments with UN Secretary General
Kurt Waldheim and others; tour of UN;
possible reception by German Consul
General

Departure for Germany

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Berlin

Your Talking Points

--We remain conscious of our responsibilities for Berlin's security and continue to attribute high policy priority to Berlin matters.

--We have told the Soviets on numerous occasions that we view the Federal Environmental Agency (FEA) as fully compatible with the Berlin Quadripartite Agreement (QA).

--We share with the FRG the view that Berlin's ties with the FRG must be preserved and developed. We will do all we can to make this possible.

--It is essential that there be the closest possible consultation and coordination among the four Western allies in connection with all future FRG initiatives on Berlin. Once a joint decision then has been reached, the Allies must stand firmly together and present a unified front both domestically and to the Soviets.

--Concerning future meetings of the Bundestag Presidium in Berlin, we would want to have a full opportunity to study each case in the Bonn Group before deciding whether a specific meeting is legally permissible under the QA.

Background

In the two years since its signature, the QA has worked extremely well, making possible many improvements in the lives of Berliners. The Soviets however have probed increasingly for weaknesses in the Agreement and recently have threatened "countermeasures" if a new West German office--a Federal Environmental Agency--is established in the city. Probably to emphasize their intent, some minor interference with traffic on the Berlin access routes has taken place. We consider establishment of the new office permissible under the QA, which provides for the "maintenance and development" of ties between the FRG and Berlin. We have told the Soviets both here and in Moscow that any interference with Berlin access would be a violation of the QA and that everyone would lose--most of all the Soviets--by a breakdown of the Berlin Agreement and eruption of new tensions in and around Berlin.



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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5

NSC Memo, 11/24/98, State Dept. Guidelines
By la/4m, NARA, Date 10/27/00