

**The original documents are located in Box 122, folder “Germany, Federal Republic of” of the Ron Nessen Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

### **Copyright Notice**

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Ron Nessen donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

10/10/74

SCHMIDT VISIT ANNOUNCEMENT

Q: Has Chancellor Schmidt met with President Ford before?

A: Not in the sense of an official visit or scheduled meeting, no.

This will be their first meeting. I'd have to check to see if they have ever had occasion to meet informally.

Q: When did Schmidt become Chancellor?

A: Chancellor Schmidt became Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany in mid-May 1974.

(He was FRG Minister of Finance from 1972-1974 and FRG Minister of Defense from 1969-1972. His party is the Social Democratic Party; it is in coalition with the Free Democratic Party headed by FRG Foreign Minister Genscher).

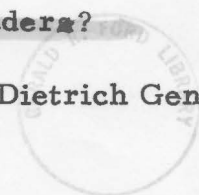
Q: When did Schmidt last visit the United States?

A: He was here in February 1974 for the Washington Energy Conference.

(He met with former President Nixon at the NATO Heads of Government meeting in Brussels on June 26, 1974, and he met with Secretary of State Kissinger in the FRG in July 1974).

Q: Didn't the President just meet with one of the FRG leaders?

A: President Ford met with FRG Foreign Minister Hans Dietrich Genscher on September 26, 1974 at the White House.



Q: Is there a special reason for the visit?

A: From the outset of this Administration, the President has maintained the policy of having close and continuing consultations with our friends and allies in Western Europe. This meeting with Chancellor Schmidt is part of that very important process.

Q: Will the subject of U.S. troops in Germany come up?

A: I have nothing more specific than the text of the announcement with regard to the issues that the two leaders will discuss.

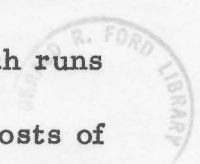
Q: What is the level of U.S. troops in the FRG?

A: I believe the current figure is on the order of 200,000. I don't have the precise figure for you.

Q: Will the President be seeking more German financial support to help with the costs of these troops?

A: Again, I have nothing more specific with regard to the agenda for the meeting. (As the result of negotiations successfully concluded earlier this year there is a US-FRG Offset Agreement which runs through mid-1975, under which the FRG help to offset the costs of U.S. troops in the FRG).

*About \$2 Byn over 2-4 year period*



March 27, 1975

ITEMS TO BE ANNOUNCED OR VOLUNTEERED

Willy Brandt, Chairman of the Social Democratic Party in the Federal Republic of **Germany**, met with the President this morning at 11:00 a. m.

Mr. Brandt is visiting the United States from March 24-29, and he has speaking appearances scheduled at Vanderbilt University and the American Council on Germany in New York City.

The President is looking forward to discussing with Brandt a number of issues including the Middle East, the world energy, food and raw materials situation and political developments in Europe's ~~and the nation.~~

-----

Q. When did Brandt resign as FRG Chancellor?

A. I believe he left that post in May, 1974.

Q. When was he last here?

A. His last visit as Chancellor to the United States was in September, 1973.

Q. Who else will he be seeing in Washington?

A. This is the only appointment that I am aware of, reminding you, of course, that this is a private visit.

September 8, 1975

GERMAN OFFSET AGREEMENT:

Evans and Novak

Q. Evans and Novak write today that Chancellor Schmidt has yet to answer a letter from President Ford requesting a renewal of the expired "offset" agreement under which the FRG helps defray the cost of U. S. troops in Germany.

Did the President send such a letter four months ago, and are we pressuring the Germans for a response?

A. There have been and continue to be contacts between the U. S. and the Federal Republic of Germany on a variety of issues, *including "offset," some at a high* ~~As befitting close friends and allies, some contacts~~ *level.* ~~have been at the highest levels.~~

In keeping with our normal practice, however, we will neither confirm nor deny the existence or contents of Presidential correspondence.

SCHMIDT MEETING WITH PRESIDENT FORD

The President will meet at noon today with His Excellency Helmut Schmidt, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany. Chancellor Schmidt is in the United States to address the United Nations General Assembly, and he and the President wanted to take this opportunity for a meeting to discuss matters of mutual interest. Likely subjects include the international economic situation, including Common Market policy, NATO matters, and other bilateral issues. The President will host a working luncheon for Chancellor Schmidt following the meeting. We will provide a read-out for you of the meeting.

Q. What is the President's reaction to Chancellor Schmidt's criticisms of what he calls "restrictive" U. S. economic policy? And what about his comments on the impact of New York City's financial crisis on the international economic situation?

A. As I said, the President and the Chancellor will be discussing a wide range of subjects and the international economic situation is likely to be among those discussed. Until we get a read-out of their meeting, I'd prefer not to speculate on what specifically might come up or what may be said.

FYI:

Schmidt's remarks on New York City and the Franklin National Bank appear to have been made in the context of how internal national economic issues of major western countries can affect the international economic situation in a more general sense. Binder in the NYT quotes Schmidt as saying that (New York's problems were) very much of interest for the economic psychology of the economic world.

- 1/6/75
6. The New York Times reports this morning that the German government is very uneasy about Secretary Kissinger's comments about ~~a potential war with the oil producers~~. Has the U. S. taken up this issue with our allies or other countries to allay their concerns?

GUIDANCE: You should check with the State Department ~~to see~~ <sup>about</sup> if there ~~has been~~ any contact with other countries on this matter.

I have nothing more to add from here to what we have said on that subject.



Office of the White House Press Secretary

*HAK*

THE WHITE HOUSE

*Trudeau?*

STATEMENT BY THE PRESS SECRETARY

The Heads of State or Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States will meet on November 15, 16, 17, 1975, in France to discuss economic issues of mutual interest, including promotion of recovery in the world economy, trade and monetary policy, developments in energy and other raw material markets; and relations with other developed and developing nations. This meeting will permit an informal and intensive exchange of views on common problems, possibilities for resolving them, and opportunities to enhance constructive cooperation.

The six leaders recognize the importance their economies have to one another and to the rest of the world. They believe that they have a responsibility to consult with one another on achieving stable growth for their own countries and, in cooperation with other nations, greater global prosperity and improvements in the working of the international economy. It is in this spirit that they will convene for these discussions.

*our expectations  
is conditions of our assumption that  
~~that~~ Canadian also  
will attend.*

Q: Is this the monetary summit which Giscard originally proposed, and won't this simply mean that all the old arguments about fixed vs flexible exchange rates will be carried on at the summit?

A: This meeting is, as the announcement clearly states, for the purpose of a discussion of broad economic issues. Monetary issues will obviously come up but they will be only a part of the agenda. We do not expect to conduct old arguments but to explore broad approaches and we are pleased to note from the preparatory talks that this is also the attitude of all the other participants.

Q: In that case, will the summit find a solution to the exchange rate problem?

A: It will be discussed and we hope that impetus will be given to the monetary discussions taking place in other forums.

Q: Why did George Shultz handle the preparations and will he continue in that capacity?

A: The decision at Helsinki when the President discussed the possibility of a summit with Giscard, Wilson and Schmidt, was that it might be best if each leader appointed an individual who could represent him personally. That is why the President selected Shultz, whom he respects greatly. He hopes Mr. Shultz will continue to participate in preparations. But of course now that it has actually been agreed to proceed with the summit, all the agencies involved will also participate.

## WHITE HOUSE PRESS GUIDANCE

President's Meeting with Helmut Kohl  
May 4, 1976

---

The President is meeting this afternoon with Dr. Helmut Kohl, Minister-President of the West German state of Rhineland-Palatinate.

Dr. Kohl is in the United States in his capacity as leader of the Christian Democratic Union/Christian Socialist Union coalition and will be meeting with senior US officials and Congressional Committees during his visit. The President wished to take this occasion to invite Dr. Kohl to the White House to become better acquainted and to have an exchange of views on international issues of interest to the United States and the Federal Republic of Germany.

\* \* \* \*

Q: Isn't Kohl leader of the opposition and running for Chancellor in this year's elections? When are elections in West Germany and who is Kohl's opponent?

A: West German federal elections will be held on October 3, 1976. Dr. Kohl and the CDU/CSU coalition are running against Chancellor Schmidt and the governing coalition of the Chancellor's Social Democratic Party and Foreign Minister Genscher's Free Democratic Party.

Q: What are Kohl's chances in the election?

A: I wouldn't have any assessment to give you. Perhaps your colleagues of the German press can give you a reading on that.

Q: Isn't it rather strange for the President to meet with the opposition leader?

A: To the contrary, there is considerable precedent for the meeting. It is fully in keeping with previous calls at the White House by leaders of the German opposition -- most recently Rainer Barzel in 1972 and 1973.

(FYI: Just as there is precedent for the President's meeting with leaders of the U.K. opposition.)

Q: Have the President and Kohl met before?

A: Yes, Dr. Kohl called on Vice President Ford in February 1974.

Q: Who else is Kohl to meet with?

A: I do not have Dr. Kohl's schedule but I believe he will be meeting, among others, with Secretaries Simon and Rumsfeld, and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. He was the guest of Governor Shapp of Pennsylvania yesterday and participated in a Bicentennial event in Philadelphia.

Q: Why has Kohl come to the US? Was it at the President's invitation?

A: Dr. Kohl has come to the United States at his own initiative.

Q: Can you tell us more about this morning's meeting?

A: The meeting was cordial and informal in tone. There was no set agenda. The President and Dr. Kohl discussing matters relating to the Atlantic Alliance, the Middle East and international economic developments.

Q: Has the President any plans to meet with Chancellor Schmidt in the near future?

A: As we announced on April 13, Chancellor Schmidt will be paying an official visit to the United States on July 15-16.

July 2, 1976

MEETING WITH GEORG LEBER,  
MINISTER OF DEFENSE  
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

VOLUNTEER:

The President will be meeting shortly (Noon) with His Excellency Georg Leber (LABOR), Minister of Defense of the Federal Republic of Germany. Secretary Rumsfeld and Brent Scowcroft will also attend the meeting. I do not have an agenda for you, but I expect that they will discuss bilateral and NATO defense issues, and the means for continuing consultation and cooperation.

FYI: Do not "take" questions on specific military issues, especially on the German Leopard tank. Specific bilateral and multi-lateral program issues should be referred to the Pentagon.

CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT VISIT

As you know the President is now meeting with Chancellor Helmut Schmidt of West Germany, their eighth meeting within the past two years. Chancellor Schmidt is here following meetings with the President and other heads of State two weeks ago in Puerto Rico for the Economic Summit.

He and the President will continue important substantive consultations on political, economic and security issues especially as they relate to matters of importance to the Atlantic Alliance. I expect that they will also discuss Germany's participation in the U.S. Bicentennial celebration. We will have a full readout of the meeting following its conclusion at approximately 12:30 p.m.

\* \* \* \*

Q: When was Chancellor Schmidt last here?

A: The Chancellor last paid an official visit here in December, 1974. In October, 1975 the Chancellor was in the United States on a private visit and the President took the occasion to invite him to the White House for a meeting and luncheon. (President Ford visited Bonn in 1975, the two leaders met at the 1975 NATO summit, Helsinki summit, Rambouillet and Puerto Rico.)

Q: Wasn't Schmidt here a year ago in June?

A: You are thinking of the State Visit of FRG President Scheel in June 1975.

Q: What is the purpose of the Chancellor's visit?

A: To participate in observance of the Bicentennial and to hold discussions with the President.

Q: Since both men are in tight election races this year, doesn't this visit have important domestic political overtones for each?

A: As I indicated earlier, this is the eighth meeting between the President and the Chancellor. Both regard these frequent meetings and detailed discussions as important to developing the cooperative policies and programs required to meet the economic, political and security challenges confronting the Atlantic Community. These international challenges and responsibilities do not abate during an election year; neither can the joint efforts of Western governments to meet them.

Q: Is this meeting necessary so soon after their talks in Puerto Rico?

A: As those of you who were in Puerto Rico know, the participants at the summit spent many hours together discussing international economic issues. The opportunity for bilateral talks was quite limited and, as in the past, the President and the Chancellor have a very full agenda of issues. Additionally, as I said before, the Chancellor also has come to the United States to participate in our Bicentennial observance.

Q: Where is Schmidt going to visit besides Washington?

A: The Department of State or the German Embassy can give you more complete information, but I believe he will also visit Baltimore, Philadelphia and San Francisco.



July 16, 1976

PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT

This morning the President and Chancellor Schmidt are having their second of two meetings in the Oval Office. The meeting began at 11:00 am, and is expected to last an hour or so. In addition to continuing their conversations of yesterday, the President is discussing with Chancellor Schmidt some recent economic developments and projections for the U. S. economy. We will have a read-out of the meeting for you this afternoon immediately after the lunch lid.

Q. Will the President bring up the FRG-Brazilian Nuclear Cooperation Agreement? What about international terrorism?

A. I do not have a specific agenda to give you, but we will provide a read-out for you following the meeting.

## US/FRG Offset Arrangements

Q: It was recently reported that the President and Chancellor Schmidt had agreed to terminate the US/FRG offset arrangement under which the Federal Republic of Germany for the last 14 years has compensated the US for the cost of stationing US troops in Europe. Does this reflect any lessening in European support for a US troop presence or an unwillingness to bear their fair share of the common defense?

A: On Saturday, July 17, the President and the Chancellor issued a joint statement on US/FRG security interests which was elaborated on in a press conference at the State Department. I believe this fully addressed the offset question and the generally excellent status of our security relationship.

Q: Let's be specific. I've read the statement. Isn't offset dead?

A: One of the main points made by the Chancellor during his visit to the US was the strong support among our allies for the continued US presence in Europe. As evidence of this support, the Chancellor during his visit agreed to make a significant contribution to the cost of relocating a US combat brigade into the northern area of the Federal Republic. This support is just one example of the close cooperation in security matters that has characterized our relationship with the Federal Republic over the past several years. In addition, the Federal Republic has continued to maintain its own defense forces in a state of readiness equal to the tasks facing our common alliance.

As for the old offset arrangements, they arose at a time when the US was seriously concerned about the consequences for its balance of payments of the US troop presence in Europe. With the changes recently introduced in the international monetary area, the improved strength of the dollar, and a more acceptable US balance of payments position, this is no longer a major US concern. Rather, it is by supporting the brigade relocation and other measures that have a real impact on the security situation in Europe that the Federal Republic can make its most significant contribution to the common defense.

STOESSEL APPOINTMENT TO BONN

Q: Why is Ambassador Stoessel being moved to Bonn?

A: This is a routine diplomatic reassignment. Ambassador Stoessel has served over two years in Moscow and is one of our most senior and experienced diplomats. The President believes that he is the best man for our important Embassy in Bonn at this time.

Q: What will happen to Ambassador Hillenbrand?

A: He is retiring from the Foreign Service.

Q: Is this move related to Ambassador Stoessel's health problem and particularly any health problem associated with the radiation on the Moscow Embassy?

A: Not at all. It is a routine reassignment.

Q: What is the state of Ambassador Stoessel<sup>'s</sup> health? Doesn't he have some problem with anemia?

A: You should check with the State Department for any comment on the status of Ambassador Stoessel's health. Obviously, the President sees no impediment to the Ambassador serving in Bonn, an important and active Embassy.

PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH FRG FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER

Tuesday, September 28, 1976

White House Press Guidance

-----

The President met this afternoon with Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher of the Federal Republic of Germany. Minister Genscher was accompanied by Mr. Heinz Weber of the FRG Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ambassador Berndt von Staden. <sup>SECRETARY KISSINGER AND</sup> Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, also participated in the meeting.

Today's meeting, following on the President's meeting with Chancellor Helmut Schmidt in July 1976, permitted a very cordial and far-ranging exchange of views on a number of issues of importance to the United States and the Federal Republic of Germany. Minister Genscher is in the United States for the current session of the UN General Assembly, and the President welcomed Minister Genscher's proposal -- given in his speech to the General Assembly today -- for a Convention Concerning International Measures Against the Taking of Hostages. The President stated that the United States would give the proposed convention our strong support.

The President and the Foreign Minister discussed developments in Southern Africa. They welcomed the diplomatic progress of the past week and agreed that the way is now open for an African solution to an African problem, free of outside intervention.

The President and the Foreign Minister also devoted time today to reviewing US-FRG and NATO Alliance issues of current interest. They agreed that US-FRG relations are excellent.

\* \* \* \*

Q: Both are running for re-election; did they discuss domestic politics?

A: Today's meeting focussed on the topics I have just mentioned.

Q: What about the US-FRG tank competition; did Genscher have anything to say about Congressional opposition to Secretary Rumsfeld's present course of action?

A: The President and the Foreign Minister discussed and welcomed progress being realized in the field of NATO standardization; they agreed on the importance of this program; and they also agreed that the matter of interoperability and commonality of components -- for example, in the case of the next generation of NATO battle tanks -- is of importance.

Q: Did Genscher raise the Lockheed scandal in the FRG?

A: There was no mention of Lockheed in today's meeting.

Q: When are the German elections, and did the President tell Genscher he has his support?

A: The FRG elections <sup>are</sup> /on October 3. These elections, of course, are an internal matter for the people of the Federal Republic of Germany.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH  
FRG FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER

(Announcement to be made at September 27 press  
briefing, or to be used in confirming meeting if  
earlier announcement made from Bonn)

---

---

The President will meet with Hans-Dietrich Genscher, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany on September 28, 1976 at 2:00 p.m. Minister Genscher will be coming to Washington from New York where he is attending the current session of the U. N. General Assembly.

You may recall that the President and the Foreign Minister had a similar meeting in 1974. They are looking forward to reviewing issues of current interest to the United States and the Federal Republic of Germany.

\* \* \* \* \*

Q: Can you be more specific on the agenda?

A: As in past meetings, there is no set agenda. I would anticipate that they will discuss such matters as US-European and NATO developments, any bilateral developments of note, East-West issues and other international developments such as the evolving situation in Africa.

Q: What is Genscher's political position in addition to his Foreign Minister's role?

A: He is Chairman of the Free Democratic Party (FDP) which forms the current coalition with Chancellor Schmidt's Social Democratic Party (SPD).

Q: When is the German election?

A: October 3, 1976.

Q: When did they last meet?

A: On the occasion of Chancellor Schmidt's visit in July 1976.

*For use on an if asked  
basis  
LOR Newsroom Press Office  
Schuetz*

VISIT OF WEST BERLIN GOVERNING MAYOR KLAUS SCHUETZ

Q: The German press is carrying reports that West Berlin Mayor Schuetz will meet with the President on November 21. Can you confirm the story?

A: Yes. The President has invited Berlin Governing Mayor Klaus Schuetz to meet with him at the White House on Friday, November 21.

Q: Why is Schuetz in the United States?

A: Mayor Schuetz arrives in the U. S. on November 15 to visit Los Angeles, Berlin's sister city, and to attend a performance in Washington of the Deutsche Oper, which is presenting several guest performances at the Kennedy Center as part of Berlin's contribution to the U. S. Bicentennial celebrations. Taking advantage of the opportunity presented by the Mayor's visit to the United States and to Washington, the President invited him to call at the White House.

Q: Is this Schuetz' first visit with the President?

A: Yes, I believe so. He was last in the U. S. in 1974 when he met with President Nixon.