

CDU

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GW/CDB

26th October, 1979

### Note for the Prime Minister for her visit to Dr. Kohl, CDU

- 1) The 1976 Election: The CDU/CSU, with a vote of 48.6%, achieved the second best result in its history. Only in the Adenaur election of 1957 was the vote higher (50.2%). Dr. Kohl was candidate for Chancellor. In the upper house, the Bundesrat, the CDU/CSU has the majority.
- 2) The rumblings of discontent within the CDU were increased by a relatively poor showing in the provincial elections of March 1979.
- 3) Commentators interpreted the fact that Dr. Kohl received only 617 out of 740 votes for his leadership in March 1979 at the Party Conference as a blow.
- 4) Dr. Kohl recommended Ernst Albrecht as the party's candidate for Chancellor and this was endorsed by the CDU national executive in May 1979. In July Josef Strauss was finally nominated, polling 135 votes compared to Albrecht's 102.
- 5) Herr Strauss is generally regarded as a hard liner on relations with the Soviet Union and on the issue of unification.
- 6) The UK Conservatives in the European Parliament are allied with the CDU in the centre-right group which is an ad hoc group registered with the Parliament. The CDU are very much in favour of the emergence of a federal Europe and of extending the powers of the European Parliament.
- 7) It appears that inflation (with a possible 5.5% inflation rate in the last few months of this year) and nuclear energy will be two of the main issues in the campaign.