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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

22 January 1982

Dear John,

Visit of Dr Kohl to the UK, 24 - 27 January

/ I attach speaking notes for the Prime Minister's use at the luncheon she is giving in honour of Dr Helmut Kohl, the CDU leader, on Monday, 25 January.

Briefing is being assembled separately and will reach you before the weekend.

Yours ever
Roderic Lyne

FR (F N Richards)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

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Handwritten notes:
 CDU/CSU
 Speaking for
 [Signature]

DRAFT SPEAKING NOTES FOR THE PRIME MINISTER'S USE AT LUNCHEON
 ON 25 JANUARY IN HONOUR OF DR HELMUT KOHL

1. Welcome Dr Kohl on first official visit to London since Conservative Government took office. Last working visit was in 1976, when I was Leader of the Opposition. Recall with pleasure meeting at CDU Party Conference in Hanover in 1976 and at lovely castle of Klessheim in 1978 for the founding meeting of the European Democratic Union.
2. Political circumstances in recent years have meant more meetings with SPD/FDP than CDU/DSU politicians! But we have not forgotten historic achievement of CDU, under Konrad Adenauer and Ludwig Erhard, in rebuilding West Germany's prosperity after war, and fixing her commitment to twin pillars of NATO and European Community. Proud that UK contributes to defence of Europe on German soil and is partner in the ambitious enterprise of forming a European entity.
3. Dr Kohl has led CDU during difficult period for all Western European countries. Praise for Dr Kohl in enhancing CDU's position.
4. Our talks today against background of tragic events in Poland. Agreed that free countries of West must do everything possible to help bring about end of martial law, freeing of detainees and resumption of political dialogue. Germany's central role and perspective in East/West affairs gives her views special weight.
5. Vital for future of Western Europe to nourish Anglo-German friendship. Existing links too numerous to catalogue or even for governments to know about. Cut across party lines. Dr Kohl's visit has forged one more link. Look forward to further opportunities to meet.

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KOHL, DR HELMUT

Chairman of the CDU and leader of the joint CDU/CSU Parliamentary Party. Chancellor-candidate of the CDU/CSU in 1976.

Born 1930 in Ludwigshafen, son of a minor official. Studied law and history at Frankfurt and Heidelberg. Joined the CDU at age 17, and became a member of its Land Executive at 25. Member of the Land Parliament 1959, and Chairman of CDU Parliamentary group there from 1963. Member of the CDU Federal Executive since 1966. Chairman of the CDU in Rheinland-Pfalz 1966-73. Minister-President of Rheinland-Pfalz 1969-76. Chairman of the CDU since 1973 and of the CDU/CSU Parliamentary Party since 1976.

As Minister-President was active in modernising the Land Administration, expanding higher education and promoting industrialisation. (In 1971 Landtag elections the CDU put up its best performance ever, gaining an absolute majority of seats.) He played a large part in the early 70's in planning a new policy for the CDU, but noticeably failed to stand up for certain aspects of this when they came under fire at the 1971 CDU Federal Party Conference. This contributed to his defeat by Dr Barzel in the elections that year for the CDU Party Chairmanship. But after careful groundwork in the party, cultivating the younger generation and the centre, he was the only candidate for the Chairmanship at the Special Party Conference in June 1973, after Dr Barzel's resignation. He was re-elected Party Chairman of the CDU's Party Conference in June 1975, by an unprecedentedly large majority. After a period of intense political manoeuvring, he finally achieved his goal of nomination as Chancellor-candidate of the CDU/CSU for the 1976 elections in June 1975. But the grudging terms in which Strauss and the CSU gave him their support undermined his authority as opposition leader. Nonetheless he ran a skilful and energetic election campaign in 1976, and came close to unseating Schmidt and the SPD/FDP coalition. Subsequently he decided to move to Bonn to lead the CDU/CSU Parliamentary Party. In the course of 1979 it became clear that Kohl did not have sufficient support to lead the Union into the 1980 Federal Election. He stood down, leaving Albrecht and Strauss as the two contenders for the job of Chancellor-candidate. Following the choice of Strauss, Kohl fell in loyally behind the CSU leader and ran an energetic and effective campaign. He let it be known however that he was not interested in Cabinet office in the event of a CDU/CSU victory. Following Strauss' defeat Kohl has re-emerged with enhanced prestige as the strongest figure in the Union camp, having as he does a foot in both the party machine and the parliamentary party. On present form he must be favourite to run for Chancellor-candidate in 1984. He is still only 50.

A big man physically, energetic and ambitious, who has risen through hard work rather than natural ability. His speeches are rather tedious; his style has however considerably improved in the past year or two. Visited the UK in 1976.

Catholic, married to a Protestant: 2 sons. Speaks some French but no English. His wife, who studied in Paris, speaks both French and English.