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FOLLOWING IS A REVIEW OF GERMAN MEDIA OF AUGUST 20, 1987  
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I. LEAD STORIES

A. SUMMARY

LEAD STORIES IN THE WEST GERMAN PRESS, THURSDAY, AUGUST 20: SPECULATIONS ABOUT HESS'S SUICIDE; GERMAN FORMAL PROTEST AGAINST BELGIAN FREEWAY TOLLS; AND THE CONTINUING CDU/CSU POLICY DEBATE.

B. HEADLINES

1. RUDOLF HESS

"HESS UNDOUBTEDLY COMMITTED SUICIDE" (RHEINISCHE POST)

"HESS LEFT A NOTE" (FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU)

2. FREEWAY TOLLS

"BONN THREATENS BELGIUM WITH FREEWAY TOLLS"

(GENERAL-ANZEIGER)

"WARNKE ANNOUNCES MEASURES OF 'SELF-DEFENSE' AGAINST FREEWAY TOLLS" (DIE WELT)

3. CDU/CSU POLICY DEBATE

"NEW ATTACKS ON RITA SUESSMUTH AND NORBERT BLUEM - NO END IN SIGHT TO THE COALITION CONTROVERSY" (KOELNER STADT-ANZEIGER)

"THE COALITION DISPUTE OVER HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES IS INTENSIFYING" (BONNER RUNDSCHAU)

C. TEXT

1. RUDOLF HESS

A. PRO-CDU RHEINISCHE POST OF DUESSELDORF (NEWS REPORT): "IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE AUTOPSY CONDUCTED ON  
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RUDOLF HESS'S BODY, ALL INDICATIONS ARE THAT THE FORMER HITLER DEPUTY COMMITTED SUICIDE. THE LONDON CORONER ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY THAT HESS HAD DIED FROM ASPHYXIATION. A NOTE FOUND ON HESS CLEARLY INDICATED THAT HE HAD DELIBERATED TAKING HIS OWN LIFE. BEFORE THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE AUTOPSY RESULTS, HESS'S SON WOLF RUEDIGER DECLARED THAT THE NOTE DID NOT ELIMINATE HIS DOUBTS ABOUT HIS FATHER'S SUICIDE....

"SECURITY MEASURES FOR ALLIED INSTALLATIONS WERE INCREASED YESTERDAY BECAUSE THE OFFICE OF THE CONSTITUTION SEES A DANGER OF NEO-NAZI ATTACKS...."

"ACCORDING TO ALFRED SEIDL, FORMER BAVARIAN INTERIOR MINISTER AND HESS'S LAWYER AT THE NUEREMBERG TRIALS, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE THAT HESS TOOK HIS OWN LIFE IN THE WAY

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DESCRIBED BY THE ALLIES. SEIDL SAID: 'IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR SOMEONE TO KILL HIMSELF WITH AN ELECTRICAL CORD THAT IS NOT FASTENED AT BOTH ENDS.' ACCORDING TO SEIDL, THIS GIVE RISE TO SUSPICIONS THAT 'SOMEBODY HELPED MATTERS ALONG.'..."

B. LEFT-OF-CENTER FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU (NEWS REPORT): "HESS'S SON WOLF RUEDIGER SAID THAT THE YET UNPUBLISHED NOTE MAINLY DEALT WITH MATTERS OF A PRIVATE NATURE. ACCORDING TO RUEDIGER, THE NOTE DOES NOT NECESSARILY SERVE AS PROOF THAT HESS ACTUALLY COMMITTED SUICIDE. HOWEVER, RUEDIGER ALSO SAID THAT 'WE MUST ASSUME THAT MY FATHER WAS DRUGGED AND THEREFORE DID NOT KNOW WHAT HE WAS DOING.'..."

2. FREEWAY TOLLS

A. INDEPENDENT GENERAL-ANZEIGER OF BONN (NEWS REPORT): "IF THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT'S RESOLUTION TO INTRODUCE A FREEWAY TOLL FOR FOREIGNERS GOES INTO EFFECT, THE BONN GOVERNMENT WILL RETALIATE BY ASKING BELGIAN CAR DRIVERS TO PAY A FREEWAY TOLL IN GERMANY AS WELL. THIS STEP WAS DECIDED IN A RESOLUTION PASSED BY THE BONN CABINET YESTERDAY. HOWEVER, IN COOPERATION WITH OTHER COUNTRIES TO BE EFFECTED BY THIS MEASURE THE BONN GOVERNMENT FIRST WANTS TO TAKE EVERY POSSIBLE STEP TO INDUCE THE BELGIANS TO TAKE BACK THEIR RESOLUTION...."

"ACCORDING TO DIETER SCHULTE, UNDERSECRETARY IN THE TRANSPORT MINISTRY, THE BONN GOVERNMENT WANTS TO CALL ON THE EC COUNCIL FIRST TO RAISE THE ISSUE DURING THE NEXT EC COUNCIL SESSION. BONN ALSO WANTS TO ASK THE EC COMMISSION TO CHECK WHETHER THE BELGIAN RESOLUTION CORRESPONDS TO EC LAW AND WHETHER IT IS POSSIBLE TO PROHIBIT THE BELGIANS FROM INTRODUCING THE TOLL. IF THESE STEPS DO NOT YIELD ANY SUCCESS, THE BONN GOVERNMENT WILL EXAMINE THE POSSIBILITIES OF ADDITIONAL GERMAN MEASURES. ACCORDING TO SCHULTE, A TOLL WOULD THEN BE IMPOSED ON BELGIAN DRIVERS WHEN TRAVELING ON GERMAN FREEWAYS...."

CONSERVATIVE DIE WELT OF BONN (NEWS REPORT): "IN AN INTERVIEW TRANSPORT MINISTER JUERGEN WARNKE TOLD DIE WELT THAT THE INTENDED BELGIAN MEASURE CONSTITUTES AN UNPRECEDENTED VIOLATION OF EC RULES. WARNKE SAID: 'AS A RESULT WE WILL MOBILIZE WIDE RESISTANCE AGAINST THIS MEASURE. WE ARE HOPING THAT THIS LEGAL PROVISION WILL BE KILLED BEFORE THE MEASURE CAN GO INTO EFFECT.' WARNKE ALSO SPOKE OF 'LEGAL SELF-DEFENSE AGAINST ANY SUCH DISCRIMINATORY MEASURE.'..."

3. CDU/CSU POLICY DEBATE

A. INDEPENDENT KOELNER STADT-ANZEIGER (NEWS REPORT): "THERE IS NO END IN SIGHT TO THE CONTINUING COALITION CONTROVERSY. IN A LETTER CSU SECRETARY GENERAL  
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GEROLD TANDLER ACCUSED MINISTER OF HEALTH RITA SUESSMUTH OF HAVING HEIGHTENED THE CONTROVERSY AND OF HAVING 'EMBARRASSED' THE CHANCELLOR. THE CSU PARTY NEWSPAPER BAYERKURIER CALLED ON LABOR MINISTER BLUEM ALSO TO DENOUNCE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN GDR PRISONS DURING ERICH HONECKER'S UPCOMING VISIT TO BONN. IN HIS LETTER TANDLER ALSO WROTE THAT SUESSMUTH HAD ACCUSED FRANZ-JOSEF STRAUSS ON THE BASIS OF WRONG ALLEGATIONS BY CLAIMING THAT STRAUSS HAD MERELY DESCRIBED THE TORTURE OF THE 14 CHILEANS AS NOT BEING 'GENTLEMAN-LIKE TREATMENT.'....

"IN THE LATEST ISSUE OF THE BAYERNKURIER, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF WINFRIED SCHARNAGEL WROTE THAT IT WOULD BE ONLY FAIR THAT LABOR MINISTER NORBERT BLUEMS APPLIES THE SAME YARDSTICK DURING HONECKER'S UPCOMING VISIT AS DURING HIS TRIP TO CHILE.... ONCE AGAIN THE CSU DECLARED THAT NORBERT BLUEM HAD CHOSEN THE WRONG PEOPLE WHEN MAKING HIS STAND FOR HUMAN RIGHTS BY ACCUSING THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT OF ATROCIOUS CRIMES. ACCORDING TO THE CSU, PEOPLE ARE ARRESTED IN THE GDR FOR ACTIVITIES NOT EVEN PROHIBITED BY THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT IN ITS OWN COUNTRY. IN THIS CONTEXT THE BAYERNKURIER CITED FIVE CONCRETE CASES OF ALLEGED TORTURE IN THE GDR AND PRAISED FRANZ-JOSEF STRAUSS'S 'QUIET' ENGAGEMENT WHICH HAD LED TO THE RELEASE OF MANY GDR PRISONERS...."

B. PRO-CDU BONNER RUNDSCHAU (NEWS REPORT): "IN A LETTER TO THE NEWSPAPER DIE WELT, CDU DEPUTY ALFONS MUELLER APPEALED TO THE CDU/CSU TO REFRAIN FROM BECOMING A 'POOL OF CONSERVATIVES FOREVER HOLDING ON TO THE PAST.' ACCORDING TO MUELLER, IT IS NOT APPROPRIATE TO PASS A SWEEPING JUDGEMENT ON THE 14 CHILEANS SIMPLY BECAUSE THEY ARE MEMBERS OF THE UNDERGROUND ORGANIZATION MIR. MUELLER SAID THAT IT IS A WELL-KNOWN FACT THAT MIR DOES NOT CONSIST ONLY OF EXTREMISTS BUT THAT IT HAS A NON-VIOLENT WING AS WELL...."CONTENTS:

II. OTHER NEWS AND COMMENTARY

A. RUDOLF HESS (CONT'D)

A. INDEPENDENT/LIBERAL SUEDEDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG OF MUNICH (EDITORIAL BY JOSEF JOFFE): "RUDOLF HESS'S DEATH RAISES A GENERAL QUESTION: HOW STRONG AND POWERFUL ARE THOSE WHO CAN BE DESCRIBED IN MODERN TERMS AS 'DIE-HARD REACTIONARIES' OR 'UNTEACHABLES'?... AMONG OTHER FIGURES ON RIGHT-WING EXTREMISTS, STATISTICS PROVE THAT THE NATIONALIST PARTY OF GERMANY (NPD) GOT ONLY 0.6 PERCENT OF THE VOTE DURING THE LAST BUNDESTAG ELECTIONS IN 1986.

"THESE FIGURES DISCLOSE A POLITICAL MIRACLE, WHICH HAS WRONGLY BEEN PUT INTO THE SHADE BY THE 'ECONOMIC MIRACLE.' WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT IN 1945 THAT THE GERMANS, HAVING SPOILT THEIR FIRST DEMOCRATIC EXPERIMENT, WOULD HAVE DEVELOPED INTO A MODEL COUNTRY IN THEIR SECOND EXPERIMENT A GENERATION LATER. MAYBE THE BONN REPUBLIC SIMPLY WAS IN LUCK: INSTEAD OF REPARATIONS (LIKE THE ONES IN 1919) IT HAD THE MARSHALL PLAN AFTER 1947; INSTEAD OF VERSAILLES IT HAD NATO AND THE EC WHICH OFFERED THE GERMANS SECURITY, EXPORT MARKTS AND LEGITIMITY...."

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"TODAY THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IS FOUR TIMES AS HIGH AS IT WAS AT THOSE TIMES. MAYBE IT IS THE PERFECTLY ORGANIZED WELFARE STATE WHICH TAKES THE EDGES OFF THE WHEELS OF DIE-HARD REACTIONARIES. BUT MAYBE THE WELL-ORGANIZED LIFE OF GERMANS IS THE REASON FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEO-NAZI PHENOMENONS....

"BUT IT IS TO BE HOPED THAT THERE IS NOT THE FERTILE BREEDING GROUND WHICH CAN HELP THE GROWTH OF A MOVEMENT  
END OF MESSAGE UNCLASSIFIED

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SUBJECT: GERMAN MEDIA REACTION REPORT

WHERE THE FUEHRER CAN BECOME A CRIMINAL. RUDOLF HESS HAS NEVER FELT SORRY ABOUT HIS CRIMES. THE SAME IS TRUE FOR HIS FOLLOWERS. MAYBE IT IS A RIGHT TO THE SECOND REPUBLIC THAT ITS HEIRS REMAIN THERE WHERE THEY ARE IN STATISTICS - A TINY MINORITY."

B. CONSERVATIVE FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE (EDITORIAL BY FRIEDRICH KARL FROMME): "THE VICTORIOUS POWERS HAVE NOT ONLY ACTED NOT VERY HUMANE, BUT ALSO NOT VERY WISE IN RUDOLF HESS'S CASE. WAS IT NOT POSSIBLE FOR THE WESTERN POWERS...TO DISTANCE THEMSELVES FROM THE SOVIET UNION IN THIS COMPARABLY HARMLESS CASE OF RUDOLF HESS AND RELEASE HIM FROM PRISON?.... APART FROM THAT, THERE IS THIS STRANGE BRITISH HESITANCE CONCERNING THE PUBLICATION OF THE HESS FILES AFTER HE FLEW TO ENGLAND IN 1941. WOULD IT BE A SHAME IF THE FILES CONTAINED A PEACE OFFER BY HESS BEING REGARDED AS NOT SUFFICIENT ACCORDING TO BRITON'S AND CHURCHILL'S STANDARDS? SO FAR, FORTUNATELY, HESS'S DEATH IS CONSIDERED TO BE THE DEATH OF A PITIFUL OLD MAN WHOSE LIFE EMBRACES HISTORICAL MEMORIES. BUT THE WESTERN POWERS HAVE DONE LITTLE THAT THIS WILL REMAIN SO."

C. LEFT-OF-CENTER FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU (EDITORIAL BY RODERICH REIFENRATH): "THOSE PEOPLE WILL USE THE SOVIET REJECTION TO RELEASE HESS AS EVIDENCE FOR THE INHUMANITY OF A COMMUNIST SYSTEM. PARTLY OPENLY AND PARTLY COVERTLY THE MORAL JUDGEMENT ON THIS ATTITUDE WILL BE USED TO OFFSET NAZI ATROCITIES. IT WOULD, HOWEVER, BE GRAVE IF ONCE AGAIN EMBARRASSING DISCUSSIONS DEVELOPED DISTRACTING ATTENTION FROM CRIMES GERMANS COMMITTED DURING THE TIMES OF THE 'THIRD EMPIRE.' THE PAST WILL ALWAYS BE THE CENTER OF CONTROVERSIES. ONE REASON IS THAT IT HAS NOT REALLY BEEN DIGESTED. IN SOME RESPECT IT IS TRUE THAT HESS HAD TO PAY DEARLY FOR ALL OTHER WAR CRIMINALS...BUT HE IS NOT THE RIGHT MAN FOR THE CREATION OF MYTHS GIVEN THE MILLIONS OF SOVIET PEOPLE KILLED IN WW II. HE IS NEITHER THE RIGHT PERSON TO PROVE THAT THE SOVIET UNION DISREGARDS HUMAN RIGHTS. THERE IS OTHER CLEARER EVIDENCE...."

D. INDEPENDENT/LIBERAL WEEKLY DIE ZEIT OF HAMBURG (EDITORIAL BY ROBERT LEICHT): "THE DEATH OF THIS

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CRIMINALS WILL NOT BE A RELIEF FOR US, THE HEIRS OF GERMAN SHAME AND DEFEAT. THIS IS PROVED BY THE JUDGEMENT AGAINST **KLAUS BARBIE** AND BY THE DEMYANYUK TRIAL IN JERUSALEM. THE SHADOWS OF HISTORY CERTAINLY BECOME LONGER, BUT THEY WILL HANG OVER OUR HEADS AS LONG AS MANKIND IS ABLE TO SEE."

E. LIBERAL PROTESTANT WEEKLY DEUTSCHES ALLGEMEINES SONNTAGSBLATT OF HAMBURG (EDITORIAL BY MANFRED REXIN): "IF THE WESTERN POWERS ALONE HAD TO DECIDE ON HESS'S FATE THEY WOULD HAVE RELEASED THE OLD MAN SOME TIME AGO. BUT THE SOVIET UNION REMAINED ADAMANT....

"THOSE EVENTS WHICH WERE LAUNCHED IN JUNE OF 1941 COST THE LIVES OF MORE THAN 20 MILLION SOVIET CITIZENS, AND THOSE WHO WONDER WHY THE KREMLIN REACTED STRICTER AND MORE MERCILESS THAN U.S. PRESIDENTS AND BRITISH PRIME MINISTERS SHOULD NOT FORGET THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAD TO SUFFER MORE THAN 30 TIMES AS MANY CASUALTIES AS THE TWO ANGLO-SAXON NATIONS."

B. DISARMAMENT

A. INDEPENDENT/LIBERAL WEEKLY DIE ZEIT OF HAMBURG (EDITORIAL): "WHO CAN BLAME THE RUSSIANS FOR WANTING TO GET THE MOST OUT OF THE BONN GOVERNMENT'S CONFUSION OVER THE DOUBLE ZERO SOLUTION.... NOW MOSCOW IS ACTING AS IF GERMAN STUBBORNNESS IS THE ONLY REMAINING OBSTACLE TO A BREAKTHROUGH IN THE DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATIONS. HOWEVER, END OF MESSAGE UNCLASSIFIED

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WHO CAN REALLY TELL? THE NEGOTIATIONS WILL NOT ENTER THE DECISIVE STAGE UNTIL THE FINAL PROBLEMS WILL BE TACKLED BY U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE SHULTZ AND HIS SOVIET COUNTERPART DURING THEIR SEPTEMBER MEETING. NOT UNTIL THEN WILL WE FIND OUT WHETHER BONN'S 'PERSHINGITIS' WILL ACTUALLY BE ONE OF THE REMAINING OBSTACLES TO BE DEALT WITH AND WHETHER A COMPROMISING WESTERN STANCE ON THIS ISSUE WILL ACTUALLY YIELD THE DESIRED EFFECTS ON THE EASTERN SIDE....

"IN THE END THE GERMAN PERSHINGINGS WILL PROBABLY NOT TURN THE ZERO SOLUTION INTO A FAILURE. THE BONN COALITION WOULD BE WELL-ADVISED TO PREPARE ITSELF FOR THIS DEVELOPMENT."

B. LIBERAL PROTESTANT WEEKLY DEUTSCHES ALLGEMEINES SONNTAGSBLATT OF HAMBURG (EDITORIAL BY KARL-HEINZ HARENBERG): "HOW MUCH DO THE ZERO SOLUTIONS REALLY MEAN IN VIEW OF THE CONTINUING ARMS RACE IN THE SECTOR OF STRATEGIC WEAPONS?... THE SUPERPOWERS TALK ABOUT DISARMMENT BUT THEY ACT WHEN IT COMES TO INCREASING THEIR WEAPON POTENTIALS.

"THE SOVIET UNION AND THE U.S. ARE CURRENTLY

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MODERNIZING THEIR ENTIRE STRATEGIC FORCES AND SOMETIMES IT IS DIFFICULT TO TELL WHERE MODERNIZATION STOPS AND WHERE THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES BEGINS.... REALITY BELIES THEIR DECLARATIONS OF INTENT.... EVER SINCE THEIR SECOND MEETING IN REYJKAVIK, THE U.S. PRESIDENT AND THE SOVIET PARTY LEADER HAVE WANTED TO REDUCE THEIR STRATEGIC WEAPONS BY 50 PERCENT. HOWEVER, IN BOTH COUNTRIES THE CONCEPT FOR ARMS REDUCTIONS IS BASED ON THE PRINCIPLE THAT THE REMAINING 50 PERCENT ARE WEAPONS WITH THE LATEST STATE-OF-THE ART TECHNOLOGY, ALLOWING EITHER SIDE TO GAIN A SLIGHT ADVANTAGE OVER THE COMPETITION. FOR YEARS THE STRUGGLE FOR THIS ALLEGED SLIGHT ADVANTAGE HAS BEEN THE UNDERLYING CAUSE OF THE ARMS BUILD-UP. THIS SITUATION WILL BY NO MEANS BE EFFECTED BY THE DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATIONS.

C. INDEPENDENT/LIBERAL STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG (EDITORIAL): "THE MESSAGE COULD NOT HAVE BEEN ANY CLEARER. THE U.S. PUBLICLY REMINDED THE BONN GOVERNMENT OF THE FACT THAT IT DOES NOT CONSIDER THE DISCUSSION OVER THE PERSHING TO BE VERY HELPFUL....

"IT IS SURPRISING THAT THE U.S. TOOK THIS LONG TO ASK THE BONN GOVERNMENT TO STOP COMING FORWARD WITH ITS CONSTANT ADMONITIONS. THIS ISSUE MAY COME IN HANDY TO SOME COALITION POLITICIANS WHO ARE TRYING TO IMPROVE THEIR POSITIONS WITHIN THE PARTY, BUT IT HAS DETRIMENTAL EFFECTS ON U.S. NEGOTIATORS IN GENEVA.

"WHILE A MUTUALLY SATISFYING AGREEMENT WAS TAKING SHAPE IN GENEVA, DOGMATISTS IN BONN HAD NOTHING BETTER TO DO THAN TO INSTIGATE A PUBLIC DISPUTE. DID THESE DOGMATISTS EVER CONSIDER THAT THEY WERE ONLY FORCING THE AMERICANS INTO MAKING UNCALLED FOR AND DEMAGING PUBLIC STATEMENTS THEREBY LIMITING THEIR SCOPE OF ACTION IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. OR DID DOGMATISTS IN BONN PUBLICLY RAISE THIS ISSUE BECAUSE THEY WERE AFRAID OF THE U.S. MAKING CONCESSIONS THEY WOULD NOT AGREE WITH. IN ANY CASE, THE GERMANS HAVE NOW SUCCEEDED IN ACTUALLY TURNING THE GERMAN PERSHING INTO AN ISSUE AT THE GENEVA NEGOTIATIONS...."

D. PRO-SPD WESTFAELISCHE RUNDSCHAU OF DORTMUND (EDITORIAL BY JUERGEN KELLERMEIER): "NATURALLY THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION MUST EMPHASIZE THE FACT THAT IT WILL STRICTLY ADHERE TO THE JOINT WESTERN POSITION AND THAT IT WILL NOT EXERT ANY PRESSURE ON BONN. EVEN THE HINT OF A SUSPICION THAT THE ALLIES WOULD BE PUT UNDER PRESSURE IN  
END OF MESSAGE UNCLASSIFIED

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USIA

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ORDER TO ACHIEVE THE AGREEMENT WITH THE SOVIETS WOULD GREATLY IMPEDE THE CHANCES FOR A RATIFICATION OF THE TREATY. HOWEVER, BONN WILL NOT BE ABLE TO HIDE BEHIND

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THE AMERICANS. THE GENEVA NEGOTIATIONS HAVE CULMINATED IN THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE BONN GOVERNMENT WILL PREVENT THE SUPERPOWERS' DISARMAMENT AGREEMENT BY INSISTING ON THE PERSHING'S."

C. IRAN-CONTRA AFFAIR

A. INDEPENDENT/LIBERAL WEEKLY DIE ZEIT OF HAMBURG (EDITORIAL BY DIETER BUHL): "THE SCRIPT DOES NOT PROMISE RONALD REAGAN A GLORIOUS PART IN THE FINAL SCENE. THE TIMES WHEN REAGAN WAS ABLE TO ENGAGE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE IN DIRECT SUPPORT OF HIS POLICIES ARE FINALLY OVER. THE BAN HAS BEEN BROKEN BECAUSE MORE AND MORE AMERICANS ARE REALIZING THAT REAGAN'S CLAIMS ARE A FAR CRY FROM REALITY.... REAGAN'S HERITAGE IS STARTING TO BE A BURDEN, AND THE EUPHORIC FEELINGS HE KINDLED ARE NOW TURNING INTO FEELINGS OF SELF-PITY. IN THIS SITUATION THE PRESSURED PRESIDENT IS CONFRONTED WITH A STRONGER CONGRESS. THIS CONSTELLATION WILL PROBABLY BE WELCOMED BY ALL THOSE WHO WOULD HAVE ALWAYS LIKED TO SEE FOREIGN POLICY DETERMINED BY SOMEBODY ELSE THAN REAGAN. HOWEVER, IT IS STILL QUESTIONABLE WHETHER THE ARMY OF SELF-APPOINTED SECURITY EXPERTS ON CAPITOL HILL WILL BE ABLE TO DEMONSTRATE MORE WISDOM IN MATTERS OF WORLD POLITICS.

"U.S. ENGAGEMENT IN THE PERSIAN GULF IS NEITHER BASED ON SUFFICIENT MILITARY LOGISTICS NOR ON A POLITICAL CONCEPT. IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT CONGRESS REMAINS SUSPICIOUS....

"WASHINGTON'S HESITATION IS ALSO CASTING A SHADOW ON PROSPECTS FOR A REDUCTION OF TENSIONS IN CENTRAL AMERICA. THE DELICATE AGREEMENT IN THE CENTRAL AMERICAN REGION REQUIRES QUICK AND DECISIVE ACTION ON BEHALF OF THE AMERICANS. ONLY IF THEY SUPPORT REGIONAL EFFORTS FOR PEACE IN THE AREA WILL PEACE BE RESTORED IN AMERICA'S BACKYARD.

"FURTHERMORE, WASHINGTON DOES NOT HAVE A JOINT POSITION ON THE MOST IMPORTANT FOREIGN POLICY TASK OF FINALLY ACHIEVING A BREAKTHROUGH IN THE DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATIONS. THE PRESIDENT NEEDS A SUCCESS IN ORDER TO GO DOWN IN HISTORY, BUT HE CAN ONLY ACHIEVE THIS WITH THE BACKING FROM CONGRESS. FOR THE TIME BEING IT IS STILL NOT CERTAIN WHETHER THE EXPECTED DISARMAMENT AGREEMENTS WILL FIND APPROVAL IN CONGRESS...."

B. CSU WEEKLY BAYERNKURIER (EDITORIAL BY EMIL MUEHLBERGER): "IT IS MORE IMPORTANT THAT REAGAN CLEARLY EXPRESSED HIS DESIRE TO COOPERATE MORE CLOSELY WITH CONGRESS FROM NOW ON THAN THAT HE ADMITTED TO HAVING MADE MISTAKES IN THE IRAN-CONTRA AFFAIR.... THE PRESIDENT WAS RIGHT IN FOCUSING ON HIS FUTURE POLITICAL TASKS IN HIS TV ADDRESS...."

D. PERSIAN GULF

LIBERAL PROTESTANT WEEKLY DEUTSCHES ALLGEMEINES SONNTAGSBLATT OF HAMBURG (EDITORIAL BY JUERGEN KRAMER): "IN SHORT THIS IS WHAT THE U.S. THINKS OF BONN IN MATTERS

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CONCERNING THE GULF REGION: THE U.S. IS PISSED OFF THAT THE BONN GOVERNMENT ALWAYS POINTS TO THE BASIC LAW WHEN THE U.S. AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS ASK BONN TO SHOULDER A LITTLE BIT OF MILITARY RESPONSIBILITY IN EFFORTS TO BRING PEACE TO THE GULF REGION.

"BUT ANYWAY, THIS BASIC LAW WAS ESTABLISHED IN THE  
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USIA

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FRG AT THE INSTIGATION OF THE U.S. PARTICULARLY WITH REFERENCE TO MILITARY ABSTINENCE. THE ALLIES THUS HAVE TO LIVE WITH THE FACT THAT THE GERMANS WILL ALWAYS RESORT TO BASIC LAW AS THEIR PROTECTIVE SHIELD.... AS OFTEN BEFORE DURING A CRISIS IN THE MIDDLE EAST THE FRG GOVERNMENT ALSO HOPES TO GAIN TIME THIS TIME....

"AFTER THE FRENCH AND BRITISH DECISIONS TO SEND MINESWEEPERS TO THE GULF...THE BONN GOVERNMENT WILL BE PRESSURED BY THE U.S. TO MAKE ITS MILITARY CONTRIBUTION.... THE BONN GOVERNMENT CANNOT HELP BUT SHOW ITS FLAG AS WELL....

"IT IS LIKELY THAT THE FRG GOVERNMENT WILL SEND SOME SHIPS TO THE ATLANTIC TO APPEASE RONALD REAGAN, BUT SUCH A MOVE WILL BE OF NO MILITARY VALUE. BUT IN THIS CASE THE BONN GOVERNMENT COULD ONCE AGAIN SAY THAT IT IS A RELIABLE ALLIANCE PARTNER OF THE U.S. AND THAT IT HAS NOT REJECTED SOLIDARITY IN TIMES OF EMERGENCY. IT IS LIKELY THAT THE BONN GOVERNMENT WOULD BE HAPPY ABOUT SUCH A DEVELOPMENT, FOR APART FROM FRANCE AND BRITAIN, ITALY AND THE NETHERLANDS HAVE SHOWED THEIR REVERENCE TO THE WHITE HOUSE....

"THE DANGER CANNOT BE DENIED THAT THIS COURSE AIMING AT GAINING TIME AND RELIEF AND NOT AT EXCHANGING ARGUMENTS WITH THE U.S. HAS TO BE ABANDONED IN THE NEAR FUTURE. THE BONN GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE TO PAY A HIGHER APPEASEMENT PRICE THAN EXPECTED FOR ITS ABSTENTION IN THE GULF IF THE CONFLICT CONTINUES OR EVEN ESCALATES. THIS POLICY OF TAKING THE EASY WAY OUT COULD HAVE DETRIMENTAL CONSEQUENCES FOR THE FRG...."

E. CENTRAL AMERICAN PEACE PLAN

A. CONSERVATIVE DIE WELT OF BONN (NEWS REPORT WITH COMMENT BY FRITZ WIRTH): "RESISTANCE IS GROWING IN REPUBLICAN RANKS AGAINST THE PEACE PLAN FOR NICARAGUA SIGNED IN GUATEMALA CITY TWO WEEKS AGO.... OVERALL IT SEEMS THAT IN VIEW OF THE PRESSURE FROM REPUBLICAN RANKS THE WHITE HOUSE IS FURTHER DISTANCING ITSELF FROM THIS PLAN WHILE FOCUSING BACK ON THE U.S. INITIATIVE SUBMITTED ONLY A FEW DAYS BEFORE THE GUATEMALA PLAN...."

UNCLASSIFIED

B. PRO-CDU RHEINISCHE POST OF DUESSELDORF (NEWS REPORT WITH COMMENT BY GUENTER DE THIER): "CENTRAL AMERICA WILL BECOME THE TEST DETERMINING WHETHER REAGAN IS STILL ABLE TO ASSERT HIS OWN POLITICAL IDEAS.... REAGAN'S OWN CENTRAL AMERICAN PEACE PLAN WAS ATTACKED BY THE RIGHT-WING AND THE LEFT-WING. THE DELICATE BASIS OF A BI-PARTISAN POLICY IS ALREADY SHAKEN AGAIN WHEN DEMOCRATIC SPOKESMAN OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES EXPRESSES HIS CONCERN THAT FURTHER ARMS SUPPLIES TO THE CONTRAS COULD UNDERMINE THE PEACE PROCESS. IT WILL BE DIFFICULT FOR REAGAN TO PLAY THE ROLE OF PEACEMAKER IN CENTRAL AMERICA...." CATHERMAN  
END OF MESSAGE UNCLASSIFIED  
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