

JR POUCH

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FOREIGN SERVICE INVESTECH

FROM

Ambassy EGM

1913

TO

THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

June 26, 1979

DATE

REF

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	REC'D	OTHER

SUBJECT

Exchange of Letters between Adnaner and Erhard

*JS*  
*affected*  
*16-0*  
*File pls in Erhard*

The Embassy transmits herewith translations of the letters exchanged between Chancellor Adnaner and Vice-Chancellor Erhard on June 22 and June 23. The texts were made public after the CDU faction meeting on June 23, when faction chairman Kross announced that they provided a basis acceptable to all concerned for the settlement of the dispute between Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor.

For the Charge d'Affaires ad Interim

*[Signature]*  
Harry E. Schwartz  
First Secretary of Embassy

Encl: 2/0

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FOL: [unclear]

REPORTER

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Enclosure 1  
Page 2  
Despatch No. 1913  
June 24, 1959  
Ambassy Bonn

I have still today the impression that you do not fully recognize the significance of the situation which has been created in particular by your attitude and your statements, although the unrest which has thereby been brought about in the German and international public should arouse all of us.

When I remarked in my statements before the faction on June 19 that the fate of the CDU/CSU was at stake, I certainly did not want to offend you; but on the basis of the existing state of affairs this is my honest conviction. In the present very tense foreign situation, large groups have gained the erroneous impression that only you could guarantee the necessary continuity of German policy.

In this altercation it is not a question of you or of me, but only of safeguarding the future of the German nation, in order to retain for it a free social order with the help of a Christian-bourgeois majority in alliance with the free world. Without this realization we are well on the road towards seriously endangering this task and this aim.

The great successes of the past have been the result of our internal solidarity. It was this unity, too, which permitted us to hope that we would pass the test before the German people in the year 1961 with a still greater success. What has happened now, however, not only obviously endangers this unity, but reduces the reputation and the confidence which was acquired, after all, not only by you, Mr. Chancellor, but by large groups of the German nation in the world public and, in particular, among our western friends.

I am certainly not interested in offering to the German people the spectacle of an altercation; instead, I most deeply regret the fact that they have been plunged into such unrest. I am also ready, for the benefit of the cause, to push into the background all personal sensibilities; but then I must have the guarantee that I can proceed undisturbed with my work.

After all, I am not only your Minister of Economics but I also bear a responsibility before the faction and the party, and even before the entire German nation. I now feel questioned by my conscience whether I am still in a position to continue on.

For this, it is above all necessary that the sphere of activity which was conferred upon me at the last formation of government will not be narrowed down. If these prerequisites are fulfilled, your statement

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Enclosure 1

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JFK-100-1013  
Jan 24, 1999  
Kennedy Dam

that you attribute greatest value to further heroicous cooperation  
with us will be a new beginning.

With friendly regards,

Yours,

Dr. Edward

3. Maxwell's letter dated June 23:

"Dear Dr. Edward:

From the reply which you gave me today in answer to my  
letter of June 22 I see to my sincere satisfaction how deeply you  
feel linked with the great political objectives towards whose  
realization you have been working together with me for more than  
a decade with so much dedication, and also with such visible success.  
From your reply, I also see with regret, however, how much you feel  
hurt by the much-discussed interview with the "New York Times".

In whatever way the conversation may be judged or interpreted,  
I assure you that an intention to offend people by damaging especially  
your reputation has certainly been far from my mind. In the contrary,  
I am filled with the conviction that the reconstruction of our country,  
its return into the community of the free nations, and the hopeful  
beginnings of European unity are to a large extent due to your  
dedicated efforts and to the power of conviction of your words.

We therefore need your energy for work which has so frequently  
stood the test, and particularly in the postwar years when there  
seemed to be no way out of the difficulties, so that we can surfer  
the crises which still lie ahead of us in the future. These difficulties  
which will certainly not be easier or less important, and they therefore  
imperatively demand a cooperation which is harmonious and trusting  
and sure of its aim.

For this reason I am very much interested in a thorough settlement  
of the differences that have come up between us, and I definitely would  
not wish to be satisfied with a merely superficial and formal bridging  
over of the difficulties.

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Dagstuhl Dc. 1913  
June 24, 1959  
Washington Room

I would like to give you the assurance that as a politician and as a man you can be sure of my full confidence and that I gratefully recognize the great services which you have rendered by your political activities in their entirety and especially in the special fields of your sphere of competence, in particular those of economic policy and of European economic integration.

Your work in these fields, in which so much still remains to be done, must remain assured, also for the future, within the framework of the competence conferred upon you at the time of the formation of the government. I would not want to do without your advice, and I am looking forward to the continuation, or, possibly, resumption of our excellent and trusting cooperation.

With friendly regards,

Konrad

Konrad Adenauer

Stenografische  
Lehranstalt/Bonn

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