

AID 5/3.

Miss McKessack

**BRIEFING FOR SECRETARY OF STATE'S VISIT TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY
28-30 APRIL**

I attach briefing for Secretary of State's visit to the Federal Republic of Germany to look at primary health care and associated health matters with an emphasis on inner city problems. Please note that the briefing includes a Confidential background note from the FCO on the political situation in the FRG. I recommend this note should not be taken with you. (Annex J).

DOMESTIC ARRANGEMENTS

2. Secretary of State and his party will stay at the British Ambassador's Residence in Bonn for the whole period of the visit. You will be met on arrival at Cologne/Bonn airport by Mr Alan Hatfull, Labour Counsellor at the British Embassy, Herr Fritze Schutte, a senior administrator at the Federal Ministry of Labour and an interpreter.

PROGRAMME

3. The programme for the visit is at Annex A. Please note that, although the main subjects of the visit fall more or less equally within the fields of competence of the two Federal Ministries responsible for health (Youth Family and Health and the Ministry of Labour), the Ministry of Labour has taken the lead in organising the programme.

4. The main points to note in the programme are as follows:-

(i) The visit will concentrate on looking at health care and related facilities in Cologne and Dortmund (it has not been possible to fit Frankfurt into the programme.) COLOGNE has a population of one million and is Germany's fourth largest city after Berlin, Munich and Hamburg. Its centre and much of the suburbs had to be virtually rebuilt after the war and, by modern standards, much of the housing is unsatisfactory. There is quite a large immigrant population - mainly Turkish with numbers of Southern European and Asians - and the social problems are typical of other major German conurbations. The local unemployment rate is 14.9% (national average is 9.8%).

DORTMUND is Germany's eighth largest city and is situated on the eastern end of the Ruhr conurbation. Unemployment is 17.4% and the problems are broadly similar to those of Cologne. The decline in industry has led to a small but significant shift in the working population away from the area.

(ii) The final day of the visit will include talks with the Parliamentary Secretary of State, WOLFGANG VOGT* at the Ministry of Labour, and officials of his Department and of the Federal Ministry of Youth, Family and Health. Discussions will cover general health issues, unemployment and health, health service costs, AIDS. For background briefing on these topics please see notes at Annexes C-H. There will also be a visit to a general practitioner's surgery in BONN.

* Deputy to the Federal Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, Dr BLUEM. Neither he, nor the Minister for Youth, Family and Health is available at the time of the visit, but Secretary of State will meet the latter (Professor Rita Suessmuth) during the World Health Assembly.

PRESS COVERAGE

5. Both Cologne and Dortmund will be issuing short press notices about the visit and press representatives are expected to be present for part of the time spent in these two cities. We understand that Secretary of State may be asked for comments on issues outside his health/social security remit.

HOSPITALITY

6. The two main social occasions are a dinner hosted by the British Ambassador on the first evening of the visit and a farewell luncheon on Wednesday 30 April given by Herr VOGT. It would be appropriate for Secretary of State to say a few words on both these occasions and suggested points (and a list of known guests) are at Annex I; The Oberburgermeister (Mayor) of Dortmund is giving a luncheon on Tuesday 29 April and it may also be appropriate to say a few words of thanks.

7. We have confirmed that Herr Wolfgang VOGT (deputy Labour Minister) will not be giving Secretary of State a gift. It would be appropriate, however, to hand over gifts to the Burgermeister in Cologne, the Oberburgermeister in Dortmund and possibly to one or two of the other people you meet (eg the general practitioner in Bonn).

HEALTH CARE IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

8. Background notes on the health system in the FRG are at Annexes C(i) and C(ii). Most of the public expenditure on health is financed through a system of social insurance run by a large number of insurance funds who compete for clients. Specialist medical care outside hospital is well developed, with open-access, there being only limited out-patient facilities in hospitals. Most doctors outside hospital practice within the State insurance system and are paid on a fee-for-service basis. There are Land and Federal Organisations of doctors who negotiate fees with the insurance funds and have legal responsibility for ensuring that the insured members of the sickness funds have access to primary care.

9. Responsibility for the health service is split between the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, covering the Social Insurance system, hospital costs and medical technology, and the Ministry of Family, Youth and Health which has a general concern with health matters, including public health and research. Executive powers lie with the 11 Lander, who have responsibility for planning of services. Locally owned hospitals are supervised by local authorities (Gemeinden). Ownership of hospitals is fairly evenly divided between the voluntary and public sector.

10. In 1982 the FRG spent 8.2% of its Gross Domestic Product on health care (UK figure was 5.9%) - 6.6% in the public sector and 1.6% in the private sector. In the first half of the 1970s health expenditure grew much more rapidly than GDP. Since 1976 the Federal Government has increasingly intervened in what had started out as free market negotiations between the insurance funds and the providers of services. Further information on cost control measures is contained in Annex C(ii).

GRO-C

Mrs J Mixer
IR(H)A

D313 AFH Ext

GRO-C

cc
CMO *
Dr Harris
Mr Rayner
Miss Blunt - IR(SS)
Mr Shaw*
Mr White - B2
Mr Lupton
Dr Hyzler
Miss Dennehey
Mr Just, FB2B
Mrs Gorvin - AIDS Unit ✓
Mr Lloyd - FA1
Mr Price - ID
Mr Staniforth

* = full briefing