

HAK

SCOWCROFT

L. L.

AT U.S. ATTITUDE TO BONN
OVER M.E. WAR. FEELING
WOULD BE MADE CLEAR
IN DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS

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RNR39

MIDEAST -- GERMANY

BONN, OCT. 28, REUTER -- WEST GERMAN OFFICIALS TODAY EXPRESSED "EXASPERATION" AT THE UNITED STATES ATTITUDE TO BONN OVER THE MIDDLE EAST WAR AND SAID THIS FEELING WOULD BE MADE CLEAR IN DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS.

THE OFFICIALS, WHO DECLINED TO BE NAMED, WERE COMMENTING ON CRITICISM FROM WASHINGTON THAT AMERICAS NATO ALLIES HAD NOT BEEN AS HELPFUL AS THEY MIGHT HAVE BEEN IN SUPPORTING PRESIDENT NIXONS STANCE ON THE MIDDLE EAST WAR.

THE AMERICAN CRITICISM FOLLOWED A WEST GERMAN BAN ON U.S. ARMS SHIPMENTS TO ISRAEL FROM WEST GERMAN SOIL -- MADE AFTER ISRAELI VESSELS LOADED ARMS IN BREMERHAVEN HARBOR.

INFORMED WEST GERMAN SOURCES SAID THE LOADING WAS CARRIED OUT WITHOUT BONNS CONSENT AND TOOK PLACE AFTER THE AMERICANS HAD ASSURED THE BONN GOVERNMENT THAT ARMS SHIPMENTS HAD BEEN HALTED.

THE OFFICIALS SAID TODAY BONN WAS "EXASPERATED" AT THE LACK OF INFORMATION ABOUT THESE SHIPMENTS, AT NOT BEING INFORMED IN ADVANCE OF PRESIDENT NIXONS DECISION TO PUT HIS TROOPS ON WORLDWIDE ALERT AND AT AN ALLEGED LACK OF INFORMATION ABOUT SUPERPOWER EFFORTS TO SECURE A CEASEFIRE.

MORE GR/HG 1132

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RNR40

MIDEAST -- GERMANY 2 BONN

TODAYS COMMENTS FOLLOWED STRONGLY-WORDED STATEMENT LAST THURSDAY WHICH MADE CLEAR THAT BONN REGARDED THE U.S. ARMS SHIPMENTS AS VIOLATING WEST GERMANY'S ATTEMPTS TO REMAIN NEUTRAL IN THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT.

OFFICIALS HERE LATER SOUGHT TO DAMPEN THE EFFECTS OF THE STATEMENT -- WHICH SURPRISED OBSERVERS HERE IN VIEW OF WEST GERMANY'S FREQUENT PROTESTATIONS OF CLOSE FRIENDSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES.

TODAY, THE OFFICIALS SAID THEIR GOVERNMENT FELT THE AMERICANS HAD GIVEN ROUGHSHOD OVER WEST GERMAN FEELINGS BY CONTINUING THE ARMS SHIPMENTS. U.S. AMBASSADOR MARTIN HILLENBRAND HAD ASSURED BONN BEFOREHAND THAT AN AIRLIFT OF ARMS TO ISRAEL VIA GERMANY HAD STOPPED.

NIXON SAID LAST WEEK THAT EUROPE WOULD HAVE "FROZEN" WITHOUT AMERICAN EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT A CEASEFIRE. BUT THE WEST GERMAN OFFICIALS DISCLOSED TODAY THAT THE AIRLIFT HAD PUT BONN UNDER STRONG PRESSURE FROM THE ARABS.

"WE WERE ON THE BRINK OF BEING LEFT OUT IN THE COLD," ONE OFFICIAL SAID. HE EXPLAINED BONNS BELIEF THAT OIL SUPPLIES FOR WEST GERMAN INDUSTRY COULD ONLY BE SAFEGUARDED THROUGH NEUTRALITY AND NOT BY HER.

REUTER A GR/HG 1141