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REF POLTO 1570. Signed BURGESS.

Mr Wolf/POL *w*

~~Mr Holtz/DCM *w*~~

SUBJ: Informal German views re new Infrastructure Cost-Sharing Agreements

it
CWS

During informal luncheon conversation on 18 February between USRO officers most directly concerned with infrastructure matters and their German opposite number, latter volunteered following comments re German willingness contribute as much as 25% of total infrastructure bill for next 3 years cost sharing agreement:

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Lt. Col. USA
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contributions. **German Government might** accept as much as a 10-11% increase over its present infrastructure cost share of some 14% provided Germany given greater voice in determination of infrastructure policy, e.g., full membership on Standing Group insofar as infrastructure is concerned. Believes that such a concession would be required in order please Bundestag and German public opinion, unless other leading European nations also willing increase their pro-rata contribution to program. German voice in SGW on infra matters might be unacceptable to French and Italians, or even British, but something along these lines would be necessary to justify such an increase in German eyes. At present Germans already feel discriminated against in NATO and giving Germany voice in Standing Group on such an important program would mollify to some extent this general resentment.

USRO officers non-committal re above.

Our German informant very concerned lest above be traced to him, since he says he is unsure of extent to which his superiors here or in Bonn share his views. We tend believe, however, that there may well be some substance to his theory.

Regrading data cannot be determined.

BURGESS

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