

Gene McAuliffe

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Ambassador Krapf called me Thursday, April 18, concerning Offset. He said he talked to Luns and Luns is very unhappy that he didn't know about anything that was going on in the bilateral offset. Krapf called Bonn and suggested to them that they allow him to give some of the figures at the Tuesday lunch, emphasizing that it is not official because of the U. S. and the Congressional situation.

He said what do you think about that? I said I didn't think it was a good idea. I said I didn't see any problem in briefing Luns fully, but I thought giving it to the Permreps would start them roaring down the track of working on numbers. Krapf said the problem is that there are already reports out of Washington that are leaking to the German press that contain a lot of the details. He said the problem is that it will all be in the newspapers, and as a result of the Congressional briefings and the leaks, well before anything is given to the NATO people. This has happened before and it is not a good idea. I said, well maybe you are right. He said, why don't you go into Washington and see if you can get authority for Washington to tell the U.S. Embassy in Bonn and Bonn to tell the Foreign Office that it is okay for Krapf to go ahead and brief the Permreps, just giving them the overall amount and a few sentences about it--not the full story, but at least enough so that it solves this problem.

Let's get a cable out.

DR

