

CN 150

CS - 2ND ADD BRANDT SEES (CN-141) XXX UP

HERR HELMUT SCHMIDT, PARLIAMENTARY FLOOR LEADER OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY, SAID ON TELEVISION TONIGHT THAT UNITED STATES TROOP REDUCTIONS IN EUROPE, "BASHFULLY CALLED ROTATION," SHOULD BE STOPPED.

HERR SCHMIDT SAID: "I THINK IT A GREAT MISTAKE, AFTER THE LESSONS OF THIS SUMMER, FOR THE UNITED STATES TO CONTINUE ITS REDUCTION OF FORCES IN EUROPE....

"THIS DECISION WAS TAKEN PREMATURELY, AND AT A TIME WHEN A TOO OPTIMISTIC VIEW WAS HELD. THE ROTATION SHOULD BE STOPPED.

HERR SCHMIDT SAID IN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS THAT IT WOULD BE POLITICALLY WRONG TO REINFORCE U.S. TROOPS IN EUROPE NOW, BUT HE SAID THAT FEATURES OF NATO ORGANISATION AND PLANS HAD TO BE RECONSIDERED.

ASB/AH/L 2310/68 SEPT 1 +