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LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

31 January 1990

GERMAN REUNIFICATION

The Foreign Secretary reported this evening to the Prime Minister on his visit to Washington and his discussions with the President and Secretary Baker on German reunification and its implications. He had put it to the Americans that there were problems in four areas: how a united Germany would fit into NATO, the relationship of the former GDR to the European Community, the CSCE aspect and borders, and Four-Power rights. All these would require complex negotiations and there must be adequate time for them. The Americans had welcomed the idea of consultations with the United Kingdom on these points, but had insisted that they must be restricted to a very small circle of people in Washington. This was bound to be a constraint.

The Prime Minister commented that we appeared to have taken our thinking further than the Americans. We should prepare some papers for discussion with them. She thought it would be helpful if she herself were to send a message to the President, which would provide a framework of ideas for handling all these issues. There was much material in the record of the discussion at Chequers on 27 January. The Foreign Secretary agreed that this would be useful. He would put work in hand. It might be better to delay despatch of a message until after his own visit to Germany next week.

I am copying this letter to Simon Webb (Ministry of Defence).

CHARLES POWELL

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