

CONFIDENTIAL  
FM BONN  
TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELNO 1184  
OF 041651Z DECEMBER 89  
INFO IMMEDIATE BMG BERLIN, EAST BERLIN  
INFO PRIORITY WASHINGTON, PARIS, UKDEL NATO

POSSIBLE VISIT BY KOHL TO EAST BERLIN

SUMMARY

1. INDICATION THAT KOHL WILL HOLD TALKS WITH THE GDR IN EAST BERLIN ON 19 DECEMBER. REQUEST FOR INSTRUCTIONS.

DETAIL

2. DURING THE DITCHLEY CONFERENCE ON 2/3 DECEMBER DUISBERG (UNDER SECRETARY COVERING THE GERMAN QUESTION IN THE FEDERAL CHANCELLERY) TOLD ME THAT KOHL FIRMLY INTENDED THAT HIS TALKS IN THE GDR SHOULD BE ON 19 DECEMBER. DUISBERG INDICATED THAT THE TALKS, CONTRARY TO EARLIER INDICATIONS, MIGHT WELL TAKE PLACE IN EAST BERLIN.

3. WE ARE ENDEAVOURING TO DISCOVER HOW FIRM THE INTENTION TO MEET IN EAST BERLIN IS. IT WOULD BE THE FIRST VISIT THERE BY A FEDERAL CHANCELLOR. IT WOULD ENHANCE THE GDR'S CLAIM THAT EAST BERLIN IS ITS CAPITAL. YET IF KOHL IS SET ON VISITING EAST BERLIN, THE ALLIES WILL BE HARD PUT TO IT TO DISSUADE HIM. HE CAN ARGUE INTER ALIA THAT, IF MITTERRAND CAN VISIT EAST BERLIN ON 10-22 DECEMBER, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO REFUSE TO HOLD THE MEETING ON 19 DECEMBER THERE (RATHER THAN IN THE GDR ELSEWHERE).

4. WHEN AN EAST BERLIN VISIT BY KOHL PREVIOUSLY SEEMED LIKELY (LATE 1987), THE ALLIES CONSIDERED THAT THEY SHOULD NOT OBJECT ON BERLIN STATUS GROUNDS, BUT SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON ENSURING THAT THE MODALITIES WERE CONSISTENT WITH THE ALLIED VIEW OF STATUS (EG NO GDR MILITARY BANDS) AND THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CONSULTED THE ALLIES FULLY IN ADVANCE. I RECOMMEND THAT THE UK SHOULD ADOPT THE SAME LINE ON THIS OCCASION, AND SHOULD NOT TAKE A TOUGHER LINE THAN THE US AND THE FRENCH.

5. SINCE WRITING TODAY TO RATFORD ABOUT THE FRG'S FAILURE TO CONSULT US ABOUT KOHL'S TEN POINTS, I HAVE SECURED THE READY AGREEMENT OF THE US AND FRENCH AMBASSADORS TO OUR SAYING CLEARLY TO THE FEDERAL CHANCELLERY THAT THE THREE ALLIES HOPE TO BE CONSULTED BEFORE KOHL'S

VISIT TO THE GDR. THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR (IN THE CHAIR) WILL PUT THIS TO THE FEDERAL CHANCELLERY.

MALLABY

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13

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