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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

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Dear Charles,

R. P. ...

CD 107iii

East/West Relations *Pro*

In the light of contacts during the North Atlantic Council meeting, it is possible to take further some of the points in my letter of 12 December about developments in Central and Eastern Europe.

Since Shevardnadze will be seeing the Prime Minister on 19 December, we see no immediate need for a further message to Gorbachev. The possibility could be kept in reserve.

Nor does further contact with President Mitterrand seem essential before his visit to the GDR on 20 December. Recent contacts, including the Foreign Secretary's discussion with M. Dumas during the NAC, confirm that we have very similar approaches towards the German question. But a telephone call to him after Mr Shevardnadze's visit might be useful.

My earlier letter referred to the need to bind in the FRG and to ensure that there is adequate consultation. The four members of the "Berlin Group" which met before the North Atlantic Council have now agreed that they should meet more frequently at Ministerial and Political Director level: they plan to meet next in January. In addition to using the NATO and EC frameworks, however, we have in mind to have more frequent bilateral contacts to discuss East/West issues and have consulted Sir Christopher Mallaby in Bonn on how best to do this. Meanwhile the West Germans have registered that they should take account of the concerns of their Allies and neighbours: the meeting of the Ambassadors of the Four Powers in Berlin on 11 December had its intended effect as a signal to them.

Jans,
Stephen Wall

(J S Wall)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

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