



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

26 October 1989

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Dear Charles

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Rich Gozney
COR 27/K

The UK and the German Question

You should see the enclosed letter dated 23 October from Sir Christopher Mallaby to David Ratford.

Ackermann's congratulations about HMG's public position on the German Question chime in well with other West German reactions. The leadership are sensitive to the fact that the prospect of reunification can cause alarm both in Eastern Europe and among the FRG's friends and allies.

Yours ever,

Richard Gozney

(R H T Gozney)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street



Mr. Synnott

This is very important. It should be conveyed to No. 10 - please consult the Polish Office over mechanics.

25/10

D J E Ratford Esq CMG CVO
FCO

Dear David

BRITISH EMBASSY,
BONN.

23 October 1989

cc. Polish Secretary
PS/M. Manda
PS/M. Waldegrave
PS/Pus
Sir J. Fretwell
Head of Planning Staff
EE3
Sec Gen
News Dept

THE UK AND THE GERMAN QUESTION

1. I called on Ackermann, a senior political adviser in the Federal Chancellery and longstanding confidant of Kohl, on 19 October. Ackermann began by conveying to me formally, on Kohl's instructions, the Federal Government's thanks for the public position taken recently by HMG on developments in Eastern Europe and on the German Question. Ackermann particularly mentioned the Prime Minister's speech at the Conservative Party Conference, where she had demonstrated "in exemplary fashion" the importance of the movement towards freedom in parts of Eastern Europe and had pressed for change in East Germany. Ackermann said that we were right to stress self-determination, more than reunification as such, in our comments on the German Question, as the Secretary of State had done here on 20 September. The British media had also taken, in general, a responsible attitude towards recent developments involving Germany.

2. Ackermann contrasted the British position with that of Andreotti who, when asked about reunification at his joint press conference with Kohl on 18 October, had avoided giving any answer.

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3. Ackermann said that the main operational message to get across in commenting publicly on the GDR was the need for reform and for full observance of human rights and the freedoms set out in CSCE documents.

4. Ackermann's compliments stem, I think, from two considerations. First, satisfaction at the line we have taken. The French line, as well as the Italian, is considered less helpful, while American statements are in general considered helpful. The Germans are always grateful for supportive statements and political solidarity when they face a difficult problem having associations with Nazism and the War. The second reason for Ackermann's bouquet, I believe, is that Kohl intends to emphasise the theme of freedom in the Federal election campaign in 1990, much in the way the Prime Minister presented it at Blackpool.

Yours ever

Chris Giller

C L G Mallaby

cc N H R A Broomfield Esq CMG
EAST BERLIN

Sir Derek Thomas KCMG
ROME

