



UNITED KINGDOM PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
ON THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL
OTAN/NATO
1110 BRUSSELS
TELEPHONE 2426775

3 November 1989

Charles Powell Esq
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CA

Dear Charles,

1. It is some time since I used my licence to write to the Prime Minister on policy issues (my letter to you of 6 June 1988). A visit to East Berlin earlier this week has prompted me to send another letter, attached, in this very occasional series.
2. To be frank it was not only the sights (and smells) of East Germany which motivated me. Last weekend (at a seminar in Bath) I had a rather open disagreement with David Howell who was arguing, to a not undistinguished audience, the merits of three or four Germanies as opposed to one or two. I told him that, whatever our private thoughts, this was in my view an inappropriate - and indeed dangerous - line to be taking in public. If repeated at all regularly, it was only too likely to produce exactly the opposite result to that which was sought.
3. I know that the Prime Minister has other preoccupations just now. I also know how strongly she feels on the German issue. However the plain fact is that history is being made around us. As viewed from Brussels, HMG's silence and apparent non-involvement is becoming uncomfortably obvious. I wonder if Bush will raise the point?
4. I am sending a copy of this letter and its enclosure, for his personal information alone, to Percy Cradock.

Yours ever

Michael.

Michael Alexander