



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

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10 November 1989

*See Charles*

East Germany: Telephone Call by Chancellor Kohl

The Prime Minister's statement this morning will be welcome to the Germans. The FRG Ambassador has said he was very pleased to hear it. When Chancellor Kohl telephones this evening, the Prime Minister may wish to take the line that recent developments in East Germany represent a triumph of freedom. The priority must now be the establishment of a genuinely democratic form of government. We shall give whatever practical help we can in coping with the refugees. The Prime Minister might also say to Chancellor Kohl that heads of government will clearly want to discuss developments in Eastern Europe at Strasbourg, and she hopes he will give a lead to that discussion.

Sir Christopher Mallaby had a meeting this morning with Seiders, Minister in charge of the Federal Chancellery, in company with the American and French Ambassadors. Seiders stressed the historic nature of current developments. He referred to the need for help in Berlin, especially over accommodation. We have already been very helpful in Berlin (providing land, tents and blankets) and the Berlin Mayor and Senat have pronounced themselves well satisfied. But further, more urgent help may be needed if the numbers swell: there is already an acute housing shortage there. MOD are able to make available some more land, in the FRG itself. We shall let you have details separately.

Chancellor Kohl is reaffirming the FRG's offer of economic help to the GDR provided that free elections and the end of one-party rule are bindingly declared.

Chancellor Kohl will be speaking later today also to Gorbachev, Krenz, Bush and Mitterrand.

Chancellor Kohl is to visit Berlin tonight for a large public meeting outside the Rathaus (City Hall), intended to mirror a similar event in 1961 when the Wall was erected.

The Federal authorities believe that the new liberal travel arrangements leave the East German authorities with no alternative but to hold free elections since, without them, there will be no holding back the exodus. The only question that remains is one of timing.

I am copying this letter to Brian Hawtin (MOD) and Trevor Woolley (Cabinet Office).

*James, Stephen*  
(J S Wall)  
Private Secretary

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From: S J Wordsworth

Western European Department

Date: 10 November 1989

cc: Mr Ramsden

*PS/Mr Mende  
PS/Mr Waldgrave*

News Department

Mr Synnott

Private Secretary

#### UK ASSISTANCE TO RESETTLERS IN THE FRG

1. You asked for a note on the assistance we are providing for resettlers from the GDR in Berlin and, now, the FRG.

2. In Berlin we have already offered the following material:

- Tentage for 2820 persons;
- Mattresses/bedding for 2500 persons;
- Beds for 270 persons;
- the use of engineers and other servicemen on short term tasks. They have already carried out a reconnaissance of a derelict building in the British sector which the Senat (City Government) may want to use for resettlers. We stand ready to help with the work if the Senat decide to go ahead;
- two hangars at RAF Gatow. Security work, and the provision of essential services at this site, is being undertaken at the expense of the Senat. They will be allowed the use of the land for nine months initially, with a possible extension for a single additional period of nine months.

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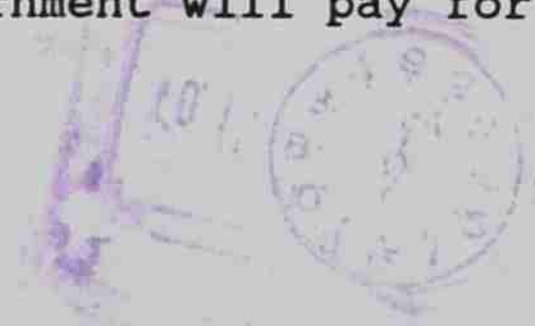
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3. The assistance we are now offering in the FRG comprises the offer of four sites:

- a. Woodlands Camp, Sennelager. This is a greenfield site with a capacity for around 1000 people.
- b. Two sites on the Holten training area; Barkenberg (a hutted camp for around 150) and Laversum Camp (a greenfield site for some 700).
- c. Balaclava barracks, a brickbuilt barracks for 150.

6. The Ministry of Defence have said that since the Germans already own the land and buildings, there will be no charge for their provision. There is to be a meeting of the Sending States on Monday to discuss the financial details involved in the provision of services, etc. We expect, however, that the Federal Government will pay for these.



*Steve Wordworth*

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