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FM BONN

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 1171

OF 301445Z NOVEMBER 89

INFO IMMEDIATE EAST BERLIN, BMG BERLIN, MOSCOW, PARIS, WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON TELNO 3105 AND PARIS TELNO 1581 : THE GERMAN QUESTION :
PUBLIC LINE

SUMMARY

1. I RECOMMEND AN EARLY STATEMENT BY YOU ON KOHL'S TEN POINT PLAN.

DETAIL

2. COMPARED WITH THE STATEMENTS BY BAKER AND DUMAS REPORTED IN TURS, OUR RETICENCE SO FAR IN RESPONSE TO KOHL'S TEN POINT PLAN (MY TELNO 1154) IS CONSPICUOUS HERE.

Don't wish to
3. I RECOMMEND THAT YOU MAKE AN EARLY STATEMENT, DESIGNED TO EMPHASISE THE NEED FOR STABILITY IN EUROPE AND THE UNDESIRABILITY OF SPEED, TO OVERLAP WITH WHAT ALLIES ARE SAYING AND NOT TO ALIENATE THE FRG UNNECESSARILY. IT MIGHT INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

(A) THE BRITISH, WHO HAVE SHARED DIFFICULT TIMES WITH THE BERLINERS, NOW SHARE THE JOY OF ALL GERMANS AT THE OPENING OF THE WALL AND THE INNER GERMAN BORDER AND THE INCREASED FREEDOM OF TRAVEL

This statement is nearly as much as Kohl's own
(B) THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE IN THE GERMAN QUESTION IS THAT THE GERMAN PEOPLE SHOULD HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR SELF-DETERMINATION, WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE OUTCOME. WE LOOK FORWARD TO FREE AND DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS IN THE GDR. THAT IS THE CURRENT QUESTION

(C) WELCOME THE CHANCELLOR'S STRESS ON THE NEED TO MAINTAIN SECURITY IN EUROPE. THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC PLAYS A CRUCIAL ROLE IN THE WESTERN ALLIANCE. WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S REPEATED REAFFIRMATION OF FULL COMMITMENT TO NATO *and after reunification?*

Don't wish to
(D) IF DEMOCRATIC REFORM IS TO SUCCEED IN THE GDR AND ELSEWHERE, STABLE CONDITIONS IN EUROPE WILL BE NEEDED. THAT ARGUES FOR AVOIDING SPEED ON THE GERMAN QUESTION

(E) GLAD THAT THE CHANCELLOR SET NO TIMETABLE AND LINKED HIS APPROACH ON THE GERMAN QUESTION TO PROGRESS IN EUROPE AS A WHOLE

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4. A REFERENCE TO FRONTIERS AND THE FINAL ACT COULD BE ADDED. BUT I SUGGEST NOT, BECAUSE WE HAVE MADE THE POINT SEVERAL TIMES AND THERE IS CURRENTLY AN ARGUMENT BETWEEN CDU AND SPD ON AN ASPECT OF IT (MY TELNO 1169) SUCH THAT WE COULD APPEAR TO BE SIDING WITH THE SPD.

MALLABY

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