

ADVANCE COPY

CONFIDENTIAL

FM OTTAWA

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 121

OF 131300Z FEBRUARY 90

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

INFO IMMEDIATE UKDEL NATO, WASHINGTON

FROM PRIVATE SECRETARY

SECRETARY OF STATE'S MEETING WITH GDR FOREIGN MINISTER

SUMMARY

1. FISCHER GLOOMY ABOUT THE TURN OF EVENTS IN THE GDR, BUT BELIEVES THE GOVERNMENT CAN MAKE IT THROUGH TO THE ELECTIONS ON 18 MARCH. DENIES THAT MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES IN EAST BERLIN CANNOT RUN THE CITY. BLAMES FRG HEAVY-HANDEDNESS FOR LOSS OF CONFIDENCE IN THE GDR.

DETAIL

2. FISCHER SAID THE GDR GOVERNMENT WAS CONTINUING ON THE ROAD THE SECRETARY OF STATE HAD SEEN FOR HIMSELF IN BERLIN. SINCE THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S VISIT, THE GERMAN QUESTION WAS EVEN MORE ON THE AGENDA THAN BEFORE. IT WAS UP TO THE TWO GERMANIES TO SETTLE THE INTERNAL ASPECTS. AS REGARDS THE EXTERNAL ASPECTS, GERMANS HAD TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE ANXIETIES OF THEIR IMMEDIATE NEIGHBOURS AND OF OTHER EUROPEANS. UNLESS THE TWO GERMAN STATES PROCEEDED CIRCUMSPECTLY, THERE WAS A DANGER OF A RESURGENCE OF NATIONALISM. IT WAS IMPORTANT TO AVOID DISHARMONY AS THE TWO GERMAN STATES MOVE TOWARDS UNITY. IF THE THING WAS HANDLED CORRECTLY, IT COULD ALLAY CONCERNS EUROPE-WIDE. THAT VERY MORNING AT A MEETING OF THE ROUNDTABLE, ALL THE PARTIES HAD OPPOSED THE IDEA THAT NON-GDR CITIZENS SHOULD BE ABLE TO SPEAK FOR THE GDR. BILATERALLY, WE SHOULD CONTINUE ON THE ROAD MAPPED OUT DURING THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S VISIT. THIS TOO COULD CONTRIBUTE TO CALM.

3. THE SECRETARY OF STATE ASKED IF THERE WAS A GOOD PROSPECT OF THE GDR CONTINUING ON THE PRESENT BASIS UNTIL THE 18 MARCH ELECTIONS. ONE OCCASIONALLY READ REPORTS THAT THE COUNTRY'S PROBLEMS WERE SO GREAT THAT IT MIGHT DISINTEGRATE BEFORE THEN, EG WITH THE MUNICIPALITY OF EAST BERLIN UNABLE TO DELIVER ORDINARY SERVICES. WITH MODROW IN BONN DURING THE WEEK, THE SECRETARY OF STATE WONDERED WHAT THE GDR RESPONSE WOULD BE TO KOHL'S IDEA OF A CURRENCY UNION.

4. FISCHER SAID THAT THE PROBLEM OF THE DISINTEGRATION OF AUTHORITY ALREADY EXISTED DURING THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S VISIT. IT WAS NOT TRUE THAT THE EAST BERLIN AUTHORITIES WOULD BE UNABLE TO DELIVER MUNICIPAL SERVICES, THOUGH HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE MAYORS IN SOME CITIES HAD HAD TO BE REPLACED. IT WAS BELIEVED BY ALL CONCERNED THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO HOLD ELECTIONS ON 18 MARCH. THE ELECTIONS WOULD BE MONITORED BY THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE. THE SITUATION WAS NOT HELPED BY THE BEHAVIOUR OF SOME PEOPLE IN THE FRG, EG THE FORMER MAYOR OF FRANKFURT WHO HAD SET UP IN A HOTEL AND WAS DIRECTING HIS PARTY'S CAMPAIGN IN THURINGIA. IT WAS ALSO NOT HELPFUL THAT SOME FRG POLITICIANS WERE SAYING THAT THEY WOULD STAND FOR THE NATIONAL ELECTIONS IN THE GDR. THERE WERE NO LAENDER IN THE GDR AND THE ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE SHOULD NOT BE DEALT WITH THROUGH THE FRAMEWORK OF THE ELECTIONS. THESE WERE MATTERS WHICH COULD BE SETTLED LATER, IF NECESSARY. IF THESE QUESTIONS WERE CONSTANTLY RAISED FROM OUTSIDE, IT ONLY INCREASED UNCERTAINTY. THE BEHAVIOUR OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY WAS ALREADY UNHELPFUL. ITS LEADER, SCHOENHUBER, HAD TWICE BEEN PREVENTED FROM ENTERING THE GDR. HIS PARTY HAD NOW BEEN BANNED BY GENERAL CONSENT. THE AIM OF THE GDR GOVERNMENT WAS TO AVOID EXCESS: THEY WANTED POLITICAL DISCUSSION NOT PHYSICAL VIOLENCE. THAT WOULD BE THE MESSAGE MODROW WOULD TAKE WITH HIM TO BONN. AS FAR AS ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION WAS CONCERNED, THE CONCEPT OF A CONTRACTUAL COMMUNITY AND FINANCIAL AID HAD ALREADY BEEN DISCUSSED. MONETARY UNION WAS A ONE-SIDED DECLARATION WHICH HAD CAUSED MUCH AND CONTRIBUTED TO INSECURITY. IT HAD LED TO MASSIVE PURCHASES WITHIN THE GDR.

5. THE SECRETARY OF STATE ASKED WHETHER FISCHER WAS REASONABLY OPTIMISTIC THAT THE GDR GOVERNMENT COULD MAINTAIN ORDER AND HOLD ELECTIONS. FISCHER SAID THAT HE WAS. THE SECRETARY OF STATE SAID THIS WAS A KEY POINT. IT WAS IMPORTANT THE ELECTIONS SHOULD BE FREE AND ORDERLY. FISCHER SAID THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO AVOID ANYTHING WHICH COULD GIVE RISE TO CONCERN (BY IMPLICATION RUSSIAN CONCERN). THE MILITARY ASPECT ALSO HAD TO BE REMEMBERED. THAT COULD ONLY BE DISCUSSED AND SETTLED AMONG THE FOUR POWERS, NOT TO MENTION THE TWO ALLIANCES. THE SECRETARY OF STATE REFERRED TO THE IDEA OF A MEETING OF THE FOUR PLUS THE TWO GERMANIES, IF THERE WAS A VOTE FOR UNIFICATION IN MARCH. FISCHER SAID THAT WAS A POSSIBLE WAY FORWARD. GERMANY MUST NOT SIMPLY BE ALLOWED TO GO ITS OWN WAY SINCE THAT COULD HAVE DANGEROUS SIDE EFFECTS. THE SECRETARY OF STATE SAID WE DREW A DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE RIGHT OF THE GERMAN PEOPLE TO DECIDE THEIR OWN FUTURE AND RELATED ISSUES WHICH AFFECTED DIFFERENT GROUPS, INCLUDING, FOR SOME ISSUES, THE SOVIET UNION.

CONFIDENTIAL

136263
MDA CAN 5569

6. THE SECRETARY OF STATE ASKED FISCHER, AS A GDR CITIZEN, TO GIVE HIS PREDICTION OF THE ELECTION RESULT. FISCHER SAID IT WAS VERY DIFFICULT. THE OPINION POLLS DIFFERED WIDELY. THE PARTIES IN THE FRG WERE BRINGING THEIR INFLUENCE TO BEAR IN TRYING TO PUT TOGETHER COALITIONS. HE THOUGHT PERHAPS THE SDP WERE A PARTY TO BE RECKONED WITH.

FALL

YYYY

DISTRIBUTION

13

ADVANCE

1311

.BERLIN/INNER-GERMAN RELATIONS
.(WIDE)
PS
PS/PUS
MR P J WESTON
MR ~~RATFORD~~ THIT
HD/WED

HD/SOVIET
HD/NEWS
MR S MCCARTHY SEC(NATO/UKP)MOD
WG CDR ANDREWS DCTS NATO MOD
PRESS SECRETARY NO 10
MRS GLOVER LEGAL ADV

NNNN

