

CONFIDENTIAL

FM BONN

TO DESKBY 121345Z FCOLN

TELNO 169

OF 121257Z FEBRUARY 90

INFO DESKBY 121400Z OTTAWA, BMG BERLIN, EAST BERLIN

INFO IMMEDIATE MOSCOW, WASHINGTON, PARIS

OTTAWA FOR SECRETARY OF STATE'S PARTY

BMG TELNO 20: GDR: WEST BERLIN FEARS OF IMMINENT BREAKDOWN

SUMMARY

1. REASSURING ASSESSMENT FROM THE CHANCELLERY. BREAKDOWN IN EAST BERLIN NOT THOUGHT TO BE IMMINENT.

DETAIL

2. DINWIDDY ASKED STERN, DUISBERG'S DEPUTY IN THE CHANCELLERY, FOR THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S ASSESSMENT FOLLOWING THE VISIT TO BONN BY THE BERLIN SENATOR FOR FEDERAL AFFAIRS ON 9 FEBRUARY (PARA 8 OF BMG TELNO 27 TO BONN).

3. STERN AGREED THAT THE SITUATION IN THE GDR REMAINED SERIOUS. THE FLOW OF EAST GERMANS TO THE FRG, STILL OVER 2,000 A DAY, NEEDED TO BE STOPPED. BUT THE PEOPLE OF THE GDR NOW HAD A REAL HOPE OF UNITY WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN REINFORCED BY KOHL'S VISIT TO MOSCOW. KOHL'S OFFER OF MONETARY AND ECONOMIC UNION HAD IMPROVED THE PROSPECT THAT THE GDR WOULD HOLD TOGETHER UNTIL THE 18 MARCH ELECTIONS.

4. STERN DID NOT RULE OUT THAT IN THE COMING WEEKS THE MAGISTRAT IN EAST BERLIN MIGHT SEEK HELP FROM THE SENAT IN MAINTAINING EG MEDICAL, FIRE OR REFUSE SERVICES. IF NECESSARY THE EXISTING CONTACTS BETWEEN THE SENAT AND THE MAGISTRAT, TOGETHER WITH THE BERLIN REGIONAL COMMITTEE WOULD CONSTITUTE A SUFFICIENT FRAMEWORK FOR PROVIDING THIS.

5. STERN RECOGNISED THAT THE FOUR POWERS WOULD HAVE 'AN INTEREST' IN ANY ASSUMPTION OF AUTHORITY BY WEST BERLIN IN EAST BERLIN. THE CHANCELLERY THOUGHT IT UNLIKELY THAT IN THE RUN-UP TO THE ELECTIONS THE EAST BERLINERS WOULD ASK FOR HELP IN MORE THAN A FEW TECHNICAL FIELDS, IF THAT. DURING MODROW'S FORTHCOMING VISIT TO BONN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS WOULD BE TALKING ABOUT MORE GENERAL (PARTICULARLY FINANCIAL) ASSISTANCE. MODROW HIMSELF COULD IMPROVE THE SITUATION BY

PUBLICLY AGREEING TO START NEGOTIATIONS AT ONCE ON CURRENCY AND ECONOMIC UNION (EVEN THOUGH THESE COULD NOT BE COMPLETED BEFORE THE ELECTIONS) AND CONFIRMING THE GDR'S READINESS TO OPEN DISCUSSIONS IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE ELECTIONS ON HOW UNITY SHOULD COME ABOUT.

COMMENT

6. SO FAR AS IT GOES, THIS ASSESSMENT IS REASSURING. THE CHANCERY ARE EVIDENTLY NOT CONVINCED THAT THE SITUATION IN BERLIN IS SIGNIFICANTLY DIFFERENT FROM OR WORSE THAN THAT IN THE GDR. THEIR VIEW THAT A PRIOR REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE WOULD HAVE TO COME FROM THE EAST BERLINERS, THAT SECTORAL HELP COULD BE GIVEN VIA THE REGIONAL COMMISSION, IS SENSIBLE. THIS MEASURED VIEW REFLECTS BONN'S SOMEWHAT INCREASED CONFIDENCE THAT THE LATEST DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS ARE HAVING A SUFFICIENTLY STABILISING EFFECT ON THE POPULATION OF THE GDR THAT THEY WILL BE WILLING TO STAY AT HOME AT LEAST LONG ENOUGH TO VOTE. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WILL WANT TO USE MODROW'S VISIT TOMORROW TO INCREASE CONFIDENCE IN THE GDR.

NEVILLE-JONES

YYYY

DISTRIBUTION

167

MAIN

154

.BERLIN/INNER-GERMAN RELATIONS
.(WIDE)
LIMITED
WED
SOVIET
KIEV UNIT
EED
JAU/EED
ACDD
ECD(E)
MAED
ECD (I)
SEC POL D
PUSD
CSCE UNIT
NEWS

RMD
CRD
LEGAL ADVISERS
PS
PS/MR MAUDE
PS/MR WALDEGRAVE
PS/PUS
MR P J WESTON
MR GILLMORE
MR TOMKYS
MR BAYNE
MR RATFORD
MR GOULDEN
MISS SPENCER
MR LING
MR GORE-BOOTH