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FM WASHINGTON

TO DESKBY 052100Z FCO

TELNO 295

OF 051730Z FEBRUARY 90

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GENSCHER'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON : 2 FEBRUARY

SUMMARY

1. GENSCHER'S VISIT FURTHER CONFIRMS US VIEWS THAT UNIFICATION IS ON THE FAST TRACK. GENSCHER REPEATS HIS FORMULA FOR A UNIFIED GERMANY IN NATO BUT ARGUES THAT AFTER MARCH 18 THE PRINCIPAL FORUM FOR HANDLING INTERNATIONAL IMPLICATIONS SHOULD BE CSCE. BAKER EMPHASISES NEED FOR INTERMEDIATE STEPS AND OTHER CONSULTATIVE FORA, BUT AGREES NOT TO SURFACE PROPOSALS PUBLICLY BEFORE THE GDR ELECTIONS. GENSCHER PROMOTES IDEAS ON US/EC SIMILAR TO OUR OWN.

DETAIL

2. GENSCHER PAID ONE OF HIS CHARACTERISTICALLY RAPID AND SEMI-PRIVATE VISITS TO WASHINGTON ON THE EVENING OF 2 FEBRUARY, CONFINED ON THIS OCCASION TO A TALK WITH BAKER, PREPARATORY TO BAKER'S MEETINGS WITH SHEVARDNADZE ON 7/8 FEBRUARY. PRESS COVERAGE HAS BEEN BRIEF AND OFFICIALS HAVE TOLD US THAT GENSCHER SPRANG NO SURPRISES. BUT HE CLEARLY USED THE OPPORTUNITY TO PROMOTE HIS OWN THINKING ON THE FUTURE ROLE OF NATO AND THE CSCE, ON THE LINES OF HIS EARLIER SPEECH AT TUETZING (BONN TELNO 127).

3. WE SPOKE TO DOBBINS (PRINCIPAL DAS, EUROPEAN BUREAU) BEFORE AND AFTER THE VISIT. DOBBINS SAID THAT BEFOREHAND, THERE WAS STILL SOME UNCERTAINTY WITHIN THE ADMINISTRATION AS TO WHETHER UNIFICATION WAS ON A SLOW TRACK (DEFINED HERE AS STAGES LEADING FROM TREATY, TO CONFEDERATION TO FEDERATION OVER A 2-3 YEAR TIMESCALE) OR THE RAPID CONFLATION OF THESE PROCESSES DURING THE COURSE OF THIS YEAR. GENSCHER'S REMARKS HAD REINFORCED OTHER INDICATIONS THAT MATTERS WERE NOW MOVING TOWARDS THE FAST TRACK WHICH THE COALITION

LEADERSHIP HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN SEEKING TO AVOID.

4. ON SPECIFICS, DOBBINS SAID THAT ALTHOUGH GENSCHER WAS CONCERNED TO INDICATE HIS RELIABILITY ON THE NATO ISSUE, HE WAS ALSO CLEARLY THINKING THAT ONCE QUOTE UNIFICATION NEGOTIATIONS UNQUOTE BEGAN WITH THE GDR AFTER 18 MARCH, THE CSCE FRAMEWORK WOULD IMMEDIATELY BECOME THE MAIN FORUM FOR DISCUSSING THE INTERNATIONAL IMPLICATIONS AND FOR MOVING AHEAD IN A STABLE WAY. IN REPLY BAKER HAD STRESSED THAT THERE DEVELOPMENTS COULD NOT BE HANDLED SO SIMPLY OR BROADLY AND THAT OTHER INTERMEDIATE STEPS AND CONSULTATIVE PROCESSES WOULD ALSO HAVE TO BE INVOLVED. GENSCHER HAD EVIDENTLY CONCEDED THAT OTHER FORA SHOULD HAVE A ROLE TO PLAY, BUT WAS ANXIOUS THAT NOTHING SHOULD BE SAID ABOUT THEM PUBLICLY UNTIL AFTER 18 MARCH FOR FEAR OF COUNTERPRODUCTIVE POLITICAL REPERCUSSIONS IN THE FRG IN THE RUN-UP TO THE ELECTION.

5. GENSCHER'S CONCERNS ABOUT CONSULTATIVE MACHINERY WERE PARTICULARLY ACUTE IN THE BERLIN FOUR POWER CONTEXT. THAT FORUM, HE SAID, WOULD SIMPLY NOT WORK. BAKER HAD THEN FLOATED THE IDEA OF WIDENING THIS INTO A QUOTE FOUR PLUS TWO UNQUOTE GROUPING. GENSCHER EXPRESSED INTEREST AND SAID THAT HE WOULD THINK ABOUT IT. BUT HE REPEATED THAT IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT NOTHING SHOULD BE SAID UNTIL AFTER THE GDR ELECTIONS. (DOBBINS SAID THAT BAKER WAS NOW EXPECTED TO CAST A FLY OVER SHEVARDNADZE IN THIS REGARD, IF ONLY TO THE EFFECT THAT THE FOUR POWER FORUM WILL NOT BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE GERMANS AND THAT SOME OTHER WAY WILL NEED TO BE FOUND TO HANDLE THESE ISSUES.)

6. IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE MEETING GENSCHER ANNOUNCED TO A HASTILY ASSEMBLED PRESS CONFERENCE THAT HE AND BAKER WERE IN QUOTE FULL AGREEMENT UNQUOTE THAT REUNIFICATION WOULD NOT INVOLVE THE EXTENSION OF NATO TO THE EAST. DOBBINS SAID THAT BAKER HAD NOT IN FACT BLESSED GENSCHER'S PARTICULAR FORMULA, EVEN THOUGH IT WAS THE BEST AVAILABLE AT PRESENT. THE ADMINISTRATION HAD MADE ITS POSITION CLEAR IN DECEMBER WITH ITS FOUR PRINCIPLES, AND WAS NOW CAUTIOUS ABOUT BEING TOO SPECIFIC, LEST IT BE INTERPRETED BY THE GERMAN OPPOSITION AS AN IMPERIAL DICTAT OR UPSET THE RUSSIANS BEFORE BAKER'S TALK WITH SHEVARDNADZE.

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7. DOBBINS ADDED THAT GENSCHER HAD ALSO SPOKEN IN SUPPORT OF CLOSER US/EC RELATIONS, VERY MUCH ALONG THE SAME LINES AS THOSE WHICH YOU HAD OUTLINED DURING YOUR VISIT LAST WEEK.

8. THE GERMAN AMBASSADOR IS GIVING AN EC BRIEFING ON THE VISIT LATER TODAY. I SHALL REPORT FURTHER IF THERE IS ANYTHING TO ADD.

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