



cc/c
Blup

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

6 February 1990

Dear Charles,

German Unification

Your letter of 3 February asked for some material in response to Mr Gorbachev's message to the Prime Minister delivered by Mr Kossov on 3 February. We suggest that the Prime Minister need not send a formal reply to the message. It does not call for one. We should further develop contacts with our Allies before breaking new ground with the Russians.

Mr Medvedev might be asked to pass the Prime Minister's reaction to Mr Gorbachev.

We agree with Mr Gorbachev that the unification of Germany should happen without disrupting stability.

In practice much of the impetus for unification comes from within the GDR. The three Western Allies are committed to free self-determination for Germany and will not stand in the way of a democratic decision in favour of it. We, and the Federal Republic of Germany, shall be doing our utmost to ensure that any decision in favour of unification is carried out in a way which is consistent with, and which does not obstruct, the other welcome developments in Europe as a whole. It will be important that the situation in the GDR remains stable and that the population there should decide to remain so as to rebuild their economic structures and install a sound basis for future economic and political development.

We remain ready to continue our bilateral contacts to air views on these important issues. On Berlin, we hope that it will soon prove possible to advance matters through the Allies' Berlin Initiative which offers opportunities to discuss air links and other Berlin matters. We look to early discussions, as envisaged.

I confirm that we have put our views about the issues raised by German unification to the Americans in advance of Mr Baker's talks in Moscow on 8 February.

Yours ever,
R. H. T. Gozney

(R H T Gozney)
Private Secretary

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