

SECRET AND PERSONAL



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From the Private Secretary

6 February 1990

Dear Stephen.

GERMAN ISSUES

The Prime Minister has been following the telegrams about German reunification very closely. She has been, as you would expect, most concerned by the way in which the Germans are constantly forging ahead without any proper consultation with their Allies. She herself believes we ought to have a Four Power meeting, despite German sensitivities: but she recognises that the Americans and French are probably unlikely to agree to this. She would not object to a meeting of the Four Powers plus the two Germanies, but it would no doubt take some time to negotiate that. She has commented that, in the circumstances, a tripartite discussion with the French and Americans as proposed in Paris telegram number 142 would be very helpful and is urgent. Among the matters it would consider are those mentioned in Bonn telegram number 1139, namely a united Germany's relationship to NATO and the military status of the former GDR, as well as the handling of the GDR's relationship with the EC. She thinks we ought to make an early proposal for such a meeting at ministerial level and would like the Foreign Secretary to consider this. It would still enable us to pursue the idea of a meeting with the Four plus the two Germanies subsequently.

I am copying this letter to Simon Webb (Ministry of Defence) and to Sir Robin Butler.

Yours sincerely,

C. D. POWELL

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