

CONFIDENTIAL



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

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MO 13/1/42S

10

February 1990

Dear Charles

CBH 4/2

GERMANY AND NATO

The Defence Secretary has seen the paper on Germany and NATO attached to Stephen Wall's letter of 9th February.

He agrees with the preference for option (b). If NATO's commitment to maintain the integrity of a united Germany is to be credible, however, there must be adequate command and control arrangements to underpin it. Otherwise, NATO would take on a security commitment we could not discharge.

It is, therefore, important that we seek to preserve maximum German and Alliance freedom of manoeuvre in detailed implementation in such areas as:

(i) German force levels on former GDR territory in peacetime and their relationship to NATO. While it may be appropriate to deploy only units of the German Territorial Army which would not be assigned to NATO, it will be important to put in place effective command and control arrangements and the infrastructure to support them for wider NATO deployments (including the Bundeswehr) in transition-to-war and war. Further thought will also need to be given to deployments by the German Air Force - for example, the peacetime front-line for the air defence of a unified Germany must sensibly be on the Oder-Neisse line.

(ii) The form and basis of a numerical ceiling on German troops deployed in the GDR in peacetime - is it to be linked to a Conventional Arms Control agreement or expressed through a unilateral declaration? Is this ceiling and the deployment of these forces to be based on NATO plans for the integrated defence of a united Germany in transition-to-war and war? If possible, we should seek to guard against establishing too rigid a division of a united Germany in military terms.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the Resident Clerk at the FCO, and to Sonia Phippard at the Cabinet Office.

Yours sincerely
Simon Webb

(S WEBB)
Private Secretary

Charles Powell Esq
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CDP told

Secretary of State for Defence

Charles Powell

The Defence Secretary
has still to see
this letter (but should
do so by early Saturday
evening). I will call
the Duty Clerk when
I have spoken to him.

J. Webb.

18 February.