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OF 120530Z FEBRUARY 90

FOLLOWING FROM PS/FCO FOR POWELL (NO 10)

1. I AM SENDING SEPARATELY A RECORD OF THE FOUR POWER MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION THIS EVENING. THE SECRETARY OF STATE WOULD ALSO BE GRATEFUL IF YOU COULD GIVE THE PRIME MINISTER THE FOLLOWING NOTE FROM HIM:

BEGINS

ON THE ASSUMPTION NOW THAT GERMAN UNIFICATION IS LIKELY, OUR MAIN OBJECTIVES (APART FROM NEGOTIATING THE TRANSITION ON EC MATTERS) ARE:
A) TO SECURE GERMAN MEMBERSHIP OF NATO AND AVERT GERMAN NEUTRALITY;
B) TO SECURE THE CONTINUANCE OF CANADIAN AND US TROOPS IN EUROPE;
C) TO SECURE UNIFICATION ON TERMS REASONABLY ACCEPTABLE TO GORBACHEV.

ALL THESE ARE CLOSER TO ATTAINMENT THAN A FORTNIGHT AGO. THE US, FRANCE AND THE FRG ALL COME BROADLY TO THE CONCLUSIONS CONTAINED IN MY PAPER ON GERMAN MEMBERSHIP OF NATO AFTER UNIFICATION. ALL CONCUR ON THE IDEA THAT A MEETING OF THE FOUR PLUS TWO - THE GERMANS AND AMERICANS BOTH BELIEVE IT SHOULD TAKE PLACE AFTER THE 18 MARCH ELECTIONS IN THE GDR. THE QUESTION OF DATE, PLACE AND THE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE DECISION OF PRINCIPLE ON UNIFICATION REMAIN TO BE CONSIDERED, AS DOES THE QUESTION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. I SHALL BE HAVING MORE DISCUSSIONS WITH BAKER, DUMAS AND GENSCHER ON TUESDAY MORNING.

THE ANXIOUS QUESTION IS WHETHER THE GDR WILL REACH 18 MARCH. GENSCHER CONTINUES TO GIVE INTENSELY GLOOMY ACCOUNTS, PROBABLY, IN PART, BECAUSE HE WANTS TO PROVE THAT THE FRG IS BEING PULLED INEVITABLY INTO MEASURES SUCH AS CURRENCY UNION.

ENDS

FALL

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updates
Tang blair to
70 270 2926
- no further
distribution
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