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GERMANY AND NATO: BAKER'S REMARKS IN MOSCOW

SUMMARY

1. BAKER'S SUGGESTION THAT A UNITED GERMANY MIGHT BE 'ASSOCIATED' WITH NATO EXCITES INTEREST IN GERMAN PRESS.

DETAIL

2. THE GERMAN MEDIA IMMEDIATELY PICKED UP BAKER'S SUGGESTION IN MOSCOW THAT A UNITED GERMANY MIGHT BE ASSOCIATED WITH, RATHER THAN A FULL MEMBER OF, NATO. WELT AM SONNTAG (CONSERVATIVE) ON 11 FEBRUARY GAVE IT FRONT-PAGE TREATMENT AND A LEADER. THIS COMMENTED THAT THE SOVIET UNION MIGHT IN THE END PREFER A GERMANY IN OR ASSOCIATED WITH NATO RATHER THAN NEUTRAL AND MILITARISED, AND POSSIBLY WITH NUCLEAR AMBITIONS. (OTHER PAPERS HAVE MADE A SIMILAR POINT.) WELT AM SONNTAG WENT ON TO ENVISAGE THE POSSIBILITY OF ONE US CORPS REMAINING IN GERMANY, BUT OTHER ALLIED STATIONED FORCES, LAND-BASED SNF AND NUCLEAR ARTILLERY BEING WITHDRAWN. ULTIMATELY, IT WAS UP TO A UNITED DEMOCRATIC GERMANY TO DECIDE FOR ITSELF HOW TO ORGANISE ITS SECURITY.

3. MONDAY'S NEWSPAPERS REPORT, LESS PROMINENTLY, THAT BAKER HAD MENTIONED THE IDEA AND THEN WITHDRAWN IT. THE FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG (FAZ) WHICH HAD BEEN BRIEFED ON KOHL'S TALKS WITH GORBACHEV, SAYS THAT VARIOUS SECURITY MODELS WERE DISCUSSED BUT NOT THE ASSOCIATION IDEA. A FAZ LEADER COMMENTS THAT THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR ASSOCIATION, ONLY FOR FULL MEMBERSHIP, WITH OR WITHOUT MILITARY INTEGRATION. FAZ WENT ON TO DESCRIBE THE ASSOCIATION IDEA AS IMPORTANT EVIDENCE THAT THINKING IN WASHINGTON ON THE SHAPE OF A NEW EUROPEAN SECURITY SYSTEM HAD GONE A LONG WAY.

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