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MOSCOW TELNO 235:

THE GERMAN QUESTION

SUMMARY

1. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT NOW CLEARLY ENVISAGE A 'TWO PLUS FOUR' CONFERENCE IN ADVANCE OF THE CSCE SUMMIT.

DETAIL

2. IN BRIEFING ON 12 FEBRUARY ON KOHL AND GENSCHER'S VISIT TO MOSCOW THE FEDERAL CHANCELLERY CONFIRMED THE THRUST OF A NUMBER OF ACCOUNTS IN TODAY'S FRG PRESS: THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SEE THE FIRST REQUIREMENT AFTER THE GDR ELECTIONS AS BEING NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO GERMAN STATES, FOLLOWED BY A CONFERENCE BETWEEN THEM AND THE FOUR POWERS. (THE SPD HAVE TODAY PROPOSED THAT SUCH A CONFERENCE SHOULD TAKE PLACE IN THE SECOND HALF OF APRIL.) AS REPORTED IN TODAY'S FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE, KOHL TOLD GORBACHEV THAT IN PRACTICE THE FOUR POWERS MIGHT FIND THEMSELVES DEALING WITH ONE GERMAN STATE, RATHER THAN TWO. THE FINAL STEP WOULD BE FOR THE RESULTS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE SIX TO BE LAID BEFORE THE CSCE SUMMIT.

3. GENSCHER IS QUOTED AS HAVING TOLD THE PRESS THAT THE RIGHT FORMULA WAS DEFINITELY TWO PLUS FOUR, AND NOT THE OTHER WAY ROUND. BUT HE IS SAID TO HAVE STRESSED ALSO THE IMPORTANCE OF SO MANAGING THE WHOLE PROCESS AS TO SECURE THE AGREEMENT OF THE FOUR POWERS AT EVERY STAGE.

4. ACCORDING TO THE FEDERAL CHANCELLERY KOHL STRESSED TO GORBACHEV THE FIRMNESS OF THE FRG'S ATTACHMENT TO NATO. GORBACHEV RULED NOTHING OUT, BUT EQUALLY DID NOT COMMIT HIMSELF TO THE GENSCHER PROPOSAL. HIS MAIN CONCERN WAS TO EMPHASISE THE FACT THAT THE SOVIET TROOPS IN THE GDR WERE AT PRESENT IN PART FINANCED BY THE EAST GERMAN GOVERNMENT, AND TO NOTE THAT THAT FACTOR WOULD HAVE TO BE

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BORNE IN MIND. GENSCHER IS QUOTED BY THE PRESS AS HAVING IN MIND THE
POSSIBILITY OF A NEW GERMAN-SOVIET TREATY COVERING THE STATIONING OF
SOVIET FORCES IN THE PRESENT TERRITORY OF THE GDR.

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