

CONFIDENTIAL
FM WASHINGTON
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 363
OF 130024Z FEBRUARY 90
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MODUK FOR DUS(P)
OTTAWA FOR PS/SECRETARY OF STATE

MY TELNO 355: THE GERMAN QUESTION
SUMMARY

1. PUBLIC PRESIDENTIAL CORRECTIVE TO BAKER'S REMARKS IN MOSCOW.
QUOTE WE SUPPORT CHANCELLOR KOHL'S POSITION THAT A UNIFIED
GERMANY SHOULD REMAIN A MEMBER OF NATO UNQUOTE.

DETAIL

2. THE PRESIDENT GAVE A PRESS CONFERENCE ON 12 FEBRUARY. THE
OPENING STATEMENT FOCUSSED EXCLUSIVELY ON THE GERMAN QUESTION THE
ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE BAKER VISIT TO MOSCOW (INCLUDING CFE, ON
WHICH WE ARE REPORTING SEPARATELY) AND SOUTH AFRICA (WHICH WE
ARE ALSO REPORTING SEPARATELY). THE SUBSEQUENT QUESTION AND
ANSWER SESSION COVERED THE SAME GROUND, WITH MOST OF THE
QUESTIONS FOCUSSED ON BAKER'S REMARKS IN MOSCOW ON THE FUTURE
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN A UNIFIED GERMANY AND NATO.

3. BUSH GAVE A SOLID PRESENTATION OF ORTHODOXY ON THE GERMAN
QUESTION, WITH REPEATED AFFIRMATIONS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF NATO
MEMBERSHIP FOR A UNIFIED GERMANY (QUOTE WE SUPPORT CHANCELLOR
KOHL'S POSITION THAT A UNIFIED GERMANY SHOULD REMAIN A MEMBER OF
NATO ... THEY'RE GOOD NATO PARTNERS NOW AND THEY'LL BE GOOD NATO
PARTNERS THEN ... I THINK IT'S STABILISING, I THINK IT'S GOOD
UNQUOTE). ASKED WHETHER HE WOULD BE WILLING TO CONSIDER A
SITUATION WHERE A UNITED GERMANY WAS NOT NECESSARILY A FULL
MEMBER OF NATO, THE PRESIDENT SAID QUOTE NO, I THINK THAT
CHANCELLOR KOHL IS ABSOLUTELY CORRECT AND WE OUGHT TO SUPPORT
HIM: NATO MEMBERSHIP. UNQUOTE. HE SHOWED A WILLINGNESS TO
ENVISAGE FLEXIBILITY IN TERMS OF DEPLOYMENT OF NATO FORCES
(QUOTE THERE'S SOME FLEXIBILITY ON DEPLOYMENT OF NATO FORCES INTO
EASTERN EUROPE. NOBODY WANTS TO THREATEN THE SOVIET UNION
UNQUOTE). HE CONGRATULATED GORBACHEV ON THE EVOLUTION OF SOVIET
POLICY TOWARDS UNIFICATION. HE SAID CLEARLY THAT THE FOUR POWERS
WOULD HAVE A ROLE (QUOTE THE FOUR POWERS WILL HAVE TO HAVE SOME

SAY, THERE'S NO QUESTION ABOUT THAT. WHETHER IT'S TWO PLUS FOUR OR WHAT THE FORMULATION IS, WE ARE NOT LOCKED ON THAT AT ALL UNQUOTE).

COMMENT

4. THE PRESS CONFERENCE WAS EVIDENTLY CALLED IN ORDER TO SHOW PRESIDENTIAL RESOLVE ON BOTH CFE AND THE GERMAN QUESTION, AND TO FIRM UP THE US POSITION ON A UNIFIED GERMANY'S MEMBERSHIP OF NATO, FOLLOWING BAKER'S REFERENCE IN MOSCOW TO POSSIBLE GERMAN ASSOCIATION WITH THE ALLIANCE.

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