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FM PARIS

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 224

OF 221654Z FEBRUARY 90

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON, BONN, EAST BERLIN, BMG BERLIN

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Handwritten notes:
- 172337 - 172337
- are quickly beginning
- to rip our wires
- out

YOUR TELNO 106 AND YOUR TELNO 350 TO WASHINGTON

SUMMARY

1. FRENCH SAY WEST GERMANS WILL NOT OPPOSE A MEETING OF THE SIX POLITICAL DIRECTORS BEFORE GDR ELECTIONS. INSIST THAT ODER-NEISSE LINE MUST BE CONFIRMED BY TREATY.

DETAIL

2. I BROUGHT DUFOURCQ UP TO DATE OVER LUNCH AT THE EMBASSY ON YOUR EXCHANGES WITH SEITZ. DUFOURCQ AGREED THAT RECENT EVENTS, NOTABLY THE POLISH REQUEST FOR PROPER INVOLVEMENT IN THE UNIFICATION PRECESS AND THE OUTCOME OF THE GENSCHER/STOLTENBERG EXCHANGE ON BUNDESWEHR STATIONING IN EASTERN GERMANY, HAD FURTHER STRENGTHENED THE CASE FOR A MEETING OF THE SIX POLITICAL DIRECTORS BEFORE THE GDR ELECTIONS. IN DUBLIN ON 20 FEBRUARY GENSCHER HAD SAID THAT HE DID NOT WISH FOR SUCH A MEETING BUT THAT HE WAS NOT OPPOSED TO IT. DUFOURCQ HAD THEREFORE TELEPHONED SEITZ LATE ON 21 FEBRUARY TO URGE SUCH A MEETING: SEITZ HAD NOT GIVEN A DEFINITIVE RESPONSE BUT INDICATED THAT HE COULD ENVISAGE ATTENDING ONE ON 10 OR 11 MARCH. DUFOURCQ HAD SAID THAT HE HOPED THAT THE AMERICANS WOULD NOT BE MORE GERMAN THAN THE GERMANS.

3. DUFOURCQ, AND BLOT (DIRECTOR FOR EUROPE) WHO WAS ALSO PRESENT, ARGUED STRONGLY THAT THE SETTLEMENT OF THE ODER-NEISSE FRONTIER MUST BE EFFECTED BY A TREATY, SUBJECT PARLIAMENTARY RATIFICATION. GERMAN IDEAS FOR A DECLARATION BY THE TWO PARLIAMENTS WERE INADEQUATE: PARLIAMENTS COULD CHANGE AS COULD GOVERNMENTS. THEY NOTED THAT THE FORMER EAST PRUSSIA WAS PART OF THE QUOTE GERMANY AS A WHOLE UNQUOTE FOR WHICH THE FOUR POWERS HAD RESERVED RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES: AS COUNTERPART FOR RENUCIATION OF THESE RIGHTS THE NEW GERMAN STATE WOULD HAVE TO BIND ITSELF UNEQUIVOCALLY TO THE CURRENT FRONTIERS OF THE FRG, GDR AND BERLIN AS DEFINITION OF ITS TERRITORY, IE NO IRREDENTIST TERRITORIAL CLAIMS. THE TREATY SHOULD DEAL ONLY WITH GERMAN FRONTIERS, TO AVOID DIFFICULTIES OVER THE BALTIC STATES ETC.

4. DUFOURCQ AND BLOT THOUGHT THAT THE PROSPECT OF RAPID ANSCHLUSS, IE

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ACCESSION TO THE FRG BY PARTS OF THE GDR (NOT NECESSARILY AS LAENDER) UNDER ARTICLE 23 OF THE BASIC LAW, HAD SOMEWHAT RECEDED RECENTLY. POLITICAL OPINION IN THE GDR WOULD PREFER A PROPER CONSTITUENT PROCESS TO ENSURE SATISFACTORY SOCIAL WELFARE PROVISIONS. AND, EVEN MORE IMPORTANT IN THE FRG THE CDU WERE WORRIED ABOUT THE APPEARANCE OF A BUILT-IN SDP MAJORITY AHEAD OF THE FEDERAL ELECTIONS.

5. ON ALL ISSUES, BLOT TENDS TO PLACE EMPHASIS ON THE LEAGL ISSUES BUT THE DISCUSSION SERVED TO ILLUSTRATE HOW COMPLEX GDR LEGAL AND POLITICAL ISSUES ARISING OUT OF THE SETTLEMENT OF FRONTIERS AND ENDING OF FOUR POWER RIGHTS ARE, AND HENCE HOW DESIRABLE TO GET TO GRIPPS WITH THEM SOON AT FOUR AND THEN FOUR PLUS TWO.

FERGUSSON

YYYY

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From the Private Secretary

23 February 1990

FOUR PLUS TWO

The Prime Minister has seen Paris telegram no. 224 in which the French Political Director is shown to be taking the initiative in seeking a meeting of the six Political Directors in early March. She thinks this is absolutely right and hopes that we are giving our full support.

Charles Powell

Stephen Wall Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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