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10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

fré

(C-1 foreign / Stern, das)

bc: PC

From the Private Secretary

24 February 1990

See H. 10/11.

MEETING WITH ACADEMIC EXPERTS ON GERMANY

I have seen Washington telegram no. 452, reporting Professor Stern's acceptance of the Prime Minister's invitation to attend the meeting at Chequers. It would be perfectly all right for him to arrive in London late on 23 March. The Chequers meeting itself will be very informal, with about eight people present. There will be no papers. The basic purpose is as set out in my letter of invitation, which Professor Stern should by now have received. In the simplest terms, the Prime Minister feels that she does not know enough about Germany, its history and what makes Germans tick. She wants to spend half a day talking to a small group of people who do know a lot about this, and learn from them. I am afraid I have not yet worked out a framework for discussions but will let Professor Stern have a clearer idea rather nearer the time.

Yours sincerely,

C. D. POWELL

Stephen Wall, Esq.
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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TELNO 452
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INFO IMMEDIATE BONN

OUR TELNO 433: MEETING WITH ACADEMIC EXPERTS
ON GERMANY

1. PROFESSOR STERN CONTACTED US ON 23 FEBRUARY TO
CONFIRM HIS ACCEPTANCE OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S INVITATION.
HE ASKED WHETHER IT WOULD BE CONVENIENT FOR HIM TO
ARRIVE IN LONDON LATE ON FRIDAY 23 MARCH, AS THIS WOULD
SUIT HIS EUROPEAN SCHEDULE BEST. HE ALSO ASKED FOR A
LITTLE MORE DETAIL ABOUT THE OBJECTIVES AND FORMAT OF
THE CHEQUERS MEETING EG A ROUGH IDEA OF THE NUMBER OF
PARTICIPANTS, WHETHER OR NOT PROCEDURES WOULD BE INFORMAL,
WHETHER PAPERS NEEDED TO BE PREPARED IN ADVANCE, AND A
GENERAL IDEA OF THE TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED.
2. PROFESSOR STERN WILL BE IN WASHINGTON ON 27 FEBRUARY
AND WILL VISIT THE EMBASSY TO DISCUSS THE POINTS ABOVE.
GRATEFUL FOR SOME GUIDANCE DESKBY 271900Z.

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