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OF 262218Z FEBRUARY 90

INFO IMMEDIATE BONN, BMG BERLIN, MOSCOW, WARSAW, EAST BERLIN
UKDEL NATO, UKDEL VIENNA, UKREP BRUSSELS
INFO ROUTINE OTHER NATO POSTS, DUBLIN
INFO SAVING OTHER EAST EUROPEAN POSTS

FOR WED

KOHL IN WASHINGTON: PRESS CONFERENCE

1. CHANCELLOR KOHL AND PRESIDENT BUSH GAVE A JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON ON 25 FEBRUARY. FOLLOWING ARE THE MAIN POINTS:

- IN HIS OPENING STATEMENT, BUSH SAID THAT HE AND KOHL SHARED QUOTE SIMILAR VIEWS ON THE MOST FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES. ...WE SHARE A COMMON BELIEF THAT A UNIFIED GERMANY SHOULD REMAIN A FULL MEMBER OF NATO, INCLUDING PARTICIPATION IN ITS MILITARY STRUCTURE. NOW WE AGREE THAT US MILITARY FORCES SHOULD REMAIN STATIONED IN A UNITED GERMANY AND ELSEWHERE IN EUROPE, AS A CONTINUING GUARANTOR OF STABILITY UNQUOTE. BUT THEY ALSO AGREED THAT IN A UNIFIED STATE, THE FORMER TERRITORY OF THE GDR QUOTE SHOULD HAVE A SPECIAL MILITARY STATUS THAT WOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE LEGITIMATE SECURITY INTERESTS OF ALL INTERESTED COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THOSE OF THE SOVIET UNION UNQUOTE.

- KOHL IN HIS OPENING STATEMENT, SAID QUOTE THE SECURITY LINK BETWEEN NORTH AMERICA AND EUROPE IS AND CONTINUES TO BE OF VITAL IMPORTANCE (FOR A UNITED GERMANY). THAT IS WHY WE NEED THE PRESENCE OF OUR AMERICAN FRIENDS IN EUROPE, IN GERMANY, AND THAT INCLUDES THE PRESENCE OF AMERICAN FORCES UNQUOTE. TRANS-ATLANTIC RELATIONS MUST ALSO BE SYSTEMATICALLY EXPANDED IN ALL FIELDS. THE SECURITY OF THE ALLIANCE REQUIRED EVER CLOSER CONTACTS BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, INCLUDING POLITICAL COOPERATION, AND THE US QUOTE AND THIS INCLUDES ALSO OUR JOINT EFFORTS TO MAKE OUR WAY TOWARDS A EUROPEAN PEACE ORDER WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE CSCE UNQUOTE. GIVEN THE MAJOR CHANGES WITHIN EUROPE, THE EC CONTINUED TO BE QUOTE AN INDISPENSABLE ANCHOR OF EUROPEAN CIVILITY. THAT IS WHY WE, THE FRG, IN PARTICULAR MYSELF, DO NOT ONLY WANT TO EXPAND EUROPEAN INTEGRATION BUT WE WANT TO ACCELERATE THIS PROCESS WHEREVER POSSIBLE. BEYOND THE BIG INTERNAL MARKET WHICH IS TO BE ACHIEVED ON 31 DECEMBER 1992, BEYOND THE ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION, OUR PRIMORDIAL AIM

CONTINUES TO BE POLITICAL UNION IN EUROPE UNQUOTE.

- ON BORDERS, KOHL SAID QUOTE WE DO RESPECT THE LEGITIMATE SECURITY INTERESTS OF ALL STATES AND WE RESPECT PEOPLE'S FEELINGS, ESPECIALLY THE FEELINGS OF OUR NEIGHBOURS. AND I AM SAYING THIS PARTICULARLY ADDRESSING OUR POLISH NEIGHBOURS. THE BORDER QUESTION WILL BE SETTLED DEFINITELY BY A FREELY ELECTED, ALL-GERMAN GOVERNMENT, AND A FREELY ELECTED ALL-GERMAN PARLIAMENT. ...NOBODY HAS ANY INTENTION OF LINKING THE QUESTION OF NATIONAL UNITY WITH CHANGES OF EXISTING BORDERS UNQUOTE.

- IN THE (Q) AND (A) SESSION WHICH FOLLOWED, KOHL WAS PRESSED ON BORDERS. KOHL REITERATED HIS POSITION QUOTE AND NOBODY IS PERMITTED TO DOUBT MY ATTITUDE THERE UNQUOTE. BUSH THEN PUT THE US POSITION ON THE RECORD: QUOTE THE US RESPECTS THE PROVISIONS OF THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT REGARDING THE INVIOABILITY OF CURRENT BORDERS IN EUROPE. AND THE US FORMALLY RECOGNISES THE CURRENT GERMAN-POLISH BORDER UNQUOTE. HE THOUGHT THAT HE AND THE CHANCELLOR WERE QUOTE IN ALIGNMENT UNQUOTE ON THIS ISSUE.

- ON THE TWO-PLUS-FOUR TALKS, KOHL SAID THAT HE WAS HAPPY WITH THE DECISION IN OTTAWA QUOTE IT IS ONLY NATURAL THAT THE TWO STATES IN GERMANY, IN PARTICULAR AFTER THE 18 MARCH ELECTIONS IN THE GDR, WILL BE DISCUSSING THE SUBJECT IN A PARTICULAR WAY. THIS IS A SUBJECT WHICH CONCERNS THE GERMANS IN PARTICULAR UNQUOTE.

- ON GERMAN REUNIFICATION, BUSH WAS ASKED WHETHER ASSURANCES WERE NEEDED BEFORE THE PROCESS WAS COMPLETE. BUSH SAID THAT THIS WOULD BE DISCUSSED IN VARIOUS CONSULTATIVE FORA, QUOTE BUT I PREFER TO LOOK AT GERMANY'S FORTY-FIVE YEARS OF CONTRIBUTION TO DEMOCRACY AND TO THE SECURITY OF THE WEST UNQUOTE. THE US WERE NOT AFRAID OF GERMAN REUNIFICATION, AND INDEED WELCOMED IT. IT WAS NOT FOR THE US TO SET A TIMETABLE. RATHER, THE US SHOULD SEEK TO GUARANTEE AS BEST THEY COULD, IN CONSULTATION WITH THEIR ALLIES, THAT WHATEVER EVOLVED WOULD BE STABLE AND THAT PEACE WOULD BE THE RESULT.

- KOHL SAID THAT THE QUESTION OF GERMAN UNITY INVOLVED THE RIGHT OF SELF DETERMINATION: QUOTE IT'S PART OF THE CHARGE OF THE UN, IT CORRESPONDS TO THE PRINCIPLES OF CSCE, IT CORRESPONDS TO THE MAJOR DEMOCRATIC TRADITIONS OF OUR WORLD UNQUOTE. MOREOVER, THE PEOPLE IN THE TWO PARTS OF GERMANY WANTED TO UNIFY. BUT GERMANY HAD A RESPONSIBILITY TO BE CONSCIOUS OF THE FACT THAT THEY WERE SITUATED IN THE CENTRE OF EUROPE. QUOTE WE HAVE A CERTAIN HISTORY. WE MUST UNDERSTAND THERE ARE CERTAIN FEARS ON THE PART OF OUR NEIGHBOURS, AND I AM TALKING ABOUT SERIOUS FEARS AND NOT ONLY THE PRETENDED FEARS BECAUSE THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO PRETEND THEY HAVE FEARS, BUT WHAT THEY MEAN IS THAT THEY FEAR THE

ECONOMIC POWER OF A FEDERAL REPUBLIC PLUS THE GDR UNQUOTE. THE FRG WAS FORTY YEARS OF AGE LAST YEAR. IN THE COURSE OF THOSE FORTY YEARS, IT WAS A LOYAL AND RELIABLE PARTNER IN HUMAN RIGHTS AND IN THE DEFENCE OF FREEDOM. MOREOVER, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WANTED THIS UNITED GERMANY QUOTE TO BE EVEN MORE EMBEDDED IN AN INTEGRATION PROCESS WITH ITS NEIGHBOURS. SO NOBODY NEEDS TO BE AFRAID UNQUOTE.

- ON NATO, KOHL WAS ASKED HOW DURABLE WAS GERMANY'S COMMITMENT TO THE ALLIANCE. HE SAID THAT, CONFOUNDING THE SKEPTICS, THE FRG HAD EARLIER DEPLOYED US MISSILES. AS A RESULT QUOTE I REALLY DON'T THINK WE NEED TO BE TOLD WHAT RELIABILITY MEANS.

NEUTRALISM WOULD BE A VERY FALSE SOLUTION FOR US. I CAN'T SEE THAT THERE WOULD EVER BE ANY MAJORITY IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OR IN A UNITED GERMANY FOR A NEUTRALISED GERMANY. I THINK WE HAVE LEARNED LESSONS AND WE DO NOT WANT TO REPEAT THE ERRORS OF HISTORY. BUT ONE MISTAKE IN THE TIMES OF THE WEIMAR REPUBLIC, OF COURSE, WAS THAT GERMANY WAS ISOLATED IN EUROPE. ONE MUST MAKE GERMANY A PART OF THE WHOLE UNQUOTE.

- WITH THE DECLINING SOVIET THREAT, BUSH WAS ASKED WHETHER ONE PURPOSE OF KEEPING NATO INTACT WAS NOW QUOTE TO KEEP THE GERMANS DOWN UNQUOTE. BUSH SAID QUOTE NO. THE ENEMY IS UNPREDICTABILITY, THE ENEMY IS INSTABILITY, AND IT IS FOR THAT REASON THAT ...THERE ARE AGREED SECURITY PROVISIONS UNQUOTE. KOHL AGREED THAT EVERYTHING POSSIBLE MUST BE DONE IN ORDER TO AVOID DESTABILISATION IN EUROPE, IN EASTERN EUROPE IN PARTICULAR.

- ON SECURITY GUARANTEES, KOHL WAS ASKED WHETHER IT WOULD BE CONCEIVABLE THAT THERE MIGHT BE SOVIET TROOPS IN A UNITED GERMANY. KOHL SAID QUOTE ONE THING IS CLEAR: A UNITED GERMANY CANNOT BELONG TO TWO DIFFERENT PACT SYSTEMS. WE WILL HAVE TRANSITION SITUATIONS, AND THAT IS THE SUBJECT ABOUT WHICH ONE HAS TO NEGOTIATE. AT PRESENT, THERE ARE 380,000 SOLDIERS OF THE SOVIET ARMY (IN EAST GERMANY). SEEING THE REDUCTIONS ONE HAS AGREED UPON, HALF OF THAT NUMBER WILL BE REMAINING THERE FOR THE TIME BEING. MANY THINGS WILL HAVE TO BE LOOKED INTO AND I CANNOT AND WILL NOT GIVE ANY FINAL POSITION HERE UNQUOTE.

- ASKED WHETHER HE COULD ENVISAGE A SITUATION WHERE US TROOPS WERE STILL DEPLOYED IN GERMANY WHILE THE SOVIET UNION HAD WITHDRAWN ALL ITS TROOPS FROM GERMAN SOIL, BUSH SAID QUOTE YES I CAN. AND THE REASON I CAN ENVISAGE SUCH A SITUATION IS THAT, IF THAT'S WHAT THE GERMANS WANT, THAT'S WHAT OUGHT TO HAPPEN UNQUOTE.

2. FULL TEXT BY FAX TO WED.

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