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TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 244

OF 271359Z FEBRUARY 90

INFO IMMEDIATE WARSAW

INFO PRIORITY WASHINGTON, PARIS, MOSCOW, UKDEL NATO, BMG BERLIN

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OUR TELNO 237: POLAND'S WESTERN BORDER

SUMMARY

1. FDP AND SPD CRITICISM OF KOHL'S LATEST STATEMENT ON GERMANY'S BORDERS. SUESSMUTH, ALONG WITH GENSCHER, APPEARS STILL TO FAVOUR AN EARLY DECLARATION BY THE TWO GERMAN STATES.

DETAIL

2. KOHL'S STATEMENT ON BORDERS AT HIS JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE WITH PRESIDENT BUSH (WASHINGTON TELNO 460) HAS PROVOKED FRESH CRITICISM OF HIS POSITION FROM THE FDP AND SPD. LAMBSDORFF, CHAIRMAN OF THE FDP, EXPRESSED REGRET ON 26 FEBRUARY THAT KOHL HAD NOT STATED HIS RECOGNITION OF POLAND'S PRESENT BORDERS AS CLEARLY AS BUSH. THE TWO GERMAN STATES COULD NOT BE UNIFIED UNLESS THE BORDER QUESTION HAD FIRST BEEN SATISFACTORILY ANSWERED. IN A NEWSPAPER INTERVIEW ON 24 FEBRUARY GENSCHER SAID THAT THERE WAS NOTHING TO PREVENT THE TWO GERMAN STATES TAKING ACTION STRAIGHT AFTER THE GDR ELECTION (18 MARCH) TO DISPEL, BY MAKING IT CLEAR THAT THEY HAD NO TERRITORIAL CLAIMS WHATSOEVER, THE UNCERTAINTY ON THIS ISSUE WHICH WAS IMPEDING GERMAN UNIFICATION. FRAU DAEUBLER-GMELIN, A DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE SPD, SAID ON 26 FEBRUARY THAT KOHL WAS MORE INTERESTED IN 'KOWTOWING TO THE RIGHT-WING OF THE (CDU/CSU) UNION' THAT IN MAINTAINING THE RELIABILITY OF THE FRG'S FOREIGN POLICY.

3. FRAU SUESSMUTH, THE PRESIDENT OF THE BUNDESTAG, SAID ON 26 FEBRUARY THAT WHILE SHE RECOGNISED THE LEGALITY OF KOHL'S POSITION THAT ONLY THE GOVERNMENT OF A UNIFIED GERMANY COULD GUARANTEE POLAND'S WESTERN BORDER, THIS DID NOT MEAN THAT AN INTERIM STATEMENT OF POLICY COULD NOT BE MADE. WHETHER THIS SHOULD BE A JOINT STATEMENT BY THE TWO GERMAN GOVERNMENTS WAS 'FOR CONSIDERATION'.

MALLABY

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