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From the Private Secretary

27 February 1990

EC/GERMANY

The Prime Minister has noted press reports that Herr Genscher has challenged a comment attributed to her, namely that the former GDR could not automatically become a member of the European Community following unification of Germany. I think this is a matter of semantics. The Prime Minister's point was that there would have to be detailed negotiations, covering such matters as derogations and transitional periods, and that GDR membership could not take place (as Tommy Cooper used to say) "just like that". You might like to make sure that Herr Genscher understands this.

Charles Powell

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