

CONFIDENTIAL

013637
MDADAN 7795

CONFIDENTIAL
FM WASHINGTON
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 488

ADVANCE COPY

OF 281550Z FEBRUARY 90
INFO PRIORITY MOSCOW, PARIS, BONN, UKDEL NATO, WARSAW

MIPT: GERMAN/POLISH BORDER

1. SYMPATHY FOR POLAND IS STRONG IN THE UNITED STATES. POLISH VOTERS ARE IMPORTANT TOO. REACTIONS TO WHAT ARE SEEN BY THE PUBLIC AS INADEQUATE ASSURANCES BY KOHL ON 25 FEBRUARY COME IN THE WAKE OF SOME COMMENT BEFORE HIS VISIT THAT THE DRIVERS OF THE GERMAN STEAM ROLLER SHOULD HAVE MORE CARE FOR THE REACTIONS OF THOSE AFFECTED, ESPECIALLY IN WARSAW, PARIS AND LONDON.

2. SUCH COMMENT HAS NOT HOWEVER SO FAR BEEN TRANSLATED INTO CRITICISM OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S OVERALL POLICY OF WORKING WITH KOHL TO ENSURE A SMOOTH BIRTH FOR GERMAN UNIFICATION, PROBABLY SOONER RATHER THAN LATER. BRITAIN HAS CONTINUED TO BE SINGLED OUT FOR PRESS CRITICISM, SOME OF IT STRONG, FOR TAKING AN UNREALISTIC AND ULTIMATELY FUTILE ATTITUDE TOWARDS GERMAN UNIFICATION. THE PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH OF 18 FEBRUARY TO THE BOARD OF DEPUTIES OF BRITISH JEWS WAS WIDELY (AND UNFAIRLY) INTERPRETED IN SUPPORT OF THIS THESIS. YOUR STATEMENT OF 22 FEBRUARY HAS BEEN A HELP IN COUNTERING THIS SORT OF IMPRESSION, BUT THE MESSAGE WILL NEED REPEATING, INCLUDING AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS, IF IT IS TO GO HOME.

3. THE NSC AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAVE BOTH CONFIRMED TO US THAT THE PRINCIPAL US OBJECTIVES REMAIN TO ENSURE FULL NATO MEMBERSHIP BY A UNITED GERMANY TO BE FOLLOWED AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE BY THE DEPARTURE OF SOVIET TROOPS FROM THE PRESENT GDR AS WELL AS THE REST OF EASTERN EUROPE. THEY HAVE SAID THEY WOULD MUCH WELCOME ANY PUBLIC STATEMENTS WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO MAKE WHICH WOULD SHOW OUR SUPPORT FOR KOHL'S PUBLIC ADHERENCE TO THE PRINCIPLE OF FULL NATO MEMBERSHIP DURING HIS 24/25 FEBRUARY VISIT, INCLUDING AS A COUNTER BALANCE TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S ANSWER TO A PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION ON 27 FEBRUARY IN WHICH SHE COMMENTED THAT IT WOULD BE VERY GOOD TO RECEIVE ASSURANCES ABOUT THE POLISH BORDER. THE ADMINISTRATION OF COURSE AGREE THAT THE BORDER ISSUE IS IMPORTANT AND SENSITIVE. THE LAST THING THAT THEY WANT IS FOR THIS SORT OF QUESTION TO PROVOKE AN INCREASE IN NATIONALIST FEELINGS IN EUROPE. BUT THEY GIVE CREDENCE TO KOHL'S ASSURANCES THAT HE TOO IS AWARE OF THESE DANGERS AND IS TRYING TO STEER A COURSE WHICH WILL TAKE ACCOUNT OF THEM AS BEST

CONFIDENTIAL

537
MDADAN 7795

HE MAY DURING THE CURRENT GERMAN ELECTORAL YEAR.

ACLAND

YYYY

DISTRIBUTION

14

ADVANCE

14

.BERLIN/INNER-GERMAN RELATIONS

.(WIDE)

PS

PS/PUS

MR P J WESTON

MR RATFORD

HD/WED

HD/SOVIET

HD/NEWS

RESIDENT CLERK

MR S MCCARTHY SEC(NATO/UKP)MOD

WG CDR ANDREWS DCTS NATO MOD

PRESS SECRETARY NO 10

MRS GLOVER LEGAL ADV

NNNN