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PRIME MINISTER

MEETING WITH SIR CHRISTOPHER MALLABY

Christopher Mallaby is coming in to see you tomorrow afternoon. Sir Percy Cradock will also be present.

Christopher will want to bring you up to date on his assessment of how the unification process is likely to develop. He may also say something about the impact in Germany of your public comments.

The specific aspects you will want to touch upon are:

- what is his view of how unification will take place (negotiations, Article 23) and the likely time-scale. Will the West Germans continue to press forward very hard after the GDR elections?
- does he still expect economic and monetary union to be pursued separately from and ahead of unification? At what rate will the Germans exchange Ostmarks for DM? (Incidentally, the Germans have begun to consult in the EC.)
- will Kohl be shamed into giving reassurance on the Polish border? You will have noticed that several leading German politicians support your line.
- with the firm commitment to keep a United Germany in NATO, the focus is on what security arrangements to make for East Germany. Where does he expect the debate on this in the FRG to come out? How vulnerable will German public opinion be to Soviet pressure during the election campaign to back away from membership of NATO or give up nuclear weapons?
- || Kohl has warned that the SNF issue will come to the fore again during the election campaign. What form

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does he expect this to take? We propose to take a firm line of sticking to the NATO Summit conclusions.

- how does he read the party political aspects? Kohl has spoken of an all-German election in 1991.

On a separate issue, you will want to consult Sir Christopher on the Anglo-German Summit at the end of March and what we want to come out of it. It will be important to avoid a press conference at which you and Kohl say different things and there is open disagreement. Should we start work now on preparing a joint statement to hold the line? (rather on the lines of the one you had on SNF at the Frankfurt Meeting)

You might also ask his advice on what you should say in your Koenigswinter Speech.

He may ask whether he can attend the meeting with historians at Chequers on 24 March. I have politely but firmly rebuffed all comers on this, to keep numbers to eight. Anyway, Christopher is the last person who needs to come since, as Ambassador, by definition he knows all about Germany!

C.D.P.
CDP

28 February 1990

jd c:mallaby

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