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OF 021419Z MARCH 90

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GERMAN UNIFICATION

SUMMARY

1. THE CDU AND THEIR GDR ALLIES COME OUT IN FAVOUR OF UNIFICATION VIA ARTICLE 23. GENSCHER SAYS THE ISSUE SHOULD BE KEPT OPEN TILL AFTER THE GDR ELECTION, AND WARNS THAT THE EXTERNAL ASPECTS SHOULD NOT BE FORGOTTEN.

DETAIL

2. AT A MEETING IN BONN ON 1 MARCH OF THE EAST GERMAN 'ALLIANCE FOR GERMANY' GROUP CHANCELLOR KOHL, SPEAKING IN HIS CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN OF THE CDU, SAID HE BELIEVED GERMAN UNITY SHOULD BE ACHIEVED VIA ARTICLE 23 OF THE BASIC LAW. THOSE WHO FAVOURED THE ARTICL 146 ROUTE SHOULD RECOGNISE THE ATTENDANT RISKS: UNLIKE CHANGES TO THE BASIC LAW A NEW CONSTITUTION WOULD NOT REQUIRE THE APPROVAL OF TWO-THIRDS OF THE BUNDESTAG.

3. THE CHAIRMAN OF THE THREE PARTIES IN THE 'ALLIANCE FOR GERMANY' (EBELING OF THE DSU, DE MAIZIERE OF THE CDU EAST AND SCHMUR OF DEMOCRATIC AWAKENING) ALSO EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR UNIFICATION VIA ARTICLE 23, 'AS SOON AS POSSIBLE' AFTER THE 18 MARCH ELECTIONS.

4. IN A NEWSPAPER ARTICLE DUE TO BE PUBLISHED ON 3 MARCH, GENSCHER ARGUES THAT THE RIGHT COURSE IS NOT TO TAKE UP ANY POSITION ON THIS SUBJECT UNTIL AFTER 18 MARCH, WHEN IT WILL HAVE TO BE ADDRESSED 'ON AN EQUAL BASIS' BY THE TWO GERMAN PARLIAMENTS. HE ALSO WARNS THAT THE DEBATE ABOUT THE RELATIVE MERITS OF ARTICLES 23 AND 146 (MY TELNO 160 REFERS) IS THREATENING TO PUSH INTO THE BACKGROUND THE EXTERNAL ASPECTS OF UNIFICATION, AND ASSURES THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC'S EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURS THAT THEY WILL NOT FIND THEMSELVES CONTRONTED BY A FAIT ACCOMPLI.

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