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TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 266

OF 021816Z MARCH 90

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MY TELNO 257: POLAND'S WESTERN BORDER

SUMMARY

1. KOHL DISTANCES HIMSELF FROM GENSCHER'S POSITION ON THE MAZOWIECKI PLAN. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN LINKS MOOTED DECLARATION BY THE BUNDESTAG TO POLISH STAND ON REPARATIONS AND RIGHTS FOR THE ETHNIC GERMAN COMMUNITY IN POLAND.

DETAIL

2. DURING THE PRESS CONFERENCE IN BONN ON 1 MARCH HELD BY THE CDU AND THEIR GDR ALLIES (MY TELNO 262), KOHL SAID THAT HE WAS OPPOSED TO THE MAZOWIECKI PLAN, THOUGH HE REMAINED OPEN TO THE IDEA OF IDENTICAL DECLARATIONS BY THE TWO GERMAN PARLIAMENTS AFTER THE GDR ELECTION.

3. ON 2 MARCH VOGEL (FEDERAL SPOKESMAN) TOLD JOURNALISTS THAT IN KOHL'S VIEW THE PROPOSED DECLARATION BY THE BUNDESTAG SHOULD INTER ALIA:

(A) MAKE CLEAR THAT THE POLISH GOVERNMENT'S DECLARATION OF 23 AUGUST 1953 RELINQUISHING ITS CLAIMS TO REPARATIONS AGAINST GERMANY REMAINED VALID.

(B) CALL FOR THE RIGHTS OF THE GERMAN COMMUNITY IN POLAND, AS DEFINED IN THE JOINT POLISH/FRG DECLARATION OF 14 NOVEMBER 1989, TO BE GUARANTEED BY TREATY.

4. VOGEL ADDED THAT ON THAT BASIS KOHL WOULD BE PREPARED TO ENVISAGE A TREATY, ONCE GERMAN UNIFICATION HAD BEEN ACHIEVED TO SETTLE THE POLISH-GERMAN BORDER (KOHL HIMSELF IS ON RECORD, IN A RADIO INTERVIEW GIVEN ON 26 FEBRUARY ON HIS WAY BACK FROM CAMP DAVID, AS SAYING THAT HE HAD IN MIND A TREATY IN THIS CONNECTION).

COMMENT

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5. THE FEDERAL SPOKESMAN MADE THESE COMMENTS IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ABOUT THE STATEMENT ON THIS SUBJECT MADE BY DUMAS IN BERLIN ON 1 MARCH.

6. KOHL AND GENSCHER ARE EXPECTED TO MEET NEXT WEEK TO DISCUSS THEIR DISAGREEMENT OVER THE MAZOWIECKI PLAN. WHY KOHL SHOULD HAVE DECIDED AT THIS JUNCTURE TO GO ON TO THE ATTACK BY ATTACHING CONDITIONS TO HIS READINESS TO ACCEPT EVEN THE IDEA OF DECLARATIONS BY THE TWO GERMAN PARLIAMENTS IS FAR FROM CLEAR. HE MAY HAVE FELT A TACTICAL NEED TO PREEMPT A FURTHER SPD ATTACK ON THIS FRONT: TODAY'S PRESS QUOTES VOGEL AS PROMISING AN EARLY SPD MOTION IN THE BUNDESTAG. BUT HE MUST BE AWARE THAT THIS STANCE IS BOUND TO STOKES UP INTERNATIONAL CRITICISM OF HIS REFUSAL TO GO FURTHER.

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