

RESTRICTED

ADVANCE COPY

026224
MDADAN 8352

RESTRICTED

FM WARSAW

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 185

OF 051435Z MARCH 90

INFO IMMEDIATE BONN, UKREP BRUSSELS, UKDEL NATO, WASHINGTON

INFO IMMEDIATE PARIS, ACTOR

INFO SAVING EAST EUROPEAN POSTS

BONN TELNO 266: POLAND'S WESTERN BORDER: POLISH REACTIONS TO
KOHL STATEMENTS

SUMMARY

1. SHARP POLISH REACTION TO KOHL'S LATEST STATEMENTS.

DETAIL

2. THE POLISH REACTION TO REPORTS OF KOHL'S RECENT SERIES OF
CLUMSY COMMENTS ON UNIFICATION ISSUES HAS BEEN ONE OF SURPRISE
AND CONCERN.

3. THERE HAS BEEN SHARP CRITISISM OF KOHL'S APPARENT ABOUT TURN
LAST WEEK ON THE MAZOWIECKI PROPOSAL FOR A TREATY GUARANTEEING
POLAND'S WESTERN BORDER. AT HER PRESS CONFERENCE ON 2 MARCH
GOVERNMENT SPOKESWOMAN NIEZABITOWSKA COMMENTED THAT IT WAS HARD
TO KNOW WHAT WOULD BE WORSE: IF KOHL WAS BEING INSINCERE, OR
HONEST. THE POLISH GOVERNMENT EXPECTED THE CHANCELLOR TO TAKE A
CLEAR STAND AND FOUND IT DISQUIETING THAT KOHL WAS SAYING SOMETHING
DIFFERENT FROM ONE DAY TO THE NEXT. PRESS COMMENT WAS IN THE SAME
VEIN. THE SOLIDARITY DAILY 'GAZETA WYBORCZA' ACCUSED KOHL OF
PLAYING 'AN INSINCERE AND EQUIVOCAL GAME.' THE PAPER WROTE ON
2 MARCH 'THIS MIGHT HAVE FATAL RESULTS FOR THE FUTURE OF
NEIGHBOURLY RELATIONS.'

4. SIMILARLY CURT HAS BEEN THE REACTION TO VOGEL'S REMARKS ON
2 MARCH (AS REPORTED IN THE POLISH PRESS) THAT KOHL WANTED TO LINK
THE BORDER QUESTION WITH POLAND'S RELINQUISHING OF CLAIMS TO WAR
REPARATIONS AND WITH TREATY ASSURANCES COVERING THE RIGHTS OF THE
GERMAN MINORITY IN POLAND. NIEZABITOWSKA APPEARED ON TELEVISION
ON THE EVENING OF 2 MARCH TO EXPRESS 'SURPRISE' AT THE VOGEL
STATEMENT. POLAND HAD FULLY MET HER OBLIGATIONS TO THE GERMAN
MINORITY. THE POLISH GOVERNMENT DID NOT WANT TO LINK THE SIGNING
OF A BORDER TREATY WITH ANY OTHER ISSUE. HOWEVER IF THE FRG WISHED
TO EXPAND THE SUBJECT MATTER, POLAND WOULD PUT FORWARD THE QUESTION
OF COMPENSATION FOR THE MILLION OR SO POLES WHO SUFFERED FORCED

RESTRICTED

02622
MDADAN 8352

LABOUR UNDER THE THIRD REICH.

5. TODAY'S POLISH PRESS REPORTS ON MAZOWIECKI'S INTERVIEW FOR THE ARD AND ZDF TELEVISION STATIONS. ACCORDING TO POLISH REPORTS MAZOWIECKI EXPRESSED 'SURPRISE AND ASTONISHMENT' AT VOGEL'S STATEMENT, PARTICULARLY THE REFERENCE TO THE GERMAN MINORITY ON WHICH AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED DURING KOHL'S VISIT HERE IN NOVEMBER 1989. REPARATIONS HAD ALSO BEEN DISCUSSED DURING THE VISIT. POLAND'S PRIORITY WAS TO SETTLE THE QUESTION OF HER BORDERS, BUT IF BONN WISHED TO EXPAND THE AGENDA, POLAND WOULD WELCOME IT. ASKED IF HE WANTED TO MEET KOHL AGAIN, MAZOWIECKI SAID HE WOULD NOT REFUSE TO MEET, BUT WOULD WANT SOME CLARIFICATIONS MADE BEFOREHAND.

BARRETT

FCO PLEASE PASS SAVING

YYYY

DISTRIBUTION

12

ADVANCE

1211

.BERLIN/INNER-GERMAN RELATIONS

.(WIDE)

PS

PS/PUS

MR P J WESTON

HD/WED

HD/SOVIET D

HD/NEWS D

RESIDENT CLERK

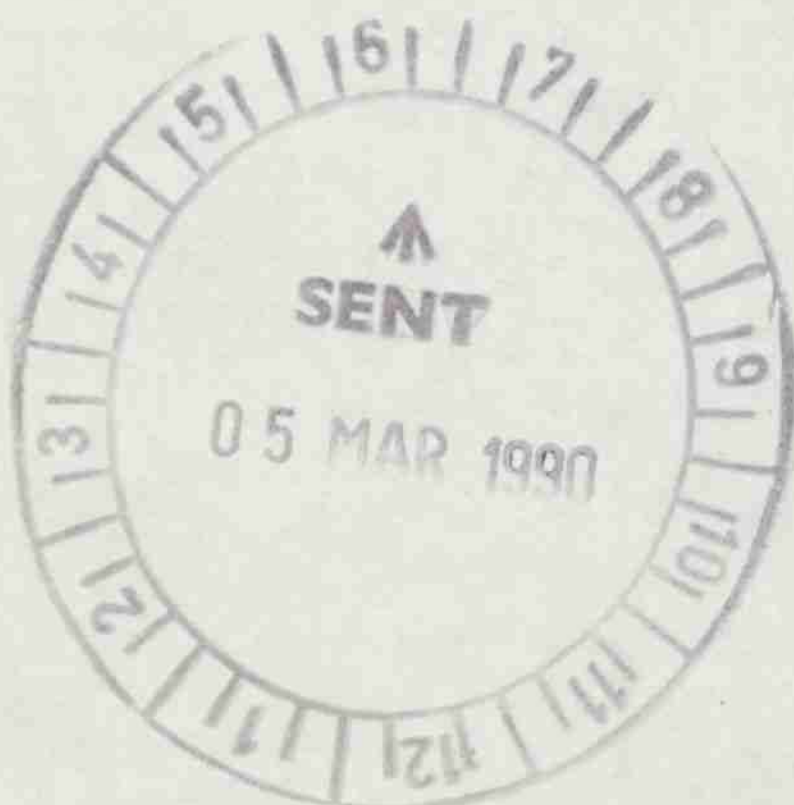
MR S MCCARTHY SEC(NATO/UKP)MOD

WG CDR ANDREWS DCTS NATO MOD

PRESS SECRETARY NO 10

MRS GLOVER LEGAL ADVISERS

NNNN



PAGE 2
RESTRICTED