

FILE
CONFIDENTIAL



10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

5 March 1990

See Stiller.

GERMAN UNIFICATION: NATO AND SECURITY ASPECTS

Thank you for your letter of 2 March, enclosing two papers:

- German Unification: Security Implications; and
- The Defence of a Unified Germany.

The Prime Minister has read both and made a number of comments.

German Unification: Security Implications

The Prime Minister has commented on paragraph 5 that the Two plus Four negotiations should negotiate on wider issues, at least to reach an agreed position for subsequent wider talks. On paragraph 10 she has queried whether the legal framework for the continued presence of Soviet troops should really be a bilateral one. She has made a similar point in relation to paragraphs 32(iii) expressing doubt whether the Soviet Union would really want a bilateral Treaty. On paragraph 13, the Prime Minister has commented that it is hard to see how the relinquishment of quadripartite rights can be achieved without a Peace Treaty. On paragraph 36, she has said that we should be very careful about suggesting that we would entertain the possibility of withdrawal of all nuclear weapons from Germany. More generally, the Prime Minister remains very sceptical about the concept of multinational units.

The Defence of a United Germany

Against (i) of the issues for agreement within NATO, the Prime Minister has suggested that Articles V and VI of the North Atlantic Treaty might not apply to the former GDR during the transitional period during which Soviet troops remain in the GDR. The Prime Minister has also indicated strong support for the concept that German aircraft should police the airspace of the former GDR, with Allied aircraft able to deploy there in Transition-to-War.

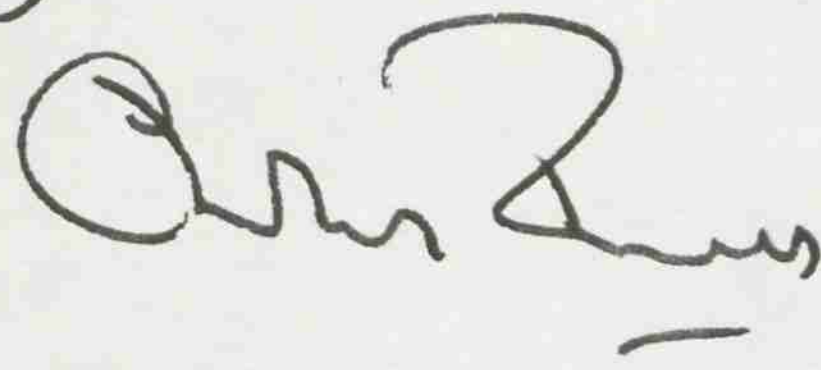
CONFIDENTIAL

2

CONFIDENTIAL

- 2 -

I am copying this letter to Simon Webb (Ministry of Defence)
and Sonia Phippard (Cabinet Office).

Yours sincerely,


C. D. POWELL

J.S. Wall, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

CONFIDENTIAL