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GERMAN UNIFICATION: BUNDESTAG DEBATE, 8 MARCH 1990

SUMMARY

1. COALITION RESOLUTION ON POLAND'S WESTERN BORDER PASS BY THE BUNDESTAG. KOHL RESTATES HIS POSITION ON THE SECURITY ANGLE.

DETAIL

2. AFTER A HEATED DEBATE THE BUNDESTAG TODAY PASSED THE GOVERNING COALITION'S RESOLUTION ON POLAND'S WESTERN BORDER (MY TELNO 286). PROPOSED ADDITIONS BY THE SPD (CONDEMNING KOHL'S LINKAGE OF THE BORDER QUESTION WITH REPARATIONS) AND THE GREENS (CALLING FOR A FOUNDATION TO COMPENSATE VICTIMS OF NAZI FORCED LABOUR PROGRAMMES) WAS REJECTED.

3. KOHL SAID THAT ARTILCE 23 WAS THE BEST ROUTE TO UNITY. ALTHOUGH THIS WAS A DECISION FOR THE GDR TO TAKE IT ALSO FUNDAMENTALLY AFFECTED THE FRG SO IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC TO BE CLEAR AS TO WHICH ROUTE IT PREFERRED. GENSCHER EMPHASISED THAT THE PROCESS OF UNIFICATION SHOULD BE CONDUCTED BETWEEN THE TWO GERMANIES AS EQUAL PARTNERS. A DECISION AFTER 18 MARCH TO ACCEDE TO THE FRG WAS ONE FOR THE GDR ALONE. SUCH A DECISION WOULD BE ACCESSION, NOT ANSCHLUSS. FOLLOWING THE ACCESSION OF THE GDR THE PROVISIONS OF THE BASIC LAW GOVERNING THE ACCESSION OF OTHER PARTS OF GERMANY SHOULD BE DELETED.

4. ON SECURITY ASPECTS, KOHL EXPANDED ON FORMULATIONS HE HAD USED IN HIS STATEMENT TO THE BUNDESTAG ON 15 FEBRUARY:

- THE FUTURE UNITED GERMANY MUST NOT BE NEUTRALISED OR DEMILITARISED. GORBACHEV HAD TOLD HIM IN MOSCOW ON 10 FEBRUARY THAT NEUTRALITY FOR GERMANY 'WOULD CREATE A FRAMEWORK WHICH HUMILIATED

THE GERMAN PEOPLE''.

- THE FUTURE UNITED GERMANY MUST REMAIN BOUND INTO THE WESTERN ALLIANCE, WHILE A TRANSITIONAL MILITARY ARRANGEMENT FOR TODAY'S GDR WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE. UNITS AND INSTALLATIONS OF THE WESTERN ALLIANCE WOULD NOT BE MOVED FORWARD TO THE TERRITORY OF TODAY'S GDR.
- THE TRANSATLANTIC SECURITY ALLIANCE BETWEEN EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA REMAINED FOR THE GERMANS AS FOR EUROPE AS A WHOLE OF VITAL SIGNIFICANCE.
- A CONCEPT OF GERMAN NEUTRALITY - IN WHATEVER VARIANT - CONTRADICTED THE LOGIC OF THE PROCESS OF ALL-EUROPEAN UNIFICATION. GERMANY MUST NOT BE ISOLATED IN RESPECT OF ITS SECURITY IN EUROPE.
- THE AIM MUST RATHER BE, THROUGH CONSISTENT CONTINUATION OF THE CSCE PROCESS AND OF ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATIONS, TO CREATE ALLIANCE-OVERLAPPING SECURITY STRUCTURES IN EUROPE.

COMMENT

5. THE DEBATE WAS NOTABLE FOR MUCH BICKERING BETWEEN THE PARTIES. BOTH THE CDU/CSU AND THE SPD TRIED TO PROVE THIS LEGITIMACY OF THEIR CLAIMS TO BE THE LEADERS IN DEUTSCHLANDPOLITIK. GENSCHER'S SPEECH WAS CAUTIOUS, REPEATING TESTED FORMULATIONS, AND WAS APPLAUDED FROM BOTH SIDES OF THE HOUSE.

MALLABY

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