

CONFIDENTIAL

075604
MDADAN 0404

CONFIDENTIAL
FM EAST BERLIN
TO DESKBY 190900Z FCO
TELNO 201
OF 191215Z MARCH 90
AND TO PRIORITY BONN, BM BERLIN, PARIS, MOSCOW, WASHINGTON,
AND TO PRIORITY UKDEL NATO, UKREP BRUSSELS, UKDEL STRASBOURG
AND TO PRIORITY UKDEL VIENNA, UKMIS NEW YORK, BRIXMIS,
AND TO PRIORITY EE POSTS, PEKING

ADVANCE COPY

SUMMARY

1. CONVINCING VICTORY FOR CDU LED ALLIANCE FOR GERMANY ENGINEERED BY CHANCELLOR KOHL. BUT, SHORT OF AN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY, THEY WILL SEEK COALITION PARTNERS. THE SPD THE UNEXPECTED LOSERS. PDS (SUCCESSORS TO COMMUNIST SED) IN THIRD PLACE WILL REMAIN A SIGNIFICANT OPPOSITION FORCE. THIS RESULT SETS THE SCENE FOR CURRENCY UNION AND UNIFICATION. IT SHOULD SLOW DOWN THE EXODUS. KOHL HAS APPEALED TO PEOPLE TO STAY WHERE THEY ARE AND WORK FOR A PROSPEROUS UNITED GERMANY.

DETAIL

2. THE PROVISIONAL RESULT BASED ON 90% OF VOTES COUNTED IS:

CDU 40.9 PER CENT
DSU 6.3 PERCENT
DEMOCRATIC AWAKENING 0.9 PER CENT
SPD 22 PERCENT
PDS 16.5 PER CENT
LIBERALS 5.1 PER CENT

OTHERS INCLUDING GREENS, FARMERS AND NEW FORUM 8%.

3. THE CDU GAINED AN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY IN THE SMALL TOWNS AND RURAL AREAS AND HAS DONE PARTICULARLY WELL IN THURINGIA AND SAXONY. THE BIG CITIES HAVE GONE TO THE SPD WITH THE PDS ALSO DOING WELL, ESPECIALLY IN BERLIN WHERE THEY GOT OVER 30%, A REFLECTION OF THE LARGE MEMBER OF (SED) GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HERE. THE TURN OUT WAS OVER 90%.

4. THE ALLIANCE FOR GERMANY (CDU/DSU/DEMOCRATIC AWAKENING) HAS FALLEN SHORT OF AN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY IN THE 400 SEAT

VOLKSKAMMER AND HAS ANNOUNCED THAT IT WILL SEEK THE BROADEST POSSIBLE COALITION. NEGOTIATIONS WILL BEGIN IN EARNEST ON 19 MARCH. THE SPD ARE RESERVING THEIR POSITION AFTER THEIR POOR RESULT WHILE THE LIBERALS HAVE SAID THAT THEY ARE READY FOR NEGOTIATIONS. SPD SUPPORT WILL BE NEEDED FOR CHANGES TO THE EXISTING CONSTITUTION.

. KOHL (ON TV) HAS THANKED: THE AMERICANS FOR THEIR STEADFAST SUPPORT FOR GERMAN UNITY : GORBACHEV FOR MAKING IT ALL POSSIBLE THROUGH PERESTROIKA: AND THE PEOPLE OF THE GDR FOR REJECTING REAL EXISTING SOCIALISM, AND VOTING FOR UNITY AND PROSPERITY. HE HAS APPEALED TO THEM TO STAY PUT AND WORK FOR A PROSPEROUS UNITED GERMANY.

ANALYSIS

6. THE OBSERVER DELEGATIONS FROM THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE (LED BY SIR GEOFFREY FINSBERG) AND THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT HAVE EXPRESSED COMPLETE SATISFACTION WITH THE CONDUCT OF THE ELECTION. THE ONLY COMPLAINTS (FROM NEW FORUM LEADER JENS REICH FOR EXAMPLE) HAVE CENTERED ON EXCESSIVE WEST GERMAN INVOLVEMENT. THE SURPRISE IS THE PERFORMANCE OF THE CDU. IN SIX WEEKS A TAME 'BLOCK' PARTY HAS COME FROM NOWHERE WITH INDIFFERENT LOCAL LEADERSHIP TO POLL ALMOST DOUBLE THE SPD'S SHARE OF THE VOTE. MANY PEOPLE HAVE PLACED THEIR TRUST IN KOHL'S ABILITY TO KEEP HIS PROMISE TO DELIVER PROSPERITY AND UNITY. POPULAR DESIRE FOR THE PROSPERITY PROMISED BY THE BONN GOVERNMENT HAS EVIDENTLY BEEN GREATER THAN RESPECT FOR THE TRADITIONS AND PRESTIGE OF THE SPD. THE SPD'S MODEST SHOWING REFLECTS THE FACT THAT THEY ARE IN OPPOSITION IN BONN. DOUBTS ABOUT LAFONTAINE ALSO PLAYED A PART.

7. THE PDS HAD BEEN EXPECTED TO ATTRACT SUPPORT AMONG OFFICIALS WHOSE LIVING DEPENDED ON THE SED, AND PEOPLE WORRIED ABOUT SOCIAL BENEFITS IN A 'CAPITALIST' GERMANY. THIS IS CONFIRMED BY THEIR BERLIN SUCCESS. THEIR RELATIVELY STRONG SHOWING CAN ALSO BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE PERSONAL POPULARITY OF MODROW, AND TO A LESSER EXTENT OF GYSI.

COMMENT

8. THE ALLIANCE FOR GERMANY CAMPAIGNED ON RAPID CURRENCY UNION AND UNIFICATION VIA ARTICLE 23 OF THE BASIC LAW. THEY SEEM LIKELY TO GIVE TOP PRIORITY TO THE CURRENCY UNION. THIS SHOULD BE A GOOD RESULT IN

TERMS OF STOPPING THE EXODUS ALTHOUGH THERE WILL BE
UNEASE AT THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PDS. INDEED THE
PDS'S PERFORMANCE IN BERLIN ILLUSTRATES THE
EXTENT TO WHICH THE SED HAD DIVIDED THIS COUNTRY
INTO A PRIVILEGED MINORITY IN THE SO CALLED
CAPITAL AND AN UNDERCLASS IN THE RUN-DOWN,
POLLUTED INDUSTRIAL SOUTH. PEOPLE WHO WERE EXPLOITED AND
NEGLECTED FOR 40 YEARS HAVE USED THIS OPPORTUNITY TO
ENTRUST THEIR IMMEDIATE FUTURE TO CHANCELLOR KOHL.

EYERS

YYYY

DISTRIBUTION

14

ADVANCE

14

.BERLIN/INNER-GERMAN RELATIONS
.(WIDE)
PS
PS/PUS
MR P J WESTON
MR GREENSTOCK
HD/WED

HD/SOVIET D
HD/NEWS
RESIDENT CLERK
MR S MCCARTHY SEC(NATO/UKP)MOD
WG CDR LEIGH DCTS NATO MODUK
PRESS SECRETARY NO 10
MRS GLOVER LEGAL ADVISERS

NNNN