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TIMETABLE FOR GERMAN UNIFICATION

SUMMARY

1. FEDERAL INTERIOR MINISTER FORESEES GERMAN UNITY IN 1991 AND
OUTLINES THE TIMETABLE UNTIL THEN.

DETAIL

2. ON 21 MARCH THE FEDERAL INTERIOR MINISTER, SCHAEUBLE (CDU),
OUTLINED TO ME THE TIMETABLE HE ENVISAGES FOR THE PROCESS OF
UNIFICATION. BY THE END OF APRIL THERE SHOULD BE AGREEMENT WITH THE
NEW GDR GOVERNMENT ON THE MAIN ASPECTS OF ECONOMIC AND MONETARY
UNION. THE DETAILS WOULD THEN BE WORKED OUT IN MAY AND JUNE.
ALTHOUGH MORE INFORMATION WAS NEEDED ON THE TRUE ECONOMIC SITUATION
OF THE GDR, THE FEDERAL AUTHORITIES BELIEVED THAT ECONOMIC AND
MONETARY UNION WOULD BE POSSIBLE BY THE SUMMER. IT MIGHT TAKE EFFECT
ON 1 JULY. SCHAEUBLE SAID THIS WAS WHY HE HAD NAMED THE DATE OF 1
JULY FOR THE CLOSING OF THE RECEPTION CENTRES FOR EAST GERMAN
RESETTLERS. HE HOPED THAT THIS ANNOUNCEMENT, COUPLED WITH THE
CERTAINTY OF CURRENCY UNION, WOULD STEM THE FLOW OF RESETTLERS. (IN
THE TWO DAYS SINCE THE EAST GERMAN ELECTION, IT HAD SLOWED DOWN BY
50 PER CENT, BUT REMAINED ABOVE 1,000 PER DAY. AND ONE COULD NOT BE
CONFIDENT THAT THE RATE WOULD NOT GO UP AGAIN.)

3. SCHAEUBLE SAID THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HOPED THAT THE 2 PLUS 4
PROCESS WOULD BE COMPLETE IN TIME FOR THE CSCE SUMMIT (PRESUMABLY
NOVEMBER) TO TAKE NOTE WITH APPROVAL OF ITS RESULTS. THEN WOULD COME
THE FEDERAL ELECTIONS ON 2 DECEMBER 1990. SCHAEUBLE FORESAW A GDR
DECISION ON ACCESSION TO THE FRG UNDER ARTICLE 23 IN 1991. THE
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WOULD USE ITS INFLUENCE OVER THE GDR GOVERNMENT
TO URGE THIS TIMING. THERE WAS A RISK THAT THE VOLKSKAMMER MIGHT
VOTE SOONER FOR ACCESSION. SCHAEUBLE ASSURED ME THAT THE FEDERAL

GOVERNMENT IN THAT CASE WOULD ENSURE THAT TIME ELAPSED BETWEEN THE VOLKSKAMMER'S DECISION AND THE BUNDESTAG'S ENACTMENT OF LEGISLATION TO GIVE EFFECT TO IT, SO THAT THERE SHOULD BE TIME FOR 2 PLUS 4 TO BE COMPLETED.

4. SCHAEUBLE SAID EAST GERMANY, ON ACCESSION, SHOULD DELEGATE 150 REPRESENTATIVES TO THE BUNDESTAG IN PROPORTION TO THE PARTIES' STRENGTHS IN THE VOLKSKAMMER FOLLOWING THE ELECTION ON 18 MARCH. BUT WITHIN A MATTER OF MONTHS AFTER UNITY, THERE WOULD NEED TO BE ELECTIONS IN EAST GERMANY TO CHOOSE MEMBERS OF THE BUNDESTAG FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE PARLIAMENT BEGINNING IN DECEMBER 1990, IE UNTIL 1994. COMMENT: THE IDEA OF WAITING UNTIL 1994 FOR ALL-GERMAN ELECTIONS IS NEW.

5. SCHAEUBLE SAID THAT THE FINAL STAGE OF CREATING UNITY WOULD BE A PERIOD OF YEARS DURING WHICH FEDERAL LEGISLATION WOULD BE INTRODUCED INTO EAST GERMANY.

6. SEE MIFT.

MALLABY

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