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FM BONN

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 396

OF 271708Z MARCH 90

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON, UKDEL NATO, MODUK

INFO PRIORITY EAST BERLIN, BM BERLIN, UKDEL VIENNA, PARIS, MOSCOW

SIC ECA

GERMAN UNIFICATION: SECURITY ASPECTS

SUMMARY

1. EVIDENCE THAT KOHL, UNLIKE GENSCHER, BELIEVES SOME GERMAN ARMED FORCES WILL BE REQUIRED IN THE FORMER GDR AFTER UNIFICATION. FMOD SEE THE EAST GERMAN ARMED FORCES AS THE BASIS. TO BE DISCUSSED AT CABINET-LEVEL MEETING ON 29 MARCH, JUST BEFORE THE ANGLO-GERMAN SUMMIT.

DETAIL

2. A RELIABLE CONTACT IN FMOD HAS TOLD US THAT FMOD NOW BELIEVE IT NECESSARY TO ENSURE THAT THE EAST GERMAN ARMED FORCES (NVA) REMAIN IN BEING TO FORM THE BASIS OF A GERMAN DEFENCE FORCE FOR THE FORMER GDR IN A UNITED GERMANY. SUCH A FORCE WOULD HAVE A MINIMUM OF HEAVY ARMAMENTS (TANKS AND ARTILLERY) AND WOULD BE MORE LIKE THE FRG'S TERRITORIAL FORCES THAN ITS FIELD ARMY. FMOD BELIEVE THAT KEEPING THE NVA IN EXISTENCE WOULD HAVE THE ADVANTAGE OF MAKING IT IMPOSSIBLE TO ARGUE LATER THAT SINCE THE WEST HAD SURVIVED THE REALLY DANGEROUS PERIOD WHILE SOVIET FORCES WERE WITHDRAWING FROM THE GDR AND DEMOCRACY WAS STILL VULNERABLE WITHOUT ARMED FORCES THERE, IT WOULD BE WRONG TO INCREASE TENSION BY 'RE-MILITARISING' THE AREA AFTER THE SOVIET DEPARTURE.

3. FMOD ENVISAGE THAT THE BUNDESWEHR WOULD PROVIDE ADVISERS AS A NEW COMMAND/LEADERSHIP FOR THE NVA, SINCE THE EXISTING LEADERSHIP ARE POLITICALLY DISCREDITED. BUT FMOD SEE THE PRIORITY AT PRESENT AS SECURING AGREEMENT WITHIN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO THE CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF THE NVA.

4. THE SAME CONTACT SAID THAT PRESIDENT VON WEIZSAECKER HAS INDICATED PRIVATELY THAT HE WOULD NOT BE PREPARED TO MOVE TO BERLIN WHILE SOVIET FORCES WERE STILL PRESENT IN THE FORMER GDR, UNLESS THERE WAS AN ALLIED PRESENCE IN BERLIN (BASED ON A NEW AGREEMENT WITH GERMANY) AND ALSO GERMAN FORCES THERE. FMOD'S VIEW IS THAT

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WHATEVER GERMAN FORCES ARE PRESENT IN THE FORMER GDR SHOULD ALSO BE STATIONED IN BERLIN.

5. OUR CONTACT SAID HE HAD HEARD KOHL SPEAK IN SUPPORT OF THE FMOD VIEW THAT SOME SORT OF GERMAN FORCES WOULD BE REQUIRED IN THE FORMER GDR AFTER UNIFICATION. HE SAID THE WHOLE SUBJECT WOULD BE DISCUSSED AT A MEETING ON 29 MARCH, TO BE ATTENDED BY KOHL, GENSCHER AND STOLTENBERG AMONG OTHERS.

6. FEDERAL CHANCELLERY MINISTER OF STATE STAVENHAGEN REMARKED TO MR MAUDE AND ME TODAY THAT THE NVA COULD BE TRANSFORMED INTO TERRITORIAL FORCES (NON-BUNDESWEHR, TO BE COMPATIBLE WITH THE GENSCHER/STOLTENBERG POSITION).

COMMENT

7. FMOD ARE CONCERNED ABOUT GENSCHER'S ATTITUDE TO THE DEFENCE OF THE FORMER GDR AFTER UNIFICATION. THEY BELIEVE THAT GENSCHER'S AIM IS TO HAVE THE NVA DISBANDED AND NO GERMAN ARMED FORCES, AS DISTINCT FROM POLICE FORCES, STATIONED THERE. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MAY TAKE DECISIONS IN THIS AREA, AT THE MEETING ON 29 MARCH, WHICH IMMEDIATELY PRECEDES THE ANGLO-GERMAN SUMMIT.

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