

CONFIDENTIAL



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone 01-218 2111/3

copy
(2)

Die Minister
copy 15th.

MO 32/8J

12th April 1990

ms

Dear Charles,
minutes attached

At OD last week my Secretary of State was asked to contact the Federal General Minister of Defence and put to him the argument against the FRG acting unilaterally to disapply COCOM controls to the GDR.

We have subsequently received a draft FRG paper on the position of the GDR in relation to COCOM controls in the transitional period between now and the unification of Germany. This draft paper is to be discussed with German officials later this month. It is clear from the draft that the Germans now in practice accept that the issue will have to be considered by COCOM. The first sentence for instance reads:

"During the transition between now and unification of Germany, the German Democratic Republic is in an exceptional situation which requires an immediate answer by COCOM".

The Defence Secretary believes that this is a welcome development which meets the concerns expressed by OD colleagues; to emphasise the Government's view he has however today sent a letter to Dr Stoltenberg (copy attached) indicating that he is pleased that the FRG has started the consultative process and that he would be happy to respond to any German proposal that there should be a special meeting of COCOM to discuss it.

I am copying this letter to Richard Gozney (FCO), and to Sonia Phippard (Cabinet Office).

Yours sincerely,

John Colston.

(J P COLSTON)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

MO 32/8D

TELEPHONE 01-218 9000
DIRECT DIALING 01-218 2111 3

12th April 1990

Dear Gerhard,

COCOM

I understand that it has been suggested that the movement towards German economic and monetary union could mean an accelerated movement toward placing the GDR in a special category with regard to COCOM controls. I appreciate the desire for rapid progress. I am sure you agree with me that maintaining a consensus within COCOM is in our common defence interests. We therefore greatly welcome the process of consultation which the Federal Government has begun. You can rest assured therefore that we for our part would be very happy to respond to any proposal you might make to convene a special meeting of COCOM to discuss this important issue.

I would also of course be very happy to have a word with you on this if you wished.

Yours
Tom

Tom King

Dr Gerhard Stoltenberg
Federal Minister of Defence

CONFIDENTIAL

