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FCS/90/095

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENCE

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Military Implications of a United Germany

- Hof*
1. Thank you for your minute of 17 April, with a copy of the Chief of Staff's useful paper on the military implications of a united Germany. FCO officials commented at earlier stages. FCO/MOD cooperation on the issue of Germany and NATO has been good. I endorse the paper's conclusions.
 2. In particular I agree with the statement of military objectives in para 47. Except for the time scale under which British troops should leave Berlin, all these objectives are of general Alliance, rather than specifically British, interest. Our success in pursuing them will depend on the extent to which the US and the FRG are prepared to flesh out their positions. Recent experience suggests that the Germans are disinclined to look at the detail; they will put considerations about unification and party political priorities first. The Americans have shown some reluctance to press the FRG too hard; and indications suggest that SACEUR is not particularly concerned. We will go on pressing our points in the meetings of the Western Four.
 3. Paragraph 12 of your paper discusses German views of the military implications of unification. We now have a clear statement from Chancellor Kohl, made during the press

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conference he and the Prime Minister gave after the Anglo-German Summit, that Articles V and VI of the NATO Treaty must apply to the territory of the former GDR.

4. I am copying this minute to the Prime Minister and to Sir Robin Butler.

DH.

(DOUGLAS HURD)

Foreign and Commonwealth Office
29 April 1990

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