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PRIME MINISTER

GERMANY

I said that I would look out President Gorbachev's quote last year which was very relevant to leaving the Germans to decide whether to join NATO. It was in his speech to the Council of Europe at Strasbourg on 6th July 1989:

"Any interference in internal affairs, / any attempt to limit the sovereignty of states | - both friends and allies or anybody else - are inadmissible". |

2. It was interesting that he raised no objections to President Bush's formulation for the Summit press conference that the matter of Alliance membership is - in accordance with the Helsinki final act - a matter for the Germans. As for Lithuania, in both cases our positions are founded in self-determination.

3. A copy goes to Douglas Hurd.

Ministry of Defence

(T K)

6 June 1990

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