



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

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23 July 1990

Dear Charles,

British Garrison in Berlin:
Chancellor Kohl's Message to the Prime Minister of 17 July

In his message of 17 July to the Prime Minister (my letter of 19 July), Chancellor Kohl has sought the Prime Minister's express agreement that British troops should remain in Berlin as long as Soviet troops continue to be stationed in East Germany. He added that, if we accepted this, there would need to be an agreement with a united Germany which provided a legal basis for the presence of these forces, on the premise that their size and equipment would not exceed current levels.

The Foreign Secretary recommends that we should reply quickly to Chancellor Kohl on this aspect. He considers that we should be prepared in principle to contribute to an Allied presence in Berlin following unification but not extending beyond final Soviet withdrawal from Germany. But there will be some important conditions which will need to be negotiated with the Germans, such as:

- (i) a continued German financial contribution to the costs on the same basis as at present (at present the UK pays the costs of basic salaries and warlike stores, while the Federal German Occupation Costs Budget pays for everything else);
- (ii) Britain should not be the only one of the three Western Allies to maintain forces in Berlin;
- (iii) the role of such forces, including arrangements for command and control, should be broadly agreed: the size and structure of the Allied presence should be such as to sustain a coherent function;
- (iv) facilities should be provided for training;

/The negotiations

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The negotiations will also have to take account of the fact that, as agreed by Chancellor Kohl and President Gorbachev at Stavropol, the Bundeswehr will also be stationed in Berlin after unification.

In order to avoid a vacuum between termination of 4 Power rights and responsibilities and the conclusion of a new agreement, negotiations should start in good time, so that the agreement can come into force in the same time-frame as unification. Consultation and coordination will also be needed with the French and the Americans.

/ The enclosed draft reply from the Prime Minister to Chancellor Kohl takes account of these considerations, which reflect discussions with the MOD at official level. The Ministry of Defence will let you have any comments separately.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Simon Webb (MOD) and John Gieve (HM Treasury).

Yours ever,

(R H T Gozney)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

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C. / Foreign / Kohl

Draft letter from the Prime Minister

TO: Chancellor Kohl

I was most grateful for your detailed letter of 17 July about your talks with President Gorbachev. The beneficial results of these talks have been immediately evident in the Ministerial meeting of the 2+4 group in Paris on 17 July.

I should now like to give you an early response to your specific request in connection with the maintenance of troops of the three Western Powers in Berlin so long as Soviet troops continue to be stationed on present GDR territory.

The United Kingdom is willing in principle to contribute to a continued presence by armed forces of the three Western Powers while Soviet forces remain in Germany, although there may be room for reducing the size of our present garrison. We are ready to enter into discussions of an agreement which would provide a legal basis for the presence of these forces in Berlin, but it would of course first be necessary to reach broad agreement on the role of such forces and the conditions under which they would be stationed there. We will also want to take into account the views of France and of the United States. I suggest that officials get together soon to discuss these issues.

CD

Генерал: Амурский, Р. 4

