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SUBJECT
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PM

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No.

100 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

FCO

MOD

HMT.

PC.

THE PRIME MINISTER

25 July 1990

Dear Helmut

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.

Yours
Margaret

His Excellency Dr. Helmut Kohl



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

25 July 1990

The Prime Minister has signed the reply to Chancellor Kohl's message about his meeting with President Gorbachev. I enclose it herewith and should be grateful if it could be sent for delivery as soon as possible.

(CHARLES POWELL)

Richard Gozney, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.