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OF 061849Z SEPTEMBER 90

INFO PRIORITY BM BERLIN, EAST BERLIN, PARIS, WASHINGTON, MOSCOW

BM BERLIN FOR WESTON

CEREMONIES TO MARK GERMAN UNITY

SUMMARY

1. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT STILL CONSIDERING QUESTION OF INVITING HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OF 4 POWERS TO CELEBRATION IN BERLIN ON 3 OCTOBER. KOHL HAS SOUNDED BUSH, WHO IS DOUBTFUL BUT STILL CONSIDERING. NO TRUTH IN PRESS REPORTS THAT BUSH AND GORBACHEV ARE TALKING OF MEETING IN BERLIN.

DETAIL

2. I ASKED TELTSCHIK, KOHL'S DIPLOMATIC ADVISER, TODAY TO TELL ME, AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF MUCH PRESS SPECULATION, WHAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PLANNED WITH REGARD TO ALLIED PARTICIPATION IN CELEBRATIONS ON AND AROUND 3 OCTOBER. TELTSCHIK SAID THIS MATTER WAS UNDER ACTIVE DISCUSSION IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. THERE WERE TWO VIEWS. ONE WAS THAT CELEBRATIONS ON 3 OCTOBER SHOULD BE 'AMONG GERMANS' WITHOUT TOP LEVEL FOREIGN GUESTS. THE SECOND, WHICH TELTSCHIK SUPPORTED, WAS THAT GERMANY SHOULD INVITE THE FRIENDS WHO HAD HELPED THEM OVER RECENT DECADES. THAT WOULD MEAN THE HEADS OF STATE OR GOVERNMENT OF THE UK, BRITAIN AND FRANCE. IF THEY WERE INVITED GORBACHEV WOULD HAVE TO BE ADDED. IT MIGHT ALSO BE RIGHT TO ADD DELORS AND, AS EC PRESIDENCY, ANDREOTTI. KOHL FAVOURED THE SECOND VIEW BUT VON WEIZSAECKER AND GENSCHER SUPPORTED THE FIRST. TELTSCHIK CONTINUED THAT KOHL HAD JUST SPOKEN BY TELEPHONE TO BUSH, WHO HAD DENIED THE PRESS REPORTS FROM MOSCOW THAT HE AND GORBACHEV WANTED TO MARK THE END OF THE COLD WAR BY A MEETING AT THE BRANDENBERG GATE. KOHL HAD SOUNDED BUSH ON WHETHER HE WOULD ACCEPT AN INVITATION TO THE MAIN CELEBRATION IN THE REICHSTAG ON 3 OCTOBER, WHERE VON WEIZSAECKER WILL MAKE THE MAIN SPEECH. BUSH HAD REPLIED THAT HE NOT ONLY HAD INTERNATIONAL PREOCCUPATIONS BUT ALSO MUST DEVOTE HIMSELF MORE TO DOMESTIC MATTERS AS CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS APPROACHED. THERE WERE BIG PROBLEMS IN THE WAY OF HIS COMING TOOT BERLIN ON 3 OCTOBER, BUT HE WOULD REFLECT AND GIVE KOHL AN ANSWER EARLY NEXT WEEK.

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3. TELTSCHIK COMMENTED THAT IF BUSH SAID THE HE WOULD COME TO BERLIN, THE GERMANS WOULD ALSO INVITE MRS THATCHER, MITTERRAND AND GORBACHEV AND POSSIBLE OTHERS. THE FOUR FOREIGN MINISTERS WOULD ALSO BE INVITED. THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 4 WOULD BE INVITED TO MAKE 15 MINUTE SPEECHES. IF BUSH SAID HE WAS UNABLE TO COME, TELTSCHIK IMPLIED, THE WHOLE IDEA WOULD BE DROPPED.

4. I SAID, SPEAKING PERSONALLY, THAT I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE GOOD IF THE END AFTER 45 YEARS OF THE 3 ALLIES SUCCESSFUL ROLE IN BERLIN WERE MARKED BY SOME EVENT WHERE THE GERMANS WOULD EXPRESS APPRECIATION. TELTSCHIK EMPHATICALLY AGREED. HE SAID THERE WERE IDEAS IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ABOUT GESTURES OF THANKS TO EACH OF THE 3 ALLIES, PROBABLY SEPARATELY. WHAT KIND OF EVENTS WOULD BE INVOLVED HAD NOT BEEN THOUGHT OUT. HAD I ANY IDEAS? I SAID THAT I HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS BUT WONDERED WHETHER, IF THE 4 HEADS OF GOVERNMENT WERE NOT INVITED ON 3 OCTOBER, THE 3 WESTERN FOREIGN MINISTERS MIGHT PARTICIPATE IN A CEREMONY, SEPARATE FROM THE MAIN ONE IN THE REICHSTAG AND POSSIBLY EARLIER ON 3 OCTOBER, WHERE THE END OF THE SPECIAL ALLIED ROLE IN BERLIN WOULD BE HONOURED. TELTSCHIK SAID THAT HE SAW ATTRACTIONS IN THIS AND WOULD BEAR IT IN MIND IN CASE PARTICIPATION BY THE 4 POWER HEADS OF GOVERNMENT ON 3 OCTOBER PROVED IMPOSSIBLE.

5. I TOLD TELTSCHIK ABOUT THE PLANS FOR A FAREWELL CEREMONY FOR THE 3 COMMANDANTS ON 2 OCTOBER.

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FILE

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From the Private Secretary

5 September 1990

GERMAN UNIFICATION

BE 9
The wire services are saying that Chancellor Kohl has invited the British, American, Soviet and French leaders to attend celebrations marking German unification on 3 October. I should be grateful for very early information on this and on the intentions of other Heads of Government.

(C. D. POWELL)

Richard Gozney, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

MRM