

CONFIDENTIAL



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

27 FILE SHW
c/c
Prime Minister
Teltschik telephoned
this morning to say

11 September 1990

Mr President Bush
will NOT attend,
e. Kohl has therefore
cancelled to event

Dear Simon,

GERMAN UNIFICATION

I should recall that, at the Prime Minister's request, I telephoned Bob Gates at the White House today to say that we understood the German Government's decision whether to hold celebrations of German unification on 3 October at Head of State/Government level would depend on President Bush's availability. The Prime Minister wanted the President to know that 3 October would be very difficult for her and she would not at all mind if the President found that he could not attend. We understood that the dates were, in fact, difficult for him. I added that the Prime Minister thought that the celebrations were in any case more appropriate for Foreign Ministers to attend.

CAN

12/9

Bob Gates said that the Americans had given a discouraging signal to the Germans but had not yet pronounced a firm yes or no. The President had a very heavy domestic agenda, particularly after the events of the last month, and he thought it unlikely he could get away on 3 October. But you never knew what he might commit himself to on the telephone. He would feed in the Prime Ministers view and let us know the outcome.

Yours sincerely,

Charles Powell

(C. D. POWELL)

Simon Gass, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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From the Private Secretary

12 September 1990

GERMAN UNIFICATION

Herr Teltschik telephoned this morning to say that President Bush had now let Chancellor Kohl know that he would not be able to attend a ceremony in Berlin on 3 October to mark German unification. The Chancellor had therefore decided to make it a purely German occasion.

CHARLES D POWELL

Simon Gass, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office