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MEETING RECORD

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10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

3 October 1990

GERMAN UNIFICATION: PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING
WITH GERMAN AMBASSADOR

The Prime Minister received the German Ambassador for a call this afternoon to mark the day of German unification.

The Prime Minister and the Ambassador exchanged a few words in front of the cameras. The Prime Minister handed over her message to Chancellor Kohl. The German Ambassador handed over a message from the Chancellor to the Prime Minister, of which I enclose a copy.

In a subsequent conversation, the Prime Minister emphasised what a great day it was for Germany. She had watched the midnight celebrations on television. We welcomed the new beginning which unification marked. We would work with Germany as an Ally in NATO, a partner in the European Community and a friend. The German Ambassador spoke of the enormous significance of the day for German people. He went on to talk of the pitiful dilapidation which was being uncovered in Eastern Germany. Huge resources would be required to rebuild the country.

The Prime Minister said she assumed the first task would be to conclude the Treaty with Poland. The German Ambassador confirmed this.

The Prime Minister referred to the recent judgement of the Federal Constitutional Court ruling the election law of 23 August on constitutional law. The Ambassador said that the Government hoped to secure the passage of a new law by 16 October so that elections could take place on 2 December as planned.

The Prime Minister said that she was glad Chancellor Kohl had, in his remarks, paid tribute to the contribution of President Gorbachev. He had played a great role but faced many problems at home. The Prime Minister and the Ambassador agreed that Mr. Gorbachev's contribution had been crucial. Germany was intending to send surplus agricultural produce from the former GDR to relieve shortages in the Soviet Union.

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