

CONFIDENTIAL

115601
MDADAN 8428

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FM EAST BERLIN
TO DESKBY 131645Z UKDEL NATO
TELNO MISC 56
OF 131620Z DECEMBER 89
INFO IMMEDIATE FCO
INFO PRIORITY WASHINGTON, MOSCOW, BONN
INFO ROUTINE PARIS, BMG BERLIN
INFO SAVING EAST EUROPEAN POSTS

FOR SECRETARY OF STATES PARTY

MY TELNO 459 : US/GDR RELATIONS

SUMMARY

1. BAKER'S VISIT A LAST MINUTE DECISION INTENDED TO DEMONSTRATE MO PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR MODROW AND THE POLICY REFORM IN THE GDR.

DETAIL

2. BARKLEY (US AMBASSADOR) GAVE ME A BRIEFING THIS AFTERNOON ON BAKER'S VISIT. US OFFICIALS AND BAKER WILL NO DOUBT BE GIVING A BRIEFING AT THIS EVENING'S QUADRIPARTITE MEETINGS AT NATO. I REPORT THE FOLLOWING AS BARKLEY'S BACKGROUND TO THE VISIT. HE SPOKE FRANKLY. PLEASE PROTECT.

3. BARKLEY SAID THAT THE DECISION TO SEEK A MEETING WITH MODROW HAD BEEN TAKEN LATE ON 11 DECEMBER AND HAD BEEN CLEARED TELEPHONICALLY WITH THE PRESIDENT, WHO HAD BEEN FIRM THAT THE MEETING SHOULD NOT TAKE PLACE IN EAST BERLIN.

4. BAKER'S INTENTION HAD BEEN TO DEMONSTRATE SUPPORT FOR THE PROCESS OF REFORM IN THE GDR AND MODROW PERSONWLLY. THE MEETING HAD ALSO BEEN INTENDED TO UNDERLINE THE FACT THAT US INTERESTS WERE STRONGLY ENGAGED IN CENTRAL EUROPE, AND THAT THE US INTENDED TO PLAY AN ACTIVE PART IN DEVELOPMENTS THERE.

5. AT THE MEETING WITH MODROW, BAKER HAD SOUGHT TO ENCOURAGE FURTHER STEPS IN THE PROCESS OF REFORM BY HOLDING OUT THE CARROT OF US ECONOMIC COOPERATION. MODROW HAD WELCOMED THIS BUT HAD TURNED THE AGREEMENT ROUND BY SAYING THAT TO ENABLE POLITICAL REFORM TO CONTINUE URGENT ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE WAS NECESSARY. THE PROBLEMS WERE PRESSING.

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6. AT HIS MEETING WITH CHURCH LEADERS STOLPE (KEY LAY MEMBER OF THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH COUNCIL) HAD STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF MODROW AS THE ONLY FIGURE CAPABLE OF CARRYING THROUGH REFORMS IN THE GDR AND OF PREVENTING RAPID, UNPLANNED UNIFICATION. BAKER HAD EXPLAINED THE LONG TERM US POLICY ON REUNIFICATION, WHILE POINTING OUT THAT THE WHEN AND THE HOW WERE OF COURSE FOR THE PEOPLE TO DECIDE. STOLPE HAD STRESSED THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS FACING MODROW.

BROOMFIELD

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.BERLIN/INNER-GERMAN RELATIONS

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