

TRANSCRIPT A - FOREIGN SEC - PC - OTTAWA - 13 FEBRUARY 1990

FOREIGN SECRETARY (CONT):

On Germany, which has really taken up I think most of the work in the last 24 hours, after a lot of work we are quite close to an agreement on procedure, an agreement on meetings of the two Germanys and the four-powers to discuss those matters which fall naturally within the scope of such a meeting. This strikes me as an admirable and common sense procedure.

If agreed, and we are waiting for the final agreement of Moscow, it will provide what the British Government has long pressed for, namely a framework for such discussions. And I welcome the emphasis which West German leaders and Herr Genscher again in his speech today put on the rights of the four powers.

We will play a full and energetic part in that procedure, if it is set up, and using it not in any way as holding up self-determination, self-determination is a matter for the German people, for the peoples who live in the Federal Republic and the GDR. That principle has never been in question and the rights of the four-powers could not be exercised to hold it up, but simply to make sure, as best we can, that that process, if that is what the German people want, fits harmoniously and clearly into a pattern of European security which is acceptable to everybody.

That leads me into substance. I think there is a useful weight of opinion forming against the concept of a united, neutral Germany. That is very important. The Soviet attitude is still evolving and different comments are made by different Soviet spokesmen, one can make no complaint about that, but it is now clear that a number of East European states - notably Poland and

