

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

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QUESTION:

When you use the word framework repeatedly, is that perhaps also replaceable by the word insurance policy as a method of trying to control the uncontrollable given that not much more than three months ago we would not have been talking about German reunification?

FOREIGN SECRETARY:

No, no, it is not the same as an insurance policy at all, it is precisely that, it is a framework, it is avoiding a sort of free-fall where things are not thought through in relation to each other. It is precisely that, it is a framework.

Events have, you are perfectly right, moved faster than anyone was predicting because of the open border and the progressive collapse of the GDR and therefore events have moved very fast and there has not been a framework within which the external, international part of this could be properly considered. Now there is the prospect of such a framework, it is not an insurance policy, it is precisely that, it is a framework within which these things can be discussed.

QUESTION:

So what we are really saying then in this context is that the two Germanys may work out arrangements between themselves but in terms of the relation of the new Germany outside of that, the four powers wish to have a say, at least in the beginning?