

FOREIGN SECRETARY:

I think you must ask the Poles and the Hungarians, but my strong impression is that both of them are opposed to the concept of a neutral Germany. On the question of self-determination, in Britain and in most European countries the basic questions are decided through political elections. There are political elections in the GDR, it is very important that those elections on 18 March should happen in a free and orderly way so that no-one queries the results, and I think the crucial question will be what coming together there is of those who have been elected on 18 March and what attitude they take, what statements they pronounce, on the question of unification given that all the parties in the FRG, with the exception of the Greens as I understand it, are in favour of unification. So the elections on 18 March are the key and that is why it is so crucial that they should be held in a free and orderly way.

QUESTION (Charlotte Montgomery):

To go back to the four power meeting, you talked about issues which you felt were appropriate for them to be dealing with at these meetings. Surely you can give us some idea of what those issues are?

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We have fairly clear ideas about the agenda but I would rather not be drawn on that today.