

TRANSCRIPT A - FOREIGN SEC - PC - OTTAWA - 19 FEBRUARY 1990

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FOREIGN SECRETARY (CONT):

Hungary - are against the concept of a united, neutral Germany.

Our position, the British position, I made clear in Bonn exactly a week ago. We believe that if there is a united Germany it should be a member of NATO. We believe that arrangements need to be made to reconcile that with the legitimate security interests of the Soviet Union and of Poland. And we believe that in the work which will be necessary on that, that work should include studying restrictions on the stationing of NATO troops within what is now the GDR, the territory of the GDR.

We also believe that it is very important that there should be a clear and binding commitment to respect the present borders of Poland. It was a point discussed by the Polish Prime Minister with Mrs Thatcher yesterday in London and by the Polish Foreign Minister this morning with me here in Ottawa.

So there is a lot of work to be done, Ladies and Gentlemen, on that, but at least we can now see a framework emerging within which that work can be achieved.

Finally I would like to say that Herr Genscher will be stopping in London tomorrow for talks with the Prime Minister, Mrs Thatcher. This follows the sequence of very close contacts we have had with the Federal German Government, including my visit to Bonn and my talks with the Federal Chancellor exactly a week ago, and as I have said, the almost continuous contacts that I have had here in Ottawa with Herr Genscher.

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