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Austria

Memorandum of conversation¹ by the Austrian Foreign Ministry

GDR; VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER MODROW² IN AUSTRIA; CONVERSATION FM³ –
FOREIGN MINISTER FISCHER, 26.1.1990

Vienna, 30 January 1990

During the work meeting of the Federal Minister with GDR FM Fischer⁴ on 26 January 1990 the following issues were broached:

1. Bilateral Issues

1.1. Repealing Visa Requirements: The foreign ministers agreed to tentatively repeal the visa requirements from 1 February 1990, 0:00 until 28 February 1990, 24:00. By then, negotiations on a corresponding agreement should be completed, which should come into force on 1 March 1990.

1.2. Repealing Car Tax Liability: Foreign Minister Fischer handed over a note in which the request was put forward again. The note will be transferred to Department III.7 under a separate reference number.

2. International Questions

2.1. Unification of the German States: Foreign Minister Fischer emphasized that it would come to unification; it must be embedded in the overcoming of European division.

2.2. CSCE process: According to Foreign Minister Fischer the negotiations in Vienna are going too slowly (the usual conference mechanism is running rampant). He therefore welcomes the initiative of Genscher⁵, Dumas⁶ and de Michelis⁷. Given the time and effort required for a summit of 35, and the pressing international issues, to the GDR it seems worth considering following directly up in Vienna with

¹ *Memorandum of conversation (translated from German):* Austrian State Archive ÖStA, AdR, BMAA, II-Pol 1990, GZ. 43.18.01/11-II.3/90. Written by Hans Peter Manz, dodis.ch/P57510 and signed by Ernst Sucharipa dodis.ch/P57511; also published in Wilson Center, doc. [165719](https://www.wilsoncenter.org/document/165719). Sent to the Cabinet of the Foreign Minister, the General Secretariat, the section heads II, III, IV, the Departments II.1, II.7, III.7, IV.2, the Austrian Embassies in East Berlin and Bonn and the Austrian Delegation in West Berlin.

² Hans Modrow (*1928), dodis.ch/P54796, Chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers 13.11.1989–12.4.1990.

³ Alois Mock (1934–2017), dodis.ch/P57512, Austrian Foreign Minister 21.1.1987–4.5.1995.

⁴ Oskar Fischer (*1923), dodis.ch/P51055, Foreign Minister of the GDR 3.3.1975–12.4.1990.

⁵ Hans-Dietrich Genscher (1927–2016), dodis.ch/P15414, Vice-Chancellor and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the FRG 1.10.1982–17.5.1992.

⁶ Roland Dumas (*1922), dodis.ch/P15651, French Foreign Minister 10.5.1988–28.3.1993.

⁷ Gianni De Michelis (*1940), dodis.ch/P57415, Italian Foreign Minister 22.07.1989–28.06.1992.



123 “Helsinki II”. The holding of two separate summits in the current year (Signing of the agreements/European discussion) would, anyway, not be advantageous. The Federal Minister emphasized Austria’s interest but referred to the still upcoming interim conference before Helsinki 1991.

2.3. Foreign Minister Fischer spoke positively of Mitterrand’s⁸ idea of a European confederation.

2.4. The Federal Minister pointed out that Austria’s policy of neutrality is still a part of the credibility of Austrian foreign policy, even if in the light of the international development it no longer has the same weight it once had.

8 *François Mitterrand (1916–1996)*, dodis.ch/P13775, *President of France 21.5.1981–17.5.1995*.