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Canada

*Telegram<sup>1</sup> from the Canadian Ambassador in Bonn, Thomas W. Delworth<sup>2</sup>, to the Canadian Department of External Affairs*

GERMAN REUNIFICATION: THE STREET SPEAKS

Confidential

Bonn, 6 December 1989

Our German (West) interlocutors, such as Teltschik<sup>3</sup> in Chancellor's office, repeatedly have stressed to us that while Bonn recognizes dangers in pursuing reunification too precipitously and will remain loyal to its Western allies, it is the people in the streets of the GDR who will play a decisive role in this debate.

2. FRG electronic and print media is absorbed totally in what is happening next door. There is one dramatic event after another as the political guillotine (without a Robespierre) takes its toll. Krenz<sup>4</sup> is now gone. Honecker<sup>5</sup> is under house arrest. GDR state security apparatus is under siege and the entire SED, including Modrow<sup>6</sup>, appears discredited. Banners calling for reunification are blossoming in greater numbers. There is talk of advancing elections to May from the autumn and of a referendum on reunification.

3. But it is not only in the GDR streets that events are happening. In the FRG, Bild-Zeitung (FRG and Europe's largest circulation newspaper) yesterday ran a one word, three inch high headline in national red, gold, and black colours "Einheit (Unity)". USA Ambassador Walters<sup>7</sup> made a public prediction that there will be a reunified Germany with Berlin as its capital within five years and has sent the Bonn coffee and cake Hausfraus crowd to gossiping about the merits of selling their houses in Bonn before real estate prices in Berlin become too high.

<sup>1</sup> Telegram No. ZQGR0559 (incoming): Global Affairs Canada file 25-3-3-5-Germany / Confidential. Ref: Our tels AQGR0556 28 NOV and 0574 04 DEC (NOTAL). Info to Privy Council Office, Brussels-EEC, Brussels, Brussels-NATO, London, Washington, Paris, Paris-OECD, Rome, Tokyo, Geneva, Warsaw, Budapest, Helsinki, Oslo, Stockholm, Copenhagen, Hague, Bern, Vienna, Delegation to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Madrid, Athens, Ankara, Moscow, Bucharest, Belgrade and Prague.

<sup>2</sup> Thomas W. Delworth (1929–2012), [dodis.ch/P51338](https://dodis.ch/P51338), Canadian Ambassador in Bonn 1987–1992.

<sup>3</sup> Horst M. Teltschik (\*1940), [dodis.ch/P57413](https://dodis.ch/P57413), Foreign policy advisor to the Chancellor of the FRG.

<sup>4</sup> Egon Krenz (\*1937), [dodis.ch/P54794](https://dodis.ch/P54794), General Secretary of the SED 18.10.1989–3.12.1989 and Chairman of the GDR State Council 18.10.1989–6.12.1989.

<sup>5</sup> Erich Honecker (1912–1994), [dodis.ch/P46563](https://dodis.ch/P46563), General Secretary of the SED and chairman of the GDR State Council 29.10.1976–18.10.1989.

<sup>6</sup> Hans Modrow (\*1928), [dodis.ch/P54796](https://dodis.ch/P54796), Chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers 13.11.1989–12.4.1990.

<sup>7</sup> Vernon A. Walters (1917–2002), [dodis.ch/P54605](https://dodis.ch/P54605), US Ambassador in Bonn 1989–1991.

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4. On 05 December it was announced by Modrow and Seiters<sup>8</sup> of Chancellor's office that an agreement had been reached on removing visas and currency changing requirements for West Germans visiting the East and setting up a currency conversion mechanism and fund for East Germans travelling West (details in separate telegram). This will result in massive two-way flow of Germans. A huge economic assistance plan is under discussion (our telegram ZQGR2473 06 DEC<sup>9</sup>). The CDU has announced that its next party conference in January will be split, with the first session in Bad Krasnall in Bavaria and the second in Leipzig, where it says there are many CSU supporters.

5. How far this integrative process, led primarily from below, will go is difficult to predict. It is, however, proceeding apace while statesmen talk and muse about what is and what is not possible.

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<sup>8</sup> Rudolf Seiters (\*1937), [dodis.ch/P57431](https://dodis.ch/P57431), Minister without portfolio in the Government of the FRG 1989–1991.

<sup>9</sup> Not located.