

BERLIN CRISIS CHRONOLOGY

1961

- May 8-10 NATO Secretary General Dr. Dirk Stikker presides over NATO Council meeting in Oslo. Much of the session is spent on the Soviet threat to Berlin and West Germany.
- May 31 -
June 2 Presidents Kennedy and de Gaulle meet and agree on a firm Berlin policy. With Kennedy in Paris are Foy Kohler, Llewellyn Thompson, Averell Harriman, McGeorge Bundy, Charles Bohlen, and Dean Rusk for a strategy meeting before Vienna.
- June 3-4 Vienna meeting between Kennedy and Khrushchev at which the Soviets present an ultimatum, an aide-memoire. The ultimatum, published by the Soviets 11 June, calls for a peace treaty with East and West Germany and the establishment of West Berlin as a demilitarized free city. Kohler flies to Bonn, Rusk to Paris, and Kennedy to London, to inform Allies.
- June 6 Roswell L. Gilpatric says, "If NATO forces were about to be overwhelmed by non-nuclear attacks from the (communist) bloc countries NATO could make use of nuclear arms." US Army divisions and US Air Force units in Europe have nuclear weapons for battlefield use.
- Kennedy tells the nation about the Vienna meeting. Vienna was "very sober" but "very useful," no spectacular progress was either achieved or intended. "Most somber" talks were on Germany and Berlin.
- June 8 The Soviets set the stage for imposing air restrictions by complaining to the four Allies of alleged provocations derived from proposed West German parliament meeting in West Berlin.
- June 9 US Army calls for more men on active and reserve duty to carry out Kennedy's plans to increase readiness of reserves.
- June 10 Six-month date on ultimatum of 3 June noted. Anthony Eden says that ordinary diplomacy is inadequate; suggests a political general staff.

- June 13 National Security Council discusses the results of the Vienna meetings.
- June 14 Senator Mansfield suggests that Berlin be made a free city. Rusk points out that Senators' views do not represent US policy.
- June 15 Ulbricht threatens interference with Western air traffic to and from Berlin.
- Khrushchev in a radio address says that the Oder-Neisse frontier between Germany and Poland is final. Any change of this frontier will risk "thermonuclear war." In event of treaty between USSR and GDR, the Western powers will have to negotiate with East German authorities on the question of access. West Berlin should be a "free demilitarized city" under a regime of its own choosing. Berlin and German questions must be settled before year's end or a unilateral treaty will be signed.
- Khrushchev proposes general and complete disarmament (2-1/2 months before announcing the resumption of nuclear tests).
- June 16 Dr. Stikker meets with Kennedy, Rusk, and McNamara to coordinate US policy with NATO.
- June 20 German President Luebke visits de Gaulle accompanied by Heinrich von Brentano, Foreign Minister, and Gerhard Jansen, European Director in Foreign Ministry.
- June 21 The Pentagon names four air bases in England to be closed or reduced in operations. Major reconnaissance operations will shift to bases near Metz, France.
- Khrushchev speaks in Moscow, recapitulating the 15 June demands.
- June 22 US troops stage surprise combat exercises in West Berlin. Rusk replies to the USSR that the "tension" of the situation is Soviet-created in a situation that would otherwise be quiet. The basis of US rights in Berlin cannot be unilaterally repealed; the division of Berlin and Germany is the abnormality, not West Berlin or West Germany.
- June 23 Dr. Stikker confers with General Norstad at NATO Headquarters. Kennedy summons leading policy advisers and Senate leaders to a meeting at the White House: Rusk, McNamara, Kohler, Senate Majority Leader Mansfield, Foreign Relations Committee

Chairman Fulbright, and Armed Services Committee Chairman Russell. The group takes a firm attitude on Berlin. A vitriolic anti-Bonn speech by Khrushchev. German Federal Republic will refer the Berlin question to the UN if necessary.

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- June 24 Kohler talks with Ambassadors Grewe (Germany), Alphand (France), and Caccia (Great Britain).
- June 25 Rear Admiral Galantin, Director of Submarine Warfare for CNO, says Polaris is trained on the USSR.
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SR June 26 General Taylor is recalled to active duty and appointed Military Representative of the President with the responsibility to advise him on military and intelligence. Taylor sits on the Intelligence Advisory Board and the Berlin Recommendations Committee.
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- June 28 Soviets decree that after 1 August all aircraft must register before flying into Berlin. The British and Americans reply that this announcement in no way affects their aircraft.
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- Kennedy says that the crisis in Berlin is Soviet-manufactured and that a peace treaty with East Germany would create a permanent division in Germany.
- Dr. Stikker announces that the NATO Council will start consulting on military emergency measures for West Berlin.
- June 29 At the National Security Council meeting Acheson presents recommendations of his task force on Berlin. These include a partial mobilization of US conventional forces and the strengthening of the five US divisions in Germany.
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- June 30 Pentagon sources speak of recommendations to add one or more combat divisions to the five already in Europe.
- July 1 The possibility of providing the Davy Crockett battlefield nuclear weapon to 300 teams of US ground forces in West Germany is noted, as are plans to add at least one more US Army combat division in Europe and to call up National Guard and Army Reserve units.
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- July 3 Newsweek "leaks" JCS proposals: evacuate dependents from France and West Germany; transfer one additional division to West Europe; declare a limited national emergency, partial

mobilization of the Guard and Reserve and an increase in draft quotas; commandeer civil airlines for troop movements to Germany; demonstrate intent to use nuclear weapons; deploy NATO combat forces in West Europe. Newsweek on 10 July says that these were Acheson's recommendations in the 29 June NSC meeting. Kennedy reportedly orders an FBI investigation of the alleged Pentagon "leak."

July 4 Receptions in both Berlin and Moscow are well attended. Marshal A. I. Solovyiev, Field Marshal G. H. Hamilton, and General Watson, the Berlin Commandants, meet socially for the occasion in Berlin. Khrushchev, Brezhnev, Kosygin, Mikoyan, and 200 other Soviet officials attend Moscow reception.

Macmillan states that any plans for Germany must include reunification.

July 6 Kennedy tells press that Allied rights in Berlin derive from the Nazi surrender, not from Soviet generosity.

July 7 East Germany places severe permit restrictions on East Berliners who work in West Berlin.

Rusk meets in Washington with Alphand, Caccia, and Krapf on reply to aide-memoire.

July 8 Kennedy meets at Hyannis Port with Rusk, McNamara, and Taylor over Berlin and Germany -- "not an emergency meeting."

Khrushchev calls for a halt in the reduction of armed forces and announces an increase in defense expenditures. He cites the crisis over Berlin and Germany as the cause.

July 9 Soviets display new combat aircraft and helicopter transport on Aviation Day. Khrushchev announces a 30 percent increase in defense budget.

Norstad calls for military build-up before House Foreign Affairs Committee.

McNamara reports on defense needs to the Senate Defense Appropriations Committee, calls for an increase, and gives the reasons.

July 10 Rusk addresses National Press Club in Washington and says "the central issue of the crisis is the announced determination

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to impose a world of coercion upon those not already subjected to it."

Kennedy calls for a review of US military strength and the budget in regard to the Berlin crisis.

East Germany announces that it will assume full control over Allied land and air access routes to Berlin after signing peace treaty with Soviets.

July 11 A definite show of tension in the West is noted over Soviet Air Show and announcement of 30 percent armament increase.

Defense Department is studying plans to mobilize certain National Guard and Army Reserve units, Gilpatric says.

July 12 Adenauer visits Berlin and reaffirms Western rights. He states that the presence of Western powers is based on an unaltered legal position; that Berlin is incorporated into the legal, economic, and financial systems of the Federal Republic which is a basic pillar to the city's free existence; that access must not be restricted; that any agreement on Berlin must take into account the will of the population; and that Berlin must remain a place where Germans from East and West can meet.

July 13 In London, Dr. Stikker says the primary Western task is to convince Moscow of western determination in order to avoid a military conflict over Berlin.

July 14 Senator Stennis (Armed Services Committee) hears US and Soviet arms information from DOD and CIA.

Strauss and McNamara meet. Strauss arranges purchases of Pershing and F-104; he also talks with Kennedy, Rusk, Dillon, and other US officials.

July 15 Throughout July, Representative Carl Vinson, House Armed Services Committee, advocates Army buildup in Germany and in general.

The NATO Council in Paris approves the Western Powers' reply to the Soviet memorandum on Germany and Berlin.

July 16 August draft to be 8000 men.

President's decision (after Bay of Pigs investigation): (1) Top direction of CIA will be changed; (2) All CIA intelligence bearing on military operations will be processed through General Taylor; and (3) US intelligence overseas of a diplomatic nature (political and economic) will be centralized in the office of the Ambassador.

After his conference with Kennedy, Rusk, and McNamara, Dr. Stikker says, "Mr. Khrushchev has made it abundantly clear that there is urgency in the need for increased NATO strength."

- July 17 The US, Britain, and France inform the USSR in their replies to the Vienna aide-memoire, that Premier Khrushchev's terms for settlement are unacceptable to the West and cannot be made the basis for any negotiations on these problems.
- NATO forces will be increased due to crisis.
- July 19 Kennedy makes it clear that he will call upon the Allies to help with the defense of Berlin.
- July 20 The US government initiates plans to permit increased draft calls and to improve the readiness of National Guard and Reserve units.
- July 23 Paris meeting of Finletter, Norstad, Lemnitzer, McNamara, and Stikker to plan western strategy in event of a Soviet threat on Berlin. This meeting followed the 19 July NSC meeting in Washington.
- July 24 In a RIAS interview, Dr. Stikker expresses the view that, in pursuit of their goals in Berlin, the Soviets might one day be willing to take considerable risks because Moscow desires to liquidate West Berlin as the last island of freedom in the communist sphere.
- July 25 Kennedy speaks to the nation, giving a detailed breakdown of the need for a general defense buildup to meet the Soviet threat. He calls for an increase of a total of 217,000 men for the armed services and an increase in expenditures of \$3,457,000,000 total with \$207,000,000 for civil defense and \$1,800,000,000 for non-nuclear weapons, ammunition, and equipment. General LeMay's 12 July appeal for retention of the B-52 and B-58 production levels and for an increase in B-70 program funding is not reflected here.

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- July 25-26 John H. McCloy, Kennedy's advisor on disarmament, meets Khrushchev. Soviets want the disarmament discussion broadened to cover Berlin and Germany. Khrushchev is angry with Kennedy's call for increased armament.
- July 26 Congress gives Kennedy backing to call up 250,000 Ready Reserves for not more than 12 months.
- Britain will recall reserves for the British Army of the Rhine.
- July 28 F-105D Thunderchiefs will be sent to Bitburg, Germany, as part of the 31st Fighter-Bomber Wing of the Air Force Tactical Command.
- General Clarke signs orders tightening pass and leave regulations, beginning 1 August, for Army units in West Germany, France, and Italy.
- July 29 Military buildup to concentrate first on improving training and combat readiness of armed forces in US reinforcement for Europe not likely until late fall. A third division of Army strategic forces is ordered to combat readiness.
- East German government warns citizens against traveling to West Germany and West Berlin.
- July 30 Soviet Union announces a new draft program; parades new missile-launching warships on Navy Day.
- Western Allies hold a surprise alert in Berlin.
- Congress calls for the four Air Force bases scheduled to be closed to be kept open indefinitely, for the restoration to active duty of some 40 ships, for expanded joint use of military training facilities and storage depots by West German and US forces in Europe.
- August 1 64 Air National Guard and 7 Air Force Reserve units advised to be ready for call to active duty.
- August 2 East German government clamps down on residents who work in West Berlin, though most get to work.
- Defense Intelligence Agency to be set up, to assume certain functions previously performed by individual service intelligence agencies.

- August 2-4 Italian Premier Fanfani visits Moscow and is informed that Italy is not safe from nuclear attack so long as she is a part of NATO. Greek Ambassador Karamanlis is told the same thing about Greece's membership in NATO,
- Khrushchev replies to the combined Allied notes of 17 July -- "playing the old record."
- August 4 Soviets warn West Germany that its people would not survive "even a few hours of the third world war if it were unleashed."
- August 4-7 Rusk, de Murville, and the Earl of Home confer in Paris with Heinrich von Brentano. Results: a willingness to negotiate on a "reasonable basis," but not because of threat of unilateral action by USSR. Paul Nitze, Sir Evelyn Shuckburg (Deputy Under Secretary of Foreign Affairs), and Field Marshal Sir Francis Festing (Chief of the Imperial General Staff) also present. During this conference a definition of common objectives for the defense of Berlin was reached. (See Lord Home's statement 27 August.)
- August 6 The four ministers agree on economic countermeasures ranging from partial to complete embargo on East-West trade.
- August 7 Khrushchev replies to Kennedy's 25 July defense buildup speech and calls for a conference on Berlin. He warns that a Soviet division might move to the West European frontiers as defensive measure.
- August 8 After a report by Rusk on his conference with the three western foreign ministers, the NATO Council in Paris affirms its guarantee of West Berlin's freedom.
- August 9 Khrushchev says, "No threat will intimidate us and we will sign a peace treaty with Germany." If war breaks out, he warns the Soviet Union will use all of its arms, and that it can construct a 100-megaton warhead.
- August 10 US naval forces in the Pacific heighten their state of readiness and are to keep the 7th Fleet at a maximum seagoing strength.
- August 11 In Rumania, Khrushchev says "it is a fairy tale that the West will fight for the 2.2 million people of West Berlin and unleash a war" in which millions of people would perish.

August 13 Concertina wire is put up along East-West Berlin border, leaving 13 crossing points. East Germans are denied entry into Western Berlin. Border is guarded by Volkspolizei (VOPO).

US military buildup calls for a maximum increase of 250,000 in the armed services including 133,000 in the Army; to build up NATO strength in Germany from 22 understrength divisions to 30 full-strength divisions; to increase the strength of the Tactical Air Command; to improve the readiness of SAC; and to appropriate large amounts for new weapons.

August 14 Both sides create a 3/4-mile no man's land on each side of the road running through the Brandenburg Gate. Gate closed. Telephone, telegraph, and mail services between East and West Germany interrupted.

The Pentagon announces that the Navy plans to keep on active duty 26,800 officers and men scheduled for release during the coming year.

Special meeting of the NATO Council.

August 15 US, Britain, and France protest the Wall in notes to the Soviet Union.

East German minister of the interior announces that all West Berlin vehicles must have special passes to cross into East Berlin. Pedestrian crossing limited to 12 points.

August 16 Army alerts 103 Reserve and National Guard units for possible active duty; will extend by four months the enlistments of 84,000 men; will call up 25,000 draftees in September and 20,000 in October; will extend active duty tours of officers currently serving 6-month terms for at least one year; will require 4,500 officers newly commissioned through ROTC to report for two years' active duty; will draft doctors and dentists if an insufficient number volunteer; will extend some reserve obligations for one year; will restrict 6-month active duty training program under Reserve Forces Act to men under 20 and take no men for the program between 1 September and 1 December 1961.

August 17 The Navy announces an increase of 42 ships: 1 transport and 6 destroyers originally scheduled for inactivation; 22 amphibious vessels demothballed; and the reactivation of 11 supply ships.

De Gaulle announces the bolstering of French ground and air forces in West Germany. Britain orders limited reinforcement of British tactical air units in West Germany.

Brandt asks US, Britain, and France to reinforce West Berlin and to rotate some troops to emphasize the right of access.

Moscow holds ground maneuvers.

August 18 President Kennedy orders a battle group of 1500 men to Berlin to reinforce the garrison.

August 19 The Soviet Union "categorically rejects" Allied protests about the Wall.

Vice President Johnson and General Clay arrive in Berlin. Johnson reassures West Berlin of US will to fight for Berlin's survival.

August 20 The 1500-men US battle group arrives in Berlin over the autobahn; is reviewed by Johnson. Washington C.P. has close surveillance of the task force at each step of the movement. (The troops carry normal field components of ammunition for personal weapons and artillery.)

August 21 Britain deploys 3000 men in her sector of Berlin to show preparedness.

August 22 Adenauer arrives in Berlin to a cool reception.

Air corridors threatened by Soviet notes. The Allied access to East Berlin is cut to one crossing point, Checkpoint Charlie.

August 23 All people in West Berlin are warned by East German communists to stay 100 meters from the Wall. The Allies deploy 1000 troops, backed by 10 tanks, at the Wall in defiance of the 100-meter rule.

Soviets deploy tanks in all towns close to the border to show East Germans that resistance is futile.

August 24 Allies protest notes threatening restriction of the air corridors giving "solemn warning" that restriction would be considered "an aggressive act."

East Germans challenge three Army buses; detain them until a US officer protests to Soviet authorities at Checkpoint Charlie.

August 25 Ulbricht announces that East Germany will not seek to control Allied communications with West Berlin until a peace treaty has been signed.

The Pentagon orders 76,500 reserves to active duty -- 46,500 Army, 23,600 Air Force, and 6,400 Navy, as of 1 October. The Army reserves are primarily logistics and support.

August 26 Notes are sent to Pervuchin, USSR Ambassador in East Berlin, protesting the attempt to extend East German sovereignty into the sphere of Allied jurisdiction by the 100 meter declaration and by the restrictions at Checkpoint Charlie.

Western powers advise Soviet Union that it has no jurisdiction over Allied flights and warn that interference will be considered a grave incident.

Macmillan tells a newsman that the situation in Berlin "is very worrying but nothing more" and that "nobody is going to fight about it."

Further restrictions on religious leaders crossing the border for purely religious purposes announced.

August 27 Khrushchev reiterates (to Drew Pearson) his stand on Berlin, that it should be established as a "free city" with only token Soviet and Western forces stationed there. Control of access would be delegated by treaty to East German sovereignty. Asks, why not recognize the two Germanys?

Lord Home says the West has a "double-barrelled" policy involving building the strength of NATO and finding a solution to the Berlin problem. Strength is needed to convince the USSR that the West is able and determined to back up its insistence on three conditions:

- (a) freedom and viability of West Berlin
- (b) presence of the Allies in the city to defend that freedom
- (c) the right of access to the city.

August 29 Soviet Union stops demobilization of military personnel. The US and Britain hold training maneuvers in Berlin.

- August 30 General Clay appointed as President Kennedy's personal representative in Berlin with rank of ambassador, to arrive about 15 September.
- August 31 Soviet Union announces resumption of nuclear tests and explodes its first nuclear devices 1 September. President Kennedy announces resumption of US tests on 5 September and the US explodes its first on 15 September.
- September 1 The US publishes hitherto secret document which shows prior Soviet approval of completely unrestricted use of the air corridors for both military and civilian flights by Allies only.
- Soviet Union announces that it will conduct air, naval, and missile maneuvers.
- September 2 Defense Department announces that 4 fighter squadrons (72 planes) will be sent to the NATO maneuvers 12-14 September.
- September 3 Soviet Union, in parallel notes to Allies, again challenges Western rights to unrestricted air access to West Berlin. Challenge is directed against commercial traffic. Berlin Air Safety Center is the only remaining four-power institution. Soviets threaten to walk out.
- 3000 men ordered to Europe to strengthen NATO and USAREUR. It is expected that about 18,000 soldiers will be sent to Germany to fill out the 7th Army combat forces and an additional 20,000 men for supply and logistics units. No final orders yet for last 2 increments.
- September 4 General Watson's protests against communist police encroachments rejected by Colonel Solovyev. General Watson says that the US holds the Soviets fully responsible for what happens in Soviet sector of occupation.
- Polish Defense Minister Spychalski says that the Warsaw Pact countries have taken steps "conducive to the strengthening of defense readiness."
- September 6 The Pentagon orders intensified "combat readiness" of 148,000 members of the military reserves, including four Army National Guard divisions.

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September 8 West replies to 3 September Soviet notes. Warns Russians that interference with air flights will be considered an "aggressive action."

Preparations in Europe include intensified training in conventional warfare tactics and reinforcement of US air strength with 72 tactical fighters.

September 9 Pentagon announces that the US will send 40,000 troops to Europe in the "immediate future" to strengthen combat support forces. McNamara orders, beginning 9 October, the suspension of dependent travel to EUCOM to free transport facilities for troops and equipment.

Harold Watkinson, British defense minister, announces the formation of a division to be kept in a high state of readiness and to be sent to Berlin in case the crisis worsens.

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September 11 Young people have been leaving West Berlin for West Germany in droves. The statistics are not published, for security and morale reasons (Le Monde). 80,000 out of 900,000 man work force were East Berliners. Only 10,000 were able to flee before the Wall went up (London Times). The West German government announces a considerable increase in the subsidy to West Berlin, from 1.1 billion marks to 1.6 billion.

Soviet notes to US, Britain, France declares that all foreign citizens wanting to enter East Germany or East Berlin must make arrangements with the East German government.

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September 13 US moves platoon of military police across the autobahn to reinforce Berlin garrison.

Navy to call up 1957 more reservists to fill the ranks of 18 squadrons previously summoned to active duty. This is the fifth order since 25 July.

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September 14 Two West German F-84s land in Berlin at Tegel Airport in French sector; flight violated four-power agreements on Germany. Soviets protest. Soviet MIG harasses Pan American airliner.

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September 14-16 Lord Home, de Murville, von Brentano, and Rusk meet in Washington to discuss problems of West Germany and Berlin.

- September 15 The US protests to Soviet representative in Allied Air Safety Council against "molesting" of two American commercial liners buzzed by MIG fighters in the corridor.
- September 16 Another Pan American passenger plane, going from Berlin to Frankfurt, is molested by a Soviet jet fighter.
- September 17 West German elections. Adenauer loses Bundestag majority.
- September 19 General Clay arrives in West Berlin. Tens of thousands of West Berliners greet him. Flies commercially to defy the last Soviet air corridor threat.
- Pentagon orders to active duty two Army National Guard divisions and 249 smaller Army Reserve and National Guard units to be mobilized 15 October.
- September 21 General Clay flies to Steinsticken enclave (US sector) a short distance south of Berlin border. Helicopters rescue 50 refugees over next few days.
- Gromyko meets with Rusk in New York on Berlin. These meetings last off and on 17-30 September. No results announced.
- September 22 Clay remarks that West Germany should consider recognition of the reality of the existence of the two German states if they want a bargaining leverage on the Wall or "access." Recognition, furthermore, might pose the best chance for reunification. Strong adverse reaction in West German press.
- Two US military police in civilian dress held by communists for six hours outside Berlin while on their way to Helmstedt.
- For the first time since 13 August, the West Berlin police cover the escape of refugees from East Berlin by means of tear gas.
- September 23 Clay reaffirms Western rights in Berlin and that US policy has not changed.
- US 7th Army put on "combat ready" alert.
- September 24 Belgian Foreign Minister Paul-Henri Spaak (former NATO Secretary General) reports to the NATO Council on his talks with Khrushchev and declares that the latter is not limited by the year end deadline for settlement of the East German peace treaty.

Ambassador Dowling formally assures the West German government that US policy on Berlin and on the German question has not changed. West German President Luebke assures the German people that the Allies are firm on their "guarantees for the freedom of West Berlin and its links with the free world," and that General Clay "has not come here to surrender this city."

Senator Mansfield suggests that all Berlin might be made a "free city."

Solovyiev protests resumption of US autobahn patrols.

- September 25 President Kennedy, in an address to the UN General Assembly, reaffirms US determination to defend the Allied position in West Berlin.
- September 26 General Watson visits Karlshorst; demands unhampered autobahn traffic. Discusses increased US patrols after two American soldiers were stopped by the VOPOs.
- September 27 USAFE announces that eight tactical fighter squadrons are temporarily assigned to Europe for overseas operational training, two equipped with F-104 Starfighters and six with F-100 Super Sabre jets, under the command of 17th Air Force in Ramstein, Germany.
- Three infantry divisions of the US Army in West Germany will be mechanized within the next several months to strengthen their combat ability.
- October 1 75,100 Army, Air Force, and Naval reserves report for duty. Another 82,375 are due on 15 October.

The USAREUR assimilation of augmenting filler personnel and tactical units was called Operation Roundout. 40,000 troops were received during 1961. Slightly less than half of these were fillers for a full TO&E increase of existing units. Half of them were part of Roundout units which included an armored cavalry regiment, tank, artillery, and engineer battalions, and signal units. The increase raised the nominal 230,000 man US force level to 270,000. Permitted conversion of three infantry divisions to mechanized divisions.

- October 2 British Labor Party agrees to a resolution calling for de facto recognition of East Germany in exchange for Soviet guarantees of Allied and West German access to Berlin.
- Four destroyer escorts of the Naval Reserve are recommissioned.
- October 4 Communist police fire into Western zone (Bernauerstrasse) at refugee. West Berlin police return fire, wounding a VOPO. Soviet authorities focus considerable attention on the incident.
- October 5 Pentagon says that most of the 40,000 troops ordered to reinforce USAREUR will arrive by 1 November.
- October 6 Mayor Brandt, in New York to accept the Freedom House award, says that the "Wall in Berlin must come down. . . ."
- Kennedy and Gromyko talk to form clearer definition of "guarantees" and "free access" promised by Khrushchev in his speech. Gromyko is vague; no net gains.
- General Delacombe, British Commandant, protests the use of firearms at the sector border. Draws attention to the dangerous and irresponsible action of the VOPOs, stressing the Bernauerstrasse incident.
- October 7 US Army reduces patrols on sector of border facing East Berlin, transfers this duty from combat troops to military police units.
- October 10 50,000 Soviet troops and 10,000 Polish troops arrive in East Germany for maneuvers near West German border.
- October 11 Department of Defense announces further reinforcement of US forces in Europe; units to go are an armored cavalry regiment and 11 squadrons of fighter planes, an increase of about 10,000 in addition to the earlier 40,000.
- October 12 USAREUR ordered to preposition 125,000 tons of equipment and supplies for 43 tactical units in 9 locations. Target completion date is set for 7 December 1961. This 56-day period is about one-half the normal order and shipping time between CONUS and USAREUR. 85,000 tons come from USAREUR sources and 40,000 tons from CONUS.
- October 13 Nine East German youths drive truck to Wall and flee to West Berlin under fire. General Watson vigorously protests reckless

VOPO action and introduces evidence of other provocative incidents by VOPOs.

October 15 British Foreign Office announces high level planning talks, scheduled to be held in London, have been cancelled due to French objections that the West seems too eager and should not talk when the Kremlin has nothing to offer.

VOPOs detain four carloads of US civilians seeking to enter East Berlin. The US flatly refuses to recognize the authority of the VOPOs. Generals Clay and Watson, in civilian clothes, are not stopped as they drive to East Berlin.

October 20 US holds maneuvers in Berlin with 1500 soldiers.

October 22 Allan Lightner, Jr., Assistant Chief of the US Mission in Berlin, is stopped by VOPOs. Armed US soldiers escort him through.

October 23 East Germans announce that henceforth all Allied personnel must show identification to the VOPOs. General Watson protests this and Lightner's detention to Soviet Commandant Solovyiev.

East and West Berlin police have tear-gas battle.

President Kennedy, in a reply to the British Labour Party says that, insofar as Berlin is concerned, the West is not committed to any rigid formula, but that he means to do all he can to arrive at a peaceful solution, which cannot be achieved by unilateral US action.

October 25 Solovyiev rejects Watson's protest. Allied tank units move to the border.

October 26 Thirty-three Soviet-manned tanks, accompanied by troops, move to the center of East Berlin, to counter the US move to assert right of free entry of military police escorting civilians into East Berlin. The British move three anti-tank guns near the Brandenburg Gate and train them on the Soviet tanks.

October 27 Ambassador Llewellyn Thompson protests to Gromyko the restriction of Allied rights to travel in the East sector.

East Germans are required to remain 500 yards behind the Wall, not the 150 yards they were formerly permitted.

October 28 Both the Soviets and the US pull their tanks back.

- October 29 Soviet officers stop two US autobahn patrols at Babelsberg check point. A third patrol is allowed to pass. Soviets say that there is no need for US patrol action because the autobahn is an adequately controlled Soviet zone highway.
- Communist police harassment of British and French traffic continues at Checkpoint Charlie.
- October 31 US stops sending MP patrols on the autobahn but would "resort to the right to employ US patrols on the autobahn at any time it deemed them necessary."
- Berlin official reports an average weekly movement of 1700 West Berliners to West Germany since the Wall.
- November 1 Kennedy schedules biweekly meetings with Planning Board of NSC. He will continue to regard the Council as a vital advisory group.
- US Army increases the number of convoys on the autobahn by breaking down large groups. Military police not molested here.
- November 6 Biggest police tear-gas duel yet. 150 tear-gas grenades thrown over the Wall in both directions when workers start to remove wire fence installed by East Germans one meter inside West Berlin territory.
- November 7 More than 200 F-84s and F-86s reach European bases, piloted by National Guard, all thought to be in France. Air Force dispatches more than 10,000 members of maintenance crews and 2,000 tons of support equipment. More than half the Army's 45,000 troops ordered to Europe have reached their posts.
- Adenauer re-elected Chancellor with coalition cabinet.
- November 9 VOPO at Berlin border fires signal cartridge; burns down a building in West Berlin.
- November 10 A motorized Army infantry company drives the autobahn to Berlin without incident.
- November 13 Berlin is the main topic of a six-day conference of NATO Parliament in Paris. A threat to Berlin is a threat to the essence of NATO (values for which founded). De Murville stresses unanimity of Allies on all basic questions in Berlin.

General Clay notes difference between ground and air control:
"While on land the Soviets could force the West to be the first to use force, they would be the first to employ force in the air corridors."

- November 14 December draft cut to 16,000.
- November 16 NATO Parliamentarians pass a resolution damning the division of Berlin and "barbarian prison wall" illegally erected by Soviets.
- November 19-22 Chancellor Adenauer is in Washington, accompanied by Schroeder and Strauss, for talks with Kennedy and US officials to work out a unified negotiating position on Berlin. They agree that there should be negotiations and that Berlin should be separated from the German problem. Three things are not negotiable: the freedom and viability of West Berlin, the Western powers' rights to maintain troops in the city, and the western powers' right of access to the city. Nothing negotiated with the Soviets should supersede the present occupation statute but should merely supplement the arrangement. The Wall must be an element in the negotiations. Force should not be used to change the boundary dividing East and West Germany or the Oder-Neisse line dividing East Germany and Poland.
- November 20 Delegation of 160 of the 200 NATO Parliamentarians visits Berlin. During stay, they repeatedly visit the sector border. 50,000 to 60,000 Berlin youths hold a protest demonstration against Wall; 1000 clash with police.
- November 23 Train is stopped for 14 hours and searched for a refugee. It is allowed to proceed a few minutes after turning over the refugee. US train officer had declined to surrender the person and contacted Heidelberg by radio.
- November 25 Aleksei Adzhubei interviews President Kennedy. The agreed-upon Western objectives in Berlin, and the legal and logical foundations of these are traced. "As long as Soviet Union has that policy, Germany will not be reunified." Kennedy then notes that the West will not accept a separate treaty.
- November 26 General Clay acknowledges that trains, unlike embassies, do not have extraterritoriality.
- November 29 US Army convoy of one company crosses the autobahn to Berlin without incident.

- November 30 TASS describes American troop movements on the Berlin-Helmstedt autobahn as provocative. MP patrols have been replaced by Army units moving both directions. US forces from the West are part of NATO, meaning inclusion in Berlin of "aggressive NATO Block."
- December 1 Colonel Johns' battle group to be rotated in Berlin. Announcement of this major change (500 vehicles using the autobahn) brings "provocation" charge from TASS. Six-vehicle convoy of US infantry company delayed by Soviets outside Berlin.
- All Army units in Berlin to be under the command of Major General Watson, who is also the Chief of the State Department Mission to Berlin. Purpose of reorganization is to strengthen USAREUR-Berlin chain of command so that both area command functions and tactical command functions come through him.
- December 3 VOPOs tear antennas off three US vehicles in East Berlin.
- December 8 Rusk says that Berlin will be main item before NATO Council of Ministers in Paris meeting -- notes different tactical views among Allies, but unanimity on vital interests.
- December 9 VOPOs enter West Berlin territory (Staaken), shoot and kill an Austrian, and drag him through barbed wire fence to East zone. Austrian attempted to help girl friend and mother flee.
- Two other West Berlin youths arrested and abducted by VOPOs on West Berlin territory at Spandau.
- December 10-12 Allied foreign ministers meet in Paris to resolve differences on goals of liberty and security for Berlin. They agree to start feelers toward the Soviets to find out what the Soviet tough talk on Berlin means.
- December 12 British Commandant vigorously protests border violation by VOPOs and abduction at Spandau-Soviet border.
- December 13 Western European Union, after an address by Stikker, emphasizes basic duty to protect West Berliners under all circumstances, and warns against recognition of puppet regime.
- To the NATO Council, Rusk notes Allied interest in further exploratory talks with USSR, but assures them that the access routes or the Allied right to stay in Berlin will not be abandoned.

- December 15 NATO Council of Ministers reaffirms NATO guarantees for West Berlin, and expresses a desire for continuing contacts with the USSR.
- December 17 US headquarters announces that, despite Soviet protest, US garrison in Berlin will continue to send troops via the autobahn for exercises in West Germany.
- December 18 Unit of 127 US troops leaves West Berlin for four-day exercise in West Germany. No incident. Movements are repeated later without incident.
- December 22 Trivers, US aide, barred from crossing into East Berlin.
- December 23 Department of the Army civilians traveling with General Watson are turned back by VOPOs who would check their I.D. cards. He also turns back and later protests.
- December 29 US bars Soviet commander and political aides from US sector.
- January 16- Exercise LONG THRUST II tests the repositioning concept.
22, 1962 Three battle groups of the 4th Infantry Division arrive during this period and join their equipment. The operation is completed rapidly and effectively, proving the concept feasible for major tactical units.