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# BI-WEEKLY PROPAGANDA GUIDANCE

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25X1010B EAST GERMANY: Internal Situation

Background: All reports about developments inside Communist East Germany since the borders against West Berlin and West Germany were tightly closed on 13 August confirm that (a) the Ulbricht regime was only waiting for this closing of all "escape hatches" to apply the full power of terror against its recalcitrant population, and (b) tension inside East Germany is mounting.

Principal actions of the Communist regime have been thus far:

1. Military mobilization. The Volkskammer ("people's chamber"), East Germany's pseudo-parliament voted for Ulbricht virtually unlimited emergency powers, ominously resembling Hitler's "enabling act" of 1933. Armed forces are being expanded rapidly, notably by pressing all students either to "volunteer" for army service or face expulsion from all higher education. There are some indications, however, that the "volunteer program has not yielded the desired results and yet the regime still holds back on full conscription possibly in fear against making weapons and training available on a large scale.
2. Political Persecution. Many thousand political suspects, including those accused of planning westward flight, or having assisted the flight of others, or of grumbling against government measures, have been jailed, in addition to the at least 9,000 political prisoners East Germany held before 13 August, including many kept since the 17 June 1953 uprising.
3. Compulsory Labor Measures. Inhabitants of East Germany are now subject to labor conscription, including forced transfer to farms or to factories and mines in distant provinces. This is primarily practiced against the over 50,000 workers previously employed in West Berlin. A general increase of labor "norms" (i. e. prescribed minimum output for every worker) and lengthening of working hours, especially on farms is also under way.
4. Evacuation of Border Areas. Entire city blocks in East Berlin, adjoining the Western border, and houses and villages throughout East Germany, close to the border, are being demolished, to prevent escapes (and to facilitate Communist military action). Not only their inhabitants, but any other "suspects" are arbitrarily resettled eastward, often away from Berlin and the major cities.

It is yet too early to predict reactions of the East German population. The abrupt increase in Communist terror, the openly displayed sadism of the secret police and of the "goon squads" of the Communist youth league, etc.

may lead to outbreaks of despair, even to strikes or revolts (though there is not yet any positive indication of such outbreaks). On the other hand, the bitter lesson of the abortive uprising of 1953, the apparent inability of the West to prevent the sealing of the borders, the arrogant display of daily increasing military and police power, etc. may make many East Germans feel that they have been "written off" by the West (even by West Germany) and may induce them to accept their fate with apathy and resignation, thus facilitating Ulbricht's and Khrushchey's grand design.

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obviously irrelevant).