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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: West Berlin Population Movement

1. Before 13 August, about 800 West Berliners moved to the Federal Republic each week. The number then climbed until it got as high as 2,000 a week by the end of September. Since then, it has declined. In the nine weeks from 13 August to 14 October, 13,635 left the city, for an average of 1,511 a week. This is slightly more than the present rate of 1,400-1,500 a week.

2. There has, however, always been immigration into West Berlin from the Federal Republic. Before 13 August, this ran to about 500 persons a week. After that date, the number increased. From 13 August to 14 October, 6,446 entered, for an average of 716 a week. The present rate of arrivals is now around 1,000.

3. Thus, comparing current departures with current arrivals, there is a net loss of population of around 400-500 persons a week.

4. The Berlin Senate, which supplied these figures, states that 65 to 70 percent of the incoming persons are employed or employable, while the same proportion of outgoing persons are not employed. There is a tendency for the outgoing to come from the older and more prosperous segments of the population who take their household possessions with them. There has been an increase in applications for shipment permits. The Senat attributes the increase in arrivals to the return of persons who left just after 13 August, and to persons attracted to Berlin by the advertising of West Berlin firms in West Germany offering favorable employment terms.

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5. While no West Berlin firms are known to be planning to move out of the city, a few have recently hedged against the future by buying plant facilities in West Germany.

6. Two other factors come into the Berlin population picture: one is that there has been an increase in the number of East German refugees electing to stay in the city, and the other is that, as in many large cities, there is an excess of deaths over births. All factors taken into consideration, the Senat foresees a gradual decline in the city's population of 1,000 to 2,000 a month, but regards this change as insignificant. The US Mission in Berlin agrees that if the trend continues at this rate it is not cause for alarm.

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