

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

Summary
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Action
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Classification

Control: 14466
Rec'd: SEPTEMBER 22, 1960
12:25 PM

Info
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FROM: BERLIN
TO: Secretary of State
NO: 205, SEPTEMBER 22, 1 PM



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PRIORITY.

SENT DEPARTMENT 205, REPEATED INFORMATION PRIORITY BONN 192.
FROM DOWLING.

ON SEPT 19, IN CONVERSATION ON BERLIN MATTERS, SENATOR KLEIN MENTIONED THAT BRANDT HAD SENT TO FOREIGN OFFICE INVITATION TO THE PRESIDENT FOR 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF FREEDOM BELL IN BERLIN ON OCT 24, BUT THAT HE HAD JUST LEARNED INVITATION WAS STILL RESTING ON CHANCELLOR'S DESK.

ON FOLLOWING DAY, CARSTENS ASKED TO SEE ME TO SAY THAT SOME TIME EARLIER INVITATION TO THE PRESIDENT TO VISIT BERLIN HAD BEEN RECEIVED FROM BRANDT, AND THAT HE HAD THEN CABLED BRENTANO FOR INSTRUCTIONS. HE HAD NOW BEEN INFORMED, HOWEVER, BY KLEIN THAT INVITATION HAD RESULTED FROM AMERICAN INITIATIVE, AND THAT THERE HAD BEEN INDICATION FROM US SIDE THAT PRESIDENT WOULD ACCEPT. HE ADDED IT MIGHT BE BETTER NOT TO ISSUE INVITATION UNLESS THERE WAS REAL PROSPECT PRESIDENT WOULD ACCEPT.

I REPLIED THAT THERE MIGHT WELL HAVE BEEN INITIATIVE FROM US SIDE, BUT I THOUGHT I WOULD HAVE BEEN INFORMED HAD THERE BEEN ANY FIRM INDICATION THAT THE PRESIDENT COULD ACCEPT. HE SAID HE WOULD SPEAK TO BRENTANO AGAIN, REMARKING THAT HE THOUGHT IN ANY CASE INVITATION, IF ISSUED, SHOULD COME FROM BONN, "SINCE FEDREP WAS CHARGED WITH CONDUCT OF BERLIN'S FOREIGN RELATIONS".

BRANDT TOLD ME THIS MORNING THAT GREWE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER THERE WAS PROSPECT THE PRESIDENT WOULD

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By DJH NLE Date 9/5/97

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ACCEPT INVITATION IF PROFERRED. HE ALSO CONFIRMED THAT SUGGESTION HAD COME FROM REPRESENTATIVE OF CRUSADE FOR FREEDOM, WHO IMPLIED THERE WAS HOPE THE PRESIDENT MIGHT ACCEPT. HE ADDED THOUGHT HAD BEEN IN HIS MIND FOR SOME TIME, AND IN FACT HE AND HIS PROTOCOL OFFICER HAD ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS MENTIONED TO ME HOW WONDERFUL IT WOULD BE IF THE PRESIDENT COULD VISIT BERLIN ON SOME OCCASION.

I NEED NOT SAY THAT, IF IT WERE AT ALL POSSIBLE FOR THE PRESIDENT TO VISIT BERLIN AT THIS TIME, IT WOULD PROVIDE THE GREATEST POSSIBLE EVIDENCE IF CONTINUED US SUPPORT FOR THE CITY AT A TIME WHEN SUCH EVIDENCE IS AGAIN NEEDED, BOTH HERE AND IN WEST GERMANY.

LIGHTNER

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