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HEADQUARTERS
BERLIN COMMAND
Office of the AC of S, G-2
APO 742 US Forces

G2 DIVISION, BERLIN COMMAND
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY
311600 Aug 61 - 71600 Sep 61
(ISUM #10)

1. (C) SOVIET FORCES

a. Reference WISC 35. Rotation of Soviet dependents has thus far been considered as a part of the normal seasonal pattern.

2. (C) EAST GERMAN ARMY FORCES

a. Reference DISC 148. Sightings confirm the presence of a motorized rifle regiment in the East Berlin area. While subordination is still unclear, it is probably the 16th Guards Motorized Rifle Regiment from Bad-Freienwalde or the 17th Guards Motorized Rifle Regiment, both from the 6th Guards Motorized Rifle Division.

3. (C) GARRISON SECURITY FORCES

a. Reference DISC 148. There is further indication of reinforcement of the V BSP Brigade. Before reinforcement most BSP companies were under strength. It is probable that all companies are being increased to full strength of three 30-man platoons. It is estimated that the V BSP Brigade has received a minimum of 600 BSP personnel and 900 Security Alert Police since 10 August. It is possible that the SAP reinforcements were only temporary for the Berlin border closing action.

G2 BERLIN COMMAND COMMENT: This information substantiates observations made along the Sector/Sector and Sector/Zonal borders recently, and serves to explain why there has been an otherwise inexplicable mixture of SAP and BSP personnel along the border.

b. Reference DISC 148. Defector reports indicate that Border Security Police will assume control of the East/West Berlin sector border. Since the East German regime considers the sector border as a national border, control by BSP is logical. The only new units reported in East Berlin are three civilian police battalions formed from 1000 personnel attending police school in Aschersleben. These units are performing guard duty on the sector border in Berlin-Mitte and Pankow area.

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c. Reference WISC 35. SAP defector reports concerning instructions and guard orders are interesting. Significant portions are summarized as follows: do not shoot at West Berliners or Americans; do not shoot at East Berliners who have sufficiently crossed into West Berlin; observe and report license plate numbers of American vehicles.

4. (C) ACCESS SITUATION

a. Railways: No Communist activity identifiable as deliberate attempts by the East Germans to interfere with railway operations have occurred during the period, although some interferences for technical reasons have occurred. These interferences are attributable to the fact that railway employees who defect must be replaced by others, and the pool for replacements is apparently inadequate. Some delay in train schedules resulted from an illegal act on the part of the engine crew in passing a red block signal. This, too, is assessed as being a technical matter and not harassment.

b. Autobahn:

(1) On 2 Sep 61, VoPo's halted a US Officer traveling west on the Autobahn. The Officer was accused of passing in a "no passing zone", and was requested to pay a 10 mark fine. The captain denied the charge and requested to see a Soviet officer. A Soviet officer did not appear, and the captain was permitted to proceed.

(2) On 4 Sep 61, 3 American women from State Dept, American Embassy, Bonn, were halted by 4 East German officials at Marienborn checkpoint. The East German officials demanded to see their passports, but the women refused and demanded to see a Soviet officer. A Soviet officer arrived and informed them that they should have shown their passports to the East German officials. They were then allowed to proceed, however, when they reached the Checkpoint at Helmstedt they relayed the information that the very same thing had occurred on their way into Berlin, 2 days prior.

c. Air Corridors:

Omitted

d. East Berlin:

(1) Reference WISC 35. Traffic obstacles at Friedrichstrasse crossing point have been reduced to two. This suggests

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that control apparatus is becoming more efficient and a need for artificial means to slow traffic less important.

(2) Reference DISC 147. U.S. military vehicles and civilian vehicles continue to visit East Berlin without major incident. Minor interferences have occurred but these have involved non-Berlin personnel who, for assorted reasons, have actually or allegedly violated traffic ordinances in East Berlin. Some of these persons became involved in official relations with East Germans, and in one case, paid a fine contrary to existing policy which prohibits such actions.

(3) Reference WISC 35. Ulbricht allegedly stated that the major portion of the operation of "Block East Berlin" against "aggressive" West Berlin has probably been concluded. Communists have attempted to harass and even stop Allied travel in East Berlin, but have not persisted in any action when the West indicated its resolve to insist at its rights.

(4) Reference WISC 35. The Tag der Heimat rally held in West Berlin during the period 2-3 September was a small-scale exercise compared to recent years, received small press coverage attention, and has passed without precipitating a pretext for a temporary Berlin Sector/Zonal travel restriction on Allied commercial air traffic as was considered possible in some quarters.

(5) In East Berlin in the vicinity of Installations #4102 and #4101, a civilian USBER official transited, in his private vehicle, the area to the east of Biesdorf Compound, which was the scene of the 30 August detention of the 3d Battle Group patrol. This development is of particular interest since the USBER official was not only able to pass through the area delimited by the signs restricting foreign military missions, but his passage was facilitated by East German Garrison Security personnel, who vigorously waved him on. Since 4 September, shallow penetrations have been effected without objectionable effects so far. It appears that the detention last week and the resultant protest of the United States Commandant may well have discouraged the East Germans from their arbitrary acts in control of US personnel in East Berlin. A patrol was detained on 7 September, however it was the feeling of the patrol that their detention was a mistake made by SAP personnel who were not informed as to just what manner to treat the patrol.

e. Canals:

Omitted

f. Telecommunications:

Omitted

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g. U-Bahns, S-Bahns: Lc

(1) Reference DISC 147. Extensive damage to S-Bahn cars from various causes appears to be well established. This damage, attributable to irate West Berliners, will result in a reduction the number of cars in service in West Berlin. This reduction could be misconstrued as an effort to deny service, but it appears to result from the damage. East Germany continues to be interested in maintaining S-Bahn service since it is, even under reduced load, a great source of revenue.

5. (C) HOSTILE RECONNAISSANCE:

Hostile reconnaissance patrols continue to maintain surveillance of installations in West Berlin. An approximate average of 3 Soviet vehicles per day enter West Berlin.

6. (C) REFUGEES

a. Reference DISC 148. 184 refugees were registered at Marienfelde on 7 September 1961. Total registrations for August total some 36,855. The greater bulk arrived before 13 August. The daily average of registration of persons who crossed since 1 August is 112. The aerial movement of refugees has correspondingly been drastically reduced.

7. (C) POPULATION ATTITUDES

a. Reference DISC 147. Discontent and despair continues unchanged in both East Berlin and in the East Zone. Employment in East Berlin is still difficult to obtain. Strong opposition still exists in youth circles toward army recruitment.

b. Reference DISC 147. Purchasing power of East German population is reportedly in excess of goods available for purchase. Steps to reduce the excess purchasing power such as encouraged savings are not sufficient to reduce the excess. Efforts to restore balance such as increases in price commodities or wage reductions are, due to their adverse propaganda effect, unlikely. Rumors of exchange, current in East Germany along with war scare, have led to panic-buying and hoarding. The food supply is not necessarily ample throughout the zone. It is believed the East German Regime is anxious to improve the supply in industrial areas where large numbers of workers are concentrated and where the danger of active opposition to the regime is particularly great.

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c. Reference DISC 148. East German efforts to reduce the opportunity for East Berliners to listen to West German TV programs continue. Teams of FDJ have apparently been trained and equipped to make reception of these programs impossible. This is an act on the part of the Communists for complete subjugation of the East German population.

d. Reference WISC 35. While the majority of East Germans are reported in a state of despair and shock, most individuals from armed forces and Garrison Security Forces have so far remained reliable, even shooting at their own compatriots attempting to flee. Some few have used their positions as border guards as an opportunity to escape. Flights from armed services and police forces have increased, except that no appreciable defection has occurred among East German Army and none from Soviet forces. The SED is continuing to intimidate and regiment the population within the Soviet Zone. Opposition is ruthlessly oppressed, and authorities have been quick to support their actions by "law" (See 15b)

8. (C) PROPAGANDA

a. Reference DISC 148. The sharp reduction in refugee fly-outs materially depreciates East German claims of abuse of the air corridors for this purpose.

b. Reference WISC 35. Announcement by the Soviet Union, prior to the Uncommitted Nations Conference in Belgrade, that they intended to resume nuclear testing has had considerable impact upon Berlin. It is difficult to understand why this announcement was made at this time except insofar as it could be considered terror tactics to shock both the West out of their solidarity and discourage the uncommitted nations from adopting a position contrary to the Soviet Union. There is no visible shaking of united resolve on the part of the West, but the effect on the Belgrade conference may have been as was planned. Conference communiqués thus far have failed to censure the Soviet Union for this resumption of nuclear testing with any degree of the firmness which the individual members had expressed.

c. On 26 August, the Communist East German radio began beaming a special propaganda broadcast especially aimed at the US Forces in Berlin. The broadcasts are in English, and many of the commentaries are directly aimed at members of the Command. The station calls itself "O P S, The Real Voice of Information and Education", and as a humorous sidelight has a theme-song of "Don't Fence Me In". The program is broadcast every evening at 2345 hrs, 1380 on the AM dial.

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9. (C) OBSTACLES AND BARRIERS

a. Reference DISC 148. No major changes in the Berlin situation in the past week. Construction of the barbed wire fences around West Berlin is continuing although at this time there are still stretches of Sector/Zonal border which are not fenced.

G2 BERLIN COMMAND COMMENT: In one locality in the south of the American Sector in the vicinity of Buckow there is a 60-yard stretch of electrical fence. There are no other reports of this type of construction elsewhere in the Berlin area.

10. (C) NEW MATERIEL IDENTIFICATION

Omitted

11. (C) NEW UNIT IDENTIFICATIONS

Omitted

12. (C) AIR ACTIVITY

Omitted

13. (C) STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS

Omitted

14. (C) COUNTERINTELLIGENCE

15. (C) MISCELLANEOUS

a. Harassment of Allied personnel:

Omitted

b. East German Proclamations:

(1) Reference WISC 35. East Germany published a decree on 25 August which authorized limited residence to persons suspected or convicted of threatening public order or safety. The new law gives opportunity for the regime to control its labor pool completely and is directed primarily against worker groups considered unreliable, such as border crossers and, among farmers, those who have passively resisted collectivization. This action increases the control instituted at the time of the declared harvest emergency published on 28 August. (See ISUM #9)

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c. News Items

Omitted

d. Soviet Visits to Border

Omitted

e. Dangerous Crowd Actions Threatening US or Allied Security

Omitted

f. Forecast of Possible Future Communist Moves

(1) Reference DISC 148. USAREUR source claims that very recently East German official stated in private conversation that there would not be war over Berlin. Source also stated that both sides are trying to save face. He referred to the Sector/Sector border of Berlin as the "State border of Berlin" and added that East Berlin is not subject to any negotiations since the situation in Berlin is now "normal" and the West had not suffered from the 13 August border closing. This opinion is consistent with general Communist view that the Four-Power status is dead, that East Berlin is the capital of East Germany, and that the Sector border is the border of the East German state.

G2 BERLIN COMMAND COMMENT: Others, including Willi Brandt, feel that another serious Communist act will take place in the near future in Berlin. Brandt sets the time as "sometime before 17 September". It may be a coincidence that 17 September is the time for the Federal Republic elections and those in East Germany.

16. (C) SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS.

Omitted

Louis A. Waple
LOUIS A. WAPLE

Lt Colonel, GS
G2, Berlin Command

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