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Berlin For your info 138

INCOMING TELEGRAM — Department of State

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CONTROL: 3244
RECD: DECEMBER 5, 1963, 12:06 P.M.

FROM: BERLIN
TO: SECRETARY OF STATE

756, DECEMBER 5, 4 P.M. (SECTION ONE OF TWO)

PRIORITY

ACTION PRIORITY DEPARTMENT 756; INFORMATION PARIS 460, MOSCOW 396, BONN 687, LONDON 453

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BONN PASS USAREUR FOR POLAD

PARIS ALSO FOR USRO

FROM MCGHEE (in East Berlin)

SOVAMB TO GDR RPT GDR, ABRASIMOV, PAID RETURN CALL ON ME DEC 4 LASTING 2 AND ONE HALF HOURS. ATMOSPHERE RELAXED AND BUSINESS-LIKE. BULK OF DISCUSSION WAS CONCERNED WITH BERLIN MATTERS, BUT THERE WAS ALSO SOME DISCUSSION WIDER TOPICS. ABRASIMOV BEGAN BY EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES AT DEATH LATE PRESIDENT. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT ENCOURAGING DEVELOPMENTS IN US/SOV RELS IN PAST MONTHS WOULD BE CONTINUED UNDER PRESIDENT JOHNSON. I ASSURED ABRASIMOV THAT PRESIDENT JOHNSON WOULD CONTINUE TO MEET SOVS HALFWAY IN EFFORTS REDUCE TENSION AND FIND AREAS OF AGREEMENT. I REITERATED MY OWN HOPES THAT HE AND I, WITHIN LIMITS OUR RESPONSIBILITIES, COULD CONTRIBUTE TO LESSENING TENSION IN BERLIN.

ABRASIMOV'S APPARENTLY FORTHCOMING ATTITUDE ON CERTAIN SPECIFIC ISSUES WHICH I RAISED WITH HIM (SEE BELOW) SUGGESTS INTERESTS ON HIS PART IN ATTEMPTING DEVELOP FRIENDLY, PERSONAL RELATION-SHIP. HE DID NOT RPT NOT ATTEMPT LINK HIS ACTION ON POINTS I RAISED WITH HIM WITH WESTERN DECISIONS PENDING MATTERS OF INTEREST TO SOVS, NOTABLY LIETZENBURGERSTRASSE, ALTHOUGH HE WILL DOUBTLESS CONTIINUE TO PRESS ON THIS. I WAS STRUCK BY FACT THAT ABRASIMOV OBVIOUSLY COMPETENT TO HANDLE VERY WIDE RANGE ISSUES IN BERLIN, INCLUDING MIL MATTERS. ARRANGEMENT RE MUTUAL NOTIFICATION OF VEHICLE INCIDENTS (ABRASIMOV'S POINT 3 BELOW) BRINGS SOVEMBASSY DIRECTLY INTO PICTURE--AND INCIDENTALLY SUGGESTS THAT SOVS GOING ON ASSUMPTION THAT OUR MIL VEHICLES

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E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5
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By ch NARA, Date 3-28-13

WILL CONTINUE TO CIRCULATE IN EAST BERLIN. SIMILARLY, ABRASIMOV DID NOT RPT NOT HESITATE FOR INSTANT TO ORDER SOV MIL PERSONNEL AT SPANDAU TO REPORT TO HIM IN EMBASSY ON VON SCHIRACH CASE (BERLINTEL 751 TO DEPT., 682 TO BONN).

ABRASIMOV RAISED FOLLOWING SPECIFIC POINTS:

1. AUTOBAHN CONVOY INCIDENTS. GENERAL SENSE ABRASIMOV WAS THAT UNREASONABLENESS US RPT US MIL RESPONSIBLE FOR INCIDENTS. HOWEVER, HE SEEMED TO WISH TO DEPRECATE IMPORTANCE INCIDENTS AND PASSED QUICKLY TO OTHER TOPICS.

I INDICATED ACCEPTANCE HIS REMARKS ON NEED TO PREVENT INCIDENTS BECOMING MATTER OF SERIOUS CONCERN.

2. US RPT US REFUSAL PERMIT SOV JOCKEYS AND TRAINERS RESIDE WEST BERLIN.
ABRASIMOV RECOUNTED IN DETAIL SOV VERSION OF RECENT INCIDENT (REPORTED BERLIN A-330, NOV 19, 1963). HIS MAIN CHARGES WERE THAT WE HAD REFUSED TO ISSUE TEMPORARY RESIDENCE PERMITS TO JOCKEYS AND TRAINERS AND THAT WE HAD INFRINGED ON RIGHTS SOV DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL TO COME AND GO FREELY BETWEEN EAST AND WEST BERLIN.

I SAID THAT WE WERE IN FAVOR SPORTS CONTACTS, BUT THAT SOV NATIONALS INVOLVED IN THIS PARTICULAR INCIDENT HAD VIOLATED ALLIED REGULATIONS ON RESIDENCE WEST BERLIN. IF IN FUTURE CASES SOVS COMPLIED WITH ALLIED REQUIREMENTS, FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION MIGHT BE GIVEN TO APPLICATIONS FOR TEMPORARY RESIDENCE PERMITS.

3. ALLEGED TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS BY US RPT US MIL VEHICLES IN EAST BERLIN.

ABRASIMOV REFERRED TO HIGH NUMBER ALLEGED US RPT US TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS IN PAST MONTHS AND CITED IN DETAIL FIVE ALLEGED INCIDENTS IN NOV ALONE. HE ALSO PROTESTED WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS WEST BERLIN PRESS CAMPAIGN AGAINST SOV VEHICLES IN WEST BERLIN.

I TOLD ABRASIMOV I HAD INTENDED RAISE SUBJECT WITH HIM SINCE WE CONCERNED BY CURRENT EAST PRESS CAMPAIGN AGAINST OUR VEHICLES. I NOTED OUR RECORDS GAVE VERY DIFFERENT PICTURE FROM HIS.

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IN 1963 WE HAD THREE MINOR ACCIDENTS IN EAST BERLIN, WHILE SOVS IN SAME PERIOD HAD SIX MINOR ACCIDENTS AND FIFTEEN CASES OF SPEEDING IN US RPT US SECTOR ALONE. I STRESSED THAT US RPT US DRIVERS ARE CAREFULLY TRAINED AND INSTRUCTED TO OBSERVE TRAFFIC REGULATIONS. I URGED THAT BOTH SIDES TAKE STEPS TO DIMISH NUMBER OF INCIDENTS AND ALSO TO PREVENT SUBJECT BECOMING MATTER OF WIDE PRESS DISCUSSION.

IT WAS AGREED THAT WE AND SOVS WOULD IN FUTURE REPORT INCIDENTS IN RESPECTIVE SECTORS TO EACH OTHER THROUGH PROTOCOL CHANNELS.

4. LIETZENBURGERSTRASSE. ABRASIMOV REITERATED VIEWS EXPRESSED AT LENGTH IN MY AUG 5 MEETING WITH HIM ON SOV RIGHT TO RECONDITION AND OCCUPY BUILDING. HE DISPUTED POINT CONTAINED ALLIED AMB-ASSADORS' LETTERS TO HIM RE THREAT TO PUBLIC SAFETY INVOLVED IN SOV USE OF BUILDING. HE URGED THAT QUESTION OF RENOVATION OF BUILDING BE CONSIDERED SEPARATELY FROM THAT OF EVENTUAL USE. DISCUSSION LATTER ISSUE COULD BE LEFT TO FUTURE, BUT DECISION NEEDED URGENTLY ON BOTH EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL RENOVATION.

I NOTED AGAIN THAT POPERTY IN BRIT SECTOR AND BRIT THEREFORE PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE. I SAID I UNDERSTOOD THERE WAS NO RPT NO OBJECTION TO EXTERNAL RENOVATION (PROTECTING BUILDING FROM WEATHER). INTERNAL RENOVATION WAS ANOTHER MATTER, SINCE EVENTUAL USE OF BUILDING WAS INVOLVED. I REITERATED THAT IN ALLIED VIEW CONCENTRATION SOV ACTIVITIES IN WEST BERLIN IN ONE BUILDING WAS POTENTIAL THREAT TO PUBLIC ORDER FOR WHICH ALLIES RESPONSIBLE.

ABRASIMOV PRESSED HARD FOR PERMISSION FOR INTERNAL RENOVATION. HE SAID THAT IF FAVORABLE DECISION NOT RPT NOT FORTHCOMING, HE WOULD RECOMMEND MATTER BE RAISED AT FOREIGN MINISTRY LEVEL. I DID NOT RPT NOT YIELD.

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INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

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Action
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CONTROL: 3277
RECD: DECEMBER 5, 1963, 12:42 P.M.

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FROM: BERLIN
TO: SECRETARY OF STATE

756, DECEMBER 5, 4 P.M. (SECTION TWO OF TWO)

PRIORITY

ACTION PRIORITY DEPARTMENT 756; INFORMATION PARIS 460, MOSCOW 396, BONN 687, LONDON 453

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BONN PASS USAREUR FOR POLAD

PARIS ALSO FOR USRO.

I RAISED THE FOL POINTS WITH ABRASIMOV:

1. [redacted]

[redacted]

2. US RPT US COMMANDANT VISIT TO EAST BERLIN. I REPEATED POINTS MADE DURING AUG 5 MEETING, STRESSING FACT THAT GEN. POLK NOT RPT NOT INVOLVED IN INCIDENTS WHICH HAD GIVEN RISE TO MUTUAL BAN ON COMMANDANTS' ENTRY INTO RESPECTIVESECTORS. I SAID US RPT US ATTACHED IMPORTANCE TO SATISFACTORY SOLUTION.

ABRASIMOV AT FIRST REACTED NEGATIVELY. HE SAID GEN POLK HAD MADE ANTI-GDR RPT GDR STATEMENTS. (I COUNTERED THAT ACCESS TO RESPECTIVE SECTORS ON PART MIL OFFICERS COULD HARDLY BE MADE DEPENDENT ON STATEMENTS THEY MADE. THIS CRITERION COULD BE APPLIED BY US RPT US TOO.) ABRASIMOV THEN SAID THAT THERE WERE NO RPT NO SOV OBJECTIONS TO GEN POLK'S GOING TO EAST BERLIN. SOVS DID NOT RPT NOT WANT TO "TAKE REVENGE" ON GEN POLK FOR WHAT HAD HAPPENED IN PAST.

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I THANKED ABRASIMOV AND ASKED IF HIS STATEMENT COULD BE REGARDED AS ASSURANCE THAT GEN POLK WOULD NOT RPT NOT ENCOUNTER DIFFICULTIES ON PART EAST GERMAN PERSONNEL WHEN ENTERING OR LEAVING EAST BERLIN. ABRASIMOV REPLIED THAT HE WOULD INFORM GDR RPT GDR AUTHORITIES OF SOV VIEWS.

IN VIEW FAVORABLE TURN OF DISCUSSION, I TOLD ABRASIMOV I SHOULD LIKE TO INTRODUCE GEN POLK TO HIM. ABRASIMOV AGREED AND GEN POLK JOINED US FOR REMAINDER OF DISCUSSION.

THEREFOLLOWED VERY GENERAL DISCUSSION RE NEED CONTINUE TO SEEK REDUCTION OF TENSION AND AREAS OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN SOVS AND US RPT US, AND CONTRIBUTION ABRASIMOV AND I MIGHT MAKE WITHIN OUR RESPONSIBILITIES. WHEN IT APPEARED CONVERSATION MIGHT BE DRAWING TO CLOSE, ABRASIMOV THEN LAUNCHED INTO WHAT BECAME LENGTHY DISCUSSION, MOSTLY GOING OVER FAMILIAR SOV POSITIONS, OF FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL POINTS:

1. MEETINGS IN WEST BERLIN OF BUNDESTAG COMITES AND OTHER FRG RPT FRG AGENCIES.

ABRASIMOV SAID THAT WHILE US RPT US PRESUMABLY DOES NOT RPT NOT SUPPORT SUCH ACTIVITIES, IT DOES NOTHING TO PREVENT THEM. HE SAID HEFELT WE SHOULD USE OUR INFLUENCE TO DISCOURAGE SUCH ACTIVITIES. SOV PEOPLE FELT PARTICULARLY ABOUT REICHSTAG BUILDING, CAPTURED WITH MUCH LOSS SOV BLOOD. THEY WERE CONCERNED BY AGRESSIVE STATEMENTS MADE BY FRG RPT FRG REPS IN WEST BERLIN, WHICH REMINDED THEM OF NAZI TIMES.

I REMARKED THAT WEST GERMANS SAW THAT EAST GERMAN VOLKSKAMMER MET IN EAST BERLIN AND FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND WHY THERE SHOULD NOT RPT NOT BE BUNDESTAG ACTIVITIES IN WEST BERLIN. I URGED ABRASIMOV AGAINST FIGHTING WORLD WAR II FOREVER AND MAINTAINING OLD HATREDS. US RPT US HAD FOUGHT TOO, BUT PREFERRED LOOK TO FUTURE THAN PAST. FRENCH AND GERMANS HAD BOUND UP WAR WOUNDS, AND WE HOPED SOVS AND GERMANS WOULD DO LIKEWISE.

2. FRG-GDR RELATIONS. ABRASIMOV SAID SOVS FAVORED SETTLEMENT OF GERMAN PROBLEMS BY GERMANS THEMSELVES, YET FRG REFUSED EVEN TO TALK WITH GDR REPS. ABRASIMOV THEN SHARPLY CRITICIZED MEND'S RECENT SPEECH OFFERING CREDITS TO GDR. HE SAID MENDE CLAIMED

NO RPT NO CONDITIONS ATTACHED TO OFFER BUTTHEN SPECIFIED NUMBER VERYSERIOUS CONDITIONS, INCLUDING FACILITATING TRAVEL BETWEEN FRG AND GDR AND BETWEEN EAST AND WEST BERLIN.

WHEN I REMARKED THAT QUESTION OF TRAVEL SEEMED BASIC HUMAN RIGHT, HARDLY REQUIRING INTER-GOVERNMENTAL NEGOT ABRASIMOV THEN ATTACKED BRANDT AT LENGTH FOR REFUSING DISCUSS QUESTION INTRA-BERLIN TRAVEL WITH GDR GOVT. ABRASIMOV SUGGEST ALLIES URGE BRANDT TO NEGOTIATE WITH GDR. I COUNTEREDTHAT INTRA-BERLIN TRAVEL SITUATION COMPLETELY UNNATURAL AND BRANDT'S SENTIMENTS UNDERSTANDABLE. I SUGGESTED SOVS COULD QUICKLY SETTLE ISSUE IF THEY CHOSE TO DO SO.

AT CONCLUSION MEETING ABRASIMOV INVITED ME TO ATTEND WEST BERLIN PERFORMANCE BY SOV PIANIST RICHTER WHICH HE SAID, WAS PLANNED FOR SOME TIME IN FUTURE. HE REMARKED THAT IT WOULD CREATE GOOD IMPRESSION ON WEST BERLINERS IF SOV AND US RPT US AMBS WERE TO APPEAR TOGETHER AT CONCERT. HE ASKED ME TO USE MY IN-FLUENCE TO SEE THAT THERE WERE NO RPT NO DIFFICULTIES IN CONNECTION RICHTER APPEARANCE.

I SAID THAT WE WOULD NOT RPT NOT STAND IN WAY OF RICHTER PER FORMANCE, HOWEVER, I EVADED DIRECT RESPONSE TO HIS INVITATION TO ATTEND CONCERT WITH HIM. IN PARTING HE PRESENTED ME WITH BOOKS OF PHOTOGRAPHS ON RUSSIAN BALLET AND MOSCOW.
GP-3.

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