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THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

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JCSM-485-65

Authority Group 4  
By ju, NARA, Date 8-16-91

23 JUN 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Subject: East German Helicopter Flights in the  
Berlin Control Zone (U)

1. (C) Since the Soviet and East German harassments of the April Bundestag meeting in Berlin, East German helicopters have been sighted with increasing regularity. More recently, these flights have included armed helicopters. On several occasions, East German helicopters have ventured into the allied sectors. Routine protests through the Berlin Air Safety Center (BASC) have been nonproductive. In like manner, a 15 June meeting between French Ambassador Seydoux and Soviet Ambassador Abrasimov produced no results.
2. (C) East German flights within the Berlin Control Zone violate the tripartite interpretation of the Four Power agreement which restricts flights in the air corridors and Berlin Control Zone to aircraft of the Four Powers. Other flights must have the clearance of all Four Powers.
3. (S) The Joint Chiefs of Staff consider that strong military action in the present situation is not appropriate. Some minor actions, however, could assist in bringing pressure against the Soviets. Such minor actions could include total restriction of the Soviet Liaison Missions in all three allied zones, escort of those Soviet personnel (Soviet War Memorial Guards, Spandau Prison guards, and BASC controllers) whose duties require travel in West Berlin, and denial of West Berlin to other Soviet and all Bloc personnel. Military countermeasures in areas removed from the Berlin area are not sufficiently relatable to the present situation to have an early effect.

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4. ~~(S)~~ USCINCEUR has directed, and the Joint Chiefs of Staff concur, that the following restrictions govern US military actions in Berlin in connection with the flights of East German helicopters:

a. Routine surveillance of all East German helicopter flights will be continued by unarmed helicopters operating over West Berlin, with such passive blocking of flight paths as may be possible.

b. Aerial tactics or devices such as chains or dangling wires will not be employed to damage or destroy East German helicopters.

c. The deliberate involvement of fixed-wing aircraft with the East German helicopter flights will be avoided. Normal fixed-wing flight activity will continue, and pilots will be instructed to adhere strictly to planned flight paths except when deviation is necessary to avoid actual collision.

5. ~~(C)~~ It is important that any countermeasure initiated address these flights within the context of the flight rules governing the Berlin Control Zone. All references to East German helicopter flights should continue to emphasize that violations affect the entire Berlin Control Zone and not just the airspace above West Berlin.

6. ~~(C)~~ It is the view of the Joint Chiefs of Staff that concerted political actions by the Western allies against the Soviets and sanctions against the East Germans should be initiated promptly as the primary course of action.

7. (U) The Joint Chiefs of Staff recommend that the above views be used as a basis for interdepartmental discussions.

For the Joint Chiefs of Staff:

Signed

EARLE G. WHEELER  
Chairman  
Joint Chiefs of Staff

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