

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

Benton

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Action
BTF~~CONFIDENTIAL~~Control: 12720
Rec'd: MARCH 17, 1964
1:59 P.M.Info
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FROM: BONN

ACTION: SECSTATE 3331
BERLIN 933
LONDON 1030
PARIS 2068

DATE: MARCH 17, 7 P.M.

PARIS ALSO FOR USRO

SUBJECT: TTD POLICY

REF: DEPTTEL 2534

1. IN OUR VIEW, THE RB-66 INCIDENT SHOULD NOT AFFECT THE DECISION TO RELAX TTD ISSUANCE. THIS DECISION WAS MOTIVATED PRIMARILY BY A DESIRE TO LIMIT DISSENSION IN NATO AND MEET PRESSURE FROM WESTERN SCIENTISTS RATHER THAN TO ACCOMMODATE THE EAST GERMANS. THE RB-66 INCIDENT, WHICH IS VIEWED IN THE FRG, AT LEAST, PRIMARILY AS A BILATERAL US-USSR ISSUE, WOULD NOT PREVENT TTDS FROM AGAIN BECOMING A WESTERN THORN OF CONTENTION IF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISION SHOULD BE WITHHELD.

2. WE THUS THINK THE MAIN QUESTION WOULD BE THAT OF THE TIMING OF A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT. IT IS LIKELY THAT THE RELAXATION WILL BE INTERPRETED AS A SMALL MEASURE OF DETENTE, WHICH WOULD STAND IN CONTRAST TO THE CONTINUED SOVIET DETENTION OF THE RB-66 CREW. FROM THIS POINT OF VIEW A DELAY IN THE ANNOUNCEMENT WOULD BE ATTRACTIVE. A DELAY BEYOND THE MIDDLE OF NEXT WEEK COULD INVOLVE THE FOLLOWING PROBLEMS, HOWEVER:

A. PASS NEGOTIATIONS ARE SCHEDULED TO RESUME IN BERLIN SHORTLY AFTER EASTER AND THE FRG IS ANXIOUS TO AVOID ISSUANCE OF THE TTD ANNOUNCEMENT IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO, OR CONCURRENTLY WITH, THESE NEGOTIATIONS.

/A DELAY

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By isg, NARS, Date 4-26-76

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-2- 3331, MARCH 17, 7 P.M., FROM BONN

B. A DELAY PAST NEXT WEEK MIGHT PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR SOME NATO MEMBERS TO OPEN THE ENTIRE QUESTION AGAIN AND UNDO THE AGREEMENT THAT HAS REQUIRED SO MUCH LABOR. USRO'S JUDGMENT ON THIS POINT IS NEEDED.

C. THE FRG HAS ALREADY GIVEN AN OFF-THE-RECORD PRESS BRIEFING TO SCANDINAVIAN JOURNALISTS DESCRIBING THE NEW REGULATIONS AND THE LOCAL AP REPRESENTATIVE IS AWARE OF THE STORY. THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT THE NEWS WILL BECOME PUBLIC EVEN WITHOUT AN ANNOUNCEMENT.

D. AS TIME GOES BY THE EAST GERMANS MAY BECOME DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE RB-66 CASE, POSSIBLY TO THE EXTENT OF A SHOW TRIAL. UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES THE TTD ANNOUNCEMENT, APPLYING AS IT DOES TO EAST GERMANS RATHER THAN SOVIETS, WOULD BECOME EVEN LESS APPROPRIATE.

3. FOR THESE REASONS, WE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT THE ANNOUNCEMENT BE ISSUED NO LATER THAN MARCH 25 UNLESS THERE ARE NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN THE RB-66 CASE BEFORE THEN WHICH WOULD MAKE RECONSIDERATION ADVISABLE.

4. IF THE DEPARTMENT AND USRO CONCUR IN THIS RECOMMENDATION, IT MIGHT BE ADVISABLE TO PLACE OUR ALLIES ON WARNING THAT US CONCURRENCE IN THE RELEASE NEXT WEEK IS SUBJECT TO RECONSIDERATION IN THE LIGHT OF FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN THE RB-66 CASE.

GP-4.

HILLENBRAND

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