

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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Action

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Info

SS VV EUB114KEA122

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SP DE RUFDDBG 1476 10/1702Z

L 0 101659Z

H FM AMEMBASSY (BONN)

H TO SECSTATE WASHDC

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IO IMMEDIATE

DAC 3678, APR. 10, 6 PM;

P SUBJ: BUNTING CASE

USIA FOLLOWING TEL REPEATED FOR UR ACTION. FROM USAREUR TO AMEMBASSY
NSC BONN USCINCEUR PARIS DA WASHDC. USCOB USBER CHIEF USMLM TO SOV
INR FORCES BERLINRMR QUOTE CONFIDENTIAL SX-3092 DA FOR ACSI.
REFERENCES: A. USAREUR MSGS SX-2628, 20 MAR 64C
B. USAREUR MSG SX-2712, 24 MAR 64; C. USAREUR MSG
SX-3048, 8 APR 64; D. SEC STATE MSG TO AMEMBASSY BONN
(2624) 242245Z MAR.PAGE 2 RUFDDBG 1476 ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SUBJECT: USAREUR DEFECTOR BUNTING.

1. (C) REVIEW OF RESULTS OF 7 APRIL MEETING AT
SERB APPEARS TO INDICATED THAT ANY FURTHER REQUESTS TO
PROCESS BUNTING'S APPLICATION AT SERB HEADQUARTERS WILL BE DENIED. WHILE
IT MAY BE FEASIBLE AS A COURSE OF ACTION TO HAVE C/USMLM ACCOMPANY
BUNTING TO TREMSDORF, THIS WOULD HAVE DISADVANTAGE OF A REP-
RESENTATIVE OF US GOVERNMENT ENTERING A GDR INSTALLATION IF BUNTING
IS TO BE ACCOMPANIED AT ALL TIMES. SINCE THE NEAREST KOMANDATURA TO
TREMSDORF IS IN POTSDAM NEAR SERB HEADQUARTERS, A REQUEST TO
CONDUCT THE PROCESSING IN A SOVIET INSTALLATION OTHER THAN SERB
HEADQUARTERS WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY ALSO BE DENIED. WHILE
SERB COULD BE REQUESTED TO ASSIST BY PROVIDING AN
OFFICER TO ACCOMPANY C/USMLM AND BUNTING TO TREMSDORF TO AVOID C/
USMLM HAVING DIRECT CONTACT WITH GDR OFFICIALS, THIS WOULD

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6

NLJ 00-243

By cbm, NARA Date 3-29-01~~CONFIDENTIAL~~REPRODUCTION FROM THIS COPY IS
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-2- 3678, APRIL 10, 6 PM, FROM BONN

PROBABLY NOT BE AGREED TO BY SERB, BUT EVEN IF IT WERE IT WOULD STILL REQUIRE C/USMLM TO ENTER A GDR INSTALLATION. THOUGH HAVING C/USMLM ACCOMPANY BUNTING AT ALL TIMES WOULD CONTINUE HAVING BUNTING UNDER THE DIRECT RECOGNIZANCE OF A US REPRESENTATIVE, IT IS NOT BELIEVED THAT THIS WOULD IN ANY WAY ASSIST HIS RETURN TO US CONTROL, AND COULD POSSIBLY HINDER PROCESSING OF BUNTING'S

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REQUEST.

2. (C) THEREFORE, AS THE NEXT STEP IN EFFORTS TO RETURN BUNTING TO FULL US CONTROL PROPOSE FOLLOWING:

A. BUNTING BE PERMITTED TO RETURN VOLUNTARILY TO TREMSDORF, HIS FORMER RESIDENCE IN EAST GERMANY. THERE HE WILL SUBMIT HIS REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO LEAVE EAST GERMANY, AS SUGGESTED BY EAST GERMAN REPRESENTATIVE TO APPROPRIATE EAST GERMAN AUTHORITIES, BUNTING WOULD REMAIN AT HIS HOME IN TREMSDORF WHILE THE REQUEST IS BEING PROCESSED.

B. IN NEXT MEETING WITH SERB, SCHEDULED FOR 13 APR 64, C/LSMLM UNACCOMPANIED BY BUNTING, WOULD INFORM SERB OF ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN BY BUNTING, REQUEST DETAILS OF PROCEDURE TO BE FOLLOWED, AND ASSURANCES OF CONTINUED SOVIET ASSISTANCE.

C. BUNTING HAS INDICATED THAT HE IS WILL TO FOLLOW THIS COURSE OF ACTION.

D. THIS COURSE OF ACTION WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE AFTER 13 APR MEETING, AT WHICH SERB IS TO BE INFORMED AND REQUESTED TO MAKE NECESSARY PROVISIONS FOR EXPEDITIOUS PROCESSING.

3. (C) IT IS BELIEVED THAT THIS COURSE OF ACTION HAS GOOD POSSIBILITY OF SUCCEEDING, DOES NOT INVOLVE

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OFFICIAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE EAST GERMAN GOVERNMENT AND ALL TRANSACTIONS OF THE USMLM HAVING BEEN CONDUCTED THROUGH SERB CAN BE INTERPRETED AS BEING IN ACCORDANCE WITH HUEBNER-MALININ AGREEMENT. IN THE MEETING OF 7 APRIL, A SOVIET OFFICER OF SERB STATED THAT THE EG REPRESENTATIVE BELIEVED THERE WAS NO BASIS FOR DELAY. BASED ON THIS AND FURTHER INTERPRETATION OF MEETING, IT IS BELIEVED SOME INFERRED ASSURANCES HAVE BEEN GIVEN THAT BUNTING WILL NOT PERSONALLY BE ENDANGERED BY FOLLOWING THIS PROPOSAL. SINCE OFFICIAL REPRESENTATION

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HAS BEEN MADE
AND NEGOTIATED
CONSTANTLY

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FOLLOWIN

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HAS BEEN MADE BY C/USMLM TO SERB IN THE BUNTING MATTER AND NEGOTIATIONS WILL CONTINUE THROUGH SERB, IT IS NOT CONSIDERED THAT BUNTING IS BEING LEFT "WHOLLY ON HIS OWN."

4. ~~(C)~~ IF IT IS CONSIDERED INADVISABLE TO ACCEPT SERB'S PROPOSAL FOR FURTHER PROCESSING OF BUNTING'S REQUEST DUE TO POLITICAL FACTORS INVOLVED, THE MOST OBVIOUS COURSE OF ACTION REMAINING IS AN APPROACH AT GOVERNMENTAL LEVEL. UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES IT IS APPARENT THAT THE SOVIETS WILL AGAIN APPLY PRESSURE TO HAVE BUNTING REMOVED FROM THE POTSDAM HOUSE PREMISES.

5. (U) REQUEST YOUR COMMENTS OR CONCURRENCE. GP-3.

UNQUOTE MCGHEE

BT

ADVANCE COPY TO S/S-O 4/10/64, 1:10 PM.

PASSED WHITE HOUSE 4/10/64, 1:15 PM.

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